



SIERRA
CLUB

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General Meeting

No meetings scheduled
July-August. Next general
meeting September 28.
Have a great summer!



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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

The Bay Wins

Morro Bay and Cayucos compelled to do the right thing

On May 24, the Cayucos Sanitary District voted to upgrade the Morro Bay/Cayucos wastewater treatment plant, which the two communities operate under a Joint Powers Agreement, to the highest level of wastewater treatment. On May 29, the Morro Bay City Council partially followed suit, voting to upgrade to tertiary without voting on a specific project. Both votes were unanimous.

It was a shining example of what citizen activism can do, and a landmark on a long and winding road that began three years ago, when local and national environmental groups began to bring pressure to bear on the two communities to stop applying for the waivers from the federal Clean Water Act that have allowed the plant to discharge primary treated sewage into Estero Bay -- site of 20 percent of all otter mortalities on the central coast -- for decades. We persuaded them to telescope a proposed 23-year upgrade timeline to just over eight years, and to upgrade beyond the legal minimum -- secondary treatment -- to a tertiary system, the highest standard of wastewater treatment and the regulatory future nationwide. Only tertiary treatment removes nitrates and the most problematic pathogens and emerging contaminants



A full-page ad in New Times, member alerts from coastal protection and wildlife groups (and free pizza) packed the room at the May 24 Joint Powers Agreement meeting of the Morro Bay City Council and Cayucos Sanitary District, where we won one for the otters.

from wastewater. It was an uphill battle all the way, and we finally made it to the top of the mountain.

Morro Bay City Councilwomen Betty Winholtz and Melody DeMeritt were steadfast throughout, holding out for

the tertiary standard against a seesaw of reluctant Cayucos district officials and some fellow Council members. State Assemblyman Sam Blakeslee and his

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SMART ENERGY SUMMER

SLO Energy Planning Conference Aug. 23-24

A major regional energy planning conference and workshop will take place August 23-24 at Cal Poly. The event is being organized by Strategic Energy Alliance for Change (SEA Change), and co-sponsored by the San Luis Obispo Council of Governments, PG&E, SLO County Planning, and Cal Poly's Renewable Energy Institute and City and Regional Planning Department.

Unlike the Alliance's "Smart Energy Solutions" summit, the public conference held in SLO last October, the conference is designed expressly

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We Moved

We have bid a fond farewell to the wonderful little Craftsman house on the corner of Marsh and Nipomo that the Sierra Club and ECOSLO have called home for the last few years, the City of San Luis Obispo having given the green light to the owner for removal and relocation in the near future.

Creating opportunity from adversity, the Chapter has found larger quarters that will keep us in downtown SLO and accommodate our Chapter's planned expansion. We are now at 547-B Marsh Street, behind the Spaces Art Gallery, a block and a half west of our former digs.

Same phone, new e-mail:
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photo/Kevin Walsh

It's time for America to get smart about energy and be less dependent on dwindling oil reserves. We need to increase our use of clean, renewable energy sources like wind and solar power.

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Outings, events, and more!

In Memoriam

Thanks to Richard and Sue Harvey, Joyce Bertram, Catharine Krupp and Barbara Colby for their donations in memory of Lynn Christie.

Thanks to Bill Holsman, Bruce Balan and Beverly Murphy for their donations in memory of Bea Morrow.

A memorial service for Bea Morrow will be held on Sunday, August 5, at 1 p.m. Her family has purchased a memorial bench on the Fiscalini Ranch Preserve beside the Bluff Trail, where she loved to hike and watch sunsets over the ocean from the Morrow home. There will be a dedication and memorial for Bea at the site, and all her many friends are invited.

Bea was a long-time active member of the Sierra Club in Long Beach and later in Cambria and served as Co-Chair of the Desal Task Force. She was also a very successful director, primarily at the Pewter Plough Playhouse in Cambria, and served as a Docent at the Museum of Natural History in Morro Bay. A tes-

timony to her courage and dedication is the fact that she conducted all these activities while fighting a long, and ultimately losing, battle with lung cancer.

The memorial bench is being located a short distance along the Bluff Trail from the Fiscalini Ranch Preserve entrance gate at Windsor and Wedgewood streets in Marine Terrace, Cambria. There will be someone directing guests from this gate. For further information or directions, please call Jack Morrow at 927-5785, or email him at jlmorrow@earthlink.net. The family would like to have an attendance estimate for planning the event, and would appreciate an RSVP if you plan to attend.



What Consensus?!

In our conflict-averse culture, we frequently encounter "the tyranny of consensus." Straining for consensus can mean we only talk about things we all agree on, we never have to go outside our comfort zone, and real problems never get addressed, they only fester from lack of attention.

This phenomenon recently became apparent on the TDC Blue Ribbon Committee, formed by the County to attempt to resolve glaring problems with the Transfer of Development Credit program -- a land use policy so dysfunctional, it has ended up doing the opposite of what it was ostensibly created to do: use easements to send development away from the county's rural and agricultural lands and toward areas of existing development. This candid memo explains a lot about the difficulty of fixing a broken process.

June 9, 2007

To: TDC Blue Ribbon Committee
 Karen Nall and Kami Griffin
 From: Maria Lorca, representing ECOSLO
 Susan Harvey, representing Sierra Club

Re: List titled "Items where consensus has been reached" dated 6/6/07 with attached 9 pages titled "Allowable Uses for Sending Sites."

We believe that it is premature, misleading and unnecessarily limiting to confine the committee to consensus on any aspect of the program at this point. For example, our understanding of the allowable uses was that we could review and alter the list as our work progressed. Also, this new list of uses adds back uses that are prohibited now therefore must be evaluated carefully before any final action.

Our committee has not yet even determined what the goal of the program should be, how that goal is defined, how achievement of the goal will be measured, or defined the clear public benefit of the TDC program.

The committee still has to propose a solution to the problem of receiving sites, or the problems of internal incon-

sistency and basic fairness that the program creates by its very nature.

These basic questions must be answered in plain language before the details are adopted.

We believe that the following options should remain on the table for future consideration or adoption:

- ⊙ The proposal that underlying lots under easement remain as separate parcels but not be sold separately should be evaluated.
- ⊙ Language in the easement that would not only specify the location of structures but the location of access and internal roads.
- ⊙ That the easements for ag sending sites provision for protecting the production of food, fiber, feed and fuel, then add uses that do not conflict from a more limited list of allowed uses than the nine pages captioned above. Each additional use would reduce the value of the easement and therefore the number of credits.
- ⊙ That only changing the name of the easements from "conservation" to "sending site" does not solve the problem of defining what is actually to be saved at the sending sites.

A Will is a Way
 Make a commitment to the next generation by remembering the Sierra Club in your will. Your support will help others preserve the intricate balance of nature.

Contact:
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 Director of Gift Planning at
 (415) 977-5639 or e-mail:
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 COUNCIL OF CLUB LEADERS

The Executive Committee meets the third Friday of every month at 4:00 p.m. at the chapter office, located at 547-B Marsh St., San Luis Obispo. All members are welcome to attend.

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A Bridge Too Fat

Chapter appeals assault on San Simeon Creek

By Andrew Christie, Chapter Director

On Memorial Day, a few miles up San Simeon Creek Road from Highway One, I stood in the creek's nearly dry bed with rancher Jon Pedotti, gazing at a small pool in the shadow of a bridge abutment. Between this year's low rainfall and the ceaseless pumping of the Cambria Community Services District, the creek was almost gone.

We counted four thin steelhead in the pool, swimming in slow circles, trapped, their migration at a premature end. "Yeah, they're doomed," said Pedotti, in the tone of voice of a man who has seen this sight more times than he can count. "In a week or so, they'll die and the raccoons will eat them."

He said that volunteers used to trap the fish, transport them to a nearby reservoir, then release them back into the creek when its flow had returned, but the Department of Fish and Game had killed off that volunteer effort by demanding that permits be applied for and fees paid to rescue the fish. Then, for good measure, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service had decreed that the doomed fish could not be trapped or

transported at all because they are a protected species.

You may think things couldn't get much worse for this endangered species in this beleaguered creek. You'd be wrong.

The County is proposing to replace the bridge we were standing under, and another one that crosses the creek a mile up the road. Though far from decrepit or dangerous — they routinely support without protest 80,000-pound loads from the ranch operations that line the road — both are nearly 40 years old and look it, with deep ruts worn into the wooden surface of their single lane.

The problem is the bridges that the County proposes to replace them with: Nearly thirty feet wide, including guardrails, they would be almost twice the width of the road and require the removal of more than 70 mature sycamores, white alders, bays, and arroyo willows, their construction dumping tons of riprap into that steelhead creek. They would be built to highway specs, imposed on a 7 1/2-mile long country road that turns to dirt for its last mile and a half and dead-ends into a fence.

The reality of the road makes the ludicrous proposed overconstruction of the bridges galling to residents. Much of the tree removal is necessitated by the guardrail requirement, which stipulates that no solid object be allowed standing within 200 feet of the guardrails. "This is open range, with cattle crossing the pavement," says Pedotti, "not a 65-mile-an-hour highway. For the last two miles of the road, you can't go over 10 miles an hour." He points to a huge sycamore at the edge of his property, slated for removal. "We've never had guardrails, and in all the years I've lived here I've never seen a car hit that tree."

