



# 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

March 2011  
Volume 48 No. 3

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### The Billionaire Brothers Who Make Us Sick



By Michael Brune  
Executive Director,  
Sierra Club

Over the weekend of January 29 in Palm Springs, two billionaire brothers held a private, closed-door meeting of elite and powerful supporters of the oil industry.

You can bet that along with conga lines and Jello shooters, the agenda at Charles and David Koch's little bash included doing everything possible to ensure that nothing gets done that might result in clean energy, green jobs, or a healthy environment.

If you've heard of the Koch brothers, it's probably because of an article that Jane Mayer wrote about them for *The New Yorker* last year. As a rule, the Kochs prefer to keep a low profile and let their money do the talking — and their combined wealth of an estimated \$30 billion from Koch Industries has a very loud voice. When you spend more each year than ExxonMobil to fund climate-opposition groups and obstruct environmental policy, your money is shouting like a street-corner evangelist. In the case of the Koch brothers, the false gospel is spread by think tanks, foundations, and (unfortunately) many of the new faces in Congress — elected with a lot of help from the Kochs.

I don't know a word that means the exact opposite of "environmentalist" — but then we didn't really need one until the Kochs came along. Greenpeace put out a shocking report focused on how Koch Industries and its owners fund the climate change-denial machine, but it also gives some insight into why the Kochs are also going after all environmental safeguards as well as the Environmental Protection Agency.

Koch Industries has a long history of multi-million dollar fines from the



### Judge Awards Sierra Club Legal Fees in Oceano Dunes Case

Club successfully defended Local Coastal Plan in off-road lawsuit

Superior Court Judge Charles Crandall has ruled that the Sierra Club is entitled to recover legal fees incurred by the Club in the course of successfully challenging the California Department of Parks and Recreation on land use policy governing the operation of off-road vehicles at Oceano Dunes.

In the 2009 case, the State Parks joined with the off-roader group Friends of Oceano Dunes when the group sued the County of San Luis Obispo in an attempt to nullify the provisions of the Local Coastal Plan (LCP) that bar off-road vehicles from a parcel of County-owned land in the Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area (ODSVRA).

State Parks argued that the LCP did not apply to the operation of the ODSVRA because the park's development plan "preempts" the LCP. State Parks and the Friends of Oceano Dunes intended to clear the way for sale of the parcel to State Parks, which the agency currently leases from the County under a management agreement. The County had determined that sale of the land to State Parks for continued off-road vehicle use would violate the LCP as incorporated into the County's General Plan.

The Sierra Club intervened to argue that the LCP was not preempted, and that the non-conformity with the General Plan created by the clash of the LCP and State Parks' policy on the County's land could not simply be swept away at the behest of State Parks and off-roaders.

As it became clear that they would lose the "preemption" argument, State Parks and the off-roaders asked the court to dismiss their lawsuit. At the Sierra Club's insistence, the case was dismissed "with prejudice," meaning the authority of the Local Coastal Plan as applied to the ODSVRA and the determination that the sale of the parcel to State Parks would not conform with the County's General Plan are now beyond legal challenge.

On February 15, Judge Crandall ordered State Parks to reimburse the Sierra Club for its legal fees

because the Court recognized that the Sierra Club's involvement in the case conferred a significant public benefit. "Together with the County and the Coastal Commission," he wrote, "the Sierra Club succeeded in obtaining the equivalent of dismissal, which bars the Department of Parks from raising the preemption argument in subsequent litigation and/or challenging the applicability of the General Plan and LCP to the SVRA. Ensuring the continued viability of the General Plan and LCP in this context enforces an important public right and confers a significant benefit upon the general public.... Given the quality of its representation and contribution to the litigation, the Sierra Club is entitled to attorneys' fees."

The ruling concluded that "The practical result of this case... is that a State agency, entrusted with regulating off-road vehicles on an environmentally sensitive tract of State Park land, will need to comply with the dictates of the County General Plan and LCP going forward into the future."

"By intervening, we stopped a horrible precedent from being set," said Sierra Club attorney Babak Naficy. "If the court had accepted the argument that our Local Coastal Plan did not apply to the Oceano Dunes, the Department of Parks could have simply decided to ignore every provision in the LCP implementing the California Coastal Act and protecting coastal resources."

"This is what public interest litigation achieves," said Melody DeMeritt, Chair of the Sierra Club's Santa Lucia Chapter. "Slowly but surely, we are approaching justice for the Oceano Dunes. We will continue until we've insured that our land use planning documents mean what they say and we have won a significant relief from the motorized onslaught that has plagued this fragile ecosystem for decades."

The Sierra Club is appealing a court ruling in a related lawsuit that found no immediate obligation on the part of State Parks to actually implement the 26-year-old provision of the Local Coastal Plan designating the County's La Grande Tract a buffer from the off-road riding area in the ODSVRA.

**DON'T MISS**

**March 30:**

**The Trees of California**

with  
**Dr. Matt Ritter**

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BILLIONAIRES continued on page 4

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Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

## General Meeting Wednesday, March 30, 7 p.m.

### A Californian's Guide to the Trees

with  
**Dr. Matt Ritter**

Come out for the public debut of Dr. Matt Ritter's new book! The justly famed Cal Poly professor of botany gives a slide program about our state's 150 commonly grown trees. Native or cultivated, they all have a story to tell. Be the first to see his Guide, rich in photographs, in advance of its official publication date in April. Come early to assure seating.



Steynberg Gallery, 1531 Monterey St., SLO. Info: Joe Morris, 772-1875

## The Water War at Home

It's the reason why Cambria and Nipomo are queuing after the chimerical silver bullet of desalination.

It's the reality that the County was ultimately forced to acknowledge and include in the Los Osos Wastewater Project.

It's the reason why the Board of Supervisors last month certified a Level of Severity III designation on the Paso Robles Basin, portending a significant change of course for future development in North County.

It's the water.

Eric Greening explores the importance of the board's Paso Robles Basin vote in "Way Down Deep" (page 4). An event of similar importance occurred at the other end of the county on January 17, 2008, when, thanks to a lot of organizing effort by South County residents, the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) turned down Pismo Beach's request for annexation to facilitate construction of the Los Robles del Mar housing development, the climax of a ten-year saga (see "A Watershed Win," February 2008, and "Pismo's Water Trap," April 2006). Residents testified that many more parcels over the basin would be developed over the coming years than were contemplated in the Environmental Impact Report, their water use was grossly underestimated, future agricultural uses had not been considered, and the local Meadow Creek wetlands were already being impacted by pumping for existing water needs without the addition of the proposed 312-unit development. LAFCO concluded that the developer and the city could not show that they had a water supply that was adequate, reliable and sustainable.

That ruling was a game-changer for annexation efforts in the county, putting developers on notice that fudged EIR's and "paper water" – the promise of future water supplies that may not come to pass — will no longer cut it.

Then, last month, the Oceano Community Services District drew a line in the sand, at the insistence of hundreds of petition signers and dozens of residents who turned out at a board meeting to tell the District in no uncertain terms not to sell the city's water to developers who are clamoring for a piece of Oceano's "surplus." Residents variously noted that the state of Oceano's groundwater is unknown and looking dubious as test wells go salty, that the community divesting itself of a \$3.6 million asset was a bad idea, and that two years ago Oceano received only 15 percent of its expected state water deliveries.

Harry Goodnight, a veteran of the Los Robles del Mar fight, puts the issue of Oceano's alleged surplus water succinctly: "If you are relying on a water supply that was already cut to 15 percent of your promised allotment once before, how does that meet the definition of 'adequate, reliable and sustainable?'"

Reality may finally be setting in here in the Happiest Place In America (thank you, Oprah), which has also long been the slap-happiest place in the state for developers, who long ago happily convinced local planning departments and

*WATER WARS continued on page 9*

### SANTA LUCIAN

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The Executive Committee meets the third Friday of every month at 2:00 p.m. at the chapter office, located at 974 Santa Rosa St., San Luis Obispo. All members are welcome to attend.

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*Outings, events, and more!*

## In Memoriam: Catherine Oster

For the last five years, every issue of the *Santa Lucian* has been labeled and bagged for delivery to the post office, and then to your mailbox, thanks to the efforts of the remarkable group of SLO seniors known as the Silver Streaks.

The woman who spearheaded that operation was Catherine Oster, who continued to do so through most of last year until her "retirement." She passed away on February 1 at the age of 86.

At the end of every month, next month's issue was delivered to the SLO Senior Center on a Wednesday night by Print Media Coordinator Denny Mynatt, Catherine's team showed up first thing Thursday morning, and, fueled by gratefully provided coffee, doughnuts and fruits, would blaze through some 2,000 newsletters in about an hour.

True to her professional standards, before her going-away party last October, Catherine made sure the Silver Streaks would be able to continue to provide the same high level of volunteer service after she left.

We have lost a great volunteer, but you are holding in your hands a small part of her ongoing legacy and her gift to her community.

# Waves vs. Shore

*The Pismo Beach Shoreline Protection Project – two coastal armoring projects out of a projected six – was scheduled to come before the California Coastal Commission in February to determine if the project, designed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, is consistent with the Coastal Act. San Luis Obispo environmental attorney Babak Naficy submitted comments (here abridged) to the USACE and the City of Pismo Beach on behalf of the Santa Lucia Chapter of the Sierra Club and the San Luis Obispo CoastKeepers. After receiving such comments from several environmental groups, Coastal Commission staff determined they did not have enough information to make a decision and postponed the hearing to March 9.*

The Environmental Assessment/Mitigated Negative Declaration (EA/MND) are inadequate as a matter of law and therefore cannot be relied upon in connection with the approval of the proposed coastal armoring and seawall projects. Because the Project is capable of causing significant direct, indirect and cumulative impacts on the environment, the City and the Corps must prepare an Environmental Impact Statement and Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR). We also note that as proposed, the Project appears to be inconsistent with the policies of the California Coastal Act, including the policy in favor of maintaining and enhancing coastal access and coastal resources.

