

# SANTA LUCIAN



**Santa Lucia Chapter**

**Sept./Oct. 2019  
Volume 56 No. 5**

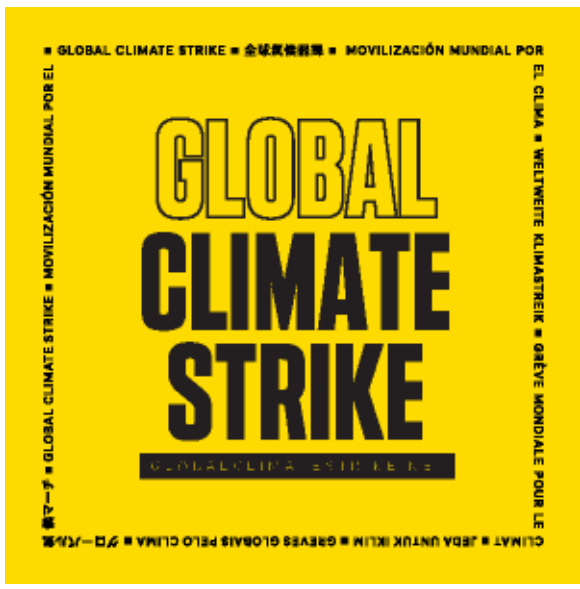
The official newsletter of the Santa Lucia Chapter of the Sierra Club ~ San Luis Obispo County, California

## The Problem

Scientists agree that we have only ten years left to act on the climate crisis. If we fail, we will risk the life of every person on this planet, as well as the extinction of most species.

That makes climate change the biggest threat faced by all humanity. The climate crisis threatens the global economy, the lives and health of billions of people, world peace and political stability.

Democracies across the world have been corrupted and co-opted by fossil fuel profiteers and big polluters. Billions of people have marched, rallied, written letters, demanded action, faced arrest and risked their lives to stop the climate crisis. But the fossil fuel industry's hold on our governments is strong.



## The Solution

We know governments won't deliver climate action and justice on their own, so we're going to show them what people power is capable of.

Youth around the world have been striking from school to bring attention to the climate crisis because they deserve a future safe from climate catastrophe. Now, for the first time, they are asking adults to join them. Young people have shown the world what leadership on climate looks like; now it's up to everyone else to follow their lead. Youth Climate Strike leaders have called on adults to join mass climate strikes during

the week of the UN Climate Summit in New York City.

We are anticipating the size of the strikes to be unprecedented, potentially the largest mass mobilization on climate in human history. By striking in solidarity with youth climate leaders, adults have the power to disrupt the business-as-usual politics that have led us to the brink of climate destruction and support the vision, leadership, and courage young people are bringing to the climate movement.

By joining in a worldwide day of action on a massive scale, we can show elected leaders the power of a united movement for justice and against climate change.

We all deserve to live in the world that the climate strikers are calling for; a world where economic security, good health, education and clean air and water are available to everyone.

**Climate Strike in SLO County**

High schoolers are organizing strikes and walkouts at Atascadero, Arroyo Grande, Morro Bay, Paso Robles, San Luis Obispo and Templeton High Schools on **September 20th**.

A coalition of environmental organizations is calling on the entire community to rally and march for the right to clean air and water and a sustainable environment on **September 27th at 1055 Monterey Street in SLO from 5 to 7p.m.**

Contact: [epearse@calpoly.edu](mailto:epearse@calpoly.edu).

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The week of September 20th, people across the world will walk out of their schools and workplaces to join the youth climate strikers in the streets. **#StrikeWithUs** by visiting [sc.org/climatestrike](http://sc.org/climatestrike). The General Strike is the launch of a new wave of the environmental movement. Let's join together with our neighbors, co-workers, friends and family and go out into the streets to make our voices heard and make this a turning point in our history.

**TAKE ACTION**

# Sierra Club General Meeting

Wed., Sept. 18  
Copeland Pavilion, 3rd Floor  
French Medical Center  
1823 Johnson Ave., SLO  
Doors open: 6:30 p.m.  
Program: 7-9 p.m.

## What Environmental Justice Means to You

The Sierra Club is dedicated to the integration of social justice and environmental concerns, and promoting dialogue, increased understanding, and appropriate action. We seek to provide an effective framework for addressing the damage, risk, and discrimination facing so many communities today. (See page 4.)

Join members of the Santa Lucia Chapter's Executive Committee for an exploration of how we can attain the goals of social justice and human rights to secure environmental protections and a sustainable future for the planet.



## They'd Rather Not Discuss It

By Andrew Christie, Chapter Director

Community Choice Energy is about consumer choice, renewable energy, reduced greenhouse gas emissions, and local energy generation instead of the utility model of coal, gas, and nuclear-generated electricity dispatched over long-distance transmission lines from a power plants to substations. It means municipalities can fund building retrofits, transportation electrification, and energy efficiency programs. And all that means local economic development.

Almost all the cities in SLO County have seen the light and are on track to provide a Community Choice program for their residents via Monterey Bay Community Power by 2021.

But not in Atascadero or -- thus far -- the unincorporated areas of SLO County.

As *New Times* reported, both the County Supervisors and the City of Atascadero declined to agendize a vote to join Monterey Bay Community Power on July 9.

"I feel like I need more information," said Councilwoman Roberta Fonzi, which was also the ostensible reason why the council majority felt

### Santa Lucian

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The *Santa Lucian* is published six times a year. Articles, environmental information and letters to the editor are welcome. The deadline for each issue is the 13th of the prior month.

send to: **Editor, Santa Lucian**, Sierra Club, P.O. Box 15755, San Luis Obispo, CA 93406. sierraclub8@gmail.com

### Santa Lucia Chapter

#### 2019 Executive Committee

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Carmen Bouquin (12/21) MEMBER  
Chuck Tribbey (12/19) MEMBER  
Heather Howell (12/20) SECRETARY  
Violet Sage Walker (12/20) MEMBER  
Stephanie Carlotti (12/20) MEMBER  
Jennifer Bauer (12/21) VICE-CHAIR

Kevin O'Gorman TREASURER

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Violet Sage Walker  
Jennifer Bauer  
**Membership/Development**  
Heather Howell, Dani Nicholson  
**Conservation**  
Sue Harvey

**Nuclear Power Task Force**  
Rochelle Becker  
Linda Seeley

**CA Conservation Committee delegates**  
Stephanie Carlotti, Violet Walker  
**Council of Club Leaders delegates**  
Jennifer Bauer, Chuck Tribbey

**Facebook Administrator**  
Kim Ramos

**Bookkeeper**  
Sandra Cirilo



The **Executive Committee** meets the third Monday of each month at 4:15 p.m. in the chapter office, located at 974 Santa Rosa St., San Luis Obispo. All members are welcome to attend.

