



SIERRA  
CLUB

March 2007  
Volume 44 No. 3

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### General Meeting, March 23:

Hot Spots: How to save  
the north county

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# SANTA LUCIAN



Protecting and  
Preserving the  
Central Coast

The official newsletter of the Santa Lucia Chapter of the Sierra Club • San Luis Obispo County, California

## Our Energy Future is Here

### Strategic solutions coming for the county

The Santa Lucia Chapter is undertaking a major capital campaign as part of its ongoing commitment to the national Sierra Club's top priority issue -- the need to switch to renewable energy -- and the Chapter's role in the Strategic Energy Alliance for Change. SEA Change is a remarkable coalition working to bring together local governments, the private sector and the general public in San Luis Obispo County to promote public awareness and implement "best practices" in the generation, distribution and use of energy.

The Chapter is a founding organization of the Alliance, which includes the San Luis Obispo Chamber of Commerce, ECOSLO, the county Air Pollution Control District, Coast National Bank, SLO Green Build, Cienega Energy Systems, Cal Poly, the Home Builders Association, and PG&E.

Last year, we held a Smart Energy Solutions Summit, introducing the concept of "Community Choice Aggregation" or CCA (see page 5) to more than 300 local residents. This year, Cal Poly campus groups have brought *New York Times* award-winning science writer Andrew Revkin to speak on climate change and to participate in a round-table discussion that included Sierra Club California's Energy and Global Warming Committee co-chair Ken Smokoska. The SLO Chamber of Commerce has formed a Sustainability and Resources Task Force, chaired by a smart-growth advocate.

Public feedback from the October summit overwhelmingly called for local



Santa Lucia Chapter Chair Karen Merriam (head of the table, left) calls the February meeting of SEA Change to order.

governments to formulate energy policies and goals. Currently, San Luis Obispo is the only city in the county with an Energy Element. SEA Change will be working to change that, and to advance a CCA Implementation Plan and a new energy element in the county General Plan. We are working with the California Energy Commission to put together a regional energy-planning conference for local elected officials and planners that will spark regional thinking and action toward countering the adverse environmental and economic impacts of high energy costs, depletion of finite resources, the emission of greenhouse gases, and, ultimately our dependence on distant

#### Last call for tickets:

"Flora - A Celebration of Nature and Art," a fundraiser to support the work of the Santa Lucia Chapter of the Sierra Club, will be held April 1 at the Santa Margarita Ranch and Sinton Ranch. See back page for details.

sources of energy.

All the October 2006 Smart Energy Solutions summit panels, including the keynote address by Paul Fenn, the author of California's Community Choice Law, can be viewed at [www.santalucia.sierraclub.org/climate\\_agree.html](http://www.santalucia.sierraclub.org/climate_agree.html)

## SLO Chamber of Commerce Turns Green

The San Luis Obispo Chamber of Commerce has initiated a new Sustainability and Resources Committee to better organize the Chamber's efforts to help local businesses improve their profitability while being more sensitive to the local and global environment.

The new committee's subject matter is supported by the first point in the Chamber's nine-point Vision Document: "Proactively protect and enhance San Luis Obispo's unique quality of life." Point one also makes reference to the Chamber's long-term goals for "protection of landscapes", "promotion of the use of reclaimed water and water conservation," "continued opposition of off-shore oil development" and other goals relative to sustainability and resources.

The committee will be chaired by Erik Justesen, CEO of RRM Design Group, a statewide leader in green building and environmentally conscious community design.

The new committee was spawned at a 2006 board retreat and was the result of two fortuitous events last year: Early in the year, during public hearings on the City's draft of the Open Space and Conservation element of the general plan, the Chamber, the SLO Green Building Council and the Association of Independent Architects discovered shared values, started working together, and came back to the SLO City Council with a

joint recommendation. All of the key features of the recommendation were accepted by the city council.

Later in the year, the Chamber co-sponsored the first SLO Smart Energy Solutions Summit, a business-focused look at energy and resource use. An enthusiastic and much larger than expected crowd of some 300 people

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photo/Kevin Walsh

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## Santa Lucia Chapter General Meeting Hot Spots, Part One: North County

Ag land going fast... mini-cities preparing to drop down on Santa Margarita and San Miguel... West Pac chowing down on Templeton...new hope in Atascadero.... Come to our general meeting this month to get the big picture of the future for the way of life in San Luis Obispo's rural stronghold from the activists on the ground and in the fight!



**Friday, March 23,  
7:00 p.m.**  
**St. Stephens Episcopal Church**  
**1334 Nipomo St., at Pismo**  
**San Luis Obispo**

**Enter parking lot off Pismo**

## Take Heed, SLO

**State's top court rejects approval of fringe development for failing to analyze long-term water supply**

On February 1, the California Supreme Court ruled in *Vineyard Area Citizens v. City of Rancho Cordova* that an 18,000-home development under construction at the southern edge of Sacramento should not have been approved by County Supervisors due to uncertainties about the project's long-term water supply. This decision is a "watershed" decision, and overturns earlier decisions by trial and appellate courts dating back five years.

Stephan Volker, an attorney representing the Sierra Club, Environmental Council of Sacramento and Vineyard Area Citizens, told the *Sacramento Bee* he expects the lower court to halt construction while a new environmental analysis is completed: "The Supreme Court has reversed the rulings of the trial and appellate courts, and the project approvals must now be set aside because they were issued in violation of the California Environmental Quality Act," he said.

The Sunrise Douglas project in the Sacramento suburb of Rancho Cordova was approved in 2002 by the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors. Numerous environmental organizations had objected to the environmental review of the Sunrise development and noted that the County had not adequately analyzed whether or not there would be enough water to support future residents while meeting the needs of existing populations.

When these calls for more careful analysis went unheeded, the Vineyard Area Citizens for Responsible Growth filed litigation against the County.

The Court's decision quotes from an amicus brief submitted on behalf of the Planning and Conservation League, noting that the project's depiction of future water supplies "lacks quantification, with no analysis that would disclose whether the program will produce sufficient supplies and storage capacity to meet expected demands."

While the decision has major ramifications for smart planning in California, it also highlights the dangers of reckless choices by regional decision makers. In 2002, the city of Rancho Cordova decided to allow developers to proceed with construction despite ongoing litigation. About 1,800 houses have been built, leaving new residents stranded in a dusty suburb filled with construction equipment, unfinished public amenities,

and an uncertain future.

It's a shame that local governments and developers were willing to put these families at risk instead of meeting their legal obligations to address potential environmental issues.

We suggest the San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors, the Planning Department, and every city council in the county read *Vineyard Area Citizens v. City of Rancho Cordova*.

## Eucalyptus: We Need a Plan

Following our extremely well received January general meeting, "Eucalyptus Without Tears," at which it became clear that the county needs something other than the "one size fits all" policy that allows for the removal of a few or a few hundred eucalyptus irrespective of size, location or habitat value, the Chapter passed the following resolution:

"The Sierra Club encourages the County of San Luis Obispo to study the resource and habitat values of eucalyptus as part of the County's Conservation Element update and develop standards therein as to when eucalyptus should be preserved or removed. We urge the County to seek the input and involvement of Dr. Matt Ritter and Dr. Kingston Leong of Cal Poly in drafting this component of the Element update and developing such standards."

Leong is a specialist in the biology and migration of the monarch butterfly. Ritter is director of the Cal Poly Plant Conservatory. Both have said they would be happy to lend their expertise to the Element update.



At "Eucalyptus Without Tears," Dr. Matt Ritter (right) and colleague Kingston Leong presented data challenging blanket policies on eucalyptus removal. Ritter showed dramatic evidence that the Montana de Oro eucalyptus grove has not expanded in over thirty years.

## SANTA LUCIAN

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The *Santa Lucian* is published 10 times a year. Articles, environmental information and letters to the editor are welcome. The deadline for each issue is the 7th of the prior month.

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The Executive Committee meets the fourth Friday of every month at 4:00 p.m. at the chapter office, located at 1204 Nipomo St., San Luis Obispo. All members are welcome to attend.

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# Dalidio, Take 3: On to Court

At press time, Citizens for Planning Responsibly planned to file suit against San Luis Obispo County on March 2 seeking to overturn Measure J, the Dalidio Ranch initiative.

"We're not trying to stop development of the property," said CPR president Rosemary Wilvert. "We're suing the county for allowing an illegal initiative to be placed on the ballot. We want the proposed development to go through the same process and environmental review required of any other developer."

The Dalidio ranch developers put their development plan on the ballot in last November's election, vastly outspent opponents, and garnered 65% of the vote county-wide. Tellingly, in the city of San Luis Obispo, its margin of

victory was razor-thin. In a 2005 election, San Luis Obispo voters overruled the City Council, who had overruled the city Planning Commission in order to permit the development. The Planning Commission determined that the massive air quality and traffic impacts of the planned development could not be mitigated.

The Sierra Club concurs with CPR's legal analysis of Measure J. Last year, Los Osos Measure B was challenged in court and ruled illegal because it tried to remove discretionary decision-making authority from elected officials (i.e. where to put a sewer), and turn such authority into mere "ministerial actions." That's illegal. Measure J does the same thing, and also presumes to trump state law.

In amending the County's General Plan and setting in stone the conditions of development, Measure J renders the General Plan incoherent and in conflict with itself. If the developers' planning review avoidance strategy succeeds, more and worse projects will follow. The General Plan would become a useless appendage to an ongoing series of ballot-box approved developments as more projects bypass public review and the California Environmental Quality Act. The goals of smart growth and responsible planning will be rendered meaningless as development consortia simply spend the necessary p.r. money to persuade county residents — most of whom live far from the city which will bear the brunt of impacts — to vote for their projects.

The campaign to mount a legal challenge to Measure J was a truly grassroots effort, which met with an outpouring of public support. "Even after we met our first fundraising goal to hire an attorney, people still kept giving us checks, saying 'I want to be a part of this,'" said Wilvert. "People have been frustrated seeing the strong-arm development going on in this county, and now they have a chance to do something about it."

If the court rules Measure J illegal, the developers may finally choose to design a project that can win approval via the planning process.

CPR still requires funds to cover a potential appeal and their mailing costs. Contact Rosemary Wilvert for information: [rwilvert@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rwilvert@sbcglobal.net)

## Coastal Commission Turns Up Heat on Dunes, Desal

At its February meeting in San Diego, the California Coastal Commission expressed support for our appeal of a project designed to gather data for a seawater desalination project in Cambria. The Commission also made clear its determination to resolve longstanding controversies over the protection of natural resources at the Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area, and, based on information provided by the Santa Lucia Chapter, announced an investigation of State Parks' implementation of conservation measures that are supposed to be protecting native vegetation in the ODSVRA.

The Santa Lucia Chapter, along with Greenspace - the Cambria Land Trust, LandWatch and the Desal Response Group, had appealed a permit issued by the County for the desal test project on San Simeon State Beach, which would require boring wells into the sand, installing well casings, and conducting a seismic survey. Appellants pointed out the inconsistency of the project with the County's Local Coastal Plan, which does not allow structures on the beach, and the Commission agreed. The proposed project was spared outright denial of the permit by a last-minute request by Commissioner Katcho Achadjian to continue the item and attempt to resolve the issues.

