



June 2011  
Volume 48 No. 6



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**DON'T MISS**

**Hike-a-Thon!**

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# SANTA LUCIAN

*Protecting and Preserving the Central Coast*

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

## County Moves Toward Single-Use Bag Ban

On May 11, SLO County took a big step toward an ordinance banning the use of both single-use plastic and paper bags by local stores.

At the meeting of the Integrated Waste Management Authority – comprised of all the County supervisors and a representative from each city council – IWMA staff proposed that a long-contemplated, long-delayed ban on plastic bags, the scourge of waterways, trees, landfills and wastewater treatment plants everywhere, be expanded to include a ban on paper bags as well (paper bags having their own set of chemical and tree-related environmental drawbacks.)

Over the last few years, California municipalities seeking to pass ordinances to remove the ubiquitous single-use plastic bag from the local environment have run into the willingness of plastic bag manufacturers to sue anyone who tries it. The manufacturers, operating under the happy group name Save the Plastic Bag Coalition, have won legal judgments by claiming that in removing only plastic bags from the market, cities and counties were increasing the production and environmental impacts inherent in the use of *paper* bags, and further, they were doing so without first studying the matter via an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) as required by state law.

The Sierra Club and Think Outside the Bag, a coalition of local high school and college students put together by CoastKeeper and the members and founding alumni of the Empower Poly Coalition, turned out in force for the meeting and enthusiastically backed staff's recommendation as both an elegant solution to the

legal problem – saving the County the cost of a \$100,000 Environmental Impact Report – and as a means of eliminating the impacts of both paper and plastic and encouraging the use of reusable bags.

At the meeting, staff displayed a capacious nylon bag that folds down to the size of a coin purse, 25,000 of which could be purchased by the County and distributed free to low-income residents, school children and others for one-fourth the cost of the EIR the County won't have to prepare. The IWMA board members needed no encouragement. They

instructed staff to come back in the near future with an ordinance that would do the job, along with a public education component that will help our citizens make the necessary adjustment to their shopping habits.

For good measure, IWMA finished off the meeting with a vote in support of SB 568, a bill before the California legislature that will ban the use of food containers made of polystyrene, aka Styrofoam.

It now seems possible that the eternal question -- "plastic or paper?" -- could soon become a dim memory from a bygone era.



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### Marine Sanctuary Council supports single-use bag ban

Three weeks before the IRWM moved ahead with a single-use bag ordinance in SLO, the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary's Advisory Council (MBNMS-SAC) unanimously approved a resolution to support citywide, countywide, statewide, and even national bans on single-use plastic bags to decrease the threat plastic bags pose for marine species and ocean habitats.

The historic resolution marked the first such statement by a Sanctuary Advisory Council in the nation. SAC members represent business, recreation, fishing, tourism, agriculture, scientists, and conservation interests.

Dr. Geoff Shester of Oceana, the conservation representative on the SAC who authored the resolution, said "Unanimous approval of this Resolution from such a broad group of stakeholders sends a strong message to decision-makers and legislators that plastic bags are a serious and preventable form of ocean pollution. Clearly, reusable bags are readily available and economically viable, so the time is now for our state legislators and regional leaders around the Sanctuary to take action."

The Resolution recognizes that plastic bags threaten a variety of marine life including whales, sea otters, pinnipeds, sea turtles, and sea birds through ingestion, choking, infection and/or entanglement. The Resolution also supports the efforts of local businesses to transition away from single-use plastic bags, as well as efforts to remove plastic bag litter from the shores, rivers, and waters of the MBNMS. The full resolution can be found at <http://montereybay.noaa.gov/sac/sacact.html/>.

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# The Climate Action Plan is Missing Something

## To go all the way, we need CCA

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

**Add your voice to protect the planet. Join the Sierra Club today.**

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Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

One year ago, Marin County flipped the switch on cleaner, greener, non-polluting energy with a plan called Community Choice. Already, Marin Clean Energy customers are reducing annual greenhouse gas emissions by approximately 70,000 tons, the equivalent of removing nearly 12,000 cars from the road each year. And anyone living in the Marin Clean Energy service area can sign up for "Deep Green:" 100% renewable energy for an extra \$10 a month. In March, Marin exceeded the state law to procure 20% renewable energy resources for their customers, racking up 27% of all energy deliveries coming from renewable resources.

Those are the results of this policy in less than a year. Need we say more? Apparently, yes. San Luis Obispo County completed the comment period for the Public Review Draft of its Climate Action Plan, the county-wide blueprint for significantly reducing local greenhouse gas emissions, on June 3. In our comments, the Chapter pointed out that the Climate Action Plan does not include consideration of Community Choice, and it should.

Community Choice Aggregation (CCA), established in 2002 by California Assembly Bill 117, is a major policy innovation that gives local governments new and important rights to take major roles in achieving the state's most important clean energy and climate protection mandates. It empowers local governments and citizens to address many destructive impacts from the way we generate and use electricity. Only the state's community choice law gives cities and counties the right to purchase electricity from a source other than the utility and determine the sources of their electric power.

Basically, SLO County can become its own energy distributor and increase the amount of non-polluting, renewable energy available to residents, providing energy to local residents and businesses at rates that, in successful CCA's across the country, have been about 20 percent less than what investor-owned utilities charge.

In 2008, the San Luis Obispo Council of Governments directed staff to gather information on a feasibility study for a CCA program.

In June 2009, county supervisors, planners and city managers attended the Sierra Club's Energy Town Hall in Grover Beach, where they met with Sonoma County Climate Action Plan director Dave Erikson and learned about Sonoma's blueprint for initiating a Community Choice program to exercise local control in choosing their own energy provider and service rates while increasing their portion of non-pollution renewable energy and achieving the most ambitious

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The Executive Committee meets the third Thursday of every month at 5:30 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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 address.changes@sierraclub.org

### You Gotta Fight for Your FIT

On April 12, Governor Brown signed the bill known as SB x1- 2, formally committing California to generating 33% of its energy from renewable sources by 2020.

The plan to achieve that end calls for 8,000 megawatts of renewable power to be generated by central station utility-scale power plants, and 12,000 megawatts from small- and medium-scale "distributed generation," the kind of power that is dispatched from rooftop solar panels connected to and consumed in the local power grid, not sent over high-voltage power lines to a distant destination.

The priority could not have been more clear: three-fifths of our clean energy future is to come from the distributed generation of renewable power.

This emphasis should finally put to rest the notion that distributed generation/rooftop solar can't cut it as a means of generating renewable energy on a scale sufficient to supplant fossil fuels and curb carbon emissions sufficiently to avoid the worst impacts of global warming. California has now affirmed that



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distributed generation is going to play a major role in doing that. The Sierra Club approves of the choice of vehicle, but it needs an engine. That engine is known as a Feed-In Tariff (see "A Good FIT," April 2011).

It's also known as CLEAN – for Clean Local Energy Accessible Now, which proponents feel is more descriptive and less off-putting than a name that includes the word "tariff," which mentally conjures the word "tax," which is A) wrong and B) not a great way to get a policy put into law these days.

The implementation of a FIT is the reason why Germany installed 8,000MW of solar power last year alone, 80 percent of it in the form of

FIT continued on page 10

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Outings, events, and more!

# For the Birds

## AVILA BEACH: Don't Mess With the Nests

On May 6, the Lower Manhattan neighbors of New York City's Washington Square Park celebrated the birth of a chick to Violet and Bobby, a pair of red-tailed hawks nesting on the ledge of a building 12 stories above the park. The city parks department, keeping close tabs on the mating pair and their forthcoming brood, had stopped setting out rat poison in the park weeks before. On the day the first egg hatched, the *New York Times* reported, a music festival in the park posted signs stating that the day's music would be kept "at a low level today" because "loud sound can upset the parents and potentially harm the chick."



