



SIERRA
CLUB

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General Meeting: Nov. 30

Join us as Walter Robie presents his latest multi-media spectacular, "Songs of the Sea."

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No meeting in December
Happy holidays!



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SANTA LUCIAN



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Central Coast

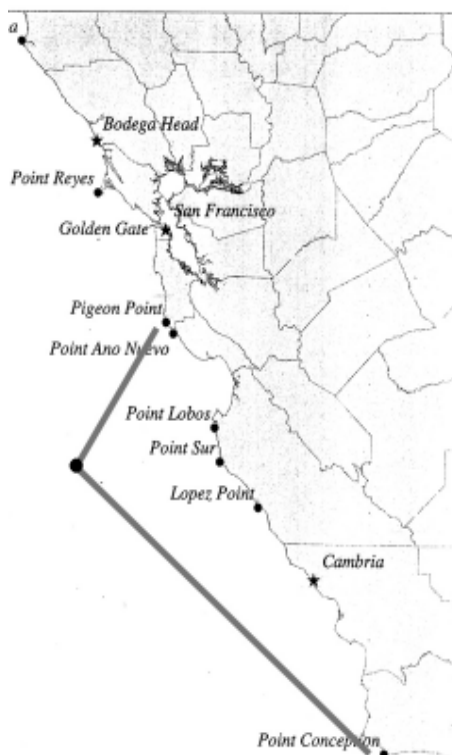
The official newsletter of the Santa Lucia Chapter of the Sierra Club • San Luis Obispo County, California

Coastal Roundtable Takes Shape

We have the first network of Marine Protected Areas in the U.S. Now what?



Monica Hunter (right) of the Planning and Conservation League convened the first meeting of the Coast and Ocean Roundtable planning group in October, attended by representatives from the Santa Lucia Chapter of the Sierra Club, ECOSLO, Cambria Greenspace, the Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo, Morro Bay National Estuary Program, Central Coast Salmon Enhancement, Save Our Shores, the San Luis Bay Chapter of Surfrider, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Upper Salinas-Las Tables Resource Conservation District, Coastal San Luis RCD, and the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. Right: The new Central Coast MPA network spans coastal waters from Pigeon Point to Point Conception.



Spirit and Nature

by Judith Bernstein

"The American way of life is like locusts that devour the field and then fly on to the next field, devour that field, etc. Until now, there has not been a 'coalition of the willing'—willing to tell it like it is, willing to lay the blame where it belongs and willing to say that this cannot continue if we value life over individual pleasure.

- Ernst von Wieszacker, Ph.D, UCSB

On September 14, I arrived at La Casa de Santa Maria retreat center in Montecito for the "Spirit and Nature Dialog" in a blue funk. Just that morning I had read an article in the *Tribune* titled "Gorillas being killed almost to extinction." If our closest living relative was on the brink, surely we might be next!

The 150+ participants in the three-day dialog were a mix of local environmentalists, students, religious leaders/thinkers and members of the

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When it comes to public policy, land and ocean planning need a hookup.

When California's 1999 Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) finally went into effect for the Central Coast on September 21, implementing a first-in-the-nation network of marine conservation areas and reserves -- 29 sites comprising 204 square miles of coastal waters -- the need for the integration of policies that have impact on both land use and the health of the ocean only became more urgent. That's why the Planning and Conservation League has begun discussion of a Coast and Ocean Regional Roundtable (CORRT) for San Luis Obispo County, slated for March 2008.

The first meeting of the CORRT planning group convened in SLO on October 4, assembling a group of land-based organizations and ocean stakeholders with a common interest in coastal and marine environments with the goal of developing a preliminary CORRT Plan for San Luis Obispo, identifying potential participants among local groups and other stakeholders in the community.

"At this time, I anticipate at least one future meeting in January 2008, in which we will create the final CORRT agenda and program design," said Dr. Monica Hunter, project coordinator for the Planning and Conservation League.

CORRT will initiate a process to focus on local land use and coastal water quality issues as they relate to the goals of the MLPA Initiative and new marine policy established by the California Ocean Protection Act (COPA). This effort will provide the initial platform on which to establish a nexus between land-based resource programs and conservation organizations, marine conservation programs and stakeholder organizations. These relationships currently do not exist and are not likely to develop without a distinct mechanism to create an innovative dialogue on the interrelationships of land-use and water quality policy decisions and the newly defined goals of COPA and the MLPA.

The Coast and Ocean Regional Roundtables can help to meet that need, initiating a strong land use and marine policy base for coordinated action at the regional level.

The project will be working with the Monterey Bay National Marine

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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!

General Meeting

Songs from the Sea: An Evening with Walter Robie

The debut of a new audio/visual dual-projector extravaganza from legendary nature photographer Walter Robie is always an event. Robie made two trips from the central coast to northern Oregon, photographing the Haystack Rocks, crashing waves, tide pools and abstract patterns of seagrass at low tide, plus coastal foothills as the light changed in the early morning and evening. Music for this program features a violinist of the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra.

7 p.m., Friday, November 30
 St. Stephens Episcopal Church, 1334 Nipomo St., San Luis Obispo
 - Pismo Street entrance; parking lot off Pismo.

In Memoriam

thanks to Patricia Wyse for her donation in memory of Bea Morrow

Supes Gone Wild!

Long ago having earned themselves collective nicknames like "The Three Amigos," "The Gang of Three" and "The Three Horsemen of the SLOpocalypse," development-friendly County Supervisors Ovitt, Achadjian and Lenthall lately seem determined to ramp up the level of favors done for developers and land speculators and the level of public disregard they routinely display for their ostensible constituents, County staff and the law. (See "Rebuked," page 7.)

The Morro Shores decision at the Supervisors' October 2 meeting was a spectacular, but increasingly common, example of the Board majority's rising contempt for the entire planning process. Even the *Tribune*, normally as development-friendly a local paper as any project proponent could wish for, could not conceal – or even more significantly, did not edit out – its reporter's palpable incredulity in covering the decision, in which the Gang of Three ignored the law, the Planning Director and the unambiguous advice of County Counsel in order to help a developer get a project built in Los Osos under eleven-year-old terms of approval that had expired, been extended for five years, expired again, and now have nothing to do with the reality on the ground (such as a Level III water severity designation). Ovitt, Achadjian and Lenthall opted to give the developer another shot under the conditions of his ancient permit because addressing the actual impacts of his project in the real world would involve additional cost and inconvenience for him.

The law is clear: What the Gang of Three is trying to do is not allowed.

And it's no longer just about protecting, or failing to protect, the quality of life here, or our rural lands, natural areas and wildlife. This is the worst possible time for the Gang to be stepping up their shenanigans because this is the historical moment when we need all hands on deck, with innovative policies and strong ordinances all pointing in the same direction in order for all of us to do our part in dealing with the world's biggest problem. What we have instead are three good old boys hooked up to the real estate/development lobby's I.V. drip.

The *L.A. Times* nailed the problem in "To Go Green, Live Closer to Work," in its September 21 edition: "Forty percent of the planet-heating gases that Californians emit come from transportation, and...the state's greenhouse emissions will continue to soar unless it dramatically changes the way it builds cities and suburbs.... Compact development — mixing housing and

businesses in denser patterns, with walkable neighborhoods — could do as much to lower emissions as many of the climate policies now promoted by state and national politicians.... A growing consensus of experts is homing in on the everyday zoning decisions of local officials and county planners."

The *Times* was referring to the just-released major report "Growing Cooler: The Evidence on Urban Development and Climate Change," by the Urban Land Institute. The report makes the finding that all the hybrid cars/biofuels/mileage improvements we could possibly muster to curb greenhouse gas emissions won't solve the basic problem, which will continue despite any gains made in low-carbon fuels or fuel efficiency: Americans drive too much. And that's because "we have given ourselves little alternative. For 60 years, we have built homes ever farther from workplaces, created schools that are inaccessible except by motor vehicle, and isolated other destinations — such as shopping — from work and home.... Population growth has been responsible for only a quarter of the increase in vehicle miles driven over the last couple of decades. A larger share of the increase can be traced to the effects of a changing urban environment, namely to longer trips and people driving alone. Land is being consumed for development at a rate almost three times faster than population growth. This expansive development has caused CO2 emissions from cars to rise even as it has reduced the amount of forest land available to absorb CO2."

In addition to quietly collapsing the developers' favorite bromide — *we must build ever more, onward and outward, because population is exploding and we need someplace to put all these people* — the report points unerringly to the root of the problem: Poor planning. "The weight of evidence shows that, with more compact development, people drive 20 to 40 percent less, at minimal or reduced cost, while reaping other fiscal and health benefits." (The authors also stick a pin in the other old favorite, *we build big houses on large lots because that's what the market wants*. They project that the supply of large-lot homes will exceed demand by 2025. By contrast, demand for in-town, close-in and other compact small-lot and attached housing will exceed supply

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SANTA LUCIAN

Andrew Christie
EDITOR/LAYOUT

Karen Merriam
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EDITORIAL BOARD

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send to:

Editor, Santa Lucian
 c/o Santa Lucia Chapter, Sierra Club
 P.O. Box 15755
 San Luis Obispo, CA 93406.
 sierraclub8@gmail.com

Santa Lucia Chapter

2007 Executive Committee

Karen Merriam
CHAIR karen@karenmerriam.com

Jack Morrow
VICE CHAIR jlmorrow@earthlink.net

Cal French
MEMBER ccfrench@tcsn.net

John Ashbaugh
MEMBER jbashbaugh@charter.net

Steven Marx
TREASURER

Cleve Nash
MEMBER ccnash@charter.net

Cal French
COUNCIL OF CLUB LEADERS

The Executive Committee meets the fourth Wednesday 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.