The project is being driven by the availability of \$4 million in federal funds for bridge replacement. Eligibility for those funds requires a road with two-way traffic and at least 400 car trips per day. San Simeon Creek Road



Jon Pedotti contemplates the problem.

has two-way traffic if two average-size cars approaching each other both squeeze over and carefully ease past. If two full-size pick-ups approach, one of them must back up to the nearest turnout. The County's representation that the road sees 400 car trips per day is even more dubious. Rancher Mike Phelan points out that the traffic census the estimate is based on was taken in 1990, ignores more recent census data that shows traffic has dropped from a fluke 350 trips to about 130 trips a day, and both those counts were taken at a location that counted traffic to and from several commercial operations near the highway — Cambria Rock and Gravel, Harvey's Honey Huts, a landfill, wood recycling, etc. — commercial traffic that never reaches the residences, ranches and bridges beyond.

The more they learned about the project, the more the canyon's ranchers wanted to make the County aware of their concerns. They drove down to the County Government Center in San Luis Obispo for a scheduled April hearing at the Planning Commission, only to be told that there had been a change: The project was now considered to require only a Minor Use Permit; as such, there would be no public hearing. The notification of the change, without explana-

tion, was in their mailboxes when they returned home.

The ranchers, having grown rather fond of their sycamores and growing less and less fond of the County's approach to the project and to them, filed an appeal of the permit along with the Santa Lucia Chapter.

Both bridges are located within the Coastal Zone and therefore subject to the jurisdiction of the California Coastal Commission, which tends to look dimly on the undue disturbance of Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Areas (ESHA), coastal wetlands and creeks, especially those that are home to endangered species.

So do we. The bridges of San Simeon Creek need to be replaced someday, but not with the massive, out-of-scale highway crossings the County proposes to inflict.

"I could live with a 26-foot bridge if that's all there was to it," says Pedotti. "The problem is the approaches planned for each of them, wiping out the trees. We'd like to see the Commission scale this project down."

"Who knows, if they build them smaller, they'd probably be cheaper and the County could have enough left over to afford to replace another bridge somewhere else."



A San Simeon Creek steelhead awaits its end.



A Carrizo pronghorn

What Carrizo Needs Now

The Bureau of Land Management recently renewed the long-delayed management planning process for Carrizo Plain National Monument, including the preparation of a broad environmental impact statement.

This "scoping process" is undertaken to address the values inherent in management of the 250,000 acres of public lands contained within the Carrizo Plain National Monument, an important unit of the National Landscape Conservation System (NLCS).

The designation of National Monuments and establishment of the NLCS represent the cornerstone of a new era in land stewardship. The eyes of the nation will be focused on the results achieved, and on the BLM's ability to fulfill this new mission of stewardship

to "conserve, protect, and restore these nationally significant landscapes that have outstanding cultural, ecological, and scientific values for the benefit of current and future generations."

On June 12, the Wilderness Society, Los Padres ForestWatch, Sierra Club, California Wilderness Coalition, Defenders of Wildlife, Center for Biological Diversity, Californians for Western Wilderness, Western Watersheds, and Natural Resources Defense Council jointly submitted comments to the BLM that constitute a blueprint of the measures the Bureau should undertake to protect this priceless natural landscape in San Luis Obispo county.

The full text of our comments can be read at <http://santalucia.sierraclub.org/carrizo.html>. Click on "2007 developments."

Energy

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for county supervisors, mayors, city council members, city and county planning commissioners, city managers, development directors, building and planning department heads, public works directors, and other senior staff. While it will not be open to the general public, some civic and institutional leaders will also be invited.

The general purpose will be to focus local governments on energy planning across jurisdictional lines, mainly in connection with (1) goals and implementation measures for energy conservation, the use of renewables and green building, and (2) issues raised in the CEC's recent Integrated Energy Policy Report Update regarding the relationship between energy and land use. Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) goals and Community Choice Aggregation will be among key topics covered.

Recognizing how difficult it is for public officials and staffs to break away from the office, every effort has been made to choose a time schedule that will work for most, and to compress the agenda without sacrificing key content. Late August was picked largely because most vacations will be over; Thursday and Friday were picked to avoid conflicts with public meetings on Mondays through Wednesdays; and the hours of 9:00 to 3:45 on Day One and 9:00 to 2:00 on Day Two were picked to allow for phone calls and other business as well as for early departures, especially on Friday.

Attendance both days will be crucially important. Day One will consist entirely of presentations and panels dealing with current energy legislation, policies and

programs in our state and region. Day Two will begin with a short "tutorial" on energy planning and lead into two breakout sessions for hands-on planning.

Our keynote speaker on Day One will be the State's energy commissioner, Jackalynne Pfannenstiel. Day Two will tee up a leadership roundtable discussion by local mayors and county supervisors, moderated by Tony Ferrara, aimed at eliciting commitments to next steps.

SEA Change originally came into being to mount the Smart Energy Solutions Summit, a county-wide conference on energy policy and best practices that was held in San Luis Obispo in October of 2006. The conference was sponsored by a coalition of business, government, university and environmental organizations, including the SLO Chamber of Commerce, SLO County's Air Pollution Control District, PG&E, Cal Poly's Renewable Energy Institute, Coast National Bank, the Sierra Club, Home Builders Association, Cienega Energy Systems, SLO Green Build and the Environmental Center of San Luis Obispo (ECOSLO).

Feedback from conference attendees overwhelmingly called for local governments to formulate energy policies and goals. The Summit's sponsors decided to form an energy alliance that is broadly representative of area residents and interests on the Central Coast.

There is currently no program or plan within the County for engaging in a full and open examination of energy policy and alternatives. Consequently there is neither a coordinated planning effort within the County to address the

issues comprehensively nor a coordinated outreach effort to educate the public on best practices. The planning workshop is designed to spark regional thinking and action toward countering the adverse economic and environmental impacts of high energy costs, the depletion of finite resources, the emission of greenhouse gases, and, ultimately, our dependence on distant sources of energy.

The Santa Lucia Chapter of the Sierra Club is a founding member of SEA Change, which advances regional solutions for sustainable energy and transportation policy and voluntary community action by bringing together local governments, the private sector and the general public within San Luis Obispo County to promote public awareness and best practices in the generation, distribution and use of energy.

The goals of the Alliance are:

1. Identify and define business opportunities that can strengthen the local economy while promoting best practices in *energy conservation*, the *use of renewables* and *green building*.

2. Educate and influence community and service organizations, businesses, schools and faith groups to adopt practices that will reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, promote energy independence and economic vitality, and nurture a spirit of local unity.

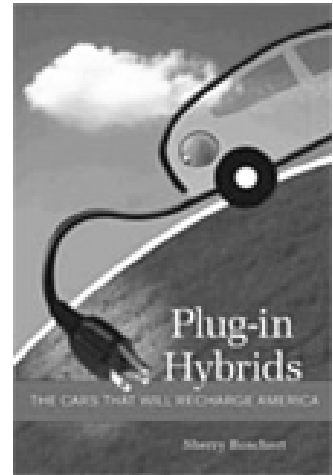
3. Persuade local governments to incorporate in their General Plans goals and implementation measures for *energy conservation*, the *use of renewables* and *green building*.

Plug Me In

by Darrell Clarke
Angeles Chapter

Increase the battery capacity of a hybrid like a Toyota Prius so it charges while parked, then operates on batteries for 20-50 miles without needing its gasoline engine, and you have a Plug-in Hybrid Electric Vehicle (PHEV).

Half of Americans travel 25 miles or less per day. PHEVs use electricity instead of gasoline for many of their



miles, yet retain the range of a conventional car when needed. Their electricity can be sustainably generated from wind and solar, and there is ample off-peak capacity in today's electricity grid for charging.

Although the only PHEVs available today are aftermarket conversions of Priuses, major auto manufacturers including Toyota and others have announced plans. See the L.A. and Austin-based *Plug In Partners* for national campaigns to push the car companies to build them.

The batteries of electric vehicles and PHEVs could also be used for distrib-

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Community Choice Aggregation: A Workshop for Local Government Leaders and Staff

July 13, Santa Barbara, California

How can California communities do their part to reduce greenhouse gas emissions?

How can we enhance energy independence by relying on home-grown sources of electricity?

How can we exert more local control over electricity?

Answer: **Community Choice Aggregation.**

On July 13th, from 10 am to 4 pm, the Local Government Commission will be hosting a workshop in Santa Barbara on Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) in California. These workshops are for local elected officials, city managers, county administrators, public works directors, facility managers, and other community members interested in learning about CCA.

At the workshop you will hear from the California Energy Commission on its interest in CCA, and the California Public Utilities Commission on its role in implementing Community Choice Aggregation.

You will also hear from a group of communities in the Fresno area who are planning to start CCA service in November. Findings from a CEC-sponsored study that involved a dozen local governments investigating CCA will also be presented.

Go to <http://www2.lgc.org/events/> to register.

The cost of the workshop is \$10, and includes lunch. Be sure to let us know of any dietary restrictions. If you cannot attend the full day, from 10 AM to 4 PM, please come for the morning session.

This workshop is co-sponsored by Assemblymember Pedro Nava, the Community Environmental Council, and Sierra Club California.

Learn more about CEC's vision for a sustainable energy future at <http://santalucia.sierraclub.org>. Click on "Fossil Free by '33."

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"Clean Money" Program Passes

If you want clean water and air, you need clean money

By California Political Desk

After a federal election in which corruption was identified as the most important national issue and a Californian election in which nearly \$170 million was spent on the governor's race alone, the California State Assembly on June 11 passed a key measure designed to demonstrate the effectiveness of public financing to reform the campaign finance system in California. The pilot program will provide California and the nation with a model for reform.

