



Tehipite Topics

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Copenhagen Climate Summit Wrap-Up

“There is no Planet B,” said one sign held up by protesters during the Copenhagen Climate Summit. Unfortunately, at least according to many observers and participants, leaders at the summit ignored the sign, the economy won, and the biosphere lost. Leaders decided to kick the GHG down the road. Oh well, maybe there’s still time.

According to a story in the U.K. Guardian, “The UN climate summit reached a weak outline of a global agreement in Copenhagen tonight, falling far short of what Britain and many poor countries were seeking and leaving months of tough negotiations to come.”

“As widely expected, all references to 1.5C in past drafts were removed at the last minute, but more surprisingly, the earlier 2050 goal of reducing global CO2 emissions by 80% was also dropped.”

The anti-deforestation deal reached “lacked the kind of independent verification of emission reductions by developing countries that the US and others demanded.”

President Obama hinted China was to blame. India pointed fingers at both China and the U.S. Developing countries blamed Industrial nations, who produce the most greenhouse gases, for trying to avoid responsibility for climate change.

According to Lumumba Di-Aping, chief negotiator for the G77 developing nations, the agreement had “the lowest level of ambition you can imagine. It’s nothing short of climate change skepticism in action. It locks countries into a cycle of poverty for ever. Obama has eliminated any difference between him and Bush.”

Greenpeace UK Executive director John Sauven said, “The city of Copenhagen is a crime scene tonight, with the guilty men and women fleeing to the airport. Ed Miliband [UK climate change secretary] is among the very few that come out of this summit with any credit.”

Save the Children’s Lydia Baker said leaders had “effectively signed a death warrant for many of the world’s poorest children. Up to 250,000 children from poor communities could die before the next major meeting in Mexico at the end of next year.” According to the New York Times’ Andrew C. Revkin and John M. Broder, “The plan does not firmly commit the industrialized nations or the developing nations to firm targets for midterm or long-term greenhouse gas emissions reductions. The accord is nonetheless significant in that it codifies the com-

mitments of individual nations to act on their own to tackle global warming.



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“The accord provides a system for monitoring and reporting progress toward those national pollution-reduction goals, a compromise on an issue over which China bargained hard. It calls for hundreds of billions of dollars to flow from wealthy nations to those countries most vulnerable to a changing climate. And it sets a goal of limiting the global temperature rise to 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels by 2050, implying deep cuts in climate-altering emissions over the next four decades.

“But it was an equivocal agreement that was, to many, a disappointing conclusion to a two-year process that had the goal of producing a comprehensive and enforceable action plan for addressing dangerous changes to the global climate. The messy compromise mirrored the chaotic nature of the conference, which virtually all participants said had been badly organized and run.

“The accord sets no goal for concluding a binding international treaty, which leaves the implementation of its provisions uncertain. It is likely to undergo many months, perhaps years, of additional negotiations before it emerges in any internationally enforceable form.”

Sierra Club Executive Director Carl Pope was more optimistic: “The world’s nations have come together and concluded a historic — if incomplete — agreement to begin tackling global warming. Tonight’s announcement is but a first step and much work remains to be done in the days and months ahead in order to seal a final international climate deal that is fair, binding and ambitious. It is imperative that negotiations resume as soon as possible.”



Chapter General Meeting

No General Meeting in January

The February General Meeting, February 17 at 7 PM, will feature Tehipite Chapter board member Dr. David Cehrs, PhD, who will present and answer questions on San Joaquin Valley water issues and the recently signed California Water Bill, SB7X1.

Dr. Cehrs is a registered hydrologist and certified hydrogeologist. He serves on the boards of the Kings River Conservation District and the El Rio Conservation Trust. He also volunteers with the San Joaquin Valley Blueprint Planning Process. He is a geology professor at Reedley College and a consultant on water supplies, water quality, and water recharge.

He holds a bachelor's and a master's in geology from CSU Fresno and a doctorate in hydrology from the University of Arizona.

