



# Sand Canyon Community News

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## READY OR NOT... HERE COMES THE BULLET TRAIN!



On February 24<sup>th</sup>, many of the Canyon's residents attended a community meeting at Robinson Ranch and heard the presentation from representatives of the California High Speed Rail Authority (CHSRA). Clearly, we were disappointed with the lack of detail regarding what we can expect to see in our Canyon. The CHSRA representatives heard our message and are preparing a more detailed presentation to the community. On March 3<sup>rd</sup>, the CHSRA Board held a rare Board meeting in Southern California at the MTA Board Room in downtown Los Angeles. This was an incredibly important opportunity for us to voice our concerns and opposition to high speed rail in Sand Canyon. This key meeting was announced during the community meeting at Robinson Ranch and those attending were encouraged to attend the CHSRA Board meeting. SCHOA also forwarded information to the community from Supervisor Michael Antonovich's office encouraging everyone with concerns to attend this important meeting.

Regrettably, we did not respond as a community. In addition to our Mayor, Marsha McLain, speaking on behalf of the city, only one other resident and I spoke out on behalf of our community. That Board room was packed with high speed rail supporters. If we are to make our voices heard, we are going to have to do a much better job than we've done so far. It is not easy to get involved and it certainly isn't convenient. But, if you object to having a train crossing Sand Canyon at 220 mph and the negative impact that is going to have on our property values and on our community, you need to get involved.

The City of Santa Clarita sent a letter to the CHSRA Board identifying several concerns; impact on neighborhoods, cutting through wildlife corridors and green space, and the lack of any benefits to the City's residents. Aqua Dulce has also voiced strong opposition and was well represented at the CHSRA Board meeting. Thankfully, the CHSRA Board has delayed any decision on the rail alignment along the Sylmar to Palmdale segment until a future meeting to be announced. We've won ourselves a couple of months at best to make our voices heard. But, once the CHSRA Board decides the rail alignment, it will be much more difficult than it already is for us to get any consideration.

While it is important for us to make our views known, we must do so from a position of knowledge. A little background is necessary. In November 2008, voters approved Proposition 1A, a \$9.95 billion bond measure to partially fund a \$43 billion bullet train from Los Angeles to San Francisco. What we now know is that the bullet train's planned route passes through Sand Canyon.

This 250 mph bullet train will enter our canyon in the vicinity of Road Runner Road and Rolling Hills Avenue, cross Sand Canyon in the vicinity of the Church of the Canyons and continue on to Oak Springs Canyon Road and beyond.

Much of the train's route from Sylmar will be in tunnel, sweeping under the residential areas North of the 14 Freeway. However, plans call for the train to emerge from its tunnel on the South side of the 14 Freeway and run at grade or elevated through our community.

While news of a bullet train passing through Sand Canyon is new to most of us, it has been in planning for some time. As early as April 2007, city and county officials attended scoping meetings for this project.

The preliminary Environmental Impact Report (EIR) identified several areas for potential High Speed Train (HST) stations along the route from Sylmar to Palmdale. Although the EIR dismissed a HST station in Santa Clarita, a station in our area was given further consideration at the request of Santa Clarita city officials. Two potentially feasible locations were identified. One, East of our community along Soledad Canyon. The other, just to the East of Sand Canyon Road at the North end of our canyon. Locating a station in that location would have had even a greater impact on the residential properties located along Oak Spring Canyon Road than those residents will already experience with the construction of track only without a station. It would have also required Sand Canyon Road to either be raised or diverted to avoid an at-grade crossing. For these reasons and other considerations, the California High-Speed Rail Authority determined that a station off Sand Canyon is impracticable and it will not be constructed.

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What is this train going to sound like as it passes through our quiet equestrian community? Noise is certainly a primary concern. Some have described the sound of a bullet train approaching as a *Swoosshh*. There is great experience with high-speed rail projects worldwide. Based on that experience, the California High-Speed Rail Authority has published a High-Speed Train Sound Fact Sheet that can be found on their web site. The fact sheet states that high-speed trains are generally quieter than conventional trains for two reasons. They are powered by electric propulsion and there are no at grade road crossings; eliminating warning horns and bells. According to the fact sheet, the predominate sound at speeds below 160 mph are the propulsion system and wheels. At speeds above 160 mph, they describe the aerodynamic sound as the predominate thing we will hear. Hence, the *Swoosshh*.

While bullet trains may be “Quiet”, we’re certainly going to hear it. The level of impact on our community and livestock is to be determined. The potential impact of noise from this train and what measures can be implemented to mitigate the noise levels must be of prime concern to our community.

Why a bullet train at all? If you believe the information promulgated by the California High-Speed Rail Authority, building this project will not only reduce air pollution and traffic congestion, it will spark economic growth and create jobs. If you believe the pundits, this project is a complete waste of tax payer dollars. Nevertheless, high-speed rail is a federal initiative and a priority of the Obama administration. Just last month, February 2011, the administration announced plans to invest \$53 billion in high-speed rail development over the next 6 years. In January, the California High-Speed Rail Authority announced \$30 million in federal funding will be set aside for property acquisition and rail development in Los Angeles.