By a vote of 45 to 34, the Assembly passed AB 583, the California Clean Money and Fair Elections Act. Authored by Assemblywoman Loni Hancock (D-Berkeley), the amended version AB 583 that passed would establish a voluntary, full public financing system for the Governor's race, one open Assembly seat, and one open Senate seat in 2010. Modeled after successful systems in Arizona and Maine, AB 583 will allow Californians the opportunity to vote for a gubernatorial candidate in 2010 who hasn't accepted any money from special interests, as well as serving as a pilot program that will allow California voters and candidates to see how a Clean Money system would actually work in California.

"The Assembly showed true leadership today by passing AB 583. The Clean

Money and Fair Elections Act is an important step in ending the corrosive effects of money in our elections system. Assemblymember Hancock, Speaker Fabian Nunez, Appropriations Chairman Mark Leno, Elections Chairman Curren Price, and all the Assemblymembers who voted for the bill have done the right thing for California" said Susan Lerner, Executive Director of the California Clean Money Campaign.

Clean Money systems have been adopted across the country; Arizona and Maine started public-financing state elections 7 years ago, Connecticut's legislature passed a Clean Money bill last year, North Carolina provides public financing for judicial races, and New Mexico just instituted a similar system for its judicial elections. New Mexico also established a pilot Clean Money program for elections for its Public Regulations Commission, while New Jersey has a pilot program for public financing of three legislative districts.

Speaking after the Assembly vote, Assemblymember Hancock said, "It has been a long and hard road, but I am deeply pleased that AB 583 passed out of the Assembly. This is an impor-

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Cal Poly's Power

Two students scrutinize our local university's commitment to an alternative energy future. Take notes.

Expanding the Use of Renewable Energy

By Steven Fischback

With the rise in price of oil and natural gas, and the new knowledge of environmental repercussions from heavy use of fossil fuels, renewable energy has become an important component of sustainability.

Renewable energy is receiving energy from a limitless source, a source that will not deplete. Some of the inexhaustible resources include water, wind, plant biomass, solar rays, and geothermal energy.

While energy from the sun is free, these photovoltaic systems are not. They currently cost about nine dollars per watt. This would mean that an average residential home would need a \$32,000 system. It is expensive but it is clean and the costs are continuing to fall as more research is being done. There is a lot of potential for solar energy on the campus of Cal Poly because where ever the sun shines solar energy can be created.

Geothermal energy is renewable and would really reduce energy consumption when it comes to heating and cooling buildings. Geothermal heat pumps transfer heat from soil that is deep down a well to a building during the winter and in the summer heat is transferred from the building to the soil. This transfer is made possible by an environmentally safe heat exchanging fluid that is similar to antifreeze. According to the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education, geothermal heat pumps can reduce the energy demands on HVAC systems by 25-50%.

Cal Poly has started to become a more energy efficient university. In December of 2006, solar panels were installed on the roof of the Engineering West building. This photovoltaic energy system can generate roughly enough power to run 20 homes per year. This is quite a small percentage of Cal Poly's total energy needs, but it is a step in the right direction. Cal Poly received a Pollution Reduction Award from the San Luis Obispo County Air Pollution Control Division for this project (Biennial Progress Report 2006).

Cal Poly has other plans to reduce their dependency on fossil fuels. An example is the Poly Canyon Village Housing Complex that will open in 2008-2009. It will include a co-generation plant that will be capable of producing enough electricity on site to meet all the hot water needs of this 2700 bed complex (Biennial Progress Report 2006). In this co-generation plant, excess steam from burning natural gas is used to power a steam turbine connected to an electrical generator (Scott, Thomas). Therefore, the excess energy in the steam is harnessed and can be put to other uses. This not only saves money but keeps the excess steam from being released into the air.

The California State University system, is also making many efforts to use renewable energy. The CSU system has set a goal of a 15% reduction of energy by 2010. Along with this goal, the CSU system is aiming for no less than 20% of its total energy consumed to come from renewable sources by the year 2010.

Already contracts for electrical purchases require the provider to employ at least 17% from renewable sources such as wind, solar, and water. The CSU sys-



tem has begun purchasing 34,000 Megawatt hours worth of renewable energy from 86% wind energy and 14% landfill gas. In all, the CSU policies will save 80,000 tons of carbon dioxide from being released into the atmosphere by 2010 (Biennial Progress Report 2006).

The CSU system is also aiming to generate 50 megawatts of power

on campuses system-wide by the year 2014. The capability of generating energy on a campus has many benefits. It will reduce the energy bill, decrease fuel consumption, allow direct supply of energy into buildings, and if the university can produce enough energy then it can even sell a quantity of the surplus back to the utility companies for a profit (Biennial Progress Report 2006).

While purchasing renewable energy and using it is certainly contributing to the sustainability movement, Louis Tornatsky, the Industrial Technology Chair at Cal Poly, believes Cal Poly is

obligated to also become a developer if it wants to be a leader in this area of sustainability. In his opinion, Cal Poly should take the next step and get involved with researching and developing renewable energy technology. Cal Poly is not known as a research university, while schools such as Stanford and UCLA are. The budgets for research at these schools are very different. Total support for research at Cal Poly during the fiscal year of 2005-2006 was almost 20 million dollars. However, Stanford spends nearly 400 million dollars a year (Tornatsky). In Tornatsky's opinion, "It is just a whole different environment and culture."

Cal Poly puts high importance on undergraduate education; there is not much time to research. If Cal Poly were to start getting involved in more than just using renewable energy, they could go after patents which would in turn allow it to have complete control of the technologies it develops. But this would be particularly hard for Cal Poly. It has no track record of using renewable energy or developing technology so it would be difficult to bring in the required funds. Cal Poly would have to

show a higher level of commitment to it first before they could gather grants that are currently being received by other schools.

Cal Poly is making progress toward utilizing more renewable energy and decreasing its energy use. But they are definitely not a leader when it comes to renewable energy. There is a lot of potential on the campus of Cal Poly to utilize energy from the sun or wind or soil, but, as of now, not much has been done. Five campuses already use 100% renewable energy and more than 80 colleges are currently purchasing 500,000 megawatt hours a year from sources that utilize renewable energy (Apollo Alliance).

Commitment by universities to use renewable energy is evident. The CSU system is without a doubt contributing through the goals and policies it has set. And even though Cal Poly is not leading the charge, it has taken steps in the right direction.

Steven Fischback is a Cal Poly sophomore majoring in Industrial Technology.

Profit and Planet

By Katie Wolfe

Plans to utilize alternate energy, reduce waste and decrease greenhouse gas emissions are being implemented in businesses across the globe. Companies are employing metrics in addition to

profit to gauge success. Impact on people and planet are now being considered as well as the bottom line. The way businesses function is changing dramatically, and because of this Cal Poly Business students need to graduate prepared to manage, own and operate environment-friendly businesses.

The College of Business at Cal Poly is doing students a great disservice by not encouraging sustainable business practices. In order to maximize the potential of each student, employee and enterprise, the College of Business must implement sustainable teaching programs, address the passivity of instructors and stress the importance of responsibility in business practices.

In 2004 the President of Cal Poly, Warren Baker, signed the Talliores declaration along with over 300 other University presidents. By signing this document, Cal Poly as a whole acknowledged the importance of teaching and practicing sustainable resource use and environmental protection. But, since this signing, only one building has been equipped with solar panels, and only a few General Education classes have been devoted to sustainable teaching. The College of Business only has two classes that address sustainable business practices.

Currently, the College of Business at Cal Poly is reluctant to join the conversation about sustainability. Dr. Lancaster, business professor and sustainability advocate, stresses that



business students have the "opportunity and right to make a difference." When asked how the College of Business could participate in becoming environment-friendly, she answers that every core business class needs to address sustainability from their individual standpoint. Students would thereby get the benefit of learning how to market, account, finance and sell to the rapidly transforming world.

However, Dr. Lancaster expresses her concern that introducing certain classes geared towards sustainable teaching would encounter resistance for two main reasons. One, passivity from professors and the administration, who remain skeptical about the linkage between CO2 emissions and global warming. Furthermore, conducting individual investigation into human impacts on the environment is difficult and time consuming. The second reason the College of Business lags in the area of sustainability is lack of interest. Some administrators, professors and students do not feel it is the job of business to address this problem. The attitude that only engineers and architects should be concerned with the environment lingers.

Professors and administrators at Cal Poly should recognize that, regardless of their personal beliefs concerning global warming, they work for an institution with a mission statement that affirms "Cal Poly values... social and environmental responsibility. Passivity in this area just wastes time - time that most sustainability experts agree we do not have. The other obstacle the college of business will have to overcome in order to implement sustainable teaching is opposition from non-believers that business and a healthy environment can in fact complement one another. Certain people refuse to grasp the notion that improving profit, people and planet are all possible at the same time. Ford Motor Company serves as a

perfect example that sometimes profit is contingent on aligning business, planet and humanity. Ford Motor Company, according to Daniel Estey, the author of *Turning Green into Gold*, is at risk of "becoming the first environment related bankruptcy" because of the gas-guzzling cars that they produce. The market no longer favors the damaging gas consumption of these cars and now Ford may be filing bankruptcy. To claim that business and sustainability oppose one another is to ignore clear evidence of the contrary.