Commissioner Mary Shallenberger instructed Commission staff, "When this comes back to us, I would like to see an analysis of the boring and what the impacts are. The fact that staff is relying entirely on the engineer for the applicant is not a very satisfactory position for us to be in."

Any attempt by the County to revise the LCP to somehow allow the project would also require Coastal Commission approval, which Commissioners made clear is unlikely to be forthcoming if a revised project is proposed for the same general location. Commissioner Larry Clark spoke for the majority of Commissioners who commented on the issue, saying "Locating infrastructure in park land, in public trust land, is absolutely inappropriate."

Conducting its annual review of the 1982 Coastal Development Permit granted to ensure proper management of the Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area, the Commission took note of the recent appeal of the proposed sale of 584 acres therein which are currently leased from the County. The appeal was upheld in January by the County Planning Commission on the basis of testimony from the Santa Lucia Chapter and SLO environmental attorney Babak Naficy, who produced



For the first time in the 30-year history of the California Coastal Commission — whose monthly meeting locations range from San Diego to Eureka — members of the public and the media are now able to watch and listen to the Commission's meetings, live, via the internet. For the next year and hopefully beyond, all Commission meetings will be broadcast over the internet, gavel to gavel at [www.cal-span.org](http://www.cal-span.org). The public will also be able to download and view past meetings, which will be archived on the website. All meeting coverage will be gavel to gavel each day, but an advanced indexing system will allow viewers to go directly to items of interest, skip to the final vote, or view the staff report.

Morro Bay's AGP Video won the contract to cover the Commission meetings. "It's the ultimate public outreach" said Steve Mathieu of AGP. "We're pleased to increase public awareness of the California Coastal Commission, recognizing that it does such important work to keep the coast physically and visually accessible to all."

maps from the County's Local Coastal Plan showing that county land in the ODSVRA is intended to serve as a buffer area. The Coastal Commission agreed that this inconsistency needs to be resolved, and noted that last year's low plover fledgling rates at the ODSVRA were catastrophic and clearly indicate that there is a problem that needs to be solved. Only 17 of 230 chicks are known to have fledged, an average of 0.29 chicks per breeding male. One chick fledged per breeding male is the estimated number needed to maintain the population.

Commissioners were candid in expressing their frustration with State Parks over its ongoing refusal to even conduct a study of the potential habitat benefits of year-round closure of plover nesting areas or otherwise seek any other data that might result in more protection for wildlife and less off-highway vehicle use.

Commission staff reported that State Parks' completion of a study of alternative access routes into the ODSVRA, mandated in the legal settlement of a lawsuit brought by the Santa Lucia Chapter, did not absolve Parks of its responsibility to actually find an alternative to the current practice of vehicles crossing Arroyo Grande Creek and driv-

ing along the beach to get to the dunes riding area.

Coastal Commission staff are investigating information relayed to them by the Santa Lucia Chapter that the crucial islands of native vegetation in the ODSVRA are not being maintained, fencing around the islands has shrunk from the originally agreed borders, and native re-vegetation efforts are not being conducted effectively.

Noting that State Parks and the Coastal Commission are at an "impasse" over the management of the ODSVRA that "just seems to continue year after year," Commissioner Meg Caldwell suggested representatives from the two agencies sit down with the chief of the State Re-


## LNG Clouds Over Morro Bay?

The oil companies have discovered that they can more easily transport natural gas if they first cool it to around 260 degrees below zero, at which point it becomes a liquid. It can then be pumped into massive tankers, shipped around the world, and re-gasified for delivery. The entire process emits significant amounts of green house gases, virtually eliminating the advantage of reduced CO2 emissions that natural gas otherwise has over coal.

These same oil companies and mining corporations are working to bring massive LNG terminals and tankers to California's coast. One corporation is mounting an effort to build an untested, floating terminal off the coast of Malibu and Oxnard. The terminal itself would be more than 3 football fields long, rise 14 stories over the water and pump more than 279 tons of air pollution over our threatened coast.


Elsewhere, On January 22, the Long Beach Harbor Commission cancelled

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### Sierra Club 2007 Calendars



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continued on page 5

## Chamber

continued from page 1

showed up. Many Chamber members asked for follow-up information.

The Sustainability and Resources Committee committee met for the first time in February to develop the committee's purpose statements:

~ To educate the business community and the community at large on the responsible use and protection of resources.

~ To encourage new and expanding businesses by identifying and defining

business opportunities and benefits that strengthen the local economy while promoting best practices in energy and resource conservation.

~ To improve the environmental performance of the business community by providing information and training.

Focus topics for the committee throughout the year will most likely include green building, better community design, energy conservation, natural resource protection, and transportation choices. The committee members, selected on the basis of their experience and interest in sustainability, come from the areas of architecture, planning, construction, transportation, energy, finance, and environmental policy. At the next meeting, the committee will develop actions to begin working toward their mission and goals.

"Because we are a business organization, our interest in sustainability may surprise some people," said Chamber chair Jeff Buckingham. "The fact that sustainability will deliver an environmental benefit to society at large is a fortunate consequence. Ultimately, sustainability will be successful not only because it is environmentally sound, but because it is economically sound."

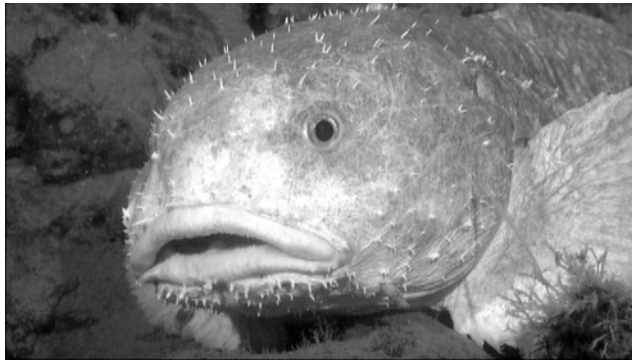
## Chamber of Commerce Weighs Endorsement of Marine Sanctuary Expansion

The recognition by the SLO Chamber of Commerce that green is good for business may extend to backing expansion of the borders of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary to include the waters of the Central Coast.

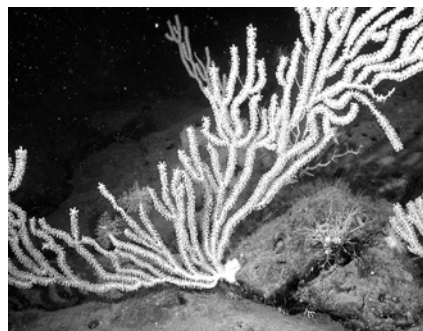
The Chamber's Issues Committee has met twice on the subject in the last six months, has heard from Morro Bay Mayor Janice Peters (opposed), Congresswoman Capps' district aide Greg Hass, the Mayor of Santa Cruz and the Executive Director of the Santa Cruz Conference and Visitors Council (in favor), and will be scheduling a Legislative Council lunch in the near future to further deliberate on the subject.

"In ongoing discussions with Chamber CEO Dave Garth, it is clear to us that both the SLO Chamber and the Sierra Club recognize the economic opportunities that expansion of the sanctuary would provide local businesses," said Chapter Chair Karen Merriam. "In addition, our two organizations agree we must protect our coastline from potential future offshore drilling and dumping of toxic waste."

Santa Cruz Mayor Cynthia Mathews told the Chamber that the Sanctuary brought a new clean industry -- federal marine research -- to her city, with all the economic boost that entails, and serves as a major tourist draw. The cities of the Central Coast could become the gateway to the National Marine Sanctuary, much as the towns around Carrizo Plain are identifying themselves as the gateway to our local National Monument. Protections offered by Sanctuary status would have come in handy when the Bureau of Reclamation was proposing to dump selenium-tainted agricultural waste water from the San Joaquin Valley into Estero Bay. (The



NOAA



*Blob sculpin and coral fan on the Davidson Seamount, 70 miles west of Cambria, proposed for inclusion in the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. The "Ocean Deep" episode of Planet Earth, airing every Sunday on the Discovery Channel from March 25 through April 22, was filmed on the Davidson Seamount.*

Environmental Impact Statement for the "ocean disposal" option stated that Estero Bay was chosen as the dump site because the waters north of Cambria are a national sanctuary.) And, of course, sanctuary designation would put an end to the otherwise never-ending attempts to open the Central Coast to oil drilling.

# Time for Morro Bay and Cayucos to Get Clean

Time and money no excuse for delaying wastewater treatment plant upgrade



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February 13, 2007

Mayor Janice Peters  
595 Harbor Street  
Morro Bay CA 93442

Dear Mayor Peters,

Thank you for your comments at the end of the February 8 JPA meeting to the effect that the parties to the JPA wish to undertake and complete the upgrade of the Morro Bay-Cayucos wastewater treatment plant in a timely fashion. As you asked (rhetorically), "Why would we want to delay and not do this as fast as possible?"

As I pointed out in my comments at the meeting, numerous previous statements by JPA members over the last several years have clarified that the reason for the extended length of the proposed timeline is due to the fear of fines by the Regional Water Board should you select a shorter timeline that more accurately reflects the legal standard of "as fast as possible" as judged against the 4.5 to 5-year average time to upgrade for other treatment plants in the region, and then fail to meet the benchmarks and completion date for that shorter schedule.

In all of the various proposed project timelines prepared by your consultants -- variously 15 years, 9.5 years, and 8 years and 4 months -- estimates of delay have been added at the design and permitting phase, on the assumption that all agencies involved will be slow to grant necessary approvals. As I pointed out last Thursday, even should this worst-case maximum delay scenario occur in your dealings with all agencies, your Settlement Agreement with the Water Board stipulates that no action beyond your control that causes delays in project completion shall trigger fines.

In other words, the reason for the extended timeline is based on an erroneous assessment of risk: You cannot be fined for delays caused by state and federal agencies. There is no need to build three years of assumed bureaucratic delays into a four and a half to five-year timeline out of fear of fines levied against Morro Bay and Cayucos should you fail to upgrade the treatment plant within five years. Your settlement agreement bars fines from being assessed for such delays.

As has been confirmed previously, there would be no difference in the time required to upgrade to full tertiary as opposed to secondary treatment. The parties to the JPA now have all the information needed to make an informed choice between the two treatment options. We trust you will do so forthwith, thus enabling the design and pursuit of funding for the plant upgrade to begin immediately, on a four and a half to five-year schedule -- i.e. as fast as possible.