Committee Chairs

Political
Richard Kranzendorf
Conservation
Ken Smokoska ksmokoska@hotmail.com

Membership
Cal French
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Lety French lmfrench@tcsn.net

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Other Leaders

Open Space
Gary Felsman 805-473-3694

Calendar Sales
Bonnie Walters 805-543-7051

Chapter History
John Ashbaugh 805-541-6430

Activities

Outings
Gary Felsman 805-473-3694

Canoe/Kayak
Joe Dickerson jadphoto@aol.com

Webmaster

Monica Tarzier mtarzier@sbcglobal.net

General Information

Santa Lucia Chapter
 P.O. Box 15755
 San Luis Obispo, CA 93406

Chapter Director

Andrew Christie
 805-543-8717
 santa.lucia.chapter@sierraclub.org

**Office hours Monday-Friday,
 11 a.m.- 5 p.m., 547-B Marsh
 Street, San Luis Obispo**

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SLO's GMOs

Genetically engineered corn at Avila Beach site marks first known instance of labeling

In what may be a national first for the voluntary labeling of a genetically modified organism (GMO), a local grower has labeled genetically engineered corn being sold to the public.

The sign "Our own G.E. corn" appeared over a bin at the Avila Valley Barn in September, with a sign reading "traditional corn" identifying the contents of an adjacent bin. On request, helpful employees aided shoppers in distinguishing between the two. (The GE product is skinnier.)

Known as Bt corn, the variety has been genetically engineered to produce a toxin that kills the corn borer worm. The Bt toxin is present in every cell of the plant, requiring Bt corn to be registered as an insecticide with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. About 30 percent of the corn planted in the United States since 1996 is estimated to be genetically engineered.

Avila Valley Barn's decision to label GE corn is apparently unique. "I have not heard of this happening anywhere else in the U.S.," said Renata Brillinger of Californians for GE-Free Agriculture. "There are some voluntary labels for GE-free foods — we have distributed several hundred posters for farmers to use at their market stalls. But I haven't seen any like this."

The FDA does not require toxicity or allergenicity testing before allowing GE foods on the market, despite the recommendations and warnings of many of its own scientists. The first GE food, the Flavr Savr tomato, genetically engineered for longer shelf life, was allowed on the market despite the fact that it was known to cause stomach lesions in

lab rats.

"Not surprisingly, FDA's 'no testing, no labeling' policy is opposed by the vast majority of Americans," writes Joseph Mendelson, legal director for the International Center for Technology Assessment and the Center for Food Safety. "Opinion polls consistently show that more than 90 percent of Americans strongly support the labeling of GE foods. More than half a million people wrote to the FDA to support a legal petition filed by the Center for Food Safety which demanded mandatory labeling and testing of biotech foods."

The Avila Valley Barn is owned by John DiVincenzo. The Santa Lucia Chapter has spoken with Dr. DiVincenzo on numerous occasions over the last year and a half about labeling the GE corn he has been growing for sale at Avila Valley Barn. He has agreed with us that more information is better than less, and the public has a right to know. We hope he will go on to produce informative materials available on the premises describing all the types of produce he sells — genetically engineered, traditional, no-spray and organic.

Jesse Arnold of SLO GE-Free reports that, in a September 27 discussion with Robert Hayashi at the SLO Farmers Market, Hayashi said that Y. Hayashi & Sons is also selling Bt corn, but did not say whether they intend to label it.

At press time, Hayashi and Dr. DiVincenzo had not returned calls from the Sierra Club.

To join the national campaign to label genetically engineered foods, go to www.thecampaign.org



Genetic engineering and the Privatization of Genetic Wealth

By Laurel Hopwood
Sierra Club Genetic Engineering Committee Chair

The genetic diversity of our planet and the genetic resources which are the fruit of 100 centuries of human agriculture are a shared common treasure of mankind. Transgenic agriculture -- using modern genetic engineering techniques to splice genes from one species into another -- involves many risks which are yet to be fully evaluated but one danger in clear sight is the use of patent protections to shift equity from the global genetic commons into private hands. This is theft in broad daylight.

The principle argument in favor of life patents is that they spur innovation. Yet genetic engineering in plants has so far consisted only of the splicing of genes from one species into another with no significant increases in yields or benefits to consumers. This rewriting of the genetic code has sufficed to win patents. This is not technological progress but the veneer of technology being used for theft. The patents allow seed companies to impose new conditions in contracts with farmers. The actual "innovation" is a loss of farmers' rights. In the United States and Canada, farmers are being sued for planting their own seeds (saving seeds) without paying a fee.

It's the U.S. which has pushed life patents and genetic patents on the world. Just as the nations of the world

have agreed that there should be no slavery and that a contract which calls for slavery would be unenforceable, there should be no patents on the genetic machinery of life, and that all contracts based on such an idea should be null and void. That would be to the advantage of every man, woman and child on this planet - we are the heirs to this planet's genetic diversity and shouldn't let that heritage be claimed by corporate greed.

One way to put the brakes on GMO agriculture that will soon be available is the Biosafety Protocol of the Convention on Biological Diversity (Cartagena Protocol). Although the U.S. hasn't ratified either the Convention or its Protocol, the Biosafety Protocol has obtained ratifications from over 50 nations and has entered into force. As part of international treaty law, it allows nations to invoke the Precautionary Principle in order to stop imports of GMOs. We urge farmers in the U.S., and likewise the farmers and nations of the world, to defend their rights to save seeds. We urge them to work for the abolition of patents on the molecular machinery of life. While changes in U.S. patent laws may be slow in coming, if farmers use their own seed or sell seed crops intended as food, they shouldn't have to pay licensing fees twice.

A Chicken in Every Pot? A Car in Every Backyard?

Sierra Club's True Cost of Food Campaign

by Terry Jensen
Sierra Club Fort Worth Group, Texas
National Sustainable Consumption Committee

In the 1928 presidential campaign of Herbert Hoover, a Republican-paid newspaper advertisement promised prosperity in the form of "a chicken in every pot and a car in every backyard, to boot."

Hoover's prosperity has arrived in spades with food and cars. Yet, less than

100 years later, worries about global warming and suburban sprawl are making most Sierrans doubt the wisdom of the cars, even suggesting we should often forego the private automobile in favor of public transpor-

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Study: Genetically Engineered Corn Polluting Streams

In October, the journal *Proceedings of the National Academies of Sciences* published an Indiana University study that found that Bt corn pollen and other plant parts containing toxins from the genetically engineered corn is entering streams near cornfields where it may be killing aquatic insects known as caddisflies.

Researcher Todd Royer told the Environmental News Service that caddisflies "are a food resource for higher organisms like fish and amphibians. If our goal is to have healthy, functioning ecosystems, we need to protect all the parts."

The National Science Foundation-

funded study, titled "Toxins in transgenic crop byproducts may affect headwater stream ecosystems," found one type of caddisfly fed leaves from Bt corn grew at half the rate of those fed non-Bt corn litter. Others had significantly increased mortality rates when exposed to high concentrations of Bt corn pollen.

Before licensing Bt corn in 1996, the federal government failed to test its toxicity on insects closely related to the corn borer -- such as caddisflies -- that is targeted by the Bt toxin.

"I think probably the risks associated with widespread planting of Bt corn were not fully assessed," Royer said.

Letters

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

Having lived in South County, we have seen development go rampant. Not only am I constantly inconvenienced by traffic congestion (bad planning?) and loss of scenic views (more bad planning?), I am now being threatened with annexation of the aquifer under my property for Pismo Beach's latest development, Los Robles Del Mar (300 homes).

Because of this development, Oak Park Community Group was formed.

Some property owners in the unincorporated area are already experiencing low levels in their wells. Is it because of the drought of more wells already pumping? Whatever the reason, neither of these issues have been addressed by the Environmental Impact Report.

LAFCO will decide soon, hopefully the members will realize our plight, protect our rights, and not leave us high and dry!

Elizabeth Martz
Arroyo Grande, unincorporated

Well said, Ms. Martz. In comments submitted to the Local Agency Formation Commission on September 12, the Sierra Club noted the serious multiple deficiencies with the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Report (DSEIR) for Los Robles Del Mar. It is clear that Pismo Beach intends to use the transfer of water rights for much of the city's future growth. It's also clear from the EIR that Meadow Creek and the riparian wetlands on Oak Park Boulevard east of the LRDM project would be directly and unacceptably impacted. We concur with the finding of the Oak Park Community Group's hydrological study that previous reports on the Oak Park aquifer likely "overestimated the amount of water in the deep aquifer, potentially underestimated the amount of pumping from the deep aquifer and ignored the impacts on streams, springs, and wetlands." The proposed annexation is likely to result in water being pumped from the aquifer that is necessary to maintain this wildlife habitat and the species it supports, and would put Arroyo Grande's water supply at risk of saltwater intrusion. We agree with the City of Arroyo Grande in its concern over the lack of pump tests of several LRDM and Arroyo Grande wells, the inaccuracy of the DSEIR's presentation of such test data as was gathered, and the obvious false assumptions on which rests the total estimated safe yield of 270 acre feet per year (AFY) for the aquifer.

For these reasons, the proposed development is unsustainable. SLO LAFCO should not certify the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Report due to the serious errors throughout the document and insufficient mitigation measures proposed, and disallow annexation of the LRDM land to the City of Pismo Beach.



Vote for your 2008 Chapter Executive Committee

Here is your ballot for the Santa Lucia Chapter's Executive Committee election. Vote for the candidates whom you think are most capable of governing the Santa Lucia Chapter.

The winners of this election will start their terms when the outgoing ExCom adjourns their December meeting. The newly-elected ExCom will then convene a brief meeting to elect Officers and set the date for their January meeting.