The traditional notion that enterprises can not be profitable and better the world at the same time has been weakened by certain business ventures. Mohammad Yunus, the developer of Micro finance and the Grameen Bank exemplify the success a company can have when catering to the poor. Mohammad articulates the goal of Micro finance by stating that his enterprise was "Created with a declared mission to maximize benefits to the people served, without incurring losses."

By offering minute loans of money to people that had no collateral to offer, his enterprise flourished in a place and among people that other businesses never considered a viable market. With a 95% payback rate, the Grameen bank not only profited, but also offered hundreds of people a chance to build a new way of life.

This risky business venture led the pack in a race that may change the way of business forever. There are now 7,000 "micro-lenders" with over 25 million poor clients. Mohammed Yunus expresses his belief that his success cannot be counted in dollar bills but rather in "[proving] beyond a reasonable doubt that poor people are bankable."

Yunus and his enterprise serve as proof that a company does not have to focus primarily on a profitable bottom line in order to achieve one. His idea not only earned him the Nobel Peace Prize, but also encouraged companies to

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Los Osos: The Start of the Last Chance

Representatives from the Santa Lucia Chapter and several other environmental organizations, County Public Works, the Chumash Tribe, and the Los Osos Wastewater Project Technical Advisory Committee filled the meeting room at the offices of the Morro Bay National Estuary Program on June 7. It marked, with any luck, the beginning of the last act in the long-running drama of the Los Osos sewer.

Dan Berman of the MBNEP and the Technical Advisory Committee's Environmental Working Group called the meeting to ensure the environmental community is involved, informed and engaged in the effort to build a Los Osos wastewater treatment project that addresses the pollution of the aquifer and the Morro Bay Estuary.

"This is one of the most important environmental issues in the county," said Berman, "it's on people's radar around the state and the country."

The Technical Advisory Committee is holding Monday night meetings every week in Los Osos through August, when it expects to issue a brief pro & con analysis of potential sites, technologies,



and financing options.

The County hopes that, by the time of the Prop. 218 vote this fall that will determine whether property owners are willing to assess themselves for the funds needed to build the system, confidence in the process will be high,

and there will be consensus that this is a community-driven project. Ballots are expected to mail to Los Osos property owners on October 5, with a final hearing to be held just before Thanksgiving.

"I think this is the best chance we

have to maintain local community control," said Berman. Project director Paavo Oggren noted that if the Prop. 218 vote fails, the job of building a treatment system for Los Osos would most likely fall to the State of California, an "unprecedented circumstance."

Diablo Canyon Report Comes Up Short

On May 29, The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission issued an Environmental Assessment of the potential effects of an attack on the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant's proposed nuclear waste storage facility.

The study was mandated by order of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, which last year turned aside the NRC's argument that the possibility of a terrorist attack on a U.S. nuclear power plant is "remote and speculative" and upheld the landmark lawsuit filed by the San Luis Obispo Mothers for Peace and the Sierra Club charging the NRC with rushing to permit construction of

Diablo's Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation (ISFSI) without adequate environmental review. The case set a national precedent when the Court required that the NRC comply with the review standards of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and evaluate the environmental impacts of an attack.

But the NRC's attempt to fulfill its court-ordered obligation has left much to be desired. The primary text of the agency's Environmental Assessment is six pages long, and concludes that the environmental impacts of

an attack would be insignificant and therefore a full environmental study of those impacts and any means of their avoidance or mitigation is not required. (The Environmental Impact Report on the replacement of Diablo Canyon's steam generators filled two large 3-ring binders and ran to more than a thousand pages.)

On reviewing the NRC's brief Environmental Assessment, Mothers for Peace attorney Diane Curran and Dr. Gordon Thompson

concluded that "the EA distorts and minimizes the environmental impacts of attacks on the facility by using hidden and unjustified assumptions. It also fails to identify the key documents on which it relies, thus making it impossible for any party to verify the appropriateness of its reliance on those documents."

The EA creates the appearance of compliance with NEPA's requirement to consider reasonably foreseeable catastrophic impacts by claiming to consider all "plausible" attack scenarios. But the EA clearly fails to consider cred-

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Plug In

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uted storage in a smart electric grid to balance peak demand and intermittent generation from wind and solar. Last April 28, the *LA Times* noted:

"California power companies are salivating at the idea of plug-in hybrid vehicles that would provide extended all-electric travel using bigger batteries that are recharged from the conventional power grid. ...

"Pacific Gas & Electric Co. demonstrated bidirectional, or vehicle-to-grid, technology in San Francisco this month, using a Toyota Motor Corp. Prius modified by Energy CS, a Monrovia firm that develops plug-in hybrid conversions.

"After the car's extra lithium-ion battery was charged, a PG&E technician flipped a switch and the power in the battery started flowing back onto the grid, causing the electric meter monitoring the activity to start running backward.

"... plug-in hybrid owners could recharge their batteries at night, when most electric rates are lower, said PG&E environmental spokesman Keely Wachs.

"Then on hot days, when demand for power soars, owners not using their cars could plug them in and transfer electricity from the batteries to the commercial grid. Utility companies would pay hybrid owners for that power, and at the higher daytime rate. ..."

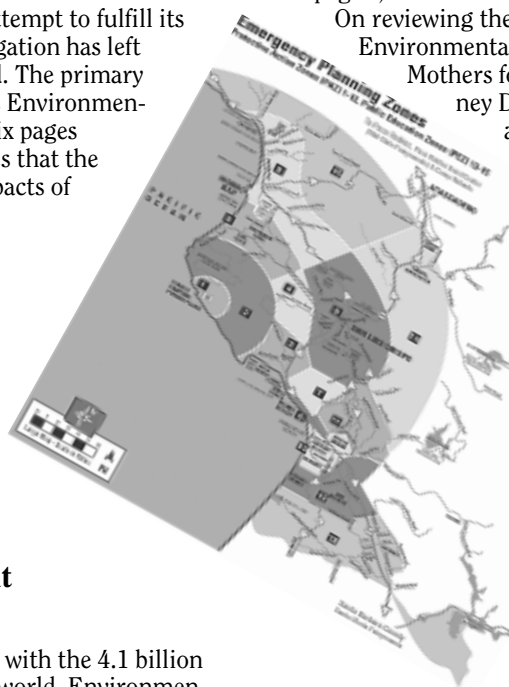
Planet & Profit

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engage in business with the 4.1 billion poor people of the world. Environmental responsibility and social justice, an inseparable pair, together form the goal of business for the future.

Only sustainable businesses will survive in a world of diminishing resources and growing populations. Where businesses used to be faced with choices like economy or environment, profit or planet, corporation or kindness — businesses now must refrain from choosing and instead combine all of these together. Cal Poly boasts the value of "learning by doing" and this motto should hold true for every college on campus. The global conversation about sustainability is louder than ever and college students now are the business owners tomorrow. Cal Poly business students cannot be left behind.

Katie Wolfe is a first-year student at Cal Poly majoring in Business while running cross-country and track.



HopeDance

Showing films for an ecologically sustainable, practical, down-to-earth solutions for a holistic, healthy and awakened community.

Films shown at SLO City/County Library, corner of Osos & Palm.

Call 544-9663 for details. Visit www.hopedance.org for flyers, reviews, trailers. HopeDance, PO Box 15609, San Luis Obispo, CA 93406.

Letters

send to: sierra8@charter.net or P.O. Box 15755, San Luis Obispo, CA 93406. Letters may be edited for space.

I was arrested in front of Diablo in 1977. I was arrested because as a college Biology teacher I wanted to know what PG&E & NRC were going to do with nuclear waste generated by Diablo. I felt at the time that "my" culture should NOT be passing on to the next generation this terrible legacy.

I was told at the time not to worry as the government would have the problem taken care of by the time Diablo was operating. Here we are 30 years later—problem NOT taken care of.

I do NOT consider storage on site next to an earthquake fault and subject to terrorist attack an answer.

There will be 138 dry casks. I suggest these casks be placed in the backyards of PG&E and NRC officials that permitted the plant to start operating, thus generating this terrible legacy for future generations.

I was arrested as a responsible citizen—I urge officials to assume their "responsible citizen" role.

William Denneen, Retired Biologist Nipomo

Little Orphan Overpass

The awkward moment arrives for Dalidio project

Rule number one for mega-mall developments: A huge retail enterprise without freeway access shall perish from this Earth.

That access was a little detail that was not included in Measure J, the 2006 ballot initiative that dropped the Dalidio Ranch project on the citizens of the City of San Luis Obispo, courtesy of the voters in the County of San Luis Obispo. The Dalidio Ranch project doesn't have that access, and needs to get it, in the form of the Prado Road interchange.

But Caltrans, which has found the overpass to be "development driven" — i.e. unnecessary but for the additional traffic caused by the mall — wants nothing to do with it, and, it is becoming increasingly obvious, neither does the City or the County. Without it, traffic generated by the proposed giant mall at the gateway to San Luis Obispo will snarl and die, taking the mall with it.

This is where the voters learn the difference between expansive campaign promises and fine-print reality.

Before the election, Dalidio spokesman Dave Cox of the Barnett-Cox p.r. firm told the Los Osos Community Advisory Council that Measure J "provides solutions to existing traffic problems at no cost to the taxpayer or delay of other highway projects.... Our plan will benefit the entire county."