#### Outings

Bill Waycott

#### Webmasters

Monica Tarzier, Stephanie Carlotti

#### Trail Guide

Gary Felsman

#### Chapter Director

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#### Santa Lucia Chapter

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**Office hours Monday-Friday,  
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SLO Climate Coalition  
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**September 14, Madonna Inn,  
 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.**  
 EV ride & drive!

**September 19, San Luis Obispo Farmers' Market, 6:00 p.m. - 9 p.m.**  
 EV car show on Morro Street! We anticipate between 15-20 EVs on display. Some of the vehicles will be provided by local car dealers and others will be private citizens showing their personal vehicles.

## 2020 Executive Committee Nominations Now Open

The world's most democratic environmental organization needs you! Yes, Santa Lucia Chapter member, you can run for a seat on our Executive Committee and have a say in decision-making in the Sierra Club. The ExCom is an administrative body; we need people who can take minutes, organize committees, inspire participation, provide publicity, and organize members. (You don't have to do it all; one or two of those is great.) Conservationists are welcome, but the Chapter also needs volunteers who like to handle the needs common to all organizations. If you have some time and would like to help this great organization, please volunteer to serve on ExCom.

Each winning candidate will be elected to a three-year term. The Executive Committee meets once a month at the Chapter office.

You may nominate yourself or suggest anyone else who is willing. Send names and contact info to [sierraclub8@gmail.com](mailto:sierraclub8@gmail.com) or 805-543-8717.

Alternatively, members may run by petition, signed by 25 chapter members in good standing. The deadline for submission of petitions at the chapter office is 4 p.m. Friday, October 4.

### Thank You, Cal and Rosemary

*The Executive Committee of the Sierra Club's Santa Lucia Chapter thanks Cal and Rosemary Wilvert for their extremely generous gift of \$10,000. Chapter Members like Cal and Rosemary are the mainstay and strength of our Chapter.*

## Discuss

*continued from page 2*

the need to delay the agendizing discussion from the council's June 25 meeting to July 9, allowing for more time to research the issue — beyond the reams of information MBCP had already provided, and more reams the council could have solicited from the six cities in the county that have already studied the issue and elected to join, or from the twenty Community Choice agencies statewide that are serving more than three million customers.

It wasn't the County's first go-round with Community Choice evasion, either. The same supervisors who just declined to discuss joining MBCP terminated any exploration of the feasibility of a local Community Choice program last year.

Councilwoman Fonzi also cited "developments at Clean Power Alliance in Ventura County where some high electricity demand customers are seeing increasing rates, putting participating cities/counties on their heels."

If the councilwoman needed "more information" on that, she could have asked

Gina Goodhill, Policy Director for Clean Power Alliance. "SCE changed its rates three times between March and June," says Goodhill. "Unfortunately, this coincided exactly with CPA's start-up period. For 1% of CPA's customers — only larger commercial users, no residential customers — CPA's Board adopted a rate increase as a result of the cumulative impact of SCE's rate changes...to avoid increases in rates for CPA's remaining 99% of customers."

Everybody's spidey-sense should tingle whenever public officials give explanations that don't quite match up with their actions, so let's stress this point: Atascadero and the County did not debate the pros and cons of Community Choice, hear from the public, deliberate on the matter, and then vote against joining the regional program. They declined to *put it on an agenda* -- i.e. the means by which one would get more information. They acted to ensure that a vote could not be taken.

Our Sierra Club chapter has been banging the gong for Community Choice for over a decade. Community Choice

programs have been up and running for years. Less than a year after startup in 2010, Marin Clean Energy customers were reducing annual greenhouse gas emissions by approximately 70,000 tons, the equivalent of removing nearly 12,000 cars from the road each year, and 27% of all their energy was coming from renewable resources. Sonoma Clean Power saved its residents and businesses \$13.6 million in its first year of operation. PG&E explained its decision to close Diablo Canyon this way: "There are several contributing factors, including...the potential increases in the departure of PG&E's retail load customers to Community Choice Aggregation."

That was three years ago. Local elected officials who bemoan Diablo's pending closure but still haven't gotten the memo on Community Choice Energy -- and are actively refusing to put it on an agenda -- have made their communities into outliers as the rest of the state moves toward locally controlled renewable energy. That kind of demonstrated inability to read the handwriting on the wall raises a question: If

you refuse to lead, should you be in leadership position?

There are consequences when municipalities choose to sit on their hands when effective, proven measures to accelerate the transition from fossil fuels to clean, renewable power are placed before them. An elected body invoking a need for "more information" on Community Choice while making no move to obtain it is, in the words of the recently departed Ross Perot, just sad.

As *New Times* reported regarding Atascadero's stall, "Councilmembers Susan Funk and Charles Bourbeau... wanted to see the issue agendized in August for a decision. 'Not to do so, it says we're not willing to do the homework that we were elected to do to make decisions for our city. That's going to be tough to defend,' Funk said."

Yes, that is a tough one. But it's a problem that can be fixed by a new city council majority in Atascadero and a new board majority at the County Government Center.

*(Atascadero Councilwoman Roberta Fonzi responds, page 8.)*



Photo: AJustClimate.org



By Leslie Fields, *Directora del Programa de Justicia Ambiental y Alianzas de Comunidades* and Liz Perera, *Sierra Club Climate Policy Director*

On July 18, the Sierra Club joined forces with a broad coalition of environmental justice and national environmental groups to release, for the first time, a just and equitable national climate platform.

