



SIERRA  
CLUB

May 2007  
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Coming June 3!

- see page 7



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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

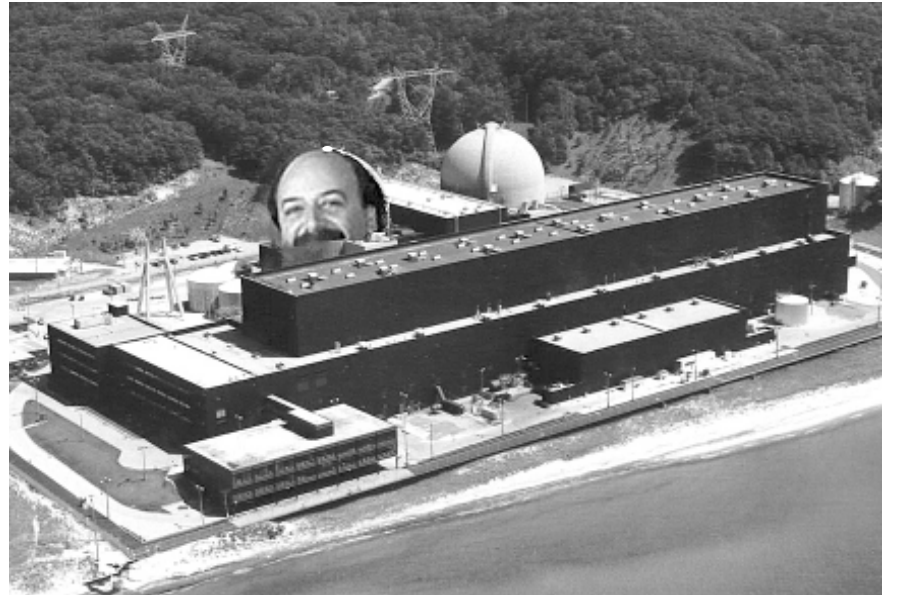
## Full Speed Ahead for Marine Sanctuary

The long-sought, long-deferred movement to extend the boundaries of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary to include the waters of San Luis Obispo County got a major shot in the arm on April 19 when the Board of Directors of the SLO Chamber of Commerce resolved "That the San Luis Obispo Chamber of Commerce take a leadership role in building consensus for a national marine sanctuary along the central coast."

The vote came after the Chamber's Legislative Council Luncheon meeting of April 11 at the SLO City/County Library. Presentations by Santa Cruz Mayor Cynthia Mathews, Former MBNMS Advisory Council member Ron Massengill, and Congresswoman Lois Capps' district representative Greg Haas established one overriding fact: Having a National Marine Sanctuary is good for marine resources and good for business. The Sanctuary has been a major draw for tourism and federal research dollars for the cities of Santa Cruz and Monterey.

In many months of meetings with SLO Chamber representatives, local Sierra Club leaders made this point, put

*continued on page 9*



## Katcho in Hotter Water Chapter Contributes to Diablo Canyon lawsuit

Last December, San Luis Obispo County Supervisor and California Coastal Commissioner Katcho Achadjian, in trying to do a favor for PG&E, made the motion for a vote at the Coastal Commission that got the Commission sued. Now he has triggered an additional cause of action in the lawsuit filed against the Commission.

The Coastal Commission is being sued over its decision to permit replacement of the steam generators at the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant without requiring mitigation for the plant's significant ongoing damage to marine wildlife and habitat. Diablo consumes millions of gallons of ocean wa-

ter and discharges the heated water into the marine environment. Replacing the generators will extend the plant's life and its environmental impacts for 20 years or more.

Under the Commission's ex parte rules, Commissioners must publicly disclose all conversations they have had on any item brought before them for a decision, and with whom. The disclosures must be made with sufficient detail for the public to understand the implications for the project under review.

"We amended our lawsuit when it

*continued on page 9*

## Will Morro Bay Go All the Way? Stand up for clean water on May 24

One by one, representatives of the Santa Lucia Chapter of the Sierra Club, ECOSLO, Surfrider, the Otter Project and the Natural Resources Defense Council stepped up to the microphone at the April 12 meeting of the Morro Bay City Council and the Cayucos Sanitary District and pledged full support in obtaining funding for the upgrade of the Morro Bay-Cayucos wastewater treatment plant...on one condition: The plant must be upgraded to tertiary treatment, the highest standard of wastewater treatment, not secondary treatment, the legal minimum.

Our organizations have been dogging this process for years for several urgent reasons. The plant has long graced the Central Coast with the unwanted distinction of being one of only plants still operating under waivers from the three-decades-old Clean Water Act. The plant's outfall pipe extends a half-mile offshore, in fifty feet of water (World Health Organization guidelines for sewage

outfalls call for a minimum depth of 60 feet, one mile offshore). The mouth of the outfall pipe is ground zero for the highest rate of disease and stranding deaths for the threatened California sea otter anywhere in the otters' range. The Regional Water Quality Control Board told plant operators to upgrade the plant five years ago.

Over the years, we have successfully pressed the two communities, which



*continued on page 8* One of Morro Bay's concerned constituents.

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photo/Kevin Walsh

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*Outings, events, and more!*

## Santa Lucia Chapter General Meeting Hot Spots was a Hit!

Our March and April meetings covering the county's most pressing ongoing or upcoming environmental battles -- from Carrizo Plain to San Miguel, Santa Margarita and the Nipomo Mesa -- was much appreciated by attendees.

At press time, we haven't scheduled our May meeting agenda. Watch the *Tribune* calendar listings -- or better, request to be placed on our e-mail alert list -- and stay tuned.

**Friday, May 25,  
7:00 p.m.  
St. Stephens  
Episcopal  
Church  
1334 Nipomo St.  
at Pismo  
San Luis Obispo**



Left to right: Anne McMahon, Sue Luft, and Kim Pasciuto weigh what Roger Lyons has to say about the Cayucos Viewshed Ordinance at our March meeting.

**Enter parking lot off Pismo  
Refreshments served**

## You Are Not a Special Interest

At some point during any meeting of the County Board of Supervisors on any contentious issue, either Katcho Achadjian, Harry Ovitt or Jerry Lenthall -- the three horsemen of the SLOpocalypse -- can be counted on to assume a thoughtful expression and say to the assembled citizenry: "You know, everyone who has testified here today is a special interest," or words to that effect. Murmurs of assent rustle through the room.

This observation invariably precedes a vote by these supervisors to put a few million dollars in a developer's pocket at the expense of neighbors, wildlife habitat, ag land and/or responsible planning; nullify an attempt to provide housing that can be afforded by people who work here; or otherwise act on behalf of certain lobbies and generous donors and stick it to the public, which has somehow become a "special interest."

This is a political strategy that was first formulated in a 1971 memo to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce by future Supreme Court Justice Lewis Powell. Powell warned against a threat to commerce from the rising tide of environmental and social activism that was bringing about landmark public interest laws. He urged that corporate money begin to flow into think tanks, universities, and legal foundations to fund a counter-attack and rescue society from its citizens, who were hereinafter to be designated as "special interests." The term was previously and clearly understood as applying to entities that exerted influence on the political and legal system with the sole intent of enhancing or protecting their bottom line.

And so it came to pass, along with challenges to environmental laws on the basis of "property rights" and the foundation of the American Enterprise Institute, Heritage Foundation and other corporate front groups, campus campaigns and media offensives.

But words still have meaning. For an illustration of the difference between "special interest" and "public interest," let's take a stroll through Sierra Club California's 2007 Priority Bills in the state legislature:

We support:

AB 70 (Jones), which would put flood liability on state and local public entities that participate in the design, construction, operation, or maintenance of a flood control project.

AB 224 (Wolk), which would enact the Climate Change and Water Resource Protection Act of 2007 to make California better prepared for the effects of climate

change on the state's water supply.

AB 233 (Jones), which would improve enforcement of protections against toxic diesel exhaust.

AB 1109 (Huffman), which would implement a plan to substantially increase the energy efficiency of lighting products, while reducing toxic and other pollution resulting from electricity generation.

AB 1193 (Ruskin), which would establish a shared responsibility program for recycling of mercury thermostats.

AB 1459 (Levine), which would prohibit conversion of motels/hotels in the coastal zone into timeshares or condominiums.

We oppose:

AB 719 (Devore), which would create the "California Zero Carbon Dioxide Emission Electrical Generation Act of 2007," a green banner beneath which lurked an attempt to repeal California's common-sense law prohibiting the siting of new nuclear power plants until the matter of how to dispose of nuclear waste has been resolved. This bill died in committee; its author has vowed to bring it back until he can finally fool enough people enough of the time to pass it.

SB 59 (Cogdill), which would put a \$3.95 billion bond act before the voters in order to fund two new dams. Should we instead examine and change the way we -- primarily industrial agriculture -- use and waste water? Perish the thought!

