



## Santa Susana Mountain Park Association

Volume 29, Issue 6

# June 1999 Newsletter

A Non-Profit Organization  
Incorporated August 31, 1971

### Sunshine Canyon Landfill Update

By Patricia Milow

Sunshine Canyon, located in the Santa Susana Mountains, used to be an entirely idyllic place. Marge Feinberg included Sunshine Canyon as part of the Rim of the Valley in her original thesis. However, Sunshine Canyon was not made an official part of the Rim of the Valley Trail, perhaps due in no small part to the lobbying of commercial landfill interests, specifically that of Browning Ferris Industries (BFI).

For years now, BFI has operated a landfill in Sunshine Canyon. When the City portion of the landfill was at capacity, BFI won approval to use the non-City portion of their land, the L.A. County portion. That landfill has been in production on County land since the mid-1990s and has five or more years of use.

Recently, BFI has been proposing to reopen the old City landfill and build a new landfill on top of it. Unfortunately, the original landfill was *unlined*, which has caused worry about toxic pollution percolating down into the ground and someday reaching the Los Angeles Reservoir, downhill from Sunshine Canyon.

The Los Angeles Reservoir services most of Los Angeles County and adjacent counties. If this *toxic punch* ever reaches it, Metropolitan Water District officials have declared that reservoir water could not be cured of the contamination.

With a potential crisis that could deprive us of one of our main sources of water, due to the shortcomings of past landfill technology, how does BFI have the termerity to advocate piling more landfill on top of what is already a disaster?

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### June 21st Program

SSMPA member Barbara Coffman will present her fascinating slide show on the history of stage coach travel in the San Fernando area, highlighting the Old Stage Coach Trail, which is part of the Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park.

The General Membership Meeting starts at 7:30 p.m. at Rockpointe Recreation Center, 22300 Devonshire, Chatsworth (so. side of street), one block before entry to Chatsworth Park South. ❀

### Correct Date of Barbara's Hike

In our last newsletter, we stated that Barbara Coffman would be leading a hike in the Santa Susana State Historic Park on Sunday, June 26. This was erroneous.

She will instead be leading her usual first Sunday of the month hike at the Park — that's June 6th — starting at 9:00 a.m. from the Chatsworth Park South parking lot.

The hike lasts about 3 hours. If you're coming, be sure to wear lugsole shoes and a hat; bring water and food; and use sun block. ❀

### July-August: No General Meetings Scheduled

Since many SSMPA members take advantage of summer weather for a vacation or a long trip to see more of beautiful Mother Earth, the Santa Susana Mountain Park Association does not schedule General Membership meetings for July and August. The next SSMPA General Membership meeting will be Monday, September 20, 1999. ❀

# California Environment & Park Bond Acts

By Dorian Keyser

Although there are numerous State Senate and Assembly bills "in the hopper" to place propositions on the ballot in the year 2000, the most likely will be a combination of Senate Bill 57 (Hayden/Murray) and Assembly Bill 18 (Villaraigosa/Keeley) which will provide about \$2 billion. SB 57 currently provides:

1. \$460 million for regional resources (open spaces, farmland and scenic protections, regional trails, unique properties, habitats, and urban amenities, for these areas.
  - a. \$125 million for Southern California,
  - b. \$50 million for the Inland Empire,
  - c. \$60 million for the San Francisco Bay Area,
  - d. \$50 million for the great central valley,
  - e. \$50 million for the Sierra Nevadas,
  - f. \$25 million for Lake Tahoe, and
  - g. \$100 million for the coast.
2. \$500 million for local parks.
3. \$500 million for the State park system.
4. \$100 million for zoos, aquariums, historic presentations, etc.
5. \$440 million for fish and wildlife.

This provides \$50 million for the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, with \$30 million for the Rim of the Valley Corridor (including the Simi Hills and Santa Susanas), and \$20 million for the Los Angeles River.

However, we need about \$35 million for critical purchases in the Simi Hills and Santa Susana Mountains to make sure that the wildlife corridors between the Los Padres and Angeles National Forests and the Santa Monica Mountains are maintained to allow wildlife to migrate back and forth. Moreover, there are great scenic values, etc., in the regions that need to be acquired.