Sincerely,

Andrew Christie  
Chapter Director

cc: Morro Bay City Council  
Cayucos Sanitary District

for justice  
for love  
for peace  
for stories  
for healing  
for fun  
for change

## Holly Near

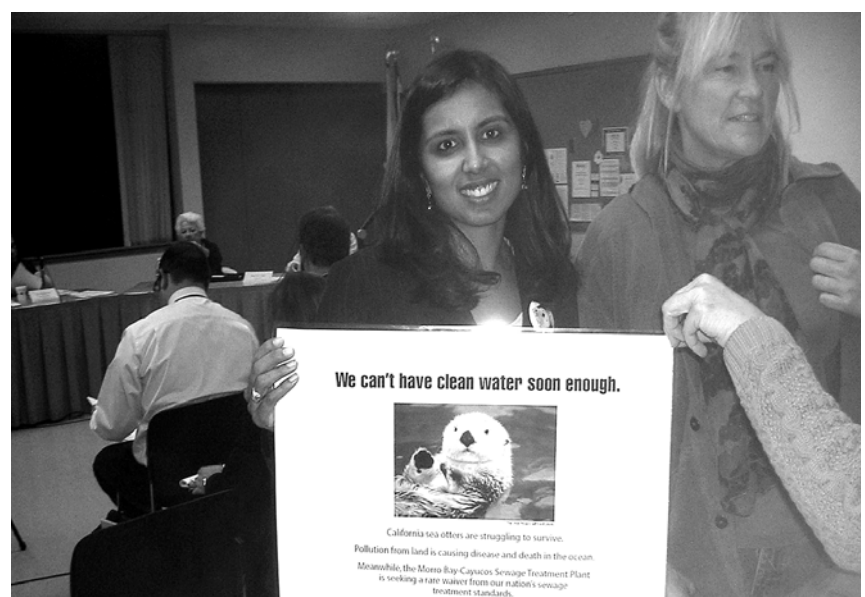
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Gina Whitaker at 481-0788



Natural Resources Defense Council attorney Anjali Jaiswal brought a message to the February 8 Joint Powers Agreement meeting of the Morro Bay City Council and Cayucos Sanitary District. Thanks to Jaiswal's research and submission of grant information at the meeting, Morro Bay has applied for a Small Community Wastewater grant to offset the cost of upgrading their wastewater treatment plant.

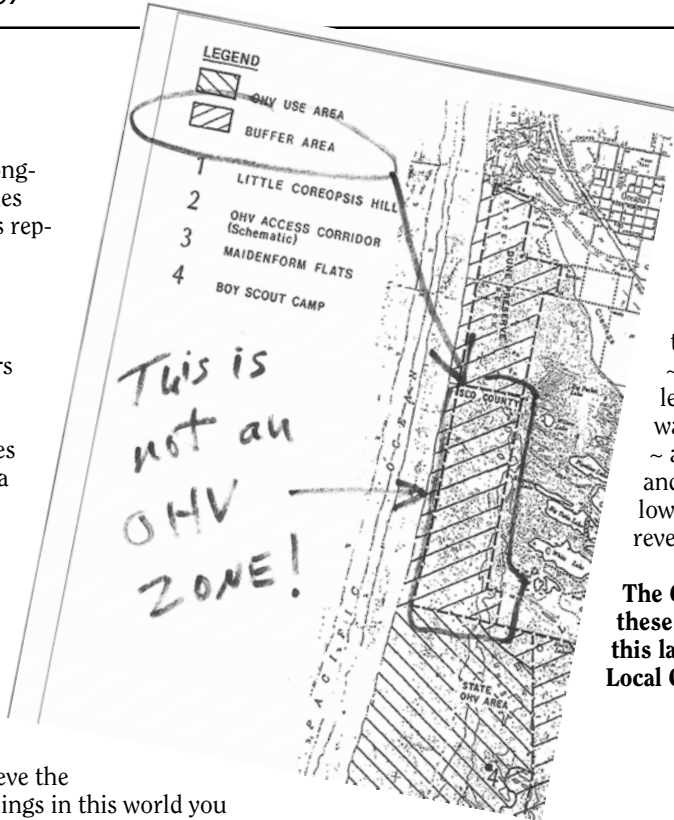
**Coastal Commission**

*continued from page 3*

sources Agency to resolve the long-standing park management issues between the two agencies. Parks representatives agreed.

**Take Action!**

The County Board of Supervisors will deliberate on the sale or renewal of lease of 584 acres of county land in the Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area on **Tuesday, April 17**. Come to the County Government Center



and remind the Supervisors that the County has options:

- ~ allowing the lease to expire and reasserting the policies of the General Plan on this land
- ~ altering the terms of the lease to stipulate no off-highway vehicles on this land
- ~ allowing the lease to expire and administering the area for low-impact recreation, gaining revenues from fees.

**The County must select one of these options to bring the use of this land into conformity with our Local Coastal Plan.**

**HopeDance**

**Saturday, March 10th, 7:00pm**

SLO Library: San Luis Obispo Public Library, Osos and Palm Streets

*San Luis Obispo Code Pink presents:* Report from BOLIVIA. A coca farmer president and gas nationalization? Come find out about the major changes afoot in the heart of the Andes. Code Pink member Lynne Levine and her daughter Rae will tell what they learned on a recent delegation to Bolivia. The presentation will include photos and stories of the delegation's encounters with shamans, coca farmers, U.S. funded anti-narcotics trainers, human rights activists, Bolivia's new Minister of Justice Casimira Rodriguez, and staff to the Constituent Assembly working on a new constitution.

\$5 Suggested Donation. No one turned away for lack of funds. For information, call 788-0929. For HopeDance film schedule, go to [www.hopedance.org](http://www.hopedance.org)

**Letters**

Go hike to hell a[ ] holes and leve the dunes alone. Thers alot more things in this world you should be wored about then a bird and some ice plant. Try helping out are US troops or some thing like that and let more of the dunes get open back up. So people are not all jamed up in one place runing over each other and getting killed. Save a human life not a dame bird that no one give a s[ ] about.

O yea P.S. SAVE A TREE WHIPE YOUER A[ ] WITH A SNOWY PLOVER

**Todd Clinton**  
via e-mail

*San Luis Obispo Tribune, July 7, 2006:*

My awareness of the growing culture of irresponsibility that surrounds us is daily heightened by examples all around, but none more mind-boggling than your July 3 report that some of the campers at Oceano Dunes, responding to the report of the recent fatality there, "blamed environmental activists for lobbying successfully to shrink the size of the riding space, creating congested and more dangerous areas for riders."

I can't understand how anyone could be to blame except the person in control (or not) of a large vehicle at high speeds in an area where there are no rules controlling driving behavior and acting so irresponsibly as to "catch air" at the top of a 25-foot dune without thinking what might be on the other side.

I am not saying that the person responsible feels that the blame should be placed on environmental activists, but your report that "some" felt this way means that this pervasive attitude of not taking responsibility has worked its way yet deeper into our daily life.

**Laurie Gage**  
**Paso Robles**

*[Note: Todd Clinton's friend Jerry Reno Carter was killed last July in the accident described above. The family has established a fund to help his widow, Paige Carter, and her children. Donations may be made to Wells Fargo Bank account number 3827358023, in Paige Carter's name.]*

The enclosed contribution is in memory of Pete Wagner, who died in November 2003, and because we get more important environmental information from your newsletter than from any other source on the Central Coast.

**Ted and Peg Labrenz**  
**Morro Bay**

**The Bright Idea Project**

*By Lisa Donaldson and Julian Revilleza*

Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) is an international organization that operates on more than 1,500 campuses in more than 40 countries. Its objectives are simple: Develop and implement projects that help individuals and organizations learn and succeed in a variety of business areas including entrepreneurship, business ethics, and personal successes and finance.

As Cal Poly students in SIFE, we are working toward educating San Luis Obispo on the problems of global warming and things the community can do to help make a difference. We have been so influenced by the numbers and the stark reality of our decaying environment the two of us have decided to devote our senior projects to help improve this situation. This project is focusing on the education of two main groups of individuals: children and college students. We are currently in the process of introducing our ideas on methods to save the environment to local elementary school children. We feel that this

age group will have a significant amount of responsibility to our environment, and has relatively low awareness of the topic.

In addition, we are planning an advertising campaign for the Cal Poly campus

in conjunction with the distribution of energy efficient light bulbs. Both Home Depot and Miner's Ace Hardware have generously agreed to donate energy efficient bulbs to this project. We plan to post signs and informative posters that address the issues of global warming and provide statistics to encourage lifestyle changes. We believe that college students have the capability to immediately impact our environment and to make business decisions that will

lead to a healthier planet.

We both have many ideas for this project. The numbers are very clear and leave little room for arguing the existence of this problem. We are confident that our efforts can make a difference in our community.

If you would like more information on this project or would like to help out, please contact Lisa Donaldson at [ldonalds@gmail.com](mailto:ldonalds@gmail.com)

**APRIL 14: Step It Up! and Help Fight Global Warming**

On April 14, tens of thousands of Americans will come together to tell Congress: "Step it up. Cut carbon 80 percent by 2050."

This **National Day of Climate Action** is a grassroots effort started by author Bill McKibben and co-sponsored by the Sierra Club and dozens of other environmental groups.



Step It Up is focusing on documenting the problem of global warming — by photographing observable or potential local consequences. We encourage Club members to participate in scheduled events. Check out the Step It Up Web site: [www.stepitup07.org](http://www.stepitup07.org).

The Sierra Club will also be asking

your help documenting global warming solutions — taking photos of progress where you find it — whether it's an array of photovoltaic cells or that hybrid parked in your garage. We need your help to make the point that people are already taking action to combat global warming.

Step It Up is only one part of the Sierra Club's overall menu of Earth Day events and activities planned for April — others include a toolkit for reaching out to your church on Sunday, April 22. We'll be sharing plans as they are developed through the Clubhouse home page and e-mail. (You can find all our activities and

plans at <http://sierraclub.org/earthday>.)

There's never been a time when more people have been paying attention to global warming — and not just environmentalists, but businesses, elected officials, kids, and more...

There's a movement on the horizon. Let's help build it.

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*By Lisa Donaldson and Julian Revilleza* Private cabins with bath or shared bath, dorms and tent cabins.

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Rustic Mountain Resort

# CCA is On the Way

## Community Choice is catching fire in California

"Community Choice Aggregation" – the most popular subject at the October 2006 Smart Energy Solutions Summit in San Luis Obispo – is busting out all over, with the Sierra Club leading the way. Here are two reports of what's being done elsewhere, examples of what we can do here, reprinted from the Yodeler, the newspaper of the Sierra Club San Francisco Bay Chapter.

## CCA: San Francisco

By Brad Johnson, Conservation Organizer, Bay Chapter

It's often been said that waves break first in California. As we make clean, renewable energy a reality for San Francisco and other cities in the Bay Area, the phrase once again applies.

The San Francisco Bay Chapter's clean-energy campaign is pursuing a plan called Community Choice Aggregation. This plan will create over 360 megawatts of renewable-energy and conservation applications right here in San Francisco including—the largest urban network of solar panels in the world, putting us at the forefront of clean-energy advocacy. The model we are creating in San Francisco is setting a precedent for the rest of the country and the rest of the world to reduce greenhouse-gas emissions and curb global warming. "The whole world can move to renewable energy. The only thing holding it back is America's bad example of insisting on using early-20th-century energy programs instead of moving into the 21st century," said Tyrone Cashman, architect of California's Wind Credit Law. "Once we take leadership in renewables it will flood the world."

The heart of Community Choice Aggregation is local control over energy supplies. Instead of being forced into contracts with PG&E, cities have the opportunity to choose among energy suppliers. In San Francisco, our plan is to use that flexibility to aggressively harness renewable energy sources, conservation, and efficiency measures to satisfy 51% of the city's energy needs by the year 2019. Not only will we be building the world's largest distributed-generation solar network, but we will do it without tax or utility-rate increases. In fact, under Community Choice our rates will start at or below current PG&E rates. Under this plan, consumers and businesses will have greater long-term certainty in their electricity rates than with PG&E.