IMPORTANT VOTING INFORMATION

- Cumulative voting is not allowed. (More than one vote for one individual)
- Vote only one ballot per member. A second ballot is included for two-member households.
- Ballots must be received by **5:00 p.m., December 5, 2007** at the Chapter office.
- Enclose your ballot in an envelope and clearly write your name and Sierra Club membership number on the envelope. Then sign it. Mail to the address on the ballot, or you may drop it by the office at 547-B Marsh St. in SLO between 11:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.



Jack Morrow

I served on the Executive Committee of the Long Beach Group (4,500 members) for several years, holding positions of Membership Chair & Secretary/Treasurer. I also represented the L.B. Group on the Chapter Forest Task Force and helped organize the Long Beach Inner City Outings program. In Cambria, I am co-leader of the Sierra Club Task Force to organize a program for water issues (desalination, etc.). I am also on the board of directors of the East/West Ranch nature preserve in Cambria and serve as a docent for the Museum of Natural History in Morro Bay. I have led many Sierra Club outings in and out of state. My hobbies are hiking, camping, music, and writing, with my first novel soon to be published. I retired from my own business as Chairman of Media Golden West, Inc., a publishing and printing company.



Karen Merriam

I joined the Santa Lucia Chapter in the early 1990s to meet kindred spirits who treasure our environment. As I learned the trails into our beautiful wild places, I became a hike leader, and then, in 1995, became a member of the ExCom. I served for two terms (four years) on the ExCom, much of the time as Secretary, and helped to establish a local office and staff for the Chapter. During that time I also worked as a volunteer with the Sheriff's K-9 Search & Rescue team, with my dog Babe, which took me into the out-of-doors in a whole different way.

In 2006 I published my second book, *Searching For Connection: An Exploration of Trauma, Culture, and Hope*, which summarized my 30 years of work and thoughts in the field of traumatic stress and loss. The book concludes with the start of a new search for solutions to the environmental losses and trauma we face in our community, our country and worldwide: a search that engages me now, in my work for the Sierra Club and in most other aspects of my life.

As Chair of the Chapter's ExCom for

the past three years, I have committed myself and the Chapter to forging new bonds with other community leaders and groups who share our interests and dedication to preserve, protect and enjoy our natural environment. Thank you for voting and for supporting your Chapter.

Judith Bernstein

When I arrived in California in 1970, I had never heard of John Muir, David Brower or the Sierra Club. Fortunately, my house was one block from the East Bay Chapter office and one day I wandered in. It was love at first knowledge; I joined the Club, explored northern California with the chapter's outings, wrote articles for *The Yodeler* and worked on a fund raising committee. I had the thrill of winning the national Grand Prize for nature photography in 1988.

Each time I move, the local chapter is among my first calls. In Ashland, Oregon, I served on the fund-raising committee and led the Chapter's first "meditation" hikes. In Portland, I was a member of the Population Committee that went into local high schools to



present a workshop. I also participated in outreach efforts educate the public about the Club.

Recently, I got my political feet wet lobbying the Paso Robles Mayor and to sign the U.S. Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement. I have also been part of a local group that is presenting the Pachimama Alliance's "Awakening the Dreamer" symposium in SLO and Santa Barbara.

I am a believer in bridging North and South divides, and would like to do so as a North County representative on the Executive Committee.

BALLOT

Santa Lucia Chapter Election November 2007

Households with two members may return their ballots in the same envelope.

You must write your Sierra Club membership number(s) on the envelope. Do not write a membership number the ballot.

Households with more than two members may make duplicate ballots.

Mark an "X" in the box next to the candidate's name. Order drawn by lot:

Jack Morrow

Judith Bernstein

Karen Merriam

Do not write your name on this ballot. Put ballot in envelope, print your name and Sierra Club membership number on the envelope. Return to:

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Households with two members may return their ballots in the same envelope.

BALLOT

Santa Lucia Chapter Election November 2007

Jack Morrow

Judith Bernstein

Karen Merriam

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Sierra Club's Diversity Council Expands Efforts to Include All People in Protecting the Planet

Diversity statement, surveys begin the comprehensive process

by Andy Bessler, Sierra Club Diversity Council

The Sierra Club's Diversity Council has announced several steps in an effort to internally diversify the Sierra Club around the country. While the Sierra Club remains the nation's largest and most effective grassroots environmental advocacy organization, work remains to make sure the Sierra Club reflects all the diverse communities found across America. The Sierra Club Board of Directors established the Diversity Council in 2006 to help craft a strategy for diversifying the Sierra Club and demonstrating a commitment to diversity from the national to the local level.

"The Diversity Council has been working hard over the past year because if we do not diversify, we won't meet our conservation goals as an organization," said Diversity Council Co-Chair and Sierra Club Board member Sanjay

Ranchod.

Within the past year, the Sierra Club Board of Directors has approved an official Diversity Statement that reflects Sierra Club's commitment to diversity at the staff, volunteer and membership levels. The statement was circulated to Sierra Club leaders across the country for their feedback and consensus via an online bulletin board.

The Diversity Council also conducted an online survey of Sierra Club volunteer and staff leaders to find out how they felt about efforts to diversify the Sierra Club. Survey results indicated that 70% of respondents agree that Sierra Club needs to diversify to achieve our conservation goals.

"Sierra Club leaders know in their hearts that change is needed," said Mark Walters, Diversity Council Co-Chair and a volunteer leader of the Sierra Club's

Inner City Outings Program. "But to change, folks simply need to know how to and that is where we can help."

With a clear mandate from Sierra Club leaders around the country to act, the Diversity Council met in Memphis, Tennessee in August to begin drafting a plan to diversify the Sierra Club nationally and locally. The draft plan was presented to the Board of Directors at their October board meeting. Comments are now sought from all members.

The Diversity Council urges all Sierra Club leaders to do their part to make the Sierra Club reflect the face of America and educate themselves about efforts to diversify the Sierra Club.

For more information on the work of the Diversity Council, visit www.sierraclub.org/diversity

Supes Gone Wild

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by more than 70 percent.)

The Board majority displayed its fundamental lack of understanding of and commitment to "smart growth" – transit-oriented, walkable communities of compact, mixed-use development – on June 7, 2005, the day it adopted Smart Growth Principles...and then, later that same day, gave tentative approval to the San Miguel Ranch, the poster child for isolated, low-density, high-impact, water-hogging, ag-destroying, traffic-pumping development. This is called "lip service."

The authors of "Growing Cooler" might as well be pointing directly at our hapless supes when they note the "prevailing zoning and development practices [that] typically make sprawling development easier to build," despite the fact that "compact development helps preserve farmland and open space, protect water quality, and improve health by providing more opportunities for physical activity" – not to mention "reducing the cost of infrastructure such as roads and water and sewer lines." And, by the way, "land use changes provide a permanent benefit that would compound over time."

Shandon and San Miguel are facing obliteration. Santa Margarita is staring at the same fate, thanks to a proposed development that holds the distinction of an Environmental Impact Report with the highest number of unmitigable impacts in county history, a project inexorably moving forward because its proponents are confident that there are words this board majority will never say: *You know what? Area Plan Standards take precedence over what a developer wants. This project is unsustainable and will not be processed further. Permit denied.* They will never hear that from this board, other than hearing it from Supervisors Jim Patterson and Bruce Gibson. And then the Three Amigos will plow ahead.

The "Growing Cooler" authors' last word: "Compact development provides an insurance policy against the worst effects of climate change and oil price spikes. In the worst case, current or future residents of compact development will have a variety of viable transportation options, while the residents of sprawl will not."

Who sits on the San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors will determine, among other things, whether we end up in the first group, the one with the viable options, or the second one.

Every Litter Bit Helps

By Teddy Llovet

We conserve our landfills when we recycle properly. Folks want to do the right thing if shown how...and if it's easy.

Last August, Amanda Bailey, Marketing Manager at New Frontiers in SLO, gave shoppers a visual tool for recyclables.

Responding to customer requests about how to do a better job with recycling in the cafe, Amanda met with Peter Cron at Integrated Waste Management Authority (IWMA) to review materials used in the cafe at New Frontiers. Amanda also made a visit to the re-cycling center at Cold Canyon.

Then she and her staff went to work to create the recyclables board at right. Folks are clearer about what to do and they're doing it. Customers are happy and so is the environment.



America Recycles Day is November 15

Did you know that your old cell phone and the ink cartridge in your computer printer can be recycled? Well they can, but unfortunately most are not. In fact, over 400 million old cell phones and empty ink cartridges find their way into our nations landfills every year.

How can you help?

Just contact The Recycling Guy on line at www.therecyclingguy.com or call 866-360-9077. The Recycling Guy will send you boxes for recycling ink jet cartridges and cell phones. Simply put the used ink jet cartridges and cell phones in the box and drop it off at a UPS store. The Recycling Guy pays the shipping cost and you will receive a

check for the remanufactureable ink cartridges and cell phones. By participating in this program you will help reduce the amount of solid waste going into our landfills. Over 80% of used inkjet cartridges and cell phones are going in to our landfills. Over 400 million cartridges and cell phones annually.

How do you get started?

Contact The Recycling Guy on line at www.therecyclingguy.com or call 866-360-9077 for this free and easy Environmental Service Project and take that old cell phone out of the drawer. And when it is time to replace that ink cartridge, don't throw it away, Recycle!

2008 Sierra Club Calendars



They're here, they're gorgeous, you have to have one for your desk, one for your wall, and a great many more for friends and family! When you buy direct from the Chapter, you support our conservation work in San Luis Obispo County!

wall calendar: \$12.50
desk calendar: \$13.50

To order, call 543-7051

Looking for a Good Match

What do advocating for meaningful viewshed ordinances and land use policies, the goals of the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement, and a marine sanctuary off our coast have in common?

They're just three of the initiatives the Santa Lucia Chapter is involved in, and they all cost money!