On the same day, on the other side of the country, the nests of half a dozen pairs of nesting cliff swallows were blasted off the walls of the Avila Beach Community Center with the Center's garden hose.

These simultaneous events, 2,000 miles apart, had something in common. Both the hawks of New York and the swallows of Avila Beach present an inconvenience. Excrement under swallows nests must be constantly cleaned away for the duration of the nesting season. Residents of upscale Manhattan brownstones selected by mating hawk pairs often encounter the remains of meals made of rats and pigeons on their front stoops.

The other thing these stories have in common is a federal law called the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA), which prohibits the destruction of the nests of these birds during nesting season.

Seven years ago, the Santa Lucia Chapter first had occasion to tell the Avila Beach Post Office — the primary occupant of the Avila Beach Community Center — about the Migratory Bird Treaty Act when we heard reports of nests on the building being knocked down by employees ("Saw Swallows, Saved Same," Sept. 2004).

Shirley Goetz, a local resident with a big love for the little birds, asked the Sierra Club for help. We directed her to Migratory Bird Treaty Act language on the web. She produced flyers and posted them on the Center's community bulletin board. We called the post office and gave them the information verbally: completed swallow nests cannot be disturbed during the breeding season, approximately February 15 to September 1. During that time period, it is illegal to intentionally take, kill, or injure any bird from the nest or the eggs of a swallow while the nest is built or in use. The Act's enforcement provisions include fines of up to \$15,000 and six months in prison.

We recommended the use of bird netting under the eaves, which keeps swallows from nesting and sends them elsewhere. The Avila Beach Civic Association agreed, the nets went up early in 2005, and all was well.

Then came a building remodel, and the Community Center's swallow netting disappeared.

Then the swallows started to come back. Then the nests started coming down. Goetz's thumb-tacked flyers started coming down, too. When she finally

### TAKE ACTION

**If you see migratory birds being harassed or their nests destroyed, call the Ventura office of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at 805-644-1766 and ask for law enforcement on migratory birds. Or call the California Dept. of Fish and Game CalTIP hotline, 888-334-2258.**

glued a replacement firmly in place, it was angrily defaced (left).



The president of the Civic Association asked Goetz to stop posting the flyer. On May 4, the ABCA president posted her own flyer on the community bulletin board claiming that state Fish and Game officials had told her that it is "permissible to wash the nests off

the building" during nesting season "if there are no eggs in them." (The swallows' nests on the community center are at least 12 feet above eye level.) She concluded by requesting "that whoever is putting incorrect information on the Bulletin Board to please desist."

But Goetz was right and the ABCA was wrong. On the day the ABCA posted its erroneous flyer, the Santa Lucia Chapter of the Sierra Club sent letters to the Civic Association and the Avila Beach postmaster explaining again, as we had seven years ago, the strict prohibitions of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and

## SHELL BEACH: Don't Discomfit the Cormorants

At the May 17 Pismo Beach City Council meeting, Shell Beach resident Carol Georgi brought to the attention of the City Council the efforts of a local caretaker to scare cormorants and night herons out of the trees on his employer's property by firing off bird bombs, whistlers and blank cartridges.

When her neighbors heard these devices go off around 6 a.m. over the previous week, they called the police. They were told to call the City because the police believed the caretaker had a special permit. They said the City assured them that he did have such a permit.

Ms. Georgi told the Council about the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and said that, after a few days of phone calls to the Department of Fish and Game and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, she determined that there were no such permits currently in effect in Pismo Beach. She also brought up the City's noise ordinance.



Carol Georgi

The City Attorney, after agreeing that issuance of harassment permits was the responsibility of the state, said his office had not had an opportunity to look into the issue of potential violation of the noise ordinance.

**Under siege** A cormorant stands its ground in Shell Beach. Due to the large number of complaints due to attempts to harass the flock, the Pismo Beach Planning Dept. has identified this as an active nest per the MBTA and notified the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

For Pismo Beach residents who may wish to bring the city attorney, city council or police up to speed the next time they hear noisemakers go off in their neighborhood, here's the relevant text of the Pismo Beach noise ordinance:

*A. Noise Disturbances Prohibited. No person shall make, continue or cause to be made or continued, or permit or allow to be made or continued, any noise disturbance in such a manner as to be plainly audible at a distance of fifty feet from the noisemaker; provided, nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit any noise which does not*

*penetrate beyond the boundaries of the noisemaker's own premises or does not constitute an unreasonable disturbance to people lawfully on such premises. ... "Noise disturbance" means any sound which (a) endangers or injures the safety or health of human beings or animals, or (b) annoys or disturbs reasonable persons of normal sensitivities, or (c) endangers or injures personal or real property, or (d) violates the factors set forth in Section 9.24.060 of this chapter.*

Thanks to the efforts of the determined Ms. Georgi, the Fish and Wildlife Service is now reviewing its monitoring data for the Shell Beach cormorant colony to determine how hazing of the birds at the site may affect the colony.

**UPDATE:** Michael Gruver, Associate Planner for the City of Pismo Beach, has contacted the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and asked Carol to send them photos she took of the nesting cormorants, and has told the caretaker of the property to desist in harassment of the birds. As we go to press, he hasn't.

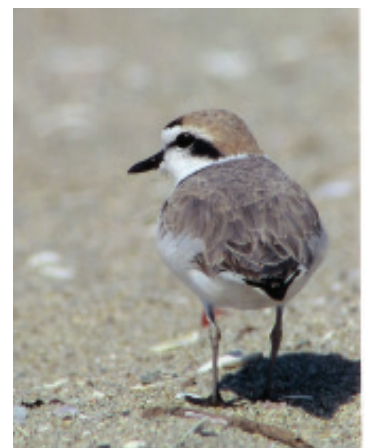
## OCEANO DUNES: Pull for the Plovers

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) is proposing to designate 28,261 acres of critical habitat for the Pacific Coast population of the western snowy plover.

Any project in critical habitat that requires a federal permit or receives federal funding must insure that any action authorized or funded is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of a listed species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of designated critical habitat.

In 2005, the USFWS proposed to designate a total of 12,145 acres of plover critical habitat in Washington, Oregon, and California. After settling a lawsuit with the Center for Biological Diversity, they are now proposing to more than double that.

Per USFWS biologists, the amount and distribution of critical habitat



being proposed for designation will allow populations of Pacific Coast plovers to maintain their existing distribution; expand into previously

# Priceless Canyon

**Heads up, Grover, A.G. and surrounding unincorporated areas: this is not just about Pismo Beach**

By Laura Sprague

After intense and widespread criticism, Pismo Beach is modifying its plans for Price Canyon. A new Specific Plan and EIR are forthcoming. We anticipate that it will still be inappropriately large -- approximately 890 acres -- and create urban sprawl.

The threat of losing the large, beautiful open space areas currently bordering Arroyo Grande -- and the potential wholesale taking through eminent domain of unincorporated land that currently provides residents with unmatched viewsheds -- is very real.

The May 19 meeting of the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) featured a study session on Pismo Beach's Sphere of Influence (SOI) in connection with the proposed annexation of Price Canyon into the city.

The main issue is whether Pismo should be allowed to expand its SOI to

include an area known at the Godfrey Parcel. A parcel of land must be in a jurisdiction's SOI before it can request annexation. There are four wells on the Godfrey property. Past proposals for Price Canyon development place projects on that land in Phase 1. Immediate annexation will be requested once the expanded SOI is granted. This will raise the same water issues as Los Robles del Mar (see "A Watershed Win," Feb. 2008).