SB 303 (Ducheny), which would require cities and counties to zone 10 years of housing at once and would limit the ability to deny any housing project and would limit the impact of the use of the California Environmental Quality Act. Cookie-cutter permitting: The developer's dream.

SB 670 (Correa), which would prohibit the use of fees on sales of homes. These fees are used to fund preservation of habitat, open space, farmland, and affordable housing. Developers love to pretend that these fees are the cause of sky-high home prices.

Needless to say, the supporters of the bills we oppose are opposing the bills we support because they are bills that might have some impact on the profit margins of the special interests they serve.

And that, in a single session's legislative calendar, is a portrait of the difference between special interests and the public interest. Glad we could clear that up.

## SANTA LUCIAN

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**Cal French**  
COUNCIL OF CLUB LEADERS

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.

**Committee Chairs**  
**Political**  
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**Conservation**  
Ken Smokoska

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# Sandstorm

At Oceano Dunes, the answer is blowin' in the wind

We can't pretend to know what Jerry Lenthall was thinking on April 17 when, as Chair of the County Board of Supervisors, he concluded a 12-hour meeting on the proposed sale of 584 acres of County land to the Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area by making a motion to shut out the public, take the whole matter into a private huddle behind closed doors and hash it out as though it were a routine real estate deal.

But while they're huddling, we have a thought for the Supes that could solve a lot of problems, cure a lot of their political headaches, and cause many of the fierce winds around Oceano Dunes to blow themselves out: Why not sell the land to someone else, and maybe get more for it? Where does it say this land needs to be sold to the State Parks OHV Division? If the county wants to do the right thing by this land, it should look into selling to a state or federal lands agency other than OHV.

This was by far the most intriguing option to arise out of the process that began in January when the proposed sale of the land to State Parks developed a hitch in its giddy-up. Oceano resident Larry Bross threw a large wrench into the works by appealing the County Planning Director's approval of the proposed sale, and the Sierra Club and local environmental attorney Babak Naficy backed it up in testimony at the Planning Commission by producing the Coastal Commission-certified map (the now notorious "Figure 4") that persuaded the Commission to vote unanimously to reverse the Planning Director's decision. What was

slated to end up as a "consent agenda" item at the Board of Supervisors, to be quietly approved without further discussion, suddenly became Topic A in the county. All hell and four appeals of the Planning Commission ruling broke loose, headlines blared, and weekly community meetings and a town hall were held, culminating in the marathon April 17 Board of Supervisors meeting. Our efforts and overwhelming public



Clouds of particulate matter (PM) leave the Oceano Dunes en route to Nipomo Mesa, where the County Air Pollution Control District just completed a multi-year monitoring project that discovered severe levels of PM pollution composed of sand and dust — the highest levels in the county, and significantly in excess of safe levels set by the Environmental Protection Agency. Off-road vehicles have de-vegetated the dunes, exposing them to steady erosion by offshore winds, and daily break the thin crust of sand that forms overnight, further exposing the sand to wind erosion. Exposure to PM pollution causes decreased lung function, chronic bronchitis, pulmonary disorders, and premature death in people with heart or lung disease.

opposition resulted in the best possible outcome under the circumstances: The Supervisors did not vote to sell to State Parks.

The questions that should now be passing between the Supervisors in their closed sessions: How much would this land be worth in an independent appraisal (i.e. *not* appraised by the entity that wants to buy it, as per the appraisal conducted by State Parks)? Has the County approached any other state or federal agency, looked into available federal funds for coastal acquisition and

preservation, approached potential donors who could purchase and hold this land for later donation to any of those agencies? (The State Lands Commission would be one obvious candidate as a potential buyer.)

Sale of the property to State Parks' OHV division makes no sense in the long term. It would solve none of the current problems around this land — i.e. non-conformance with the General Plan, non-agreement between the Local Coastal Program and the Coastal Development Permit, hazardous particulate

matter pollution affecting all residents downwind of the Dunes, etc.

The Oceano Pismo Dunes complex represents the rarest and most fragile natural habitat in the United States — biologically richer than Yosemite. In the Chapter's long history with the dunes, we fought for and won increased protected acreage for plover nesting areas, secured half a million dollars in plover research funding and improved regional docent programs in the settlement of a lawsuit against State Parks, participated on a Technical Review Team, triggered the development of a Habitat Conservation Plan and a Coastal Commission staff investigation of Parks' questionable management of native vegetation.

In a letter sent to the Board, in meetings with individual Supervisors prior to the April 17 hearing, and our comments at Supervisor Achadjian's Oceano community meetings, we pointed out that the County has before it an historic opportunity to correct many of the longstanding problems at Oceano Dunes via a single action. We now urge them to take it.



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David Chipping

## Going to Bat for Los Osos

Chapter adds support for federal funding

The Santa Lucia Chapter weighed in with Congressman Pete Visclosky, Chairman of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, on the occasion of his visit to Los Osos last month to view for himself what three decades of not quite managing to build a wastewater treatment project hath wrought. On behalf of the Sierra Club, the Morro Bay Estuary, the 14,351 residents and homeowners of Los Osos and the greater population of San Luis Obispo County, we requested his consideration of the County's request for federal assistance for the 2008 fiscal year.

Our letter to the congressman stuck to a thumbnail history: Residents moved into homes on septic systems with the County's blessing when Los Osos was a small hamlet; as it grew into a community of 14,000, a population level that requires a sanitary sewer system, it became clear that groundwater tables are too high and soils too sandy to allow effective functioning of many of the septic tanks; the cost of building a wastewater collection and treatment system, normally factored into and amortized via home prices in communities where a sewer system accompanies build-out, would be more than low- and middle-income residents could afford. After 30 years of various impasses, the Chapter was pleased to lobby for the recent successful state legislation that made it possible for the County to take the lead in the effort to build a wastewater treatment system for this community.

But cost, we noted, remains a daunting obstacle, and will be insurmountable for many of our residents on fixed incomes without federal assistance. We urged the Chairman to support the County's request for \$5 million in assistance through the FY 2008 Energy and Water Development Appropriations bill as vitally necessary for the successful completion of the engineering, design and environmental evaluation of a treatment system for Los Osos.



Sign of the times: Oceano town hall meeting, April 9.

## In Memory of Lynn Christie and Bea Morrow

by Karen Merriam, Chapter Chair

Lynn Christie and Bea Morrow left us in April. They were brilliant, passionate, loving women who inspired and encouraged all of us to be our best selves. Both Bea and Lynn cared deeply about the work of the Santa Lucia Chapter, often giving their steady support and advice behind the scenes.

Neither woman would be thought of as a shy violet, however. Both were women of conviction and purpose. I remember the evening last June when Lisa Renstrom, national Sierra Club Board President, visited us to speak at our banquet. Bea sat with Lisa to explain quite clearly that certain national club policies and actions were not helpful to our chapter. Lisa listened carefully. The next day at the state convention, Lisa changed the remarks she had prepared for the occasion and instead discussed candidly with the delegates the concerns Bea had expressed, and asked for guidance. Who says one person's voice can't make a difference?

Only a few months ago, Lynn's encouragement and "let's do it" confidence led a small committee of our chapter leaders to embark on our first-



Bea Morrow

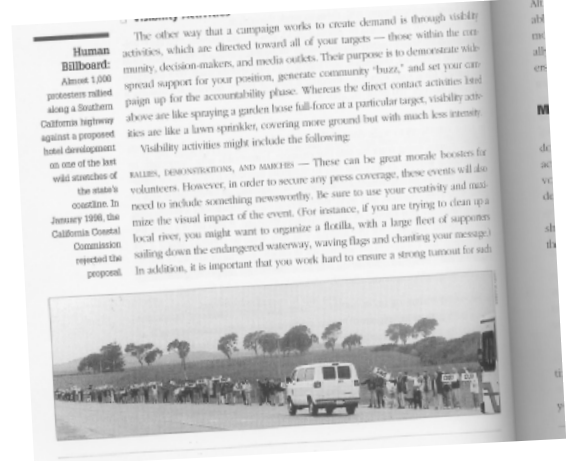


Lynn Christie

ever major donor campaign. Just as we launched the first meeting of the Sustainability Circle, the title Lynn chose for the campaign, she became ill. Although fatigued, Lynn insisted on coordinating the preparations for the meeting, and made sure we had sustenance for ourselves. Even though she couldn't join us, we felt her presence, and she will remain a part of our

Sustainability Circle.

Lynn and Bea were devoted to the health and sustainability of our natural environment. They loved their families, their communities, and the exquisite expressions of nature on view outside the windows of their homes in Cambria. As a community, we celebrate their lives.



A 1998 demonstration organized by Lynn Christie outside Hearst Castle made it into both the New York Times and the Sierra Club's Grassroots Organizing Training Manual (above). The following day, the California Coastal Commission rejected the Hearst Corporation's proposal to turn Hearst Ranch into a massive golf resort.