The project has drawn the attention of thinkers and decision-makers across the country. Global-warming expert and Pulitzer Prize winner Ross Gelbspan,

author of *Boiling Point*, said, "The fact that the city will achieve this without a major tax expenditure or even a rate increase makes it truly a model for replication everywhere. I could not be more enthusiastic about this globally important event."

The Sierra Club began work on this campaign after the 2001 "energy crisis", when San Francisco voters overwhelmingly passed Propositions B and H, bond measures to fund energy efficiency, solar power, and other clean-energy projects. We formed the Community Choice Energy Alliance with Greenpeace, Local Power, Our City, the San Francisco People's Organization, the League of Young Voters, Greenaction for Health and Environmental Justice, Ovonic Solar, Greenwood Earth Alliance, the San Francisco Democratic and Green parties, Pacific Environment, Bay Area Clean Air Task Force, and others.

Now we have a solid plan, and strong support from nearly all of our local political leaders. We thank Mayor Newsom for signing on to our Cool Cities campaign, and Supervisors Tom Ammann and Ross Mirkirimi are among several supervisors who have worked hard on this issue and earned our thanks. But unfortunately, almost six years after San Francisco voters went to the ballot box, we have yet to see implementation of their mandate.

Never has there been a more important time to act on global warming. *Time* recently called global warming the most pressing environmental issue we face today, and even the Bush administration has admitted that global warming is real, and that we need to act now. Rising sea levels, increased intensity of storms, and agricultural failures are very real results of global climate change.

Bureaucratic delays and political squabbles have held up this world-changing plan for five years now. The Bay Chapter and the Community Choice Energy Alliance are gearing up to finally make this plan a reality in San Francisco as soon as possible.

## CCA: Marin County

By Ed Mainland, co-chair, Energy & Climate Change Committee, Sierra Club California

Marin County is one of the dozens of communities across the state actively planning to take control of their energy policy and explore options for more energy independence, firmer rate predictability, and large-scale reductions in emission of greenhouse gases (GHG)—in Marin's case as much as a 15% reduction by 2020.

State bill AB 117 (passed in 2002) gives a local government the authority to act as an "aggregator", purchasing electricity

from a range of "energy service providers" (not just PG&E) and selling it back to power users in its community. Marin County and its cities are actively studying setting up a joint-powers authority to implement this procedure of "Community Choice Aggregation" (CCA). That way Marin could get more than half its electricity from clean, renewable, environmentally preferred sources while meeting or beating PG&E's rates. PG&E would continue to transmit the energy and handle repair duties and billing. The county has engaged Navigant Consulting and two other firms to conduct a \$297,000 implementation study, looking at current energy use and developing a draft business plan. The *Pacific Sun* cites Dawn Weisz, head of Marin County's sustainability team, as saying that the plan can work if 50% of the power consumers in the county participate—even with just the county and Novato or San Rafael. County officials plan to begin soliciting input from the cities and public this spring by forming a CCA "working group" and "advisory council".

Marin Supervisor Charles McGlashan points out that the new revenue stream created by CCA will allow the issuance of bonds to fund investment in reliable renewable-energy projects and local power resources. CCA could, for example, offer to install solar panels on a business' rooftop at no cost, and give the business a break on its electricity costs. McGlashan says municipal bonds could provide a cost-effective way to raise money for clean-energy capital costs. To raise the same money, PG&E would need to issue corporate bonds at a roughly 30% higher interest rate.

Newly elected Marin Supervisor Judy Arnold says CCA could generate business for local firms that provide energy equipment and services. Such local investments will have a multiplier effect, generating new jobs, trades, businesses, and education centered around new green power. Arnold is optimistic about getting the support of the business community because "CCA could be a boost for business." A promise to "meet or beat" PG&E rates over the duration of the service-provider's contract would be a strong inducement.

Marin's plan sets a goal of receiving 51% of the county's electricity from renewable sources by 2017, up from today's 13%. That would be one of the largest percentages of renewable energy used in the state and would be accomplished at no cost to business or residential consumers (compared to PG&E's rates).

Is there a risk in CCA? Robert Freehling of the Sierra Club California Energy and Climate Change Committee reverses the question: how big a risk is it to stay with PG&E? The energy "crisis" of Enron days, says Freehling, was caused by over-reliance on one form of energy, natural gas. PG&E still gets 40-50% of its electricity from imported natural gas. Freehling says the price of photovoltaic solar energy "has come down a lot" in the past few decades, while the price of PG&E's electricity has gone up about 4% a year since 1980. So "in looking at risk, it's important to look at the consequences of staying where you are." Freehling notes that a diversified energy portfolio, one that includes electricity from several sources, including renewables, "can be considered a risk-management strategy rather than a risk."

There are potential roadblocks, largely coming from the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC):

- When customers leave PG&E they are required to pay "opt-out costs". If the CPUC drags its feet in calculating these or computes excessive values, the CCA savings will be reduced.
- The CPUC must not exercise favoritism in expediting PG&E contracts with big energy users, allowing them to stay out of the CCA.
- A portion of all electricity revenues goes into a state fund for financing a range of energy-conservation measures. Currently the Marin portion of these funds goes to PG&E. The law directs that a CCA receive this local share, but the CPUC has shown signs of resistance to allowing this, even though in other parts of the U.S., CCA-type efficiency programs achieve about 40% more savings than PG&E's do.

Marin hopes to decide on CCA before year's end.

### SMART ENERGY SOLUTIONS IT'S OUR CHOICE



## Global Emergency Teach-in

With so much attention focused on transportation emissions, many people are surprised to learn that buildings are the single largest contributor to global warming. The debate surrounding climate change and GHG emissions must define and include a Building Sector.

"In the U.S., buildings are responsible for almost half of all greenhouse gas emissions annually; globally the percentage is even greater," said Edward Mazria, Founder of Architecture 2030.

To address the Building Sector's role in climate change, Architecture 2030 conducted an interactive Global Emergency Teach-in. "The 2010 Imperative,"

web-cast live from the New York Academy of Sciences on February 20, 2007. San Luis Obispo participants gathered at Cal Poly's Chumash Auditorium.

Thousands of practicing professionals, government offices and students, faculty, and deans in the architecture, planning, engineering and design communities around the world logged on and discovered how design inadvertently fuels global warming, and what the design community can do to change this.

In addition to addressing climate change, participants also learned about 'The 2030 Challenge' and 'The 2010

Imperative.' Architecture 2030 issued the 2030 Challenge in January 2006, and that month the AIA adopted its targets. Since then, numerous organizations, firms, cities and counties have done so as well, including the U.S. Conference of Mayors. The Challenge calls for all new buildings and major renovations to immediately reduce their energy consumption by 50%, and all new buildings to be 'carbon neutral' by 2030.

Many key leaders in the Building Sec-

tor are rallying around the Challenge, working together to implement its targets. According to Rick Fedrizzi, President of the U.S. Green Building Council, "USGBC has always been committed to responsible building, so adopting the Challenge and sponsoring the Teach-in are obvious choices for us. As part of our action plan to mitigate climate change, all new LEED buildings will be required to reduce CO2 emissions by

continued on page 7

# We Must Do the Big Things Now

By Edward A. Mainland, co-chair, Energy & Climate Change Committee  
Sierra Club California

In the 1950s, some American scientists succeeded in making the first silicon solar cells. They were very small and relatively inefficient. And because they were custom-made items, they were also very expensive. A cell that generated only one watt of electricity cost the equivalent of considerably more than \$1,000. Someone suggested that these fantastically expensive "solar batteries" could be used to power the first satellites, and the modern age of solar energy (and space exploration) was born. Early enthusiasts foresaw that an era of solar energy might soon be upon us, and they spent fantastic sums of money equipping their houses with solar panels in the 1970s. While their neighbors were paying just a couple pennies a kilowatt-hour, these "kooks" were paying a dollar or more. They were considered hopeless dreamers.

Decades passed, and the demand for solar cells steadily grew, which led to a "virtuous cycle" where increased demand drove lower manufacturing costs and improved performance, and lower manufacturing costs with improved performance increased demand. By now, the cost of solar electricity has dropped 1000-fold from those early days when people ridiculed solar energy as a wild pipe dream. Yet the dreamers persisted and only grew in numbers. Today, solar energy can directly compete with customer electric rates in many places in the world. In California, for example, customer owned solar can cost 20 to 30 cents per kilowatt-hour, which just so happens to match the upper tier rates for millions of residential customers.

The point is, doing the expensive thing first does not really cost any more than doing it last. However, doing the expensive thing first does accomplish one very important thing: **It makes it available for mass deployment sooner.**

Solar energy dropped in cost precisely because growing demand improved economy of scale and quality. This relationship has been mapped with nearly mathematical precision by analyst in what is called an "experience curve," in which new technologies, like solar energy, decrease in cost in direct proportion to cumulative sales volume. The sooner we implement these "expensive technologies," the sooner we climb up the inevitable experience curve, AND the sooner these technologies come to fruition in terms of low-cost, good-performance scale-up of volume production.

We are already enjoying the fruits of our "foolish" predecessors, who paid \$100,000 or more to light an ordinary light bulb with solar energy in the

## Teach-in

continued from page 6

50% when compared to current emissions levels."

As The 2030 Challenge spreads across the country and around the globe, it will be the professionals and young designers who will be asked to implement it. Yet today, climate-change science, mitigation and adaptation strategies are virtually absent in many professional offices, as well as in U.S. and international professional design schools.

To address this situation, "a rapid transformation of the entire architecture, planning, engineering and design education community must begin immediately," said Mazria. The 2010 Imperative, a challenge and strategy for transforming design and

1950s, and who paid 50 cents per kilowatt-hour for electricity from the first commercial wind turbines in the early 1980s (which could not be sold for more than one-tenth that amount). This year, the world will see over 1.5 billion watts of new solar electric installations and about 10 billion watts of new wind-electric generation. Such a possibility was dismissed as mere fantasy not too many years ago by "practical minded" people who were obsessed with counting pennies, and who therefore missed the greater tide of history.

Sierra Magazine was right; we are seeing real breakthroughs in renewable energy and real deeds on a large scale all over the world. In the last few years, more wind power was built than new coal plants in the U.S.

The coordinated and simultaneous development of renewables, energy efficiency and conservation is not a disparate "worst case," but a simple fact that has been going on for decades, and will continue in the future. This is a very good thing, wherein the lower-cost energy efficiency helps to jump-start and pay for other clean energy technologies. It is not a coincidence that those states with renewables programs are sometimes the same ones pushing the limits of energy efficiency (like California).

The problem is if we don't push renewables now, they will not be "ready" in the future when we need them. The future will not just "happen;" we need to make it happen. And the only way to make renewables happen is by doing it now. This will accelerate improvements and bring *all* the solutions on line together. This will lead to much faster reductions in carbon emissions—and much sooner—than if we wait for decades between the deployment of each major strategy. Such a delay could prove catastrophic.