As election day neared, and it became clear that this plan was sketchy, Mr. Cox opined that he was sure the City and County would work something out. Mr. Dalidio editorialized in the *Tribune* that a special assessment district should be formed to pay for the overpass, and found it "reassuring that a committee of county supervisors and city council members is scheduled to meet and discuss how the county and city can work together.... If the voters decide that Dalidio Ranch should be developed, we need to have solutions in hand ready to be implemented."

The election came and went, minus solutions or implementation. After the election, Dalidio said that the overpass "has got to get done; it's an absolute necessity." Eight months later, solutions still not in hand, and the county and the city are showing a distinct lack of interest in working together to find a way to build Mr. Dalidio his overpass, cost now at \$57 million and climbing. At the May 22 meeting of the Board of Supervisors, Dalidio's representatives displayed an air of devil-may-care insouciance regarding the former "absolute necessity" of the overpass. As they testified, they lacked only berets, cigarettes dangling from their lips and a Gallic

shrug to complete the picture of a pronounced shift in priorities. *This overpass: Eh! Perhaps it will be built. Perhaps not. C'est la vie.*

In July 2006, Dalidio's lawyers wrote to County Administrator David Edge to dispute the devastating project analysis that had just been released by the City of San Luis Obispo. In a particularly chipper paragraph on the issue of the overpass, Dalidio lawyer Michael Morris wrote that "The City and County have repeatedly proven the ability to work together proactively under unusual circumstances to get the job done.... Supervisor Lenthall's proposed meetings between the City and the County can certainly jump start this process."

They didn't.

A year later, at the May 22 Board meeting, Supervisor Lenthall proposed still more meetings between the City and the County to figure out how to build the overpass nobody wants to pay for. The proposal was the culmination of a comical "Alphonse & Gaston" exchange among the Supervisors and Mr. Edge, in which it was suggested by the development-friendly Board majority of Lenthall, Achadjian and Ovitt that the City should be extended every opportunity to ask for a meeting with the County on the subject; smart-growth supervisors Gibson and Patterson observed that they were at that moment hearing testimony at a publicly noticed meeting to which the City had not bothered to send a representative; and Mr. Edge noted that if the Board wished to instruct him to find out what the City wanted to do, he could carry out that directive with a ten-second phone call.

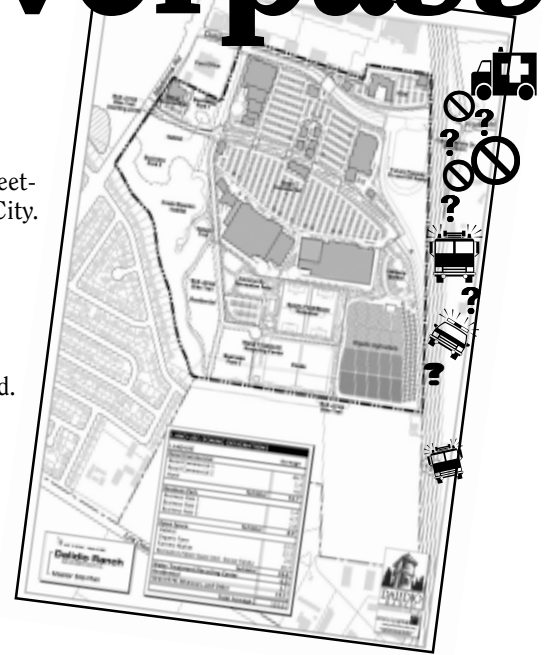
After repeatedly trying to extricate the county from the tar baby, Gibson and Patterson, buffeted by a grimly determined Lenthall, Ovitt and Achadjian, wearily agreed to a motion to allow Edge to call his opposite number at the City and briefly confer on the matter. Lenthall, as Chair, quickly transposed this into a motion to form a del-

egation and hold a formal meeting or two or three with the City.

Patterson and Gibson strenuously objected that this was not, in fact, the motion they had agreed to.

They were ignored.

The meeting was adjourned. Stay tuned.



Stalling on Viewshed

After five years of struggle to put meaningful protections in place for the 53 square miles of rolling oaks and green hills between Cayucos and Paso Robles known as "the Cayucos Fringe," the Board of Supervisors met in April to take another shot at it. The broad community showed up and made it overwhelmingly clear to them that the strongest possible viewshed protection is what the majority of our citizens want. Supervisor Ovitt tried and failed to ram through the deeply flawed substitute ordinance drafted by "Protect Our Property Rights" and the Farm Bureau, a toothless concoction that defines viewshed only as what is visible from Highway 1 and would leave the Cayucos area what it currently is: the wild west for developers, lacking the basic viewshed protections that are in place virtually everywhere else in the county.

When Ovitt's developer-friendly gambit failed, the Board kicked this can down the road again, and took up Chairman Lenthall on his offer to "put his credibility on the line and take some ownership on this issue."

The result was a committee blatantly stacked with supporters of the ordinance put forward by POPR and the Farm Bureau; then a 2-month delay before its first meeting, which was held 10 days before the June 12 meeting of the Board of Supervisors and yet another scheduled attempt to take a stab at leadership on this issue. Result: The viewshed ordinance was continued again, to August 21.

One wonders exactly what kind of consensus Supervisor Lenthall expects to reach with a committee stacked 4 to 2 in favor of the weakest ordinance before the Board. No tourism interests were represented in his stakeholders group, nor the Sierra Club's 2,500 members in this county, nor any other environmental or public interest group. No Native Americans were invited. It begs the question: Where are the other stakeholders in Mr. Lenthall's stakeholders group?

At the June 12 meeting, we suggested that the Board direct staff to bring back on August 21 a viewshed ordinance applying the standards already in place in the districts of Mr. Ovitt, Mr. Achadjian, and Mr. Lenthall. That would be an ordinance that protects views from every public road in the Cayucos area.



Russell Hodin

“ Good afternoon Mr. Chairman and members of the Board. The EIR for the previous project planned for the Dalidio site stated the Prado Road overpass was needed to handle the traffic generated by the mall. Caltrans has identified the need for the overpass as 'development-driven.' So what we are talking about, under the most optimistic of the funding scenarios you've just heard, is handing \$35 million in public funds to a developer to make a development possible. That is a subsidy to a developer. Bond repayment requirements and debt limits, as you've just heard, mean there is no 'cost neutral' solution. There is no free lunch. These are the knowable things about this project; we are otherwise entering an unknowable Alice in Wonderland zone of land use planning: You are contemplating funding infrastructure for a project that has received no General Plan review, no staff analysis that would have resulted in conditions of approval or reductions of impacts; that will receive no public hearings — never be reviewed by the Planning Commission, will never come before you — that has not had and will never undergo an Environmental Impact Report, as all other plans for this site over the years have, except for this one. The county should not be focused on providing infrastructure costs to shore up such a development, but on upgrading its existing infrastructure, specifically the Los Osos Valley Road bridge and 101 interchange, the real solution to that area's traffic problems. Repeating the question of the day: 'Why is the county even considering this?' You are, in Mr. Edge's phrase, 'a bit player' in this project. You are deliberating prior to the settlement of questions concerning the legality of the initiative that has brought before you the blowback from this piece of ballot-box planning. As it stands, your only reasonable course is Option A: No funding for the interchange.”

- Andrew Christie, Santa Lucia Chapter Director meeting of the SLO County Board of Supervisors, May 22, 2007

Bay

continued from page 1

Chief of Staff, Christine Robertson, stepped in at the key moment to provide necessary encouragement to officials. At the crucial May 24 meeting of the Cayucos Sanitary District and Morro Bay City Council, the testimony of Alexis Strauss of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, along with very candid letters sent to community officials by the Ocean Protection Council and the Regional Water Quality Control Board, were equally important in bringing about the best outcome.

"The decisive move toward the end of Clean Water Act waivers and the beginning of tertiary treatment for the Morro Bay-Cayucos plant represents the successful resolution of one of the most significant and longstanding water quality issues on the California coast," said Chapter Chair Karen Merriam. "The Sierra Club is pleased to have been a partner in the effort that brought about this historic win."

Plans for water reclamation and other details will be defined as the process moves forward. Tertiary treated water can be reused for irrigation and other purposes. Even if it were discharged into the ocean, there are significant environmental benefits associated with discharging cleaner water into the offshore recreational area of hu-



At the end of April, the Ocean Protection Council weighed in: "We kindly request that you send a representative to our June 14 meeting...to explain to us what you decided on this issue and the basis for your decision."

mans and habitat for marine life, including threatened sea otters.

Three years ago, this was going to be a minimal upgrade to secondary treatment. It was a done deal. Back then, the option of tertiary treatment was accorded a single line in an off-hand reference in a staff report, and was only being talked about by the environmental activists who dogged Morro Bay and Cayucos through their long trail of meetings, often given inadequate notice, with votes promised and votes delayed, as we simultaneously hammered down the highly padded pro-

posed project timeline.

The proceedings were always contentious until early this year, when Sierra Club and the Natural Resources Defense Council decided to offer assistance to the communities in locating sources of grant funding for the upgrade, and arranged a meeting between Cayucos and Morro Bay officials, Assemblyman Sam Blakeslee and representatives of County Public Works. Then Surfrider, NRDC and the Ocean Outfall Group brought the matter to the attention of the Morro Bay National Estuary Program and the state Ocean Protection Council. The OPC made its interest known to Morro Bay and Cayucos. A light began to dawn at the end of the tunnel.

The upgrade to tertiary wastewater treatment will cost residents \$1 per household more than an upgrade to secondary treatment.