# Victory At Sea

Sierra Club helps shut down polluting offshore LNG terminal



The words "historic victory" don't do it justice. After more than three years work, Sierra Club members, community volunteers and our coalition partners this month won a pair of major victories over a multi-national corporation and its \$800 million plan to further industrialize the California coast with a massive and polluting Liquefied Natural Gas terminal.

Australia's BHP Billiton, the world's largest mining corporation, had proposed the coast of Oxnard and Malibu for the first LNG terminal on the West Coast of the United States. But on Monday, April 9<sup>th</sup>, more than 2,000 Sierra Club members and other Southern California residents put on blue "Terminate the Terminal" t-shirts and attended the California State Lands Commission hearing in Oxnard. While Commissioners inside the packed hearing room listened to community leaders, public

officials and concerned citizens speak out against the project, 1,500 more project opponents, unable to squeeze into the overfilled room, waited outside in the courtyard, listening to the proceedings on speakers.

Sierra Club's Great Coastal Places Campaign had helped to mobilize what Coastal Director Mark Massara has called the "best attended environmental hearing in California in the last four decades." In the face of this massive opposition, two of the three Commissioners – Lt. Governor John Garamendi and State Controller John Chiang — refused to allow the dirty and dangerous terminal access to the California coast.

Just three days later when another 500 activists attended a hearing of the California Coastal Commission in Santa Barbara, we won another major victory with a unanimous vote against the project.

If approved, the untested, floating terminal and its tankers would have lived off the coast of Oxnard and Malibu for at least the next 40 years, emitting more than 200 tons of smog-producing air pollution every year. It would have also posed significant risks to migrating whales, fragile coastal wetlands and the health and safety of communities throughout Southern California.

In voting to deny the project, Commissioners from the two agencies focused on many of these issues as well as global warming and the lack of credible evidence that California even needs the foreign gas.

Leading up to these critical hearings, the project had spent months mired in controversy. Congress Members Henry Waxman and Lois Capps and Senator

## Sierra Club Activist Outings Highlight Adventure and Advocacy

By Vicky Hoover

The Sierra Club national outings program features several special trips each year that inform participants about the issues surrounding their particular trip and train them on how to advocate effectively for the relevant campaign. Wilderness and other preservation campaigns are the chief focus for 2007's seven activist trips, headed for West Virginia, Alaska, California, Utah, New Mexico, Washington, and Nevada.

**Wild and Wonderful West Virginia, May 18-25.** Learn about the push to establish new wilderness in the scenic Monongahela National Forest as your tour this lovely area, in the height of spring with leader Joan Saxe and local activists Mary Wimmer and Beth Little. Day hikes accent this van touring trip. (Trip #07190A, \$625)

**Brooks Range on a Budget: Eric Rorer's June 10-23** backpacking trip in Western Alaska's contested National Petroleum Reserve is filled, with a waiting list. (Trip 07014A \$1,375)

**Walk Among Giants in California's Sequoia National Monument, June 17-23,** studies management problems in this new Monument proclaimed by President Clinton. Learn the ongoing threats to these unique big trees and their ecosystem, on day hikes with veteran leaders Cal and Letty French and former Sierra Club president Joe Fontaine. (Trip 07191A \$395)

**Rafting and activism in Dinosaur Nation Monument, Utah,** is a family activist adventure from July 5 to 9 that brings kids too into figuring out why we care so much about saving Wild Utah's dazzling landscapes. Join leader Pat Fritz on the historic Green River. (Trip 07261A \$855/\$755 child)

**Wild in the Wide Open Wild Sky, backpacking in Washington State, Aug. 15-21,** studies the recently well-publicized Wild Sky Wilderness campaign. Participants will enjoy trails and views in designated wilderness and candidate areas in the heart of the Mount-Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest. (Trip 07175A, \$495)

**Valle Vidal Service and Advocacy, July**

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# One Question for the Morro Bay Power Plant

By Jack McCurdy, Coastal Alliance on Plant Expansion (CAPE)

Dynergy, current owners of the Morro Bay power plant, announced recently that it plans to sell some of the power plants in its LS Power portfolio without naming them.

Here's a question an enterprising reporter needs to ask Dynergy: Is the Morro Bay plant among those plants that have been mentioned as possible candidates for sale?

The Morro Bay City Council has formed a Futures Committee to explore alternative uses of the plant site in the event it becomes available for sale. So the possible redevelopment of the 103-acre site is very relevant in the context of uncertainty about plans for a new plant.

This question became still more relevant after a landmark decision by the Second Circuit federal appellate court on January 25, which got little local, state or national media attention. The court ruling prohibits the use of habitat restoration projects to compensate for the loss of marine life from use of ocean water to cool existing plants, known as once-through cooling (OTC). A "habitat enhancement program" was the basis that Duke Power proposed and the California Energy Commission re-

lied on three years ago to tentatively approve a license for a new plant that is authorized to continue to use once-through cooling.

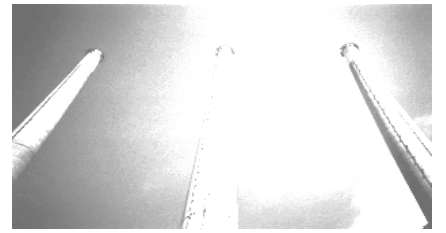
That is no longer legally acceptable, and the court said plants must use "best technology available" (BTA) to stop killing marine life. That means the use of closed-cycle or dry cooling. The Energy Commission and its staff determined this is the most appropriate technology for a new Morro Bay plant, but the Commission wouldn't require it because of the cost and because restoration could, at that time, be used to offset the impacts.

The court eliminated the use of the "cost-benefit" analysis in deciding whether the cost of avoiding the destruction of marine life is feasible. The court held that it doesn't make any difference whether a few or a lot of larvae or fish are killed or whether the water source — in our case, the Morro Bay Estuary — has a little or a lot of marine life in it. All "natural" waters must be presumed to contain marine life under the U.S. Clean Water Act, the court said, and must be protected under the Act. The question of cost is *not* one of whether cost of BTA depends on an objective measure of the benefit, i.e. saving X number of larvae or fish. The question is whether the power industry

can bear the cost of any given technology. Since dry cooling is being used in California and elsewhere in the nation and the world, its cost obviously can be borne by industry. Dry cooling is the cooling process planned for replacement plants in Humboldt County (PG&E), Chula Vista on San Diego Bay (LS Power/Dynergy), Otay Mesa and El Segundo. It can be borne in Morro Bay because the industry has determined on its own that it is economically feasible at those plants.

The handwriting on the wall is clear for any new proposal to build a replacement plant in Morro Bay. The question is: will this decision cause Dynergy/LS Power to sell the plant since, like Duke before it, LS Power has said it wouldn't build if it couldn't use once-through cooling?

Prop. 84, the \$5.3 billion water/parkland/open space bond issue approved last November, has money for



"coastal urban restoration" projects to restore industrial sites like the Morro Bay plant, and Morro Bay is on a state list of such potential projects. The Coastal Conservancy administers the bond funds and is working with a number of coastal communities toward funding such projects, the most prominent one being Redondo Beach, where the community has voted to pursue conversion of an old power plant to parkland and open space. Morro Bay's site redevelopment committee has been inspired by the model of Redondo Beach.

## Letters

Dear Editor,

I just finished reading Lee Ferrero's letter to the editor (April) and your response. I want to respond to your assertion that Measure J, "invites 'single-issue' spot zoning initiatives that make a mockery of comprehensive planning."

Without looking at Dalidio's project history I would agree with you. However Dalidio went through planning and approval process, receiving approval from the City of SLO Council.

After the City of SLO approval, several people who consistently opposed the Dalidio project went to work gathering enough signatures to place a measure on the City of SLO ballot. During this signature drive, I was living in the City of SLO. I did not agree with the "recall" and I did not vote for it. At the next election, City of SLO citizens rescinded that approval through a ballot measure. Dalidio took that example and Measure J was born.

I do not see how Measure J is any different from the City of SLO measure that rescinded the legally approved project. We can't reject legally approved projects through popular vote only to complain and sue when projects are approved through popular vote. Re-read your response to Lee Ferrero for reasons why we must be consistent.

I agree that Measure J "continues" bad precedent. The precedent set when the City of SLO rescinded the council's approval. If we are really concerned about "single issue" spot zoning, go back and fight the City of SLO ballot measure, which rescinded the Dalidio project, because this is where Measure J began.

