

# SANTA LUCIAN



**Santa Lucia Chapter**

**Jul./Aug. 2019**  
Volume 56 No. 4

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

## Winds of Change Rising at Oceano Dunes

The California Coastal Commission is coming to San Luis Obispo on July 11 to figure out what to do about the Oceano Dunes. They have done that before. This time, they are coming, shall we say, loaded for bear.

Likely to be front and center in that discussion: The plan of State Parks and its OHMVR Division to turn the area around Oso Flaco Lake into a campground and junior ATV track, decimating an environmentally sensitive habitat area. Few



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*From the archives: Santa Lucian, March 2010*

### Oceano Dunes Without Tears

**Are cars on the beach an economic anchor or a ball and chain?**

By Evelyn Delany

Getting cars off the beach has been the single most important occurrence bringing about the economic transformation of Pismo Beach from a "honky tonk" town to the destination jewel that it is today.

When we moved to Pismo Beach in 1970, none of the motels were four-star rated, except for the Shore Cliff and the Sea Crest (which actually are a little out of the downtown.) Tourist cabins, left over from the 30s or 40s, were rented by the month by people who couldn't afford an apartment. There were

*TEARS continued on page 6*

proposals by state parks for the Oceano Dunes have triggered the kind of outrage and dismay that this one has. Let's all help the Coastal Commission appreciate the irony that this has been proposed as a cornerstone of State Parks' Public Works Plan, "a long-range land use management plan for

compliance with the California Coastal Act." It would be hard to imagine a proposal farther out of compliance with the Coastal Act.

Rather, State Parks should be required to live up to the meaning of the words in its description of the purpose of its proposed Public Works Plan, which is to:

*"preserve and restore natural habitats, maintain healthy ecosystem processes, and assist the recovery of degraded ecosystems in line with state and federal regulations. Reduce any social and environmental impacts on the natural environment and prevent future impacts through site sensitive planning."*

And also:  
*"Create a communication forum that respects differences, welcomes divergent ideas, considers nontraditional solutions...."*

The July 11 meeting of the Coastal Commission will be the place for consideration of nontraditional solutions, and recovery and prevention.

There's no way to view the lovely-sounding goals of State Parks outside the context of its long, sad history of management of the Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area and its constant brawling with regulatory agencies. It's time to amend State Parks' Coastal Development Permit to bring the ODSVRA "in line with state and federal regulations, reduce any social and environmental impacts on the natural environment and prevent future impacts."

Here's the biggest amendment we're looking for: Halt off-road activity on the 580 acres of the County's land in the ODSVRA, aka the La Grande Tract. In 2007, the SLO County Planning Commission determined that the proposed sale of this land to State Parks would be inconsistent with Coastal Area Planning Standards, which designate the La Grande Tract as a non-riding buffer area, and with policies that require the County to work with public agencies to prevent the proliferation of off-road recreation on County lands. The Board of Supervisors upheld these determinations on appeal, as did the superior

*WINDS continued on page 7*

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# Sierra Club General Meeting

Wed., July 17  
Copeland Pavilion, 3rd Floor  
French Medical Center  
1823 Johnson Ave., SLO  
Doors open: 6:30 p.m.  
Program: 7-9 p.m.

## African Wildlife Conservation

Chapter members Jennifer and Jordyn Bauer volunteered this summer in the Greater Kruger area of South Africa, a wildlife hotspot known for its breathtaking beauty and sightings of the Big 5 (lion, elephant, rhino, leopard, buffalo) and world-renowned for its efforts to save these species and preserve their natural habitats.

Jennifer and Jordyn will share their experiences assisting in conservation and research efforts that support the long-term objectives of internationally recognized wildlife trusts and foundations and how you can assist in these efforts.



*Santa Lucian* • Jul./Aug. 2019

## Chumash Sanctuary Advocates Hit DC

By Violet Sage Walker, Vice Chairwoman, Northern Chumash Tribal Council

The week of June 3-10, Cambria attorney P.J. Webb and I attended the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation's Capitol Hill Ocean Week (CHOW) conference in Washington DC.

We talked to everyone from our cab drivers to the Deputy NOAA Administrator and Undersecretary of Commerce about the need to create a Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary. They heard our story and we brought a face, a name, and our people to them.

CHOW is the premiere conference examining the science and connectedness of our oceans. This year's event gathered a broad global community to discuss challenges facing oceans worldwide. Expert panels discussed ocean health, climate change, ocean acidification, toxins, whale conservation and resource exploitation. Pressing conservation issues included polluters, shipping industry

### Santa Lucian

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### Santa Lucia Chapter

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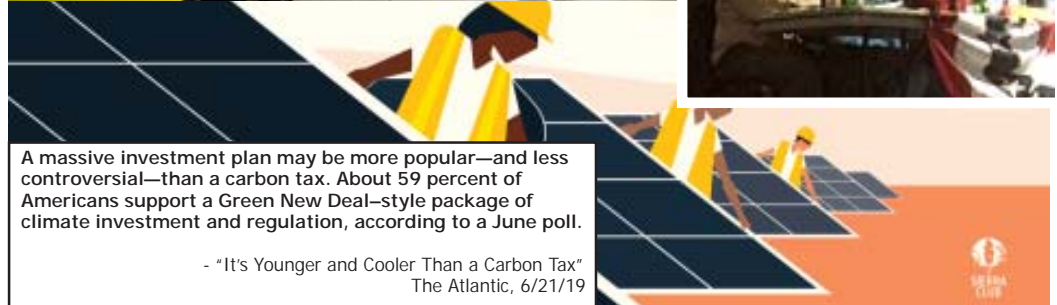
# On the Road to a Green New Deal

By the Sierra Club Living Economy Campaign

It's been just eight months since young people occupied the halls of Capitol Hill alongside Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez to demand Congress tackle the climate crisis at the speed and scale necessary. Since then, we've seen climate change emerge as the top priority for Democratic voters and 2020 presidential candidates, a growing number of cities and states offer their own models for a Green New Deal, and over 100 Members of Congress co-sponsor a Resolution for a Green New Deal.