The County Board of Supervisors officially endorsed expanding Pismo's SOI to include the Godfrey parcel in a recent memorandum of understanding with Pismo Beach.

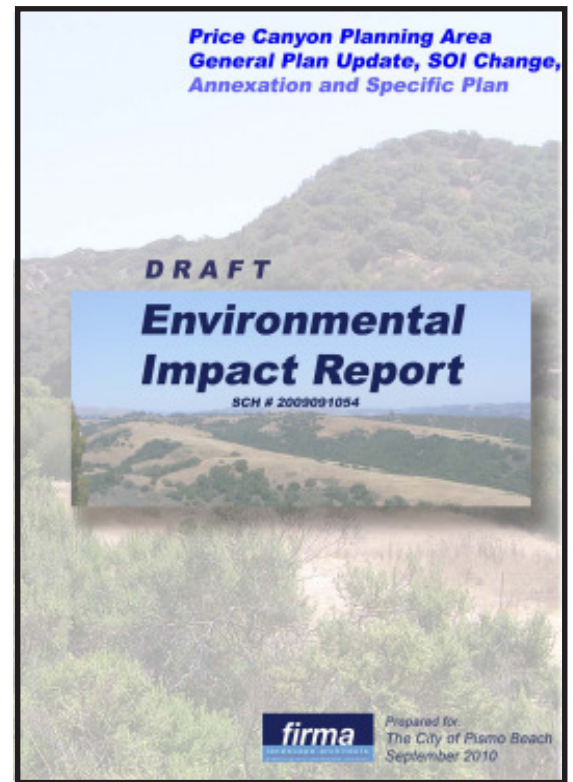
In addition to water issues, public comments by several of us focused on the following:

- Pismo does not need Price Canyon for either Residential or Commercial Growth. Pismo statistics on existing development potential, current population and occupancy and

predicted growth do not support the argument that Pismo needs Price Canyon for either residential or commercial growth.

- Threat of Eminent Domain. The Mankin Ranch is a critical site for Pismo's plans for an "inland arterial" connection between Oak Park and Price Canyon Road. Pismo's proposal maps repeatedly illustrate the new road coursing through the Mankin's property. Mr. Mankin has consistently expressed his position -- "over my dead body" -- on a road going through his property to support Price Canyon development. In the LAFCO meeting, staff noted that discontinuation of the

*continued next page*



## PNFF REUNION\*

*\*Santa Cruz People for a Nuclear Free Future, a member of the statewide Abalone Alliance*

*Were you there at Diablo Canyon protesting the building of a nuclear power plant thirty plus years ago? Well then, it is time for a look back and a look forward.*

### POTLUCK PICNIC

**Sunday, August 7, 2011,**

**12 noon**

**Brommer St. Park & 30th Ave., Santa Cruz**

**1:00 p.m. Special showing: "A Question of Power", David L. Brown's award winning documentary of our actions at Diablo. (David promises to show up).**

**Benefit for the Resource Center for Nonviolence. Suggested Donation \$10**

**We need your help in spreading the word about our reunion.**

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kennecruz@pacbell.net,  
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**\*B-B-Q pits available  
\*Alcohol not allowed  
in County parks**

*Color Photos by Don Calamar. Abalone Alliance nonviolent occupation of Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant Construction Site, 1978. Bottom: Abalone Alliance Families march to protest the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant near Avila Beach, CA, 1978.*



## Price Canyon and Climate Inaction

By Eric Greening

Pursuant to state law, local jurisdictions are preparing Climate Action Plans requiring the reduction of carbon emissions. Under County jurisdiction, the undeveloped lands of Price Canyon are a net plus, providing carbon sequestration. If annexed by Pismo Beach and developed with sprawl, they threaten to counter any progress that might be made toward Climate Action Plan goals.

The extent to which removal of habitat, construction impacts, and ongoing trip generation of vast areas of sprawl would thwart the achievement of Climate Action goals has not been measured nor accounted for. Pismo Beach has a particular stake in Climate Action because sea level rise is such a significant threat to its future.

Then there's the question of the balance of spending among transportation modes for this development: road expansion vs. pedestrian, bicycle, and transit. Despite every jurisdiction's lip service to multi-modalism, "transit-oriented development," and reducing vehicle miles traveled, when decision-makers "face reality" (the actual projects before them), they revert to auto-centric planning and then try to find the victims who will pay to make more and bigger roads happen.

Relative to water, when they are looking at any proposal that could convert land out of agriculture, LAFCO has a policy that prohibits damaging the ability of adjacent or nearby properties to continue in agricultural production. The use of wells (and threat of cones of depletion) directly speaks to this, and LAFCO needs to be held to this policy. No doubt some deal with the Central Coast Water Authority will be brought forward as a "supplemental" option, which raises broader issues with the use of the State Water entitlement (aka "paper water"). Again, the whole project is as threatened by sea level rise as is Pismo Beach itself.

We need to be on the record in writing by June 27, and then follow through to make sure our questions are answered and our concerns heard.

Williamson Act by the state might change Mankin's mind.

- **Air Quality.** LAFCO is not considering the recent county-wide Climate Action Plan to address greenhouse gases. Traffic congestion induced by development that outpaces circulation capacity will adversely affect air quality and contradicts this program.

- **Traffic.** The numbers in the MSR for traffic analysis appear outdated and are misleading. Not only will we suffocate on car exhaust while imprisoned in traffic, Price Canyon development will require widening of the 101 at a significant cost to *all* SLO County residents.

- **Wasteful transformation of a priceless natural landscape for developers' financial gain.** Several photos were shown, some depicting current barren residential developments in Pismo that sit empty because there are no buyers. Pismo's population has actually decreased.

- **Inconsistencies with prior actions and established policies:** Altered Definition of SOI and Creation of Leapfrog and Sprawl. The SOI is defined in the Cortese Knox-Hertzberg Act and SLO County LAFCO written policies as represent-

ing the "probable" physical boundary of a city in 20 years. Although every past document referred to that definition (including Pismo's prior MOA), the most recent and applicable MOA defines it as the "potential" for 20 year growth. The Board of Supervisors recognizes that expanding Pismo's SOI is stretching the meaning of the term. Also, annexing and beginning development on the Godfrey property in Phase 1 will create leapfrog and sprawl — something the County's general plan and LAFCO guidelines oppose.

- **Residents in Grover Beach, Arroyo Grande, and the immediate surrounding unincorporated area of the county are disenfranchised by the process.** Price Canyon development will affect quality of life for all of us.

There was very little discussion by the commissioners.

June 27 is the final date to submit written comments. LAFCO must address *all* concerns provided in writing (e-mail okay). These will be discussed in a follow-up report that will be presented to LAFCO in a session expected to result in a vote on the issue, which may be held as early as July.

## TAKE ACTION

### Save Price Canyon

Please send your concerns to LAFCO, attention David Church, with a cc to your County Supervisor, by **June 27**. (Please also cc [laura260@verizon.net](mailto:laura260@verizon.net)). Insist that your questions be answered. Some questions may be impossible to adequately address, but the burden of proof is on the proponents of the expansion of Pismo's Sphere of Influence.

Your letter can be as simple as saying that you are opposed to expanding Pismo's Sphere of Influence to include the Godfrey property because you have concerns about water and/or traffic, air quality, loss of priceless landscape, etc. What matters most is making your voice heard.

Letters to LAFCO can be sent either via e-mail or USPS:

David Church/LAFCO  
[dchurch@slolafco.com](mailto:dchurch@slolafco.com)

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San Luis Obispo, California 93408

## The Hike-a-Thon is on!

Follow the directions at right, pick from any of these hikes (full listings on page 12 or [www.santalucia.sierraclub.org](http://www.santalucia.sierraclub.org)), get out there, get some fresh air and support the Santa Lucia Chapter of the Sierra Club at the same time!

