

SAVE OPEN-SPACE AND AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES

NEWS & VIEWS

Fall 2012

SOARusa.org

A Time To Reflect On What We Are Thankful For

Thankful:

1. To live in a County where the voters have the foresight to support one of the country's toughest anti-sprawl laws, SOAR.
2. That a core group of volunteers steps forward every time support is needed to advance the SOAR cause.
3. A committed group of Foundation Circle members provide the base funding needed each year to keep SOAR an effective organization.

That's a mouthful to be thankful for and sure puts a smile on our face! Thank all of you for your support over the years. We will need it as we battle to re-up SOAR for the next generation.

Thankful For The Bounty Of Our County

As we celebrate and express gratitude for the food that fills our plates, we are ever grateful that Ventura County is filled with the agricultural land that contributes to this abundance. And yet, we are losing productive farmland acreage every year. 2013 will be the year the Camarillo City Council decides whether to keep 740 acres of farmland in production or build 2,500 residential units and 100 acres of industrial development where crops now grow.

The development project is called Conejo Creek and is proposed on the agricultural floodplain at the bottom of the Conejo Grade.



We are thankful for everyone who works to keep our county green and fertile.

As we determine our future, how smart is it to trade this productive land for decades of traffic bottlenecks on the 101 Freeway? Caltrans warns that if the development is approved, congestion will reach failing levels of service (LOS "F") with "brief periods of movement followed by forced stops".

How smart is it to build 2500 housing units within the Naval Base's encroachment prevention buffer zone under the Runway 21 inbound flight path?

How smart is it to convert productive agricultural land to industrial development when less than 10 miles to the north 400 acres of farmland between Del Norte and Rice Avenue has already been approved for conversion to the Sakioka Industrial Area?

You can help ensure a future where area farmland remains abundant. **Tuesday, Dec. 4th** is the next Conejo Creek Specific Plan Environmental Impact Report (EIR) hearing being held by the City of Camarillo Planning Commission. Your attendance at the hearings, which will be held throughout 2013, is a potent show of support. For the EIR and other information on how you can participate please go to: www.camarillosustainablegrowth.org.

Thank You!



Thankful for... Farmers Markets!!!

Where we find all the ingredients for holiday cheer: neighbors and farmers exchanging tips and recipes, communities coming together to enjoy crisp fall weather (at last!), and of course, an abundance of delicious super-fresh local foods. Ventura County is blessed with 13 year-round farmers markets –

at least one is open every day of the week except Monday and Tuesday. For a complete list and schedule visit soarusa.org

Thankful for Trail Runners and the Trails They Run On

Trail runners are a special breed of outdoor enthusiast, and this fall they turned out in droves once again for the annual SOAR Trail Run Series.



Happy winners at the Aloha Turkey Roundup, the fourth & final leg of the 2012 SOAR Trail Run Series

This fall's collection of all-dirt races took participants of all levels through beautiful natural open space and acres of fall crops on some of the most scenic trails in the county. After invigorating runs, post-race ceremonies and cool prizes came the extra satisfaction of helping a great cause – SOAR's ongoing work to protect the vital greenbelts that are home to many an off-road trail.

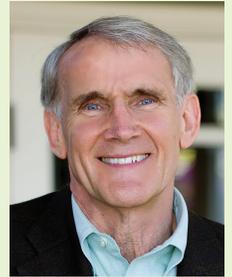
The 2012 Trail Run Series kicked off with the Camarillo Off-road 5k, followed by the Patagonia Salmon Run along the Ventura River Parkway and the SOAR 5k/10k Run Through the Orchards at Tierra Rejada Farms, and culminated with the Aloha Turkey Roundup in the Ventura Hillsides at Arroyo Verde Park.

The Trail Run Series is a collaboration between SOAR, Patagonia, Inside Track Running Store, and Vendurance Running Tribe to celebrate the green places that SOAR helps protect and to raise awareness and support for renewal of the SOAR initiatives that will expire in 2020.

We are enormously thankful to our partners, our sponsors, and most especially to our amazingly dedicated volunteer crew who turn out every year to make the SOAR Run a great success!

Thankful for an Electorate that Supports SOAR Leaders

Our congratulations to SOAR leader Steve Bennett who was re-elected to the Board of Supervisors in November. Steve not only overcame a challenge by his opponent but also from a Political Action Committee funded by developer interests. SOAR became a major issue in the campaign as the challenger called for loosening the open space and agricultural protections that make SOAR one of the strongest sprawl-control measures in the nation. Steve's re-election shows support for his leadership on the Board of Supervisors and also the necessity for continued vigilance to stand up to development pressure.



Congratulations are also in order for another member of our SOAR board of directors, Al Adam, who won election to the Thousand Oaks City Council. As a Planning Commissioner for Thousand Oaks, Al was an advocate for protecting the city's natural heritage of oak trees, its ring of open space and its small-town character. A strong supporter of local businesses and fiscal accountability, Al will join a city council that includes fellow SOAR Foundation Circle member Claudia Bill-de la Pena.

November also saw the happy re-election of SOAR leader Roseann Mikos to the Moorpark City Council. Roseann has been a voice for open space protection on her council, and in our region as a member of the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy Advisory Board.



Congratulations to all three of these winning SOAR supporters!***

Thankful for Advocates Who Won Environmental Protections

Advocates of open space and farmland protections received favorable rulings from the courts this October on two controversial development proposals.

SOUTH SHORE

In Oxnard, the South Shore project would have added more than 1500 new residences on what is currently agricultural land, and paved over a vast open space area that now protects the Ormond Beach wetlands from existing urban development.

