

# SANTA CLARITA WATERSHED RECREATION and CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

*a public entity of the state of california exercising joint powers of the city of santa clarita and the santa monica mountains conservancy  
pursuant to government code section 6500 et seq*

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Governing Board

**FROM:** Joseph T. Edmiston, AICP, Executive Officer

**DATE:** April 9, 1998

**SUBJECT:** Agenda Item IV, Consideration of resolution authorizing comment letter to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors regarding the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan and related cases.

**Staff Recommendation:** That the Governing Board approve the resolution authorizing submittal of a comment letter to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors by the April 10, 1998 deadline, after review of the draft comment letter.

The draft comment letter may be sent under separate cover.

**Background:** At its August 14, 1997 meeting, the Governing Board approved a resolution authorizing support for the timely public dedication of open space and trails in the Newhall Ranch Development Project. (A copy of the resolution is attached.) Pursuant to the Governing Board's direction, Chair Putnam testified at the Los Angeles Regional Planning Commission's September 2 hearing and presented to the Commission copies of the Authority's informational brochure, *Public Parkland in the Santa Clarita Woodlands*. In December the Commission unanimously approved the Newhall Ranch Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR), the Specific Plan, Conditional Use Permit, and Vesting Tentative Parcel Map. The City of Santa Clarita, County of Ventura, and other groups filed appeals of the Commission's decision, and the Board of Supervisors heard testimony on the development project at its March 24, 1998 meeting. Both the City of Santa Clarita and the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy testified at this hearing.

The Board of Supervisors announced that additional written testimony would be accepted until April 10, but did not close the public hearing. The Board instructed its staff to review the written and oral testimony and to bring back a report at the May 26 meeting, including additional information on the open space ownership and management issues, among many other topics.