In the immortal words of the great Johnny Cash...Do you “hear the train a comin’? It’s rolling round the bend.” We need to come together as a community to ensure that our lifestyle is preserved and the interests of our residents are protected. We can not be personified as a “Silent Majority”. Let’s stand up and be counted. If we don’t, you can count on others determining our future as it regards high speed rail.

For more information visit the California High-Speed Rail Authority web site at <http://www.cahighspeedrail.ca.gov/>

Dana Martin

## **HIGH SPEED TRAIN UPDATE** FROM CALIFORNIA HIGH-SPEED RAIL (AFTER PRESENTATION AT SCHOA ANNUAL MEETING)

“For the past three years, the Palmdale to Los Angeles section team has met with stakeholders to review the potential routes the high-speed train will travel (alignments) and where it may stop (stations) through the mountains to Palmdale. These meetings and resulting feedback from stakeholders were included in the Preliminary Alternatives Analysis Report (PAA) released on July 8, 2010. After the Report was released, the CHSRA held community open houses in Los Angeles, Burbank, Santa Clarita and Palmdale as well as city and stakeholder meetings and workshops to obtain additional community input on the options.

On March 3, 2011, the CHSRA released the Supplemental Alternative Analysis (SAA), which provides additional evaluation, development and refinement of design options, and recommends alternatives to be carried into the DEIR/S process. The project team recommended that the area from Palmdale to Sylmar not be included in the SAA because additional local input was needed from stakeholders to identify a workable solution to the concerns that exist today.

### **Next Steps**

Prior to the release of the Supplemental Supplemental Alternatives Analysis, the CHSRA will continue to work with stakeholders to focus on dialogue, clarify issues, and supply potential solutions for alignments and recommendations for further study through the mountains to Palmdale.

**On May 2, 2011 (Monday evening), the CHSRA had a workshop at the Santa Clarita Sports Complex to provide an opportunity for the community to work with the project team to share their concerns and ideas about the alignments. If you would like to learn more about the workshop, please call Abraham Mercado at (213) 438-1755.**

### **Los Angeles to Palmdale Timeline**

2005 – Statewide Environmental Document Released  
2007 – Local Project-Level Process Began/Scoping  
2010 – Preliminary Alternatives Analysis Released  
2011 – Supplemental Alternatives Analysis Released  
2012 – Estimate for Release of the Draft Environmental Impact Report/Statement  
2012 – Estimate for Release of the Final Environmental Impact Report/Statement

### **Get Involved**

We are available to answer your questions and receive your comments or requests for a presentation.

Visit our website: [http://www.cahighspeedrail.ca.gov/Palmdale\\_-\\_Los\\_Angeles.aspx](http://www.cahighspeedrail.ca.gov/Palmdale_-_Los_Angeles.aspx)

Email us: [palmdale\\_los.angeles@hsr.ca.gov](mailto:palmdale_los.angeles@hsr.ca.gov)

Call us: (213) 438-1755

## MEET OUR NEWEST DIRECTOR



Debbie Martin is the Chief Financial Officer of Pacifica Hospital of the Valley. Pacifica Hospital of the Valley, a 242-bed acute care facility, has been a major provider of healthcare to adults and children in the San Fernando Valley for over three decades. The hospital offers a full range of inpatient and outpatient services, including 24-hour Emergency Care, Surgery, Behavioral Health Services and Maternity.

Debbie has an extensive background in health industry accounting and finance. Prior to joining Pacifica Hospital of the Valley, Debbie was a Director of Accounting Services and Projects for Kaiser Permanente. She has also worked in various accounting management positions for Amgen, Haskell International and Alpha Therapeutic.

Debbie is a Certified Public Accountant and graduate of San Diego State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting. She and her husband, Dana, both avid equestrians have lived in Sand Canyon since 1996 and have two grown children; Lindsey and Steven.

*(Editor's Note: Debbie is one smart lady and should be able to do our SCHOA accounting in her sleep!)*

## WHERE IS CEMEX TODAY?

First, the good news is that there is still no Cemex mine here in our backyard. The question is, will it stay that way?

Through the City's efforts and working with Congressman Buck McKeon and Cemex a bill was crafted to be introduced in Congress that would have cancelled the Cemex mining rights with the BLM. We now have a new Congress and a lot of the rules have changed.

If a bill is to be introduced that is crafted so as to provide special outcomes to only that Congressman's area the bill is now considered to be an "earmark". The new Congress has determined that there will be no earmarks. For that reason the bill that Congressman McKeon was going to introduce that would have cancelled the Cemex mining lease can not and will not be introduced.

What's next? Senator Boxer has a similar bill that would cancel the Cemex mining lease which she plans to introduce in this session. The Senate has different rules and therefore her legislation can be introduced. Should this bill be brought to the floor how soon might we see a vote?

That is a very good question. It might come up within a year at the end of this session. It might come up in an omnibus bill (many bills combined together) that would be voted on at the end of this Senate term (2 years) or it might not ever come up for a vote at all.

