



## City Focus

Summer 2000

Volume 1  
Issue 1

Dear Readers:

*The City is launching this quarterly newsletter in an effort to reach out and expand the communication between the City, local government bodies and other governmental agencies, with the business community and with local community groups.*

*It will include noteworthy City events, recent City Council actions and priority issues, plans and programs.*

*I welcome suggestions and comments as staff develops this new method of exchanging ideas.*

Sincerely,

Jo Anne Darcy  
Mayor

## Join the Fight and Say **"NO"** to TMC Devastation

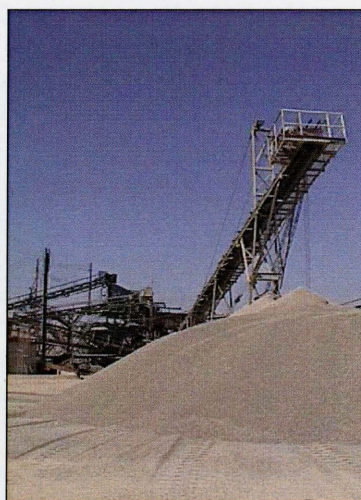
The City has been actively involved in the development and implementation of an opposition strategy to the proposed Transit Mixed Concrete mining operation in Soledad Canyon. Quite simply, the City believes that a large-scale, heavy mining operation cannot be justified within the rural and suburban area of the Valley, when other suitable sites are available in North Los Angeles County. Additionally, the proposed project is located adjacent to the National Forest and the environmentally sensitive Santa Clara River.

Proposed excavation will lower an existing ridgeline by 200 feet, and natural and pristine canyons will be filled with soil and rocks within sight of the scenic Antelope Valley Freeway corridor. Approximately 9,600 homes are located within a five-mile radius of this mega-mining project and will be directly affected by blowing sand and dirt, increased noise, and transportation impacts. Precious groundwater, totaling several hundred acre-feet a year, will be needed for the proposed project, which is enough to serve a small community!

Meetings are occurring with each of the

Los Angeles County Board of Supervisor's staff to let them know of the community's strong opposition.

For further information and sample letters to send to the Board of Supervisors, please visit the City's website at [www.santa-clarita.com/tmc](http://www.santa-clarita.com/tmc).



*"The City is ready to fight this project to the end," says Mayor Jo Anne Darcy. "It is obvious that the public health and environmental costs are simply too great to justify a mega-mining project in Soledad Canyon."*

## In this Issue...

- PROJECTS AND DEVELOPMENT
- SPHERE OF INFLUENCE
- TRANSPORTATION NEWS
- UPCOMING CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEMS



## Major Projects Slated for 2000-2001

The City budget process concluded with the adoption of the 2000/2001 Operating Budget and 5-Year CIP on June 27, 2000. Some of the major projects include:

**Golden Valley Road** On April 5, grading began on Phase I of this project. This was an exciting moment after more than a year of collaboration and preparation. The Golden Valley Road project represents the first new road to be constructed by the City. When completed, it will provide an important new east/west access for our community. It will also provide access for the proposed Santa Clarita Business Park. The first phase of Golden Valley Road is expected to be completed by February 2001.



**McBean Transfer Station** The City is working with architects to design this transit hub which will be located at McBean Parkway and Valencia Boulevard. Transit riders will be able to transfer to other bus lines or access the Valencia Town Center. The City anticipates construction in the fall of this year and completion by September 2001.

**Sports Complex** The City appropriated money in the budget for the design of a new Olympic-size aquatics center.

**Traffic Signal Installation** The City will be spending \$500,000 to place three traffic signals on Soledad Canyon Road (at Flowerpark, Oak Springs Canyon and Poppy Meadow). Next year, the City plans to construct bus stops at each of these locations.

**Central Park Sports Fields** The City will provide funds to expand the athletic fields at Central Park.

**River Park Program** The City has directed \$2.2 million to develop open space within the Santa Clara River corridor. The emphasis for this year's effort will be the master planning of approximately 25 acres in the vicinity of Soledad Canyon and Camp Plenty Roads.