Why? Because for Indigenous, people of color, and low-income communities, climate change is not a new crisis. As climate change intensifies, these communities are already facing the highest levels of toxic pollution, more powerful storms and floods, more intense heat waves, more deadly wildfires, more extreme droughts, and other devastating effects of the climate crisis. We're joining together to recognize the fact that climate action is incomplete if it fails to address the extreme conditions facing frontline communities.

Furthermore, the opportunities presented by climate action also must be engaged in a way that puts environmental justice—and environmental justice leaders—first. As we transition away from fossil fuels to an economy powered by clean energy, we can't afford to duplicate the injustice of the status quo: exploited and poisoned communities, racism, unsafe workplaces, low wages, and other forms of injustice. That's why this new platform calls for ambitious climate solutions that acknowledge and address the legacy of pollution, other environmental harms, and inequity in overburdened communities.

This historic platform acknowledges that the goals of economic, racial, climate, and environmental justice are shared among environmental justice and national environmental organizations. It identifies key areas of alignment between these groups, including:

- \* A healthy climate and air quality for all;
- \* Access to reliable, affordable and sustainable electricity, water, and transportation for every community;
- \* An inclusive, just, and pollution-free energy economy with high-quality jobs; and
- \* Safe, healthy communities and infrastructure.

The Sierra Club has been deeply engaged with environmental justice communities for decades and created its own environmental justice program in the early 90s. We've worked with communities across the nation to address the systematic racism and exclusion they have faced. Increasingly, that work has been guided by the Jemez Principles and additional environmental justice principles approved by our Board of Directors, and has

been implemented to tackle issues ranging from the border wall to toxic pipelines to local air and water pollution.

The national climate platform, however, marks the first time that environmental justice leaders and national environmental groups have united to jointly define national climate policy priorities. These groups came together because they share common goals for the future of the planet, including that all people and communities have the right to breathe clean air and access healthy food, live free of dangerous levels of toxic pollution, and enjoy the benefits of a prosperous and vibrant clean energy economy. The platform represents historic progress in the long and hard-fought effort by environmental justice advocates to include environmental justice as a core goal of the national environmental and climate policy agenda.

The just and equitable national climate platform acknowledges that improving the public health and well-being of all communities goes hand in hand with tackling the climate crisis. It makes no compromises—encouraging policy leaders to put our nation on an ambitious emissions reduction path in order to contribute equitably to global efforts to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius. To be successful, we must firmly be on this path by 2030.

Communities of color, Indigenous, and low-income communities have always led the way in crafting policy solutions that have racial, economic, and social justice at their core. As society's wealthiest few continue to amass vast resources and leave everyone else behind, this is a critical moment to define bold and equitable climate solutions that address the legacy of environmental injustice rather than exacerbate this inequality.

We believe environmental justice organizations should be front and center in all policy, stakeholder levels, and that all legal means should be employed to remedy and mitigate the unaddressed and unfair pollution burdens in these communities.

These organizations and communities should also receive funding and resource opportunities equivalent to the historically mainstream environmental organizations.

By advancing this bold platform together, our goal is to fundamentally transform the conversation, and the reality, of how we work to tackle the climate crisis and environmental justice in this country.

Learn more at [AJustClimate.org](http://AJustClimate.org).

## On SLO and Statues

On August 19, the Santa Lucia Chapter's Executive Committee sent a letter to the SLO City Council expressing our support for their decision to create a policy for civic monuments and sculptures and our hope that in the future there is a way to *not ban monuments* but to *better plan monuments* with broad community support and great meaning.

There are plenty of amazing people — civil rights activists, scientists, scholars, and heroes — who would certainly be deserving of a monument. However, we agree that monuments to people, in some cases, exclude and marginalize other groups at the same time.

We had mixed feelings about the recent controversial proposal of a statue honoring Theodore Roosevelt as, on the one hand, many members of the Sierra Club support the work TR did in preserving National Parks and other conservation efforts. On the other hand, his policies, attitudes and actions toward Native Americans made honoring him in this space, in this way, too hurtful to countenance for Indigenous Peoples and people of color in general.

Sierra Club policies are centered on principles of equity, justice and inclusion in every aspect of our work, aiming to build a healthy, welcoming and sustainable community that celebrates people from all walks of life.

The Sierra Club is committed to working with communities of all socioeconomic and ethnic backgrounds. We pride ourselves on addressing systemic racism and exclusion in all areas.



## Tiny Houses are Coming

Take a peek, Oct. 11-13



Tiny houses on wheels (THOWs), which can provide affordable, safe and sustainable housing, are now legal in backyards in the City of SLO, a national housing leader as one of the first cities in the nation to allow THOWs.

Celebrating affordable and sustainable housing opportunities, non-profit SmartShare Housing Solutions and partners Ecologistics and SLO Climate Coalition will offer residents and visitors a chance to explore and learn about a variety of tiny homes, skoolies, vans and other alternative housing options at the first Tiny Footprint Expo, a fundraiser for the organizations.

TINY continued on page 10

## This is Beyond Debate

What if volcanoes are heating the planet? Maybe solar cycles are to blame? Isn't carbon dioxide good for plants?

These are but a few of the questions on global warming that are addressed in this book. If you are concerned that global warming may be a serious problem, but find it hard to know what to believe or how to help in the face of conflicting arguments, you will want to read this book. You don't have to be a scientist to understand Dr. Shahir Masri's explanations and solutions. They proceed along common-sense lines that are easy to follow.

Climate change poses a major threat to public health and the environment. Yet misinformation and political squabbling has stalled policy and enabled little progress to be made in solving the crisis. Similarly, the notion of a "climate debate" has created the illusion of a divided scientific community, when in fact most scientists agree that human activity is causing the planet to warm.