## Background Information is incomplete and inadequate

The EA/MND describes the alleged “need” for the project in a single paragraph in section 1.3. The text of this paragraph is quoted below in its entirety:

The six sites proposed for protection are suffering severe and accelerating erosion. At each

of the sites, roadways, utilities, and/or parks and in some cases houses are threatened. Bluff protection in the past has consisted of a hodgepodge of emergency measures, such as revetments and seawalls that are unsightly and ineffective. The erosion also makes it difficult and unsafe for the public to access the shoreline. Bluff erosion is an ongoing dynamic process that will continue to impact the Pismo Bluffs. On-going retreat is likely to continue to encroach upon existing structures located above the seacliff, undermine coastal stairways and seawalls, and erode adjacent lands, reducing building setbacks. At these sites, increased erosion eventually will result in the loss of utilities, park space and roads, and the construction of stopgap emergency protective structures. For example, Price Street likely will be damaged by erosion within the next decade, and Highway 101 also is in jeopardy. Protection of the bluff toe is needed to keep the seacliffs

at these sites from additional wave erosion.

The EA/MND is inadequate as a matter of law to the extent that it includes superficial and conclusory information. There is no information from which the public or the public decision-makers can determine the rate of erosion at each of the sites. With respect to Price Street, the EA/MND claims that Price Street will be damaged by erosion within the next decade, but what about the other sites? See discussion of erosion at the St. Andrews site below.

The EA/MND refers to “past” emergency measures that had been employed at each site, but does not describe these measures or explain, even briefly, the extent to which these past measures were effective in addressing concerns about coastal erosion or what impacts these measures had on coastal resources and coastal access. It would be important to know, for example, the

extent to which the same type of “armoring” techniques proposed here had been used at these sites in the past, and to what effect.

Section 1.3 also hints that at least some of the individual projects will protect private property with public funds. This issue has to be clarified and the need for coastal armoring to address private property concerns must be disclosed and discussed. We question the propriety of expending public funds for protection of private property.

We also note repeated references to and reliance on “Moffat and Nichol, 2010,” which appears to be a multi-faceted study relevant to the proposed project. Given the EA/MND’s near complete reliance on this study, an adequate review is impossible unless we are provided with a copy of this study. Accordingly, we ask that you extend the review period and provide us with a copy of this study.

WAVES V. SHORE continued on page 9



Terry Lilley

# Seismic Showdown

## Alliance for Nuclear Responsibility and Sierra Club to get Diablo Canyon license hearing at PUC

On January 28, despite vigorous opposition by PG&E, California Public Utilities Commission administrative law judge Robert Barnett ruled that the utility must make a case for why the PUC should allow funding for PG&E’s application to renew the operating license of the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant prior to completion of a thorough seismic study.

Since PG&E filed for ratepayer funding in January 2010, the Alliance for Nuclear Responsibility and PUC co-intervenors CalPIRG, Sierra Club and Environment California have maintained that new, advanced seismic studies, as recommended by the California Energy Commission, must be completed before any ratepayer money is spent on relicensing the aging nuclear reactors on California’s seismic coastline. Any other action would be premature.

The current licenses for the twin unit reactors expire in 2024 and 2025. Renewal would grant them license to operate for 20 years beyond their rated lifespan.

In his decision, Judge Barnett wrote: “In reviewing the proposed settlement, I am of the opinion that it does not consider [the question] should funding for PG&E’s license

renewal application be resolved before the seismic studies recommended by the CEC are completed?”

Judge Barnett set hearing dates for early this spring.

Had the Alliance et al. not intervened, the CPUC would likely have funded PG&E’s application for license renewal and ignored the California Energy Commission, California Coastal Commission, and the state legislature’s seismic directives (AB 1632).

Economics and reliability of nuclear power operations are the sole jurisdiction of the state – a fact recognized by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and the Supreme Court. The NRC, however, does not require updated seismic studies as a condition of license renewal, and has refused to hold the federal relicensing process in abeyance until the state mandates are fulfilled, in spite of requests by the Alliance.

“Intervention at the state level is the only way to protect ratepayers from the consequences of a seismic miscalculation at Diablo Canyon,” stated Alliance Executive Director Rochelle Becker. “The failures of the NRC, PG&E and the CPUC to investigate earthquake faults in the original licensing of Diablo Canyon 40 years



ago lead to \$4.4 billion in seismic cost overruns passed on to ratepayers. California citizens and businesses could ill afford a costly blunder of that magnitude in today’s economy.”

CPUC oversight of the utility and its aging infrastructure has come under intense scrutiny since the September 2010 PG&E gas pipeline explosion in San Bruno that left eight dead. “The San Bruno disaster was tragic,” commented Alliance outreach consultant David Weisman. “San Bruno plus radiation could be catastrophic. The CPUC needs to join the rest of the state regulators and return PG&E’s application as incomplete until AB 1632 directives are complete and peer-reviewed.”

The judge’s decision can be read at <http://a4nr.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/01/012811-PD-130162.pdf>

The annual election for the Club’s Board of Directors is now underway. Those eligible to vote in the national Sierra Club election will receive in the mail (or by Internet if you chose the electronic delivery option) your national Sierra Club ballot. This will include information on the candidates and where you can find additional information on the Club’s website.

The Sierra Club is a democratically structured organization at all levels. The Club requires the regular flow of views on policy and priorities from its grassroots membership in order to function well. Yearly participation in elections at all Club levels is a major membership obligation. Your Board of Directors is required to stand for election by the membership. This Board sets Club policy and budgets at the national level and works closely with the Executive Director and staff to operate the Club. Voting for candidates who express your views on how the Club should grow and change is both a privilege and responsibility of membership.

Members frequently state that they don’t know the candidates and find it difficult to vote without learning more. You can learn more by visiting the Club’s election website: [www.sierraclub.org/bod/2011election/default.aspx](http://www.sierraclub.org/bod/2011election/default.aspx). This site provides links to additional information about candidates and their views on a variety of issues facing the Club and the environment.

You should use your own judgment by taking several minutes to read the ballot statement of each candidate. Then make your choice and cast your vote. Even if you receive your election materials in the mail, please

ELECTION continued on page 4

## Billionaires

continued from page 1

EPA and Justice Department for everything from oil spills to dumping toxic chemicals. Even the Bush administration fined them for covering up the illegal dumping of 91 tons of carcinogenic benzene—though John Ashcroft got potential fines of \$350 million knocked down to a \$20 million slap on the wrist for falsifying documents.

What makes the Koch Brothers particularly scary, though, is not that they reflexively oppose any change that might hurt their own bottom line. That doesn't make them all that different from Massey Energy or Chevron or lots of other big polluters (Koch Industries was ranked in the top ten of air polluters in the U.S. by a University of Massachusetts study). What's different about the Kochs is that they subscribe to a radical libertarian philosophy that opposes any governmental safeguards to protect people or the environment. It's a grim vision of our country that few Americans would ever subscribe to if they could see it plainly, and yet — thanks to the brothers' enormous wealth — it's had an outsized effect on both our government and our public discourse. It's like a hidden riptide that keeps pulling you out to sea no matter how hard you strike toward the shore.

But what makes riptides most dangerous is that people don't even know what they're fighting against. The Sierra Club has put a spotlight on the Koch brothers' agenda. I encourage you to join our Facebook campaign to help get the word out. Because when people can see their democracy being hijacked, they refuse to tolerate it.

Let me end on a positive note. We've trounced the Koch brothers before. Remember Prop 23, the California initiative to roll back efforts to fight climate change? The Koch brothers were one of the proposition's largest bankrollers, but California voters overwhelmingly rejected their vision. Now it's time for all Americans to stand up to the Koch brothers' dangerous efforts to keep us tied to the dirty energy sources which are making people sick and destroying our nation's economic health.

It's time this billionaire's good old boy's club got out of the way of the innovative new energy sources that are producing jobs and prosperity for the rest of us.



## Election

continued from page 3

go to the user-friendly Internet voting site to save time and postage. If necessary, you will find the ballot is quite straightforward and easy to mark and mail.

The candidates, in the order they will appear on the ballot, are:

Frank Morris (NY)  
Jonathan Ela (WI)  
Larry Fahn (CA)  
Liz Walsh (TX)  
Rob Wilder (CA)  
Jeremy Doochin (TN)  
Aaron Mair (NY)  
Jessica Helm (NY)

# Way Down Deep

When it comes to water, we need to get grounded

by Eric Greening

A paradox of groundwater is that although most of us are utterly dependent on it, we can't see it in its customary abode and have a hard time visualizing it.

Technically, when one enters a cave and sees, by artificial light, water flowing or standing somewhere in the depths, one is having a rare encounter with groundwater in its home. But most groundwater basins do not have such a vantage point. Tightly packed sand, fractured rock, and other constituents of our solid earth occupy most of the space, with water occupying whatever gaps it can find. Usually, there is a level above in which those spaces are, instead, occupied by air; the interface is commonly called the "water table."

In this day and age, it is not uncommon for wells to penetrate the saturated zone and suck until there is a cone-like depression in the "table." As wells proliferate and pump harder, these cones can merge until the "tabletop" itself sags lower and lower.

Odd as it may seem, California water law generally treats this realm as private property. No property lines are physically evident in this dark place, but overlying landowners have a right to pump on their property so long as they put it to "beneficial use" on said property.

The most notable exceptions are basins in which the depletion -- and legal battles over who is responsible and who should be forced to remedy the situation -- is so serious that a court case leads to "adjudication." The Santa Maria Basin, extending into southern San Luis Obispo County, is an example of a basin in adjudication.