What can we do? Support the city in its efforts to keep the East end of Santa Clarita without a new mine and protect our open space. Remember, if Cemex starts mining there is a very good chance that an even bigger mine will follow between the Cemex site and Agua Dulce.

## \$\$\$ DUES TIME \$\$\$

**The same folks pay each year like clockwork. Others appreciate and benefit from our Newsletter, Referral Guide and our Emergency Flashes but do not subscribe officially.**

**We sincerely hope all of you will join & support our SCHOA organization and continue to enjoy all we offer....**

**From Emergency Information, to Lost & Found dogs.**

**Dues are \$50 annually.**

**We accept your dues anytime with appreciation! An envelope is enclosed for your convenience.**

**Sincerely, SCHOA Board of Directors**

*Note: SCHOA is a 501 (C 3) Corporation*

# SAND CANYON FIRE SAFE/EMERGENCY COUNCIL REPORT

The Sand Canyon Fire Safe/Emergency Council has expanded our emergency neighborhood reporting capabilities with the addition of 21 (radio ready) new resident volunteers. That means we now have 45 trained radio volunteers canyon wide and that is a huge accomplishment. The SCHOA board will order more two-way hand held radios for others interested in joining the Fire Safe Council Emergency-Reporting Net.

On the first Wednesday of each month at 8 PM we do a Radio Net roll call and that replicates the real life experience one would have during an emergency. This gives us the opportunity to practice communicating on the radios and to check the quality of our signals. This helps to insure that our radios and repeaters continue to work properly.

Russell Myers continues to improve and refine our area maps containing the emergency support information that may be needed during an actual disas-

ter. These maps will be available for our Fire Safe Council as well as our "Radio Brigade" as a quick geographical reference guide.

Dean Alexander with his radio expertise continues to find and purchase equipment on our behalf. We are very appreciative of the time he takes to do this on our behalf.

Ruthann Levison with the able technical assistance of Alyssa Alderman is in the process of compiling "notebooks for our FSC Committee with all of the canyon pertinent emergency information" with instructions and important telephone numbers for our "Fire Safe Radio Brigade", Fire Safe Committee chairs and Board members. This, of course, will be immensely useful to have when the "Big One" emergency actually happens and we need information handy and fast.

Craig Rosevear and Dan Johnson

continue to improve and maintain the canyon relay- station and they are in the process of upgrading our current repeater and adding a second one. The relay makes communication possible for our hand held radios anywhere in the canyon. We are constantly working to improve any dead spots with additional antennas.

We may need a new contingency plan for High Speed Bullet Train derailments but that's for another day!!!!!!!

Our active Sand Canyon Fire Safe Council is really growing and I certainly, along with all the SCHOA Board of Directors, really appreciate the involvement on behalf of our canyon "Reporting Net".

Respectfully submitted,  
Fire Safe Council Chair  
John Higby

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## THE FIRE DEPARTMENT DOES SO MUCH AMAZING WORK FOR OUR COMMUNITY

As part of Los Angeles County's declaration of March 21-26, 2011, as "Safe Communities Week," the Los Angeles County Fire Department would like to remind the public that all fire stations in Los Angeles County are "safe houses" for any child in a threatening situation.

The "Safe House Program" was initially launched by the Los Angeles County Fire Department in 1997 and later adopted by all municipalities within the County through the support of the Los Angeles Area Fire Chiefs Association. This community-based program designates every fire station a "safe house" to ensure a temporary haven for any child who encounters a threatening situation and needs a safe place to go.

"Firefighters actively participate in the program whenever a child appears at a fire station in a threatening situation," says Fire Chief Daryl L. Osby. "They place the crew and emergency vehicles out of service in order to help. Firefighters will reassure the frightened child and provide medical assistance, if needed. Most importantly they report any crimes to law enforcement officials, provide suspect descriptions, and notify the 24-hour Child Abuse Hotline, as appropriate."

The Safe House Program's core mission is to assist children who fear they may become a victim of a crime, intimidation or abuse. In this way, firefighters actively support their daily mission to save lives.

"This program demonstrates the willingness of Los Angeles-area fire service agencies to accept a shared responsibility for the well being of children living in each of the County's many communities," says Osby. "Together with school districts, police departments, parents, and community members, the Safe House Program has been built to ensure safe communities for our children."

For more information, call the Public Information Office at (323) 881-2411.

# VISTA CANYON UPDATE

Vista Canyon brings key elements together to create a vibrant Town Center community in Canyon Country. The transit-oriented plan puts living, working, shopping and recreation in close proximity to one another. Its walkable design features a community wide trail system consisting of equestrian trails, paths and bike lanes. The heart of this planned community will be its Town Center, known as Vista Square. This gathering spot will be home to an inviting mix of shops, restaurants, cinema, hotel, specialty market, offices, entertainment activities and residences. A new transit center (including a Metrolink Station) adjacent to Vista Square will encourage walking and bicycling, and make transit use convenient and enjoyable while reducing reliance on automobiles for residents, commuters, employees and visitors. The Vista Canyon project site (consisting of 185-acres) is located south of SR-14 between Fair Oaks Ranch and Sand Canyon.



