



# SANTA SUSANA MOUNTAIN PARK ASSOCIATION

*Dedicated to the Preservation of the Santa Susana Mountains and Simi Hills*

A Non-Profit 501(c)(4) Incorporated Nov. 30, 1971

Email: [mail@ssmpa.com](mailto:mail@ssmpa.com)

Founded Nov. 20, 1970

Website: [ssmpa.com](http://ssmpa.com)

## SPRING 2016 Newsletter (April)

### **SSMPA COMMUNITY MEETINGS: 7:00 pm**

*(Community Meetings are Free to SSMPA Members and the Public.)*

**Rockpointe Clubhouse: 22300 Devonshire Street, Chatsworth, CA 91311**

(On the south side, one block before entrance to Chatsworth Park South)

[\(map\)](#)

Monthly Except **No Meetings June- August**



**Monday, April 18, 2016 7:00pm – 8:30pm**

**Climate: Change, Reality, Action**

**Presenter: Sharon Markenson**

**Educator and Advocate, Climate Reality Leadership Corps**



Sharon Markenson spent the first part of her life teaching students secondary English while incorporating respect for the environment into her lessons whenever possible. She also taught public speaking and competitive forensics and coached the **El Camino Real High School's Academic Decathlon team** to three national titles. In 2013, she trained with the **Climate Reality Leadership Corps** to present information on climate issues. Since then, she has been educating business, school, faith and community groups on causes and effects of climate disruption as well as what we need to do about it.

One of the most important things you can take away from this presentation is **what YOU can do about climate change.**

**Monday, May 16, 2016 7:00pm - 8:30pm**

**Rockpointe Clubhouse: 22300 Devonshire Street, Chatsworth, CA 91311**

### **Our Chatsworth Region: History and Pre-History**

**Presenters:**

**Albert Knight: Anthropologist, Archaeologist**

**Ray Vincent, Sr: Research Director at Chatsworth Historical Society**



photo: J. Luker

**Albert Knight** will provide a visual presentation on recent archaeological and historical research in the Chatsworth area. Knight will discuss the findings of the archaeological work at Dayton Canyon, the old west-valley lime industry, and what we now know about the 19th and early-20th century west-valley Native American community. Knight will be assisted by **Ray Vincent**, of the Chatsworth Historical Society, who also researches history of the area.

Al has been studying the area for over 30 years His presentation will include some photos of local Chumash pictographs.

# Andora Estates Development Project: Comment Period Extended

Thanks to letters from concerned organizations [like SSMPA](#), the City has extended the deadline for public comments by 2 weeks.

You have until **Monday April 18th** to get your comments to the City Planning Department about the Andora Estates development.

Andora Estates proposes to build 30-40 houses in the canyon that connects Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park to Chatsworth Oaks Park and Chatsworth Nature Preserve.



The following sites give you **the information you need** to make your voice heard:

<https://sites.google.com/site/defendclm/andora-estates>

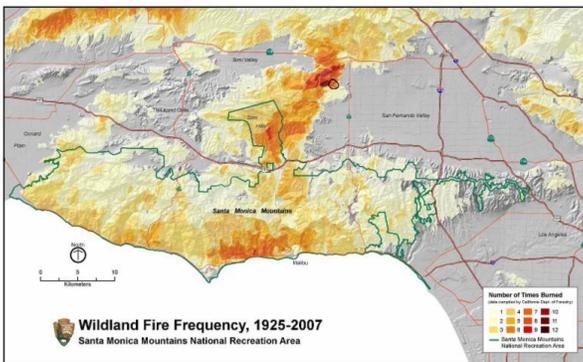
<https://www.change.org/p/los-angeles-city-planning-dept-stop-andora-estates>

Here are documents that provide **additional useful information**:

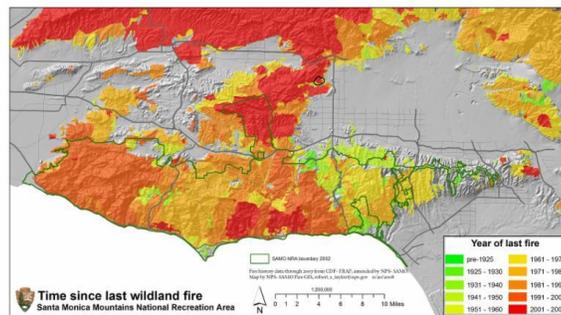
[Points you can make in your comments](#)

[Points from petition](#)

[Andora site map and grading](#)



Andora Fire Frequency



Andora Fire Recency



Andora area fire danger 2005

## Deerlake Ranch

### Work Begins on New Residential Development in Santa Susana Mountains

[Deerlake Ranch](#) is a development of 314 houses in the Deerlake Highlands area in the southern foothills of Oat Mountain. It is just north of the Twin Lakes community, just west of Porter Ranch, and just south of the proposed Hidden Creeks Estates. Check out stunning aerial photos of the area [HERE](#).