A key problem is that while a majority of the state's population resides south of the Tehachapis, this part of the state will not receive even one half of the funds from the proposed bond issue for many reasons, some of which are historical (for example,

items 3 and 5 above are heavily weighted towards Northern California.

Please contact Senator Hayden and Speaker Villaraigosa requesting a more equitable distribution of the funds. Point out the critical opportunities will be lost in Southern California due to the press of potential development of presently open spaces.

Senator Tom Hayden

Chair, Natural Resources Committee  
Room 2080, State Capitol Building  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Phone: (310) 441-9084, Fax: (310) 441-0724

Sacramento: (916) 445-1353, Fax: (916) 324-4823

Speaker Antonio Villaraigosa

Room 219, State Capitol Building  
Sacramento, CA 95814 ☼

## Chatsworth Nature Preserve: A Correction and Apology to Hal Bernson

By Judy Garris

Last month I encouraged members to contact Councilman Bernson's office to express their feelings on the development of a Concept Study for Chatsworth Nature Preserve/Reservoir — thinking that the calls would be counted as showing support for preserving the area as permanent open space.

Councilman Bernson has worked hard for many years to keep the Nature Preserve undeveloped; he is, in fact, responsible for officially changing the name from Chatsworth Reservoir to Chatsworth Nature Preserve/Reservoir.

Your time and energy is better spent calling Mayor Riordan and DWP Commissioner President Rick Caruso to express your concerns in keeping the Nature Preserve undeveloped. I apologize to Councilman Bernson and any persons who took the time to call his office.

Write or call the mayor :

Mayor Richard Riordan  
200 Main Street  
Los Angeles  
(213) 846-2489

Write the DWP commissioner at this address:

Commissioner Rick Caruso  
DWP Rm 1555  
P.O. 51111  
Los Angeles CA 90051

or E-mail his secretary directing the message to him at  
JBurmahln@LADWP.com ☼

## Sunshine Canyon Landfill Update *Continued...*

Instead, if at all possible, ground conditions uphill from the L.A. Reservoir should be ameliorated. No further action that might jeopardize the reservoir should be allowed. If BFI somehow manages to start up production on top of the old City landfill, there should be no doubt in anyone's mind that a major reservoir for the Los Angeles area is in danger.

Nearby residents fear more pollution from the dust and diesel exhaust fumes produced by more BFI trucks, as well as dust from added landfill activity. Increased airborne pollution will also affect the Los Angeles Reservoir downwind of the landfill. The reservoir is uncovered, open to the dust and fly-away trash from trucks traveling the road adjacent to it. High winds also carry dust and other pollution down to the reservoir from the landfill.

As part of its planned expansion onto City land, BFI also wants to move into untouched acres of woodland nearby. If its wish is granted, Black Walnut woodlands will be gone, acres of Coast Live Oaks will have disappeared, and two populations of Mariposa Lilies will have been transplanted.

Wildlife will also be impacted. Ten *sensitive* (endangered or potentially endangered) species have been observed on the site, including lizards and birds like the White-Tailed Kite and the Yellow Warbler. One of the potential impacts listed in the L.A. City Planning Commission staff report was that *active* raptor (eagles, hawks, etc.) nests may be removed (active, meaning nests with eggs!).

Zoning for the land has already been changed from agricultural to heavy industrial and the Planning Commission recently gave its approval to the project. Two more hearings, before the PLUM Committee of the City Council and the entire City Council, have not as yet been scheduled.

If you're concerned about *your water supply*, you can affect the way the PLUM Committee and the City Council will vote on this matter. Call, write, fax or email your City Council member. Or call, write or fax the PLUM committee, which consists of the following members:

Cindy Miscicowski, District #11  
Phone: (818) 756-8150  
Fax: (818) 756-9175

Hal Bernson, District #12  
Phone: (818) 886-5210  
Fax: (818) 7569122

Mike Hernandez, District #1  
Phone: (2132) 485-3451  
Fax: (213) 485-8907

*Continued --->*

## Southern California Open Space & Parks Update

An update on State and Federal funding for open space and parks in Southern California will be held at the Los Angeles River Center and Gardens on Tuesday, June 15th from 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. There will be speakers, a round-table discussion, and the chance for us to speak up for the needs of Southern California's environment and wildlife.