Fri-Mon, June 10-12, Black Rock Archaeology Survey & Carcamp. Black Rock National Conservation Area about 150 miles north of Reno. David Book, 775-843-6443. Great Basin Group-Toiyabe Chapter/CNRCC Desert Committee.

Sat., June 11, 9 a.m., Irish Hills Natural Reserve. Total distance of hike is 5 miles, 700 ft. gain, taking about 3 hours. Bill Waycott, 459-2103 or [bill.waycott@gmail.com](mailto:bill.waycott@gmail.com).

Saturday, June 11th, 10:30 a.m. Walk with San Luis Obispo Mayor Jan Marx through Poly Canyon. Joe Morris, 772-1875.

Sat-Sun, June 18-19, Telescope Peak. 14 miles rt, 3000-ft. gain. Moderate/slow pace for well-conditioned hikers only. Lygeia Gerard, P.O. Box 294726, Phelan, CA 92329, 760-868-2179. CNRCC Desert Committee.

Sat., June 18, 8:30 a.m. Big Sur Coastal Hike in the Silverpeak Wilderness. A minimum of 9 miles with 2200 foot elevation gain. Gary Felsman, 473-3694.

Sat., June 25. 9:00 a.m. Montana de Oro State Park. Moderately strenuous 10-mile loop hike. Chuck, 441-7597.



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CHAPTER



## Hike-A-Thon to Support the Work of Your Local Chapter

*"Keep close to Nature's heart... and break clear away, once in awhile, and climb a mountain or spend a week in the woods. Wash your spirit clean." -John Muir*

*Celebrate National Trails month in June by getting out on our great local trails, supporting our local Chapter of the Sierra Club, and seeing what we're working to save, all at the same time.*

### How to get started:

**Step 1:** Download pledge forms from [www.santalucia.sierraclub.org](http://www.santalucia.sierraclub.org) and choose a hike from the June issue of the *Santa Lucian* or visit the website at <http://www.santalucia.sierraclub.org/calendar.html> in June for a calendar and description of hikes and outings.

**Step 2: Spread the word.** Set a goal of how much you'd like to raise. Ask everyone you know – friends, family and co-workers will want to support you, but they won't know unless you ask. Carry your sponsor forms with you. Remember – sponsors don't have to participate, your support can come from near and far away.

**Step 3: Make the ask.** Approach small businesses where you spend your money, ask people in clubs you belong to and people at the gym. Use social networking, like FaceBook and Crowdrise.com.

**Step 3.5: Donations are tax-deductable.** To receive a tax deduction, tell donors they must make out checks to "The Sierra Club Foundation" and write "SLO Land Preservation Fund" in the Memo section.

**Step 4: Track your progress.** A minimum fundraising goal of \$100 per hiker is suggested, but any amount is welcome. People will be more generous than you think. IT ADDS UP FAST - 4 people pledging \$25 each or 10 people pledging \$10 will get you \$100 for your hike.

**Step 5: Hike and have fun!** Invite your friends!

**Step 6: Show me the money.** Send donations to Sierra Club, P.O. Box 15755, San Luis Obispo, CA 93406 or drop it off any time at the Chapter office at 974 Santa Rosa Street, San Luis Obispo (use the mail slot in the front door).

If you have questions, email Kim at [kimramos@yahoo.com](mailto:kimramos@yahoo.com) or call the Chapter at 543-8717.

# The Kids Are All That

## Students give updates on environmental work

Teachers and students from Atascadero and Morro Bay High Schools and members of the Sierra Student Coalition at Cal Poly discussed their diverse projects to protect the natural resources of San Luis Obispo at our Chapter's May 24 general meeting at the Steynberg Gallery in SLO.

The evening's program, "Local Youth Working to Heal the Earth," featured students from Atascadero High School's "GreenHound Academy," who are creating a sustainable organic garden on campus; Morro Bay High School's Environmental Club, which is building a compost/vermiculture bin for the school garden that can accommodate food waste from the cafeteria; and the Cal Poly chapter of the Sierra Student Coalition, which, in line with its mission statement, "education through exploration," is starting a Youth Outings Program for mentoring children in conjunction with the Santa Lucia Chapter.

The Coalition boasts about a dozen other active projects at any given time and members from almost every major on campus. "We've made a point of reaching out to the most diverse group possible," said SSC v.p. Karen Douglas.

The high school groups received eco mini-grants from the Santa Lucia Chapter this year to help fund their projects, along with groups from Templeton High School and the Outside Now Academy who are working on water quality and hydrofarming projects.

At the meeting, the GreenHounds and the Morro Bay Environmental Club agreed to "cross-fertilize" and join forces to assure the success of their composting and gardening projects.

As one Atascadero GreenHound put it in describing the program and her work on their school's organic garden, "You know how when you love something, you can't shut up about it? When you've made a difference, when you've actually started something, it's the greatest feeling in the world."



Top: The Atascadero Greenhounds hold forth at the Steynberg Gallery. Left: Greenhounds teacher Rhian Gulassa with one of their garden plots.



Right: The Sierra Student Coalition in action.



## Cal Poly student honored for activism

Cal Poly junior Victoria Carranza, an Environmental Management major and president of the Cal Poly chapter of the Sierra Student Coalition, was honored by the Bill Denneen Environmental Award Trust in Grover Beach on May 6.

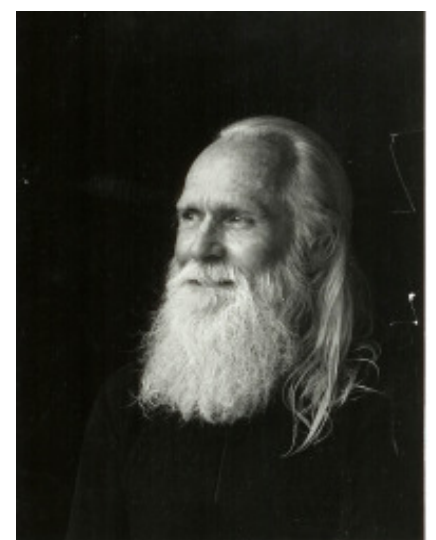
The award, presented to Carranza at the monthly meeting of the San Luis Obispo chapter of Surfrider, recognized in particular her recent work with the Marine Sanctuary Alliance, formed by the local

chapters of the Surfrider Foundation and the Sierra Club, in seeking to include the waters of San Luis Obispo county in the National Marine Sanctuary system.

In April, Carranza raised the funds to attend Power Shift 2011 in Washington, D.C., along with more than 10,000 young people from across the country who converged to press the government for progress toward a clean energy economy.

The Sierra Student Coalition (SSC), the youth-led chapter of the Sierra Club, is a national network of high school and college-age youth working to protect the environment. "When it comes to passion and commitment, Victoria is at the top of her class," said Andrew Christie, director of the Santa Lucia Chapter of the Sierra Club. "As a representative of the next generation of activists, she gives us all hope for the future."

Since its founding in 1996 by the retired high school biology teacher and fervent environmental advocate who is its namesake, the Bill Denneen Environmental Award Trust has let 83 residents know "the Central Coast is a better place to live because of you."



Thanks, EldrBill Mr. Denneen abides.



Top: Victoria Carranza, center, briefs Sierra Club and Surfrider activists in the Marine Sanctuary Alliance on her Power Shift trip to D.C. Above, left to right: SLO Surfriders and Sierra Clubbers Jeff Pienak, Karl Kempton, Victoria Carranza, David Georgi, Carol Georgi and Andrew Christie with Victoria's Bill Denneen Environmental Award.



