

## **SIGNIFICANT ECOLOGICAL AREA VALLEY OAKS SAVANNAH**

**Resource Description:** The Valley Oaks Savannah Significant Ecological Area encompasses one of the last remaining stands of valley oaks in Los Angeles County. The savannah is located northeast of the Santa Susana Mountains and west of the Angeles National Forest, approximately one mile south of the Santa Clara River and one mile north of Pico Canyon. The site lies along the western edge of the Santa Clarita Valley and is almost completely undisturbed except for a few dirt roads.

The majority of the vegetation on the site consist of a valley oaks savannah containing over 1000 mature trees. The remaining vegetative communities include coastal sage scrub and non-native grassland. The relatively small size of the SEA and the limited variety of vegetation types is unlikely to support a large diversity of wildlife. However, acorns within the valley oak savannah provide a valuable food source for a variety of wildlife and the mature trees are an important source of nesting and roosting habitat for birds and other arboreal vertebrates. Sensitive plant communities within the proposed SEA include valley oak woodland and coastal sage scrub. Several sensitive plant and animal species occur, or have the potential to occur, within the SEA such as slender mariposa lily, Pierson's morning glory, sharp-shinned hawk, and Cooper's hawk.