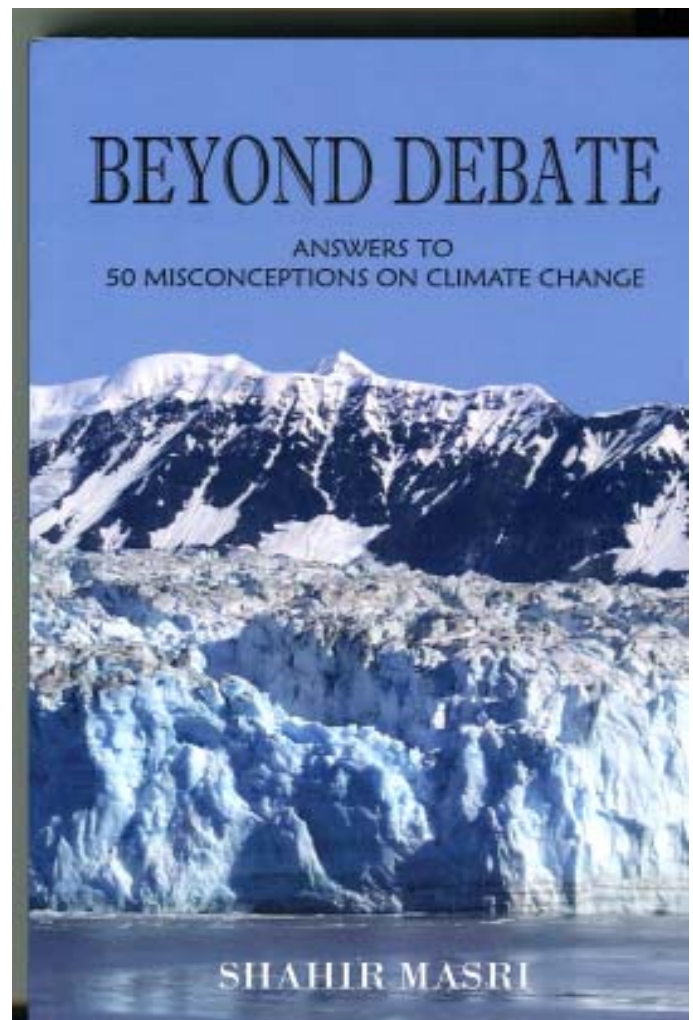
At a time when open discussion is essential, talk of global warming has become entrenched in politics and all but taboo in unfamiliar company.

In *Beyond Debate*, Dr. Masri clears up fifty of the most common misconceptions surrounding climate change. He simplifies the science and resolves the confusion so that everyone may better understand the issue. (Al Fonzi, come on down!) Now is not the time for silence, but for conversation and collective action to address greenhouse gas emissions and begin to solve the climate crisis. Action begins with understanding, which *Beyond Debate* eloquently offers. Dr. Masri conveys a sense of urgency while describing opportunities for hope.

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# Oceano Dunes Heading South

*At the July 11 meeting of the California Coastal Commission in San Luis Obispo, the California Department of Parks and Recreation promised to deliver to the Coastal Commission a Public Works Plan for the Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area one year hence, with quarterly updates as that date approaches.*

*In agreeing to await the arrival of that plan, the Coastal Commission held in abeyance more than a dozen conditions that had been drafted by Commission staff to compel State Parks to end four decades of chronic violations of its permit and the California Coastal Act at the dunes.*

*Commissioners made it clear to State Parks that their Public Works Plan will need to incorporate and implement the changes that the Commission would otherwise have compelled via those conditions to their permit. In the summer of 2020, the Coastal Commission will either approve or reject State Parks' plan for the future management of the Oceano Dunes.*

Less than three weeks after the Coastal Commission's July 11 meeting in SLO, the public – or at least those of us who reminded State Parks that we are indeed “environmental stakeholder groups who have participated in the PWP planning process” — got their first opportunity to see if the Coastal Commission's message on mandatory protections of coastal resources got through to the Department of Parks and its Off-Highway Vehicles division.

In a word: No.

- OHV division staff, speaking at a July 30 meeting in Oceano, said they believe the Coastal Commission's directive means they merely need to “take into consideration” the 13 draft permit amendments, not that they must incorporate them into the Public Works Plan. They knew when they said it that this wasn't true. On July 23, the Executive Director of the Coastal Commission had sent the Director of State Parks a letter memorializing the Commission's actions at its July 11 meeting and explicitly citing the Commission's directive to incorporate all of staff's recommended operational and management changes as permanent conditions in the PWP. (See facing page).

- Oso Flaco remains in peril. Parks managers are unfazed by the public outcry and blunt assessment of the Coastal Commission staff report that their plans for OHV development at Oso Flaco Lake show a Public Works Plan “going in the wrong direction,” and they are continuing to go in that direction, with all the threats to listed plant species, conversion of agricultural land, destruction of an Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Area, and environmental justice issues in tow. In its current state, the PWP ignores the fact, per the California Native Plant Society, that the lake will be moving northeast over time into the areas planned for OHV development due to dune changes, as has occurred at Coreopsis Lake and Little Oso Flaco Lake.

- OHV staff does not appear to be looking to reduce the level of stress and fatalities (“take”) inflicted on the Pacific snowy plover and least tern; rather, they are seeking

**Last chance** We all need to remind the Coastal Commission that once they approve State Parks' Public Works Plan, it will replace the Coastal Development Permit. There will be no more CDP, no “otherwise,” and no “future CDP review.”



## AGENDA

**Pismo State Beach and Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area (SVRA) Public Works Plan (PWP) Focused Stakeholder Meeting**

**Date:** July 30, 2019  
**Time:** 4:38 – 6:38 pm  
**Location:** Oceano Dunes District Visitor Center, Galois Hall  
 955 Pier Ave.  
 Oceano, CA 93446

**Meeting Purpose**  
 This is a focused meeting with environmental stakeholder groups who have participated in the PWP planning process. State Parks will provide an update on the planning process and discuss the goals and planning context for the PWP. Stakeholders will have an opportunity to ask questions of the planning team and provide further input.

**Agenda Topics**

- > Overview of PWP, planning process, and other planning efforts
- > Coastal Commission update
- > Summary of public input on PWP project concepts
- > Hearing from you – Q&A

**Hello, stakeholders in the sand** 19 days after the Coastal Commission told State Parks where it needs to go, Parks threw the map out the window.

to enshrine or increase current levels of take in a Habitat Conservation Plan required by the Endangered Species Act. As a Parks biologist at that meeting put it, we should all prepare for “sticker shock” when we see the suggested level of allowable take in the draft Habitat Conservation Plan. In the final draft, take levels must not be detrimental to the species, and required conservation measures must be robust.