Christopher Bahr  
San Luis Obispo

*The most durable myth surrounding Measure J and the Dalidio Ranch and Dalidio Marketplace projects is the claim that project opponents put up a ballot measure and defeated the project, then the developers put up a ballot measure and passed it, and therefore there was no difference between these*

**Thanks to Carla Saunders for her donation in honor of the 40th wedding anniversary of Steven and Jan Marx. Thanks to Jean Blakey and the Beeunas family for their donations in memory of Bea Morrow.**

*two actions. Tit for tat. Even Steven. What's sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander.*

*As an argument, it's simple, symmetrical, and has the added bonus of making Measure J opponents look like disgruntled hypocrites in appearing to complain about the developers doing the same thing opponents did (hence the heavy work-out this argument received during the election). But it's wrong. The differences between the initiative put on the City ballot in 2005 and the one put on the County ballot in 2006, in their implications and outcomes, are telling. Let us count the ways:*

City residents voted against impacts to the City; then County residents voted to impose those impacts on the City. After their defeat at the hands of city voters, the developers calculated that enough county residents distant from the City of SLO could be swayed by appeals to general "property rights" arguments and counted on to overwhelm the votes of city residents who were familiar with the actual details of the project and would bear the brunt of its impacts. They figured right.

Get-out-of-CEQA-free. The outcome of the vote on the City initiative was simply the revocation of a project approval. The outcome of the County initiative was the automatic approval of a project, locking in its terms as the developers wrote them, exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act. Under CEQA, if a project is mounted as a ballot initiative and approved by voters instead of taken through the planning process, it is not considered a "project." This exemption was intended for use by citizens who wish to organize measures like the SOAR initiative. Its appeal for developers looking to build projects not likely to win approval otherwise is obvious.

The County vote meant the project was never reviewed. The Dalidio Market-

*place project on the County ballot was not the Dalidio Ranch project on the City ballot. It was a different project, one that has never gone through any planning process. It increased the proposed level of development, cut the amount of open space and funding for the Prado Road overpass, added a wastewater treatment plant, residential housing, etc. Once voted into the General Plan, Measure J's terms were set in stone, unchangeable except by the developers or another referendum, or a lawsuit. Had it gone through the planning process, those portions of Measure J that are in conflict with the County General Plan and state law would have been amended or removed.*

The developers' initiative bypassed the planning process because the developers knew it could not survive the planning process. The Dalidio Ranch project was denied by the San Luis Obispo City Planning Commission because of its massive, unmitigatable impacts. It's not hard to imagine the reception the even more massive Dalidio Marketplace would have received had its impacts been subject to CEQA, an Environmental Impact Report, review by County Planning staff, the County Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors. In all likelihood, it was out of this realization that "Measure J was born."

*Those are the reasons why the placement of an unapproved development on a County ballot was a very different animal with different outcomes than the placement of a repeal initiative on a City ballot. The outcome of the City initiative either way would have had no ramifications beyond the fate of the project. The approval of the County initiative, in addition to inviting more single-issue spot zoning initiatives, carries serious ramifications in creating inconsistencies in the County's General Plan. Legal action is now required to fix those problems.*



*Good deal: SLO City Councilwoman Christine Mulholland congratulates Chapter Conservation Chair Ken Smokoska at a City Hall ceremony thanking major donors to the City and SLO Land Conservancy's effort to conserve the Brughelli Ranch and three Union Pacific properties below Cuesta Ridge. The Chapter's contribution helped the Collaborative Conservation Project preserve the headwaters of Stenner and Chorro Creeks and keep the 390-acre Brughelli ranch in agriculture.*

## Sierra Student Coalition, Summer 2007: Be a Force For Change

**Student Environmental Leadership Training Programs -- apply online at [www.ssc.org/sprog](http://www.ssc.org/sprog)**

Attention students: This summer, take advantage of week-long training sessions in organizing skills led by the nation's top student organizers. Learn to develop effective groups that can tackle serious environmental issues, and network with other activists to build your region's student environmental movement. Then take what you've learned and put it into action at your high school, on your campus and in your community.

**LEARN:**

- Campaign Planning
- Communication Skills
- Organizing 101
- Hear from Guest Speakers

Of course, the program isn't all work and no play. Trainings will be the main focus, but you can also expect to enjoy:

- The beautiful surroundings of a serene state park
- Hikes, games, and energizing nighttime activities
- The company and friendship of fellow student activists

**ENERGY FOCUS**

Global warming presents an enormous threat to the health and sustainability of our planet. The good news is that youth

## California's Global Warming Law: Now the Work Begins

By Bill Magavern, Senior Representative, Sierra Club California

In 2006, California's Legislature passed landmark legislation putting an enforceable cap on our state's emissions of global warming pollution – the first such law in the United States. The Global Warming Solutions Act, AB 32, authored by Assembly Speaker Fabian Nuñez and then-Assemblymember Fran Pavley, has garnered justifiable praise around the country and even overseas as a demonstration of California's willingness to fill the leadership vacuum left by the Bush Administration's refusal to take meaningful action to curb greenhouse gas emissions.

Now the hard work begins.

Far from the culmination, passage of the law represents the beginning of what will be a long and difficult process of implementing policies to bring California's greenhouse gas emissions down to their 1990 level by 2020. The Legislature has required a reduction to that level, and has wisely put the state's Air Resources Board in charge of making it happen. The ARB, which has built a reputation as the nation's premier guardian of air quality, now takes on the additional challenge of addressing global warming. Industry lobbyists are

already flocking to the workshops and seminars on the topic, hoping to shape the eventual rules to benefit their narrow interests.

The ARB's first task, which may come up as early as its April meeting, is to publish a list of "Early Action Measures," those regulations that could be put in place before 2010 to start bringing down greenhouse pollution. ARB staff have indicated their inclination to put forward only two such measures: the Low-Carbon Fuels Standard announced by the Governor in a January executive order, and restrictions on refrigerants called hydrofluorocarbons that have high global warming potential. The Low-Carbon Fuels Standard will require a 10% reduction in the carbon intensity of transportation fuels by 2020, stimulating deployment of alternatives to gasoline.

Environmental groups, including Sierra Club California, have urged the ARB to take a bolder approach and add several other early action measures that reduce emissions from passenger vehicles, heavy-duty vehicles, cement factories, landfills and marine vessels.

The ARB also is in the process of

## SMART ENERGY SOLUTIONS IT'S OUR CHOICE

setting the "baseline" – the level of emissions in 1990 — and of establishing a system for large emitters of greenhouse pollution to report their emissions. Advisory committees have been chartered on the topics of environmental justice, markets, and technology.

As implementation proceeds, many important questions will be debated and decided, including: how many emission reductions will come from technology standards and incentive programs, and how many from market mechanisms? Will the market mechanisms include a "cap-and-trade" program, as Governor Schwarzenegger has ordered? If so, will polluters be given permits to emit greenhouse gases, or will they have to buy them? Technology-based standards have a far better record of success than pollution trading schemes, especially when the right to emit is granted to polluters for free.

This implementation process will be a

high priority for Sierra Club California this year and for years to come.

For more information on-line, go to [www.climatechange.ca.gov](http://www.climatechange.ca.gov) and [www.sierraclubcalifornia.org](http://www.sierraclubcalifornia.org).

## What is Empower Poly?

By Ken Smokoska, Co-chair, Sierra Club California Energy Committee; Chair, Santa Lucia Chapter Conservation Committee

Empower Poly is a new coalition of sustainability clubs on the Cal Poly Campus. The coalition unites diverse organizations in a multidisciplinary alliance to establish Cal Poly as a university leader in the stewardship of environmental, social, and economic

## Sierra Club Developing New Global Warming Strategy

By Lisa Renstrom, Sierra Club President and Michelle Skaff, Sierra Club Foundation President

The world's leading scientists have reached consensus: global warming is real, happening faster than predicted, and caused by humans. The scientists who released the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's conclusive report also agree urgent action is needed now to curb global warming to protect our planet, our economy and our children's future. The challenge now is to translate this consensus into a course of action, into the identification

and embrace of a set of solutions that will slow and ultimately reverse global warming and its consequences.

We believe it is a fight the Sierra Club is uniquely qualified to lead. Our grassroots network reaches deep into communities across America. Since our founding 115 years ago, we have been at the heart of — and learned from —

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Empowering Empower Poly's Party: After an all-day workshop on April 14, the Empower Poly coalition held its leadership banquet at the Edna Valley home of Chapter Chair Karen Merriam. The Strategic Energy Alliance for Change (SEA Change) underwrote the event.

# A Green Idea

By Lisa Donaldson and Julian Revilla, SIFE

On March 15, the Green Idea Project from Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) Cal Poly spoke to a classroom of 6th graders at C.L. Smith Elementary School. SIFE is a Cal Poly club that executes various projects to benefit the local community. Some of the other projects worked on this year were: a business plan for biodiesel production facilities as well as a curriculum for teaching inmates at the Men's Colony about resume and interview skills.

For the twenty students, we presented a PowerPoint and video which defined the terms often used in global warming, such as greenhouse gasses.