Following our national mobilization in support of that resolution in February, Sierra Club partnered with Sunrise Movement and dozens of national and grassroots organizations on The Road to a Green New Deal Tour in April and May to give every American an opportunity to hear from their neighbors about how the Green New Deal will improve their lives.

The tour was comprised of



A massive investment plan may be more popular—and less controversial—than a carbon tax. About 59 percent of Americans support a Green New Deal-style package of climate investment and regulation, according to a June poll.

- "It's Younger and Cooler Than a Carbon Tax" The Atlantic, 6/21/19

**Getting there** Top: Sunrise outside Nancy Pelosi's office, Nov. 13, 2018. Right: Sierra Club's Santa Lucia Chapter Director reports on the Green New Deal at Rep. Carbajal's Paso Robles High School town hall with the SLO Grassroots Action Coalition, May 6.

over 300 town halls and about a dozen flagship rallies across the country at priority locations. We ultimately succeeded in driving over 2,000 RSVPs to town halls and rallies, helping to sell out nearly all of the flagship events. We also supported Sierra Club staff and chapters who put on or co-located at least 20 town hall events and partnered on several of the flagships.

A total of 230,000 Green New Deal online actions have

been taken by Sierra Club supporters to date. On social media, our promotions of Green New Deal work have generated high levels of engagement. In April, we created a Green New Deal Volunteer Corps and over 1,300 of our members signed up to take on more leadership in GND organizing.

Here are a few of the highlights from the ground:

● In Louisiana, with the help of staff like Darryl Malek-

Wiley and Grace Morris, over 800 people attended the New Orleans Green New Deal tour stop hosted by Black and Indigenous community leaders. This event also launched a Gulf South for a Green New Deal, anchored by Sierra Club partner Gulf Coast Center for Law and Policy (GCCLP). Thank you to Healthy Communities and Resist for providing financial

ROAD continued on page 9

## Come to Our Open House

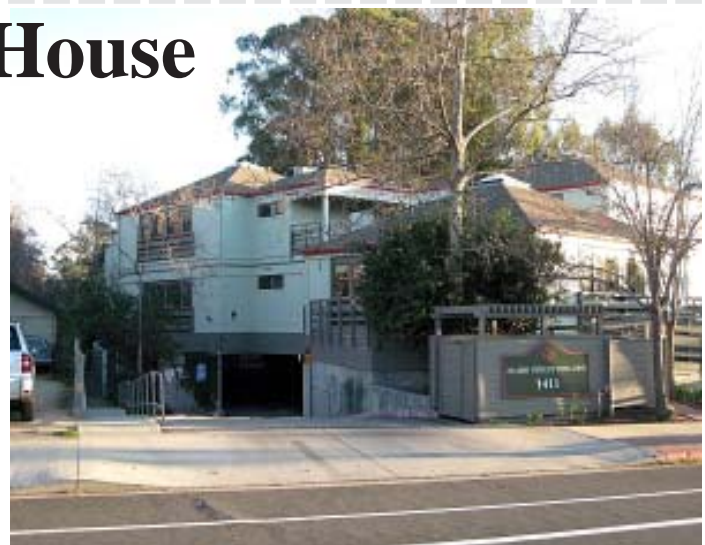
Hi, Sierra Clubber –

You're invited to help christen the Chapter's new office on Friday, August 9th, from 4-7 p.m.

Please bring an appetizer. Libations and light snacks will be provided.

To RSVP, contact Karen Merriam at (805) 440-2714.

We're at 1411 Marsh St., Suite 204, SLO (Just past the railroad crossing. Please park on the street.)



**Chumash**

*continued from page 2*

impacts, overfishing, and human exploitation in fishing practices.

We were greeted warmly by Indigenous Congresswomen Deb Halland (Laguna Pueblo), and Sharice Davids (Ho-Chunk). We met with staff of the Senate Commerce Committee, House Natural Resources Committee, Senators Dianne Feinstein and Kamala Harris, Congressman Raul Grijalva, Congressman Jared Huffman and Senator Maria Cantwell. We shared dinner with Congressman Jimmy Panetta and were supported by our Representative Salud Carbajal. We had discussions with NOAA chief Rear Admiral Tim Gallaudet and Director John Armor.

We also made contact with organizations\* who became our allies in our mission to secure designation of the Chumash Heritage National

Marine Sanctuary.

Our next trip will be to Sacramento to gain support from the Governor and state officials.

We look forward to hosting a community meeting to inform the public of the great success we had in Washington D.C. Everyone we talked to now knows about the Central Coast, the issues we face, and why this should be a priority.



**CHOW down** Left to right: Director of National Marine Sanctuaries John Armor, P.J. Webb, Undersecretary of Commerce and Deputy NOAA Administrator Rear Admiral Timothy Gallaudet, Northern Chumash Tribal Council Vice Chairwoman Violet Sage Walker.

- \* National Ocean Protection Coalition
- Resources Legacy Fund
- National Marine Sanctuary Foundation
- Monterey Bay Aquarium
- Spokane Tribe of Indians
- Protected Seas
- Hyatt Hotels Sustainable Seafood program
- Inland Ocean Coalition

**14,000 Names and Counting**  
Where's yours?

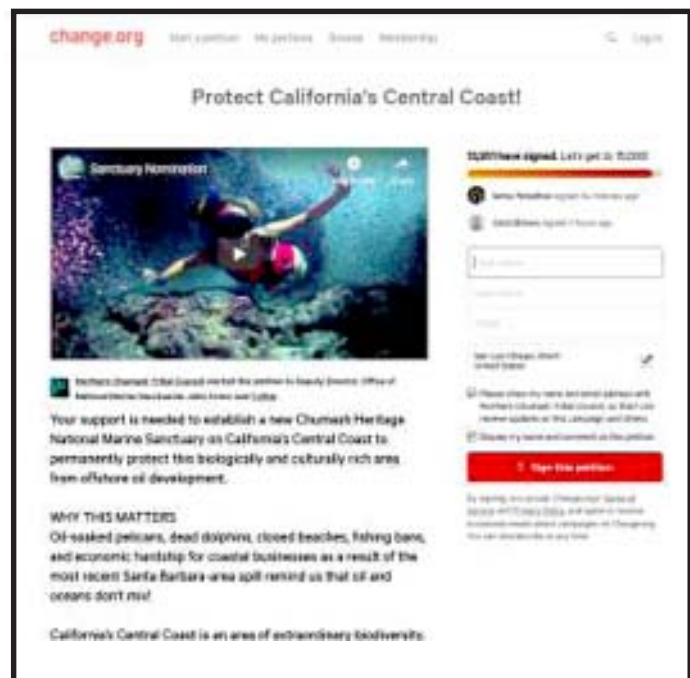
**CHOW thanks!**

*This is a partial list ~ Thank you to all others who supported the trip to Washington DC!*