- Steelhead must currently dodge SUV's and other sand toys that get stuck in the mouth of Arroyo Grande Creek, erode the creek banks and release pollutants, but steelhead and measures to protect them are not included in the draft Habitat Conservation Plan.

- OHV staff claimed that the Public Works Plan will be “in compliance” with the Coastal Act. When questioned, they acknowledged that it really won't be. Some provisions of the Coastal Act that Coastal Commission staff have made clear are being violated now, and which OHV staff made clear will continue to be violated in the draft PWP, include riding in Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Areas, riding in the County-

*DUNES continued on page 7*

“...the identified issues and constraints suggest that it is time to start thinking about ways to transition ODSVRA away from OHV use to other forms of public access and recreation that better respond to the current realities that affect and are affected by activities at this shoreline location. ODSVRA operations that are fully consistent with on-the-ground realities and with the legal requirements of the CDP, Coastal Act, and LCP do *not* include OHV use, and thus, **whether through the PWP process or otherwise, including through a future CDP review**, State Parks needs to explore a future ODSVRA that transitions away from OHV and towards less intensive forms of public access and recreation.”

*- Staff report, California Coastal Commission review of the Coastal Development Permit for the ODSVRA, July 11, 2019*

**Dunes**

*continued from page 6*



owned La Grande Tract, and the conversion of agricultural lands for off-road recreation.

And when it comes to the Coastal Commission’s big ticket item — a path to a recreational future at the dunes in the PWP that excludes off-highway vehicle activity – the answer was blunt: Repurposing off-roading at the park is off the table because it would require a re-classification of use. But as the July 11 Coastal Commission staff report made clear, it would require no such thing.

Those of us who attended State Parks’ July 30 meeting looking to see if there was any change in habitat conservation, the protection of public health and safety, or environmental justice reflected in the Public Works Plan process as a result of the Coastal Commission’s July 11 directive got our answer.

The July 30 meeting drove home the point for anyone who was not yet aware: State Parks’ OHV staff sees perpetuating off-road riding as their number-one job. They do not, and never will, prioritize resource protection unless forced to.

In the words of Larry Allen, former SLO Air Pollution Control Officer for San Luis Obispo County and battle-scarred veteran of the dunes dust wars:

*“I’ve never dealt with a more recalcitrant or unscrupulous organization than State Parks’ OHV Division. Their corporate culture is simply not conducive to solving any issue that’s not beneficial to their core mission: To enhance and expand OHV parks.”*

Allen passed along this hard-won wisdom to the California Coastal Commission, one regulatory professional to another, at the Commission’s meeting in SLO. They didn’t hear it.

Coastal Commissioners: Can you hear him now?

Next summer, it would be rather awkward for State Parks to submit a copy of their standard “thanks but no thanks” response to the Coastal Commission or attempt to conceal an intent not to incorporate any of the Commission’s mandatory conditions in their mandated quarterly reports.

But that doesn’t mean they won’t try.

The Coastal Commission meets every month. You can attend and speak on the Oceano Dunes at any of those meetings or submit comments



**“[I move to direct State Parks that] all of the conditions in this CDP staff report be addressed as permanent conditions within the PWP process.”**

- Motion of California Coastal Commissioner Donne Brownsey, passed in San Luis Obispo, July 11, 2019

**TAKE ACTION**

to District Supervisor Kevin Kahn (kevinkahn@coastal.ca.gov) reminding Coastal Commissioners of what they told State Parks to do (see column at right).

Come the summer of 2020, when it will be time for them to do their duty, Commissioners are going to need to have the epic sweep of State Parks’ noncompliance at the front of their minds. Monthly reminders are the best way to make sure that they do.

● **Increase Predator Management.** Implement an improved predator management plan, including enclosures for trash and food waste, and BMPs for addressing predation of sensitive species (including by coyotes, raccoons, skunks, opossums, ravens, gulls, owls, and peregrine falcons).

● **Increase Operational Enforcement.** Increase enforcement of all vehicular use limits, all vehicular speed limits, and all other vehicular requirements, including through additional signs, rangers, and parameters for verifying that the number of vehicles in the Park does not exceed maximum allowances.

● **Add Fencing.** Install additional fencing in specific areas to better protect coastal resources (including fencing in the south Oso Flaco Lake area, fencing suitable for enhanced predator management, fencing to better define the southern enclosure, and fencing to ensure all vegetated dune areas are appropriately fenced off).

● **Enhance Public Outreach.** Institute a public outreach program to increase use of appropriate beach and dune areas by lower-income, youth, and tribal parties.

● **Eliminate the TRT and Implement Annual Reports.** Eliminate the Technical Review Team (TRT) and replace it with an annual reporting program that is processed through Executive Director review and approval.

● **Add Special Events Protocols.** Require a separate CDP for all special events that could result in adverse impacts to coastal resources, including music festivals, concerts, OHV events (e.g., Huckfest), and any other special events that propose an intensity of use beyond those specified in the CDP.

● **Prohibit Night Riding.** Prohibit vehicular and OHV activity during nighttime hours (i.e., from one-hour after sunset and to one-hour before sunrise).

● **Prohibit Arroyo Grande Creek Crossing.** Prohibit vehicular crossings of Arroyo Grande Creek when it flows (i.e., shut down all OHV and camping operations during this time) except for emergency vehicles, and monitor the creek to ensure that users are not allowed south of the Creek when it will soon connect to the ocean and to provide time for users south of the Creek to exit before it connects to the ocean.

● **Reduce Use Limits.** Reduce interim vehicular and OHV daily use limits to an amount proportionate to the acreage that has been removed from vehicular/OHV use (e.g., due to dust control requirements, other enclosures, etc.).

● **Eliminate Exceptions to Use Limits.** Eliminate the four exceptions that allow unlimited vehicular and OHV use on Memorial Day, Fourth of July, Labor Day, and Thanksgiving weekends.

● **Evaluate Entrance Modifications.** Evaluate changes that can be made to provide vehicular access into the Park in way that can reduce coastal resource impacts, particularly as such vehicular access relates to Arroyo Grande Creek crossings and more normal and typical beach uses north of the riding area.

