

SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY

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July 28, 1997

Regional Planning Commission
County of Los Angeles
320 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

**Request for Public Hearing on Designation of Management Entity
for Open Space Dedications, Newhall Ranch**

Dear Commissioners:

This letter is a formal request on behalf of the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for the Regional Planning Commission to hold a noticed public hearing on the designation of the management entity for the open space dedications to be made in the Newhall Ranch project.

The Draft Environmental Impact Report states that the decision on management entity will be made by the County with Newhall's approval. Yet, on April 14, 1997, Newhall Land and Farming Company unilaterally, without any approval by the County of Los Angeles, entered into a binding agreement with the Sacramento based Center for Natural Lands Management (CNLM) to manage the High County and River Corridor open space.

Contrary to the provisions of the Draft EIR, the decision on management entity has already been made, and not by the public entity, but rather the private entity to whom the benefit accrues. This was done without the opportunity for public input, and because it directly contravenes multiple provisions of the Draft EIR, we believe the Regional Planning Commission is obliged to hold a separate public hearing on the question prior to approving the proposed Newhall Ranch Development Agreement.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe Edmiston", written over a large, stylized flourish.

JOSEPH T. EDMISTON, AICP
Executive Director