- \* Sierra Club Santa Lucia Chapter
- \* Sam Peck
- \* Surfrider SLO
- \* Lani Steel
- \* Richard Alberts
- \* Judith Resnick
- \* Lynne Harkins
- \* Mary Wilhelm
- \* Kumble
- \* Margaret Crockett
- \* David and Carol Georgi
- \* Barry Price
- \* Dean Arrighi
- \* Frank De Pasquale
- \* Mr. & Mrs. Denny Mynatt
- \* Lisa Tanzman
- \* Sandra Lee
- \* Priscilla Beissel
- \* Mr & Mrs John Martin

Donations can be made to NCTC, a 501(c)(3) Non Profit, by check, credit card, or PayPal. All donations are tax deductible.

Northern Chumash Tribal Council  
P. O. Box 6533  
Los Osos, CA 93412



If you haven't signed the Change.org petition to NOAA to designate the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary... hey, there's no time like the present!

<https://chumashsanctuary.com/>

# California Moves to Cut Plastic Waste

by Janine Kennel Rands, Chair, SLO Foam Free

Assembly Bill 1080, the California Circular Economy and Plastic Pollution Reduction Act, passed in the state assembly on May 30.

Assembly Bill 1080 and Senate Bill 54 will establish a comprehensive framework to address the pollution and waste crisis, dramatically reducing the amount of single-use waste generated in the California and requiring the remaining packaging and products to be truly recyclable or compostable. They would require CalRecycle to adopt regulations to source reduce or recycle at least 75% of single-use plastic packaging and products by 2030. The bills would require a manufacturer of single-use plastic packaging or products sold or distributed in California to demonstrate a recycling rate of not less than 20% on and after January 1, 2022, and not less than 40% on and after January 1, 2026.

From the text of AB 1080: “Annual global production of plastic has reached 335 million tons and continues to rise. The United States alone discards 30 million tons each year. Global plastic production is projected to more than triple by 2050, accounting for 20 percent of all fossil fuel consumption. Without action, projections estimate that by 2050 the mass of plastic pollution in the ocean will exceed the mass of fish.”

AB 1080 passed the Assembly with 42 AYE votes and 14 NO votes. Our Assemblyman, Jordan Cunningham, was on the wrong side of the issue. Thanks to everyone who sent an email or telephone call to #Jordan Cunningham’s office to encourage him to vote YES. His staff received 156 emails and telephone calls from constituents up to the day of the vote. Two days before the Assembly vote, Senator Bill Monning voted YES on SB 54. Cunningham voted NO on AB 1080. Last year, Cunningham voted NO on The Sustainable Packaging for the State of CA Act of 2018 that ultimately called out “Expanded Polystyrene,” aka Styrofoam.

Hats off to bill authors Assemblywoman Lorena Gonzalez (D-SanDiego) and Sen. Ben Allen (D-Santa Monica) for calling a halt to the scourge of plastic.

“We have to stop treating our oceans and planet like a dumpster,” said Assemblywoman Gonzalez. “Any fifth grader can tell you that our addiction to single-use plastics is killing our ecosystems. We have technology and innovation to improve how we reduce and recycle the plastic packaging and products in our state. Now, we have to find the political will to do so.”

AB 1080 is now moving through Senate committees on its way to a floor vote.

Check out Sierra Club California’s Legislative Priority Bill List for 2019 at <https://www.sierraclub.org/california>



Goodby, Silverstein and Partners



1:30 p.m., Wed., July 10  
County Government Center  
Room D-170, 1055 Monterey St., SLO

Goodby, Silverstein and Partners

## July 10: Help SLO County Ban Styrofoam

By Mary Ciesinski, Executive Director, ECOSLO

As the County Coordinator for International Coastal Cleanup Day for the past 14 years, ECOSLO gets a unique, one-day snapshot of trash in our county every year. Each September about 1,500 volunteers come together to clean up trash at 35 locations at our local beaches, creeks, and lakes. Consistently, one of the top 10 items found is pieces of polystyrene. In the past four years (2015-2018) it has been, on average, the eighth most picked-up item.

At all ECOSLO-hosted cleanups, there are four categories in which we track polystyrene trash:

1. Foam To-Go Containers
2. Foam Cups & Plates
3. Other Plastic/Foam Packaging
4. Foam Pieces

Collection of polystyrene trash by our volunteers has increased by 38% in just four years at our community’s beaches, creeks, and lakes, from 1,969 total foam items in 2015 to 2,720 in 2018. Yes, we have more volunteers join the cleanup each year, but with more volunteers we are able to reach more trash and clean it up.

Polystyrene is not biodegradable. It does not “break down” — it breaks up into tiny pieces which are extremely challenging to pick up. Birds and marine animals ingest trash in the environment, including polystyrene. The cleanup efforts are done by volunteers, organized by groups like ours, with volunteers just wanting to help out. This is tedious and costly. Volunteers cannot pick it all up, thus it is simply “collecting” in our environment indefinitely.

ECOSLO strongly supports the proposed ban on expanded polystyrene that is being presented at the July 10 IWMA board meeting. We cannot simply try and continue to clean up this harmful product; prevention is the best way to keep it from continuing to accumulate in our environment. Something has to change and that is the availability and use of polystyrene.

Companies who produce it have no accountability but local government can do something. Polystyrene is wreaking havoc on our community and all who enjoy this beautiful place. Please support the San Luis Obispo County-wide ordinance to ban polystyrene.

## Tears

*continued from page 1*

a few sit-down restaurants, but mostly the paper napkin variety.