Dr. Cehrs and his family live in the Sanger area where they grow citrus on their 140-acre farm.

A quotation from Dr. Cehrs: "Either we can grow food or grow people with our water, but not both. If we grow people, food will become more expensive (hurting the economy), with less total food, and less choice of foods (grains and beans instead of fruits and vegetables). Arizona has taken this option. If we decide to grow food, it will require a limit or stop to growth, the building industry will be hurt and we will suffer an economic slowdown.

"The populace, therefore, faces a huge choice. They don't know this choice is coming. There is no 'good' choice, and either choice will affect them greatly. ..."

Conservation & Executive Committee Meetings

Wednesday, January 13, at 7:00 P.M.
University of California Center, 550 E. Shaw Ave., Fresno



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Population

. open

Conservation and Executive Committee Meetings

Thursday, January 7
Rod Webster's home, 7:00 P.M.
345 E. 20th St., Merced

Conservation meeting is first and can last 30-40 minutes. Anyone with an interest in local, state or national conservation issues is welcome to attend. Come just to get informed or get as involved as you wish.

Merced Group General Meeting

Thursday, January 21, 7 P.M.
Sierra Presbyterian Church, 3603 "M" St.
(Yosemite Ave and M, across from Merced College)

"Water Issues--Crisis in the Central Valley"
Dr. David Cehrs (of the Fresno Chapter)--hydrologist,
geologist, and farmer

Banquet Wrap-up

Naturalist Jack Laws entertained and fascinated those at the Merced Group's annual banquet with his intimate look at the ways several Sierra Nevada species survive.

The event, held at UC Merced, began with a fine dinner catered on site, followed by Laws' program titled "Finding Connections in Nature." He began with John Muir's famous premise that "when we try to pick out anything by itself, we find it hitched to everything else in the universe" and proceeded to demonstrate those connections by revealing some of the most detailed and amazing body adaptations and survival behaviors.

For instance the woodpecker's long insect and grub seeking tongue splits, passes up into its skull, and then attaches in the area of the forehead; that a male garden spider must strum its web with a certain rhythm to let the much larger and more ferocious female know that he is friend not food; that kestrels don't hover randomly but actually use UV vision to see where popular rodent trails lie and these rodent trails are only visible because rodent urine emits UV wavelengths; that the infrared heat receptors of rattlesnakes can be fooled by male ground squirrels (yes, only the males) who fill blood vessels in their bushy tails

creating hot spots where snakes strike instead of the more vulnerable central body; wrens carry spider egg sacks to their nest to rid them of mites because when the spiderlings hatch, they eat the mites and then vacate the premises as they move out in search of other food. Laws used hand drawn illustrations taken from his superb *Field Guide to the Sierra Nevada* to augment the entertaining commentary.

Laws concluded with a stirring reminder of our responsibility to be dedicated stewards of this incredible natural world which we hold in trust. He also reminded us to renew our own personal connection to wilderness by getting out and experiencing it.

The evening wound down with an Award of Appreciation to Rod Webster for his service and leadership in the group followed by drawings for an array of prizes. Many thanks to all who helped make it an enjoyable and entertaining evening.

Merced Group Year in Review

LOCAL ISSUES on our radar in 2009

Water: We continue to support a regional water study and use plan. The challenges include issues of supplies, water tables and aquifers. Professor Tom Harmon at UC Merced and his students continue studying the Merced River. We are sponsoring a water forum in January and a speaker on the Merced River hydro relicensing in February.

Merced County General Plan Update: This multiyear task is ongoing. The Merced Group has representatives on four of the six focus groups: circulation (transportation), land use and open space, economic development, and water. There will be many opportunities in the next few months for public input on how our County should grow and develop.