The presentation's main goals were to explain how energy is created, its use in daily life, and the problems that arise when we overuse energy. Furthermore, there were discussions about what the students themselves could do to improve the environment and there was a session in which we answered their bright and inquisitive questions.

These students were very well educated about pollution and the environment. We measured what kind of an impact we had on students by using a pre and post survey. The results are quite fascinating. After the presentation the number of students who said they would very often pay attention to their energy consumption increased from 0 to 7 students. Also, the number of students who find it very important to pay attention to the environment doubled.

The next step of this project will be to expand

it to include education to the local business community with presentations about the ethical and financial implications of environmental awareness.

"Tomorrow's climate is today's challenge!"



Lisa Donaldson educating the next generation.

resources. The partners of Empower Poly will work to continuously improve student, staff, faculty, and administrative collaboration in leadership and action for a healthy future.

The inspiration for this effort is the ReNew CSU campaign, which I have been partnering with for over 4 years on behalf of Sierra Club California and local Chapters. The ReNew CSU campaign focused on the creation of a comprehensive set of clean energy and green building standards by the Cal State Board of Trustees, approved in September 2005.\* Students argue that a strong sustainability policy will lead to significant savings for the system, create new jobs throughout the state and make the CSU a national leader in the high-tech cutting-edge fields of green architecture and clean energy production.

We are now in final planning stages for an expanded "ReNew CSU" Campaign with Cal Poly the demonstration site. If you are a Cal Poly alumni, former/current staff or faculty or just plain interested in being part of the climate change solution, please consider donating or volunteering to help. If interested in being part of an exciting campaign, please email [ksmokoska@hotmail.com](mailto:ksmokoska@hotmail.com) or call (805) 541-1360.

\*For full Policy: [www.calstate.edu/BOT/agendas/nov05/fullboard.pdf](http://www.calstate.edu/BOT/agendas/nov05/fullboard.pdf)

LNG

continued from page 4

Barbara Boxer had initiated federal investigations into an unexplained EPA reversal granting the project an unjustified and unlawful exemption from the Clean Air Act. The cities of Oxnard, Malibu and Port Hueneme all passed resolutions in opposition to the project, as did the PTA and school districts in Oxnard.

By the final hearings, our coalition was as diverse as the communities in which they were based – with Sierra Club members side-by-side with Latino groups, business leaders, union members, public officials, realtors, farm workers and surfers.

And while it may take a village to raise a child, it takes an environmental activist to defeat an international energy conglomerate. In this case, that activist was Susan Jordan of Santa Barbara, coastal advocate and community organizer extraordinaire. Jordan was one of the first statewide environmental activists to openly question the state's need for LNG, the safety of the technology, and the purported environmental ben-



Heroes of the hour: Susan Jordan, Director of the California Coastal Protection Network, and Sierra Club Coastal Director Mark Massara.

efits of LNG as a fuel source. Working with the Environmental Defense Center, Natural Resources Defense Council and Sierra Club, with the strong support and leadership of environmental activists Keely and Pierce Brosnan, Jordan built a coalition to oppose a dangerous, dirty, unnecessary facility that

would have threatened coastal resources for decades. Everyone involved in bringing BHP Billiton down deserves credit, but nobody would have been at the table in the first place if it weren't for the work of Ms. Jordan. Credit where it's due: Kudos and many, many thanks are owed to Susan Jordan.

By virtue of the Federal Deep Water Ports Act, Governor Schwarzenegger now has until May 21<sup>st</sup> to decide if he, too, will oppose this polluting project. The governor can be reached by email by visiting [www.govmail.ca.gov](http://www.govmail.ca.gov) or by fax at 916-445-4633.

For more information on the project visit [www.sierraclub.org/ca/coasts/lng](http://www.sierraclub.org/ca/coasts/lng).

# We Gotta Wear Shades

## Solartopia coming to SLO June 3

On Sunday, June 3rd, Harvey Wasserman will be in San Luis Obispo to promote his book *Solartopia! Our Green-Powered Earth, A.D. 2030*, and help raise funds for the Santa Lucia Chapter and the Alliance for Nuclear Responsibility in an event we will be co-sponsoring.

Wasserman is one of the world's leading advocates of renewable energy. *Solartopia* is an instant visionary classic, looking back from the future on an Earth that has solved the most vexing problems of the present day.

"Solartopia," writes Wasserman, "is the prosperous, do-able, and absolutely necessary green-powered Earth of A.D. 2030. It is essential to our survival — economically, biologically and spiritually."

"The safe energy revolution will spawn millions of jobs and trillions of dollars in decentralized wealth. With homes, buildings, communities and farms con-

trolling their own energy supplies, prosperity is widespread.

"The switch to renewables has defunded global terrorism. Shutting all nuclear plants has eliminated these pre-deployed weapons of radioactive mass destruction, and relieved us of the ongoing fear of melt-downs. The money not wasted on this failed atomic technology has accelerated the switch to true

green energy.

"The absurd old hype about 'green' nukes or fossil fuels is remembered in



Solartopia as a silly joke. When push came to shove, King CONG—Coal, Oil, Nukes & Gas—could not cut it. Our hyper-efficient Solartopia runs totally, gratefully and without compromise on Mother Nature's sun."

Check the [www.a4nr.org](http://www.a4nr.org) website for details on the June 3 event. Stay tuned for this exciting opportunity to meet one of the legends of the environmental and sustainability movement.

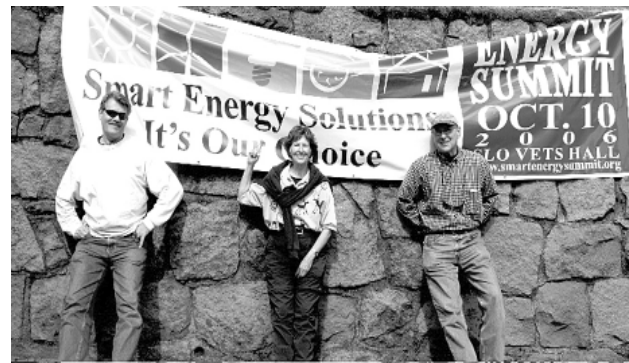
## Commuter Bike Challenge

Teams shift gears to cycle in May for Bike Month

SLO Regional Rideshare encourages employees to shift from driving alone during May to joining the "Commuter Bike Challenge." The 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Commuter Bike Challenge has expanded

from one week to the entire month of May. Team captains can register their teams of 4-10 people on the bike month

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Ken Smokoska of the Sierra Club California Energy Committee, Chapter Chair Karen Merriam, and SLO Green Build's Nick Alter take a break at Earth Day in Mission Plaza, and still manage to send a message. All are members of the Strategic Energy Alliance for Change, which is planning a regional energy conference this August.

# When the Hazard is Worth It: Compact Fluorescent Bulbs & Mercury

There's no excuse for not changing your light bulbs

By Teddy Lovett

We need a better perspective on toxic waste. When I was a kid, we threw everything in the "trash" can; food scraps, paper, light bulbs, tin cans, toxic spray bottles, batteries, burned out or broken fluorescent tubes. Fluorescent lights contain mercury. We



didn't used to worry about them or about batteries. A proliferation of "helpful" hazardous products now concerns us. We produce them, watch their effects for awhile, then often raise standards about them or ban them.

We must dispose of compact fluorescents lightbulbs (CFLs) as hazardous waste. Take precautions with CFLs, just as you do with batteries, paint, garden chemicals and household sprays. If you break one, be careful not to inhale the mercury. Use a wet rag to clean it up; put all pieces, along with the rag, into a plastic bag to take to a hazardous waste disposal site. (Incandescent bulbs are not considered hazardous but are wasteful, using 90% energy to make heat and only 10% for

light.)

Here's another perspective, from Michigan's Department of Environmental Quality: "Mercury is used in many household items: thermostats, thermometers, fluorescent lights, batteries and switches for appliances, lights and automobiles. Exposure to large quantities of mercury in our air, water and fish we eat is a documented risk to human health. An extremely small amount of mercury—an average of four milligrams—is sealed within the glass tubing of a CFL. This is said to be about the size of the period at the end of this sentence. It is an essential, irreplaceable element in CFLs, and it's what allows the bulb to be such an efficient light source.... For a basis of comparison, there are about one to three grams of mercury in your average home thermometer. It would take between 250 to 1,000 CFLs to equal that same amount. Ironically, CFLs prevent mercury from entering our air, where it most affects our health, by reducing energy demand at the power plant. The highest source

of mercury in our air comes from burning fossil fuels such as coal, the most common fuel used in Michigan to produce electricity.... A power plant will emit 10 milligrams of mercury to produce the electricity to run an incandescent bulb compared to only 2.4 milligrams of mercury to run a CFL for the same time."