The reality is that the time is now upon us for bold solutions to problems of historical significance. Americans strongly support renewable energy even more than they support energy efficiency. And if cleaning up the mess caused by our industrial civilization costs some extra money, we should not be afraid to say so. But the fact is that it need not cost more than what we are already spending today.

This is an important part of the "California Secret" that we have to teach others: While our electric rates are among the highest in the nation, our electric bills are among the lowest. That is because we implemented both energy efficiency *and* renewables on a large scale.

design education, was issued to all professionals and schools during the Teach-in, and participants were asked to adopt, support and implement its targets.

During the Teach-in, participants were able to interact with leaders at the forefront of design and climate change. Panelists include Dr. James Hansen, Director of NASA's Goddard Institute for Space Studies; Edward Mazria, Founder of Architecture 2030; Dr. Chris Luebke, Director of Arup's Global Foresight and Innovation Initiative; and Susan Szenasy, Editor in Chief of Metropolis magazine.

For more information, go to [www.2010imperative.org/](http://www.2010imperative.org/)

# We Must Do the Small Things Now

By Andrew Christie  
Santa Lucia Chapter Director

On February 6, in the ticket dispensers of the three parking structures in downtown San Luis Obispo, all the 40-watt incandescent light bulbs were replaced with energy saving light bulbs. The energy bill savings for one year will be about \$200; the bulbs will prevent 1,000 pounds of CO2 from being released into the atmosphere.

One person made this happen. Teddy Llovet, a Los Osos resident and part-time parking attendant for the City of SLO, persuaded her boss to make the change.

For Ms. Llovet, one screening of *An Inconvenient Truth* was all it took. The Morro Bay resident had to do something about the biggest problem in the world. So she picked one thing: Educate, demonstrate the reasons why everybody should replace incandescent light bulbs with energy-saving compact fluorescents – starting with the Los Osos senior community.



Go, Teddy!

awareness of my CFL demo-talk so that others may learn more about CFLs, invite me to speak to their groups, and for people everywhere to change their light bulbs. I hope individuals will be inspired to come forward and learn how to give demo-talks in their area. Let's see 'light leaders' take bulbs across America!" (See "The Bright Idea Project," page 5.)

In asking "What can I do?" and then doing it, Teddy's not alone.

"A friend of mine sent me an article from *Sierra* magazine about a grass-roots guy in Franklin, Michigan," she recalls. "He went to a mall there with a thermometer and measured the temperature in all the open areas at 72-73 degrees. Then he contacted the mall manager and sent a letter to the CEO of Lowe's, suggesting they lower temperature in winter and use energy saving light bulbs.... He got a call back saying they would lower it to 68 degrees. He's working on Home Depot, where, according to *Sierra*, 'he calculated that with 600 60-watt lamps on display in each store's lighting department, they could save \$10,000 and 100 tons of CO2 per store annually by changing their light bulbs.'"

An accomplished photographer, Teddy has been attending the Unitarian Universalist Church for the last few months, volunteering to be the site-build photographer for their new "green" straw-bale church, designed by local architects Polly Cooper and Ken Haggard.

"It's very exciting for us to hear of so many ways in which good old-fashioned grass roots activism is burgeoning all around us in determined efforts to reduce greenhouse gases, to be energy efficient, and use our resources wisely," says Chapter Chair Karen Merriam. "We are linking Teddy up with chapter activists who we know are working in this direction in their own ways. We hope Teddy will be able to find support and fellow volunteers to help with the campaign that she has started."

Teddy is modest about the change she made in SLO's parking structures. "See how easily this can work? Anyone can suggest this at their work place, school, church, club, etc. Be a light leader! Take these bulbs across America!"

Want to help? Drop Teddy a note at [bulbatatime@yahoo.com](mailto:bulbatatime@yahoo.com)

wanted ~ LIGHT LEADERS ~ now  
to  
educate ~ demonstrate ~  
enlighten  
Energy Saving Fluorescent  
Bulbs  
STOP! GLOBAL WARMING!  
Reduce your electric bill  
Reduce greenhouse gas emissions  
Join me in taking  
BULBS ACROSS AMERICA  
at: [bulbatatime@yahoo.com](mailto:bulbatatime@yahoo.com)  
~ Change your light bulbs ~  
~ Talk to your group, club, school,  
church ~  
~ Help others make the change ~  
Contact: [bulbatatime@yahoo.com](mailto:bulbatatime@yahoo.com)  
~ Train in 1 hour ~ easy & fun  
~ Materials and support provided ~  
"If every house in America replaced just one  
light bulb with an  
'energy saving' bulb, we could close down 1 or 2  
power plants."

Shortly after the start of the new year, she came into the Sierra Club office to tell us what she was doing.

"I gave two demo/talks on energy saving light bulbs last week to senior mobile home parks. The first was a dinner group (they fed me first) of 48 folks. The second was a happy-hour group of about 20. They showed interest, asked questions, said they learned something, expressed thanks for my being there. I feel encouraged about doing this program so I'll continue."

For Teddy, what clinches the deal is the moment in her presentation when she holds an incandescent bulb in one hand and a compact fluorescent in the other, and explains that 5 percent of the energy in the former goes to producing light and 95 percent is waste heat. In the latter, it's reversed. And the fluorescents use one-third the energy. Then she tells them that Miner's Ace Hardware is offering CFLs at \$1 apiece, courtesy of a PG&E sponsored program.

Teddy's demo-talk is a community service. After her 15 minutes, she gives away one free energy-saving bulb to every household in attendance, compliments of Ace Hardware.

"My intention is to create widespread

# Taking Issue

problematic environmental coverage & commentary in our local press

"Organic food may not be the best," James Temple, *The Tribune*, Feb. 10, 2007.

**Summary:** The *Tribune* never seems to tire of printing industry-backed reports bashing organic farming on behalf of Big Ag (see Taking Issue, "Antibiotic-free foods are not necessarily safer for people, study says," *Santa Lucian*, Sept. 2006). The Soil Association notes that "the myths which damage the organic movement are not conjured out of thin air and they do not arrive in the newspapers by chance. These myths are usually generated by organizations with particular interests in defending non-organic farming." (Unless noted otherwise, the citations below are from "Organic Farming, Food Quality and Human Health: A Review of the Evidence," a report by the Soil Association).

"I'm not convinced there is any difference in the health and safety of organic and conventional foods," said Carl Winter, director of the FoodSafe program at UC Davis.

Following a pattern set by farm chemical companies in the 1960s, the biotechnology industry is mining public agricultural colleges such as UC Davis for scientific research, confidential business advice and academic support for its technology.

A "who's who" of international biotechnology companies fund work at UC Davis. They include Monsanto, Syngenta, DuPont and Bayer. ...You name it, and biotechnology companies help pay for it at UC Davis: laboratory studies, scholarships, post-doctoral students' salaries, professors' travel expenses, even the campus utility bill. Some professors earn extra money, up to \$2,000 a month, consulting for such companies on the side.... "Although the land-grant college complex was created to be the people's university...the system has, in fact, become the sidekick and frequent servant of agriculture's industrialized elite," wrote Jim Hightower, a former Texas agriculture commissioner, in "Hard Tomatoes, Hard Times."

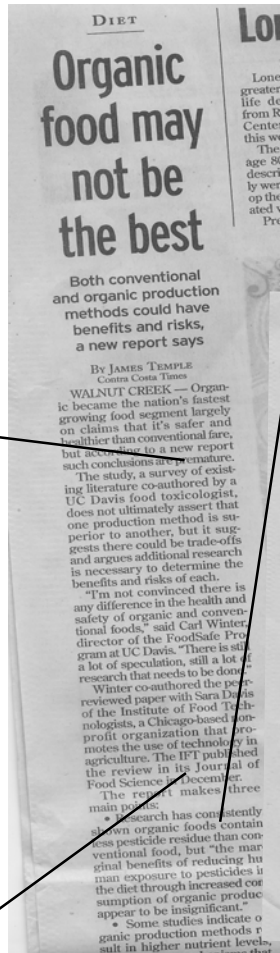
- "Biotech Industry Funds Bumper Crop of UC Davis Research," By Tom Knudson and Mike Lee, *Sacramento Bee*, June 8, 2004

Winter co-authored the peer-reviewed paper with Sara Davis of the Institute of Food Technologists, a Chicago-based non-profit that promotes the use of technology in agriculture.

The Institute of Food Technologists is headed by Michael Doyle, whose research funding comes from Coca-Cola Foundation, Procter & Gamble, General Mills, Tony's Pizza, Hershey Foods, Borden, Kraft, General Foods, Gerber, Kroger, Best Foods, International Dioxide Inc., Cargill, Continental Grain Company, Pillsbury Company, Eastman Chemical Co., Chiquita Brands,

Campbell Soup Co., Frito-Lay Inc., Engelhard Corporation, etc. Sponsors of the IFT's annual World Congress of Food Science and Technology include Procter & Gamble, USDA, the Coca-Cola Company, Monsanto, and Archer Daniels Midland. The IFT is also opposed to labeling genetically engineered foods.

- "Lifting the Veil of Secrecy: Corporate Support for Health and Environmental Professional Associations, Charities, and Industry Front Groups," Center for Science in the Public Interest.



"...the marginal benefits in reducing human exposure to pesticides in the diet through increased consumption of organic produce appear to be insignificant."

The emerging epidemiological evidence [demonstrates] the negative health implications of dietary pesticide exposures ....The uncertainties

and available evidence on the safety of pesticide residues suggest that when non-organic produce cannot be avoided, some consumers may wish to carefully wash it to reduce external pesticide residues, and the government has advised that peeling is a sensible additional precaution when preparing fruit for small children. -- SA

Organic production methods... may also generate higher levels of toxins such as glyco-alkaloids in potatoes and tomatoes.