Comedians on radio and TV and in the movies made jokes about Pismo Beach. I once told my friend Harry, a fellow easterner, that Pismo Beach reminded me of Ocean City, New Jersey. Harry responded that Ocean City was never that bad. It was kind of embarrassing to tell people you lived in Pismo Beach, so those of us who could, told people we lived in Shell Beach or Pismo Heights. Pismo Beach was the laughing stock of the county. Nice families went elsewhere.

The ramp to the beach was a wooden affair at the end of Ocean View Avenue. Vehicles were permitted south of the pier, but not to the north.

One year in the mid-1970s, storms ripped the coast, much like this year. The wooden ramp washed out to sea. The city got a grant and build a new ramp; this time, a hefty engineered one of cement.

Another stormy year came along, and the new ramp gracefully floated into the ocean, like God herself was sending a message.

There was no grant money for another ramp, and the City did not have money for a new ramp without financial assistance from another entity. After much debate, vehicles on the beach were prohibited on the beach south to Grand

Avenue.

If the Pismo Beach City Council and the business community thought that vehicles on the beach were an economic boon to Pismo Beach, they would have found money and a new ramp would have been built.

That was circa 1974. Over a two-year period, Pismo Beach was transformed. In rapid succession, upscale hotels were built – the Sea Gypsy, the Sand Dollar, the Sea Venture, Shelter Cove Lodge, Pismo Lighthouse Suites and the Kon Tiki. The Shore replaced the obsolete cabins.

## They may be big spenders, but they don't spend big here.

Shorecliff and the Seacrest expanded. Other older motels remodeled to keep up. The new hotels had restaurants with cloth napkins and expanded menus. We got a Marie Callendar's. Souvenirs became a little more classy.

All of a sudden, Pismo Beach was a destination resort. People came to walk on the beautiful beach. It was quiet. It was safe for dogs, children and granny. People came and spent money.

That is not to say that ordinary folks were excluded. The city built a beach parking lot for day users. The older motels still accommodate people who aren't big spenders. RV campgrounds at the south end of the city and

the state park accommodate people who prefer more rustic accommodations. We even have a Motel 6 in the city limits. There are still restaurants that don't cost an arm and a leg. Pismo Beach is now a resort that everyone can enjoy.

Those who want to drive their vehicles on the beach must enter from Grover Beach or Oceano "pass through" areas. If vehicles on the beach were an economic asset to a community, why hasn't a Pismo-style boom hit Oceano or Grover? The answer is simple: There is no

economic asset.

Let's look at those who drive motorcycles and ATVs on the beach. Most of them don't live here. They come in their rigs and sleep in them or on the beach. They don't sleep in motels. If they did, there would be motels in Grover Beach and Oceano for them to use. They bring their own food and cook it on the beach or in their RVs. I've seen some of them eating a celebratory meal in the IHOP on Grand Avenue as a last stop before they leave town.

But the IHOP closed a month ago. Businesses open on Grand Avenue based on the expectation that some of the thousands of people who drive down it each day will

stop in and buy something, but the failure rate of Grand Avenue businesses is an embarrassment. KFC is gone, as are other restaurants too numerous to list. Even beer bars come and go.

Businesses on Pier Avenue, except the ATV rental places, suffer even more than those on Grand. Pier Avenue is little more than an on-ramp for the beach, with backed up traffic blocking driveways and cross streets. On weekends, there is constant noise and pollution.

They might buy gas on their way out of town for the trip home, or maybe not. Only pennies on the dollar spent for gas stays here for local government to use. They buy their RVs, ATVs, motorcycles, riding gear, food, gas, and other paraphernalia where they live, not here. They may be big spenders, but they don't spend big here.

Use your own common sense, and do not be fooled by the lobbying of the thrill-seeking ATV users from elsewhere. Vehicles on the beach are not good for business or the well being of the people who live here.

*Evelyn Delany was SLO County District 3 Supervisor 1985-1997, a County Planning Commissioner 1978-1984, a Pismo Beach Planning Commissioner 1975-1978, and a Pismo Beach Parks and Recreation Commissioner 1972-1974.*

Bonita Ernst



A graphic tale of two beaches Left, Pomeroy Avenue, Pismo Beach. Right: Pier Avenue, Oceano.

**Winds**

*continued from page 1*

court.

There is no shortage of issues that Commissioners could resolve with permit amendments. These include State Parks' 37 years of noncompliance with its Coastal Development Permit requirement to find a permanent entrance and staging area, 31 years of nonconformity with the Local Coastal Program regarding the aforementioned La Grande Tract buffer area, 18 years since "interim" vehicle use limits were set and never adjusted, the failure to conduct a carrying capacity study, and the ongoing refusal to heed the advice of scientists to study an experimental year-round closure of the snowy plover nesting area to vehicle traffic.

The only area in which it could be said that some progress has occurred – dust control – has been marked by the recent issuance of a Particulate Matter Reduction Plan that ignores the advice of a Scientific Advisory Group to begin restoration of the foredune immediately, not years in the future -- and on 48 acres, not 23 -- in order to achieve the maximum reduction of dust emissions as quickly as possible. ("A detailed foredune restoration strategy appears to remain wholly lacking in the Revised PMRP, despite a detailed strategy presented in the SAG Response Report." - Response to the Revised Particulate Matter Reduction Plan (PMRP), Oceano Dunes Scientific Advisory Group (SAG), 6/3/19.)

In addition to permit amendments, we also need to urge the Commission to look at the big picture.

There's one sure way to "reduce any social and environmental impacts on the natural environment and prevent future impacts," and everybody knows what it is.

It's the same thing that will end the choking traffic and impoverishment borne by the town of Oceano for the sake of boys and their \$80,000 toys.

It's the same thing that will end the grinding down of the dunes, the only defense Oceano has against sea level rise – the most obvious case of environmental injustice to be found on California's coast.

It's the same thing that will ensure no more threatened species will be found flattened in tire tracks on the beach.

It's the same thing that will put an end to the worst air quality in the nation thanks to the off-road vehicles that kick up clouds of fine dust that invade inland in miles-long plumes.

It's the same thing that will end beach gatherings that are like something out of a Mad Max movie, with multiple shootings and rangers unaware, overwhelmed, or helpless.