To date, the Vista Canyon team has had over 50 community meetings with various stakeholders including the Sand Canyon Homeowners Association, Fair Oaks Ranch Homeowners Association, the Canyon Country Advisory Committee, residents living along La Veda Canyon Road, and other residents and community organizations in the Canyon Country area. These meetings resulted in significant changes to the project related to design, services, traffic calming and recreation/open space areas.

On February 15, 2011, the City's Planning Commission recommended approval of Vista Canyon to the City Council. The Planning Commission made this decision after conducting four public hearings on the Vista Canyon project. The Planning Commission made several changes to the project during the public hearings. One of the more significant changes included the elimination of single family homes adjacent to the La Veda Avenue neighborhood, thereby increasing the size of the proposed Oak Park from seven to ten acres. With this revision, the closest residential development

on the Vista Canyon site to Lost Canyon Road/La Veda Avenue would be approximately 500 feet. The Planning Commission also recommended that the City Council approve a "roundabout" intersection design for the Sand Canyon Road/Lost Canyon Road intersection.

As revised by the Planning Commission, Vista Canyon would consist of 1,091 residences, and up to 950,000 square feet of commercial and medical office, retail, theater, restaurant, and hotel uses. Over 50% of the Vista Canyon project site would be retained as open space, recreation areas and trails. A residential overlay over the corporate office campus site within the project

could allow for a conversion of up to 250,000 square feet of office floor area to 233 attached residential homes if market conditions dictate. Finally, up to 4,000 permanent jobs could be created by Vista Canyon. The community would also include approximately 21 acres of parks/recreation

facilities, including the 7-acre Oak Park, Town Green and Community Garden in Vista Square, River Education/Community Center, private recreation facilities, and community trails. Up to six private recreational facilities would be constructed throughout the neighborhood.

The Vista Canyon project site is presently in unincorporated Los Angeles County and would be annexed to the City of Santa Clarita along with various surrounding properties, which are also currently located under the jurisdiction of the County of Los Angeles. In total, the annexation area would include Vista Canyon, Fair Oaks Ranch, the Jakes Way area, and the unincorporated portion of Sand Canyon, west of Sand Canyon Road between the railroad tracks and Placerita Canyon Road.

The first public hearing on the Vista Canyon project before the City of Santa Clarita City Council is scheduled for March 22, 2011. If approved by the City, development of the Vista Canyon community would likely begin in 2013.

Article Courtesy of Vista Canyon

## LIBRARY UPDATE FROM MAYOR MCLEAN

Greetings!

As we enter the second month of 2011, so much is happening in our City that benefits our residents and our business community. I am also pleased to let you know that plans for our new Santa Clarita Public Library system are moving along well. In 2011, we will be spending a great deal of time preparing for the new system which becomes a reality on July 1, 2011.

As part of the new Santa Clarita Public Library system, the City recently forged a partnership with the **Inland Library Network** that will provide Santa Clarita residents with easy, online access to over one million titles which adds about 90,000 more than is currently provided. This partnership will allow the City to easily integrate its catalog with the Inland Library Network to provide a seamless process for Santa Clarita library users to search both online and in the libraries, as well as borrow materials free of charge. The City library system will implement daily delivery of materials to facilitate quick provision of books and other library materials.

Santa Clarita will also be a member of the **Southern California Library Cooperative**, an association of 46 independent city and special district public libraries located in Los Angeles, Orange, and Ventura counties that have agreed to collaborate to provide library service to the residents of all participating jurisdictions. Participation in this cooperative would allow patrons of the Santa Clarita Public Library system to access interlibrary loan collections totaling 29 million items of library materials.

For those who enjoy reading books on electronic devices, **E-books will be available at no charge** for those who use a *Sony Reader, Nook, iPod, iPhone, and iPad*. (Library E-Books cannot be downloaded to a Kindle because Kindle does not permit downloads from sites other than Amazon.) There will be several hundred titles on E-books available through the City's new library system, with more being added all the time.

I am looking forward to July 1, 2011, when citizens will enjoy our new City of Santa Clarita Public Library system. If you would like additional information, or would like to check out the construction progress of our new 30,000 square foot Old Town Newhall Library, log onto our website at: [www.santaclaritalibrary.com](http://www.santaclaritalibrary.com).

I am always available to hear from you. Please email me at: [mmclean@santa-clarita.com](mailto:mmclean@santa-clarita.com) or you can call my office at: 661-255-4395.

Sincerely,  
Marsha McLean, Mayor

## TRAIL GRAZING by Mike



Those of us living in Santa Clarita (Canyon Country) for several decades can easily remember when our restaurant selection was severely limited. Le Chene, Backwoods Inn, El Chaparral, and Chi Chi's were pretty much it on this side of town. However, it is noteworthy that these establishments are still here and enjoyed in spite of the current trying economic times.

Along with the tremendous population growth we've experienced resulting in unimagined traffic congestion, the installation of dozens of traffic lights, and the many inconveniences associated with the transition from sleepy bedroom community to what we have now, there have at least been some benefits in my opinion.