## Stacy's Garden

Cal Poly students Stacy Shutts and Jordan Baxter -- majoring in Environmental Management & Protection and Agricultural Business, respectively -- are starting a student organic garden in the University's Poly Canyon Village.

"This space is intended to facilitate community involvement in gardening and awareness," says Stacy. "It will allow students to connect to the land that grows their food while understanding how their food is grown. Support for this project will provide much opportunity for the growth of this garden and student community space."

Stacy and Jordan say they are grateful to live in San Luis Obispo where there are organizations such as Sierra Club to support these projects. Starting with small-scale gardening at the campus garden will allow students to learn about gardening without being intimidated. They want this effort to share the community values

of taking the time to cook for ourselves, spend time on the land that produces the food we eat, and share that outdoor experience and food with others, which will provide students a venue to engage in their community.

"Sierra Club's philosophy of education through exploration is one that we both respect and believe in," says Stacy. "This mission also parallels the goals and intentions of this garden project. The efforts of organizations like the Sierra Club will help to make this project a success."

This endeavor has been in the making for over a year, and is now taking shape as Stacy and Jordan have gained monetary backing or supplies from organizations whose support will help cover the cost of the initial construction. On completion of construction, the garden club will continue to plan events to introduce, educate and excite the students of Cal Poly and community members about organic gardening.

The Santa Lucia Chapter of the Sierra Club is pleased to be a financial sponsor of the organic student garden. Sierra Club members can make contributions that will be recognized at the grand opening and with the addition of informational signs in the garden.

You can contribute to the purchase of:  
 Ten raised beds (3x8', including mulch, seeds, and wood) = \$700.00  
 6' high x 165' long fence = \$169.00  
 Sixteen 6' -posts from Ace Hardware @ 6.99 each = \$139.80  
 Four shovels @ \$14.75 each = \$59.00

Make your check out to ECOSLO, write "Poly Canyon Garden" in the Memo section, and send to:  
 Stacy Shutts-Poly Canyon Garden  
 2052 Johnson Ave.  
 San Luis Obispo, CA 93406

Your donation is tax-deductable.

## Supercharged Science Camp!

What are your kids doing this summer? How about a wild week of hands-on science? Blast rockets, build robots, wire up burglar alarms, shatter laser beams, and more. Taught by a real engineer, scientist, and university instructor.

Kids do real experiments in astronomy, aerodynamics, electromagnetism, robotics, engineering, chemistry, and physics and keep everything they build. Science Camp is held at El Chorro Regional Park in San Luis Obispo, Monday - Friday, August 8-12, from 10am - 2pm. Cost: \$165 per child plus \$85 material fee. Info & registration: [www.superchargedscience.com/camp](http://www.superchargedscience.com/camp), (805) 617-1789. Open to kids ages 7-12.



## Anne McMahon's Legacy

by Alycia Kiley

Donna Helete, Brian Engleton and Susan Pendergast received Anne McMahon Scholarship Awards last year.

Awarded to people involved in journalism or education, the scholarship enabled recipients to attend the 2010 Central Coast Bioneers (CCB) conference.

Central Coast Bioneers is the satellite conference partner for the San Luis Obispo County, Santa Barbara County and Monterey County region for the annual global Bioneers conference series. Bioneers is inspiring a shift to live on Earth in ways that honor the web of life, each other, and future generations.

Anne McMahon, a much respected and beloved local journalist, political aide and staffer and dedicated environmental activist, graduated from Cal Poly with a degree in Journalism. She served as the legislative aide for SLO County Supervisors David Blakely and Jim Patterson, served as the local director of the Nature Conservancy, a congressional staffer for Walter Capps, and as the coordinator of federal programs for the Coastal Commission. She passed away from cancer in December of 2009.

Scholarship recipient Donna Helete is the director of the Outside Now Academy. A small private school program, Outside Now emphasizes the connection between individuals, the natural world, and community.

"Outside Now's program is mostly about living together," Helete explained, "The students rarely ask the question 'Why?' By connecting everything with nature, what they learn makes sense. It fits into the larger scheme of life and our world."

Helete believes participation in CCB is an important way for Outside Now to connect with the community. Last year, Outside Now established a well-attended youth center at the Conference and organized demonstrations of fire-making and other outdoor skills. Helete continues to assist Central Coast Bioneers by providing input on the content of the Youth Track at the Conference.

Many thanks to the support of the McMahon family and to the many donors, the friends and colleagues of Anne, who gave generously to the Anne McMahon Scholarship Fund. If you are interested in donating to the Fund, or in applying or nominating someone for a scholarship, please see [www.ecologistics.org/centralcoastbioneers](http://www.ecologistics.org/centralcoastbioneers) for details and application/nomination forms.



## The Wild Life



by the Cal Poly Wildlife Club

The Cal Poly Wildlife Club focuses on the conservation and preservation of the wildlife community through projects, presentations, and events that facilitate networking and promote connections with other environmental members of the community.

Future goals for the Wildlife Club include outreach to more student members in the departments of Biological Sciences, Natural Resources, and Animal Science. The current officers have many ideas for the future direction of this pre-professional club and are motivated to begin promoting ways to accomplish this.

One of the ways that this was implemented in the past quarter was through the attendance of six Cal Poly Wildlife Club members at the Western Section of the Wildlife Society Conference in Riverside. At this three-day conference, the students were able to meet members of the professional wildlife community who shared similar interests in research, study, and education. These profes-

# A Water Expo in Cambria



**Top:** Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary's Carolyn Skinder, Education and Outreach Specialist Director of the Coastal Discovery Center at San Simeon Bay, demonstrates the path of pollutants through the watershed. **Bottom:** Malen Bando of Rigi Engineering gives attendees the low-down on water consumption, graywater systems and "net zero water" – i.e. achieving no impacts from water use via a combination of graywater, rainwater harvesting and recycled (purple pipe) water. **Right:** Free downloads of the SLO Guide to Graywater and the SLO County Homeowners Guide to Rainwater Management for Low Impact Development are available at [www.slogreenbuild.org/](http://www.slogreenbuild.org/) (click on "News & Publications.")

Greenspace, The Cambria Land Trust, hosted a Water Expo on May 14 at its Creekside Reserve.

The focus of the expo was practical and effective water conservation solutions such as rainwater catchment and gray water systems. From 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., local businesses, engineers, the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary and the Sierra Club held forth on water-related issues in our region. An informative time was had by all. Check out the expo coverage on the Greenspace website, [www.greenspacecambria.org](http://www.greenspacecambria.org).



## Wildlife

continued from page 7

sionals took the time to have one-on-one conversations with many students about research, job history, previous education, and general knowledge about job searching and career choices. It was a unique opportunity for Cal Poly students to converse in a more casual setting with professionals who are well established in their field. The student-professional luncheon was another great opportunity for the students to mingle with speakers and researchers in an informal and inviting atmosphere.

Students were also able to attend a Poster Conference, with posters ranging from graduate student projects to professional research presentations. It was a great opportunity for students to get ideas about

future projects and gain interest in potential areas of study as well as talk to advisers of research projects that could be potential employers in the future.

The last aspect of the conference was the career fair that hosted many different regional companies that offered a wide range of part-time, full-time and summer internship jobs.

Overall the experiences that were offered at this conference were incredibly beneficial for the students and professionals alike. Students had opportunities to become involved in the planning phases of different conservation projects between professionals, and were able to better understand the difficulties that face the scientific community when trying

to begin research or establish conservation plans. Professionals benefited by meeting the next generation of scientists and giving direction to students for future focus on conservation needs.