All of this has flowed from one long-ago bad decision that must now be reexamined in the present day, where only one conclusion is possible: Putting a vehicular recreation area in the Oceano-Nipomo Dunes Complex was a terrible idea. The sun needs to set on the idea off-road vehicle recreation in a sensitive coastal ecosystem.

Why do the local chambers of commerce automatically leap to its defense no matter how egregious and chronic the violations, waving a laughably skewed economic study to show that the ODSVRA has been a local economic boon when the reality is clearly and painfully the opposite? (See "Oceano Dunes Without Tears," left).

How skewed was that study? Distribution of the survey it relied on was concentrated heavily on users of the ODSVRA and included the question "if Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area (SVRA) did not exist, would you still visit San Luis Obispo County?" The absurdity of asking people who

**The Antique Subdivision Shuffle**

**Errant supervisors finally forced to bow to responsible land use planning**

*By Andrew Christie, Chapter Director*

Here's the front-page headline from the May 5 Weekly Update issued by the Coalition of Labor, Agriculture and Business in all its primal screaming glory: "SICKENING TURN OF EVENTS SIERRA CLUB ACTING AS COUNTY LAND USE REGULATORY BODY KILLS EXISTING LOTS."

Furthermore: "NOW YOU'RE [sic] GREAT GRANDMOTHER'S LOTS ARE ILLEGAL! Next they will repudiate the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo and advocate of [sic] return California to Mexico."

At its May 7 meeting, as a result of the Sierra Club lawsuit that was the cause of COLAB's heartburn, the County Board of Supervisors was scheduled to vote to rescind the unconditional permission the board majority had granted to facilitate development of a dozen land parcels in South County based on an antique subdivision map.

When COLAB released its "Weekly Update" two days before that scheduled vote, they were shocked – shocked! – that "the

*ANTIQUÉ continued on page 10*

**You think *we* have it bad....**

In 2016, developers in Marin County submitted plans to construct ten homes of unspecified sizes on six acres of virgin land in the canyons of Tam Valley, less than one mile from Muir Woods. Their proposal was based on utilizing "paper streets" on an antiquated 1919 subdivision map that had not been re-surveyed in 100 years; an area now blocked in by a century of development.

The site is located on a hillside and in the "Wildland Urban Interface," a Cal Fire State "Responsibility Area" and "Very High Fire Severity Zone." The only way in or out of the area is via Highway 1, over two old bridges of questionable construction.

When the Friends of West Tam Valley tried to obtain documents related to the project, their Public Records Act request was ignored. Attorney Edward Yates, a community advocate, filed a petition on the group's behalf to obtain the records. The County's attorneys retaliated by filing a frivolous lawsuit against Yates. Yates filed an anti-SLAPP (Strategic Litigation Against Public Participation) suit against the County. The County lost.

An Initial Study for the proposed project identified significant environmental impacts and determined that a full Environmental Impact Report was required. The developers have now submitted a "modified" plan that ignores most of the findings in the Initial Study.

Lee Budish, co-chairwoman of Friends of West Tam Valley, says "The County must require the developers to undertake a full EIR, do a new survey and submit an updated subdivision map and Master Plan in order to properly assess the impacts of the proposed development. Friends of West Tam Valley is grateful to Mr. Yates and to Community Venture Partners, a non-profit community support organization which has assisted in our efforts."

# Lawsuit Challenges Trump Administration's Rollbacks of Offshore Drilling Safety Rules

**Safeguards were designed to prevent another Deepwater Horizon disaster**

Ten environmental groups sued the Trump administration on June 11 to challenge rollbacks of the 2016 Well Control and Blowout Preventer Rule, a safety regulation meant to prevent another blowout like what happened during the 2010 BP Deepwater Horizon disaster.

The coalition of local and national groups that filed the lawsuit is composed of Earthjustice, Sierra Club, Natural Resources Defense Council, Southern Environmental Law Center on behalf of Sierra Club, Natural Resources Defense Council, Healthy Gulf, The Center for Biological Diversity, Defenders of Wildlife, Friends of the Earth, North Carolina Coastal Federation, and South Carolina Coastal Conservation League.

The case filed in the Northern District of California challenges key rollbacks to the safety rule, including:

- Weakening performance requirements for blowout preventers
- Eliminating the system of independent safety equipment inspectors
- Grandfathering existing drilling rigs into outdated blowout preventer standards
- Slashing safety equipment testing and inspection standards.

This lawsuit is meant to restore the protections put in place after the 2010 BP blowout. The blowout killed 11 men and resulted in an oil spill that spewed over 130 million gallons of toxic crude into the Gulf of Mexico, polluting 1,300 miles of shoreline, killing billions of individual species of birds, fish, whales, oysters and other wildlife, decimating the seafood and tourism industries of the Gulf states.

The groups allege that the Department of the Interior disregarded the extensive evidence and expert findings that went into the original rule. They also claim the department failed to consider how the rollbacks could harm offshore safety and the environment, while also violating transparency requirements.

"These rollbacks are a step back to the pre-Deepwater Horizon days when the offshore oil industry largely policed itself, to disastrous effect," said Earthjustice attorney Chris Eaton. "This attempt to roll the dice with offshore safety not only puts workers and our coasts at risk, but violates the law."

"On the Gulf Coast, these safety standards have very real implications for workers, the environment and our coastal economy," said Cynthia Sarthou, executive director of Healthy Gulf. "This administration claims the cost is a 'burden' to one of the most profitable industries in the world. That is not a sound justification to roll back these necessary safeguards enacted to prevent another catastrophic blowout like the BP disaster."

Bob Deans, Director of Strategic Engagement at the Natural Resources Defense Council, said "The well control rule was one of the most important measures we took, as a nation, to reduce the risk of another BP-style disaster at sea. The 2016 rule enhanced worker safety, the integrity of equipment inspections and the monitoring of critical operations and tests. Weakening those protections to boost industry profits puts our workers, waters and wildlife at needless risk. We're fighting to restore these common sense safeguards and standing up for all



they protect."

