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**File Code:** 1950; 2720

**Date:** March 18, 2016

**Dear Interested Agencies, State and Local Governments, Tribes, and Public:**

The San Bernardino National Forest is initiating a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analysis for the Nestlé Waters North America (Nestlé) Special Use Permit. The proposed action is to issue a 5 year special use permit to authorize the occupancy and use of National Forest System lands for the extraction and transmission of water using existing improvements in the Strawberry Creek watershed. In addition to authorizing the existing improvements, the permit would require Nestlé to conduct hydrologic and riparian area studies and to modify operations under an Adaptive Management Plan if monitoring showed that water extraction was impacting surface water flow and riparian dependent resources on the National Forest.

A detailed description of the proposed action and a map of the project area can be found at the project webpage at:

<http://go.usa.gov/cGyXH> (please note - this URL is case sensitive)

All interested persons, state and local governments, and tribal governments are encouraged to participate at this time and throughout the public scoping period, which will close **Monday, May 2, 2016**.

The Forest Service will be hosting an open house for the project on Thursday April 14, 2016, from 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM, at the San Bernardino National Forest Headquarters located at 602 S. Tippecanoe Ave, San Bernardino CA 92408. Forest Service staff will be available to meet with you, answer individual questions, and discuss the project and process.

The Forest Service would like to receive any information regarding resource conditions in the project area as well as your input on issues and concerns related to this proposal. Comments may be submitted by the following methods:

Online through the project webpage at:

<http://go.usa.gov/cGyXH> (please note - this URL is case sensitive)

By email to:

[nestle\\_waters\\_sup\\_comments@fs.fed.us](mailto:nestle_waters_sup_comments@fs.fed.us) (include "Nestle Waters" in the subject line)

Surface mail to:

Front Country Ranger District Office  
1209 Lytle Creek Road  
Lytle Creek, CA 92358  
Attn: Nestle Waters

Comments should be submitted by Monday, May 2, 2016 to be considered during scoping. Comments received in response to this notice, including names and addresses of respondents,



will be considered part of the public record on this proposed action and will be available for public inspection. Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered.

Additionally, pursuant to 7 CFR 1.27(d), any person may request the agency to withhold a submission from the public record by showing how the Freedom Of Information Act (FOIA) permits such confidentiality. Persons requesting such confidentiality should be aware that, under the FOIA, confidentiality may be granted in only very limited circumstances, such as to protect trade secrets. The Forest Service will inform the requestor of the agency's decision regarding the request for confidentiality, and where the request is denied, the agency will return the submission and notify the requestor that the comments may be resubmitted with or without name and address within 7 days.

If you have questions about this proposal, please contact Bob Hawkins, Interdisciplinary Team Leader through the project email address at:

[Nestle\\_Waters\\_SUP\\_Comments@fs.fed.us](mailto:Nestle_Waters_SUP_Comments@fs.fed.us).

Sincerely,



JODY NOIRON  
Forest Supervisor