

To: Emma Howard and Connie Chung

Los Angeles County
Department of Regional Planning

February 10, 2014

Reference: Draft 4: Santa Susana Mountains and Simi Hills SEA, "Chatsworth Reservoir"

I am writing to clarify a statement in the Proposed SEAs Profile, Draft 4, "Chatsworth Reservoir" located in the section "23. Santa Susana Mountains and Simi Hills SEA." There is a reference under Chatsworth Reservoir paragraph that the Chatsworth Reservoir is a "superfund clean-up site due to the dumping of chemicals from a rocket facility that used to be in the Simi Hills". This is an inaccurate statement. The Chatsworth Reservoir, renamed in 1994 Chatsworth Nature Preserve (CNP), has never been and is not now a superfund clean-up site and this reference needs to be omitted from the SEA.

The paragraph also states the "Chatsworth Reservoir is now dry". The reservoir on the 1300 acre site was drained and no longer serves as a reservoir due to closure after the 1971 Sylmar earthquake; DWP determined the reservoir was not seismically safe. The statement "the reservoir is now dry" misrepresents the importance of the nature preserve not only as an integral part of the Santa Susana Mountains-Simi Hills wildlife corridor but also as the only grasslands in Los Angeles County with seasonal wetlands, vernal pools, and life-giving marshes it supports for plants and wildlife.

Please make these changes before the final draft:

1. Delete the reference to the Chatsworth Reservoir as a superfund clean-up site as noted.
2. Chatsworth Reservoir needs to be changed to Chatsworth Nature Preserve.

Details about the CNP can be seen on our website: www.savechatsworthpreserve.org. We will also write and submit to you an accurate and complete description of the CNP for the Final Draft.

Thank you,

Carla Bollinger
CNP Coalition Delegate
SSMPA Board Member