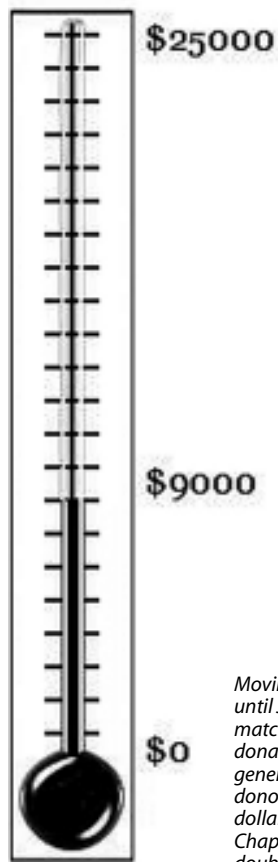
In the next six months, we *must*:

- ◆ Hire a part-time admin. assistant
- ◆ Hire a part-time volunteer coordinator and intern supervisor to mobilize contributions of volunteers

Thanks to generous donations received this year, we were able to upgrade our office facilities and infrastructure. This was due to the success of our "Sustainability Circles," small groups dedicated to providing the financial support necessary to sustain the Chapter's expanding conservation programs.

The success of the Sustainability Circle fundraising campaign will allow us to do more, including the addition of new interns and 20 volunteers, expansion of our outings program to include youth and families, leading European Energy Tours, and offering advocacy and lobbying training for energy efficiency and sensible land use.

If you are interested in joining the Sustainability Circle by making a financial contribution and/or by collaborating with a member of our Fundraising Committee to bring together people you know for one of our informational meetings, please contact our office at 543-8717 or send an e-mail to sierraclub8@gmail.com



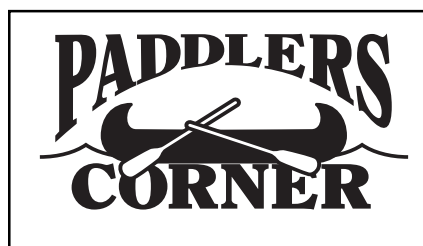
Messing About

by Joe Dickerson

After a two-month hiatus, we were anxious to get out on the bay and the weather looked to be very promising. Six paddlers, one recent transplant to Los Osos, one visitor from Costa Rica, one struggling with a new knee and three more of the usual suspects met at Morro Bay State Park marina, schlepped boats and gear to the water, double checked lunches, water, sun screen etc., and after the obligatory skipper's meeting, shoved off for Shark Inlet and the sand spit.

The weather just got better and better, with a hint of a breeze that suggested we might be bouncing around a bit on the way home. The presence of the two newbies brought out the tour guide in the rest of us and I suspect that we probably sounded like realtors with a hot prospect on the hook.

We discussed the Seven (or nine or ten or whatever) Sisters, their geological history, ecological importance, and marvelous hiking possibilities. Local politics -- "have you heard about the sewer system yet?" Good little birders that



we are, we tried to remember the differences between elegant and all the other terns. Of course, nobody thought to bring their *Sibley's*. Eventually the conversation(s) turned to great white and other sharks. It is called *Shark Inlet*, right?

Once we decided that we wouldn't be spotting Jaws or any of his/her cousins, we explored the inlet as far as the tide would allow and then headed north along the sand spit to find a place to have lunch. The whole time the newbie, the visitor and those of us who have been paddling the bay for decades were in total awe of the Morros, the bay, the weather, the birds and in general the pleasure of, "simply messing about in boats" as Mister Toad was found of saying.

The wind was picking up, and showed promise of getting stronger. Some of us had plans to show Jose, our visitor from Costa Rica, Montana D'Oro, and Bayside had a piece of carrot cake with my name on it, so we reluctantly pointed our boats for the marina.

What a day...come join us next time, there's always room for one more boat.

Spirit and Nature

continued from page 1

sponsoring organizations: Santa Barbara Community Environmental Council, Spiritual Paths Institute, Fielding Graduate University, Santa Barbara Interfaith Initiative, the Rocky Mountain Institute and the Institute of Reverential Ecology. The format was a number of panels, featured speakers, break-out sessions and experiential happenings (for lack of a better term). Naturally, a lot of the dialog happened at meals where strangers heretofore ate great food and debated about what they had just heard. As they say of conferences, some of the best things happened at the bar (or breakfast table).

The common theme of the religious speakers could be summarized (and perhaps oversimplified) as: The global (environmental) crisis has been primarily presented in scientific terms, and has left out the spiritual dimension. For

This is a defining moment in human life. Our current life-styles are a veritable cancer on the host, our planet... Humanity may be on the edge of its own suicide...the question is: can spirit help rescue us from the apocalypse?

- Kabir Helminski, a Shaikh of the Mevlevi Sufi Order

that, we need the "metaphysical," which encompasses the self, spirit and heart. Much of the world has lost the view of nature as a source of wonder, of healing, as "sacred." Destruction of the "sacred" is ethically and spiritually wrong. Although science can provide us with the "proof" of global warming and environmental degradation, it alone cannot teach us how to live. Religion has an important contribution to make by bringing the metaphysical and ethical aspects to the discussion of the changes we must make.

The speakers, like Rabbi Shapiro, were often critical of the way their faith traditions had lost touch with their core values. Several emphasized that their faiths may need to revisit those values in light of the significant challenge of global warming. For example, Pravrajika Vrajaprana, an ordained nun of the (Hindu) Vedanta Society, told us Hinduism teaches that everything is pervaded with divinity and yet India has more plastic pollution than anywhere on earth. She went on to say "We have lost the sense of earth as mother, lost the awareness, our Dharma, that the universe and its living things are all one. We are not living up to our faith or to our full potentials as human beings. We need to return to the concept of "Rutah," the law of cosmic harmony and balance. This should not be an abstract concept, but how truth is put into action in daily life."

The environmentalists pointed out what actions in daily life would make the greatest impact on global warming, but they did not yet have a way to convince the masses of their fellow Americans to make those changes. One suggestion from Don Trent Four Arrows, a Native American, was to take more people into nature in a way that deepened their connections. In our session with Don, I experienced one such mo-

"The root cause of our problem is ignorance of the interconnectivity of all things"

- Ed Bastian, Buddhist and conference organizer

For 2007 Deduction, Send the Check Now

Making a year-end donation? Thank you! But we do take Christmas off. That means if you send your check that week, or just before that week, we won't see it or deposit it until 2008, and you won't be writing it off your taxes for 2007. Please make sure to mail in year-end Sierra Club Foundation donations sooner rather than later to avoid getting disappointing news.

Tip number two: Make sure you make your check out to "Sierra Club - SLO Conservation Fund." Checks simply made out to "Sierra Club" are not tax-deductible.

ment of connectivity. Our group was told to find something living to communicate with. I chose an odd and impressive tree, the Bunya Bunya, with rough

gray bark and a tall trunk out of which emerged very twisted branches bearing long leaves. First, I flattered the tree, admiring its height and leaves. But when I touched the leaves, they were sharp edged and

cut. I was surprised and angry, thinking they would be soft to touch. The tree said to me: "I am what I am" And this tree message demonstrated another of Don's suggestions for environmentalists: when teaching others about their connection to the natural world, don't romanticize nature; respect it.

He emphasized the importance of language and speaking from the heart. "Heart language", he said, "will do far more to engage other people in our struggle.

"The core message of religion gets hedged in more and more and before you know it, you are worshipping the hedge. Religions need to change...to retell their stories in compelling ways, purposeful ways. We need a creation story that says that we are only one way that the universe becomes conscious."

- Rabbi Rami Shapiro, Ph.D.

Taking his advice, I thought about how I would talk with people at a social gathering. I might say: "I saw a TV program about the melting of polar ice and the possibility that polar bears may not be able to survive. That makes me feel really sad to think they may only be in zoos fifty years from now. What do you think we can do about it?"

On the last night, we gathered in the large, glass-windowed chapel to the sound of flutes and drums. After learning a simple dance, we started circling as songs of three faith traditions were played. It went round and round and soon the steps and sounds blended body, mind, heart and spirit. As the chanting grew louder, I felt the interconnectivity of all the things we had talked about. After three days of dialog, my blue funk had lifted. I felt that an alliance between people of faith and environmentalists might stop the tragic march towards extinction of the many life forms with whom we share the planet. And I left knowing that human energy and commitment is a renewable resource that will sustain us in our work for decades to come.

Rebuked

Planning Commission tosses Supervisors' special-interest ordinance. Cayucos viewshed is now a line in the sand.

How much cavalier disregard can you demonstrate for the planning process before it comes back to bite you?

How many slaps in the face can you deliver to people who take that process seriously and consider upholding it to be their duty before you are faced with revolt?

Will the County Board of Supervisors fish or cut bait?

All these delicate questions will be hanging in the air during the last act of the struggle over the Cayucos Viewshed ordinance on November 27, when the development-über-alles Board majority of Jerry Lenthall, Harry Ovitt and Katcho Achadjian will be confronted with the blowback from their efforts to carry water for land speculators and developers-in-waiting: A stinging rebuke from their own Planning Commissioners, who took the sweetheart ordinance sent to them by the Board on a 3-1 vote last August (Patterson dissenting, Gibson recused), turned it into a real ordinance, and sent it back to the Board.

That wasn't what was supposed to happen. The toothless non-ordinance blessed by Lenthall-Ovitt-Achadjian was designed to deliver a major payday to landowners who are looking toward the time when they can sell out for astronomical sums and start the race to build ridgeline castles with 360-degree views throughout the 53 square miles of pristine rural land between Cayucos and Paso Robles — a spree facilitated by the draft ordinance written by their private attorney and blessed by the board majority. To deliver that gift, Lenthall, Ovitt and Achadjian avoided the planning process as much as they could, allowing a privately written ordinance by Protect Our Property Rights (POPR) to supplant public drafts from both the Cayucos Citizens Advisory Council and County planning staff. They bent over backwards for POPR's attorney, allowing him to make adjustments and remove blatant illegalities from his text during the public hearing. They ignored planning staff, the advice of County counsel and all logical analysis and voted to approve an ordinance that bore scant resemblance to anything that had been reviewed previously by the public or the Planning Commission.