Besides Costco and Home Depot and the shopping advantages they provide, we now have some quite special eating-places this "foodie" appreciates which makes unnecessary the traveling into the San Fernando Valley for moderately priced outstanding dinners. In the spirit of sharing useful information personally gathered at my own expense, the following establishments are recommended (*they are good*) as worthy of serious consideration:

**Piccola Trattoria** ~ Italian, 18302 Sierra Hwy (up Dolan Way) Rated Top 10 by "Open Table" deservedly!

**Jasmine Thai** ~ 26879 Bouquet Cyn (at Seco Cyn)  
The very best of it's type!

**Lima Limon** ~ 26845 Bouquet Cyn (at Seco Cyn)  
Sensational Peruvian food, not too exotic!

**China Wok** ~ 20655 Soledad Cyn (at Reuther)  
Consistently good Chinese food, by owner/chef.

**The Social** ~ 23329 Lyons (at Orchard Village) Large varied continental menu & terrific martini bar.

**Bergie's** ~ 16404 DeLone (at Sand Cyn & 14 Fwy)  
"Cheers" type restaurant/bar; great burgers & halibut.

**Mononoke** ~ 18812 Soledad (behind Oggi's) Very good Japanese and Andy & his sister (the owners) are terrific.

**Tommy's Original** ~ 28116 Old Road (past Rye Cyn)  
An L.A. institution for chili burgers & hotdogs. Addicting & cheap!

# COPPER EAGLE SECURITY SAFETY TIPS

Copper Eagle Patrol & Security is in business for your safety. With that in mind we reminding you of a few of the things that you can do to protect yourself in the event of an earthquake.

## Earth Quake Safety

### Preparation

1. One of the best things we all can do is organize. While it is human nature to just set things in convenient places, to put them away will reduce clutter and spills in the event of a shaker.
2. Cabinets that latch. Not with just a magnet but an actual latch. These are not common anymore. But a latch system can contain the items inside the cabinet and prevent them from falling on the floor. A man I knew who had decided to use a simple 90 degree heavy wire that would rotate around to prevent the doors from swinging open. He was just doing the job when the 1971 earthquake hit. Those cabinets with the fasteners stayed closed while those without them vomited their contents on the floor.
3. Attach bookshelves and cabinets to the wall so they are not as likely to fall over.
4. DO NOT put book shelves over your bed. During the 1971 earthquake I personally was hit with every item but one off the bookshelf that was securely fastened to the wall but the books of course are not. This does not lead to a secure feeling when the house is shaking and gives the impression that the roof collapsed.
5. Know where your shut offs are. Houses in California are well built to earthquake standards and a collapse is unlikely. But a fire due to leaking natural gas can is very likely to destroy everything you just saved. Know where the gas shut off is and how to turn off the gas. (The gas should not be turned back on until checked by the Gas Company.) Likewise you may need to turn off the water if you have broken pipes. (At least it is easier and safer to find leaking water than it is gas.)
6. Have some emergency supplies on hand.
  - A. Water enough for at least one gallon per person per day. The 5 gallon Arrowhead or Sparkletts bottles are not expensive and since they are now plastic they are almost indestructible. In a major emergency you should not plan on any government help for 3 to 5 days. You and your neighbors will be on your own.
  - B. Non perishable food that is easy to prepare. A 2 week supply is suggested. Have a manual can opener. There is nothing worse than being hungry and looking at cans you can't get open.
    - C. Battery powered radio with extra batteries. This may be the only way to receive emergency information for several days as phones and cell towers will not work.
    - D. First aid kit, sanitation and hygiene items, and necessary medications.
    - E. Leatherman type multi purpose tool. This fits in a pocket and will give you needed tools immediately and you won't have to go looking for them;
    - F. Family emergency contact information should also be kept in a notebook and not just on your computer which will not work until power is restored.
    - G. Emergency cash. Any stores that may open may not be able to process credit card transactions and the ATM will be down as well.
    - H. These should be kept handy in one spot in the event you should have to evacuate, you will have basic supplies and not wish you had brought...
7. Have a flashlight and sturdy slippers near the bed. There will be no power so you will need the light and remember there is now most likely glass on the floor. If you hurt yourself you will not be able to help your family.

### During an Earthquake

1. If you are in bed, it may be best to just stay there and ride it out. A bed is soft and springy and will protect you reasonably save a building collapse. You will be tempted to run to your children. This you should wait to do. They will almost always stay in bed fully under the covers and be protected. In a shaking house you will fall if you try to run, and you will cut yourself on broken glass if you try to crawl.
2. In the event of a building collapse you can roll off the bed beside the bed and the strength of the bed will protect you from falling ceilings.
3. During the day the safest places to be are curled up beside your easy chair or laying down behind your couch. These items are sturdy and well built and will not collapse under even heavy loads. And they will leave a triangle of space beside them. This is known as the "triangle of life".
4. A doorframe is not the safest place unless the wall is a load bearing wall. Some interior walls are basically just decoration and they will collapse door frame and all. But if you get in a load bearing door