Integrated Waste Management Authority ([www.iwma.com](http://www.iwma.com)) is working on a list of locations throughout SLO Co. for recycling fluorescent tubes and bulbs. For every CFL used, 8 fewer incandescent bulbs end up in landfills.

Global warming is a serious concern, world scientists agree. Power plants throw a lot more mercury into the air, and greenhouse gas emissions, while generating electricity to power the products from our increasing demand. Compact fluorescents use 75% less electricity, save energy and dollars, and last 10 times longer. CFLs generate 70% less

heat than standard bulbs, are safer and cool to the touch. If every home in America replaced just one light bulb with an energy saving bulb, we could save enough energy to close 2 entire power plants, or skip building the next two, or light more than 2.5 million homes for one year, or prevent greenhouse gases equal to the emissions of nearly one million cars on the road. With just one light bulb!

This is my perspective. I'll be more conscious of resources and where waste goes. I'll enjoy my locally grown food, filtered water, nightly rest, nature walks, my kitty Mija, family, friends, job, and Sierra Club membership. I'll remind myself daily to be grateful that I'm alive and that I have a perspective.

Supporting our planet... one bulb at a time... yes, we can!

Contact: [bulbatatime@yahoo.com](mailto:bulbatatime@yahoo.com)

### Hazardous waste disposal sites in SLO County:

- MB/Cayucos Waste Water Plant (Hazardous Waste Site), 160 Atascadero Rd, 782-8530
- Cold Canyon, HWY 227 SLO, 549-8332
- Chicago Grade, HWY 41, Atascadero, 466-2985
- Paso Robles, HWY 46 East; Nipomo, 509 Southland.

## Morro Bay

continued from page 1

operate the plant under a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA), to reduce the planned timeline for the upgrade from 23 years to 15 years to 8 years. A major focus now is to raise the proposed level of the upgrade from secondary to tertiary. Grants for tertiary treatment projects are available on a first-come, first-served basis, and go to communities that have a project ready to start. Many grants and funding sources are available for water reclamation and improvement of water quality to the level of tertiary treatment, but not for upgrades to secondary treatment. This raises the interesting prospect of an upgrade to the superior, more expensive standard costing residents less than an upgrade to the minimum secondary standard – or a resident-paid secondary upgrade, with a tertiary upgrade that is essentially free. Many funding sources derive from state bonds, and when they go, they're gone. That means further delay will be costly.

On May 24, the JPA Board must vote to finalize the upgrade project to the

level of tertiary treatment before it can seize the funding opportunities in the form of grants that will lower the cost of the project to residents and cover the difference in cost between a secondary and tertiary upgrade.

### TAKE ACTION

We successfully persuaded the JPA Board to put a VOTE on the wastewater treatment plant upgrade on the agenda for their May 24 meeting. Public comments were key in getting the JPA to commit to a vote at that meeting. We've also produced movement towards tertiary treatment, but the JPA remains undecided, even though tertiary makes the most environmental and economic sense. **They will need to see large turn-out for the May 24<sup>th</sup> meeting in order to do the right thing.**

7 p.m., Thursday, May 24, Morro Bay Community Center, 1001 Kennedy Way.

Be there!

## Bike Month

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website [www.rideshare.org/bikemonth](http://www.rideshare.org/bikemonth) Commuter Bike Challenge. These executives rode once during Bike Week. "This year we are looking to have over 50 executives join a team," said Lisa Quinn, Program Coordinator for SLO Regional Rideshare.

Team Captains will be invited to a Thank You Shifter Mixer on June 6<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 to 8 p.m. at Firestone Walker Ales in Paso Robles. Top teams and participating executives will be recognized

on the Main Stage at Bike Fest on May 31<sup>st</sup> on Morro Street during Farmers' Market in San Luis Obispo.

SLO Regional Rideshare is also continuing the popular tradition of partnering with local coffee houses to provide free Bike Month T-shirts and coffee during Bike Week May 14-18.

Register for the Commuter Bike Challenge or to learn more about the Bike Month events visit [www.rideshare.org/bikemonth](http://www.rideshare.org/bikemonth)

# Clean Air Month

At the March 28 meeting of the Air Pollution Control District's Board of Directors, the Santa Lucia Chapter received the proclamation declaring May to be Clean Air Month in San Luis Obispo County.

Throughout the month, the APCD will host ACT Now, the Action for Climate Today Challenge, to increase local awareness of everyday activities that create greenhouse gases and steps to take to reduce our impact.

The proclamation noted that "greenhouse gases from fossil fuel combustion and other activities are a significant contributor to climate change, and clean air is vital to good health for all

people who work, exercise and enjoy life both indoors and outside; to the production of agricultural crops; to the preservation of property; and to the enhancement of tourism and recreation."

We congratulated the APCD, one of our partners in the Strategic Energy Alliance for Change, on recognizing CO<sub>2</sub> as a pollutant, even though the federal government refused to do so. Five days later, the US Supreme Court took care of that problem, ruling that the EPA has the authority to regulate CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, and if it does not do so, had better come up with a good reason why not.



Santa Lucia Chapter Director Andrew Christie (with Clean Air Month proclamation), SLO Regional Rideshare's Lisa Quinn (with Bike Month proclamation), and APCD Air Quality Specialist Andy Mutziger share a moment after the APCD Board meeting.

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Find out about lion  
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# LOBBY DAY



Sierra Club's nearly 200,000 California members are the source of our political power. Each summer, as the Legislature is deciding the fate of critical bills, we bring several dozen members to Sacramento to help us pass our priority bills.

We particularly encourage attendees from districts seen as "swing votes" so that the targeted legislators hear from constituents.

SUNDAY TRAINING/  
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SIERRA CLUB  
CALIFORNIA



# Santa Margarita Event Raises Funds, Awareness

The Santa Lucia Chapter thanks the following businesses for their support and sponsorship of our spring fundraiser, **Flora! A Celebration of Nature and Art**, held April 1 at the Santa Margarita and Sinton Ranches:



**Organic Chefs TO GO**  
NOAH & LAURA SMUKLER, PROP.

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"SLO's Largest Direct Mail Processors"

...with special thanks to David Blakely for his presentation on the impacts of the proposed Santa Margarita Ranch development.

**Katcho**  
*continued from page 1*

became apparent that certain Commissioners had been less than forthcoming when required to disclose ex parte communications at the hearing," said Marcia Hanscom, managing director of the Coastal Law Enforcement Action Network (CLEAN), which filed suit in January after consulting with the Chapter on our Coastal Commission appeal of PG&E's permits. Achadjian is one of the Commissioners whose ex parte disclosure has been deemed inadequate.

At the Coastal Commission's December 11 hearing on the steam generator project, PG&E strongly objected to proposed mitigation for the project's marine impacts. Achadjian moved to issue PG&E the permits stripped of Commission staff's proposed mitigation: The permanent preservation from development of 9,000 acres of PG&E land around the plant.

At their February 16 public meeting, the Coastal Commission noted the problems inadequate ex parte disclosures cause for the public, as well as other decision-makers who are not party to the same communications.

If a Commissioner does not report an ex parte communication, the Commission action may be revoked and penalties assessed.

The Santa Lucia Chapter has secured a grant from the Angeles Chapter, which we have donated to CLEAN to help defray legal costs incurred in pursuing this important conservation action.

The case is scheduled be heard this month in Superior Court in San Francisco. A decision for the plaintiff would revoke PG&E's permits and send the appeal back to the Commission for re-hearing and mitigation.

# Chapter Introduces Santa Margarita Project to Global Warming

On April 11, the Chapter submitted to the County Department of Planning our comments on the Environmental Impact Report for the Santa Margarita Ranch Agricultural Residential Cluster

Subdivision Project and (see "What's Next for Santa Margarita?," February).  
The short version: The EIR needs to be redone and recirculated.  
Our comments, drawn from the paper

"Recommendations by the Association of Environmental Professionals (AEP) on How to Analyze Greenhouse Gas

*continued on page 10*

**Sanctuary**  
*continued from page 1*

the Chamber in touch with Mayor Mathews, and spoke on Sanctuary expansion at two prior meetings of the Chamber's Issues Committee.

Longtime Sanctuary foe Morro Bay Mayor Janice Peters said that Morro Bay is not opposed to a sanctuary, but is concerned only about the process of communication between Sanctuary staff and local stakeholders and wanted to be sure local voices were heard.

Mathews and Massengill assured attendees that their communities' interests have been heard by the Sanctuary, and good things have resulted. Mathews cited her city's excellent cooperative relationship with the Sanctuary and the benefits this has brought to her city's economy. The Santa Cruz Official Travel Guide cites all the ways the Sanctuary is used to tell people why the city is a good place to visit.

Concerns about fishing and dredging were answered by Haas and Massengill, who noted that Sanctuary management policies would produce no adverse affects in either area.