Although this area is inside the City of Oxnard and therefore not protected by SOAR, the wetlands are an important open space resource. They support numerous rare plants and wildlife, including more than 200 species of migratory birds.

In ruling against the City of Oxnard, Judge Glen Reiser agreed that the EIR failed to adequately describe the existing biological resources that would be harmed by the development. The Court noted that the Ormond Beach wetlands constitute “one of the largest and most important coastal wetland, estuarine and dune complexes remaining in Southern California.”

A big thanks goes out to the Environmental Defense Center, the Sierra Club and the Environmental Coalition for stepping up for Oxnard’s environmental resources!

NEWHALL RANCH

In another ruling, the Los Angeles County Superior Court ordered the state Department of Fish and Game to redo studies of the proposed Newhall Ranch residential development.

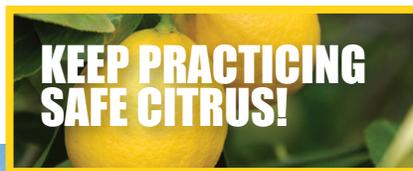
This development calls for suburban housing for 60,000 residents to be

built along a six-mile stretch of the Santa Clara River just outside Ventura County. Judge Ann I. Jones cited several alleged flaws in the environmental review and ordered the state Department of Fish and Game to redo their studies.

Our appreciation goes out to the environmental groups who brought this important case forward and succeeded against great odds: Center

for Biological Diversity, Friends of the Santa Clara River, Santa Clarita Organization for Planning the Environment (SCOPE), Wishtoyo Foundation, Ventura Coastkeeper and California Native Plant Society.

To keep up to date and find out how your voice can join others in opposition to these projects, join our Rapid Response team by emailing us at rapidresponse@soarusa.org.



ACP UPDATE & ALERT:



Ventura County’s citrus industry and backyard citrus trees are at continued risk of invasion and decimation from an incurable Asian bacteria making its way north into the heart of California’s citrus crops.

The Huonglongbing (HLB) or citrus greening disease is carried by a tiny aphid-like insect called the Asian citrus psyllid (ACP). Breeding populations of ACP have recently been confirmed in Ventura County, and HLB has been found as close as a backyard citrus tree in the San Gabriel Valley, prompting a regionwide quarantine on movement of citrus trees and foliage.

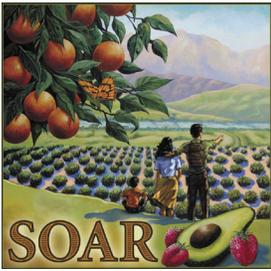
Citrus growers and packers, the California Department of Food and Agriculture, Ventura County Ag Commissioner, Ventura County

ACP/HLB Task Force and many others are working hard on detection, containment, research and education to stop the spread of this pest.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

- **Eat local!** Don’t move citrus fruit, tree cuttings, or potted trees from your yard or neighborhood to other areas.
- Inspect your citrus trees monthly.
- Chop up any citrus tree trimmings and leave them under your tree, or dry and double bag clippings prior to disposal.
- Visit your local nursery or garden center to learn what products can help protect your tree.

With holiday travel season upon us it’s especially important to remember not to move citrus or plant materials out of quarantine areas or across state or international borders. For more information follow the Ventura County ACP/HLB Task Force on Facebook.



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P.O. Box 7352
Ventura, California 93006

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Remembering Larry Hagman

The world was his stage and now mourns the loss of Larry Hagman. Larry could have lived anywhere but chose the mountains of Ojai for their beauty and serenity. He and his wife Maj called the home they built there "Heaven". Larry also showed his appreciation for the scenic open spaces of Ventura County by supporting SOAR. We'll always remember his fondness for natural beauty, his thrill at seeing red tail hawks soaring and his love for Sulphur Mountain. Rest in Peace.



Larry Hagman, 1931-2012.

Give Your Thanks to SOAR...

SOAR wouldn't exist without the support, small and large, that comes from individuals and families all over Ventura County (and beyond) each year. Each year it is our great pleasure to recognize the generous and dedicated people who have become members of SOAR's Foundation Circle.

We look to 2013 as the year where supporters grow the Circle of support to its largest membership yet! Whether you can make the full tax-deductible donation of \$500 or more now, or sign up for a monthly installment, let's work together to keep SOAR strong as we prepare for the major campaign to renew the SOAR initiatives before they expire.



Our special thanks to everyone who has already joined the 2013 SOAR Foundation Circle:

- | | |
|--|---|
| Richard Abbott | Brian MacPolin |
| Al and Marilyn Adam | Paul and Christine Magie |
| Patricia Feiner Arkin and Edward Arkin | Steven McCloskey |
| Steve Bennett and Leslie Ogden | Barbara Meister |
| John and Lorriane Beley | Leo and Vieno Molitor |
| Merrill Berge and Jay Clancy | Sharon and Mark Noel |
| Claudia Bill-de la Peña and Ron de la Peña | Larry and Nancy Older |
| Brian Brennan | Linda and Al Parks |
| Mark and Penny Burley | Virginia Pollack |
| Kevin and Linda Cannon | Thomas Ritch and Janice Davis |
| Chapala Café | Mike and Louise Roberts |
| Gary Cramer and Marjorie Herring | Fred and Gail Rosenmund |
| David and Bernadette Eyre | David J. Ross |
| Carolyn Greene | Hank and Sue Stoutz |
| Jacqueline Henderson | Susan and Ron Tansky,
in memory of Mark Hirsch |
| Steven and Marsha Hively | Chuck Thomas |
| Java Frost, LLC | Craig and Sara Jane Underwood |
| Eric and Donna Johanson | Anonymous (2) |
| Jay and Linda Kapitz | |
| Gene and Diana Mabry | |

Thank You to all of Our Supporters!