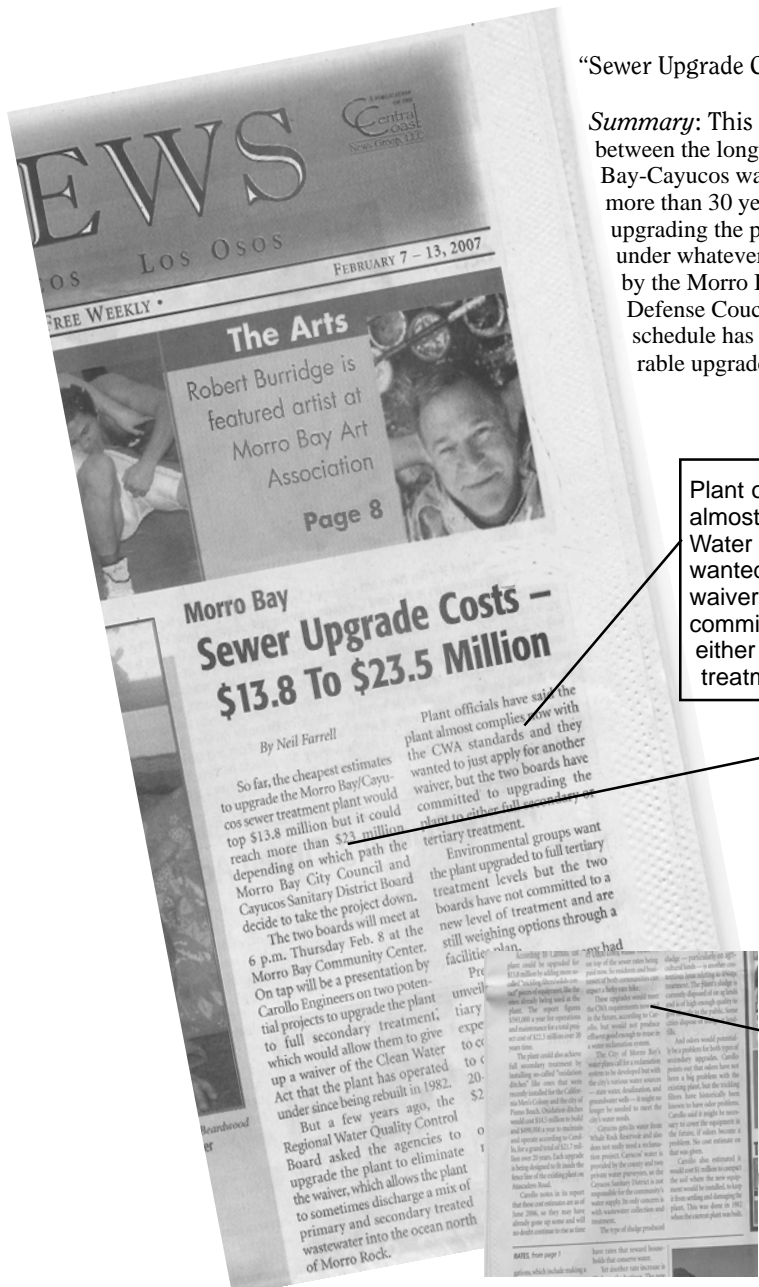
Epidemiological evidence firmly contradicts the concern that naturally occurring

plant compounds, 'phytonutrients', pose a health hazard due to their potential toxicity. It is well established that the greater the daily intake of vegetables and fruit, the lower the risk of the main causes of death in Western society, including cancer, cardiovascular disease and diabetes. -- SA

...widespread use of animal manure as fertilizer in organic production can... result in a higher occurrence of pathogens than conventional farming.

The UK Food Standards Agency has concluded that there is no evidence to indicate that organically grown food is more prone to microbial or mycotoxin contamination than non-organically grown food, as confirmed by a recent Public Health Laboratory Services survey of 3,200 samples of uncooked, ready-to-eat organic vegetables which found either no or very low incidences of contamination, indicating that overall agricultural, hygiene, harvesting and production practices were good. The strict organic guidelines for animal welfare and the composting of manures reduce the risks of E.coli contamination of organic produce. --SA

tory Services survey of 3,200 samples of uncooked, ready-to-eat organic vegetables which found either no or very low incidences of contamination, indicating that overall agricultural, hygiene, harvesting and production practices were good. The strict organic guidelines for animal welfare and the composting of manures reduce the risks of E.coli contamination of organic produce. --SA



"Sewer Upgrade Costs - \$13.8 to \$23.5 Million," Neil Farrell, *The Bay News*, Feb.7-13, 2007.

**Summary:** This article appeared a week after *Bay News* editor Neil Farrell attempted to explain the difference between the long-delayed construction of the Los Osos sewer and the proposed-to-be-delayed upgrade of the Morro Bay-Cayucos wastewater treatment plant, which has been operating under waivers from the Clean Water Act for more than 30 years. Farrell wrote: "The [Regional Water] board and [Morro Bay City] Council have committed to upgrading the plant at least enough to waive the [Clean Water Act] waiver. It remains to be seen if they can do this under whatever timeline the water board eventually sets." But the timeline is not set by the water board. It is set by the Morro Bay City Council and Cayucos Sanitary District. Thanks to pressure from the Natural Resources Defense Council, Sierra Club, Surfrider and other environmental groups and local residents, this obviously elastic schedule has shrunk from an originally proposed 15 years to 10 years, to, currently, 8 years. Based on comparable upgrades of plants serving comparable communities, the project should take 4 or 5 years.

Plant officials have said the plant almost complies now with the [Clean Water Act] standards and they wanted to just apply for another waiver, but the two boards have committed to upgrading the plant to either full secondary or tertiary treatment.

"Almost" complying is out of compliance. And again, the facts are misstated: The Morro Bay and Cayucos boards have committed to upgrade *and* want to apply for another waiver from the Clean Water Act so that they can take a very long time to do so (see "Time for Morro Bay and Cayucos to Get Clean," page 4).

So far, the cheapest estimates to upgrade the Morro Bay/Cayucos sewer treatment plant would top \$13.8 million, but it could reach more than \$23 million.

A longer upgrade will cost more. Under the law, the plant must upgrade as fast as possible. Morro Bay and Cayucos are trying to pad the timeline for potential bureaucratic delays and administrative convenience. That's why they are asking the water board for yet another waiver to the Clean Water Act. They shouldn't get one. Our marine ecosystem, public health, and the others can't wait.

These [secondary] upgrades would meet the CWA requirements now and in the future...but would not produce effluent good enough to reuse in a water reclamation system.

But an upgrade to tertiary treatment *would* result in water reclamation. And an upgrade to merely secondary instead of full tertiary will actually cost residents more out of pocket, since it is less likely to attract grant funding and

will have to be upgraded again shortly, as federal clean water standards are clearly heading toward mandatory tertiary treatment. A secondary upgrade is less likely to meet CWA requirements "in the future."



"Nuclear power vs. global warming," David Whitney, *The Tribune*, Jan. 18, 2007.

**Summary:** One of a multitude of articles reporting the opinion of the nuclear lobby -- here represented by PG&E chairman Peter Darbee -- that nuclear power must be embraced and many new plants constructed to save us from the effects of global warming.

If you spent 10 cents to make and deliver a new nuclear kilowatt-hour...you can displace 1 kilowatt-hour of coal power.... If you spend the same 10 cents instead on micropower or efficient use, you get two to 10 times as much coal displacement for the same money, because those options are cheaper — you get more per dollar. They're also faster, so you get more carbon displacement, coal displacement, per year.  
- "Mighty Mice," Amory Lovins, *Nuclear Engineering International*, 21 Dec. 2005.

Darbee said emissions from coal-fired power plants must be sharply reduced to beat global warming.

An incomplete picture of the competitive landscape may be the nuclear industry's greatest impediment to...credible public discourse. New nuclear plants and central coal- or gas-fired power plants are all uncompetitive with... decentralized renewables, combined-heat-and-power (CHP), and efficient end-use of electricity.... Both oil and fungible natural gas can be far more cheaply displaced by other means, mainly by doubled end-use efficiency. - *Lovins*

"Nuclear is there. It is well tested, and it's well known," Darbee said.

All renewables together (excluding big hydro), plus solar technologies that indirectly displace electric loads (daylighting, solar water heating, passive heating and cooling), have a practical economic potential many times total US electricity consumption — at least an order of magnitude greater than nuclear power provides today. - *Lovins*

Without cleaner-burning coal plants, Darbee said, nuclear power is about the only remaining option for cleaning the air.

"We are also hearing the beginnings of a conversation about the future of nuclear power in our country. For now, we believe it is an option that should be on the table with all others."

Nuclear power's asserted comeback rests not

on a newfound competitiveness in power plant construction, but on an old formula: massive government subsidies and licensing shortcuts, and perhaps guaranteed purchases with risks borne by customers.... At present, new renewable energy generators have to compete with old nuclear and fossil fuelled power stations which produce electricity at marginal costs because consumers and taxpayers have already paid the interest and depreciation on the original investments. Political action is needed to overcome these distortions and create a level playing field.  
- Energy [R]evolution: A blueprint for solving global warming, Greenpeace International/ European Renewable Energy Council (EREC), January 2007.

Utility executive says building more plants could be critical in effort to bring global warming under control.

would have to be built around the globe in the next decades to achieve a meaningful impact on CO2 emissions. These projections point to a clearly infeasible schedule, as new reactors would have to come online every few weeks.  
- "Why a Future for the Nuclear Industry is Risky," Peter Bradford and David Schlissel, January 2007.

Recent studies analyzing the potential of nuclear power to combat global warming have concluded that between 1,000 and 2,000 new nuclear reactors

Nuclear plants release no greenhouse emissions.

The enrichment of uranium fuel for nuclear power uses 93 percent of the refrigerant chlorofluorocarbon (CFC) gas made annually in the United States... potent global warming agents 10,000 to 20,000 times more efficient heat trappers than carbon dioxide, which itself is responsible for 50 percent of the global warming phenomenon. But nuclear power also contributes significantly to global carbon dioxide production. Huge quantities of fossil fuel are expended for the "front end" of the nuclear fuel cycle — to mine, mill and enrich the uranium fuel and to construct the massive nuclear reactor buildings and their cooling towers.  
Uranium enrichment is a particularly energy intensive process which uses electricity generated from huge coal-fired plants. Estimates of carbon dioxide production related to nuclear power are available from DOE for the "front end" of the nuclear fuel cycle, but prospective estimates for the "back end" of the cycle [plant decommissioning, dismantling and disposal and nuclear waste storage, transport and security] have yet to be calculated.  
Conclusion: Nuclear power is neither clean, green nor safe. It is the most biologically dangerous method to boil water to generate steam for the production of electricity.  
- "Nuclear Power Still a Deadly Proposition," Helen Caldicott, the *Baltimore Sun*, August 17, 2004.

The enrichment of uranium fuel for nuclear power uses 93 percent of the refrigerant chlorofluorocarbon (CFC) gas made annually in the United States...

"Nuclear plants generally are not high opportunity targets for terrorists," Darbee said.

In testimony before the Select Committee on Intelligence in the U.S. Senate in February 2005, FBI director Robert S. Mueller stated

that, "Another area we consider vulnerable and target rich is the energy sector, particularly nuclear power plants. Al-Qa'ida planner Khalid Sheikh Mohammed had nuclear power plants as part of his target set and we have no reason to believe that Al-Qa'ida has reconsidered." - *WFNIR*

Meanwhile, Darby said he has no concerns about keeping the used fuel in dry storage at power plants while the debate over what to do with it continues.

The spent fuel pools at Diablo Canyon will continue to be filled with radioactive fuel rods while older rods are loaded into dry casks. According to a recent study by the National Academy of Sciences, a terrorist attack on a spent fuel pool could lead to the release of large quantities of radioactive materials to the environment. Such an event could result in thousands of cancer deaths and economic damages in the range of hundreds of billions of dollars. - *WFNIR*

Local anti-nuclear groups... could not be reached for reaction to Darbee's comments.

Our phone didn't ring, Mr. Whitney.