Wal-Mart Distribution Center: This project was approved by the City Council in September. Many concerns remain about this project's impacts on our community. Its proximity to local schools and residences make some of these particularly egregious. We provided oral and written comment on the inadequacy this project's EIR. True, the importance of jobs cannot be ignored, but those jobs need not come with major health and environmental impacts. The few mitigating measures recommended by the writers of the EIR were removed by Wal-Mart lawyers. Certainly one of the largest retailers in the world can afford to offer some solutions for the problems they will bring to our community. The EIR is deficient and needs to be fixed.

Grasslands Stewardship Plan: We are one of about 20 groups offering input to develop a management plan to protect Grasslands Ecological Area.

See "Merced" next page



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet



Bear in mind the consequences.

The Yellowstone grizzly bear is an irreplaceable part of America's natural heritage, a symbol of the independence that defines the American character and an icon of all that is wild and free. The Bush administration set forth a proposal that would remove federal protection for the Yellowstone grizzly bear. Help Sierra Club protect our forest friends; they prefer the woods than being on display.

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 Please charge my: Visa Mastercard AMEX
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Standard	<input type="checkbox"/> \$39	<input type="checkbox"/> \$47
Supporting	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100
Contributing	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$175
Life	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1250
Senior	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32
Student/Limited Income	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32

Contributions, gifts and dues to Sierra Club are not tax deductible; they support our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$7.50 for a subscription to Sierra magazine and \$1 for your Chapter newsletters.

Enclose a check and mail to Sierra Club, P.O. Box 52968, Boulder, CO 80322-2968 or visit our website www.sierraclub.org

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"Merced" continued

This is one of only 22 wetlands of international importance and one of just three in located California. Fourteen species designated as threatened or endangered inhabit GEA. Tens of thousands of birds winter here or stop over during migrations. Phase 1 of this effort is about to conclude its three year mission. Future boundaries have been mapped, basic water needs for sustainability determined, protection, recognition in the county planning process, and its use as an environmental education resource.

Responsible Growth: We are a member of MARG (Merced Alliance for Responsible Growth) and on the steering committee. This loose affiliation of ten or so local organizations is actively promoting healthy, sustainable, growth within our region. We believe that resources should drive growth not vice-versa, that habitat and farmland should be valued and preserved, and that health, quality of life, and sustainability are key measures of successful planning.

REGION:

Valley Air Quality: We maintain an active membership in the Merced-Mariposa Asthma Coalition, have attended California air Resources Board (CARB) meetings this year (Fresno) and are also members of CVAQ (Central Valley Air Quality Coalition). Since we share a common air basin, clearly air quality issues must be approached from a regional standpoint. A main focus currently is to fight recent efforts to soften the diesel emission standards adopted just this year.

Yosemite National Park: We have had involvement in various management plans under development in the park, including the Tuolumne Meadows Plan and the Tuolumne River Plan, but everyone's current focus is on the Merced River Plan. Since Yosemite Valley impacts that portion of the river so intensely, this plan essentially entails a plan for Yosemite Valley as well. The Tehipite chapter has a very active Yosemite Committee which is currently drafting scoping comments for the Merced River Plan. This is the first step in the process which will likely be prolonged and intense.

High Speed Rail: We have long advocated to have HSR from the Bay Area to the Central Valley run through the Altamont corridor. It seems more and more likely that the Pacheco Pass corridor will prevail. If that is so the Merced Group will at least advocate

strongly for a route that bypasses the Grasslands Ecological Area an other wildlife areas and migration corridors. This year we have attended public presentations by the high speed rail authority on both the Merced to Bakersfield leg and the Bay Area to the Valley leg. During the EIR process there will be a great need for informed comment to help assure responsible implementation of this new transportation system.