When the students returned to SLO, they raved about this conference to friends and members of the Cal Poly Wildlife Club, explaining the incredible opportunities that are available.

In November, the Wildlife Society is hosting its annual national conference in Waikoloa, Hawaii. This conference is five days long and includes Wildlife Society members and students from all over the nation, not just the Western Section. This is an opportunity for students who are looking to pursue a job outside of California, even just as an internship for the summer.

Now eleven Cal Poly students will be making the trip out to the big island to meet researchers and other students that are interested in the same field of study.

A five-day trip to Hawaii is by no means cheap, and college students struggle enough with affording to make ends meet on a daily basis. The Wildlife Club began fund raising at the end of May and will be continuing



throughout the summer and into the fall quarter up until the time of the conference November 5. Students are looking into volunteering during the conference, aiming to minimize the cost of the hotel fees.

Students are also initiating a letter-writing campaign through the Wildlife Club and are looking for donations from members of the local community as well as the Central Coast Chapter and the Western Section of the Wildlife Society.

Any amount will help out the Club; donations are tax deductible and Cal Poly students will be able to send out paperwork to donors who wish to write their donation off their taxes. These donations will help to cover the cost of flights, gas, parking, hotel fees, airport transfer, conference fees, and meals during the conference.

Please contact [calpolyslowildlife-club@gmail.com](mailto:calpolyslowildlife-club@gmail.com) for any questions and for an address to send donations.



**Plovers**

continued from page 3

occupied areas so as to offset habitat loss and fragmentation; move between areas in response to the changing nature of coastal beach habitat and support genetic interchange; increase the size of each population to a level where the threats of genetic, demographic, and normal environmental uncertainties are diminished; and maintain their ability to withstand local environmental fluctuations or catastrophes.

The critical habitat would include 1,652 acres in the Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area (ODSVRA) and the Guadalupe Dunes in Santa Barbara, designated "Unit CA-31" in the proposed rule. The off-road lobby is predictably displeased, and has mounted a national letter-writing campaign urging the service to remove the ODSVRA acreage from the proposed rule.

The Santa Lucia Chapter limited our comments on the proposed critical habitat to Unit CA-31: Pismo Beach/Nipomo Dunes. We noted that this area is well known to and frequented by our members. The Sierra Club prosecuted the lawsuit *Sierra Club v. Areias*, which we settled in 2004 for state funding of snowy plover research and recovery measures and the closure to riding of half a mile of plover nesting habitat within the proposed Unit CA-31. Our intervention in a subsequent lawsuit resulted in the court upholding the validity of the County's Local Coastal Plan in barring off-highway vehicle use on county-owned land within the ODSVRA. Chapter members have testified at California Coastal Commission permit review hearings for the Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area and served on the ODSVRA Technical Review Team.

We told the USFWS that critical habitat designation for Unit CA-31 is essential. Within this area, the California Department of Parks and Recreation continues to permit virtually unlimited numbers of off-highway vehicles in western snowy plover habitat. For over twenty-five years, State Parks has failed to study or even consider limiting the number of people or off-highway vehicles in the area as a way to protect the snowy plovers that nest there.

"Special management consider-

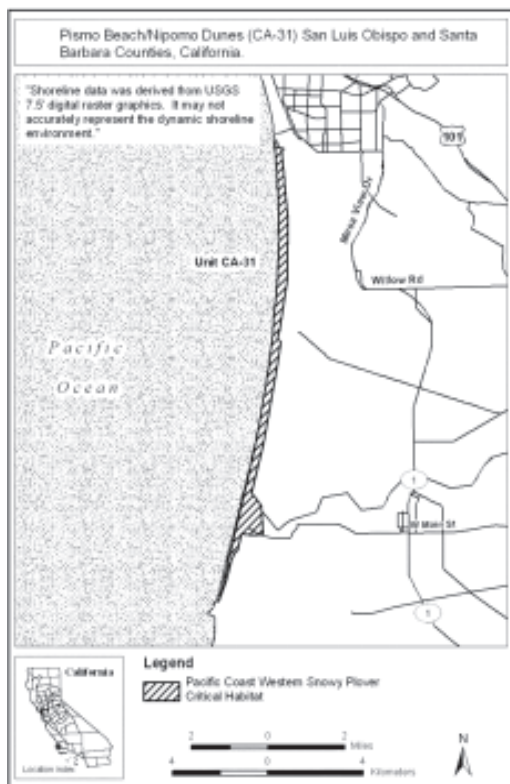
ations" pertain to the critical habitat designation of Unit CA-31 because State Parks has resisted implementing meaningful resource management measures. State Parks declined to follow a California Coastal Commission recommendation that "Expansion of the enclosure area, in conjunction with strong predator management, is the best way to maximize protection of plovers and their habitat at Oceano." State Parks has repeatedly refused to comply with the recommendations of the ODSVRA Technical Review Team's Scientific Subcommittee and Coastal Commission staff to initiate a study of the habitat value of year-round closure of nesting areas. Because State Parks has yet to release a Habitat Conservation Plan -- promised for the last seven years -- Parks' management of the Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area continues to result in the take of snowy plover, in violation of both State and Federal Endangered Species Acts, the California Coastal Act, and California Fish and Game Code Section 3511.

Off-roaders have told the USFWS that adverse economic impacts from the designation of CA-31 will result due to potential limits on off-highway vehicle use. We told the Service that an economic benefit would be a more likely outcome in that event, as the intensive use of off-highway vehicles has actually retarded the economic vitality of the immediately surrounding community relative to the beach communities to the north and south. Local studies that have sought to portray off-highway vehicle use as an economic boon to the area have traditionally failed to note the economically distressed nature of the surrounding community, or the historical fact that the economic fortunes of Pismo Beach, the community immediately south of Unit CA-31, saw a significant upturn due to an influx of traditional coastal tourism after it banned the practice of driving vehicles on the beach.

We told the Fish and Wildlife Service that we support the proposed rule revising designated critical habitat for the Pacific Coast population of the Western Snowy Plover and urged special management considerations and protection for Unit CA-31 as required to minimize habitat destruction, degradation, and fragmentation associated with recreational activities and off-highway vehicle use.

Unit CA-31 should not be excluded from the final determination, as such exclusion is not justified by the biological and habitat information described in the previous final rules, the 2007 Recovery Plan for the Pacific Coast WSP and its recognized principles of conservation biology.

The USFWS will announce the availability of a draft economic analysis on its proposed critical habitat designation when it is completed, at which time they will seek public review and comment. Copies of the draft economic analysis will be available for downloading from [www.regulations.gov/](http://www.regulations.gov/). A final determination on any proposed revisions will be posted to the Federal Register by June 5, 2012.



**Under consideration** The cross-hatching represents the area proposed as Critical Habitat for the snowy plover in the Oceano and Guadalupe Dunes.

**Nests**

continued from page 3

providing contact information for two regional pest control companies that could safely persuade swallows to build their nests elsewhere.

To no avail. Sometime before 6 a.m. on May 6, someone blasted the swallows' nests off the building with a garden hose. A broken swallow's egg was found below the location of one of the destroyed nests, wedged between the wet concrete wall and the pipes of one of the building's cooling units.

A Fish & Game warden arrived. The ABCA finally believed what they had been repeatedly told. An investigation is ongoing.

Then something good happened. Local Sierra Club and Audubon representatives met with the Civic Association board shortly after the May 6 incident. The Sierra Club got an okay from Fish and Game for installing netting during nesting season so long as it was done ASAP and swallows were kept away from the net during installation. Audubon connected the ABCA with a local pest control company who agreed to install the netting on the Community Center immediately, at their cost. Meanwhile, the ABCA made sure the swallows' mud daubs got washed off the building so no more completed nests got built.