But they couldn't avoid the public process entirely. After Lenthall-Ovitt-Achadjian did the bidding of their backers, they still had to send the results to the Planning Commission for review. Nevertheless, the three Supervisors did what they could to maintain their grip: When the Commission requested an extension on the time they were given in order to review the ordinance properly, Chairman Lenthall refused to even place the request on the Board's agenda

for consideration. The message was clear, and raw: You will give this a quick once over, apply the rubber stamp, and send it off.

The Planning Commissioners refused to go down that path. They cleared the Commission's schedule of every other item for the meeting in question, spent the entire day taking public testimony, and then went to work fixing just about everything wrong with the ordinance. They expanded the protected area, nixed the flawed definitions, and reinstated the concept of siting new development off ridgelines wherever possible.

It was a textbook example of sterling land use planning: Evenhanded, by the book, and in conformity with the General Plan and other viewshed protection standards in place throughout the county.

What happens now is anyone's guess. If Lenthall-Ovitt-Achadjian attempt to pull the teeth of the revised ordinance -- basically, removing the corrections and re-inserting the flaws and giveaways -- they will be able to fool no one as to what they're doing and why. If they *don't* make that attempt, they will have to answer afterward to their backers: The development and real estate lobby, which has invested heavily in their preferred outcome.

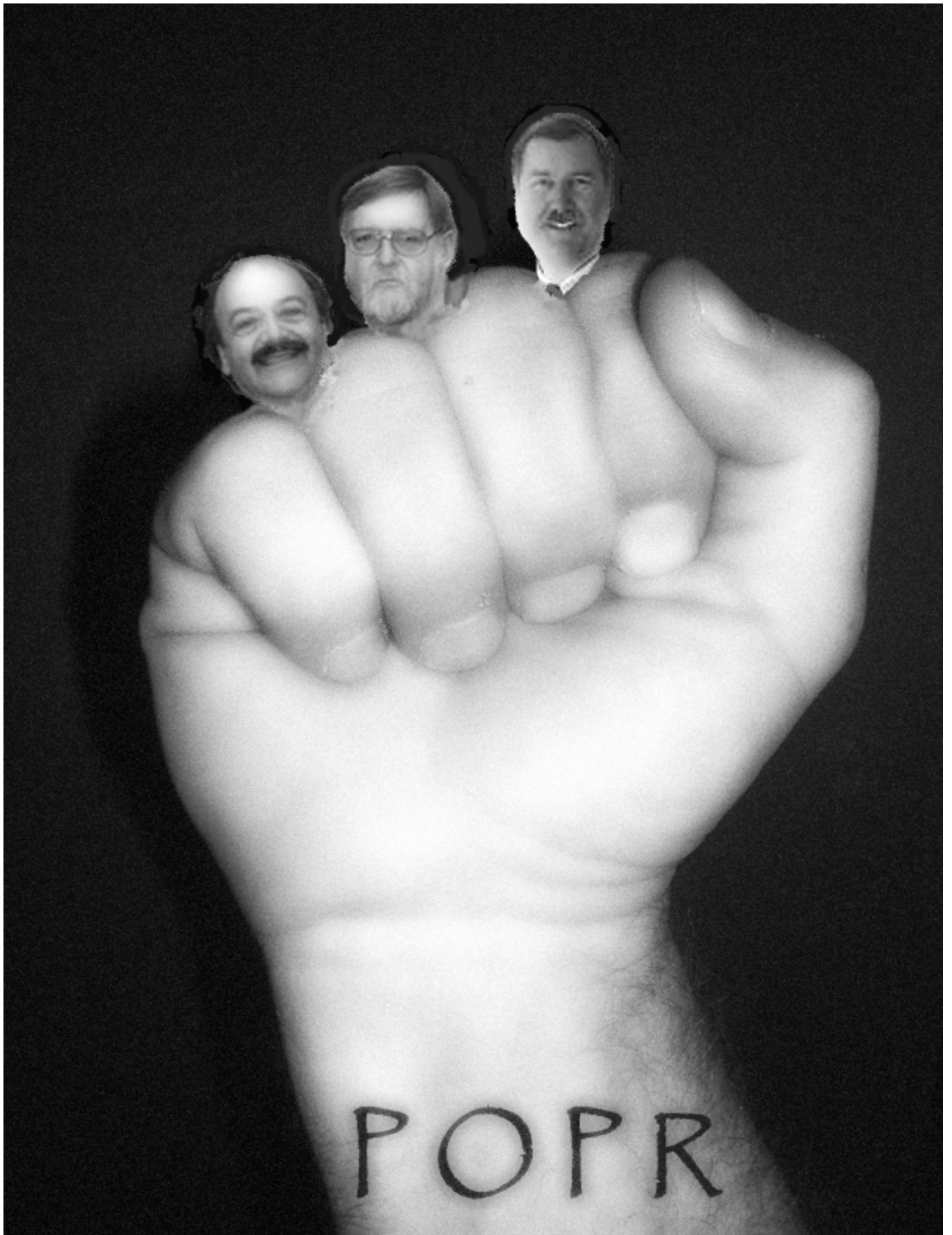
The County could probably sell tickets to the November 27 meeting of the Board of Supervisors.

TAKE ACTION

Be at the Board of Supervisors meeting to support the Planning Commission's Cayucos Viewshed Ordinance and stand up for responsible land use planning:

Tuesday, November 27
County Government Center
1055 Monterey Street, San Luis Obispo.

Check schedule for time:
www.slocounty.ca.gov/bos/calendar.htm



HopeDance Building an awakened community. For schedule, trailers, info, and reviews of films at SLO Library, go to www.hopedance.org

Coastal Commission (Slightly) Opens Pecho Coast Trail

When the California Coastal Commission approved the permit for PG&E's nuclear waste storage facility at the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant two years ago, the commission added a condition to "expand public access" at the south end of the Diablo Canyon property—along the Pecho Coast Trail and to the Port San Luis Lighthouse. (It also required PG&E to open up access at the north end at Montana de Oro, which finally happened on July 13).

As a condition of another Diablo Canyon development permit, PG&E has been operating a docent-led program along the Pecho Coast Trail, leading hikes to the lighthouse once or twice a month. Hikes were limited to 20 people, you had to sign up in advance, and PG&E sent all your personal info to the Department of Homeland Security. As virtually nobody knew how to sign up for them, the hikes frequently were not full, were cancelled at the drop of a hat, and almost never went the full length of the trail — about 5 miles to Rattlesnake Canyon.

For the past 2 years, Coastal Commission staff has been arm-wrestling with PG&E about what it means to "expand" public access along the Pecho Coast

Trail. The Commission and the San Luis Lighthouse Keepers' Pecho Coast Trail Committee want the trail open to the public, seven days a week, without the docent-led requirement.

They're getting there.

While it is quite possible to have lived in this county for years, be very involved in coastal issues and have never heard about how to sign up for a hike on the

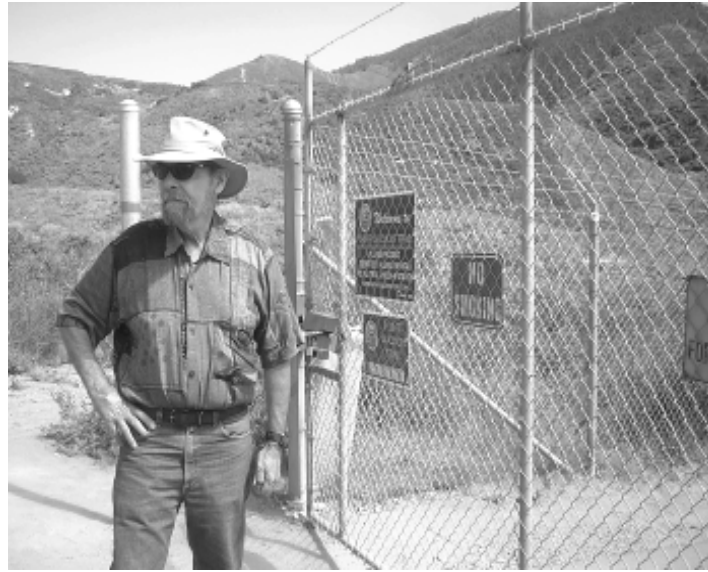
Pecho Coast Trail, that is no longer the case. As of November 3, the hikes have doubled in frequency and no reservation is required. They are still docent-led, but it's first come, first served every Saturday morning at 9 a.m. Meet at the Fisherman's Memorial in Avila (the site of the dolphin fountain).

Open (non-docent), seven-days-a-week access is still under discussion.

That discussion intensified last July, when the Coastal Commission met in San Luis Obispo and the Sierra Club testified along with some two dozen local residents, who walked up to the microphone at the SLO Embassy Suites to tell the Coastal Commission — and the perpetually reluctant San Luis Harbor District — what they want.

The trail and the lighthouse are coastal resources of statewide, national and international significance, and it is unacceptable for PG&E and the Harbor District to keep the public from fully enjoying them. Concerns about security are misplaced. Even at the far end of the trail (Rattlesnake Canyon), people are still miles away from the reactor. Compare this to San Onofre, where people walk right by the power plant, on the *public* beach directly below the facility, and live less than 2 miles away.

The Harbor District has an obligation to the public to support full use of this property. PG&E has an obligation to make sure the District has the financial capability to do so. The Lighthouse Keepers have proven their commitment to the facility and should be fully supported in their role as managers of the facility in the future.