"We can't let the Trump administration make dirty offshore drilling even more dangerous," said Kristen Monsell, a senior attorney at the Center for Biological Diversity. "By ignoring the lessons of the Deepwater Horizon disaster, Trump is making the next catastrophic oil spill far more likely. Rolling back safety standards while trying to aggressively expand offshore drilling just boggles the mind. So we're asking the court to step in to protect workers, wildlife, coastal communities and our climate."

"The Trump Administration has taken every opportunity to chip away at standards put in place to protect our environment and coastal communities," said Hallie Templeton, Senior Oceans Campaigner for Friends of the Earth. "Big Oil's pursuit of profits have driven Trump's safety rollback and it is a prime example of why we must remain vigilant to ensure that federal agencies are complying with the law every step of the way."

"In seeking to eliminate these common-sense standards, the Trump administration is putting workers in harm's way and threatening coastal communities with another devastating oil spill," said Sierra Club Senior Attorney Devorah Ancel. "We will continue to fight back against this unlawful attempt to give the fossil fuel industry free rein to spoil our coasts and public waters."

"The Trump administration's dismantling of the safety regulations put in place to prevent another Deepwater Horizon catastrophe is improper, imprudent and—most importantly—illegal," said Jane Davenport, Defenders of Wildlife attorney. "This suit is about standing up to the fossil fuel industry on behalf of our invaluable ocean and marine wildlife heritage."

"Removing airbags and seatbelts from cars doesn't make them safer. Likewise, erasing the safety rules put in place after Deepwater Horizon makes risky offshore drilling more dangerous," said Catherine Wannamaker of the Southern Environmental Law Center. "This Trump administration rollback makes no sense."



# 90,000 No's

**Trump's proposed fracking frenzy is not going over well on the Central Coast**

Donald Trump's plans to open 1,011,470 acres of public land in Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Tulare and Ventura counties to fracking and expanded oil and gas drilling is proving to be somewhat unpopular.

Following a stormy public meeting at the SLO Embassy Suites on May 22 – where 200 residents were politely informed by the Bureau of Land Management that their comments would not be recorded or noted for the record in any way, but they were welcome to, essentially, shout down a well – residents went to the BLM's website, sent e-mails and filled out post cards in time for the June 10 deadline for receipt of comments that *are* on the record and must be considered by the agency. The BLM was inundated with more than 40,000 online comments and 90,000 post cards, delivered to their Bakersfield office on June 10, variously informing the administration that expanding the extraction of dirty fossil fuels on our public lands threatens the health of our communities and the future of our climate.

According to the BLM, about 90 percent of new oil and gas wells on public lands are fracked -- an extreme oil-extraction process that blasts toxic chemicals mixed with water underground to crack rocks.

A 2015 report from the California Council on Science and Technology concluded that fracking in California happens at unusually shallow depths, dangerously close to underground drinking water supplies, with unusually high concentrations of toxic chemicals.

New drilling and fracking would do even further damage to air quality in Central California, particularly in the San Joaquin air basin, where communities of color and low-income communities are already harmed daily by toxic air pollution.

The plan would also release up to 33 million tons of carbon emissions into the climate.

"Trump's plan would unleash a fracking frenzy that puts California's people and wildlife in harm's way," said Clare Lakewood, senior attorney for the Center for Biological Diversity, said. "This administration is dead set on letting oil and gas companies dig up every last drop of dirty fuel."

The assault of public lands "would be the first time in six years that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) issues a land lease since a judge ruled the agency's issuance of fracking certificates violated the National Environmental Policy Act," Common Dreams reported. The judge noted that the public lands at stake encompass "numerous groundwater systems that contribute to the annual water supply used by neighboring areas for agricultural and urban purposes."

"Expanding extraction of dirty fossil fuels on our public lands threatens the health of our communities and the future of our climate," Monica Embrey, a senior campaign representative with Sierra Club, said. "We will push back every step of the way against this reckless plan to subject more of California's lands, wildlife, and communities to fracking."

"Californians don't want fracking on our public lands any more than President Trump wants fracking on the greens of Mar-a-Lago," said Greg Loarie, an attorney at Earthjustice. "There's no place for this backwards plan in California's clean energy future."



**Can you hear us now?** Environmental justice advocates stand by boxes filled with 90,000 public comments they hand-delivered to the Bureau of Land Management's Bakersfield office on June 10.



## Road

*continued from page 3*

support to partners.

- In Illinois, Ryan Hidden led the Sierra Club partnering with the NAACP, Black Justice Project, Sunrise Chicago, Prairie Rivers Network and more to host a Green New Deal Town Hall in Peoria. The GND town hall successfully brought attention to state legislative efforts like the Clean Energy Jobs Act and provided opportunities for the over 40 attendees to get involved with CEJA advocacy.

- In New Jersey, Jeff Tittel and the chapter partnered with SEIU 32BJ union on a town hall in Newark to highlight how a Green New Deal is especially important for environmental justice communities who already see a disproportionate amount of pollution. "We need a just transition for jobs and a green economy," said Jeff. "We need to move forward and aggressively because the planet as we know it is at stake."

- In Missouri, Gretchen Waddell Barwick and John Hickey put on a joint Sierra Club/Sunrise Green New Deal town hall in Kansas City that featured two candidates for Mayor competing over whose

GND municipal proposal was the most ambitious! When Fox News went to a local diner to paint the Green New Deal as out of touch with Americans in red states, a 23-year-old GND supporter who works with Sunrise and Sierra Club delivered a viral rebuttal on why we need a GND.

- In Arizona, Sandy Bahr and the Northern AZ group of the chapter hosted a Green New Deal town hall in Flagstaff along with students from the local university. Discussions focused on how to apply a Green New Deal vision to the city's climate plan, and urging Rep. O'Halleran to support HR9 and the GND resolution.

The vision for a Green New Deal continues to drive the public's imagination and policymakers' attention to climate change. As immediate next steps, we are discussing with several chapters and campaigns how the Green New Deal can support and amplify their work, and developing a new ladder of escalation to activate our volunteers to support upcoming climate and GND legislation ahead of the Congressional August recess.

# Rootamental SIGNS

for **CHANGE**  
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## Antique

continued from page 7

Sierra Club, County Planning staff, and County Counsel" asserted that the owners of antique maps "should go through the full subdivision application process under today's standards."