With thousands of parties to the litigation, lawyers are making an excellent living from the process.

The Paso Robles Basin, occupying much of the northern interior of our county (and parts of southern Monterey County), is following a different course. The County Supervisors just acted to prevent a trip down the path of litigation by certifying a "Level of Severity III" for most of this basin (excepting the Atascadero Sub-Basin), meaning that they recognize that *current* water use exceeds perennial yield. Different parts of this basin show varying degrees of stress, with the greatest "cone of depression" approaching a 200-foot drop, in an area roughly six miles east of the city of Paso Robles.

In making this certification, the Board of Supervisors took responsibility for overseeing a course of action to bring the basin back into balance. Their first hearing on what this course of action, called a "Groundwater Management Plan," will look like happens on March 22.

This process is not tantamount to

adjudication, and the Supervisors do not have as much power as a judge or watermaster in an adjudicated basin. They can't directly override the rights of overlying landowners. But they can make full use of the land use and health and safety authority they do have.

Specifically, it would be wise for them to prevent the creation of *further* impacts on the basin until or unless its problems are solved.

Two documents currently in process need to reflect this responsibility. The first is the **Shandon Community Plan**, which is already before the County Planning Commission and likely to receive final action at the Board level this summer. The other is the **Land Use and Circulation Element/Rural Area Plan**, currently being written at the staff level. This document needs to create a Planning Area Standard, coterminous with the area certified at Level of Severity III, to prevent the creation of *new* property rights, such as subdivisions and upzonings, that would exacerbate the problems of existing users.

Wherever you live, unless your water comes from a surface source (such as Santa Margarita Lake or the Coastal Branch of the State Water Project), you depend on a resource you will likely never see in its place of origin. Our culture needs to evolve such that, invisible and mysterious as groundwater may be, it becomes second nature to be aware of it, revere it, and protect it.

## Sign Up to Be a Volunteer Health Keeper

Sierra Club is launching a campaign to Stop Polluters' attacks on our health, and we need your help. The goal of our campaign is to collect 100,000 petition signatures across the country and deliver to the White House this massive show of public support for protecting our health safeguards.

We already have over 57,000 signatures, but we're not going to get 100,000 without you.

It's easy — you can ask your family, friends and neighbors to sign. With you and hundreds of other volunteers collecting 30 signatures each, we'll be there in no time. And we'll get you the materials you need, connect you with other volunteers and give you support.

Here's the message we need to deliver:

Dear President Obama:

Pollution from burning oil and coal produces a host of serious, life-threatening health problems for our families and communities, inflicting children with asthma, stifling childhood development and cutting short thousands of lives. Oil and Coal are also destroying our nation's economic health. By tying us to dirty 19th century energy sources and outdated technology, these corporate polluters are putting their profit margins before our economy, safety and health.

Fortunately, the Environmental Protection Agency exists to enforce much needed safeguards to keep polluters from making us sick. In the 40 years since Americans demanded its creation, the EPA has saved millions of lives by enforcing clean air and water standards. More than 1.7 million asthma attacks and \$110 billion in healthcare costs were avoided in 2010 alone thanks to the agency's efforts.

The nation's physical and economic well-being depends on passing and enforcing strong standards to protect people's health. We urge you to stand up for our families' health by supporting strong EPA standards for clean air and water.

Sincerely,

**TAKE ACTION** Go to [action.sierraclub.org/polluter](http://action.sierraclub.org/polluter)



## 29th Annual Salmonid Restoration Conference March 23-26 in San Luis Obispo

The Salmonid Restoration Federation will host the 29th Annual Salmonid Restoration Conference March 23-26, 2011 in San Luis Obispo. The theme of the conference this year is "Restoring Salmonids - Holding the Line on Species Decline."

The Plenary Session will feature Michael Pollock from the Northwest Fisheries Science Center of NOAA Fisheries who will discuss the influence of beaver habitat on coho smolt production and ecosystem function.

Paul Jenkin from Surfrider Foundation and Matilija Coalition will discuss an integrated ecosystem-management approach to restoring the Ventura River.

Tommy William from the Southwest Fisheries Science Center will present on Restoration of Habitat Capacity for Salmon Populations.

Congresswoman Lois Capps is also an invited speaker.

This year the conference will feature workshops on topics including Fish Passage Design & Implementation, Stormwater Pollution Runoff & Water Quality, Invasive Species Management for Salmonids, and Sustainable Water Conservation. Field Tours will include tours of the Morro Bay Watershed from Headwaters to Mouth; a San Luis Obispo and Arroyo Grande Creek Tour; a Sustainable Vineyards and Agricultural Tour; an Instream Structures Tour, and a tour focused on controlling road-related erosion and sediment delivery.

Concurrent sessions include:

- On-the-Ground Salmonid Restoration: Obstacles and Opportunities
- Barrier Identification, Design Criteria, Implementation, and Project Monitoring to Recover Steelhead
- Coho Salmon Recovery Efforts
- Enhancing Instream Flows: Springs, Seeps, and Groundwater Recharge for Salmonids
- Salmonid Strongholds: the Key to our Future
- Climate Change and Salmonids
- Population Status and Trend Monitoring
- The Future for California Chinook Salmon – Fisheries, Restoration, Recovery

*29<sup>th</sup> Annual Salmonid Restoration Conference*

**Restoring Salmonids—  
Holding the Line on Species Decline**

**March 23-26, 2011 in San Luis Obispo**  
Veterans' Memorial Center

2011 Conference Co-sponsors

Alnus Ecological, Balance Hydrologics, Inc., California Department of Fish and Game, California Department of Water Resources, Cachuma Conservation Release Board, Cal Trout, California Conservation Corps, CalTrans, Central Coast Vineyard Team, City of San Luis Obispo, McBain and Trush, Michael Love and Associates, Morro Bay National Estuary Program, NOAA Fisheries, Northern California Council of Federation of Fly-Fishers, Pacific Coast Fish, Wildlife, and Wetlands Restoration Association, Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission, Pacific Watershed Associates, Pacific Gas & Electric, Philip Williams and Associates, Prunuske Chatham Inc., Restoration Design Group, San Lorenzo Valley Water District, Solano County Water Agency, Sonoma County Water Agency, Stillwater Sciences, The Bay Institute, The Nature Conservancy, Trees Foundation, Trout Unlimited, U.S Fish and Wildlife Service, and Winzler and Kelly

For more information, please visit [www.calsalmon.org](http://www.calsalmon.org)

- The Role of Lagoons and Estuaries for Steelhead and Salmon

Other conference events will include a film social and dinner on the

evening of March 24, which will show the STRAW film, short films by Thomas Dunklin and Damolition footage by Matt Stoecker. SRF will host a poster session and reception

on Friday night, and a cabaret and banquet with a Copper River salmon dinner and Latin dance band

For more info about the conference, visit [www.calsalmon.org](http://www.calsalmon.org).

# Not So Smart Growth

We give county supervisors a failing grade on their handling and approval of the Davis-Tucker Templeton properties density project. The General Plan was trampled in the charge to approve a high-density project in the Templeton area.

This is one of those county projects with a long convoluted history – two Planning Commission hearings, three Board of Supervisors hearings and three reviews by TAAG (Templeton Area Advisory Group).

Initially staff felt the project was not dense enough. At the first Board hearing, the Board gave direction to the applicant to redesign the project. The project that the applicant brought back was minimally changed and failed to address any of the General Plan, Title 22 or CEQA violations in the project. The Board heard nearly two hours of public testimony from local residents citing the numerous design and process flaws in the project.

A main issue was the use of Recreation Zoned land with substandard lot sizes from 2,600 – 3,999 square feet for fee simple single family dwellings. Supervisor Gibson quoted chapter and verse in the Framework for Planning and Title 22 to support his position that there are major General Plan inconsistencies with the project – inconsistencies that could be resolved by a project redesign which would preserve the desired density. As designed, the overall project is relatively low density at seven units per acre. A redesign could move the density to the multifamily parcel category at ten units per acre, and preserve the five-plus acres of Recreation zoned land as open space and recreation.

Instead, the applicant's final design, approved by a 4 to 1 vote of the Board of Supervisors, will require filling in the flood plain area of the Rec zoned land with eight to ten feet of fill, lobbying FEMA to change the flood

designation areas, channelizing Toad Creek and building earthen berms on neighboring property to contain the flood waters of Toad creek rather than restoring the creek as required by Templeton Design standards, among other problems.

The Templeton CSD raised objections to the project's proposal to construct these berms on their sewer lift lines, stating they did not want the sewer lines buried any deeper. This issue was never addressed in the hearing and approval process. The unresolved, unmitigated traffic and flooding problems with this project will haunt the community and the county for decades to come.

Another issue was staff calling the project a "Planned Unit Development." During the Planning Commission and Board hearings, staff and County Counsel affirmed the county has no ordinances by that name. This awkward situation notwithstanding, the Board of Supervisors went ahead

and approved it anyway.

These are just a few of the multiple problems with the project, but they go to the issue of whether we proceed with the same old mediocre planning or offer the community high quality smart growth projects – models of excellent planning that offer communities a range of housing, conform to local and state law, and set superior examples of what can be done. We must do better than this project.

Supervisor Gibson made a case for upholding the General Plan, Framework for Planning and area standards that would do Clarence Darrow proud but the other supervisors were unmoved.

Chairman Hill was the most vocal in opposing Supervisor Gibson's position. Hill missed the mark when he framed the discussion as an attack on smart growth, calling Gibson's detailed exposition on the violations

# Green Jobs Conference Report

All future jobs must be green or we have no future

By Andrew Christie  
Sierra Club Responsible Trade Team

Lisa Jackson, Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, strode onto the stage of the main ballroom of the Washington, DC, Marriott Wardman Park and embraced United Steelworkers President Leo Gerard. He presented her with a pair of Everlast boxing gloves — a birthday gift.