**Get informed & stay that way! Ask to be put on our E-Alert List. Send request to: [sierra8@charter.net](mailto:sierra8@charter.net)**



# Stalking Styrofoam

Styrofoam and oil-based PVC products continue to add to pollution, but now there's an alternative to using styrofoam, and it's available through San Luis Paper and distributed nationally by ASEAN Corporation, owned by Bret Chandler, son of local lifetime Sierra Club member Everett Chandler.  
Stalkmarket recyclable dinnerware, made from sugar cane, was named one of the best natural products of the year in *Sierra* magazine's 2005

Natural Products Buying Guide. *Sierra* described Stalkmarket thusly: "These remarkable paper plates and bowls possibly make for the world's most environmentally friendly trash -- actually disintegrating in six weeks when placed in a compost heap, or in six to nine months when left on the ground. They are made from crushed sugar cane fiber and sterilized twice with UV light."  
"Environmentalism is a Chandler

family value," says Bret's mom, Arlene. "My husband and I are proud of our son's effort to aid the environment."  
Contact San Luis Paper at 544-5656 for purchase. For more information, go to [www.stalkmarket.net](http://www.stalkmarket.net) or call ASEAN Corp. at (503) 295-4977.  
And tell your friends about our locally available alternative to styrofoam!



# What the Goby Deserves

The Santa Lucia Chapter is a member of the SLO Coast Alliance, which last month sent the following letter to Lois Grunwald, Field Supervisor at the Ventura office of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service:

Dear Ms. Grunwald,

The SLO Coast Alliance is a coalition of 43 environmental organizations in the Central Coast of California, collectively representing over 22,000 members. We are asking you to add Arroyo Grande Creek and Arroyo Grande Creek Lagoon and Oceano Lagoon Complex to the critical habitat for the tidewater goby.

In commenting on the current proposal, we are encouraged to address the reasons a particular habitat should or should not be determined critical, the amount and distribution of tidewater goby habitat, and current or planned activities. The main reason the Arroyo Grande Creek and the Arroyo Grande Creek Lagoon and Oceano Lagoon Complex considered critical is that all

the four primary constituent elements are present: persistent still to slow-moving, brackish water; substrates suitable for burrowing and reproduction; submerged and emergent aquatic vegetation; and the regular presence of a sandbar.

An additional reason this area is suitable is that the entirety of Arroyo Grande Creek area of the lagoon system is in state hands.

On the distribution question, tidewater gobies have been found in the surveys of the Arroyo Grande Creek Lagoon conducted for California State Parks by Douglas Rischbeiter on March 2, 2005; August 22, 2005; June 6, 2006; and September 19, 2006, attesting to their regular presence.

Relating to current or planned activities, the continual use of the creek mouth (and occasional trespass into the lagoon area) by vehicles constitutes an extraordinary threat to this benthic species.

For these reasons, the SLO Coast

Alliance asks that the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service recognize that Arroyo Grande Creek and the Arroyo Grande Creek Lagoon and Oceano Lagoon Complex are critical habitat occupied by the tidewater goby, and clearly needing the

protection mandated by the Endangered Species Act.

Sincerely,  
Eric Greening  
President, SLO Coast Alliance



## She's Baaack...

Mandy Davis, noted San Luis Obispo environmental activist and scourge of the Morro Bay Estuary waterfowl hunt, returned to SLO in February after two months as a crewmember with the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society in the Antarctic, where she clashed with the Japanese whaling fleet in her second tour of duty on an Antarctic anti-whaling campaign. The SSCS chased, detained, and fouled the propellers of whaling vessels as the fleet attempted to slaughter whales in the Southern Ocean Whale Sanctuary despite numerous resolutions from the International Whaling Commission calling for a halt to Japan's bogus "research" whaling.

Mandy touched down here for just a few days but plans to return to stay.

## LNG

continued from page 3

the plan to put an LNG terminal in the nation's busiest cargo port due to, as the *Los Angeles Times* put it, "insurmountable safety concerns."

The partnership of Mitsubishi and Conoco Phillips is furiously contesting the decision, which ended their four-year effort to build a \$700-million liquefied natural gas plant. The abrupt, unanimous vote against the proposed terminal was expected to have repercussions throughout the LNG industry and its subsidiary backers, financiers and lobbyists.

If you live in Morro Bay, you may have already felt something. The phone polling that we first reported in the January 2006 issue of the *Santa Lucian* appears to have resumed, with calls going to residents in February from Western Wats Center ([www.westernwats.com](http://www.westernwats.com)), a polling center in Utah.

The callers don't sound well rehearsed on the script, according to Morro Bay residents (reportedly pronouncing it San LOUIS Obispo, as in "Armstrong"). The call focuses on how you would feel about a ballot initiative to bring an LNG terminal off Morro Bay. You are assured it would only be faintly visible on the horizon on a clear day. You are asked if you belong to the: NRA, Sierra Club or National Organization for Women; you are asked how you would feel if this was supported by: Duke, PG&E, Dynergy and a few other utilities. You're asked which of the following are more important: Securing more energy for an inevitably growing California or trying to achieve better energy conservation and slowing growth.

Then you are asked to rate the following based on how much you would believe information coming from them: PG&E, Duke, a Cal Poly Professor, the Sierra Club, the Mothers for Peace, etc.

"The 13 chapters of Sierra Club California voted to oppose all new LNG facilities in California in March 2004," said Ed Mainland, Co-Chair of Sierra Club California's Energy-Climate Committee. "Our policy is to favor all-out support for conservation, efficiency and renewable power."

Here's why: LNG comes from the same remote, politically

unstable regions whence America gets its oil addiction fix, with the same devastating environmental consequences to the forests, watersheds and wildlife habitat from which it is extracted. Utilities are intent on bringing LNG into California and locking in long-term commitments to fossil fuel at a time when both California and PG&E are promising to clean up our energy supply. Each LNG tanker carries more energy than was unleashed by the Hiroshima atomic bomb. A fire could melt steel at 100 yards and burn flesh over a half mile away.

According to Rory Cox, California program director of Pacific Environment, LNG creates 25% more global-warming emissions than domestic natural gas. The proposed Oxnard-Malibu plant would be responsible for 25 million tons of greenhouse gases per year, about as much as 4.5 million cars.

"If PG&E and other utilities tie themselves into 30-year and longer LNG contracts," says Cox, "this huge financial commitment will push aside plans for renewables and conservation for a long time to come."



Ka-boom: An LNG tanker/terrorist target in port.

The threat of LNG terminals has galvanized communities throughout North America. From rural Maine to Tijuana, local activists have beaten back this attempt to keep the U.S. addicted to foreign fossil fuels. Ratepayers for Affordable Clean Energy (RACE) is a coalition of over 20 community groups from Baja to Washington state who are fighting LNG both locally and regionally.

RACE urges California to conduct a needs assessment to evaluate whether, in light of California's clean-energy laws, LNG is needed. Along with the

California chapters of the Sierra Club, RACE believes that LNG has no place in California's energy future.

## Take Action!

To work with the Sierra Club to keep LNG terminals from damaging the California coast, contact our Great Coastal Places Campaign at:

[savethecoast@sierraclub.org](mailto:savethecoast@sierraclub.org)  
or (213)387-6528, ext. 211.

For more information on RACE, visit: [www.pacificenvironment.org](http://www.pacificenvironment.org)

## Money Greases Bike Month's Wheels

Mini-grant dollars available for individuals, organizations and businesses

SLO Regional Rideshare encourages community members to host an event during May to celebrate Bike Month.

New this year, SLO Regional Rideshare is offering mini-grants up to \$100 to individuals, organizations and businesses interested in creating a Bike Month event. Possible event ideas include: hosting a bike to school day, offering tune ups, free lunches to employees who arrive by bike, or provide a free screening of your favorite bike movie.

"This is a great opportunity for organizations who want to put on a bike related event, but lack the resources," said Andy Mutziger, Air Quality Specialist, San Luis Obispo County Air Pollution Control District.

This year's Bike Month theme, "Shift Gears," provides a unique focus by personalizing its approach and expanding beyond the City of San Luis Obispo.

"The mini-grants are intended to reach out to other parts of the county to help elevate the importance of Bike Month," said Lisa Quinn, Program Coordinator for SLO Regional Rideshare. "Someone might have a great idea, maybe a SLOW Food Bike Ride, but need an extra push. This is where a mini-grant comes in to get the idea off

the ground."

This year Bike Month has expanded to have a larger presence in North County. Using the framework from last year's family bicycle ride in San Luis Obispo, Atascadero City staff and local businesses have gotten together to discuss creating a Community Bike Happening and Bike-In Movie in Atascadero. This event will likely be held on May 11, the same night the Community Bike Happening and Bike-In Movie will take place in San Luis Obispo. The group intends to apply for a mini-grant to offset some of their expenses.

To receive a **Shift Gears Mini Grant** application for a Bike Month event, call 781-1385 or e-mail [jberry@rideshare.org](mailto:jberry@rideshare.org). Event description must be provided by March 9 to be publicized in the Bike Month print mailer.

Bike Month is a San Luis Obispo County and national celebration of human-powered vehicle transportation encouraging people of all ages and abilities to ride bicycles to their destinations instead of driving. This year's "Shift Gears" theme means May is the time to shift away from air pollution and traffic and shift into a healthy lifestyle. SLO Regional Rideshare will host the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Commuter Bike Challenge, encouraging teams of 4-10 people to keep track of their miles and trips during the month. During Bike to Work Week, May 14 through May 18, local coffee houses show their appreciation to cyclists by providing a free cup of coffee and Bike Month T-shirt.

SLO Regional Rideshare is dedicated to reducing the number of single occupant vehicles on San Luis Obispo's roads and highways, conserving fuel, reducing air pollution and making it easier for commuters to get to work or school. For more information, visit [www.rideshare.org](http://www.rideshare.org), call Lisa Quinn at 781-4462, or email [lquinn@rideshare.org](mailto:lquinn@rideshare.org)

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# Classifieds

March issue ad deadline is **March 16**. To acquire a rate sheet or submit your ad and payment, contact:

Sierra Club - Santa Lucia Chapter  
 p.o. Box 15755  
 San Luis Obispo, CA 93406  
 sierra8@charter.net

## Local Government Meetings

- City of SLO--1st & 3rd Tues., 7:00 p.m.; 781-7103
- Arroyo Grande--2nd and 4th Tues., 7:00 p.m.; 473-5404
- Atascadero--2nd & 4th Tues.; 466-8099
- Cambria CSD -- 4th Thurs.; 927-6223
- Grover Beach--1st & 3rd Mon., 6:30 p.m.; 473-4567  
 Grover Beach Planning Commission-- 2nd Tues.
- Morro Bay--2nd & 4th Mon.
- Paso Robles--1st & 3rd Tues., 7:00 p.m.; 237-3888
- Pismo Beach--1st Tues., 5:30 p.m.; 773-4657
- Los Osos CSD board-- 1st Tues. & 2nd Mon., varies
- California Coastal Commission-- 3rd Tues., varies
- SLO County Board of Supervisors-- every Tues.; 781-5450
- SLO Council of Governments; 781-4219  
 SLOCOG Citizens Advisory Committee--1st Wed. every other month, 6:00 p.m.  
 SLOCOG Board--1st Wed. every other month, 8:30 a.m.

# HELP WANTED

**VOLUNTEER DATA ENTRY OPERATOR** -- 10 hours per week - work at the Chapter Office No financial compensation available - yet. Reports to Chapter Director. This flexible and optimistic person will enjoy working with database entry, and QuickBooks software, answering phones and assisting the Chapter Director in maintaining the Chapter office. Familiarity with basic computer operations and Excel essential. For questions or application, please call Chapter Chair Karen Merriam, 544-6628.