**Neighborhood Parks** \$900,000 has been budgeted to begin the design and construction work for Oak Springs Park and \$700,000 to begin construction of Pamplico Neighborhood Park.

## Development on the Horizon

The following is a brief description of the three larger development projects that are currently ongoing in Santa Clarita:

**Golden Valley Ranch** (annexation and development) A large mixed-use development is proposed on the former Santa Fe Ranch site, located east of SR-14 at Golden Valley Road. This proposal contains 866 homes and 50 acres of commercial uses on approximately 1300 acres. The Planning Commission has given staff conceptual direction to return with a significantly reduced project to eliminate planning areas two and three and eliminate the extension of Golden Valley Road to Placerita Canyon.

**Wes Thompson Ranch** (annexation and development) Development is proposed on 176 acres, with 350 homes located east of Sand Canyon Road and north of Soledad Canyon Road. The Planning Commission will begin hearings on the project in July and should conclude at the end of the year.

**Newhall Partners** Located south of Sierra Highway and SR-14, which will ultimately result in the final connection of Golden Valley Road. The proposed project is approximately 100 homes on 35 acres. It is anticipated that the environmental documents will be presented to the Planning Commission in July, with a final vote in the fall. It is likely that the City Council will complete their analysis and vote on the project by the end of the year.

## Blue Ribbon Task Force

Late last year, the issue of the growing prevalence of drugs, alcohol, and tobacco use among teens in Santa Clarita was identified. A Blue Ribbon Task Force was formed to play a role in determining a new approach to address this issue.

The goal is to educate our community regarding the serious problem of alcohol, drug and tobacco use. The intent is to heighten awareness through public relations, and, at the same time, set a community standard and support parents through long-term efforts. If you would like further information, please contact Adele Macpherson, Community Services Superintendent, at 286-4077.

## Canyon Country Library



Construction began in May on the Canyon Country Library which is a collaborative project between the county, a private developer, and the City. The new library will be located on the corner of Shangri-La Drive and Soledad Canyon Road. The building, anticipated to be completed in the spring of 2001, will be a 17,000 square foot stand-alone facility. It will feature a courtyard, an amphitheater, and a community room. College of the Canyons will use 5,000 square feet as classroom space to provide classes on the east side of town as well as to enhance technology.

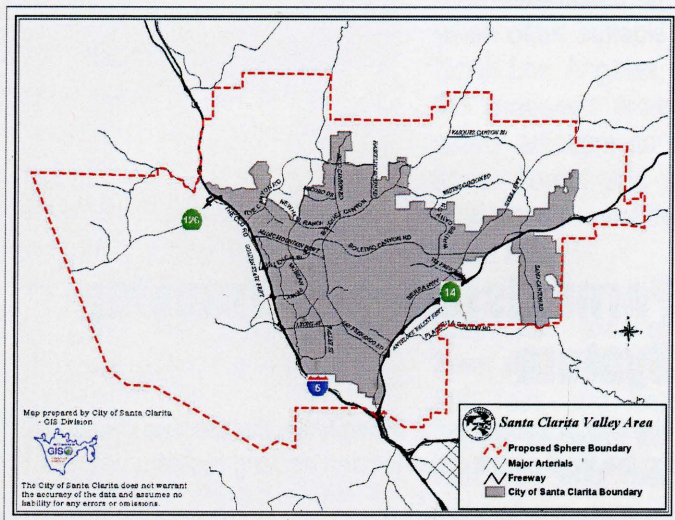


# City of Santa Clarita's Sphere of Influence

The City is seeking an expanded Sphere of Influence through the Los Angeles County Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO).

It is clear that the Santa Clarita Valley is a high growth area developing far into the next century. Adoption of the proposed Sphere of Influence geographically recognizes the Santa Clarita Valley as a single planning area with common interests made up of diverse and unique communities. Adoption of the proposed Sphere of Influence would establish a strong planning foundation, ultimately resulting in superior urban services beneficial to the entire Santa Clarita Valley.

A Sphere of Influence is a guide for probable expansion of the municipal service area for local government agency. The sphere would expand the City's planning influence in the Santa Clarita Valley, it does not mean automatic annexation to the City. State law leaves the final decision to annex to residents and landowners. For more information, please contact Jeffrey Lambert, Director of Planning & Building Services at 255-4913.