But, at press time, Morro Bay has yet to vote on a specific type of tertiary project, and the delay is -- once again -- costing residents \$\$\$ as potential grant money slips away.

TAKE ACTION!

Morro Bay residents, tell the City Council to pick a tertiary treatment project -- now! Meetings are at 6 p.m., every 2nd and 4th Monday, at the Vets Hall, 209 Surf Street.

Clean Money

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tant reform and I trust that my colleagues in the Senate will recognize its necessity."

"If the voters of California want clean water and clean air, we've got to get clean money in the system," said Bill Magavern, senior legislative representative for Sierra Club California.

All but two Democrats in the State Assembly voted yes on the measure. The measure received no aye votes from Republicans. The sole Democrats to vote against the measure were Assemblymembers Nicole Parra (D-Bakersfield) and Cathleen Galgiani (D-Merced).

Diablo

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ible scenarios that could cause significant environmental damage. For instance, the EA fails to consider attack scenarios in which penetration of a spent-fuel canister is accompanied by the use of an incendiary device to ignite the zirconium cladding of the spent fuel. It should include a detailed description of a wide range of potential attack scenarios and in which several canisters could be affected. These details could be available to persons cleared to receive such information.

In considering the consequences of potential releases of radioactive material, the NRC has employed only one indicator, namely "the potential for early fatalities." To exclude consequences other than early fatalities is absurd. Land contamination is a very serious impact that can cause delayed fatalities, illness, and billions of dollars in expenses of relocation and lost income.

The EA for the Diablo Canyon spent fuel storage facility completely fails to demonstrate the NRC made a "fully informed and well-considered" determination of no significant impacts.

Awards All 'Round

The Santa Lucia Chapter recently presented Darlene Felsman with the Starshine Award and Gary Felsman with the Kathleen Goddard Jones award. Named after the Chapter's founder, the KGJ award is given annually for outstanding service to the Chapter and the local environment. Gary is our Outings Leader and former Chapter Chair. Gary and Darlene are intrepid hikers and led the effort to create the Felsman Loop Trail on Bishop Peak, as well as three editions of the *San Luis Obispo County Trail Guide*, published by the Chapter.

Ken Smokoska attended the Empower Poly Coalition at the Agents of Change Awards Gala in June 5th, where he received his Agent of Change award from the EPC. Ken, our Conservation Chair, works with the Coalition on energy issues. As Chair of Sierra Club California's Global Warming/Energy Committee, he is a driving force behind the Sierra Club's energy policies.

The SLO County Community Foundation recognized longtime Chapter volunteers Dirk and Bonnie Walters at its 2007 Environmental Awards, presented annually to individuals, groups or organizations that have contributed to the betterment of the environment or ecology of San Luis Obispo



Kathleen Goddard Jones

County. Dirk and Bonnie were recognized with the award for Sustained Environmental Contribution, a \$2,000 prize honoring a sustained body of environmental activism over a period of time, including their work with the Native Plant Society, Zero Population Growth, and the Sierra Club.

Native Plant Society, Zero Population Growth, and the Sierra Club.



Ken Smokoska, Agent of Change.



Dirk and Bonnie Walters with their Community Foundation awards for Sustained Environmental Contribution and certificates of appreciation from the California State Senate and Assembly. Assemblyman Sam Blakeslee presented the awards.

Bay Area Shows the Way

San Francisco says goodbye to PG&E, prepares to launch local green energy plan: 50% renewable power by 2017

If the Governor's passage of a state climate change plan was considered big California energy and environmental news, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors' final vote on June 19 to adopt a Community Choice Energy Implementation Plan and become a "Community Choice Aggregator" (CCA) should have stopped every press in the state.

In an unheralded decision made just blocks away from corporate headquarters of PG&E, the state's largest for-profit, investor-owned utility, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors voted 9-2 to organize a local customer base, leave the big utility, and begin to significantly "green" California's energy production locally.

The Board voted on ordinances researched and advanced for more than two years, making San Francisco a leader among dozens of California cities and counties that have formally expressed interest in or are actively working to become Community Choice Energy Aggregators. As Community Choice Energy gains momentum, and communities like San Francisco succeed in assuming local control of energy production, they can green the state, help avert climate change, and ensure

both local energy security and reliably low energy costs for ratepayers. The San Francisco Board's approval demonstrates that local governments are taking the lead to ensure a clean, safe environment and affordable energy.

California cities and counties, frustrated with the exorbitant costs and weak environmental performance of the State's three large, investor-owned for-profit utilities, are seizing the opportunity to gain local control of energy purchasing by taking advantage of a 2002 state law called Community Choice Aggregation (AB 117, Carole Migden). The law enables localities to leave the utilities, assemble their own, local customer bases, and build their own, largely local, and much cleaner energy systems. The City and County of San Francisco will likely be the second locality to file Notice of Intent to leave PG&E (San Joaquin Valley Power Authority recently served its CCA Notice of Intent to the California Public Utilities Commission).

San Francisco's Community Choice Implementation Plan (IP), authored by Paul Fenn and Robert Freehling and

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A Nuclear Bill

By Rochelle Becker
Executive Director, Alliance for Nuclear Responsibility

Last year, a bill authored by Assemblymember Sam Blakeslee responsibly asked the California Energy Commission to consider the economic impacts of continuing to accumulate nuclear waste at California's two nuclear power plants, and the costs of a prolonged interruption of large-scale power generators, which are mostly nuclear and hydro power.

That study has now commenced (see "A Nuclear Film," right). This year, California Assembly Bill 1046, authored by Assemblymember Mark Leno, would have ensured that this independent cost, benefit and risk analysis of the state's reliance on nuclear energy would be completed before more ratepayer dollars were spent by utilities on the renewal of licenses for nuclear power plants. Organizations in support of the bill include the Sierra Club, League of Women Voters, Alliance for Nuclear Responsibility, TURN, Environment California, Public Citizen, California Church Impact, Clean Power Campaign, CalPIRG, and Physicians for Social Responsibility.

In June, AB 1046 couldn't get out of committee due to stiff, utility-backed opposition, with union leaders and lobbyists expressing the fear of losing jobs. In requiring that the CEC analysis be complete before further ratepayer dollars are spent, with the exception of funds necessary for safe and prudent operation, the bill assures that skilled jobs would not be lost, as there is a current need for more staffing for renovations and replacements of large steam

generators and completing a storage site for high-level radioactive waste on our coast.

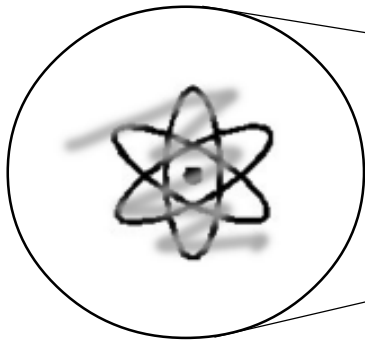
The bill is pending in the Assembly's Utilities and Commerce Committee, with the deadline extended until Jan 31, 2008.

PG&E wants to fund its own study of the feasibility of license renewal. We are at a loss to understand how rushing to renew operating licenses 14 to 17 years in advance of current license expiration will protect ratepayers from the well-documented history of cost overruns in the nuclear industry.

Sierra Club and ANR applaud the courage of Assemblyman Leno for taking on this important topic and supporting the intent of the legislature to complete the cost, benefit and risk analysis before more ratepayer money is wasted on in-house utility studies with forgone conclusions.

California is leading the nation in innovative energy planning. To blindly rely on an industry study to determine if the state should continue its dependence on an energy source that has already left over two decades of highly radioactive waste on a seismically active coast could be a disaster.

The Alliance for Nuclear Responsibility was among the panelists for the Energy Commission's June workshop. Other panelists included representatives from the Department of Energy, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, all the utilities, economists, security experts, the Union of Concerned Scientists and nationwide experts.



A Nuclear Film

Chapter funds documentary on nukes vs. clean power

The Santa Lucia Chapter, a supporter of the Alliance for Nuclear Responsibility, has provided matching funds to underwrite an ANR documentary that was largely filmed at the June 25 and 28 meetings of the California Energy Commission in Sacramento.

The CEC two-day workshop initiated a study of California's continued reliance on nuclear power, including a review of the status of federal programs to manage and dispose of or reprocess spent nuclear fuel; issues related to California's operating nuclear power plants; and the environmental, safety, and economic implications of a continued or increased role of nuclear power in California's energy future.

Policies and issues discussed in the 2007 workshop will be used to inform the development of the Energy Commission's bi-annual energy policy recommendations to the governor and the state legislature. The Alliance for Nuclear Responsibility's participation in the 2005 CEC conference resulted in the recommendation for the state to do a full cost/benefit/risk analysis of continuing to operate nuclear plants past the expiration of their current licenses.

Award-winning documentarian and ANR board member David Weisman filmed interviews with the national experts who participated in the 2007 workshop.

The interviews will appear in a documentary that will range across the subjects of nuclear proliferation, fuel repro-

cessing, the history of nuclear propaganda films, and how nuclear energy stacks up against wind, solar, and other forms of clean, renewable power.

Weisman has co-produced a series of award-winning videos for U.S. AID on community development in South Africa and Morocco. Sponsored by the National Science Foundation, he produced and directed the 28-part environmental education series *Preserving the Legacy* for PBS and their distance learning affiliates. Weisman's films have won the Silver Screen Award of the US International Film and Video Festival and a Cindy Gold Award for science and math programs.