Grading of land is just beginning for the project, which was approved years ago but delayed during the years of the weak real estate market.

The contractor brought in a herd of goats to "de-vegetate" the land before grading. The goats have gone, but you can see them in the video below.

(Try to watch without smiling.)



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### Rim of the Valley: Moving Forward, ... We Hope

The [Rim of the Valley Corridor Study](#) is now "final" and it is up to members of the U.S. Congress (Adam Schiff, Julia Brownley, Steve Knight, and others) to move it forward by introducing it as a bill to be voted on.



The "**selected alternative**" in the "final" study by the National Park Service would add about 170,000 acres to Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area. This is less than most public commenters called for, but still doubles the area within the boundaries of the National Park unit. It is unknown whether a last minute push by some supporters to increase the size of the "selected alternative" will cause the Interior Department to expand the encompassed area.

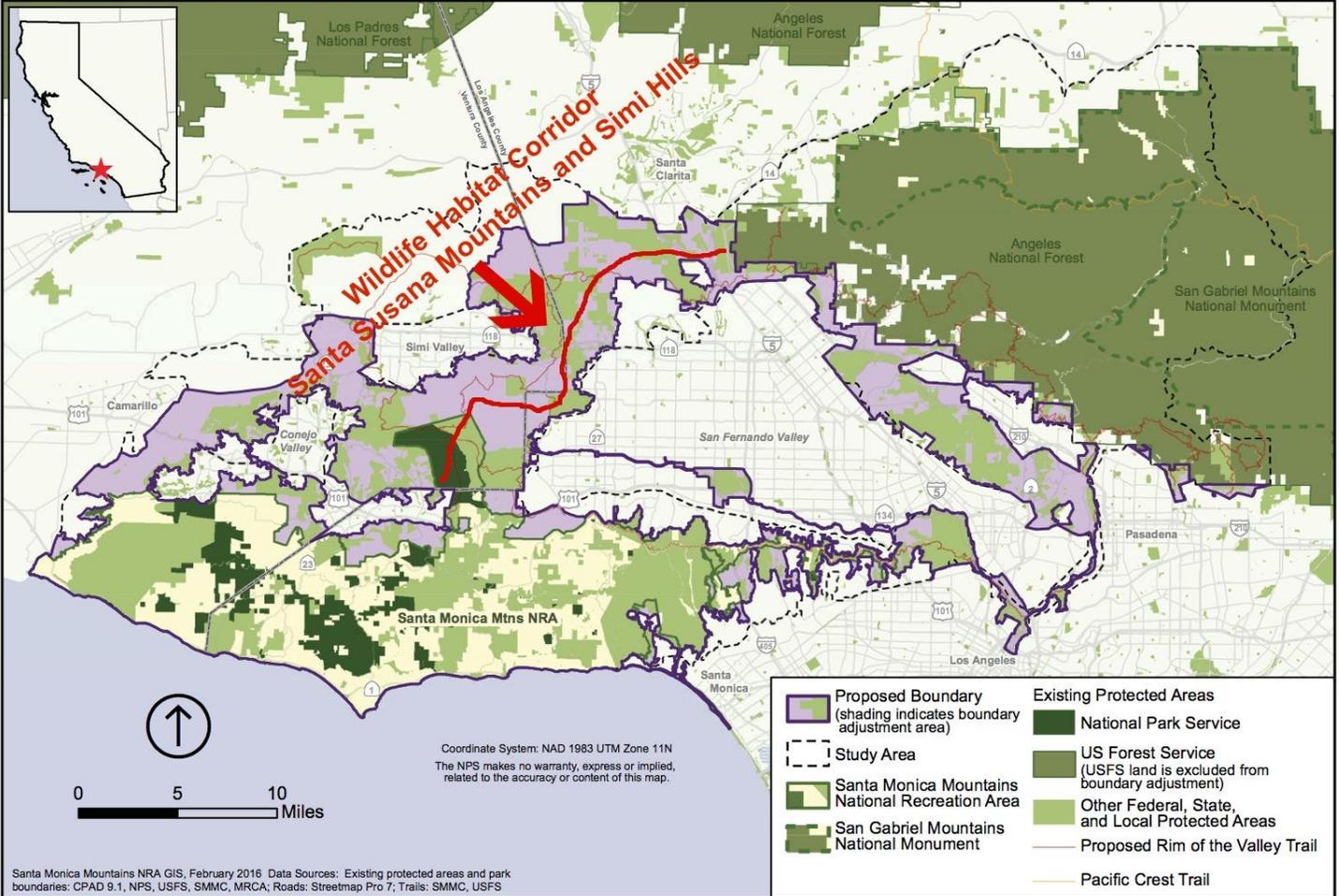
SSMPA, whose mission focuses on preserving open space in the **Santa Susana Mountains and Simi Hills**, would like to see the area of the "selected alternative" expanded, but we are nevertheless pleased that **much terrain within our particular area of concern is included**. The habitat linkage corridor areas just north and west of Chatsworth fall within the selected boundary.