Speakers on State bond acts will include:

- Sandy Brown (Senator Hayden) - SB 57
- Jim Bickhart (Speaker Villaraigosa) - AB 18
- Laura Plotkin (Assemblywoman Kuehl)

Speakers on the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund will include:

- Susan Little (Congressman Brad Sherman)
- Virginia Palmer (SCCED)
- Therese Casper (Americans for our Heritage and Recreation)

Here is a great opportunity to make it known that Southern California requires significant funding for its parks and open spaces!

The Los Angeles River Center and Gardens is on Avenue 26 at San Fernando Road, located north of the Golden State and Pasadena Freeways interchange. The main entrance is on Avenue 26.

The get-together is sponsored by Southern California Council on Environment and Development, Americans for Our Heritage and Recreation, and People for Parks. For more information and to RSVP, call (310) 393-1125. ☼



We know that at least one of the PLUM committee members is against the project. So, when you contact a City Council member, or any legislator for that matter, please endeavor to state your opinions in a constructive manner.

Information on Sunshine Canyon was contributed by Esther Simmons and Terrie Brady. ☼

## SWIMMING UPSTREAM: WORKSHOPS AT THE ZOO

The Sierra Club and Cal-Trout are giving a set of free workshops on restoring California's rivers and streams for salmon, steelhead and other species on Saturday, June 12th.

The workshops will take place from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Los Angeles Zoo's Educational Center. The workshops are:

- Southern California Steelhead: Why Give A Dam? with Jim Edmondson
- The Disappearing Fishes of Southern California with Camm Swift
- Legal Tools for Protecting Salmon & Steelhead with Tara Mueller
- Keep California Salmon WILD: The Sierra Club's Rules for Recovery Campaign with Elyssa Rosen & Jennifer Witherspoon

The workshops are free, but you must preregister due to limited space, and for free Zoo admission. To preregister or for more information, call Kevin Finney at (310) 451-9923, or email him at [finney@ucla.edu](mailto:finney@ucla.edu) with the name, address & phone number or email address of each person planning to attend. ❀

### Planning for the Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park

Retired Angeles District Superintendent Dan Preece, now the Executive Director for Peoples for Parks, has started the planning progress for the park. He will be contacting SSMPA and FPSSM members for help. ❀

### Chatsworth Community Coordinating Council 1999 Awards Banquet

On Friday May 14th, SSMPA President Judy Garris received a Certificate for Exceptional Service to the Community at the Chatsworth Community Coordinating Council 1999 Awards Banquet.

Also, Janet Lazik, FPSSM Vice President, was nominated to be Chatsworth's 1998-1999 Outstanding Citizen of the Year. ❀

## 1st Annual Litter Roundup and Picnic in the Park

By Lindsay Wilhelm, FPSSM Board Member

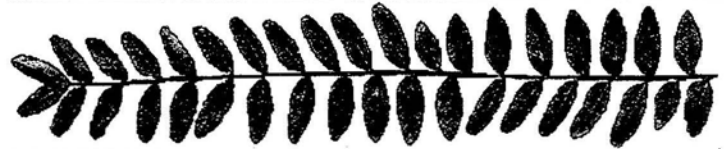
On Saturday, June 5, 1999, the Foundation for the Preservation of the Santa Susana Mountains will sponsor the First Annual Litter Roundup and Picnic in the Park.

The litter pick-up will take place from 8 AM to 11 AM, meeting at Chatsworth Park South, 22360 Devonshire St.

The picnic will begin at noon, with the fare going for \$2-\$5. Proceeds will go to provide our new Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park with an educational kiosk! Music and displays will be featured at the picnic.

Everyone is invited to participate in the clean-up effort along with various community groups and local businesses. Volunteers receive a free T-shirt, water, sunscreen and a gift pack of lotions, shampoos & hair conditioners!