Taking Issue

Problematic environmental coverage & commentary in our local press

"Citizens group called a front for builders," Bob Cuddy, *The Tribune*, May 18, 2007.
"Group should have been told of its purpose," editorial, *The Tribune*, May 22, 2007.

Summary: Participants in Supervisor Jerry Lenthall's Fossil Point Advisory Committee find themselves abruptly shut down by the developer-paid facilitator when it becomes clear that most of them want the bluffs above Avila Beach to remain as open space.



No story, by nobody, *The Tribune*, May 30, 2007.

Summary: A landmark event in the other major wastewater treatment story on the Central Coast (see our front page), a story of statewide significance, receives zero coverage in *The Tribune* the day after the Morro Bay City Council votes to upgrade the Morro Bay-Cayucos wastewater treatment plant to tertiary treatment.



This failure to report a major news story came six days after the initial vote by the Cayucos Sanitary District to upgrade wastewater treatment, which also received no coverage.

We don't mind doing the *Trib's* job for it...but we have 10 editions a year, as opposed to 365.

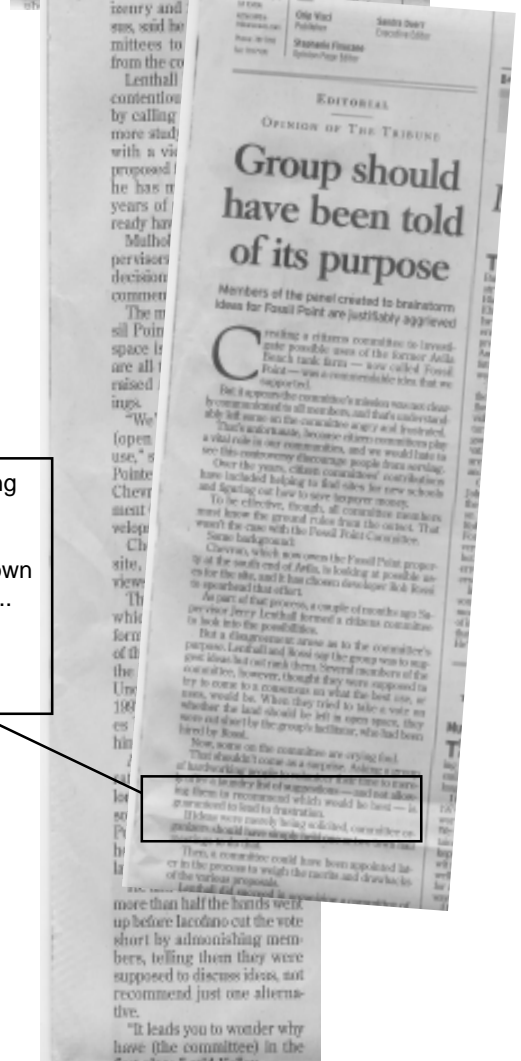
The Trib poo-pooed this notion last March when it first surfaced

on their letters pages. In our April issue, *The Santa Lucian* reported back from Lenthall's first meeting: "Focus groups are used by developers to create the illusion of public process and buy-in, helping grease the wheels for the developer's project in the permitting process." Hate to say we told you so.

The editorialist attempts to spin the story of a developer's sham committee that went off the reservation as a case of simple miscommunication. Jerry Lenthall is rapidly solidifying a reputation for convening as many meetings, committees and task forces as necessary for the purpose of getting any developer everything he wants. (See "Little Orphan Overpass" and "Stalling on Viewshed," page 7).

Citizens group called a front for builders

If ideas were merely being solicited, committee organizers should have simply held one or two town hall meetings to do that.... It's unfortunate that this committee's outcome wasn't more positive.



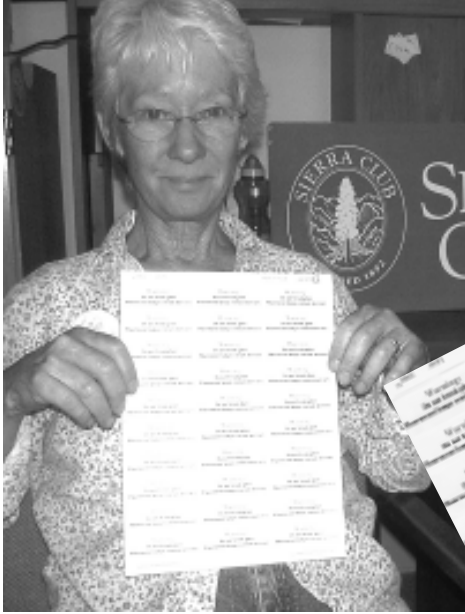
Take-Back Program

Starting July 10, check the website of the county's Integrated Waste Management Authority, www.iwma.com, for the list of the 300+ local retail stores with drop-off locations for used compact fluorescent

light bulbs, fluorescent tubes and batteries.

It's part of the largest recycling/take-back program in California, spearheaded by the manager of the county's Integrated Wasted Management Authority, Bill Worrell

Look for IWMA's extensive information pages in the yellow pages of your phone book, preceded by a tab card that says "Recycling Guide 2007."



Bulbs Across America's Teddy Llovet persuaded the IWMA to affix warning labels to the Take Back drop-off boxes for fragile compact fluorescent bulbs, which release mercury into the atmosphere if broken.



San Francisco CCA

continued from page 8

approved by the Board on June 12, includes building 360 megawatts of clean, renewable energy (one third of San Francisco's peak load) and local management of innovative energy efficiency programs.

A "Solar Bonds" measure passed by San Francisco voters in 2001 would be used to fund the construction of the new renewable energy infrastructure. An energy service provider, to be selected by the City in coming months, will share construction costs and assume all the risks; when the system is paid off, San Francisco will buy out the private energy partner.

As a CCA, San Francisco can offer lower rates than PG&E from day one because of its superior municipal financing capabilities and elimination of PG&E's exorbitant executive salaries and profits.

The slow pace of California's investor-owned utilities in delivering affordable clean, renewable power, and their lackluster performance in energy efficiency

programs despite all their green-washing, coupled with their waste of ratepayer funds, led consumer and environmental organizations to support Community Choice Aggregation. Sierra Club, Local Power, Greenpeace, Pacific Environment, Women's Energy Matters and many others have urged cities and counties to move expeditiously to become CCAs before the profit-seeking investor-owned utilities can further expand fossil fuel and nuclear power plant construction and pin the cost on consumers.

Nearly all of San Francisco's Supervisors helped advance the Community Choice Aggregation decision and contributed to the development of San Francisco's innovative Community Choice Aggregation Energy Plan.

See page 4 for information on the July 13 CCA workshop in Santa Barbara. CCA will be a major topic at the Aug. 23-24 regional energy conference in San Luis Obispo (page 1.)

How Can I Help?

Life Insurance for the Chapter

By Doug Buckmaster

Some people have had paid-up life insurance policies for many, many years. Quite possibly they no longer need them. The cash value of that old insurance policy could be of great benefit to the Santa Lucia Chapter of the Sierra Club.

If you are one of those policy holders and you are inclined to do so, you could simply designate the Chapter as the primary beneficiary of your policy, give it to us, restricting its use as you wish, earn a healthy income tax deduction of its face value, and reduce the size of your taxable estate! The environment would be the ultimate beneficiary of your thoughtfulness.

Another possible benefit to the Chapter would be from insurance proceeds if you choose to name Santa Lucia Chap-

ter as your primary beneficiary. Or you could name the Chapter as a "contingent" or secondary beneficiary to benefit only if family members do not survive. The same tax advantages would apply.

And if you have a traditional IRA account, you can leave it to anyone and the proceeds pass to the named beneficiary independent of your Will. If no one is named — or the primary beneficiary dies and there is no backup — the assets go to your estate and will be taxed heavily. Consult your tax advisor, and please remember the Santa Lucia Chapter of the Sierra Club.

If you wish to proceed, have questions, or need more information, you can call the Chapter Office at 543-8717, or Doug Buckmaster at 927-4206 or by email: dbuckl1@charter.net



Bulbs Across America Giving Away Free 4-packs

A free 4-pack of energy-saving light bulbs is available to every volunteer who talks to family, friends, school, club, or church on the benefits of using energy-saving compact fluorescent light bulbs, also called CFLs.

Receive free Light Leader Guide and Bulbs Across America button. For details or to make this your class or group project, contact bulbatime@yahoo.com.

WHY CFLs?

Compact fluorescents save on electric bills, using 75% less energy than standard bulbs. CFLs help reduce global warming by decreasing energy demand at the power plant, thereby lowering carbon-polluting emissions.

Replacing one incandescent bulb with a CFL will keep a half-ton of CO₂ out of the atmosphere over the life of the bulb. If every household in America replaced one light bulb with an energy-saving CFL bulb, we could save enough energy to close down two power plants.

Kids Teaching Kids

Grades K-3 and 4-6 enjoyed a different kind of after-school program at Bishop's Peak School on May 25th. Monica Carmo, program coordinator with SLO City Parks and Recreation, invited Teddy Llovet of Bulbs Across America to bring her energy-saving light bulb program to Bishop's Peak kids.

Llovet teamed up with Cal Poly grad Melissa Daugherty and Morro Bay High School freshman Dom Riolo in an interactive demonstration/talk on energy-efficient light bulbs, water conservation, solar power, and reduce-reuse-recycle. Llovet, wearing her Sierra Club t-shirt,



reminded kids of our motto: "Explore, enjoy and protect the planet." Kids shared ideas on how each of us can help make our environment healthier.