The embattled EPA chief hoisted the gloves in the air as the crowd roared, then parked them on either side of the podium and came out swinging, landing a one-two punch on the favorite anti-regulatory talking points of the EPA's Congressional Republican critics.

"When Americans turn on the shower or make a cup of coffee, they want to know the water is safe from industrial pollution," she said. And by the way, "environmental protection results in broad economic stimulus. A huge market — as big as aerospace and pharmaceuticals — awaits the firms that develop clean energy technology."

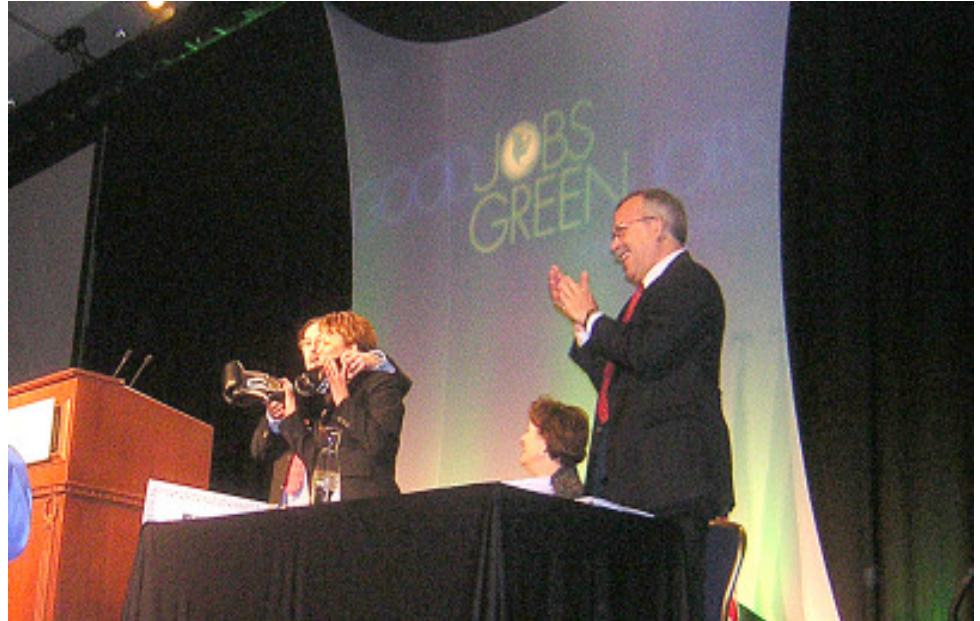
"Regulations level the playing field. Rather than hurting growth, EPA standards create business opportunities. EPA labs are teaming up with

Club and the United Steel Workers in 2006, now a national partnership of four environmental organizations and ten labor unions, representing a membership of more than 14 million people looking to expand the number and quality of jobs in the green economy.

Jackson needed her boxing gloves the following day, when she testified before the House Energy and Commerce Committee on a Republican bill attacking both the EPA and the Clean Air Act, seeking to block the EPA's ability to regulate

green-house gas emissions. Representative Joe Barton of Texas opined that "The EPA and the Obama administration have decided that they want to put the American economy in a straightjacket, costing us millions of jobs and billions of dollars a year."

This stark contrast in perceptions of the role and effect of the EPA represented a central theme of the 2011 conference: Either Barton and his fellow reactionaries are right, or



**Suit up** BlueGreen Alliance Director Dave Foster (right) approves the gift of boxing gloves from United Steel Workers President Leo Gerard (left) to EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson.

stripping workers and the environment of protections. One vision thinks America needs a firing plan. Our vision thinks America needs a hiring plan."

The other main theme of the conference could be summed up as an agreement by the leaders of the U.S. environmental and labor movements

that we either hang together or we hang separately. When Sierra Club and the Steel Workers decided to find common ground in 2006 — formalizing a long-standing informal alliance — they did so in recognition of a truth stated at this year's gathering by Sierra Club National Organizing



**Put your hands together** Marvin Butler of Tennessee leads the Sierra Club delegation in a chorus of "We Can Reverse Global Warming" at the Good Jobs, Green Jobs conference.

Chrysler to develop hybrid vehicles. Public health safeguards under the Clean Air Act are responsible for job creation, as they will encourage investments in labor-intensive upgrades that will put currently unemployed or under-employed Americans back to work."

She was delivering the opening remarks in the opening session of the fourth annual Good Jobs, Green Jobs National Conference, held February 8 and 9, which I attended as part of the Sierra Club's national delegation. The conference is produced by the Blue Green Alliance, formed by the Sierra

Jackson and the Blue Green Alliance are right. Either the EPA's February 2011 whitepaper findings on the effects of the Clean Air Act are correct ("The EPA's implementation of the Clean Air Act is one of the reasons for the dramatic growth of the U.S. environmental technologies industry and its workforce. By 2008, that industry was generating approximately \$300 billion in annual revenues and directly supporting nearly 1.7 million jobs. Air pollution control equipment alone generated revenues of more than \$18 billion in 2007"), or Joe Barton's Republican talking

points represent reality. Both cannot be true. One vision represents the right path, and the other is wrong way to go.

Or as BlueGreen Alliance Executive Director Dave Foster put it when he followed Jackson at the microphone, "One vision of America is intent on

**One myth I'd love to bust is that going green costs more. Companies that don't invest in sustainability are throwing money away.**

**-Kathy Gerwig  
Kaiser Permanente**

## Congressman Denham, Call Your Office

Thursday, February 10, the day after the Good Jobs, Green Jobs conference, was "advocacy day" on Capitol Hill for conference attendees. In the course of visiting with Members of Congress and staff, my group dropped in at the office of freshman Representative Jeff Dehnam (R-Fresno), where we met with the Congressman's aide, Ryan Hanretty. Since his arrival in Congress, Rep. Denham has voted with his party 100 percent of the time.

I mentioned that the GOP's promise to slash funding for the Environmental Protection Agency was a bad idea. Hanretty replied that this was being contemplated as part of across-the-board cuts that would require the same level of belt-tightening at all federal agencies to ensure fairness. I replied that cuts at the EPA were not like cuts to other federal agencies, as the reduction or elimination of EPA programs would mean an increase in polluted air, water, and toxic waste sites awaiting clean up, and that decreased ability to protect public health would mean a corresponding increase in the rates of cancer, asthma, and other diseases caused by environmental factors.

Hanretty countered that the same argument could be made regarding budget cuts at the IRS, because the more funds that agency has, the greater its ability to recover unpaid taxes through enforcement efforts.

T.J. Michaels, a labor organizer with Change to Win, affably inquired if Hanretty thought that the parents of children sickened or killed by polluted air and water as a result of EPA budget cuts might have a problem with a Congressman who considered this to be equivalent to the effects of cutting the budget of the IRS.

Hanretty demurred, saying "We would tell the EPA it needs to cut a certain amount from its budget, and it would be up to them where to make the cuts," hence avoiding cuts to vital programs.

Well, no. The following day, the GOP's attack on the EPA's Clean Air Act authority became official with the rollout of HR 1, House Republicans' 2011 budget proposal. Sierra Club Executive Director Michael Brune commented that "the House bill includes the largest percentage cut to the Environmental Protection Agency's budget in 30 years, an agency whose primary responsibility is to protect the health and safety of Americans. For example, the bill would prevent the EPA from enforcing Clean Water Act protections against oil spills and waste dumping into drinking water sources of more than 117 million Americans." An additional rider would prohibit EPA from carrying out its mandate to regulate greenhouse gas pollution.

"In the weeks ahead," said Brune, "the Senate faces the difficult task of crafting and passing a bill that would continue to fund vital government programs at levels that are responsible and appropriate to ensure the continued protection of American jobs, health, and the environment. Sierra Club is working to ensure that members of Congress support a robust Continuing Resolution, clean of any damaging amendments or riders. We must ensure that this package does not limit EPA's ability to clean up greenhouse gas pollution."

The current funding resolution that is keeping government agencies afloat expires on March 4.



**Check that...** Rep. Denham.

Director Bob Bingaman: “We have to come together and support each other on these big issues. We have the same values and the same enemies. The people who are denying climate change are the same people who are trying to bust the unions.”

“We know vicious attacks will be coming at all of us over the next two years,” said Margarete Strand, Deputy Director of the Blue Green Alliance. “The environmental movement will lose if we just stay the environmental movement. We are very much in favor of growing the labor movement.”

Foster also sought to bridge the frequent disconnect with the corporate sector, pointing to the list of the conference’s corporate sponsors and drawing the parallel to “enlightened management and enlightened citizens brought together in common cause.”

Gerard noted “Opponents used to say you’ve got to choose between clean jobs and a green environment. We say you’ve gotta have both or you’re gonna have neither. We need to create a domestic supply chain and domestic industry. We need a manufacturing plan attached to a greenhouse gas emissions plan. We have an obligation to tell our kids that our generation saw the problem and was courageous enough to say ‘it doesn’t have to be that way.’”

**Why one loves the Sierra Club**

One of the most electrifying moments of the conference came the night before it officially began.

At a meeting of the Sierra Club delegation, Bob Bingaman laid out the Club’s Strategic priorities: 1) confront the prominence of coal and oil, 2) build a movement, and 3) build a powerful alliance with those who have a vested interest in a clean economy. He said that the Club has a strong relationship with nearly every national union, and we had that week succeeded in defeating plans for another new coal plant, bringing our total of coal plant victories to 150.

A soft-spoken factory worker stood up and told the room that he and a colleague had come to Washington from Las Cruces, New Mexico, to meet with EPA chief Jackson after the conference’s opening plenary session. They wanted the EPA to declare their factory a Superfund clean-up site. They said their factory had been doing weapons decommissioning without proper permits or oversight, and the toxic chemicals were leaching into the ground, and into the water table.

