

# CHATSWORTH NATURE PRESERVE COALITION

Working Together to Save a Crucial Wildlife Habitat in Los Angeles-San Fernando Valley

*A Meadowlark Needs a Meadow to Sing*

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Re: Rim of the Valley Corridor Draft Special Resource Study (ROV): Comments on Draft Report

The Chatsworth Nature Preserve Coalition (CNPC) supports Alternative D of the ROV.

The Chatsworth Nature Preserve (CNP) is located both in the proposed Alternative C and Alternative D NPS study boundaries of the lower Simi Hills-Santa Susana Mountain foothills ecosystem. The CNP is 1325 acres with historical significance and a wildlife refuge. This is the last remaining ecosystem in the San Fernando Valley comprised of an oak woodland and savanna, grasslands, riparian areas, seasonal wetlands and vernal pools, and an Ecology Pond supporting over 200 species of birds (residents and migratory), larger mammals, amphibians and reptiles, with occasional visits of bobcats, cougars and mule deer.

The former Chatsworth Reservoir, placed in service, 1919, and retired as a reservoir in 1969. In 1994, after a tremendous campaign by environmentalists, community activists, and championed by the City Councilman, Hal Bernson, Los Angeles City passed an ordinance, #169723, changing the Chatsworth Reservoir to the Chatsworth Nature Preserve. The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (DWP) owns and maintains the CNP. It is not a priority for the DWP to properly manage the CNP as a nature preserve.

Because of the Simi Hills Significant Ecological Area and wildlife corridor link between the Santa Monica Mountains and the Santa Susana Mountains, we believe the CNP will be better served as a nature preserve with a cooperative-management partnership between NPS and DWP. We support ROV Alternative D to better serve the connectivity for wildlife to survive and be healthy in designated open spaces and wildlife refuge regions, including CNP, parkland, trails, and all habitat linkage areas.

## Chatsworth Nature Preserve Coalition Delegates

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