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- frame, you should brace yourself in with your back to the hinges and your hands and feet against the side with the latch. If you reverse this you may find your hands wedged into the door jam as the door closes on your fingers leaving you stuck in a door and muttering words that children should not hear.
5. A table is not the safest place either. In Peru children were found crushed under their desks where they hid. The weakest place on the table is the middle. And if it collapses it will fall in. A safer spot is beside the table at the table leg which is its strongest part. This will again provide you with a "triangle of life" space beside the table.
  6. The most likely and often first part of a building that fails is the stairs. And even if they don't fall during a quake, a mass of people flooding down them can collapse the entire structure which will result in mutilation injuries of those involved. If stairs must be traversed, one at a time should proceed stepping out to the edges of the steps and not the middle.
  7. If you are in a car, try to stop in a safe place (not next to large objects or billboards) and ride it out. If you find yourself under a freeway overpass, you would be better to get out of the car and curl up as small as possible beside it. In the San Francisco earthquake where the Nimitz Freeway overpass collapsed, everyone who stayed inside their cars died. The few who got out beside their cars survived.

#### After the initial Shaker

1. Check your family and those near by to ensure they are safe or if they need help.
2. Check your services to see if phones and power has gone down.
3. Shut off gas. Many homes have automatic shut offs now. You can check with your gas company as to your situation. (Don't wait till the day of the quake to ask.)
4. Check your building to see if there are cracks or structure failures. If so get out.
5. Clean up as much as possible to make your area safer.
6. Organize your safety materials for use as long as needed.
7. In the event of emergencies, fire and police are in charge. If a state of emergency is declared YOU MUST obey instructions given you. Don't try to argue your civil rights with authorities if you are told to evacuate. You could find yourself in jail as a looter. In the event National Guard units move in, follow their instructions. Under martial law you can be shot for failing to do so.

8. If your cell phone works you can try to contact family and let them know your condition. Keep in mind everyone will be doing the same, so any working circuits may be overloaded and it might be hours before you can make a simple call.
9. Have a primary person you will contact in an emergency and let others know who that is. That way you will only have to make one call and the rest can check with them. It is best if they are in another state so as not to be affected by the same problem.
10. Be prepared to be on your own with no help from authorities for 3 to 5 days. When your local community pulls together, this is attainable and you will find you have made friends for life.

We hope this information can be of assistance to you and help keep you safe.

William Corbett, Chief  
Copper Eagle Patrol & Security

*(Editors Note: Bill Corbett is a Sand Canyon resident and active on our Fire Safe/Emergency Council)*



# ★ IMPORTANT MESSAGE ★

## FROM THE "QUEEN OF CRITTERS"



### **Keep your dogs & cats safe!** **Please put identification tags on them!**

If your dog has an ID tag, a neighbor can call you right away when they find your dog, before it goes to the animal shelter.

Chipping is good only as a secondary precaution and only if the dog gets to the shelter. It does not help if someone in the neighborhood finds your dog. They do not have a chip reader (there are several types) and will probably not take your dog to a vet to get it read.

Pet Stop in the Von's shopping center is a convenient place to have a tag made. You can order pet ID tags online, and some stores, like PetsMart, have 'Quick Tag' kiosks where you can make your own tags.

**Most importantly keep the numbers on the tags current!!!**

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## **R**RATTLESNAKE SEASON IS HERE!

A word to the wise...

Quick treatment is necessary if a rattlesnake bites your pet. It is important for you to know that you can  
**GET YOUR DOGS AN ANTI-RATTLER  
INNOCULATION.**

Losing an animal is very upsetting and it can possibly be avoided with some planning and forethought.

**PLEASE INNOCULATE AGAINST RATTLER  
VENOM!!!**

*(Editors Note: you still need to see the vet...the inoculation just lessens the reaction...the vet still costs a bundle but...!)*

PS, if you need emergency care during the night or w/e recommended by many is All Creatures Emergency Care at 22722 Lyons Avenue (Chestnut by Railroad Ave) Newhall, 661-263-2790.



## ANIMAL CONTROL INFORMATION

*(Thanks to a knowledgeable neighbor)*

The Castaic Animal Shelter (and all shelters) has websites on-line (see links below) that show all the animals that are in the shelter unless the animal is injured or sick. Strays are held by state law for 4-5 business days to give owners a chance to find them before they can be adopted (strays are put on the website too as soon as they come in). If the animal has a microchip then the hold period is a bit longer as they'll try to contact the owner.

It is extremely important to visit the shelter in person to check the animals there as the photo on-line may not show all the markings or show that one little unique marking their pet has, or sometimes a photo isn't available. People can also inquire about any sick or injured animals and they can also look at the shelter's intake log (it includes any sick or injured animals as well).

The shelter is open later some weekdays to accommodate people's work schedule and they are open all weekend. Hours are:

Mon - Thurs 12 noon - 7pm.

Fri - Sun 10am - 5pm.

I'm concerned some people say that no one at the shelter answers the phone. I hope they are calling the correct number: (661) 257-3191 or (818) 367-8065). Keep trying!

For reference the Castaic Shelter websites are listed below. Be sure to check them all. If people see their pet on the website they should call the shelter as soon as possible (do not email as it may not be timely):

~<http://animalcare.lacounty.gov/AdoptSearch.asp> - select 'Castaic Shelter' and type of animal.