“People have died,” he said. “More people are going to die.”

Bingaman stepped back to the microphone. “I grew up in New Mexico,” he said. “After you see Lisa Jackson tomorrow, come talk to me.” Then he surveyed the room, filled

with over a hundred Sierra Club delegates. “Anybody here from New Mexico? Any of the southwest chapters?”

The woman sitting next to me raised her hand. “I’m from Las Cruces,” she said.

“Okay,” said Bingaman, and turning back to the factory workers, said “Thank you for coming. We’ll be happy to help you in your fight.”

As the session ended, the two workers were immediately encircled by Sierra Club activists with questions and advice.

**Tired of losing?**

The two days of conference workshops brought together 795 organizations and 2,500 attendees from 48 states to interact with leaders from labor, environment, government, trade associations and industry.

Sierra Club organizers admitted that not all unions support EPA crackdowns on polluting industries when it’s their industry. Some do, some can’t support it publicly, and others will be lobbying against us on that issue.

“We don’t have to agree on everything,” said Glen Besa, Director of Sierra Club Virginia. “You don’t have to have a perfect fit. The 2010 midterms were a disaster. I’m tired of losing, how about you?”

Foster was candid in surveying the current political landscape and the failed effort to pass climate and energy legislation. “It was like building a prefab house. We put all the pieces together in the House of Representatives in 2009, then went to the Senate and the work crew never showed up.”

Larry Cohen, President of Communications Workers of America, representing workers in industries ranging from broadband to flight attendants, was equally candid in laying out the sobering political reality of America in 2011, where labor unions and environmentalists are hammered by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and their allies, who can now pour as much money as they want into any political race thanks to the Supreme Court’s Citizens United decision.

“We are at an all-time low in collective bargaining agreements for the public sector for the last 50 years – 6.9 percent,” he said. “Among the world’s democracies, only Colombia – where you have a good chance of being shot for being a trade union advocate – has a lower percentage.”

“Green jobs,” he said, “are also jobs where we have rights.”

Jared Bernstein, Vice President Biden’s economic advisor, said “I like the way the BlueGreen Alliance combines climate science, collective



**Let’s face it, not everybody wants sustainability. There are people for whom the quarterly profit statement out-competes sustainability as a priority. There are people who make fabulous amounts of money off the status quo.**

**- Rep. Keith Ellison**

bargaining and green investment.” On the matter of economic recovery, he said “there’s a debate going on about what role government should play in this. It’s a variable role, not static. In a financial calamity, we had to temporarily replace some of the lost demand and prevent a recession from becoming a depression. Afterward, government has an important role to play in fostering innovation. There is a danger of under-investment at this critical moment.”

As if to underscore the point, as the conference was convening President Obama gave a speech to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, pointedly noting that American businesses are sitting on \$2 trillion in cash rather than investing in their workers or reinvesting in America. “I just want to encourage you to get in the game,” Obama said.

Actually, if Congress can avoid shredding the Clean Air Act, there will be no need to ask cash-hoarding corporations nicely to please consider investing their mountain of money back into the society that made them rich. A recent EPA white paper found that updated public health safeguards under the Clean Air Act will encourage investments in labor-intensive upgrades that will put currently unemployed or under-employed Americans back to work.

**A whole lot of good stuff**

While it was impossible to attend all of the conference workshops – more than 60 over two days – your correspondent did his best to dip in for a representative sample of current thinking in the conference’s seven focus areas: Investment and New Markets, Clean Energy Manufacturing, Emerging Green Sectors, Green Infrastructure & Transportation, Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency, State and Local Partnerships and Workforce, Economic Development and Youth Education.

At “Leaving Prop 23 Behind and Forging Ahead

in California: The Fight to Defend California’s Landmark Clean Energy Policies In California,” it was clear that last November’s defeat of Proposition 23, the attempt by oil companies to kill our landmark clean energy/clean air law, had the bonus of creating the Communities United Coalition, which brought together people of color and a lot of big companies in common cause. In the aftermath of that battle, California is moving ahead with aggressive energy-efficiency programs and a new renewable energy goal, as well as clean cars and fuel standards. The panel discussed how the coalition built the successful campaign to defend California’s Global Warming Solutions Act from Prop 23’s attack, how the state’s clean energy economy is moving forward and creating good green jobs, and the importance of the defeat of Prop 23 to other state and federal efforts to address climate change and promote clean energy.

In the run-up to the election, the coalition did polling and found that more than 60 percent of voters who were inclined to vote against Prop. 23 were also inclined to vote for Jerry Brown for governor. The two campaigns joined forces, and the ancillary benefits paid by the joint effort to defeat Prop 23 and elect Governor Brown now include two very good governor’s appointments to the California Public Utilities Commission – Mike Turner and Catherine Sandoval – and a truly inspired appointment to the California Energy Commission, Carla Peterman, a specialist in the economics of renewables.

An energy efficiency panel revealed that efforts to make buildings more energy efficient are failing because owners who want to retrofit their buildings can’t get the financing. Public policy always favors the supply side -- bringing more energy sources on line -- whereas we need to emphasize the financing of energy efficiency. Energy audits tend not to be holistic, plagued by a “silo” mentality (put in fluorescents and new windows; ignore heating ducts) because the people



**After Prop 23** A discussion of the strategies that defeated Proposition 23 was led by (left to right) Sarah Letourneau of the BlueGreen Alliance, Anne Nothoff of the Natural Resources Defense Council, Mike Mielke of Silicon Valley Leadership Group, and the Ella Baker Center’s Green-Collar Jobs Director, Ian Kim.

## Ag discharge order

continued from page 5

who do that kind of work aren't getting paid the money necessary to do it.

Nancy Sutley, Chair of the White House Council on Environmental Quality, affirmed President Obama's goal of 80% clean energy by 2035 and noted "if we saved 20 percent of our energy, we'd save \$200 billion a year." She agreed that successful energy efficiency and retrofitting programs require a skilled workforce and pointed to the \$80 million in green job training in the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

Gene Sperling, Assistant to the President on Economic Policy and Director of the National Economic Council under President Clinton, observed that the Clinton administration "inherited an economy in 1993 that we thought was pretty bad. That pair of 2's now looks like a royal flush compared to the trillion dollar deficit that President Obama inherited, along with the deepest hole in the labor market since the Great Depression.

Sperling said the goal of the

Recovery Act will be 800,000 green jobs. "Green jobs are the nexus where jobs and the jobs of the future come together. We've put \$8 billion into clean energy R&D," he said. "We rewarded communities that invest in electric vehicle infrastructure with competitive grants." And in the President's budget proposal — released the week after the conference — among a host of budget cuts and spending freezes, the White House proposed increasing spending on clean technology. "We're going to have to fight for it," he said. "We'll have to make the case that, even in a tight budget, these investments are absolutely essential."

Sperling's former Clinton administration colleague, John Podesta, now president of the Center for American Progress, moderated a panel with Sutley and Kevin Knobloch, President of the Union of Concerned Scientists. Knobloch commented that the auto industry fought clean air standards when first introduced, then, when required to implement them, bore

down and came up with new technology. Vehicles are now 70% cleaner at the tail pipe.

"Adoption of Renewable Energy Standards by states is followed by companies relocating there," said Knobloch, "and national policy keeps them there. The key is smart, forward-looking public policy. Set the performance standards and let the technologies compete. We will have 80,000 new jobs by 2030 solely due to this administration passing the first-ever standards in fuel economy for light trucks."

Bill Press asked NRDC president Frances Beinecke if the environmental movement can see itself coming out for more nuclear power plants. "No," said Beinecke, "the economics don't pencil out and won't justify a massive build-out of new nuclear plants." But "This year's toughest battle will be defending the Clean Air Act," she said, which is designed to incentivize innovation, which produces jobs. "It is supported by an overwhelming majority of Americans, but Newt Gingrich wants to make it voluntary."

"The 112th Congress will be a challenge but we will meet that challenge and we will prevail," said Beinecke. "I am thrilled by the power in this room, and we will need every ounce of it to win this fight."

### Bring on the smart growth

Mary Broderick of the Denver's Front Range Economic Strategy Center (FRESC) and Bob Shiprack, a former Oregon state senator, presented fascinating case studies on sustainability in Denver and Portland. The key to the successes of those cities: public transit.

FRESC is mainly concerned with transit equity: assuring access to public transit for the young, elderly and disabled. She explained how Community Benefit Agreements can provide career paths for underserved community segments. Supporting transportation jobs mean the public sector can continue to create jobs

streetcar system, all serving transit-oriented, transit-driven development. And the first thing you need to get to that goal is a hard growth boundary. (Are you listening, SLO County planners?) For communities looking to get transit projects going in hard times, pension funds are looking for good projects to fund — good to know when banks aren't lending.

Greg LeRoy of Good Jobs First pointed out that transit produces 80 percent more jobs than highway construction. Transit jobs have been a huge source of employment for Portland, as the projects cannot be built without a highly skilled workforce. "We are able to guarantee contractors we will put highly skilled people on those jobs," Shiprack said.

Greatly needed: Congressional reauthorization of the Surface Transportation Act — with one change. Federal transit spending set records in 2009 and 2010, but funds are not allowed to be "flexed" to help fund operations — they can be used for capital costs only. This has resulted in the purchase of a lot of bright, shiny, low-emission buses, sitting empty because cities have had to lay off the drivers.

Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood, noting that we've blindly refused for decades to invest in the infrastructure that would have helped us climb out of the hole of eight million jobs lost in the Great Recession, pointed out that the federal high-speed rail program has a 100% Buy American requirement, ensuring we capture the entire value chain, so companies can re-open gutted factories and re-hire laid off workers.