Asked if they would do program again, Llovet, Daugherty and Riolo responded, "Absolutely!"



Breezing Through

The ninth of June dawned clear, bright, warmish and breezy. Very breezy. We had scheduled an evening paddle, 4 p.m. launch, with plans for a dinner picnic on the sand spit at Morro Bay. With the morning wind conditions in Santa Ynez, any paddling was doubtful, but one must try, right?

After some debate, the consensus was that it wasn't all that windy and we'd be eating dinner in the lee of the sand spit anyway, so off our little six-kayak fleet went from the State Park Marina. In the interest of staying as dry as we could, we headed directly into the wind and getting to the sand spit took nearly twice as long as it usually does but once we got into the lee of the sand

spit it was quite pleasant. Now I have paddled next to the spit when the sand was blowing off it in sheets. But this evening, while the wind was still noticeable, at least it wasn't threatening to take any paint off the boats. So we turned south, taking advantage of the protection of the spit, and paddled down to Midden Point where we landed for our hard-earned picnic.

We explored the dunes, trying to guess what kind of animal/insect/bird tracks we were seeing and failed completely at finding the old freshwater spring that used to be out there somewhere. After dinner we lazed on the beach for a while, watching the light changing on Morro Rock and the others of the Nine Sisters -- and yes, there are Nine Sisters, not Seven -- and started to think about heading back, wishing we could stay right here forever.

But the reality was that we all had to return to civilization, and we did want to be off the water before dark, so we reluctantly headed back for the world. During all of our exploring, dining, and lazing we had forgotten about the wind, and it had all but gone away. The return paddle was almost totally flat and one of the most enjoyable ever. Sorry you missed it...

Classifieds

June issue ad deadline is **August 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.

Oceano CSD- 481-6730

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

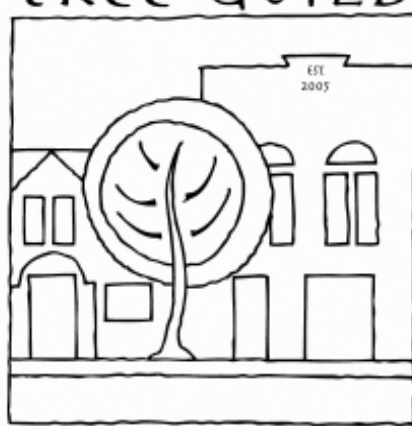
SLO Council of Governments; 781-4219

SLOCOG Citizens Advisory Committee--1st Wed. every other month, 6:00 p.m.

SLOCOG Board--1st Wed. every other month, 8:30 a.m.

watch or listen on
www.slo-span.org

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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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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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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., July 4th, 10 a.m., Informal hike to Bishop Peak and back. Meet at Patricia Drive Trailhead. Cold drinks and snack to follow at BK's after. Meet at the Patricia Drive Trailhead, SLO.

July 8, 0930, Sun., BIKE TOUR of NIPOMO, Meet at Library with bike & helmet. An easy ride on bikeways to Nipomo Native Garden, Park, Creek-side Preserve, Dana Adobe (if time & interest). A great way to spend a Sun. AM. Call 929-3647 or <bdenneen@kcbx.net> a few days before to confirm and for details.

Wed., July 11, 18, 25, 5:30 p.m., Informal Hikes around SLO. Typically 2 hours or so. Details call 473-3694 for location. No Evening Hike on the 4th of July.

Fri. – Sun., July 13-15, Mazourka Canyon Carcamp. Escape from the heat of the cities and the crowds of the Sierras. This canyon ascends from Independence, CA, into the highest parts of the Inyo Mountains with sage flats, ponderosa pines, and old mine sites. Saturday will feature a hike (M/S) to Wacouba Peak, the highest in the range, and on Sunday, we drive out to the north near Big Pine. 4WD is required, but there may be opportunities to accommodate passengers. For details contact leader: Craig Deutsche, deutsche@earthlink.net, (310-477-6670). CNRCC Desert Committee

Sat., July 14th, 9 a.m. Ridge Trail-Baranca Loop, MDO. Come take a morning hike through the backcountry of

Montana de Oro State Park. Bring a snack, water, and dress for the weather. 7 miles, 1200 foot elevation gain. Meet at the Ridge Trail Parking Lot, MDO SP. Eats after for those interested. Details call Gary 473-3694.

Sun., July 14th, SAN SIMEON STATE PARK: Meet leader, Alan Schmierer, at the SW corner of the Morro Bay Spencer's Market parking lot at 7:00 AM. (Spencer's Market is on Main Street, a short distance NORTH of Route 41.) We will walk a slow-paced 3 to 4 mile loop thru grasslands, pines and willows, finishing around noon or a little after. We will be on trails, mostly flat, but with several short up-grades. This trip is suitable for birders of all levels, including beginners and youth. Bring water and snacks. (Some may want to have lunch before returning south.) As on most "caravanning" trips, an FRS/walkie-talkie radio tuned to 11.22 will be useful. Please RSVP Alan at aaschmierer@yahoo.com or 772-2026 if you plan to attend.

Sun., July 22, 0930, NIPOMO CREEKSIDE PRESERVE, Meet behind Adobe Plaza in Old Town Nipomo. See new trail, riparian habitat, and 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.

Sun., JULY 29, 0930, MUSSEL ROCK, Meet on Quad. Beach parking lot. No dogs, hike to top of MR where I turn around. You can keep on going to Point Sal or camping on Paradise beach. Call 929-3647 or <bdenneen@kcbx.net> a few days before to confirm and for details.

Wed, August, 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, 5:30 p.m., Informal Hikes around SLO. Typically 2 hours or so. Details call 473-3694 for location.

Sat., Aug. 4th, 8:30 a.m., Big Sur Coastal Hike. Come explore a section of Big Sur on the day. Exact destination will be determined on the day of the hike all depending on the weather. Most likely a 7-8 mile hike with almost 2000 ft. Elevation Gain. Bring lunch, water and dress for the weather. Eats after for those interested. Details call Gary 473-3694.

Sat.-Sun., August 4-5, Bristlecone Pines and Open House at Barcroft Lab. Come with us to the beautiful White Mtns to hike the Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest on Saturday, followed by happy hour, a potluck feast and campfire. On Sunday, the only day of the year it is open to the public, we'll tour the University of California's Barcroft Lab at 12,500', followed by an easy hike to Mt. Barcroft (13,040'). Group size strictly limited. Send \$8 per person (Sierra Club), 2 sase, H&W phones, email, rideshare info to Reserv/

Ldr: Lygeia Gerard, P.O. Box 294726, Phelan, CA 92329, (760) 868-0979. Colldr: Don Peterson, (760) 375-8599. CNRCC/Owens Peak Group

Sun., Aug. 5, 0930, WOODLANDS: A bicycle tour of the "instant city" with many stops. Meet at junction of Willow Rd. & Albert Way. Must wear helmet. Call 929-3647 or <bdenneen@kcbx.net> a few days before to confirm and for details.

Sat., Aug. 11, OSO FLACO: Meet leaders at 8:00 AM at the Oso Flaco parking lot. (Leaders Joanna Iwanicha, Environmental Scientist, and Cheryl Lish, Environmental Services intern (and MCAS Board member); both with Resource Dept of Oceano Dunes District, CA State Parks.) We will bird the lake, over the boardwalk and a short distance past the lake into the dune scrub habitat. We will talk a bit about unique habitats of the dune complex and the different birds and other wildlife that make their homes there. We will also talk about our work to protect Western Snowy Plovers and Least Terns. With luck we will see adult and juvenile Least Terns foraging at the lake. Wheelchair accessible and children are welcome. Finish at about 11:00 A.M.

Sat.-Sun., August 25-26, Tamarisk Bash in Surprise Canyon. Celebrate the end of summer by helping to remove invasive tamarisk from Surprise Canyon. It is warm weather, but the year-round stream will let us soak and cool as the spirit moves us. We will work Saturday with Marty Dickes, our

Whales, Pinnipeds & Wildflowers: Channel Islands National Park



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All meals, snacks, beverages, & services of a ranger/naturalist who will travel with us to help identify, seals & sea lions, birds & wildlife,



Photo by Joaquin Palting

coordinator from the BLM. Sunday we will hike up the nearby Telescope Peak for long views and cooler weather above the desert. Enjoy carcamping, a potluck dinner Saturday, and campfire stories. Contact leader Craig Deutsche, deutsche@earthlink.net, (310-477-6670). CNRCC Desert Committee

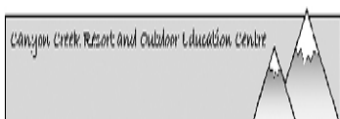
Sun., Aug. 26th, 0930 NIPOMO CREEKSIDE PRESERVE, Meet behind Adobe Plaza in Old Town Nipomo. See new trail, riparian habitat, and native plants. My easiest hike. Dogs OK. If we have the time & interest might go to DANA Adobe. We'll talk about the importance of riparian habitat and native plants. Call 929-3647 or <bdenneen@kcbx.net> a few days before to confirm and for details.

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. 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).

Website: www.truthaquatics.com/hiking.htm



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This is a partial listing of Outings offered by our chapter. Please check the web page www.santalucia.sierraclub.org for the most up-to-date listing of activities.