

Sierra Club Santa Lucia Chapter
P.O. Box 15755
San Luis Obispo, CA 93406
(805) 543-8717
www.santalucia.sierraclub.org

Dec. 30, 2012

Hi Anne and Sherri (please distribute to council members) -

We are pleased that AVAC will be taking up the Avila Valley Bird Sanctuary initiative at your January meeting. We urge you to take the opportunity to raise the level of public awareness of the role of migratory birds in the local ecosystem and Avila's key place in the Pacific Flyway.

We trust that since last we discussed this subject at your October meeting, you have reviewed the one-page bird sanctuary ordinance of the city of San Juan Capistrano that we distributed to you, and the relevant paragraph from the Morro Bay ordinance you received subsequently. We encourage you to convey the text of either or both to Supervisor Hill as models, along with the advice of the Council that the County do likewise for the Avila Valley.

As the Council heard in October, such an ordinance would simply affirm existing protections and would have no effect on the regulatory environment; it's value lies in its proclamation and the opportunity to post signage proclaiming the area a bird sanctuary, a public statement of environmental awareness and the value the community places on bird conservation.

The ancillary benefits such an action can bring to a community are on view every year at Morro Bay's Winter Bird Festival. As a bird sanctuary, in addition to your many other natural attractions, Avila Beach could advertise its unique distinction as a mecca for cliff swallows, the primary location for their distinctive nests on the central coast, and therefore an ideal stop on the international itinerary of birders.

Best wishes for a happy new year,

Andrew Christie, Director
Santa Lucia Chapter of the Sierra Club
P.O. Box 15755
San Luis Obispo, CA 93406
805-543-8717