Two days later, the repeal vote was suddenly pulled from the board's consent agenda amidst a flurry of confusion.

It returned at the Board's May 21 meeting, when the Board finally undid what it had done.

Sixteen years ago, in the California Supreme Court case *Gardner v. Sonoma*, the Court laid down the law that the SLO County board majority had scrupulously ignored. Sixteen years later, the Board majority defended its contrary position to the bitter end (before voting to overturn it).

Supervisor Arnold asserted "it's not a one size fits all. I get it there are a lot of antiquated subdivisions in this county out in the boonies where we know now that we have land use planning and we take that seriously...but not all the antiquated subdivisions are the same." Supervisor Peschong mused that he had hoped the case would go to court so the legal questions surrounding the matter could be settled, but, alas, the applicant didn't want to do that so he had to rescind his vote of approval.

Multiple court rulings have recognized that land development decisions need to protect communities and the environment and that hundred-year-old land use standards don't do that.

Calling the Board's forced about-face "completely predictable," Supervisor Bruce Gibson invited Chairwoman Arnold to recall the "very blunt advice" that was given by the Assistant County Counsel that the board majority's vote was "doomed from a legal perspective from the start.... There's a reason that the Subdivision Map Act was put in place, and there's a reason that the subsequent legal interpretations of the Map Act have refined how we apply it. So it's my hope that this board will be more careful in the future as we consider the question of development in rural areas and go through the process, which in this case would have been a subdivision application, so we can get a good result for the whole of this county."

Supervisor Adam Hill suggested the board majority break itself of the habit of contradicting the land use planning and legal professionals who work for them.

The ultimate reply to COLAB and Supervisor Peschong's pretense of unsettled legal questions and Supervisor Arnold's "it's not one size fits all" came in 2003 in a brief filed by the American Planning Association in *Gardner v. Sonoma*:

"California has adopted an extensive statutory framework requiring municipalities and counties to plan for their future growth and development, to draft land-use regulations consistent with their plan, to implement their plans through a public involvement process that encourages the community to think about the future when they are making development decisions today. Nothing can undermine all of this more effectively than the 18th Century ghosts appearing in the form of antiquated subdivision maps, claiming a right to direct Sonoma County's growth and development in the 21st Century."

Two of San Luis Obispo County's supervisors get that. Three of them don't.



**Oopsie** The Board of Supervisors got brushed back.

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You can donate your vehicle to support Sierra Club Foundation – Santa Lucia Chapter! Donate before January 1st, 2020, and you may qualify for a 2019 tax deduction. We'll handle the process from start to finish and give you a tax receipt when we pick up your vehicle. We'll tow your vehicle at no cost to you. Call **844-6-SIERRA (844-674-3772)** or visit <http://scfch.careasy.org/index.html> to get started on your donation today.

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**Winds**

*continued from page 7*

came for the express purpose of using the SVRA if they would have come if there were no SVRA should not require comment.

By contrast, the 2017 California Highway 1 Discovery Route Year-End Report, surveying the popularity of activities on the Central Coast, ranked “Beach and Beach Walks” at #4 and “Motor Sports” dead last at #14.

There is a vision for the future for this place that solves all these problems and maintains the public’s right of coastal access. It is not to be found, as yet, in State Parks’ Public Works Plan. Here it is:

- Only government and emergency vehicles allowed to operate in the park. A State Parks shuttle will take visitors into the park.
- Pier and Grand Avenue entrances closed to motor vehicles, except for government and emergency vehicles, and beach/dunes restored at those

**Get Closer to the Earth**

Put your phone down  
Become a cloud watcher  
Behold the wondrous sky paintings  
Slow down and unwind

Smell a sweet petal  
Rest among trees  
Heed the melody of birdsong  
Breathe deeply into the wind

Touch a gentle animal  
Sit quietly by a brook  
Grow flowers and food  
You will feel Her

Give Earth Mother your attention  
Without your phone you will hear Her  
She wants us to care for each other  
Then the world will heal itself

Kalila Volkov  
Singer with Coastline Arts  
Author, *Hiking Trail, Treasure Land*

locations.

- Permanent preservation of Oso Flaco as a nature reserve.
- Enhanced light-footprint recreational opportunities (e.g. hiking, tent camping, surfing, sandboarding, birdwatching, educa-

tion, equestrian use, etc.).

- Restored of foredunes, dune vegetation, and a healthy beach and dune environment
- Protection of culturally and environmentally sensitive areas and wildlife.

The Coastal Commission will meet at 9 a.m. on July 11 at the Embassy Suites Hotel, 333 Madonna Road, San Luis Obispo. A lot of people will be there to try to shut down the conversation the Commission wants to have. If you are concerned about **any** of the above issues, you need to be there to insist that this conversation be had and action be taken. Fill out a speaker slip for Agenda Item 12. **Show up early and prepare to stay late.**

**TAKE ACTION**

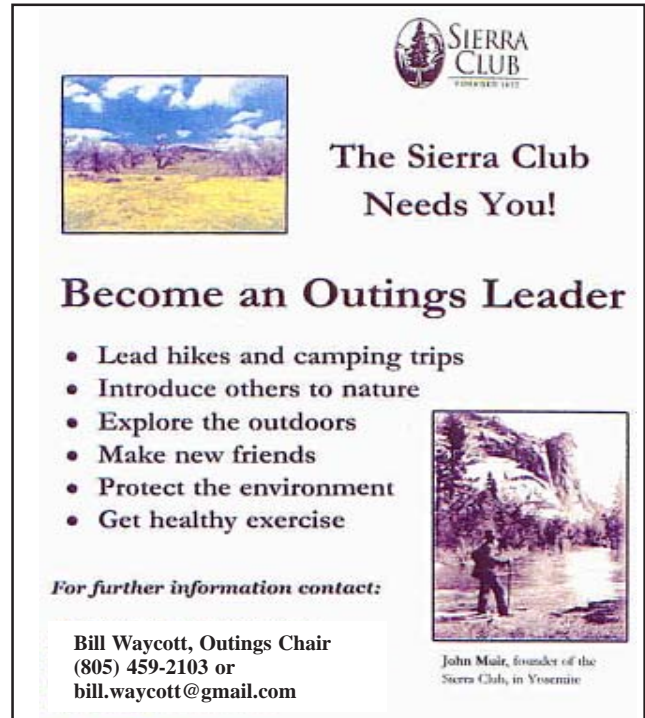


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Director of Gift Planning at  
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planned.giving@sierraclub.org

