



**File Code:** 1950

**Date:** May 9, 2013

Dear Interested Individuals, Organizations and Agencies:

San Gabriel River Ranger District of the Angeles National Forest is seeking public and agency comment on the Proposed Action for the West Fork SST Installation Project (please see enclosed map). This project proposes to install a concrete vault toilet, or Sweet Smelling Toilet (SST), with a watertight underground tank, on the West Fork of the San Gabriel River.

The West Fork provides for numerous recreational activities to the general public including bicycling, hiking, camping, fishing, picnicking, water play and wildlife viewing. Due to its recreational values, both the upper and lower segments of the fork are considered to be outstandingly remarkable and attractive to both local and regional recreationists making the fork eligible for Wild and Scenic river designation. Additionally, a rich diversity of plant and animal species are found in the West Fork. Designated a Critical Biological Land Use Zone, it's one of the most important areas on the national forest to manage for the protection of species-at-risk. Found in the West Fork, and of significant importance, is the federally threatened Santa Ana sucker and its occupied designated critical habitat. The assemblage of native fishes along with the State of California Wild trout stream designation give the West Fork of the San Gabriel River a regional and national significance for fish resources.

The lack of restroom facilities in the project area poses a real threat to riparian dependent species, their habitat and forest visitors that recreate in and near the area. Thousands of gallons of human waste and trash are removed from this location every year, resulting in a serious environmental impact on the river, its surrounding habitat and the overall ecosystem, including several miles downstream. The purpose of this project is to improve and reduce the overall environmental impacts associated with the absence of a restroom located within the immediate vicinity. It will also serve the need to offer a wide range of high quality, environmentally sustainable developed recreation opportunity to a rapidly growing visitor population, while providing for a safer and improved visitor experience.

A detailed description of the project can be downloaded from the following link:

<http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/angeles/projects/> under the header "Projects and Plans." Hard copies and/or CDs are available upon request.

This public comment period is the scoping stage under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). You are invited to comment on this proposal during a 30-day scoping period. The purpose of this comment period is to provide an opportunity for the public to provide early and meaningful participation on a proposed action prior to a decision being made by the Responsible Official. Comments received in response to this solicitation, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record on this project and will be available for public inspection.



Written comments concerning this project must be postmarked by the Postal Service, faxed, hand-delivered or sent via electronic mail by June 9, 2013. Letters should be submitted to: District Resource Officer Esmeralda Bracamonte, 110 N. Wabash Avenue, Glendora, CA 91741; (626) 914-3790 (FAX). Hand-delivered comments must be provided during normal business hours (8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday). Electronic comments must be submitted in a format such as an email message, plain text (.txt), rich text (.rtf), adobe (.pdf), or Word (.doc) format to [ebacamonte@fs.fed.us](mailto:ebacamonte@fs.fed.us) with Subject: West Fork SST Installation Project.

The preliminary/draft Environmental Assessment (EA) will be completed and made available, along with other notices for the project, to those who have provided sufficient contact information, submitted comments, and to those who have requested to be added to the West Fork SST Installation Project mailing list. This project is consistent with the objectives and management direction of the Angeles National Forest Land Management Plan and not authorized under the Healthy Forest Restoration Act of 2003. This project is subject to 36 CFR 215 and 36 CFR 218.

For further information regarding this proposed action, including requesting detailed hard copies or a CD of the proposed action, please contact Esmeralda Bracamonte, District Resource Officer, at (626) 335-1251 ext. 238. We encourage your input by reviewing the proposal as provided in summary through this letter and described in detail on our website.

Sincerely,

*/s/ Debbie Hobbs*  
DEBBIE HOBBS  
Acting District Ranger