## Grant Requests

The City prepared and submitted 10 grant applications as part of the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority's (LACMTA) 2000 Abbreviated Call for Projects. The grant requests totaled approximately \$29 million and included application for funding to support roadway, transit and bikeway improvement projects. The following six City projects received rankings high enough to be recommended:

- Golden Valley Road/Soledad Canyon Road Interchange (\$8.5 million);
- Newhall Ranch Road/I-5 to Copper Hill (\$475,000);
- Transit Maintenance Facility (\$964,000);
- Jan Heidt Metrolink Station - Additional Parking (\$1,413,000);
- McBean Bus Transfer Station (\$1,035,000); and
- Santa Clara River Trail - I-5 to Discovery Park (\$298,000).

City staff is confident that all the projects will be included on the final list adopted by the MTA Board in July. Successful projects would receive grant funds as early as November 2000. For questions regarding the grant process or candidate projects, please contact Mark Yamarone, Transportation Funding Coordinator, at 255-4931.

## Transportation News

The House Appropriations Committee passed its 2000-2001 transportation bill which includes \$3 million for the City's proposed Transit Maintenance Facility. This money would be used to design and construct a facility to accommodate the tremendous growth in ridership that Santa Clarita Transit has experienced over the last few years. The City will be working with Senators Boxer and Feinstein to ensure that all of the money is included in the final transportation bill.

*I would like to thank the following people and agencies for supporting the City's effort to secure a Sphere of Influence:*

- ★ Congressman Howard P. "Buck" McKeon
- ★ Assemblyman George Runner
- ★ Rotary Club

- ★ SCV Chamber of Commerce Legislative Committee
- ★ SCV Chamber of Commerce Board
- ★ Valencia Industrial Association
- ★ SCV Board of Realtors
- ★ Saugus Union School District
- ★ Newhall School District
- ★ Sulphur Springs School District
- ★ William S. Hart High School District
- ★ Stevenson Ranch Town Council

- ★ College of the Canyons
- ★ Sand Canyon HOA
- ★ Sand Canyon Trails Committee
- ★ Southland Regional Association of Realtors

*Sincerely,*

*Jo Anne Darcy*  
Jo Anne Darcy





# City of Santa Clarita

## City Focus

23920 Valencia Boulevard  
Santa Clarita, CA 91355  
Phone: (661) 259-CITY  
Fax: (661) 259-8125

Visit us on the Web!  
[www.santa-clarita.com](http://www.santa-clarita.com)

If you would like to submit items or reports or have issues you would like more information on, please contact Maria Rountree, Intergovernmental Relations Officer at (661) 255-4384 or [mrountree@santa-clarita.com](mailto:mrountree@santa-clarita.com).

## Sneak Preview

### Upcoming City Council Agenda Items...

- Staff will discuss the status of the development of an open space strategy at an upcoming Study Session.
- The City Council is dark July 25 and August 8.
- The oversized vehicle ordinance will be brought back to the City Council in September.

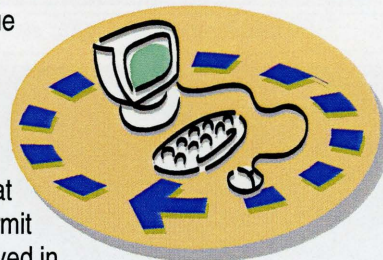
### Important Dates....

July 12 – 11:30 a.m. **State of the City Luncheon** at the Hyatt Hotel Grand Ballroom. The Mayor, City Council and City Manager will provide an update on what is happening in the City. Cost is \$25 per person. Please contact Lesley Caudery at 259-2489 to RSVP.

## Permit Issuance & Tracking System

The City of Santa Clarita is beginning the process of upgrading the local permit issuance and tracking system.

The goal is to develop a true one-stop permit center at City Hall, which would allow customers to access all necessary permit information. The City hopes that all agencies involved in permit issuance will become involved in this exciting project.



For more information, please contact Ruben Barrera, Building Official, at 255-4952.