See the red line on the map below that links the San Gabriel Mountains, Santa Susana Mountains and Simi Hills, and Santa Monica Mountains. This boundary alignment potentially calls on **Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park, Chatsworth Nature Preserve, and Santa Susana Field Lab** to play major roles in maintaining a viable habitat corridor.

# Selected Alternative

Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area Boundary Adjustment  
with Cooperative Conservation Emphasis

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



Useful information on the current prospects of the Rim of the Valley:

[U.S. National Park Service](#)

[Rim of the Valley Coalition](#)

[Summary of Recent Public Meeting](#)

Interesting issues related to ROV:

[City of Moorpark Wants into the ROV](#)

[Congressman Wants Beaches Included in SMMNRA](#)

## Oil and Gas in the Santa Susana Mountains

Recent events in a 140-year old story

Oat Mountain has been a center of local controversy since even before the discovery of the SoCalGas Aliso Canyon gas leak in October 2015. The controversy arose from the **Termo Company**'s effort to gain approvals for drilling up to twelve new oil wells (it already operates 18) near the mountain's ridge line.

[Termo announced](#) in January 2016 that, in light of the nearby Aliso gas leak, it was going to hold off on releasing the Environmental Impact Report that it was working on until after the leak situation was resolved.

"The Termo Company (Termo) has decided to postpone the release of the Public Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the North Aliso Canyon Project. Termo intends to resume the LA County EIR process sometime in the future."

Soon after the announcement, regulators discovered that Termo's oil pumping operations were illegally venting natural gas into the air. They previously piped the gas to SoCalGas to inject into their gas reservoir, but SoCal's well leak forced them to stop injecting gas, including that from Termo's operations. Termo has been assessed \$75,000 in fines. See [more](#).

And so the clash between loosely regulated industrial operations and more recent residential and commercial development continues in the Santa Susana Mountains ... as it does elsewhere around the world.

## CONSTRUCTION IS STARTING AT CHATSWORTH PARK SOUTH



There are striking signs that remediation work is about to begin at **Chatsworth Park South**, at the far west end of Devonshire Street. After more than eight (8) years of closure, construction work seems to be starting up.

We all know that Chatsworth Park South (City of LA) has been closed for **more than 8 years**, awaiting cleanup of reported lead contamination on a portion of the acreage. The City has engaged a contractor to do remediation work (grading, capping the surface, etc.). Work was delayed in order to begin after the El Niño season 2016. City officials have planned a construction **groundbreaking event for 10am, Monday, April 11** (2,978 days since closure).



Remediation will be accomplished primarily by hauling in materials (aggregate and clean soil) to serve as a one-foot cap over the soil that is contaminated with lead pellets and fragments of clay pigeons. Only some areas will have soil removed and hauled away.

Remediation work may take up to a year to complete, say some city officials.

[DTSC](#) says the project will span April 4 through December 13, 2016.