### What sustainable is

On the Sustainable Communities panel, Minnesota Congressman Keith Ellison, co-chair of the Congressional Progressive Congress, was his usual straightforward self. "All politicians declare for sustainability," he said. "Some mean it, some don't. Let's face it, not everybody wants sustainability. There are people for whom the

## Green Job Action On the Hill

The day after the formal close of the Good Jobs, Green Jobs Conference, about 300 attendees reconvened on Capitol Hill — specifically, in Room 106 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building — for the most important part of the conference: delivering the message of the previous two days to our Members of Congress and their staff.

We received our briefing packets and appointment schedules (back-to-back meetings from 9 a.m.

to 3 p.m., with one break for lunch, in all six House and Senate office buildings, which are spread across the east end of the National Mall. Kids: don't try this at home), and were directed to our team leaders, who divided us up into some thirty delegations.

All the California delegations, consisting of members of labor unions and environmental organizations, trade associations and community advocates, converged for our first meeting of the day in the office of Senator Dianne Feinstein. In discussing the broad menu of "asks" — sponsoring or co-sponsoring bills to create clean energy jobs, 21st-century transportation, and protecting the health of communities and workplaces — the Senator zeroed in on the Clean Ports Act (HR 572), introduced in the House by Congressman Jerrold Nadler the day before.

Saying "it is indefensible that ports are being challenged from enforcing clean truck programs to replace highly polluting and outmoded diesel trucks," Nadler introduced the bill as a way to allow the nation's ports to develop programs to get rid of dirty trucks, optimize port operations and clean up the environment in regions that routinely violate federal air quality standards. The legislation would protect bold policies like the Los Angeles Clean Truck Program that enable massive green job creation, and curb harmful diesel-truck pollution that 87 million Americans choke on every day.

Feinstein directed her aide to bring her a copy of the House bill immediately. In the course of the ensuing discussion — which included some polite sparring between our group and the Senator's aide, who was in need of an update on the status of a lawsuit challenging the legal authority of ports to make such regulations — Feinstein decided that the legal challenge was not an impediment, and agreed to introduce a Senate version of the House bill, saying "I want to do this. Lets do it."

Once you've made the sale, it's time to go. We immediately thanked the Senator for her time and split up and spread out to get the word to the rest of the Hill on long-term funding for the Green Jobs Act, passing a federal Renewable Energy Standard and a comprehensive Transportation Reauthorization bill, opposing clean air rollbacks at the EPA, reforming the Toxic Substances Control Act and co-sponsoring the Protecting American Workers Act — our call on Congress to invest in a prosperous and healthy America.



**I want to do this** When we dropped by Senator Feinstein's office to tell her about the Clean Ports Act, she agreed to introduce a Senate version of the bill to clean up the nation's ports, improve working conditions for 100,000 truck drivers, create quality jobs and protect the health of 87 million Americans. Not bad for a half-hour meeting.



**Wouldn't that be nice?** On the eve of the Good Jobs, Green Jobs Conference, President Obama went to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce to ask the corporations the Chamber lobbies for to "get in the game" and take some of the \$2 trillion in cash they are hoarding and invest it in facilities and jobs.

when private sector's crashing.

Shiprack shared his intimate familiarity with Portland's 1973 Urban Growth Boundary, which came out of the national movement in the '60s to upgrade inner cities. Oregon had already passed the nation's first bottle bill and a bill declaring all of the state's beaches forever open to the public. They found that the Urban Growth Boundary spurs appropriate development density ("You can fly over Portland and see the UGB") and encourages transit-oriented development. Light rail is now all through Portland, which has now started a

quarterly profit statement out-competes sustainability as a priority. There are people who make fabulous amounts of money off the status quo." As a result, "We are living off our grandparents' infrastructure."

Case in point: Koch Industries stands to lose \$40 billion if proposed climate legislation passes. The *L.A. Times* has reported that the Kochs have given \$300,000 to the 22 Republicans on House Energy and Commerce Committee, nine of whom signed the Koch Industries pledge to



**Water war**

*continued from page 2*

elected officials to give them whatever they asked for. That “crunch all you want, we’ll just make more” philosophy has resulted in the county’s average loss of 1,300 acres of farmland a year to “ranchettes” and sprawling over-development in places like the Nipomo Mesa.

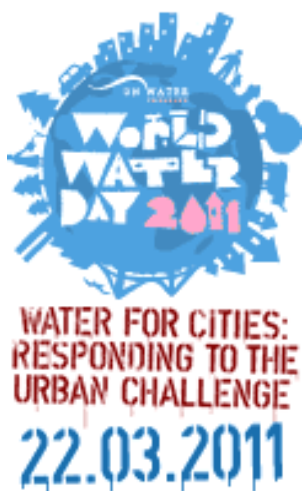
But if you don’t have the water, you don’t have the water.

For several years, the County’s verbal promises of a new policy of “smart growth” have been belied by the County’s business-as-usual permitting of “dumb growth” (see “Not So Smart Growth,” page 5). Arroyo Grande rising up against Los Robles del Mar, the Level of Severity III designation for Paso Robles and the refusal to sell by the Oceano CSD may mark the starting points of the beginning of smart growth for real: not virtue by choice, but virtue by necessity; not the confident assumption that the water will be there in the future, in the quantities in which it has been there in the past; grasping the fact that global climate change is kicking over all the boxes and changing the rules. And proceeding to make planning decisions on that basis.

But if the insistence on short-term profit and political expedience should continue to rule the day, how bad could it get? As bad as it’s gotten in large parts of the world, where 4 of every 10 people do not have access to even a pit latrine and nearly 2 in 10 have no source of safe drinking water.

The Pacific Institute, based in Oakland, conducts interdisciplinary research and partners with stakeholders to produce solutions that advance environmental protection, economic development and social equity in California, nationally, and internationally. They note that “Water resources around the globe are threatened by climate change, misuse, and pollution, but there are solutions: we can provide for people’s basic needs while protecting the environment by using innovative water efficiency and conservation strategies, community-scale projects, smart economics, and new technology.... We have succeeded in focusing water policy-makers at all levels to look at the risks of climate change. The 2003 California Water Plan officially acknowledge[d] this issue for the first time and others are also beginning to consider the effects of global warming on water supply.”

The UN Millennium Project Task Force declared the Water for Life Decade in 2005, along with World Water Day, March 22, to motivate action around the global water crisis. World Water Day serves to draw attention to water issues and foster dialogue about potential solutions. Go to [www.worldwaterday2011.org](http://www.worldwaterday2011.org).



Terry Lilley

**Waves vs. shore**

*continued from page 3*

**Analysis of Project Impacts is inadequate and incomplete**

A number of observers have commented that, contrary to assertions of the EA/MND, the St. Andrews Lift Station is not subject to extensive erosion, as the base of the cliffs are made up of hard rock. Immediately adjacent to the proposed revetment site, existing armoring appears to adequately protect the cliff. To the extent that the face of these bluffs are eroding, that erosion is likely the result of stormwater sweeping down over the edge of the cliff. Accordingly, we seriously question the EA/MND’s claim that rapid rates of erosion caused by ocean water requires armoring, or that armoring would address the existing erosion. The EA/MND must be revised to address this issue and provide adequate justification for the proposed action.

Moreover, the EA/MND claims that the proposed revetment at St. Andrews Lift Station would not “render a known mineral resource inaccessible.” The beach and the rocks at the base of the cliffs at this location are accessible to the public, including beach-combers and surfers who visit and recreate at the site on a daily basis. The assertion that a revetment at this location would not affect the public’s access is without basis. The EA/MND itself acknowledges that there is public use of this beach, but dismisses this use for reasons that are not clearly explained. Accordingly, we reject the assertion that the proposed project would not affect public access at this location. It will.

We also question the EA/MND’s analysis of biological impacts, particularly impacts to the intertidal rocky zone which will likely be significantly affected.

**The EA underestimates the impact of sea-level rise that will result from climate change**

The EA/MND claims that the six proposed armoring projects have been adequately sized to account for the expected sea level rise that will likely result from climate change. According to the EA, the sea level rise in the project area will be between 1.0 to 1.4 meters, 3.2 to 4.6 feet by 2100. EA/MND page 87. Yet, in analyzing the project, the EA/MND inexplicably asserts that “[t]he low range of the projected sea level rise is 0.51 feet in 50 years, the intermediate rate is 1.13 feet, and the high rate is 1.75 feet.”

The logical assumption would be that the range of sea level rise 50 years after the project is implemented (i.e. 2062) would be closer to 1.6 to 2.3 feet. The EA/MND therefore clearly underestimates the potential significance of sea level rise on the

project sites. The EA/MND must be revised to either correct or adequately explain these assumptions.

We also note that according to the Pacific Institute’s 2009 “California Coastal Erosion Response to Sea Level Rise - Analysis and Mapping,” by 2100, San Luis Obispo cliffs will recede on average a distance of 78 meters, up to a distance of 280 meters. As this report illustrates, sea level rise alone is not a good barometer of assessing the likely rate of coastal erosion. Other factors, such as geological features, slope, size, direction and frequency of waves etc. Because the EA/MND does not include any calculations it is impossible to access the degree to which these additional factors were considered.

Based on the foregoing, we cannot determine whether the proposed project adequately protective of coastal resources in the long run. It appears that the Corps has seriously underestimated the expected sea level rise in this area. Moreover, no justification has been provided for assuming a 50 year project life, and not a longer life such as 100 years. Finally, the EA fails to analyze the potential impacts of very large storm events (say, a 500 year event), and the extent to which the proposed projects can adequately withstand an event of such magnitude.

**The EA/MND fails to adequately consider the Project’s cumulative impacts**

“[A]n agency is required to consider more than one action in a single EIS if they are connected actions,” “cumulative actions,” or “similar actions.” *Kleppe v. Sierra Club*, 427 U.S. 390, 408 (1976). Likewise, CEQA requires analysis of cumulative impacts.