After the April 11 luncheon, Chamber members felt that there was no reason not to support expansion of the Sanctuary, and recommended to their

Board that the Chamber should get behind the effort and the spread the word to other chambers in the county.  
We have never been closer to finally

protecting the waters of the Central Coast from oil drilling, the dumping of toxic ag waste water, and other bad projects to which we are vulnerable without National Sanctuary status.

**Take Action!**

Fill out, clip & send to: Sierra Club, PO Box 15755, San Luis Obispo, CA 93406. We'll collect them and deliver to the County Supervisors

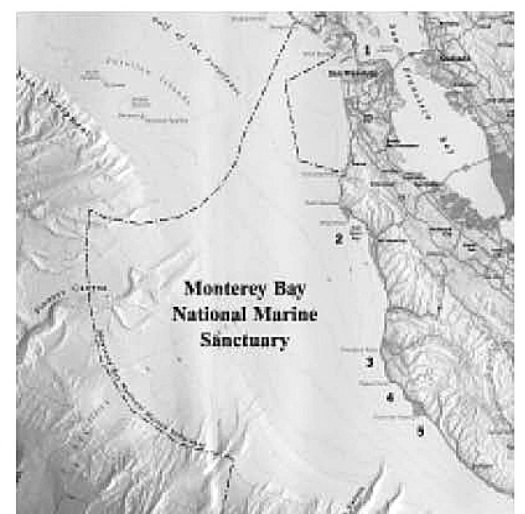
Dear Supervisor,

I believe the Central Coast deserves the protection of a National Marine Sanctuary.

Please support expansion of the southern boundary of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary to include the waters and marine wildlife of San Luis Obispo County. This is the only way to permanently protect these precious resources from future harmful projects, including oil drilling and the construction of a pipeline for dumping toxic agricultural waste water into the bay.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_



Lawrence Wilson

## Outings

continued from page 4

**22-29**, focuses on New Mexico issues of public land protection. Join leader Gene Goldberg and local volunteer Norma McCallan in scenic day hiking plus two novel service projects, for trail and river restoration. Northern New Mexico's Valle Vidal—the Valley of Life—has just gained some protection from proposed oil and gas drilling. (Trip 07315A, \$525)

**Eastern Nevada's Wild Heights, September 1-9.** White Pine County has just won landmark wilderness designation for many of its beau-



Vicky Hoover with Sierra Club Director and longtime Utah Chapter activist Jim Catlin on a 2006 activist outing to Utah's Tushar Mountains

tiful wild mountain ranges that leader Melinda Goodwater shares with you. Besides a brief visit to Great Basin National Park, this remarkable trip, while mostly scenic day hikes with car camping, features a two-day traverse of the dramatic High Schells with an overnight backpack. Mt. Grafton and the Egan Range, and possibly the Highland Range, are other memorable destinations. Learn some of the complexities of Nevada wilderness politics. (Trip # 07196A, \$495)

To learn about partial scholarships available for bringing qualified activists to these advocacy trips, contact activist outings chair Vicky Hoover: ([vicky.hoover@sierraclub.org](mailto:vicky.hoover@sierraclub.org)) (415)977-5527.

## Student Coalition

continued from page 5

everywhere are rising to the climate challenge and the SSC can give you the skills you need to succeed. It's time for our schools and communities to take the lead for clean energy and challenge our political leaders to follow. Energy's not your thing? Don't worry—the skills you'll learn at the summer program will be applicable to whatever issues excite you the most.

### DATES & DETAILS:

- 1. New Hampshire:** June 18-24 Kimball Union Academy
- 2. Northern Virginia:** July 9-15 Prince William Forest Park
- 3. Louisiana:** July 16-22 Hidden Oaks Family Campground
- 4. Iowa:** June 18-24 Iowa 4-H Center
- 5. Michigan:** TBD
- 6. Washington:** June 15-22 Lewis & Clark State Park
- 7. Los Angeles, CA:** June 18-24 Loyola Marymount College
- 8. New Mexico:** July 23-29 Glorieta Lifeway Conference Center
- 9. Puerto Rico:** TBD Native Spanish speakers only

APPLY NOW online at [www.ssc.org/sprog](http://www.ssc.org/sprog)

Questions? Call 1(888) JOIN-SSC

## Santa Margarita

continued from page 9

Emissions and Global Climate Change in CEQA Documents," (Comment Draft, March 5, 2007, Brandman Associates) pointed out that the California Environmental Quality Act requires that an EIR be recirculated whenever significant new information is added.

Not in the EIR, and noted by the Chapter, from the Brandman Associates paper:

On June 1, 2005, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger issued Executive Order S-3-05, establishing greenhouse gas emission reduction targets. In 2006, the California State Legislature passed AB 32, requiring the development of regulations to address global climate change caused by CO2 and associated greenhouse gasses. Lead agencies are now being asked by the State Attorney General's Office to analyze the impacts of large development projects on global



warming as part of the CEQA process. With the passage of AB32, the CEQA analysis of greenhouse gas emissions and global warming impacts of development projects cannot be considered beyond the scope of an EIR. The EIR should mandate an inventory of the project's greenhouse gas emissions and assessment of its compliance with state reduction targets.

The Santa Margarita Ranch project

has not been subjected to such analysis.

The lack of discussion of climate change impacts in the draft document deprived the public of meaningful opportunity to comment upon a substantial adverse environmental effect of the project, or a feasible way to mitigate or avoid the effect.

County staff are expected to determine by the end of May whether the draft EIR will be recirculated. If not, the project goes to the Planning Commission by October. If it is recirculated, it won't get to the Planning Commission until next year.

**Cost:** The subsidized cost of the program is set up on a sliding scale, from \$150-200 (please pay what you can afford). This covers tuition, room and board, local transportation to and from the site, and all the benefits of membership in the Sierra Club. Don't let money concerns keep you from applying and attending. We are dedicated to helping you request funds from your school, and you can also apply for a need-based fee waiver from the SSC. Travel scholarships are also available.

**\*\*Special Group Rate: \$480 for 4 people/\$400 for 3 people\*\***

## Global Warming

continued from page 6

every major conservation battle in our nation's history. Now the question is how best to use our assets — our experience, our hardworking volunteers, our expertise and influence — to combat global warming.

At a recent joint meeting of the Sierra Club Board of Directors and The Sierra Club Foundation Trustees held in Tucson, we began a process to help us answer that question. For three days, starting on February 22, Club volunteers, staff, and donors began debating the tough questions: How do we change the ways we produce and consume energy? What can we do to keep our communities safe from violent storms, drought, and the other consequences of global warming? How do we repair the earth's natural systems for absorbing the carbon dioxide that causes global warming?

The program ideas and strategies that emerge from Tucson are just the start of the conversation with Club members.

These ideas will be synthesized and fleshed out by a team of staff and volunteer leaders and forwarded for review by the Interim Campaign Planning Committee. They will report back to the Club and Foundation Boards in May for consultation and then for final approval by the Sierra Club Board. Involvement of all of us across the organization — staff, Boards, and volunteers — will be crucial to the success of this massive undertaking.

Bottom line: The Sierra Club has a vital leadership role to play in overcoming the most urgent environmental challenge of our time — and we need your help and best thinking to do it. So please, participate in the development of our strategies and programs to fight global warming and the fundraising campaign we will need to support our work. This is an enormous and crucial undertaking for Sierra Club. Together we can be leaders in the fight to lick global warming.

## SLO Paddlers Canoe/Kayak Schedule May-June 2007

### SUNDAY, MAY 20 SANTA MARGARITA LAKE DAY TRIP

Our goal for this outing is to enjoy birding, wildflowers, and a leisurely paddle on Santa Margarita Lake. We will all eat lunch at the campsite, then paddle to the end of the lake and back to our cars. Bring your boat and equipment, PFDs, food and water.

Contact Joe Dickerson at 693-9534 regarding park fees and details

### SATURDAY, JUNE 9 CANOE/KAYAK MORRO BAY

Here is a chance to enjoy a picnic dinner and a short hike on the sand spit. Bring your



boat and equipment, PFDs, binoculars and your dinner.  
LOW TIDE - PUT IN 4:00 PM  
HIGH TIDE - 6:48PM 4.0 ft, LAUNCH AT MORRO BAY STATE PARK MARINA

If you have any questions, please call Joe Dickerson at 693-9534 OR 688-5025.



# Classifieds

June issue ad deadline is **May 15**.  
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



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## 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.