So here's the simple rule: if you see a completed, or nearly completed nest anywhere on the central coast between February and September, hands off. You're stuck with it. What the ABCA should have told the public is what the Association of Oregon Counties tells their constituents about nest removal or modifying habitat to discourage nesting: "Avoid during during peak breeding season (May through July); minimize around peak (March, April, August); unrestricted outside of breeding season (September through February)."

"Violations of the MBTA," they conclude, "are examples of strict liability crimes, meaning that a party can be convicted under the statute without demonstration of specific intent or guilty knowledge."

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service notes instances in which it can be "difficult to detect whether or not their nests are occupied by eggs or nestlings or are otherwise still essential to the survival of the juvenile birds.... Due to the biological and behavioral characteristics of some migratory bird species, destruction of their nests entails an elevated degree of risk of violating the MBTA. For example, colonial nesting birds are highly vulnerable to disturbance; the destruction of unoccupied nests during or near the nesting season could result in a significant level of take." (Cliff swallows are colonial nesters.)

In short: do not try to interpret the law so that you can spin it in the direction of making it okay to knock down a nest.

Laws aside, this is a story about adaptation. Cliff swallows were using handy rock formations for their nests when that was all there was. With many of those sites now replaced by development, they adapted (showing a marked preference for earth tones). We must do the same. Let's all get along.



**Crime scene** Between May 4 and May 6, somebody violated the federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act at the Avila Beach Community Center.

**CAP**

continued from page 2

greenhouse gas reduction in the nation.

At the Climate Change Adaptation Workshop held in SLO last July by the Local Government Commission, Community Choice was one of the top five recommended priority measures for the County and was included in the LGC's November 2010 final report, *Integrated Climate Change Adaptation Planning in San Luis Obispo County*. The County's Climate Action Plan website, under "Climate Change Adaptation in SLO County," states that this Local Government Commission report "provides a suite of adaptation strategies that...should be viewed as a critical first step in what will need to be an ongoing process as the climate, other stressors, and the scientific understanding of the earth's processes continue to change over time. The County hopes to use this report as a foundation for the adaptation chapter of the County's Climate Action Plan."

Also last year, the update of the County's Conservation and Open Space Element (COSE) included Policy E 1.2: "Assert more local control of energy decisions and sources." This is to be achieved via the implementation of "Strategy E 1.2.1 - Evaluate Community Choice Aggregation to determine whether it would be a cost-effective and low-risk strategy to increase use of renewable energy and realize a low-carbon, local energy portfolio."

And this year, state Senator Mark Leno introduced SB 790, establishing rules and enforcement procedures to smooth the path for Community Choice aggregators.

Yet, with all this encouragement, Community Choice is mystifyingly

absent from the Public Review Draft of the San Luis Obispo County Climate Action Plan.

The CAP represents the county's effort to develop policies that enhance the efficiency with which electricity is used in buildings, build renewable power generation and develop programs for clean energy. However, all of these measures and policies are of limited scope by comparison to Community Choice. All require continued dependency on electric power from the sources provided by utilities, over which local governments and utility customers have no decision-making authority. A Community Choice program, on the other hand, can include access to state funding for energy efficiency, the ability to set and charge rates, and the ability to manage and redirect the revenue stream from utility bills toward clean energy projects.

For these reasons, no measure in the public review draft of the Climate Action Plan comes close to the GHG-reduction and clean energy benefits that could be achieved through



**High energy** Rancho El Chorro, across from Cuesta College, was the site of the May 21 meeting of the Sierra Club California/Nevada Regional Conservation Committee, convening representatives from all Club chapters in the two states. Michael Endicott, a staff advocate for Sierra Club California, briefed delegates on the Club's efforts to persuade the state to adopt the most progressive climate action standards and avoid the regressive ones -- such as counting clearcutting of forests as a "carbon offset" because a tree farm will sequester carbon.

Community Choice. No other measure would more fully achieve the goal of the Conservation and Open Space Element to "assert more local control of energy decisions and sources." And of course, nothing else will fulfill the directive of the COSE to "evaluate Community Choice Aggregation."

Community Choice is a state law and the full evaluation of its potential is San Luis Obispo County policy. It

could serve as virtually the entire toolbox from which the County draws all the tools needed for planning a renewable energy future.

The County Board of Supervisors will review and approve the Climate Action Plan this summer. Before they do, tell your County Supervisor -- with reminders as necessary -- that you want to see Community Choice in the final draft of San Luis Obispo County's Climate Action Plan.

**FIT**

continued from page 2

rooftop solar panels. By way of contrast, the goal of California's Solar Initiative is to install 3,000 MW of solar power by 2016. That's the difference between sunny California with no FIT and not-so-sunny Germany with one.

By any name, a CLEAN/FIT is the trigger mechanism by which a state or nation can get from a pathetic rate of installed renewable energy capacity to an awe-inspiring one. Currently, California residents and businesses with solar panels on their roofs can watch their meters spin backwards and get a bill from the utility for \$0.00. With the right FIT program in place, they can watch their meters spin backwards and get a check for the power they are selling to the utility, at an above-market rate. In the energy biz, that's called "incentive."

You probably won't faint from shock to learn that electric utilities don't have much love for FITs or distributed generation. Last February, Colorado's Republican state legislators, acting under the influence of Exelon, the state's biggest private utility, killed a bill that would simply have mandated a cost/benefit analysis of a CLEAN/FIT. They used the argument that a FIT would result in soaring electricity bills as utilities were forced to pay a stampede of adaptors above-market rates for energy, passing the cost along to ratepayers. Therefore, *it should not even be studied*.

The "too expensive" argument is bogus. The most recent studies of a "worst case scenario" feed-in tariff in

California -- 100% solar power charged at the highest current rate -- show a 1% rise in energy costs through 2013, followed by falling costs until 2016, at which point consumers would start seeing a net savings on their bills. By 2020, ratepayers would see a 5% decrease in their energy costs.

For those folks you know who remain deeply in love with their favorite sound bite -- "yeah, solar and wind power are nice, but what happens when the sun isn't shining and the wind isn't blowing?" -- tell them to go to YouTube and type in "2011 Goldman Prize for Europe: Ursula Sladek, Germany." It's 3 minutes and 52 seconds of video commemorating the reason why Ms. Sladek won the world's highest environmental honor this year. (It's also a good response to another favorite sound bite: "yeah, Fukushima was unfortunate, but we have no choice because nuclear power is the only way we can cut carbon emissions and keep the lights on.")

California is not Colorado, and we very likely will be on the road to or in possession of a CLEAN/FIT by the end of the year. But we won't get one -- and we definitely won't get a good one -- without a fight. In all likelihood, that fight won't be an attempt to kill a FIT outright but to nibble it to death.

California's existing programs to encourage development of local renewable energy are not optimally



structured, are too modest in size and potentially will overpay for renewables compared with a well-designed FIT program. The Sierra Club is a strong advocate of best-practices, cost-based FITs. This is the FIT structure used in Europe, Ontario and around the world, and has been the policy mechanism used to fund 75% of the world's PV and 45% of the world's wind power. The development and implementation of this mechanism should be continued in California to provide the financial structure support system to enable the successful accomplishment of the 33% Renewable Portfolio Standard and 12,000 MW of distributed generation by 2020.

One of the ancillary benefits of a FIT program is that it can be modified to provide incentives to optimize the program and its specific objectives. For example, an "adder" could be applied for DG projects built in high-priority areas for load balancing or where distribution circuit upgrades are not needed, to effectively increase capacity on a distribution grid circuit to support new loads and save the cost of circuit upgrades, etc.