\$\$\$: We provide our own primary funds. The banquet and calendar and card sales are our main fund raisers. Some of our funds go to support organizations to which we have historical ties- these include The Mono Lake Committee, Restore Hetch-Hetchy, and Friends of the River. This year we also gave to the Merced-Mariposa Asthma Coalition and the LeConte Memorial Fund. The latter is to help rescue a facility with a long and unique history in Yosemite Valley- one that provides a rare opportunity for outreach and education for the Sierra Club within the park. In January we will also underwrite the cost of sending a rep to the Planning and Conservation League symposium in Sac. Hosting the Yosemite Committee meeting this Jan. as well as helping with expenditures for the Water Forum are further examples of our use of funds. Thanks to all who generously participated in our fund-raising and gave us the resources to support these various causes and activities.

Programs in 2009 included:

Eugene Jud, planner and faculty member from S.L.O. "Creative planning Ideas for Merced and the County General Plan Update"

Film "The Eleventh Hour" on the worldwide environmental crisis

Director Mary-Michael Rawlings of the Merced-Mariposa Asthma Coalition speaking on Valley air quality issues

The Merced Bicycle Coalition shared their mission and there was an update on the Wal-Mart D.C. project and its EIR process.

Yosemite day hikes and overnights: members share photos of favorites

UC Merced Prof Tom Harmon, field studies along the Merced River

Member Cathy Weber shared about her travels and volunteer work in Peru last summer

Prof. David Kelley from UC Merced spoke on "Energy Sources for the Future-- the prognosis for alternative energies"

Naturalist and author Jack Laws (see banquet article this issue).

Tehipite Chapter of the Sierra Club

presents their Annual Banquet

with a special program by Stephen Johnson



*Saturday, February 6, 6:00 P.M.
at Classic Catering, 625 Fourth Street,
Old Town Clovis*

Menu: Choice of Chicken or Vegetarian Entrée

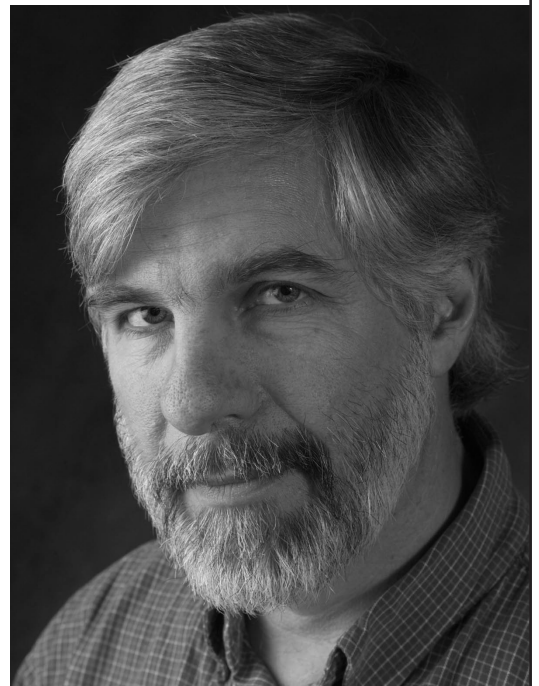
Tickets are \$25. Make checks payable to
"Tehipite Chapter, Sierra Club."

Please fill out the form below and mail to
Marcia Rasmussen, Banquet Chair
35680 Ennis Rd.

Squaw Valley, CA 93675.

For more information,
email Marcia@BigBaldy.com or call (559)332-2419.
Please purchase tickets by January 15.

Stephen Johnson is a landscape photographer, designer and teacher. He has been photographing since 1973. His work has been featured in *Communication Arts*, *Life Magazine*, *American Photo*, *Outdoor Photographer*, and *ABC Discovery News*, among many others. His books include *At Mono Lake*, the award winning and critically acclaimed *The Great Central Valley: California's Heartland*, *Making a Digital Book* and the new *Stephen Johnson on Digital Photography*. Internationally recognized as a digital photography pioneer, Johnson's photographs have been exhibited, published and collected in the United States, Europe, Mexico and Japan. In 1994 he embarked on *With A New Eye*, the ground breaking all digital photographic look at American national parks, to be published in due course. In 2003 he was inducted into the Photoshop Hall of Fame. Canon named him to their Explorers of Light program in 2006. Stephen is well-known for his passionate lectures and love for the traditions of fine photography. From Photoshop features, to cameras, printers, and papers, Stephen's consulting with high tech imaging companies has helped shape the very tools we all use today. His photography studios, galleries and education center are located in Pacifica, California. For more information on Stephen Johnson and his work, see <http://www.sjphoto.com>.



Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Number of tickets _____ Phone (_____) _____ E-mail _____

Name of each person attending (use separate sheet if necessary). Please check entrée choice.

_____ chicken ___ vegetarian ___

_____ chicken ___ vegetarian ___

Book Review

The Decline of Nature: Environmental History and the Western Worldview

By Gilbert F. LaFrenière

Writing in a relatively new genre of environmental history, La Frenière explains how cultural narratives have driven human treatment of nature and argues that the cultural story accepted by the West—Europe and North America, and particularly by the U.S.—of a linear and providential narrative about economic development and human interaction with nature has been destructive to the environment and the planet.

Max Oelschlaeger puts it well in the forward: “Either we own our stories, or they own us.” So far in the story of Western Civilization, according to La Frenière, our stories own us.

La Frenière rejects the progressive/providential model of history, the linear model represented in the Bible as beginning with Creation and ending in the Apocalypse. This linear model of history (slightly modified) also has adherents in the economic community, based on the notion that science develops technologies that turn natural resources into consumer commodities. Each new generation of technological development builds on the previous in linear progression. This model is unsustainable and will burn itself out—and likely burn out the planet Earth along with it—the Apocalypse.

Borrowing from Oswald Spengler’s *Decline of the West*, La Frenière opts instead for a cyclical model of history. He quotes Spengler, whose important book was published in 1918: “Even now the world-cities of the Western Civilization are far from having reached the peak of their development. I see, long after A.D. 2000, cities laid out for ten to twenty million inhabitants, spread over enormous areas of country-side, with buildings that will dwarf the biggest of today’s and notions of traffic and communication that we should regard as fantastic to the point of madness.” Ah yes, Southern California, soon to be here in Central California.

The author also borrows from Spengler the term “Faustian Civilization,” after the character of legend Faust—a character (in plays

by the Elizabethan Christopher Marlow and the Romantic German Goethe) who makes a deal with the devil so that he can achieve the otherwise unattainable. We live, says the author, in the winter of Faustian Civilization.

“In Faustian Civilization,” writes La Frenière, “as in all higher Cultures, it is the rise of the city, in the winter stage, the megapolis, the great world-city, which creates the ultimately destructive domains of money and the machine.... Within this superurban milieu the idea of money itself begins to take on a life of its own, to value things, including the soil and individual humans, with reference to itself.” Thus we go on seeking the unattainable and make plans for the peripheral canal and a dam at Temperance Flat as Faust sought to consummate with Helen of Troy.

One hopes this Faustian historical cycle will end without catastrophic collapse because of human driven climate change, and Nature can begin anew and heal itself.

Decline of Nature is intellectually challenging essential reading for environmentalists.

“THE WATER WARS CONTINUE” TALK AT MADDEN LIBRARY

The Friends of the Madden Library presents the first of its 2010 programs featuring guest speaker Gene Rose on Friday, February 19 in the Madden Library on the Fresno State campus. A reception will begin at 6 p.m. followed by Rose’s talk, “The San Joaquin River: The Water Wars Continue.”

Mr. Rose will highlight his research, which was published in his most recent book, “San Joaquin – A River Betrayed.” For years as a Fresno Bee journalist Rose reported on the national parks and forests in the California Sierra Nevada. Now retired, he was known as the “conscience of Yosemite.” In 1987 he revealed that the Yosemite Park and Curry Company grossed \$87 million for its exclusive contract but paid a concession fee of \$585,000.

Exhibitions on display at the Madden Library will include: The San Joaquin River: History and Revival of a Heartland River; Paintings by Stephanie Ryan, professor from CSUF Art and Design Department.