● **Make Seasonal Exclusion Permanent.** Make the roughly 300-acre seasonal endangered species exclusion area permanent, and restore the area to enhance habitat.

● **Allow for Future Closures for Required Dust Control.** Allow perimeter fencing and/or vegetation and related development (e.g., monitoring equipment, etc.) for dust control purposes for all areas specified by the San Luis Obispo County Air Pollution Control District.

# Taking Issue

Problematic environmental coverage & commentary in our local media

“More questions than answers,” by Roberta Fonzi  
New Times, Aug. 15, 2019

**Summary:** Atascadero Councilwoman Roberta Fonzi attempts a rebuttal of Santa Lucia Chapter Director Andrew Christie’s July 25 *New Times* column (“They’d Rather Not Discuss It”) on the decision by her council and the County Board of Supervisors to take no action on joining Monterey Bay Community Power, a Community Choice Energy program.

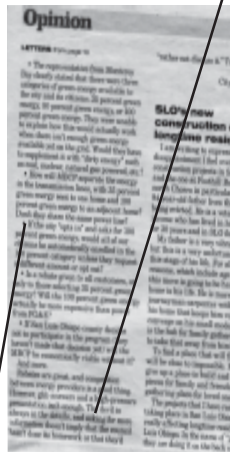
In 2008, in response to complaints that it was using its status as a monopoly utility to confuse

customers about Community Choice and thwart competition, PG&E signed a legal settlement at the Public Utilities Commission acknowledging that it is opposed to Community Choice programs, agreeing to rules established for its activities around CCAs, and stipulating that it will address its opinions regarding a Community Choice program to the program’s board of directors, not to city councils and county boards.

How will MBCP separate the energy in the transmission lines, with 35 percent green energy sent to one home and 100 percent green energy to an adjacent home? Don’t they share the same power line?

The councilwoman is tangled up in green. As is widely known, clean energy is about generation at the source, not individual points of consumption. See PG&E’s copycat “Solar Choice” program, with “the option to purchase up to 100% of your electricity from a universal solar program.” Community Choice Energy providers sign power purchase agreements for solar, wind, energy storage, etc. The more Community Choice customers who opt for 100% green energy, the cleaner the grid gets as more funds are directed toward the build out of local renewable energy projects, EV charging networks, etc.

Why was PG&E not allowed to answer council questions about the MBCP?... It would be helpful to hear from both energy providers before making a decision.



If the city “opts in” and asks for 100 percent green energy, would all of our citizens be automatically enrolled in the 100 percent category unless they request a different amount or opt out?

The MBCP program’s default plan, “100% carbon free,” costs the same as PG&E’s regular

rates. The upper tier, “100% renewable,” is available to individual customers who wish to opt up, for a monthly premium of one cent per kilowatt hour. This information is available on line.

Asking for more information doesn’t imply that the council hasn’t done its homework or that they’d “rather not discuss it.” To the contrary!

Doing nothing to obtain that information strongly implies that. See “They’d Rather Not Discuss It” (page 2), in which we find that Councilwoman Fonzi and the council

majority had two opportunities to ask questions and/or direct staff to get answers at its June 25 and July 9 meetings, or during the time in between. They neglected to do so, then decided not to hold a public hearing, the venue at which local governments traditionally get answers to questions that would inform deliberations and a vote.

Last year, MBCP delivered \$4.4 million in rebates to its customers, (on track for \$10 million this year), cut 300,000 metric tons of green-house gas emissions, invested \$1.25 million in local energy programs, and secured \$6 million in EV charging station funds from the state. Atascadero blew their deadline to get these kinds of benefits for residents. As we go to press, the County Supervisors may or may not have agendized a vote on Community Choice prior to their Sept. 17 deadline. (If not, you can encourage them at [tinyurl.com/voteCCE](http://tinyurl.com/voteCCE)).

**Upshot:** In a serendipitous happenstance of graphic layout, the August 15 *New Times* op ed “Saving the future” by Board of Supervisors candidate and former

Atascadero Mayor Ellen Beraud wound up refuting Councilwoman Fonzi -- and demonstrating what vision and political leadership look like -- on the same page where the councilwoman’s letter appeared.



**So sorry, Atascadero** (Ask [citycouncil@atascadero.org](mailto:citycouncil@atascadero.org) why you’re not part of this)

## California Community Choice Association Q2 2019 Update

By Beth Vaughan, Executive Director, CalCCA

There’s a seismic shift underway in California, and I’m not referring to the recent earthquakes that have rocked the state.

The shift is occurring as electricity load migrates from bundled, investor-owned utility (IOU) service to local community choice aggregators (CCAs). Statewide in the three main IOU territories combined, CCAs are now serving about 25 percent of load and more community choice programs are poised to launch in 2020 and beyond.

In April, when the California Public Utilities Commission adopted a preferred portfolio of resources to meet the state’s 2030 emissions-reduction target, the magnitude of this shakeup on procurement responsibility came into bold relief. CCAs plan to purchase more than 90 percent, or 10,000 MW, of the new clean energy resources that are needed by 2030, while

CCA continued next page



# Trump Extinction Plan Guts Endangered Species Act

## Environmental groups head to court

On August 12, against a backdrop of recent reports of global mass extinction, the Trump administration released final regulations weakening the Endangered Species Act, the nation’s most effective tool in saving wildlife from extinction.

The Trump Extinction Plan would gut critical endangered species protections by making it much more difficult to extend protections to threatened species, delaying lifesaving action until a species’ population is potentially impossible to save; making it more difficult to protect polar bears, coral reefs, and other species that are impacted by the effects of climate change; and making it easier for companies to build roads, pipelines, mines, and other industrial projects in critical habitat areas that are essential to imperiled species’ survival.

These changes come in the wake of tremendous public opposition to weakening the protections of the Endangered Species Act. After the proposed rules were announced, more than 800,000 public comments were submitted opposing the changes. Last fall, 105 Members of Congress and 34 U.S. Senators sent letters to Trump’s Department of the Interior to protest the harmful rollbacks. Ten states and the District of Columbia are also on record opposing the weakening of the Endangered Species Act, as are more than 30 tribal nations. More than 99 percent of animals, plants and insects protected by the law have been saved from extinction.