Most crucially, incentives can be provided to build in low-income areas. (Ontario, Canada, has an adder for projects built by indigenous

peoples.) When green-collar jobs guru Van Jones gave the keynote address at the Power Shift 2011 event in Washington, DC, last April -- speaking to 10,000 assembled young people, including 20 Cal Poly students -- he made a telling point. "Notice that the wealthy people have the solar panels, the poor people have the high energy bills," he said. "We can't afford for poor people not to have solar panels." A new clean, green economy, Jones has stressed, won't be clean or green if it continues to leave millions of people behind, just like our old dirty economy does.

The installation of millions of solar panels means millions of new jobs. "We need to connect the people who most need the work with the work that most needs to be done," said Jones.

For more information on how you can get in on California's local green energy revolution, check out:

[www.clean-coalition.org](http://www.clean-coalition.org)  
[www.cbecal.org](http://www.cbecal.org)  
[www.caleja.org](http://www.caleja.org)

And to stay informed on these issues and make your voice heard as a Sierra Club California e-Activist, sign up at [www.sierraclubcalifornia.org/](http://www.sierraclubcalifornia.org/). (Click on "About Us," and then "Sign Up!")

# Classifieds

Next issue deadline is **June 14**. To get a rate sheet or submit your ad and payment, contact:  
 Sierra Club - Santa Lucia Chapter  
 P.O. Box 15755  
 San Luis Obispo, CA 93406  
[sierraclub8@gmail.com](mailto:sierraclub8@gmail.com)

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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.

Fri-Mon, June 10-12, Black Rock Archaeology Survey & Carcamp. Join other volunteers in mapping and surface surveying a section of the Emigrant Trail near High Rock Canyon in the Black Rock National Conservation Area about 150 miles north of Reno. Potluck dinner Saturday night. Depending on time, we may visit the nearby Soldier Meadows Hot Springs or other Hot Springs on the way out. Expect primitive camping. High clearance vehicles, 4WD preferred. Dogs limited, on leash. Easy. Leader: David Book, 775-843-6443. Great Basin Group-Toiyabe Chapter/ CNRCC Desert Committee.

Sat., June 11, 9 a.m. Irish Hills Natural Reserve Hike. The Irish Hills stretch along the southern side of Los Osos Valley from Hwy 101 to the coast, and the Reserve encompasses over 700 acres of oak groves, grasslands, and superb views. Total distance of hike is 5 miles, 700 ft. gain, taking about 3 hours. Trailhead at southern end of Madonna Road in San Luis Obispo. Bring water, snacks, and dress in layers for changing weather. A hat and sturdy shoes are advised. The plants, animals, and geology of the area will be discussed. Information: Bill Waycott, 459-2103 or bill.waycott@gmail.com

Sat-Sun, June 18-19, Telescope Peak. Join us at our beautiful forest campsite at 8,000 ft. in the Panamint Mts. On Sat, we'll hike the highest peak in this desert range with views of the highest (Mt. Whitney) and lowest (Badwater) points in the contiguous U.S. 14 miles rt, 3000 ft. gain. Moderate/slow pace for well-conditioned hikers only. NO TIGERS. After the hike, we'll enjoy Happy Hour, a potluck feast and campfire. Group size strictly limited. Send \$8 per person (Sierra Club), 2 large SASE, H&W phones, email address, rideshare info to Ldr: Lygeia Gerard, P.O. Box 294726, Phelan, CA 92329, 760-868-2179. CNRCC Desert Committee/.

Sat., June 18, 8:30 a.m. Big Sur Coastal Hike in the Silverpeak

Wilderness. Come explore the inner areas of the Silverpeak Wilderness. Possible destinations are Dutra Flat, Salmon Creek to Ragged Point, Cruikshank Buckeye Traverse, or possibly Bald Top, depending on the weather and participants on the hike. We will do a minimum of 9 miles with 2200 foot elevation gain. Bring lunch, water, sturdy hiking shoes with no slip soles, and dress for the weather. Meet at the Washburn Day Use Area, San Simeon State Park. about two miles north of Cambria. SLO Residents can carpool from Santa Rosa Park, leaving at 7:45 a.m. Details: Gary Felsman, 473-3694.

Sat., June 25. 9:00 a.m. Hike in Montana de Oro State Park.. Valencia Peak Trail-Oats Peak Trail-Coon Creek Trail-Bluff Trail; Join the leader on this moderately strenuous 10 mile loop hike in Montana de Oro. There is about 2700 ft of elevation gain. We will see many different areas of the park. From Valencia and Oats Peaks,

we will get excellent views of the coastline and the backcountry of the park. We will drop down to walk a pleasant section along Coon Creek and we will finish by walking the bluffs above the shore. There is a possibility of ticks and poison oak. Bring water, lunch or snacks, and dress for the weather. Meet at the Valencia Peak trailhead which is about 100 yards past the visitor center. There is a possibility of a refueling stop after the hike. Info: Chuck, 441-7597.

Sun-Tues, July 3-5, Black Rock National Conservation Area - Carcamp: Leader's choice in the Black Rock National Conservation area about 100 miles north of Reno. Expect lots of people and fireworks during this busy "4th of July" weekend on the Playa. We'll probably camp at a hot spring and take daytrips to other nearby locations. Expect good stars, as the new moon is on 7/1! Primitive camping, high clearance



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.

vehicles, 4WD preferred. Dogs limited, on leash, Leader David Book, 775-843-6443. Great Basin Group-Toiyabe Chapter/ CNRCC Desert Committee.

## Sponsored by Other Organizations

### **Camp Natoma Celebrates 70 Years Sleeping Under the Stars.**

Know a kid who should get outside this summer? Sleep under the stars? Learn how to swim? Shoot a bow and arrow? Explore an oak and sycamore shaded valley? Investigate the creek? Gain confidence by performing skits at an evening camp fire? Gain independence and make new friends?

All these adventures and more are happening this summer at Camp Natoma, a rustic, residential summer camp located in the Adelaida mountains southwest of Paso Robles.

Camp Natoma has been providing opportunities for hundreds of children every summer since 1941. This year the camp is celebrating 70 years of "sleeping under the stars." Owned and operated by Camp Fire USA Central Coast Council, a not-for-profit youth leadership organization, Camp Natoma offers week-long residential summer programs for children leaving 1st to 11th grades.

Accredited by the American Camp



Association (ACA), Camp Natoma offers the best of nature education and traditional camp activities for local youth. Each camp session runs from Sunday to Saturday and has a

unique theme:

**July 3-9** "Slide into the Future"  
**July 10-16** "Spy Week"  
**July 17-23** "Camper vs Wild"  
**July 24-30** "70 Years of Natoma"

For its 70th anniversary celebration events this summer, an Alumni Campout is scheduled for July 30-31 and a Spaghetti Dinner in Arroyo Grande on September 24.

For more information about Camp Natoma, visit [www.campnatoma.org](http://www.campnatoma.org) or call the local Camp Fire office at 805-773-5126, or e-mail [info@campnatoma.org](mailto:info@campnatoma.org).

## Island Hopping in Channel Islands National Park

Reserve early!

**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)).



## Walk with the Mayor

**Saturday, June 11th, 10:30 a.m.** Walk with the Mayor of San Luis Obispo. Join us on an informal stroll with Mayor Jan Marx to share your vision about development and land use in the city's future. We will take an easy walk through Poly Canyon, stopping for lunch. Bring water, a hat, and a bag lunch. Meet at trailhead on Poly Canyon Rd. Information: Joe Morris, 772-1875.