~Also there is a site on petfinder: <http://www.petfinder.com/shelters/CA672.html>

People can also check petfinder for local rescues websites to see if perhaps their stray has ended up with a rescue.

Thank You to Jeannie Sutton and Canyon Country Magazine for layout assistance



# SCHOA ANNUAL MEETING, FEBRUARY 24, 2011

## MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 7:25 pm to a standing room only crowd of more than 200.

**WELCOME to all was given by Dave Hauser.**

**The PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE was led by Councilmember Laurene Weste.**

**GUEST INTRODUCTIONS were made by Ruthann Levison and were as follows:**

**Council Members: Laurene Weste and Bob Kellar, Ass't City Mgr Ken Striplin, PRCS Director Rick Gould, PRCS Commissioner Ruthann Levison, LACOFD Ass't Chief Bill Niccum, Firefighters from Sta#123 & 132, LACOFD Comm'ty Svss Liaison Stephanie English, CHP Commander Mark Odle, CHP Pubic Info Officer John Lutz, Field Rep for Sharon Runner Jackie Bick, Deputy for Supervisor Antonovich David Perry, Chief of Staff Bob Haueter for Congressman Buck McKeon, Robinson Ranch Owner Bruce Rothman, Vista Canyon Ranch: Jim Backer & Glenn Adamick, High Speed Rail reps Consensus, Inc: Sarah Costin, Dan Tempelis & Abraham Mercado.**

**TREASURERS REPORT from Dave Hauser...Current Balance \$19,580.57.**

**OUTGOING BOARD RECOGNITION was given to: Jennifer Jean Cacavas, Dave Hauser, John Higby, Ruthann Levison, Dana Martin, Russell Myers, Sandi Parris.**

**NEW SLATE INTRODUCTION was made (same as above) with the inclusion of newest member Debbie Martin. Each gave a short bio. No one announced to run from the floor and the slate was duly elected.**

**CITY OF SANTA CLARITA REPORT was given by Ken Striplin who spoke of current City issues.**

**Annexation of Vista Canyon Ranch, Fair Oaks Ranch and west side of the Sand**

**Canyon Area (without the area south of Placerita which is being handled as a separate annexation) was approved by the Planning Commission and was recommended to the City Council.**

**Cemex Mine has hit a snag but work is continuing to get it passed in the US Senate. Senator Barbara Boxer is working on it along with our City representatives.**

**Open Space/Crest to Coast Trail update was given by Laurene West showing on maps the properties that have been purchased, the properties that are being looked at and how it all ties together with Forest lands and other publicly held properties to insure a greenbelt around our Santa Clarita Valley.**

## **EMERGENCY SERVICES REPORT**

**Santa Clarita Chief of Police Paul Becker was unable to attend.**

Lt. Dustin Stillwell, Sheriff's Dept. spoke on behalf of Cpt. Becker. One of his priorities is to focus on the youth in our community because he believes property crime, burglary rates, larceny and narcotics are all related. If intervention happens at an early age, he believes he can prevent many issues that could arise in adulthood. So he launched the J-Team (the Juvenile Intervention Team) in July 2010, working with the support of the City and Hart School District. There is more info on this on their website at [www.scvsheriff.com](http://www.scvsheriff.com) <<http://www.scvsheriff.com>>.

**CHP California Highway Patrol Capt. Mark Odle**

reported on our Freeways & road safety issues. A grant has been received to focus on the 14 Freeway from the split of the 5 & the 14 Fwys to Palmdale, in order to reduce the DUI's so prevalent in that stretch of road. He spoke of the excellent cooperation between all the Emergency agencies in order to insure the safety of our community in the best possible manner.

**LACO Fire Dept: Ass't Chief Bill Niccum** spoke to us for the first time since he came on board as our SCValley Fire Chief. His roots are from our area and he is pleased to be back with us.

The LA County Fire Department will be conducting a CERT class in Sand Canyon 3 consecutive Saturdays in a row beginning May 14, 2011, May 21, & May 28 from 9-4pm. Sign up on their website ASAP. The Fire Dept is building 5 new stations in Santa Clarita. He praised our community's Fire Safe Council and he too spoke of the close work between the emergency agencies to insure the best possible safety outcome in any event for our residents.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS** were very brief so we could move on to the most pressing item on the agenda.

**Communications:** Ruthann reported that we have 46 GMRS radios in the canyon and 48 CERTS to date...which is a very gratifying number and shows how committed our community is to our own safety.

**Fire Safe Council Update:** John Higby spoke to the regular drills and meetings to keep everyone up to speed.

**Trails/SCVTAC Update** by Russell Myers who reported on the progress of the Crest to Coast Trail project and how beneficial that would be to our Sand Canyon Trails program, which is on going.

## **DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS**

**Vista Canyon Ranch** Developer Jim Backer gave an update on his project. The Planning Commission approved the annexation of 2400 acres including Vista Canyon, Fair Oaks & the west side of Sand Canyon (without Arkin's or Sable Ranch at this time). The project has been submitted to the City Council. Vista Canyon Park got larger, now 10 acres (was 7 acres), they eliminated some homes to do that. A lively discussion was

held on the possibility of a Roundabout at the intersection of Sand and Lost Canyon Roads, which was the Commission's choice for that intersection. Ruthann urged folks to go to the City Council Meeting on March 22<sup>nd</sup> with their concerns if any about the project in general and the Roundabout in particular.