Coastal watchdog: California Coastal Commission Executive Director Peter Douglas patiently waits for access at the north end of the Pecho Coast trail.

Get informed and stay that way! Ask to be put on the Santa Lucia Chapter's e-alert list.

Send request to: sierraclub8@gmail.com

Roundtable

continued from page 1

Sanctuary's current project to assess ocean water quality, the Synthesis, Analysis and Measurement (SAM) Project. For the next six months, the CORRT Project and the SAM Project will integrate stakeholder review and input to SAM's water quality assessment.

CORRT will target participation from among staff or representatives of local and regional resource agencies, local nonprofit conservation organizations, community-based groups, business and professional groups, agricultural communities, coastal fishing communities, academic institutions, and local government. CORRT will support development of a new regional perspective that will build an understanding of the broader context in which land-based planning and management policy directly links with coastal and ocean resource management goals.

CORRT participants will contribute to a preliminary inventory of programs and resources for marine protection at the county level, identify priority regional problems for future action, and lay the groundwork for future collaboration and public/private partnerships. Recommendations for local implementation will include identifying priority projects, funding needs and local-level policy direction. CORRT participants will be linked in with future action coordinated by PCLF and by the MBNMS to continue action for successful implementation of the Marine Life Protection Act Initiative.

The CORRT will also assist in realizing several of the main objectives of the Ocean Protection Council's Five-Year Strategic Plan related to governance, ocean and coastal water quality, physical processes, habitat structure, education and outreach.

True Cost

continued from page 3

tation or even bicycles. It now seems that we should often forego the chicken, too.

Despite the assurance of Big Agribusiness that our food is the most affordable in history, the Sierra Club's True Cost of Food campaign exposes the hidden costs to our planet of our meat-rich, pesticide-laden, and transportation-heavy diet.

At the end of 2006, the United Nations released the report "Livestock's Long Shadow: Environmental Issues and Options." This report on the environment and livestock (beef cattle, dairy cattle, chickens, pigs, and other animals domesticated for food uses) had a stunning conclusion: "The livestock sector emerges as one of the top two or three most significant contributors to the most serious environmental problems, at every scale from local to global." It turns out that raising animals for food is a primary cause of land degradation, air pollution, water shortage, water pollution, loss of biodiversity, and not least of all, global warming.

The following are findings from the UN Report:

Livestock

-- Produces 65 percent of human-related nitrous oxide, which has 296 times the Global Warming Potential (GWP) of CO₂, accounts for 37 percent of all human-induced methane (which is 23 times as potent as CO₂), and generates 64 percent of the ammonia, which contributes to acid rain and acidification of ecosystems.

Diversity Damage

Livestock's very presence in vast tracts of land and its demand for feed crops also contribute to loss of other plants and animals; livestock is identified as a culprit in 15 out of 24 ecosystems that are assessed as in decline. The loss of species is estimated to be running 50 to 500 times higher than background rates found in the fossil record.

Air Damage

Animal agriculture is responsible for 18 percent of the world's greenhouse gas emissions as measured in CO₂ equivalents. By comparison, all transportation emits 13.5% of the CO₂. In addition to CO₂, environmentally toxic

gases produced by livestock include nitrous oxide, methane, and ammonia generated from the animals' intestinal belching, flatus, and manure. The report says "The impact is so severe that it needs to be addressed with urgency."

Water Damage

The livestock business is among the most critical users of the earth's increasingly scarce water resources; in addition, contributing to water pollution, excessive growth of organisms, depletion of oxygen, and the degeneration of coral reefs, among other things. The major water-polluting agents are animal wastes, antibiotics, hormones, chemicals from tanneries, fertilizers, and the pesticides used to spray feed crops.

In the United States, livestock is responsible for 55 percent of the erosion and sediment, 37 percent of the pesticide use, 50 percent of the antibiotic use, and a third of the load of nitrogen and phosphorus afflicting freshwater sources.

Widespread overgrazing disturbs water cycles, reducing replenishment of above and below ground water resources. Significant amounts of water are withdrawn for the production of feed.

Land Damage

The total area occupied by grazing livestock is equivalent to 26 percent of the ice-free terrestrial surface of the planet. In addition, the total area dedicated to producing feed crops for these animals amounts to 33 percent of the total arable land.

Clearing forests to create new pastures is a major source of deforestation, especially in Latin America where, for example, some 70 percent of former rainforests in the Amazon have been turned over to grazing. The forests are the major "sinks" for removing the greenhouse gases from the atmosphere they are the "lungs of the Earth."

What You Eat

The journal *Earth Interactions* published a study on diet, energy and global warming by Pamela Martin and Gidon Eshel, Assistant Professors in Geophysical Sciences at the University of Chicago. In their study, Eshel and

Martin compared the energy consumption and greenhouse-gas emissions that underlie five diets: average American, red meat, fish, poultry and vegetarian all equaling 3,774 calories per day.

The vegetarian diet turned out to be the most energy-efficient, followed by poultry and the average American diet. Fish and red meat virtually tied as the least efficient. The scientists concluded that the food people eat is just as important as what kind of cars they drive when it comes to creating the greenhouse-gas emissions that many scientists have linked to global warming.

The average American drives 8,322 miles by car annually, emitting 1.9 to 4.7 tons of carbon dioxide, depending on the vehicle model and fuel average of 3,774 calories of food each day.

In 2002, energy used for food production accounted for 17 percent of all fossil fuel use in the United States. And the burning of these fossil fuels emitted three-quarters of a ton of carbon dioxide per person.

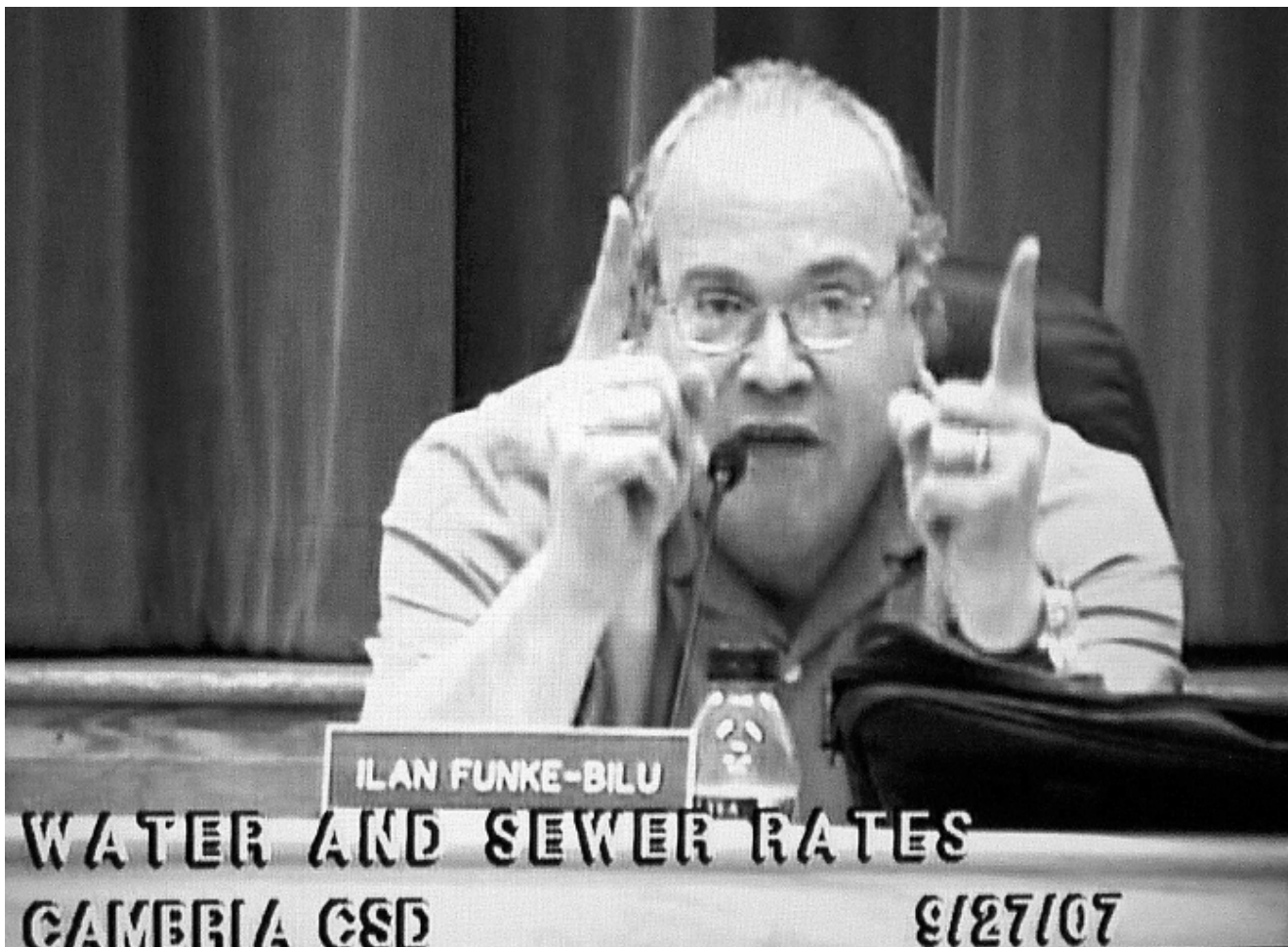
That alone amounts to approximately one-third the average greenhouse-gas emissions of personal transportation. But livestock production and associated animal waste also emit greenhouse gases not associated with fossil-fuel combustion, primarily methane and nitrous oxide. A single pound of methane has the same greenhouse effect as approximately 50 pounds of carbon dioxide.

"We neither make a value judgment nor do we make a categorical statement," said Eshel. "We say that however close you can be to a vegan diet and further from the mean American diet, the better you are for the planet. It doesn't have to be all the way to the extreme end of vegan. If you simply cut down from two burgers a week to one, you've already made a substantial difference."