On August 21, environmental and animal protection groups sued the Trump administration. Earthjustice filed suit on behalf of Center for Biological Diversity, Defenders of Wildlife, Sierra Club, Natural Resources Defense Council, National Parks Conservation Association, WildEarth Guardians, and the Humane Society of the United States.

The lawsuit charges:

- 1) The Trump administration failed to publicly disclose and analyze the harms and impacts of these rules, in violation of the National Environmental Policy Act;
- 2) The administration inserted new changes into the final



rules that were never made public and not subject to public comment, cutting the American people out of the decision-making process.

3) The administration violated the language and purpose of the Act by unreasonably changing requirements for compliance with Section 7, which requires federal agencies to ensure that actions they authorize, fund, or carry out do not jeopardize the existence of any species listed, or destroy or adversely modify designated critical habitat of any listed species.

Plaintiffs have also filed a notice of intent to sue on additional claims, including the new rule injecting economic considerations into listing decisions and the rule eliminating automatic protections for newly listed threatened species.

“The new rules move the Endangered Species Act dangerously away from its grounding in sound science that has made the Act so effective” said Karimah Schoenhut, Sierra Club staff attorney. “In the face of the climate crisis, the result of this abandonment of responsibility will be extinction.”

“Nothing in these new rules helps wildlife, period,” said Kristen Boyles, Earthjustice attorney. “Instead, these regulatory changes seek to make protection and recovery of threatened and endangered species harder and less predictable. We’re going to court to set things right.”

### CCA

*continued from previous page*

IOUs and energy service providers plan to invest in approximately 1,000 MW combined.

Even as some continue to question the financial wherewithal of CCAs, aggregators are successfully plugging away at signing new long-term power purchase agreements, going above and beyond state green energy requirements. CCAs have already signed contracts for well over 2,500 MW with new renewable energy facilities in California, with almost 600 MW secured in June alone.

CCAs’ procurement of battery energy storage—a combined 150 MW/600 MWh in less than a year—is proving to be a case study that demonstrates the capability of CCAs to rapidly procure the resources the state needs to meet and exceed clean energy goals, despite their newness and short credit histories.

With energy storage, “CCAs are breaking open a new market that does not depend on the lengthy cycle of utility procurement,” notes a recent Greentech Media article. “The fact that the local decision-making process moves faster than working with massive utility bureaucracies only sweetens the


deal.”

In June, CalCCA shared a letter with Gov. Newsom and legislative leaders that provides a series of detailed recommendations for improving the reliability of electricity service, reducing the risk associated with IOU operations, and making communities more resilient in the face of catastrophic wildfires.

The letter contains our views on the transformation of the state’s energy market, and the regulatory and legislative changes we believe are necessary to keep the lights on, protect ratepayers and fire victims, and cultivate the clean energy system California will need to thrive. We hope you will join us in helping to ensure that every community in California has safe, reliable, affordable clean energy options.

**i choose clean energy.**





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## An Inconvenient Sequel: Truth to Power



Sept. 20 - SLO County Library

Sierra Club is sponsoring a showing of the sequel to *An Inconvenient Truth* in support of the Student Climate Strike. Doors open at 5, film starts at 5:30.

Free public event, seating limited.

### Tiny

*continued from page 5*

Event organizers are betting that almost everyone who enters the well crafted, well insulated, light-filled tiny homes on display and speaks

with residents will see how someone can live comfortably in one. "They are well-suited to house the growing number of single-person households; those who want to lessen their environmental footprint and live simply, at lower expense;



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168 - 174 Station Way, Arroyo Grande, CA 93420  
Along Arroyo Grande Creek next to AG Post Office

## Thanks for Coming!

We had a full house at our August 9 office warming. Thanks to all who dropped by to check out the Chapter's new digs on 1411 Marsh Street in SLO and do some serious noshing.



Above: The groaning board.



Left: Chapter Chair Sue Harvey gives guests an update on Chapter activities.

With thanks to our sponsors!



and seniors who want to age in place or near family," says Celeste Goyer, operations director at SmartShare.

The Tiny Footprint: Central Coast Tiny House & Net Zero Expo is happening October 11-13 at Madonna Meadows. Full info and tickets online at [TinyFootprintExpo.com](http://TinyFootprintExpo.com). Tickets: \$8 advance; \$10 door or \$75 VIP Friday/3-day. Food, local vendors, and activities for kids. Free bike parking.

### WHEN REDWOODS FALL

On a calm day it chose to end,  
Not by December's scything wind  
But in summer's breezeless July,  
Eight-hundred years of standing.

Rooted in revolving Earth,  
It heeded the last click of time  
On a calm day. It chose to end  
Not by December's scything wind.

By a requiem of cracking  
It strained to lean until it snapped.  
Two-hundred feet of tree falling  
Not by ax's edge or saw's blade but  
On a calm day it chose its end.

Margaret Lange



**Outings**

*continued from page 12*

Dr. just before reaching Anacapa Circle.

● 3:30 p.m. Cerro Cabrillo, 2.5 miles, 800 ft. gain, moderately strenuous. 360-degree views from the Santa Lucia Mts. to coastline. Meet at Quarry Trail trailhead on South Bay Blvd, 1.4 miles south of Hwy 1 or 0.4 miles north of Turri Rd.

● 6:00 p.m. Black Hill, 3.0 miles, 650 ft. gain, moderate. Ocean views from Montaña de Oro north to San Simeon. From South Bay Blvd, drive into Morro Bay State Park on Main Street. Meet at the parking area on the north side of the road, next to restrooms opposite the boat marina, just east of the campground entrance.

**Saturday, Sept. 28th, 8:00 am, Big Sur - Prewitt Loop Trail Work Outing.** We will hike in part way on this challenging trail and do some cutting of limbs, brush, and downed trees. Bring hand clippers, loppers, foldable hand saws, and/or a bow saw and gloves. Also bring a hat, sunscreen, water, snacks and lunch, dress in layers and sturdy hiking shoes. There is sure to

be some poison oak. The distance we walk up the trail depends on how much work we are doing and how long we decide to stay there.

Meet at Washburn Day Use Area of San Simeon State Park at 8:00 am, 1.5 miles north of the Windsor St. stoplight in Cambria, and carpool from there. Hot weather will postpone. Contact Carlos, 805 546 0317.

