



RIM of the VALLEY Meeting

La Crescenta

Monday, May 4, 2015

7-9pm

La Crescenta Public Library - Community Room
2809 Foothill Blvd.
La Crescenta, CA 91214

Contact: info@srnapasadena.org

On the web at www.srnapasadena.org

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Rim of the Valley Corridor Special Resource Study:

Congressman Schiff hopes to complete the Rim of the Valley Corridor Special Resource Study for submittal to the Secretary of the Interior by the end of 2015.

The expressed intent of the Rim study is to potentially create the largest national park in the country by "boundary expansion"(government taking) under management by the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreational Area (SMMNRA) and National Park Service (NPS). The NPS will have "a full range of authority" in these areas, using "management tools" implemented by the SMMNRA.

The proposed area covers approximately 650,000 acres, including Pasadena's Arroyo Seco and San Rafael Hills, with 50% of total land privately owned and located both in Los Angeles and Ventura counties.

<http://www.nps.gov/pwro/rimofthevalley/Newsletter4EnglishWEB.pdf>
(Executive Summary)

<https://parkplanning.nps.gov/document.cfm?parkID=422&projectID=31945&documentID=65351>
(Study)

Four "alternative" plans are proposed. Congressman Schiff presently favors the two most encompassing plans, both with expansive new boundaries identified as "boundary changes" to the SMMNRA. Congressman Schiff professes to be "agnostic" as to which one of these encompassing plans he prefers - each being, by his own admission during a recent meeting, "not a modest expansion."

Pasadenans, including Pasadena City Council, cannot afford Congressman Schiff's expansiveness in the give-away of properties presently under local and private ownership/jurisdiction - including the Rose Bowl - nor his avoidance of details in these matters.

CRITICAL ISSUES

- 1) At no time in Congressman Schiff's Rim presentation at a recent Descanso Gardens meeting did he mention any intent to contact local agencies, elected governing bodies or private property owners to inform them of this planned massive transformation of local land management already underway;
- 2) Congressman Schiff's personal plan preference allows "willing" private owners to sell their land to the National Park Service, at which time municipal jurisdiction is forfeited, including zoning protections, leaving adjacent private owners severely impacted by NPS needs for parking lots and recreational amenities;
- 3) Now, as "species protection/species re-introduction" through Fish and Wildlife increasingly has priority over people in the distribution of water allocations and the building of water infrastructure, Congressman Schiff publicly dismissed water concerns expressed early on by constituents in West Pasadena;
- 4) Congressman Schiff openly admitted that no federal funding is assured for the new land management scheme, saying: "We don't have the money, yet."
- 5) Tim Brick of the Arroyo Seco Foundation went on record at the Descanso meeting saying he was "pleased that the (Rim) plan would give protection to the urban part of the Arroyo Seco." This has not

been publicly noticed or discussed by the Pasadena City Council.

6) Monrovia's recent incumbent Mayor Mary Ann Lutz lost her bid for re-election, in part because of her support for a similar NRA transformation in the San Gabriels, which included Monrovia private property owners, not noticed of the transformation.

7) Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy/NRA "land management tools" have left a miserable and frightening history:

<http://www.wnd.com/2000/01/3988/>
Ranch-coveting officials settle for killing owner

http://articles.latimes.com/1995-01-29/local/me-25652_1_conservancy-s-history-joe-edmiston-santa-monica-mountains
Joe Edmiston, exemptions to local plans

If the above looks like a wholesale change-up for who and what controls land use in Southern California, it is - and you need to respond.

You will have that opportunity Monday evening here:

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2809 Foothill Blvd.
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Or, you may write:

National Park Service
570 W. Avenue 26, #175
Los Angeles, CA 90065

Or, you may email:

pwr_rimofthevalley@nps.gov

As evidence of the massive size of this land grab, additional meetings for public comment are scheduled for Newhall, Thousand Oaks, Chatsworth and Los Angeles, with details shown here:

<https://parkplanning.nps.gov/meetingNotices.cfm?projectID=31945>

As always, thank you for your attention to these civic matters and your support of Pasadena neighborhoods.

SRNA



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The mission of the San Rafael Neighborhoods Association is to enhance and maintain the character and quality of all San Rafael neighborhoods through advocacy and an activated community.

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