Individual Choices

Three times a day, we can help the planet by shifting our choices toward food that is :

- ◆ *plant-based,*
- ◆ *organic,*
- ◆ *locally grown.*



“There’s a, there’s a bunch of schmucks who, who are, who have made life so difficult for us, when we’re trying to just protect our citizens. What he’s talking about is, what, literally almost a year, we’re trying to protect our community; the Coastal Commission, it came down to, what, five feet? For five feet, we spent \$400,000 of our money to placate these schmucks who felt that, that we were somehow violating some sort of, of, natural habitat, and therefore you’ve got delay, delay, delay. Thank God we didn’t have a fire, okay? So it’s pure luck.”

- Ilan Funke-Bilu, Director, Cambria Community Services District, Sept. 27, 2007

“A Bunch of Schmucks”

An evening with the Cambria Community Services District

At the September 27 meeting of the Cambria Community Services District, board member Ilan Funke-Bilu, trying to explain the actions and expenditures of the board to angry residents, called the California Coastal Commission “a bunch of schmucks.”

Funke-Bilu’s statement – which he repeated – was made at a moment when the Cambria CSD has a request before the Coastal Commission for reconsideration of the Commission’s denial of the CCSD’s permit to drill desalination test wells in San Simeon State Beach. The Coastal Commission allows reconsideration requests to be made by applicants when an application for a Coastal Development Permit has been denied but the applicant believes the Commission made its decision in error, due to a major error of fact or law or in the absence of information that was not available at the time of the hearing.

As the Commission’s rulings on permit applications are final, the standards for reconsideration are strict and the Commission rarely grants such requests. Funke-Bilu’s public characterization of the Commission therefore might be thought an odd thing to call an agency that you are basically asking to do you a large favor.

At the September 27 meeting, the board was trying to defend itself against furious rate-payers who had some things to say about the CCSD’s proposed sharp increases in water and sewer rates, and sharp questions to ask about the way the CCSD has been spending their money. The matter of what the CCSD spent on its fight with the Coastal Commission and local coastal advocates over the replacement of water tanks on Pine Knolls came up. Board President Greg Sanders said that the Coastal Commission “cost us \$400,000” on the water tanks. (This extremely conservative estimate, he did not add, was due to the CCSD’s hiring an eminent domain law firm to bust a conservation easement.)

Then Funke-Bilu chimed in with the extraordinary diatribe transcribed above. Sanders and Funke-Bilu were perpetuating the myth that the Coastal Commission is to blame for the CCSD’s

financial woes. But it was the CCSD that decided to sue the Commission over the tanks, not the other way around. The CCSD not only lost the suit, they lost every single legal motion. They ended up building the tanks to the design specs worked out by the Commission. Every dollar they spent on that effort was ratepayers’ money wasted on a pointless, losing lawsuit that never should have been filed (See “Cambria’s Lesson,” October *Santa Lucian*). Had they succeeded, the CCSD would have set a statewide precedent for the destruction of environmentally sensitive habitat, opening it up to development throughout the coastal zone.

Cambrians might well ask: How could this happen with two attorneys on the CCSD Board, one of them specializing in land use and the environmental regulatory process?

They might ask, but they would likely get an answer like this one, in another deathless Funke-Bilu exchange from the September 27 meeting:

Resident’s question: “Are we paying \$25,000 a month for a lobbyists?”

Funke-Bilu: “No. That figure is not correct.”

Like a good lawyer -- but a bad CSD board director -- he did not go on to explain that the CCSD is in fact paying *three* lobbyists. Dave Neish receives \$10,000 a month for lobbying the Coastal Commission. The CCSD’s Sacramento and D.C. lobbyists are not likely to be receiving substantially less. Mr. Funke-Bilu was content to duck the question.

TAKE ACTION

Cambrians, share the Funke magic at: www.youtube.com:80/watch?v=qo47Uky3JNY

Then consider that there is no reason why Cambria can’t field 3 intelligent, competent candidates to take back control of their CSD Board next year. Talk to your neighbors.

Environmental Council Joins MBNMS Expansion Effort

Cal Poly’s Environmental Council has joined with Sierra Club, the SLO Coast Alliance and the SLO Chamber of Commerce in the effort to expand the southern boundary of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary to include the waters of San Luis Obispo County.

Environmental Council, one of twelve Student Community Services groups that serve the community and Cal Poly, promotes awareness about the natural environment and the issues surrounding it.



Fair Trade Packs Steynberg Gallery

More than fifty people came to the Steynberg Gallery in SLO on September 22 for the free local premiere of *Maquilapolis: City of Factories*, co-hosted by the Sierra Club, SLO Fair Trade Coalition and HopeDance.

It was one of a series of screenings sponsored nationwide by the Sierra Club in August and September, the story of a group of women workers in Tijuana’s maquiladoras who took their fate in their hands and changed their lives for the better, despite the spirit-crushing reality of “free trade.”

“NAFTA and the WTO were designed to benefit the fortunate and to afflict the desperate,” says Sierra Club Executive Director Carl Pope, “and that is still the course that U.S. trade policy is following.”

Let’s change that. To get involved, go to www.sierraclub.org/trade and contact slofairtradecoalition@gmail.com



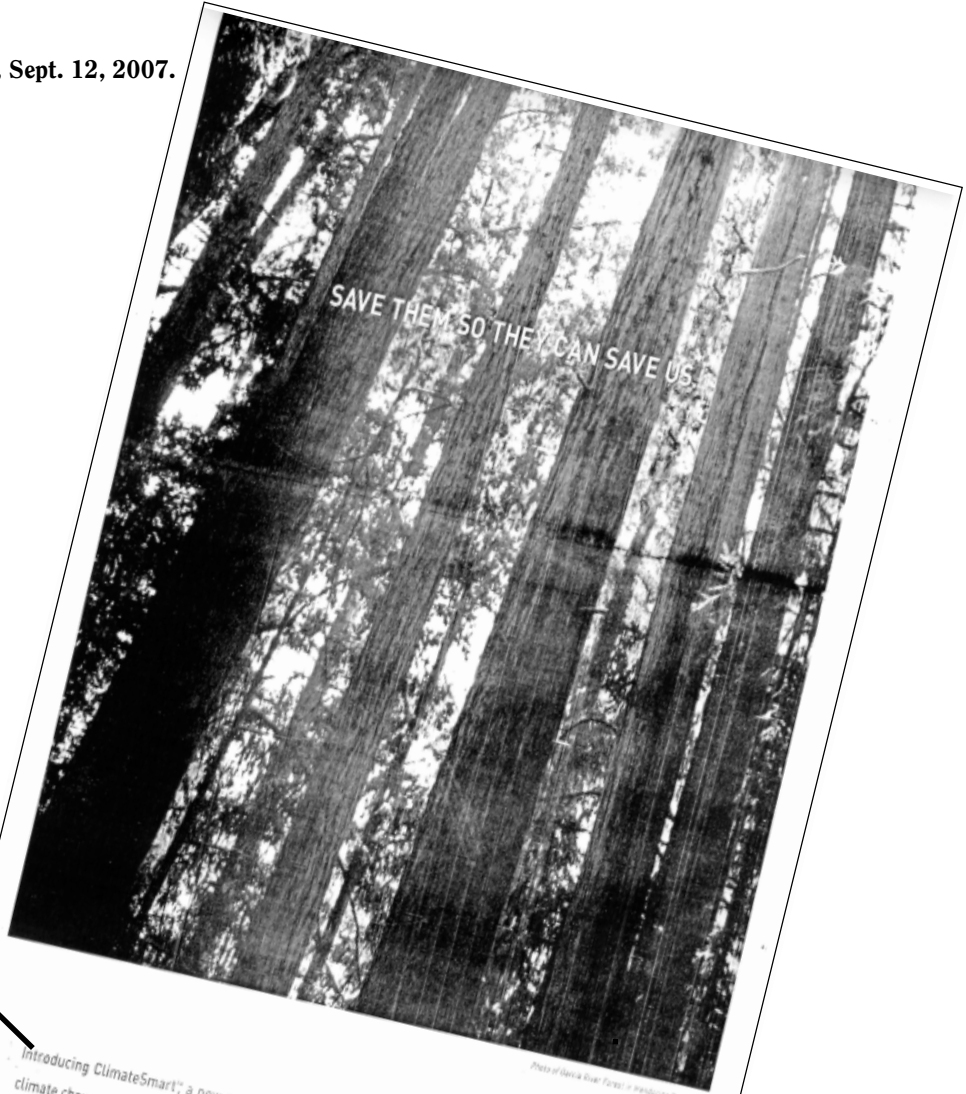
SRO: More than fifty people turned out for the local premiere of *Maquilapolis* at SLO’s Steynberg Gallery.

Taking Issue

problematic environmental coverage & commentary in our local media

“Save Them So They Can Save Us,” PG&E full-page ad, *The Tribune*, Sept. 12, 2007.

Summary: PG&E invites you to participate in their “Climate Smart” program, paying to plant trees in order to offset greenhouse gas emissions. (All rebuttals are from “ClimateSmart or ClimateCopOut,” at www.letsgreenwashthiscity.org)



This program has nothing to do with PG&E making an effort to reduce emissions from its electricity. PG&E is responsible for 18 million tons of carbon emissions each year. Unlike most businesses, PG&E can actually reduce emissions from electric power generation all over the state by choosing to sell clean renewable energy. ClimateSmart does not make PG&E's power any cleaner.

Introducing ClimateSmart™, a new program created to help each of us fight climate change.

Introducing ClimateSmart™, a new program created to help each of us fight climate change. It's a program that together gives us the opportunity to invest in greenhouse gas reduction projects in California, like the conservation and restoration of forests. Through ClimateSmart and its projects, we can all make our own personal energy use climate neutral.

