



3435 Wilshire Blvd. Suite 320 Los Angeles, CA 90010
213-387-4287 (fax) 213 387-5383 www.sierraclub.org

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: November 6, 2003

CONTACT:

Lynne Plambeck, President, Santa Clarita Organization for Planning and the Environment (h)
661-255-6899 (w) 818-845-7651

Juliette Beck, California Coordinator and Senior Organizer, Water for All Campaign, Public
Citizen (w) 510-663-0888 ext. 101 (m) 415-225-8147

Johanna Zetterberg, Conservation Program Coordinator, Sierra Club Angeles Chapter
(w) 213-387-4287 ext. 204 (m) 909-437-4747

Angelinos Tell Out-of State Developer to Take a Hike

Los Angeles – Community members from Santa Clarita, the Sierra Club and Public Citizen held a rally today protesting Miami-based Lennar Corporation's purchase of Newhall Land and Farming Company outside the special stock holder meeting held to vote on this acquisition.

Newhall is the developer of the controversial 21,000 home development in northern Los Angeles County, the largest development in the history of Los Angeles. Citizens are concerned that the out-of-state development corporation will not be sensitive to local issues and will be shielded from environmental laws with which California corporations must comply.

Among the several steps Lennar must go through before acquiring Newhall Land and Farming is this vote by shareholders on the acquisition, an anti-trust review conducted by the Federal Trade Commission, and finally, it must get approval from the Public Utilities Commission for the acquisition of the Valencia Water Company, owned by parent developer Newhall Land.

Valencia Water Co. serves 81,000 people in the Santa Clarita Valley and most of the Newhall Land and Lennar's development projects including Newhall Ranch "This acquisition by a nationwide developer profiles the conflict of interest inherent in the ownership of a water company by a private company, especially a developer. The profit goals of the parent developer may tempt the water company to over-report water supply, build facilities for new development paid for by the rate-payers instead of the developer or disguise pollution problems in order to obtain entitlement approvals for its parent



3435 Wilshire Blvd. Suite 320 Los Angeles, CA 90010
213-387-4287 (fax) 213 387-5383 www.sierraclub.org

company. The Public Utilities Commission should hold public hearings on this matter and deny approval of this acquisition," said Juliette Beck, California Coordinator, Public Citizen.

"This corporate takeover will put the Santa Clara River and our water supply in the hands of an outside corporation accountable only to its stockholders, not the people and the environment of Los Angeles," said Lynne Plambeck, President of Santa Clarita Org. for Planning and the Environment. "The fight against the Newhall Ranch Project isn't over. The recent wild fires should also force us to re-think profit-driven developments that put communities at risk by building in a fire and flooding prone area."

"The Santa Clara River is the last major wild river in Southern California," said Sierra Club Angeles Chapter Conservation Program Coordinator Johanna Zetterberg, "developing areas like this costs us twice – we lose open space, wetland areas, and critical habitat; and we gain water pollution, traffic, and the health hazards associated with smog. We can do better than this."

The Sierra Club, Friends of the Santa Clara River, and the Santa Clarita Organization for Planning and the Environment (SCOPE) who argued extensively in front of the LA County Board of Supervisors that the project's Environmental Impact Report did not adequately address the issues of water supply and the impacts to the Santa Clara River Ecosystem, sued Newhall Land and Farming Co. over their proposed Newhall Ranch Project on LA County's last wild river. A Kern County Judge allowed the project to move forward last week .

###