



Responses to SSMPA's questions for 2016 Candidates by:

Bryan Caforio, Candidate for California's 25th Congressional District

The six projects below affect open space and/or public health and safety in and near northwest Los Angeles County and eastern Ventura County. Please summarize your position on each project and describe, as appropriate, what action steps you may take relating to each project.

1. Rim of the Valley federal study

- a. Do you favor passage of the Rim of the Valley Corridor Preservation Act?

Yes.

- b. What action steps will you pursue to encourage or discourage passage of the act in the U.S. Congress as a California Congressional Representative?

I will work with my fellow members of the California delegation to encourage the passage of this act.

2. Aliso Canyon Gas leak

- a. What action steps would you take regarding this local disaster?

The recent Aliso Canyon Gas Leak showed us what happens when our representatives are beholden to dirty energy companies. We need a representative who believes in science, understands that climate change is a paramount threat to national security, and will stand up to dirty energy companies in order to keep our roads clear from increased trucking traffic congestion, our air breathable, our water drinkable, and our communities safe. I will stand with the people in this community as we fight climate change and work to address the Aliso Canyon Gas Leak, CEMEX, Santa Susana, the Chiquita Canyon landfill, and our dwindling fresh water supply, and I will never take campaign donations from Sempra Energy Company.

- b. Should part of the answer be to rule out development next to this facility?

We should rule out any development that would cause harm to the residents of Porter Ranch and the neighboring areas; we all call the 25th district home and we need to ensure that our home is protected.

- c. When considering a new residential project or commercial area, what distance from the nearest gas well seems appropriate to ensure public safety and health?

I will work with local officials and professionals in the field to determine an appropriate distance for new residential or commercial projects. In Congress, I will work to ensure that those safety rules are strictly followed and enforced.

- d. About three years ago, the facility applied to double its compressor capacity. Now that multiple maintenance deficiencies in the project are known, should that approval be reconsidered?

We should work to fully recover from the effects of the Aliso Canyon Gas Leak before approving any expansions to the facility.

- e. Would you support full shut down of the site due to the extensive residential housing that has been built near it?

In Congress, I will work with other officials and professionals to determine the best course of action to take once the community has seen substantial recovery from this gas leak.

- f. What would your approach be to this?

I would consider all potential solutions and work alongside members of the community to find the best approach for this.

3. Hidden Creeks development

This proposed project would access its 188 homes by driving over some of Southern California Gas Company's property. The City of Los Angeles planning staff approved the project December 11, 2015. The land is in the County and still would need to be transferred to the City. The land includes blue line streams and very significant oak woodlands, threatened species, and is adjacent to County SEA's. We recently heard that Southern California Gas Company will not allow access to Hidden Creeks over SoCalGas property, and a supplemental EIR or addendum to the EIR is to be prepared for an alternative access route.

a. What is your position on this project?

I do not support projects that will threaten the safety of the residents of this district or the environment.

b. Given the now-disclosed problems at the immediately adjacent Aliso Canyon, would you support or work to stop this development?

In Congress, I will work to ensure that incidents like the Aliso Canyon Gas Leak are prevented from happening in the future.

c. What action steps would you take?

I would work closely with other officials and professionals in the community to find an appropriate solution.

4. Private Landfill

Slightly to the north and west of the Hidden Creeks property, in Los Angeles County, is a major dirt and construction landfill operated by a private party with no legal permit. Up to 100 trucks a day went in full and came out empty for months and months. The picture on page 3 is from early January 2016. This is in north Browns Canyon (the north end of De Soto Ave.), adjacent to the Michael D. Antonovich Regional Park at Joughin Ranch. Although trucks apparently no longer deliver construction debris and dirt, we have been advised extensive grading of this site continues, and we do not believe any permits have been issued. The property drains to Devil Canyon, a blue line stream.

a. What action steps would you take to halt this operation?

I will fight to protect the residents who are impacted by this private landfill and I will fight to ensure that all companies are operating with proper permits and are held accountable for their operations, especially when those operations negatively affect the residents of this district.

b. What action steps would you take to remediate the land?

I will ensure that thorough studies are conducted to determine the extent of the effect that the private landfill has had and work with other officials and professionals to find the best method of remediation.

5. Newhall Ranch development

The fate of the very large Newhall Ranch development(s) in the Santa Clara River Valley is yet to be settled.

a. Do you support proceeding with this development?

I do not support a development project that would threaten the safety of this district's residents, wildlife, and/or environment.

b. What action steps would you take regarding approving, halting, or altering plans for development of Newhall Ranch?

I would closely monitor the work that the development group is doing to fix the issues that the high court identified in review of the Environmental Impact Report; I will work closely with other officials to ensure that the best interests of this district are protected.

c. Would you support a designated expanse of significant breadth in the Valley of low nighttime light, less intense development/open space, and a designated wildlife habitat between the Oat Mountain area and the Los Padres forest to provide a long term, viable solution for genetic diversity of mountain lions and other animals?

Yes.

d. Would you actively work to achieve item c. above?

Yes.

6. Santa Susana Field Laboratory (SSFL) Cleanup

SSFL is in west San Fernando Valley, Ventura County. The NASA and DOE parcels are being cleaned up to a "background" level that requires all contaminants to be removed based on a contract, and the cleanup must be completed by 2017. It is likely all ingress and egress will be through Woolsey Canyon / Los Angeles County, so all impacts of hauling material out and in goes through Woolsey Canyon, and then travels through Chatsworth, West Hills, and Woodland Hills (City of Los Angeles) to get to freeways to be hauled to dump sites.

- a. Would you as a California Congressional Representative take any position on appropriate cleanup levels (background, suburban residential, open space), or timing of the cleanup for this project?

Yes, I take a strong interest in protecting the residents of this district and that includes taking an interest in ensuring that the cleanup project is done in the most appropriate way possible.

- b. What action steps would you take?

I would work closely with the groups conducting the cleanup project, as well as with the local officials in the communities that will be impacted by this cleanup project to ensure that the best method is being used.