PG&E Climate Smart

TO TAKE ACTION OR LEARN MORE, VISIT PGE.COM/CLIMATESMART

PG&E is using the least sound form of offset. Tree planting, or forest-management, fails to improve our energy system and it's a type of offset not allowed under the Kyoto Treaty. Offsets should only be used to address the remaining energy after all other efforts have been made to reduce demand and use renewable energy.

It's a program that together gives us the opportunity to invest in greenhouse gas reduction projects in California, like the conservation and restoration of forests.

Through ClimateSmart and its projects, we can all make our own personal energy use climate neutral.

PG&E's corporate social responsibility report admits its plan is "to enroll approximately 4 to 5 percent of eligible customers into the program by the end of its third year." PG&E's own commitment to ClimateSmart is merely to pay to plant trees to offset the impact of its office buildings, not the impact of the power generators it owns.

Ah, the fine print at the bottom of the page. ClimateSmart is about PG&E allowing you, the customer, to pay more money each month to offset their company's emissions. PG&E is launching a \$17 million p.r. campaign to advertise "ClimateSmart." And it is charging it all to you by raising your monthly bill. Every time you see an ad from PG&E promoting this greenwashing, you can be proud to know that state regulators allowed them to pass the buck to you.

The ClimateSmart program is being funded by PG&E customers in accordance with the California Public Utilities Commission.

Upshot: "ClimateSmart" doesn't commit PG&E to provide any green energy. PG&E says it "may enter into GHG emission reduction contracts where the reductions occur over time into the future." Counting future reductions today is like telling the bank to count all the mortgage payments you plan to make for the next 10 years and asking them to consider your debt paid off now.

Classifieds

Next issue deadline is **December 9**.
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
sierraclub8@gmail.com



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Eco Slo Order from www.ecoslo.org or 544-1777

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

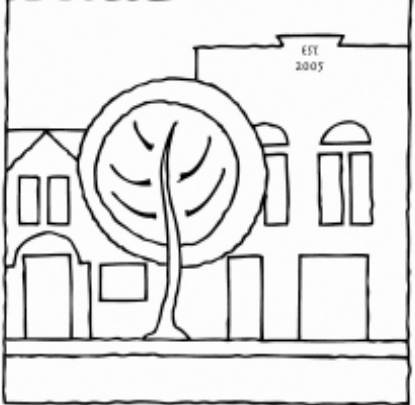
SLO County Board of Supervisors-- every Tues.; 781-5450

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.

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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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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.

Saturday, November 3rd, 8:00 am, Trail Werks— Montana de Oro. Come help California State Parks and the CCCMB. Maintain trails in Montana de Oro State Park. 100 hikers, equestrians and mountain bikers expected; count on the usual great food and gift certificate raffle. Work on the Ridge Trail Reroute. 8:00 – 8:30 - Sign-in, breakfast stuff, trail snacks
8:30 – 8:45 - Safety talk, general announcements
8:45 – 9:00 - Organize into crews and get tools
9:00 – 1:00 - Head up the trail to our work locations and work till 1:00
1:30 – 2:30 - Eat at 1:30, raffle

Long sleeve shirt, long pants, sturdy shoes, gloves, hat and a water bottle highly recommended. Meet at Camp Keep across from Hazard Canyon Parking lot, MDO SP.

Saturday, November 10th, 8 a.m. Tentative - Big Sur Coastal Traverse. Take a 9-mile hike from the Cruikshank Trailhead to via Buckeye Camp the return via the Soda Springs Trailhead. There is a possibility of poison oak and ticks. Bring plenty of water, lunch, snacks, and dress for the weather. Meet at the Washburn day use area just north of Cambria on Highway 1. There is an optional refueling stop at Main Street Grill in Cambria after the hike. For info, call Gary @ 473-3694. Rain or threat of rain cancels.

Sunday, November 18, birding on Oso Flaco. A stopover on the birding flyway.

We expect to find American bitterns, ruddy ducks, ring-neck ducks, white pelicans, Virginia rails, sora rails, and raccoons. NOTE: There is a parking fee of \$5.00 per car and a portage from the parking area to the lake. We will help you portage your boats. Please allow an extra half hour for the portage. Bring your boat and equipment, PFDs, binoculars and your picnic lunch that you can eat in your boat. Launch Oso Flaco causeway. Put in 10:00 a.m. For details, call Joe Dickerson 693-9534.

Thanksgiving Day Hike, Thursday, November 22, 10a.m.-12p.m., Black Lake Canyon, Nipomo/Arroyo Grande. Bring family and friends to start this special day with a mildly strenuous trail hike, through dunes scrub and sand. You'll be treated to a behind-the-scenes tour of a special Land Conservancy restoration site and to a relaxed hike around Black Lake. Bring water, wear comfortable shoes, layered clothing and



sun protection (hat & sunscreen). Binoculars and camera are also welcomed. This event is rain or shine. Event meeting place is located on private property at intersection of Hwy 1 at Randy Lane. View location map. Carpooling is encouraged. Follow signs for parking. For more information call 544-9096. Sponsored by the Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County.

Sat., Dec 1, 9:00 a.m. Cerro Alto Trail-Long Hike. Join the leader on this moderate 7.1 mile loop hike. There will be about 1700 ft of elevation gain. We will meet at the Cerro Alto campground where the trail begins. The road to the campground is 8 miles east of Morro Bay on Highway 41. We will ascend to Cerro Alto summit and return by way of the eucalyptus grove and the old Boy Scout trail. From the summit there are great views of the Morros, Estero Bay,

and the Chorro. Valley. There is a possibility of ticks and poison oak. This is an Adventure Pass area. You may purchase a \$5.00 day pass at the campground if you do not have a pass. Bring snacks or lunch, water, and dress for the weather. There may be an optional refueling stop in Morro Bay after the hike. For info, call Chuck at 441-7597. (3C)

Saturday, December 8th, 9:00 a.m., Grey Pine Trail - Santa Margarita Lake Work Party. Come help the County of San Luis Obispo Parks Dept. and CCCMB maintain the Grey Pine Trail at Santa Margarita Lake. Meet at the Park Entrance Station at 9 a.m.

Saturday, December 8, Santa Margarita Lake day trip. Our goal for this outing is to enjoy a leisurely paddle on Santa Margarita Lake. We will all eat lunch at the remote campsite, and then paddle to the end of the lake and back to our cars. Bring your boat and equip-

ment, PFDs, food and water. Contact Joe Dickerson at 693-9534 regarding park fees and details.

Dec 8-9 Sat-Sun Santa Lucia Chapter/ CNRCC Desert Com: O: Antelope Protection Carcamp (Nature Study/ Work Party). With little rainfall and few water sources, the species that live here on the Carrizo Plain are both hardy and endangered. Particularly beautiful are the pronghorn antelope which evolved in these wild, open spaces. Then cattle ranching left a legacy of endless fences - which are deadly to the pronghorn. We've been removing barbed wire for several years and one section is just about gone. Join us in this remote area to remove this last challenging chunk. Camp at Selby campground, bring food, water, heavy leather work gloves, and camping gear for the weekend. We particularly need some way to transport

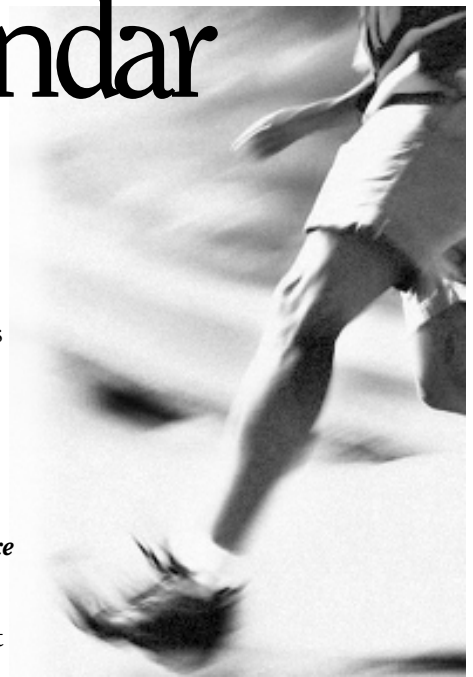


Photo by Joaquin Palting

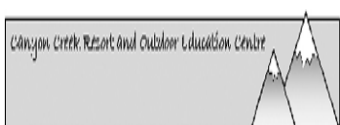
T-poles and rolls of wire to the road. Suggestions welcome. Potluck Sat night. Rain cancels. Resource specialist: Alice Koch. For more information, contact Leaders: Cal and Letty French, 14140 Chimney Rock Road, Paso Robles, CA 93446, (805-239-7338). Prefer e-mail lmfrench@tcsn.net

Sat.-Thurs., Dec. 29, 2007 - Jan. 3, 2008, Holiday Service in Carrizo Plain National Monument.

Celebrate the end of one year and the beginning of the next in one of our new national monuments. The Carrizo Plain, west of Bakersfield, is vast grassland, home to pronghorn antelope, tule elk, kit fox, and a wide variety of birds. A welcome hike Dec. 29, three and a half days of service modifying barbed wire fencing, and a full day for hiking and exploring are planned. Use of accommodations at Goodwin Ranch included. Limited to 12 participants, \$25 covers five dinners. For more information,

contact leader: Craig Deutsche, deutsche@earthlink.net, (310-477-6670), or co-leader leader Melinda Goodwater, MGoodwa651@aol.com, (408-774-1257). CNRCC Desert Committee

Sunday, January 6th, 9:00 am, Morning Glory Trail – Los Padres National Forest Work Party. Come help the CCCMB maintain one of the newer trails on West Cuesta Ridge. Meet at the SLO Vets Hall or at the Top of the Grade.



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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.