Here, the EA/MND fails to adequately consider the cumulative impact of the six proposed projects. Moreover, the EA/MND fails to consider the cumulative impact of the project in addition to the existing armoring that has already been built in the City of Pismo Beach and surrounding areas. Much of the St. Andrews Lift Station area, for example, has already been armored with sea walls and concrete sand bags. The EA/MND fails to consider the cumulative impact of the proposed revetment in addition to existing armoring both on the rate of sand accretion and erosion in nearby beaches and cliffs.

**Inadequate Alternatives Analysis**

The EA/MND fails to consider all feasible alternatives. In particular, the document fails to consider whether instead of armoring the shoreline, a better alternative would be to move

the lift stations and other public facilities further inland. Given the EA/MND’s failure to adequately predict the impact of sea level rise on the project site, this option must be seriously considered after the analysis of potential impact of sea level rise has been adequately revised.

**Full EIR/EIS must be prepared**

As these comments demonstrate, these related projects are clearly capable of significantly affecting the environment. Moreover, the project is clearly controversial to the extent that a number of experts and government agencies including the California Coastal Commission are concerned about the projects? potentially significant impacts. The public is concerned that the proposed projects will result in a significant adverse impact on the geology of the coast line, on natural and biological resources, and public access.

The presence of a genuine public controversy mandates the preparation of an EIS. Once the existence of a public controversy has been established by the critics of a project, the burden of proof shifts to the federal agency to provide a “convincing” explanation why no controversy exists. *Foundation for North American Wild Sheep v. United States Dept. of Agriculture* 681 F.2d 1172 (9th Cir. 1982); see also, *Anderson v. Evans* 371 F.3d 475 (9th Cir. 2004).

**Conclusion**

As we have explained, this Draft EA/MND is deeply flawed and inadequate as a matter of law. Moreover, owing to the potentially significant environmental impact that could result from the implementation of this project, and the existing public controversy, the relatively superficial analysis that is provided in an EA/MND will not suffice in this instance. The more detailed and thorough analysis that is needed here can only be accomplished with the preparation of an EIR/EIS.

**Not so smart**

*continued from page 5*

of local ordinances, zoning and the General Plan “pedantic” and “legalistic.” Assailing Gibson’s position as allowing “the perfect to be the enemy of the good,” Hill characterized his own just-do-it position as “painfully pragmatic” and proclaimed he was satisfied that approval was not violating the General Plan.

But the real issue was the law, and Supervisor Gibson kept trying to bring the discussion back to the nitty-gritty of land use.

While honoring our laws may be considered hairsplitting by Chairman Hill, local and state law is the foundation of good planning, to which the residents of this county are entitled.

Supervisor Mecham expressed his frustration at the process, observing that this project seemed destined for a court challenge.

The project could have been designed and approved with density equal to or greater than the number of units approved, designated the Rec zoned land a park, adhered to the General Plan, and honored the principles of smart growth. Because it did none of that, in his final comments Supervisor Gibson stated, “In approving this project, you’re settling for less than this community deserves.”

## Green jobs

continued from page 8

oppose climate change legislation.

Laurence Hanley, International President of the Amalgamated Transit Union, said there is “no discernible urban policy in America today. We’re seeing the dismantling of mass transit. There are unlimited funds for war; but for sustaining America’s mobility, there’s not only no will, there’s no money. We’re working on getting more transit funding, but it’s not going to happen until we get transit riders to stand up and start screaming about what’s happening to their systems. Public transit is a civil right.”

Republican officials have picked up the “sustainability” message, Hanley noted, and “declared that health care and a living wage are not sustainable,” recasting the interest of workers and unions in securing jobs and a living wage as a matter of craven financial self-interest. “But that interest secures a public interest. Funny thing, they never point to millionaires crying for tax cuts as self-interest. But I don’t see those tax cuts as being in the public interest.”

Clark Manus, President of the American Institute of Architects, agreed that energy and building efficiency is in everyone’s interest. “We’re seeing people moving back to the cities, which is good; rural and suburban development simply is not sustainable. We’re finding we don’t have the resources we thought we had.” (Still listening, SLO planners?)

EPA’s Jackson said “We realize two dollars in savings for every dollar



invested in energy efficiency. The President’s Better Building Initiative sets a goal of a 20% increase in energy efficiency by 2020, challenging the private sector to act.”

Kathy Gerwig, Environmental Stewardship Officer at Kaiser Permanente, said “one myth I’d love to bust is that going green costs more. Companies that don’t invest in sustainability are throwing money away.”

Underscoring the point, at an earlier panel on Recovery Act funded

EPA cleanup projects, a project manager said “we thought going green would cost more” in procurement for the project, but showed the chart where the agency predicted and budgeted for steeply increasing expenses for each set of green criteria set out for contractors before the project was put out to bid. Next to it was a chart showing declining costs, reflecting the actual bids they got, with project costs getting lower as they met each successive criterion. The cheapest proposals were the greenest proposals.

### The need is great

At the end of the final plenary session, Dave Foster dryly noted that later that day, the same downtown DC hotel ballroom where we were gathered would be occupied by the annual meeting of CPAC, the Conservative Political Action Committee. The stage on which he was standing would be commanded by masters of disaster like Dick Cheney and Donald

Rumsfeld, who would be showered with adulation and awards. Foster seized the comparative moment.

“When I hear people discussing the results of the last election,” he said, “it’s as though people in our country live in two parallel universes. I don’t think you can organize people who live in a parallel universe with a thirty-second sound bite on TV, thirty days before an election. We need to meet each other as neighbors. The Blue Green Alliance speaks with a common voice for a common future. And ‘Good Jobs, Green Jobs’ is coming out to all of you around the country next year,” when the conference will leave the confines of DC and adapt

a regional schedule.

Not a moment too soon. Fred Huette, Chair of the Sierra Club’s Global Warming & Energy Committee, writes “Although there has been progress in the last two years, the environmental community as a whole was slow to unite on a climate and energy strategy, disagreeing on mechanisms, message and political direction, and took even longer to embrace a much broader ‘big tent’ coalitional strategy to overcome the united opposition of fossil fuel plus allied business and ideological interests.

“To achieve our climate, energy and resource protection goals will require transforming the American economy in a single generation. The end result will not be an era of scarcity but instead its opposite: one more comfortably situated in the limits of our natural world, with less economic turbulence and greater individual and community well being.”

## Okay, You Want Budget Cuts?

### Capps joins her colleagues to unveil \$40 billion in cuts to big oil subsidies

On February 10, Representative Lois Capps (D-Calif) joined her colleagues Reps. Earl Blumenauer (D-Ore), Ed Markey (D-Mass), John Conyers (D-Mich), Jim Moran (D-Va), Peter Welch (D-Vt) David Price (D-NC) and others to introduce legislation to cut the budget by ending roughly \$40 billion over five years in wasteful subsidies to the oil industry.

The “Ending Big Oil Tax Subsidies Act” (H.R. 601) eliminates subsidies that have worsened the deficit, weakened our energy security, undermined our ability to drive investment in sources of renewable energy, and damaged the environment.

“I can think of few better ways to ‘Win the Future’ than by eliminating these wasteful subsidies to Big Oil and investing the savings in the energy of the 21st century—solar, wave, and wind energy,” said Rep. Capps. “Eliminating subsidies for some of the world’s wealthiest companies should be a ‘no-brainer.’ We know Big Oil and their friends in Congress will stand in the way of this important legislation, and we’ll hear some of the same false arguments we always hear. But the American people know better. They know it’s time for a 21st century energy policy that creates jobs, gets our economy growing again, and protects our health.”



## The Grand Jury Wants You

by David Georgi

If you would like to participate in a pure form of democracy and learn about local government, you should consider applying for the Grand Jury (GJ). The GJ has a tradition that dates back to time of the Norman Conquest of England. During the Reign of Henry II (1154-1189), a “jury of presentment” was established consisting of twelve “good and lawful men” to investigate suspected crimes. GJs existed in colonial New England and were included in the Fifth Amendment of the Constitution. In early California, GJs investigated local prisons and audited county books.

San Luis Obispo County, like all other California counties, has a Grand Jury that investigates civil issues. The objective of the GJ is to “shed a light” on all aspects of local government to ensure they are being governed honestly and efficiently. Any citizen can apply at [http://slocourts.net/grand\\_jury/forms](http://slocourts.net/grand_jury/forms). The deadline is March 18. Citizens can also obtain a complaint form at this site and complain about anything having to do with local governmental agencies.

## Surfrider Wades Into Sewer Woes

The South San Luis Obispo County Sanitation District (SSLOCSD) owns the wastewater treatment plant and ocean outfall pipe that serves the communities of Arroyo Grande, Grover Beach, and Oceano. The treatment plant and ocean outfall in Oceano play a vital role in safeguarding public health.

Recently, local press has brought to light allegations against the chief plant operator, who, according to the State Water Resources Control Board, “failed to ensure the sewer plant was operating properly and did not update its maintenance manual, keep raw data collected by plant operators, or report disciplinary action to the state” (“Sewer plant operator in hot water,” *Tribune*, Feb. 1).

Poor performance and misconduct at the plant are an injustice to the communities served. The Surfrider Foundation’s San Luis Obispo Chapter has asked the Arroyo Grande City Council to pass a resolution calling on the mayor and the other SSLOCSD board members to look further into this matter and to investigate potential malfeasances by the Wallace Group, which is the contract administrator for the wastewater treatment plant and plays a role in water quality monitoring and reporting for the plant. To prevent future malfeasance and protect coastal water quality, it is important to get to the bottom of this matter and determine if the fraudulent monitoring and reporting is a problem that extends beyond the individual plant operator.