[Click here to read the remediation plan](#)

For a timeline of the long saga of the Park's closure, see: [SSMPA's Watch Center for Chatsworth Park South Reopening](#)

## Santa Susana Field Lab Cleanup - Future Open Space

The **Community Advisory Group (CAG)** for the Santa Susana Field Lab (SSFL) has released a new video, a straight-forward, plain-talking overview of the history of the facility and the organization of the contamination cleanup that remains to be done.



See also [ssflcag.net](http://ssflcag.net) and [facebook.com/ssflcag](https://facebook.com/ssflcag)

**Santa Monica  
Mountains**  
National Recreation Area



### My Cubicle Is Nicer Than Yours!

Art Exhibit & Sale by SSMPA's Vice President, John Luker  
April 2 through April 29, 2016 9 AM-5 PM

Artist **John Luker** works for the Department of Parks and Recreation, Resources Department on habitat restoration projects. His photographs were taken in some of the most sublimely beautiful spots in the Santa Monica Mountains, his "office."

For more information call 805-370-2301 or e-mail [samo@wnpa.org](mailto:samo@wnpa.org). For directions to the Interagency Visitor Center, click here:

[Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area Store](http://Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area Store)

Anthony C. Beilenson Interagency Visitor Center, King Gillette Ranch  
26876 Mulholland Highway; Calabasas, CA 91302



## Stagecoach Trail History Hike

### Climb the Devil's Slide

Saturday April 30, 2016

9:00am - 1:30pm

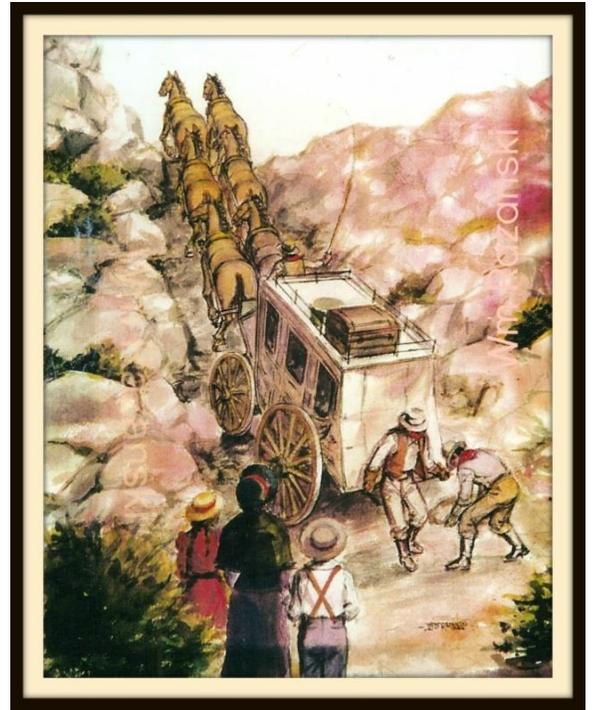
Meet at **Larwin Avenue** entrance to Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park (1/2 block south of Devonshire)

Hike leader: Teena

Difficult: 4.5 miles, 4.5 miles

More [HERE](#)

Hikes and other events in the Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park are run by volunteers for State Parks. SSMPA passes on information about various activities outdoors, open space concerns, and/or certain naturalist activities to help our friends know what is happening, but does not sponsor or manage the events.



## Annual Garden Festival



photo: Ann Vincent

Chatsworth Historical Society Presents...

### A GARDEN FESTIVAL

Details [HERE](#)

SUNDAY, APRIL 24th 2016

11:00 AM to 3:00 PM

HOMESTEAD ACRE

Located just inside Chatsworth Park South (West End of Devonshire Street)  
10385 Shadow Oak Drive, Chatsworth, CA 91311

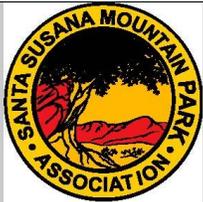
## Chatsworth Nature Preserve Open House

Hundreds of people turned out for the once-a-year Open House at the Chatsworth Nature Preserve on Sunday April 3, 2016. A highlight for many was a two-mile guided hike around the recently [re-vamped Ecology Pond](#). The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power has deepened the pond by removing sediment and has increased its storm-water gathering ability through drainage routing alterations.