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Explore, enjoy and protect the planet




**The Sierra Club Needs You!**

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- Introduce others to nature
- Explore the outdoors
- Make new friends
- Protect the environment
- Get healthy exercise

*For further information contact:*

**Bill Waycott, Outings Chair**  
(805) 459-2103 or  
bill.waycott@gmail.com



John Muir, founder of the Sierra Club, in Yosemite

**Outings**

*continued from page 12*

Murray Mine Road and consequently is shorter than the alternative, which covers more of the Spruce Creek Trail. There will be exposure to poison oak. This trek requires a car shuttle. We will meet at the Washburn Day Use Area of San Simeon State Park, 1.5 miles north of Cambria. Hot weather will postpone to another day. Dogs on leash are welcome. Contact Carlos, 805-546-0317.

**Friday-Sunday, Aug. 16th to Aug. 18th, Rare Plant Treasure Hunt, Lopez Lake,** The California Native Plant Society is conducting a rare plant survey in the Lopez Lake area. Participants must be in good physical condition, due to the steep terrain and chaparral vegetation,

and have basic skills in plant identification. Afternoon temperatures in August can reach the mid 90s. If interested, contact Bill, 805-459-2103.

**Saturday, Aug. 24th, 9:00 am, Guadalupe/Paradise Beach.** Moderate, six-mile hike along pristine Guadalupe Beach to Mussel Rock and beyond. Duration about 5- 6 hrs. Bring water, lunch, windbreaker, hat, and dress in layers for varying weather. Eats afterward for those interested. From Hwy 101 in Santa Maria, take Main St./ Hwy 166 west to end at Guadalupe Beach. Meet near interpretive signs and picnic tables. No dogs allowed at Guadalupe Beach. Rain cancels. Contact Andrea, 805-934-2792.

## Sierra Club

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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. Please bring drinking water to all outings and optionally a lunch. Sturdy footwear is recommended. All phone numbers listed are within area code 805 unless otherwise noted. Pets are generally not allowed. A parent or responsible adult must accompany children under the age of 18. 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 Bill Waycott, (805) 459-2103. For information on a specific outing, please call the listed outing leader.



**Saturday July 13th, 9:00 am, Point Sal to Rancho Guadalupe Beach, including Paradise Beach and Mussel Rock.** This hike takes you to some of the most beautiful coastline in Central California. Paradise Beach sees few people because it is situated a considerable distance from paved roads. This is considered a moderately strenuous hike of 11 miles with 1,200 feet of elevation gain. We will walk north from Brown Rd. with the destination of West Main St. There will be a car shuttle.

Meet at the locked gate at the end of Brown Rd., approximately 4 miles west of Route 1. Dogs are not permitted on this trek. Contact Carlos, 805-546-0317.

**Saturday, Aug. 3rd, 10:30 am, Mountain bike ride and hike to Cone Peak, Big Sur.** Ride the Coast Ridge Road to the Cone Peak trailhead, then hike to the summit (5,155 ft.) and return. Along the way, take in the amazing views and see some rare plants - Santa Lucia fir and Sugar pine. Meet at the junction of Naci-

miento-Fergusson Road and Coast Ridge Road (36°00'35.7"N 121°27'08.3"W) at 10:30 am. For a carpool option, meet either at Santa Rosa Park in San Luis Obispo at 7:30 am or at the Washburn Day Use Area of San Simeon State Park, 1.5 miles north of Cambria (35°35'40.7"N 121°07'27.2"W), 8:20 am. The bike ride is 11 miles round trip to the Cone Peak trailhead and back. The hike is 5 miles round trip. Bring a helmet, water, lunch, snacks, sunscreen, as

well as shoes/boots and a hat for the hike. Also, bring a cable lock for your bike to use during the hike. For those interested in carpooling, a pickup truck is preferable to transport others and their gear. Contact Bill, 805-459-2103.

**Saturday, Aug. 10th, 8:30 am, Ragged Point to Salmon Creek Trail head.** This hike takes us into a beautiful part of the Silver Peak Wilderness on dirt roads and trails

in chaparral, meadows, and under tree cover. It is a moderately strenuous route of approximately 11 miles and nearly 3,000 feet of elevation gain. This route goes via the old

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.

*OUTINGS continued page 11*

## Village Creek Plaza

168 **La Costa Grill**  
(805) 474-8797

170 **Cutting Edge Salon**  
(805) 481-3126

172 **Bend Chiropractic**  
(805) 474-4747

174 **House 2 Home Interiors**  
(805) 489-5233

168 - 174 Station Way, Arroyo Grande, CA 93420

Along Arroyo Grande Creek next to AG Post Office

### Island Hopping in Channel Islands National Park

**July 14-16, August 18-20, September 22-24, October 20-22.** Join us for a 3-day, 3-island, live-aboard tour of the Channel Islands. Hike wild, windswept trails bordered with blazing wildflowers. Kayak rugged coastlines, Marvel at pristine waters teeming with seals and sea lions. Train your binoculars on sea and land birds and an occasional whale. Watch for the endangered island fox. Look for reminders of the Chumash people who lived on these islands for thousands of years. Or just relax at sea. Departs from Santa Barbara. \$730, includes assigned bunk, all meals, snacks and beverages. Kayaking overseen by our concessionaire; all hikes will be on trails, class 1 terrain. This is a fundraiser to support the Sierra Club political program in California. To reserve space, send a \$200 check, written to California Sierra Club PAC, to Joan Jones Holtz, 11826 The Wye St., El Monte, CA 91732. For more information contact leaders Joan Jones Holtz: [jholtzhln@aol.com](mailto:jholtzhln@aol.com), 626-443-0706, or Wayne Vollaire [avollaire1@gmail.com](mailto:avollaire1@gmail.com), 909-327-6825.