**SEARCHING FOR CONNECTION**  
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*"Searching for Connection offers hope, inspiration, and meaning to those who have been traumatized, to family and friends of those touched by trauma, and to those who have dedicated their lives to helping the victimized and traumatized. Most importantly, it illustrates that one can endure with dignity and survive with meaning, even in the face of terrible experiences."*

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

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Karen Merriam's *Searching for Connection: An Exploration of Trauma, Culture, and Hope* delves into the heart of traumatic experience, where important connections to safety, hope, and strength are severed. Even in the darkness of traumatic events, however, personal and collective resources can be discovered and brought to bear to help oneself and others endure. Through a series of personal stories and case studies, Merriam develops a paradigm of traumatic experience that reveals the common factors that allow individuals to survive and to overcome nightmare experiences. Amazingly, survivors often discover within themselves untapped resources they have never known before.

The ten chapters of *Searching for Connection* build with cumulative authority and power, shining a search beam ever deeper into the abyss of traumatic experience. Merriam's exploratory approach will be especially appealing to readers who prefer to reach their own conclusions based on their unique strengths and wisdom. This is a groundbreaking study addressing a subject of profound significance, which all readers will profit from contemplating.

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Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

# 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.

**Wed., May 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, 5:30 p.m.** Informal Hikes Return. 2-3 hour hikes around the San Luis Obispo Area. Bring water, snack, and dress for the weather. E-mail backpackingary1@gmail.com for meeting location, or call 473-3694 a few days before.

**MAY 6, 0930, Sun. BIKE TOUR of WOODLANDS,** We'll bicycle about 8 miles of the roads & golf trails of this 'instant city'. Meet at junction of Willow & Albert Way. A "city" replacing a 1,000 acre "euc forest"—you have to see it to believe it—amazing. Who said water is limited on the mesa? Call 929-3647 or <bdenneen@kcbx.net> a few days before to confirm and for details.

**SUNDAY, MAY 6 MCAS / CNPS PICNIC AT SANTA MARGARITA LAKE.** This second collaborative Morro Coast Audubon Society and California Native Plant Society picnic will include several field trips. Daily use fees will be waived for event participants; we welcome members of either organization as well as the general public.

**SCHEDULE OF EVENTS** (tentative, more events may be added)

**8:00-11:00 AM BIRDING** with Roger Zachary at RIVER ROAD: An easy 3 mile walk along the Salinas River before it flows into the lake. Appropriate for all experience levels. **MEET AT RIVER ROAD ACCESS**

The Events below will meet at the WHITE OAK PICNIC area (handicap accessible) (sign-up sheets available on day of event)

**9:00 AM BIRDING** with Mike Stiles

**10:00 AM KAYAK / CANOE** launch with Joe Dickerson for informal lake tour (bring PFD's, sunscreen, binoculars)

**10:30-11:30 AM BEGINNER'S WATERFOWL WATCH** with

Stephanie Little (kids and beginning birders; learn to use binoculars and field guides which will be provided)

**11:00-12:00 AM PLANT WALK** with John Nowak

**11:00-12:00 AM MOUNTAIN BIKING** with Ken Klis (participants must be at least 10 years of age, helmets required)

**11:00-1:30 PACIFIC WILDLIFE CARE** on site with live birds giving informal 15-20 minute "visits" with feathered friends

**12 NOON LUNCH BREAK** Join us for an old fashioned new fangled PICNIC. Bring your own sandwich (or something to grill), a side dish, snack, or dessert to share and your own (preferably reusable) place setting and beverage container. Throw in your picnic tablecloth if possible. Assorted drinks provided by MCAS.

**1:00-2:00 PM WATERCOLORING WILDFLOWERS** with Janine Kirkpatrick (bring a "sit upon," materials provided)

**2:00-4:00 PM DESTINATION HIKE** with Ken Klis

For additional information contact Al Schmierer aaschmierer@yahoo.com or 772-2026, MCAS Field trip chair, or Mardi Niles mlniles@slonet.org, or 489-9274, CNPS Field trip chair

**MAY 13, 0930, Sun, BIKE TOUR of NIPOMO,** Meet at Library with bike & helmet. An easy ride on bikeways to Nipomo Native Garden, Nip Park, Creek-side Preserve, Dana Asobe (if time & interest) & a great new bike-trail. A great way to spend a Sun.AM. Call 929-3647 or <bdenneen@kcbx.net> a few days before to confirm and for details.

**Sat., May 19th, 8:30 a.m., Salmon Creek and Beyond, Big Sur Coastal Hike.** I intend to explore Salmon Creek on this day, heading towards Dutra Flat. Our return route will depend upon the weather. If it is clear we may return via the Sur Sur Ranch. The hike will be at least a 2900-foot elevation gain, and at least 9 - 12 miles. Bring lunch, water, dress for the weather. Possible eats in Cambria after. Meet at San Simeon State Park Washburn Day Use area. North of Cambria. Rain Cancels. Details call Gary at 473-3694 (5F).

**Sat.- Sun., May 19-20, Lone Pine Lake, Alabama Hill & Manzanar:** Join us at our beautiful creek side camp in the high desert near Lone Pine. On Sat, we'll hike a moderate 6 mi rt, 1600' gain from Whitney Portal to beautiful Lone Pine Lake, followed by Happy Hour, a potluck feast and campfire. On Sun, we'll drive through the picturesque Alabama Hills on our way to the WWII Japanese internment camp at Manzanar with its moving tribute to the internees held there during the war. 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 92329, (310) 594-6789. Co\_ldr: Jean Noud; (714) 841-8798. Desert Committee/Sierra Singles

**SUNDAY, MAY 20 SANTA MARGARITA LAKE DAY TRIP:** Our goal for this outing is to enjoy birding, wildflowers, and a leisurely paddle on

Santa Margarita Lake. We will all eat lunch at the campsite, then paddle to the end of the lake and back to our cars. Bring your boat and equipment, PFD's, food and water. Contact Joe Dickerson at 693-9534 regarding park fees and details

**MAY 20, 0930 NIPOMO CREEKSIDE PRESERVE**, Meet behind Adobe Plaza in Old Town Nipomo. See new trail, riparian habitat, native plants. My easiest hike. Dogs OK. If we have the time & interest might go to DANA Adobe. We'll talk about the importance of riparian habitat and native plants. Call 929-3647 or <bdenneen@kcbx.net> a few days before to confirm and for details.

**May 21st - 27th—Anytime Re-Stick It Bike Brigade - Volunteers Needed!** Multiple zones & neighborhoods in the City of SLO. May is Bike Month, so jump on your bike to help us patrol our stormwater markers that warn against dumping pollution. We need bike brigade volunteers to find & replace the stormdrain markers that are missing. Learn how you can help in 3 easy steps. Sign up now to patrol your neighborhood. Call 544-9096 to volunteer. (Sponsored by the Land Conservancy of SLO)

**MAY 27, 0930, Sun. COAST HIKE,** See a remote area of the dunes, 4 miles, bring water, dogs OK. Call 929-



Photo by Joaquin Palting

3647 just before 27th for details. Probably to Pismo Dunes Preserve or Callender Dunes.

**SATURDAY, JUNE 9 CANOE/KAYAK MORRO BAY:** Here is a chance to enjoy a picnic dinner and a short hike on the sand spit. Bring your boat and equipment, PFDs, binoculars and your dinner. LOW TIDE PUT IN 4:00 PM HIGH TIDE 6:48PM 4.0 ft, LAUNCH AT MORRO BAY STATE PARK MARINA. Contact Joe Dickerson at 693-9534

## Whales, Pinnipeds & Wildflowers: Channel Islands National Park



**July 20-23**  
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**All cruises depart from Santa Barbara.** Prices include assigned bunk, All meals, snacks, beverages, & services of a ranger/naturalist who will travel with us to help identify, seals & sea lions, birds & wildlife, plants & flowers, whales & other creatures of the sea. We'll also see remnants of the rich culture of the Chumash people who lived on these islands for thousands of years.

Each island is unique & offers its own special charm: **San Miguel** for its white, sandy beaches and huge congregation of elephant seals; **Santa Rosa** for its rare Torrey Pine forest; **Santa Cruz** for high moun-

tains, deep valleys & the famous Painted Cave, **Anacapa** for the west coast brown pelican rookery, steep cliffs, a picturesque lighthouse and excellent snorkeling waters, **Santa Barbara Island** for pristine waters and a friendly colony of frolicking sea lions. All islands have rugged shorelines, dotted with sea caves, & inhabit abundance of wildlife. Activities include hiking, kayaking, snorkeling, beachcombing, or just relaxing at sea.

In spring the islands are ablaze with colorful wildflowers. In summer, the enticing, pristine waters of the Marine Sanctuary, churning with colorful fish and sea lions, will delight snorkelers and swimmers.

**These cruises are fundraisers to benefit Sierra Club political programs in California.** To make a reservation, send \$100 check payable to Sierra Club to leader Joan Jones Holtz, 11826 The Wye St., El Monte, 91732. (626-443-0706; [jholtzhl@aol.com](mailto:jholtzhl@aol.com)).

Website:  
[www.truthaquatics.com/hiking.htm](http://www.truthaquatics.com/hiking.htm)

**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.**