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—Beverly Engel, M.F.T., psychotherapist and author of *Breaking the Cycle of Abuse*

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# Outings and Activities Calendar

All of our hikes and activities are open to all Club members and the general public. If you have any suggestions for hikes or outdoor activities, questions about the Chapter's outing policies or would like to be an outings leader, call Outings Leader Gary Felsman (473-3694). For information on a specific outing, please contact the outing leader. Outings Leaders please get your outings or events in by the 1st for the next month's outings.

## Hiking Classifications:

**Distance:** 1 = 0-2 mi., 2 = 3-5 mi., 3 = 6-9 mi., 4 = 10-12 mi., 5 = 12 mi. or more.

**Elevation Gain:** A = 500', B = 1000', C = 1500', D = 2000', E = 2500', F = 3000' or more.

## Mar 3, Wonderland of Rocks - Joshua Tree National Park:

Should be beautiful this time of year. The Wonderland of Rocks is exactly what its boastful name indicates. We're going to enter them from the south and head north past a couple of good pictograph sites, then we'll begin picking our way along the eastern edge. At a high point, we'll start heading west towards Willow Hole, probably have lunch amid the tall rock formations there and do a leisurely stroll out. All very pretty. Bring two quarts of liquid, sturdy boots, food. E-mail Ann and Al Murdy [aemurdy@eee.org](mailto:aemurdy@eee.org) or call directly (no messages please) at 760-366-2932. San Geronio Chapter/ CNRCC Desert Com.

## March 3, 4:30 p.m. SUNSET/ MOONRISE HIKE AND POTLUCK AT HARRIS

**GRADE:** Walk along the ridge at Harris grade with a short strenuous climb at the end (4 mrt, 900 ft. elev. gain). Come and watch as the sun goes down and the full moon comes up a few minutes later. Bring a daypack with flashlight, food to share; as well as a plate, utensils, and water for yourself. Meet at the Lompoc Pizza Hut parking lot or the Orcutt Long's Drugs parking lot at 4:30pm. Hikes are subject to change, always contact the leader. JIM 937-6766 (AR).

**Mar. 4th, Sun., 0930, TOUR de WOODLANDS** Meet at junction of Willow and Albert Way with bicycle & helmet, see the explosion of an "instant city". Very easy ride with many stops. Call 929-3647 or [bdenneen@kcbx.net](mailto:bdenneen@kcbx.net) a few days before to confirm and for details.

**SATURDAY, MARCH 10 CANOE/ KAYAK NORTH END MORRO BAY** We will launch from the north end of Morro Bay and float south on a rising tide. Bring your boat and equipment, PFDs, picnic lunch and binoculars. LOW TIDE 10:19 AM LAUNCH AT COLEMAN BEACH HIGH TIDE 4:22 PM PUT IN 10:00 AM Joe Dickerson 693-9534.

**Sat.-Sun., Mar 10-11, Service in the Santa Rosa Wilderness - San Jacinto National Monument:** We will assist the BLM in removing tamarisk from a canyon in the Santa Rosa Wilderness Area. This wilderness area is within the recently created San Jacinto National Monument, near Palm Springs. Arrive Saturday morning or campout Friday night. Work Saturday with Justin Seastrand, Wilderness Coordinator for the Palm Springs BLM. Potluck and happy hour Saturday evening and then a hike on Sunday. Contact Leader: Kate Allen (661-944-4056), [kjallen@qnet.com](mailto:kjallen@qnet.com). CNRCC Desert Com/ Antelope Valley Group.

Lobo Canyon. See coreopsis in bloom - \$129.00. Reservations required. PAT 643-0270 (SP).

**Sat., Mar. 17th, 8:00 a.m. Rocks Coral Exploratory Hike:** Come take a 10-13 mile, with unknown elevation gain as this is an exploratory hike on the Avenales Ranch East of Pozo. We should have plenty of wildflowers, and pleasant weather. Bring lunch, water, sturdy hiking shoes, and plan to be out all day. Meet at the Pacific Beverage Company in Santa Margarita. This is not a beginner's hike. Limit 20 people. For details, reservations and meeting place call Gary (473-3694)(5F).

**Sat.-Sun., Mar 17-18, Ghost Town Extravaganza:** Come with us to this spectacular desert landscape near Death Valley to explore the ruins of California's colorful past. Camp at the historic ghost town of Ballarat (flush toilets & hot showers). On Sat, do a challenging hike to ghost town Lookout City with expert Hal Fowler who will regale us with tales of this Wild West town. Later we'll return to camp for Happy Hour, a special St. Patty's Day potluck and campfire. On Sun, a quick visit to the infamous Riley town site before heading home. Group size strictly limited. Send \$8 per person (Sierra Club), 2 sase, H&W phones, email, rideshare info to Ldr: Lygeia Gerard, P.O. Box 294726, Phelan, CA

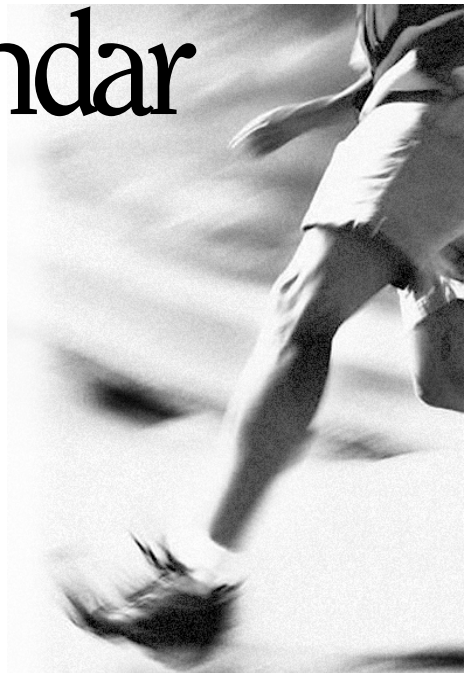


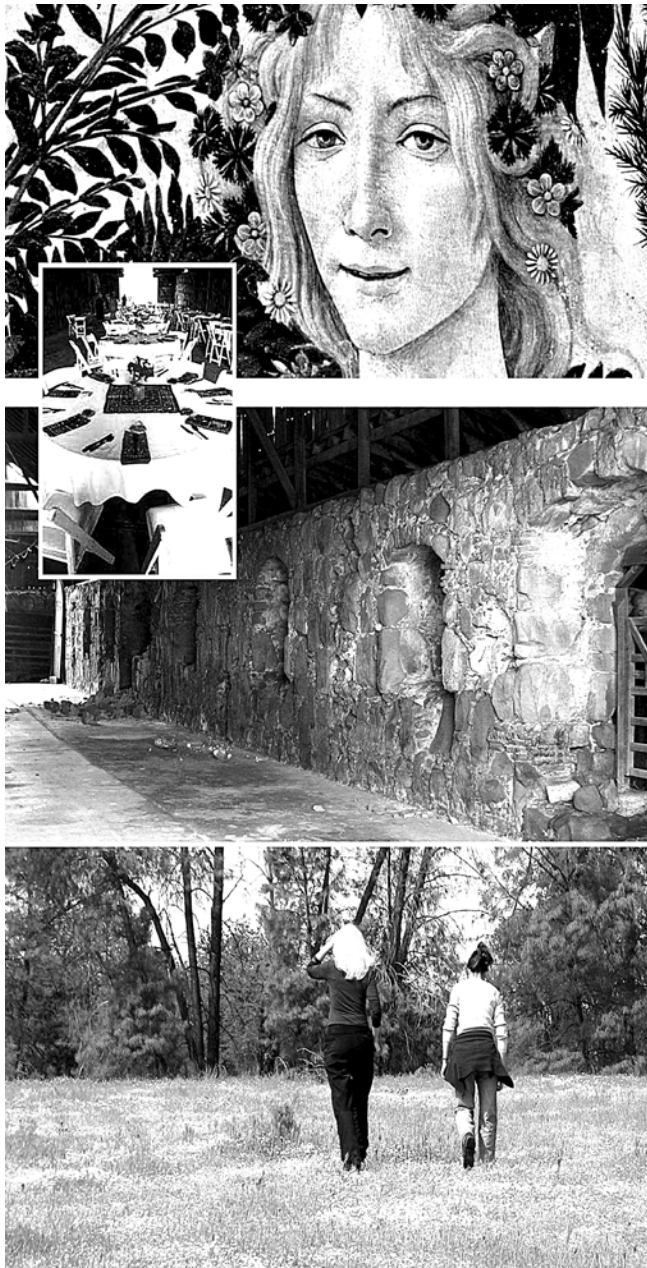
Photo by Joaquin Palting

## Sat.-Sun., Mar 24-25, Pronghorn Antelope Protection in the Carrizo Plain:

(Carcamp/Nature Study/Work Party). With little rainfall and few water sources, the species that live here are both hardy and endangered. Particularly beautiful are the pronghorn antelope, which evolved in these wild, open spaces. Then cattle ranching left a legacy of endless fences - which are deadly to the pronghorn. Join us for a weekend in this remote area removing fencing for their benefit. Work hard on

Saturday; take some time Sunday to enjoy the monument. Camp at Selby campground, bring food, water, heavy leather work-gloves, and camping gear for the weekend. Potluck Sat night. Alternate date in case of rain. Resource specialist: Alice Koch. For more information, contact Leaders: Cal and Letty French, 14140 Chimney Rock Road, Paso Robles, CA 93446, (805-239-7338). Prefer e-mail: [ccfrench@tcsn.net](mailto:ccfrench@tcsn.net).

**MARCH 25, 0930 NIPOMO CREEKSIDE PRESERVE.** Meet behind Adobe Plaza in Old Town Nipomo. See new trail, riparian habitat, native plantings. My easiest hike. Dogs OK. If we have the time & interest might go to DANA Adobe. Call 929-3647 or [bdenneen@kcbx.net](mailto:bdenneen@kcbx.net) a few days before to confirm and for details.



# Lara!

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PROCEEDS TO SUPPORT THE ONGOING WORK OF OUR LOCAL SANTA LUCIA CHAPTER OF THE SIERRA CLUB

APRIL 1, 2007 AT 12:00 NOON

TICKETS \$150

TO ORDER CALL 805 543 8717



92329, (310) 594-6789. Co-Ldr: Don Peterson (760) 375-8599. CNRCC/ Owens Peak Group.

**MARCH 18, 0930, Sun. DANA ADOBE,** A tour of the grounds and creek of adjacent lands. Dogs welcome. An easy hike. Call 929-3647 or [bdenneen@kcbx.net](mailto:bdenneen@kcbx.net) a few days before to confirm and for details.

**MARCH 11, 0930, Sun. COAST HIKE,** See a remote area of the dunes, 3-4 miles, bring water, dogs OK. Call 929-3647 just before 11th for details. Probably to Pismo Dunes Preserve.

**March 15 SANTA ROSA ISLAND:** Fly to Santa Rosa Island with Channel Islands Aviation - all day hike through

**This is a partial listing of Outings offered by our chapter. Please check the web page [www.santalucia.sierraclub.org](http://www.santalucia.sierraclub.org) for the most up-to-date listing of activities.**