**Disney** Representatives were unable to attend our meeting, but that project is in process. Trails are being worked on and a report will be given at a later date.

**High Speed Rail Presentation** was made by Sarah Costin....although the presentation was a big disappointment to our group because it was very general and did not address our particular area in any way. Our upset was made very clear to them.

High Speed Rail first discussions began 30 years ago. Voters approved with

Prop 1A, a \$10 Billion bond measure. It will be an 800-mile system, from San Francisco to San Diego. Urban speed is 110 - 125, rural speed of 220 mph. 100% clean power because it's electric. Can expect 450,000 economy wide jobs by 2035. State of CA is funding \$9 billion of this bond. The rest is federal and private. Roelof van Ark is the new CEO of the High Speed Rail System. There will be 10 trains per hour. Their next meeting will be in Los Angeles on March 3, 2011. We may visit their website at [www.cahighspeedrail.ca.gov](http://www.cahighspeedrail.ca.gov) <<http://www.cahighspeedrail.ca.gov>> for more info.

Future meetings will be held since the run between Sylmar & Palmdale has not been finalized. There will be more outreach in order for them to formalize their proposal for this stretch. A MTA Board meeting to discuss the Rail project is scheduled for March 3<sup>rd</sup>. Ruthann said she would email the information to

everyone the next day. It was suggested strongly that folks attend and write letters with their concerns. There was some conversation about why a high-speed rail was necessary. The why...our electorate voted it in. So it is State issue. The consensus from our group was "keep it underground" as it is from the San Fernando Valley to the west edge of our canyon...keep it underground until it is past our Canyon. We do have our work cut out for us if we are to have an impact on this leg of the route.

**QUESTIONS and ANSWERS** on the High Speed Rail went on until almost 10 pm when the meeting adjourned to an almost full house.

**ADJOURNMENT at 9:55.**  
**Respectfully submitted (3/2/11),**  
**Ruthann Levison**  
**SCHOA Communications**

## CITY INFORMATION (2011)

### CITY COUNCIL (2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday 6 PM)

Mayor	Marsha McLean
Mayor Pro Tem	Laurie Ender
Council Member	Frank Ferry
Council Member	Bob Kellar
Council Member	Laurene Weste

**City Manager** Ken Pulskamp

### PARKS, RECREATION & COMMUNITY SERVICES

(1<sup>st</sup> Thursday 6 PM)

Chair	Duane Harte
Vice-Chair	Matt Halliday
Commissioner	Dianna Boone
Commissioner	Chris Fall
Commissioner	Ruthann Levison

### PLANNING COMMISSION (1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday 7 PM)

Chair	Timothy Burkhart
Vice Chair	Dee Dee Jacobson
Commissioner	Lisa Eichman
Commissioner	Bill Kennedy
Commissioner	Dennis Ostrom

### ARTS COMMISSION (3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday 6 PM)

Chair	Dr. Michael Millar
Vice Chair	Paul Strickland
Commissioner	John Dow
Commissioner	Eric Schmidt

### IMPORTANT CITY NUMBERS

Emergency	911
City Hall	(661) 259-2489
City Website	<a href="http://www.santa-clarita.com">www.santa-clarita.com</a>
Sheriff (non-emergency)	(661) 255-1121
Anonymous Crime	(661) 284-2847
STTOP Speeding Teens/or Adults	(877) 310-7867
Fire (non-emergency)	(661) 259-2111
Abandoned Vehicles (private property)	(661) 255-4983
(public streets call Sheriff)	(661) 255-1121
Animal Control	(661) 257-3191
Community Preservation Officer	(661) 255-4983
Graffiti Hotline	(661) 252-5326
Illegal Dumping	(661) 294-2520
Large Trash Items (Blue Barrel)	(661) 259-2398
Mosquito Control	(818) 364-9589
West Nile Virus Hotline for dead birds	(877) 968-2473
Street Problems (maintenance)	(661) 294-2520
Traffic Issues	(661) 255-4942

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# Sand Canyon Community News

Publication of the Sand Canyon Homeowners Association

## 2011 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

JJ Cacavas, Dave Hauser, John Higby, Ruthann Levison,  
Dana Martin, Debbie Martin, Russell Myers & Sandi Parris

### Newsletter Editor Treasurer

Ruthann Levison  
Debbie Martin

## COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Annexation	Rob Parris
Communications	Ruthann Levison
Fire Safe Council	John Higby
Public Safety	Sandi Parris
Trails	Russell Myers

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**WEBSITE** [www.SandCanyonHOA.com](http://www.SandCanyonHOA.com)

## DATES TO REMEMBER

**Board of Directors**  
Second Wednesday of month at 7 PM

**May 14, 21, 28**  
Canyon CERT Classes  
Church of the Canyons

**May 15**  
AMGEN Tour