**Saturday, Oct. 12th, Oso Flaco Lake Slow Hike.** Wheelchair accessible. An easy 2-mile one-way hike that is wheelchair friendly, along a shaded paved road to the boardwalk over the lake and on to the dunes for a beautiful view of the beach and ocean beyond. Hikers can continue onto the beach if desired. The Oso Flaco Lake Natural Area is located at the west end of Oso Flaco Lake Road in San Luis Obispo Co., which is approached off of Hwy 1 between Nipomo and Guadalupe, CA. Contact Andrea, 805-934-2792.

**Sunday, Oct. 20th, 8:30 am, Irish Hills - Froom Creek to Ocean View.** Come explore the trails of the Irish Hills Reserve.

Total distance of the hike is 6 miles, with a 900 ft. gain, taking about 3 hours. This trail passes through a wide range of plant species growing on serpentine-derived soils, unique to areas around San Luis Obispo. Meet at the trailhead at the southern end of Madonna Road in San Luis Obispo. Bring water, snacks, dress in layers for changing weather. Hat and sturdy shoes advised. The plants, animals, and geology of the area will be discussed. Contact Bill, 805-459-2103.

**Saturday, Oct. 26, 8:30 a.m. Big Sur - Cruikshank and Buckeye Trails to Villa Camp.** Join the leader on this moderate out and back hike in the Silver Peak Wilderness of southern Big Sur. This hike is 5.6 miles with about 1,500 ft. of elevation gain. We start on Hwy 1 and hike to Upper Cruikshank campground. There are excellent views of the

coastline from the ridge. From the camp we will descend to Villa camp on the Buckeye trail, which has redwood trees. Villa Creek runs by the campsite. There is a possibility of ticks and poison oak. Bring water, snacks/food, and dress for the weather. Meet at Washburn Day Use Area of San Simeon State Park at 8:30 am, located 1.5 miles north of the last stop light (Windsor St) in Cambria. We will carpool to the trailhead from there, about a 30 minute drive. For those interested, there will be a stop for lunch after the hike. Contact Chuck, 805-441-7597.

**Sunday, Oct. 27th, 2:00-3:30 pm, SLO History Walk at the Old San Luis Cemetery.** Guided stroll past gravesites of pioneers like Angel (Cal Poly founder), Murray, Civil War vets, and to the landmark pyramid. Hear the compelling



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John Muir, founder of the Sierra Club, in Yosemite

*For further information contact:*

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

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stories of the founders of San Luis Obispo. Meet in south parking lot adjacent to the pyramid, at 2890 S. Higuera St. Contact Joe, 805-549-0355. Saturday, Nov. 16th, 8:00 am–12:00 pm, Sierra Club New Outings Leader Training. If you are interested in becoming an outings leader on the Central Coast, this training is for you!! The leader training starts with a 4-hour class at the Sierra Club office, located at 974 Santa Rosa Street, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401. We will go over the guidelines and handbook issued by the Sierra Club. To be certified, in addition to this 4-hour class, you will need to complete a basic First Aid course, as well as create and lead a provisional hike along with one of our current outings leaders. To enroll in this class, please contact Bill, 805-459-2103, at least one week prior to the class start date.

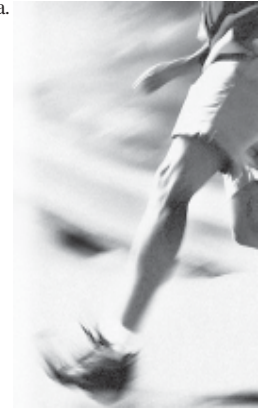
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# Outings and Activities Calendar

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.



**Sept. 20-22nd, Outdoors for All: Clair Tappaan Lodge at Donner Summit.** A fundraiser to support environmental education at the Lodge. Michael Brune will speak on Saturday. Celtic music, hikes, music, raffle, art auction. Adults \$220, children \$150 for two nights, all meals and events. Saturday only: \$85 – Michael Brune, raffle, dinner, music. Call (530) 426-3632.

**Saturday, Sept. 21st, Morro Mania!** (Varying start times.) The Morros of SLO County! Join Andrea

and Bill on the Eighth Anniversary Hike, a one-day ascent of the five publicly accessible Morros, near San Luis Obispo and Morro Bay. All five Morros can be hiked in succession or selected to suit one's preferences and conditioning. Each has a beautiful but different vista—from city to oak woodland to grassland to seashore. Total round-trip distance for all five hikes is about 13 miles, with 3,500 ft. elevation gain. Bring plenty of water (store extra water in your vehicle), lunch and snacks, and dress in

layers for changing weather. The day is likely to start and end cool but be quite warm at mid-day. A hat, sunscreen, and sturdy hiking shoes are essential. Dogs are welcome except for Cerro Cabrillo and Black Hill (State Park properties). For more information, contact Bill, 805-459-2103. The plants, animals, and the geology of the area will be topics during the hikes.

- 7:30 a.m. Islay Hill, 2 miles, 500 ft. gain, moderate. The easternmost of the Morros, with views of five others. To trailhead,

take Tank Farm Rd. east past Orcutt Rd, then south on Spanish Oaks Dr., then east on Sweet Bay Lane to end.

- 9:00 a.m. Cerro San Luis, 4 miles, 1,100 ft. gain, moderate. Knock-out views of SLO. Trailhead at the end of Marsh St., just before onramp to Hwy 101 south.
- Lunch: 11:15 am to 12:00 pm, Throop Park, corner of Cerro Romauldo Street and Cuesta Drive in SLO.
- 12:00 p.m. Bishop

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.

Peak, 3.5 miles, 950 ft. gain, moderately strenuous. Highest of the Morros. From Hwy 1, go west on Highland Dr., then right on Patricia Drive. Park at trailhead on Patricia

*OUTINGS continued page 11*

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## Island Hopping in Channel Islands National Park

**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: [jholtzhl@aol.com](mailto:jholtzhl@aol.com), 626-443-0706, or Wayne Vollaire [avollaire1@gmail.com](mailto:avollaire1@gmail.com), 909-327-6825.