Volunteers should wear jeans, comfortable shirts, hats, and hiking or athletic shoes. Come join in the fun! Call (818) 348-9682 or (818) 347-7615 for more information. Note that picnic contributions are tax-deductible as the Foundation is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization. ❀



### SSMPA Executive Board

Judy Garris, President	818-346-7654
Dorlan Keyser, Vice President	818-345-3795
vacant (your name?), Recording Secretary	
Susan Gerke, Treasurer	818-704-9304
Patti Millow, Corresponding Secretary	818-992-7757
Terrie Brady, Member-At-Large	818-349-8889
Bette Butler, Member-At-Large	818-700-0220
Diana Dixon-Davis, Member-At-Large	818-341-4242
Holly Huff, Member-At-Large	805-526-0961
Doreen Rusen, Member-At-Large	818-360-0894

# June Hikes

Stagecoach Trail and Exploration Series hikes are offered by the Santa Susana Mountain Task Force (SSMTF) of the Sierra Club and publicized by the SSMPA and the Foundation for the Preservation of the Santa Susana Mountains (FPSSM).

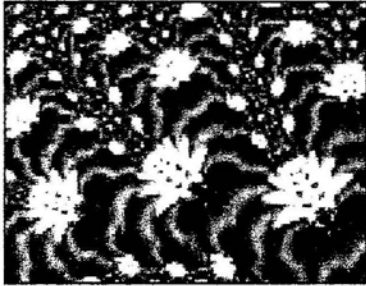
## Stage Coach Trail Hikes

SSMTF hikes are conducted every *Sunday*, October - June (except for very rainy days) from the parking lot of Chatsworth Park South Recreation Building, located at the western end of Devonshire Street, less than one mile west of Topanga Canyon Boulevard.

Hikers meet at 9:00 a.m. with the hike leader for the 4-mile (700 ft. gain) loop up the Stage Coach Trail in the hills west of the park. Bring water and a snack in a back or hip pack. Lugsole shoes or sturdy, closed shoes, and a hat are advised. All hike leaders are knowledgeable and experienced.

### Stage Coach Trail Hike Leaders

First Sunday: Barbara Coffman  
Second Sunday: Judy Garris  
Third Sunday: Lindsay Wilhelm  
Fourth Sunday: Lee Baum



## Elsmere Canyon Falls

*Sunday, June 13, 1999.* A moderately paced, 6-mile, 1000-foot gain/loss, hike to see the falls of Elsmere Canyon, recently saved from becoming a landfill! Possible off trail and water crossings. Meet at the trailhead at 9:00 a.m. Take the I-5 to the 14 Freeway, exit at San Fernando Road, turn right, go to the end (about 500 feet) and park. Wear lugsoles; bring water and lunch. Serious rain cancels. Leaders are Casey Bialas (805-251-4619) and Henry Schultz (805-284-5613), both of the Santa Clarita Sierra Club.



Many thanks to Randy Perras, Manager of the Topanga Canyon/Roscoe Office Depot, for the donation of printing services, i.e., the duplication of our newsletter. We very much appreciate it!

## Newsletter Dates

The deadline for SSMPA newsletter articles for the next issue will be Friday, June 18, 1999. The newsletter mailing party will take place on Saturday, June 26th, starting at 10:00 a.m.



## SANTA SUSANA MOUNTAIN PARK ASSOCIATION

WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN / RENEW / REJOIN S.S.M.P.A. (Please circle one.)

Investing in the future of our communities and its resources is probably one of the best expenditures of our time and efforts. Return this cutoff with your contributions to help ensure our futures. Please make checks payable to SSMPA and send to SSMPA, P.O. Box 4831, Chatsworth, CA 91313-4831.



- Senior or Student (\$5.00)    Individual (\$10.00)    Family (\$15.00)  
 Business or Organization (\$25.00)    Life Member (\$100.00)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Special Interest/Expertise: \_\_\_\_\_

If the expiration date on your label is marked in pink, your dues have expired.  
Please send in your dues if you wish to continue your SSMPA membership  
and continue to receive our newsletter. If you already paid, please disregard this notice.

If the expiration date on the label is marked in blue, payment of your membership dues is due this month.  
If the expiration date is marked in green, payment of your dues will be due next month.

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Foundation for the Preservation of  
the Santa Susana Mountains  
P.O. Box 4831  
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