South County residents can help by taking a quick minute and sending a letter to your local elected officials. Go to: <http://slo.surfrider.org/?p=651>.



# Classifieds

Next issue deadline is **March 11**. To get a rate sheet or submit your ad and payment, contact:

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# Outings and Activities Calendar

Seller of travel registration information: CST 2087766-40. Registration as a seller of travel does not constitute approval by the State of California.

All 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 Chair Joe Morris, 772-1875. For information on a specific outing, please call the outing leader.

**Sat., Mar. 12th, 8:30 a.m. Beginner's Bird Walk, Sweet Springs.** Can't tell a wigeon from a pigeon? Try out the great fun of birding on an easy stroll along the edge of Morro Bay with an Audubon Society expert, Jennifer Moonjia, as guest leader. Scopes, binoculars, and bird books will be available for use. Kids are welcome. Sweet Springs Nature Preserve includes 24 acres of beach, salt marsh, and ponds, with plentiful wildlife. Reach it from Hwy 101, taking Los Osos Valley Rd. west, then right on 9th St, and left on Ramona Ave. for 5 blocks. Park on street and meet at the entrance. Leader: Joe Morris, 772-1875.

**Sat., Mar. 12th, 8:30 am, Reservoir Canyon and Bowden Ranch.** Join us for a moderate hike through the lushly wooded Reservoir Canyon located directly behind San Luis Obispo and then over the backbone ridge, ending at SLO High School. Wildflowers will be at their peak and this hike covers some of the best display areas around the city. Meet at the eastern corner of SLO High School parking lot near the corner of Johnson and San Luis Drive. A few cars will ferry hikers to the trailhead in Reservoir Canyon (first right turn off north Hwy 101 after leaving SLO). Total hike distance is five miles, elevation gain 1000 feet, total hike time 3 hours. Drivers with cars parked at the trailhead will be driven back to retrieve their cars. Plants, animals, and the geology of the area will be topics during the hike. Rain cancels. Bring adequate water, snacks, and dress in layers; hat and sturdy shoes advised. For info, call Bill at 459-2103 [bill.waycott@gmail.com](mailto:bill.waycott@gmail.com).

**Sun., Mar. 20th, 9:00 a.m. Over the Top, Cerro San Luis.** Meet at the parking lot/restrooms (dog park) at Laguna Lake for a walk up and over Cerro San Luis. We will go at a moderate (not slow, not fast) pace but there are a few steep uphill and a rocky section during this hike. Boots are recommended. Round trip is approximately 5 miles, 2.5-3 hours depending on how long we spend enjoying the views of SLO. For more information call Mike Sims at 459-1701 or email [msims@slonet.org](mailto:msims@slonet.org). Rain cancels.

**Sun.-Fri., Mar. 20-25th, Wildflowers and Fences in the Carrizo.** Three and a half days of service to the Carrizo Plain National Monument removing and modifying fences to allow pronghorn to travel more widely. This is the early spring wildflower season, and our schedule allows at least a day for exploring the Monument, hiking or driving back roads. Because we are privileged to be staying at one of the old ranch houses, our trip is limited to 14 participants. \$30 covers five dinners. Contact leader: Craig Deutsche, 310-477-6670, [craig.deutsche@gmail.com](mailto:craig.deutsche@gmail.com). CNRCC Desert Committee.

**Sat., Mar. 26th, Corral Rocks.** A 10-13 mile hike with unknown elevation gain, as this is an exploratory hike on the Avenales Ranch East of Pozo. We

should have plenty of wildflowers, and pleasant weather. Bring lunch, water, sturdy hiking shoes, and plan to be out all day. Meet at 8 a.m. the Pacific Beverage Company in Santa Margarita. This is not a beginner's hike. Limit 20 people. For details, reservations and meeting place call Gary (473-3694) (5e) Rain or threat of rain cancels.

**Sat.-Mon., Mar. 26th-28th, Whipple Mts. Wilderness.** Join our CA/NV Wilderness Committee and Mojave Group on their annual joint outing to help BLM's Needles office enhance wilderness characteristics in desert wilderness. The Whipples are our planned destination and the rumor is that there will be Saguaro cactus involved. Central commissary. Contact Vicky Hoover at 415-977-5527 or [vicky.hoover@sierraclub.org](mailto:vicky.hoover@sierraclub.org). CNRCC Wilderness Committee.

**Wed. Mar. 30th, 7-9 p.m. Bimonthly Meeting: "A Californian's Guide to the Trees."** The public debut of Dr. Matt Ritter's new book! The justly famed Cal Poly professor of botany gives a slide program this evening about our state's 150 commonly grown trees. Native or cultivated, they have many intriguing stories. Be the first to see the Guide, rich in photographs, in advance of its April publication date. Come early to assure seating. Steynberg Gallery, 1531 Monterey St., SLO. Leader: Joe Morris, 772-1875.

**Fri.-Sun., Apr. 1st-3rd, Carrizo Plains Outing.** Join us on our annual pilgrimage to possibly another year of floral splendor in this special place. The plains are always worth seeing in the spring. Stay at Selby Rocks car camp. No charge, open to the public. Rendezvous for a Saturday hike at 9 a.m., location TBA. Bring your own food, water, and sturdy footwear. Info: Carlos, 546-0317.

**Fri.-Sun., Apr. 1st-3rd, Golden Valley Wilderness Area Work Project with the Student Conservation Association in the Golden Valley Wilderness.** Near Ridgecrest. Friday and Saturday are workdays; Sunday will be a hike in the wilderness area, where we might see wildflowers. Call or e-mail for more details. Leader: Kate Allen, [kj.allen@wildblue.net](mailto:kj.allen@wildblue.net), 661-944-4056. CNRCC Desert Committee.

**Sat.-Sun., Apr. 2nd-3rd, Mojave Preserve Exploration.** Meet Friday afternoon at the Sunrise primitive campground located on Cima Road, 11 miles from the I-15 on the left, just past the Teutonia Peak Trailhead. Saturday hike to Teutonia Peak, 4 miles round trip. Sunday we will go to Hole-in-The-Wall visitor center and hike six miles on Barber Peak Loop Trail. Those who want to spend another night can camp at Midhills Campground. Fees \$12 per site (\$6 with Senior Access Pass). Bring warm clothes, lots of water and food for entire weekend. For reservations, contact Carol Wiley at [Desertlily1@verizon.net](mailto:Desertlily1@verizon.net) or 760-245-8734. CNRCC Desert Committee.

## Sponsored by Other Organizations

*Ventana Wilderness Alliance Trail Workdays in the Big Sur Area. The Ventana Wilderness Alliance hosts many volunteer opportunities to help clear and maintain trails on the Big Sur Coast. No experience is necessary—just the desire to be outdoors and work with others. You may be able to just come for the day or spend the weekend, depending on trip Location.*

**Sat.-Sun., Mar. 5th-6th VWA Trail Work: Upper Carrizo Trail.** The Carrizo Trail near Cone Peak is an historic trail that links the area near Memorial Park with the North Coast Ridge Trail. This trail has become overgrown and needs brush removed in the top two miles. We will resume work on the upper section of this trail. This is a one-night overnight, with a 3-mile hike from the vehicles to the work site. Hike in has 1000 ft. gain, making the return easy. We will camp at Cook Springs Camp. Contact Leader for more details. Leader: Betsy MacGowan [trailcrew@ventana.wild.org](mailto:trailcrew@ventana.wild.org).

**Sat.-Sun., Mar. 12th-13th VWA Trail Work: Upper Carrizo Trail.** Same as Mar. 5th-6th above. To sign up or for more information contact Dave Knapp, Trail Crew Leader at e-mail [daveknapp@ventanawild.org](mailto:daveknapp@ventanawild.org).

**Wed. March 23rd, The Last Great Fight is Brewing: Bristol Bay Salmon vs. the Pebble Mine, San Luis Obispo City/County Library Community Room.** A 7 p.m. talk by Kendra Zamzow, PhD; Center for Science and the Public Participation



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

(CSP2). There is only one wild salmon run in the world that is still at historic levels. As the natural world collides with the global need for more metals to meet rising global demand for cell phones, computers, cars etc., the London-based Anglo American Company has proposed to develop an enormous copper and gold mine in Bristol Bay, Alaska, threatening America's richest salmon fishery. Mining and fish have historically had a very hard time co-existing. Sulfide mines produce toxic-sulfuric wastes, and copper itself is toxic to fish. The mining company claims there will be "no net loss." Dr. Zamzow takes us through the process as Anglo American seeks approval for this mammoth project. Learn what environmental groups have been doing to examine the science of the salmon, the water, and the risks surrounding the headwaters of Bristol Bay. Contact Steph Wald, Central Coast Salmon Enhancement, (805) 473-8221.

## Island Hopping in Channel Islands National Park

### Reserve early!

**May 8-10; July 16-19; August 6-9; September 11-13; October 16-18**

**CA's Channel Islands are Galapagos USA!** Marvel at the sight of whales, seals, sea lions, rare birds & blazing wildflowers. Hike the wild, windswept trails. Kayak the rugged coastline. Snorkel in pristine waters. Discover remnants of the Chumash people who lived on these islands for thousands of years. Or just relax at sea. These fundraisers benefit Sierra Club political programs in California. Cruises depart from Santa Barbara aboard the 68' *Truth*. The fee (\$590 for May and Sept & Oct.; \$785 for July & August) includes an assigned bunk, all meals, snacks & beverages, plus the services of a ranger/naturalist who will travel with us to lead hikes on each island and point out interesting features. To make a reservation mail a \$100 check payable to Sierra Club to leaders: Joan Jones Holtz & Don Holtz, 11826 The Wye St, El Monte, CA 91732. Contact leaders for more information (626-443-0706; [jholtzhl@aol.com](mailto:jholtzhl@aol.com)).