**SSMPA directors John Luker, Wendi Gladstone, and Tom Nachtrab** led hikes around the pond, as did a dozen volunteers from many local conservation-oriented organizations such as the San Fernando Valley Audubon Society and the Southwestern Herpetologists Society. **SSMPA thanks tireless Sharon Shingai** for organizing a highly successful 2016 Chatsworth Nature Preserve Open House.



photo J. Roskilly



### Join Our Board of Directors!

Do you support conservation?  
Open space? Parks and parkland?

SSMPA needs to fill a couple of vacancies on our Board of Directors.

If you want to learn a bit more about the possibility of joining our board, please drop a message at [mail@ssmpa.com](mailto:mail@ssmpa.com) No obligation. Confidential.

## SSMPA Board of Directors Election 2016 - 2017

### Candidates Statements and Election Ballot

SSMPA members, currently paid as of May, 2015, can vote for the candidates on the ballot, or you can write in the names of the candidates of your choice. Members can mail their ballots, e-mail their ballots, or bring them to the Community Meeting, Monday, May16, 2016.

[Ballot HERE](#) or included as a paper sheet in your newsletter





Must have been the rain ... ?

## HIKES

**Welcome Walks:** Interpretive hikes in the Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park (SSPSHP):

Facebook: [Friends of the Santa Susana Mountains](#) & [fpssm.org](#)

**SSPSHP Volunteer Hikes:** Contact: Jennifer Dandurand, park interpretive specialist, Los Encinos SHP: 818.784.4849; [jdandurand@parks.ca.gov](mailto:jdandurand@parks.ca.gov)

**Rancho Simi Trail Blazers:** [www.simitrailblazers.com](http://www.simitrailblazers.com)

**Sierra Club:** [www.angeles.sierraclub.org/sfvg/](http://www.angeles.sierraclub.org/sfvg/) Meetings, hikes

**SFV Audubon:** [www.sfvaudubon.org](http://www.sfvaudubon.org) Meetings and Bird Walks for families

**Hiking and Event Updates:** [ssmpa.com](http://ssmpa.com)

## SSMPA Mission

SSMPA's mission is to preserve and protect the Simi Hills, Santa Susana Mountains, and regional open space.





Santa Susana Mountain Park Association (SSMPA)  
P. O. Box 4831  
Chatsworth, CA 91313-4831  
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Mail label here

### Come Aboard! Be an SSMPA Member

We gratefully accept your new memberships, renewals, and donations all year round!



Your membership (new and renewal) and donations help SSMPA efforts and continued success in providing free community meetings; advocacy for open space/nature preserves; keeping or reopening local parks; acquiring easement land parcels to protect native plants and habitat, wildlife corridors and park space; environmental educational opportunities; preservation of Chatsworth's and the surrounding area's historical, cultural, and archaeological sites.

If you do want to not receive your newsletter via e-mail and must receive it by snail mail, please send an additional \$10.00. If you have moved, please be sure to let us know your new address.

#### SSMPA MEMBERSHIP GIVES YOU A VOICE IN YOUR COMMUNITY!

THANK YOU for your recent **Life Memberships: Karin Benson and Terry Tanner**

THANK YOU for your recent **New Memberships: Laura Graff, John Paladin, Chris Berwager, Felicia Becker**

THANK YOU for your special donation: **Diane Fike, Life Member**

And THANK ALL OF YOU **loyal members** who have recently renewed your SSMPA Membership

**YOU CAN NOW USE YOUR CREDIT CARD OR PAYPAL ACCOUNT: Go to our website: [ssmpa.com/membership](http://ssmpa.com/membership)**

Sign up for a LIFE MEMBERSHIP and/or a DONATION of \$50.00 and receive a FREE Chumash designed [T-Shirt](http://ssmpa.com/membership) (image on [ssmpa.com/membership](http://ssmpa.com/membership) )

Let us know your size when you mail in your check, or send an email to [mail@ssmpa.com](mailto:mail@ssmpa.com) if you pay online.

#### PLEASE SEND IN YOUR MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL OR NEW MEMBERSHIP TODAY

- ( ) \$20.00 for individuals ( ) \$25.00 for a family ( ) \$30.00 for a business or organization
- ( ) \$150.00 for Individual Life Membership ( ) \$200.00 for a Family Life Membership

Make your check payable to **SSMPA** and mail to: SSMPA, P.O. Box 4831, Chatsworth, CA 91313-4831

Be sure to fill in the following information ....

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Special interests or skills \_\_\_\_\_

Your e-mail address is used exclusively for SSMPA newsletter and community announcements.