Recommended campus parking for this event is in Lots D and E. Campus maps are available at <http://www.csufresno.edu/ucomm/maps/>.

The Friends of the Madden Library is a non-profit organization established to support, promote and raise funds for programs and collections at the Fresno State library. The Friends always are seeking new members. For information please visit: <http://www.csufresno.edu/library/campaign/friends.shtml>.

Friday, FEBRUARY 19, 2010

The Madden Library on the California State University, Fresno campus

6:00 – 6:30 p.m. Reception

6:30 – 7:30 p.m. Program

Reservations are required by February 17 (call 278-5790).

Of course your guests are welcome. Non-members will be asked to pay a nominal charge of \$2 at the door; \$1 for students. All Friends of the Madden

Library meetings are accessible to the physically handicapped. A sign-language interpreter will be provided upon advance request. For more information call 278-5790.

Amid Controversy, CARB Postpones Truck, Bus Rules

According to the Sacramento Bee, “After a nearly seven-hour public hearing in Sacramento that featured more than 80 speakers including truckers, health and environmental advocates and even high school students from Oakland, the [California Air Resources Board—CARB] ordered modifications to the [diesel] rules drawn up for consideration in April.”

Because of the sagging economy, diesel emissions have been declining, so enforcement of the new rules may see significant delays.

In December 2008, to meet the requirements of AB 32 (the Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006), CARB enacted rules governing emission diesel vehicles weighing more than 14,000 pounds. Operators were required to install filters to capture particulates and by 2014 to begin replacing their trucks with units with engines meeting EPA’s 2010 emission standards.

See “CARB,” back page

Outings Schedule

Outing Ratings

Distance	Elevation Gain
1) up to 6 miles	A) under 1,000 feet
2) 6 to 10 miles	B) 1,000 to 2,000 feet
3) 10 to 15 miles	C) 2,000 to 3,000 feet
4) 15 to 20 miles	D) 3,000 to 4,000 feet
5) over 20 miles	E) over 4,000 feet

Our Tehipite Chapter Outings Co-Chairs are Dave Wallace at wagga@comcast.net and Steve Cosner at stevec@sfsu.edu. Please contact them with any questions concerning our outings program. Contact the trip leader directly if you are interested in one of the listed trips.

Tehipite Chapter outings are free and open to the public. All leaders are unpaid volunteers assuming responsibility for a good trip, and your cooperation is mandatory. Please review additional trip and participant requirements at www.tehipite.sierraclub.org/outings.

CST #2087766-40. Registration as a seller of travel does not constitute approval by the State of California. California has established a Travel Consumer Restitution Fund (TCRF) under the California Seller of Travel Act. The TCRF is not applicable to these Outings. The law requires us to advise you that you would not be eligible to make any claim from the TCRF in the unlikely event of default by the Sierra Club. California law also requires certain sellers of travel to have a trust account or bond. The Sierra Club has such a trust account.

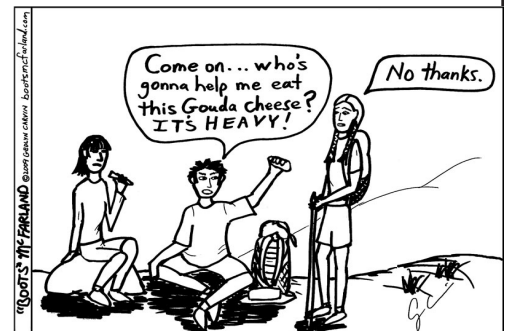


Sierra Club California Needs Your Help

You have great people in Sacramento lobbying to protect the Sierra and on other critical issues like climate change. Bill Magavern, Jim Metropoulous, and Annie Pham do a terrific job, and they need our help. Please go to the terrific Sierra Club California web site at www.sierraclubcalifornia.org and donate generously.



Coyote Trail Snow Shoe and X-C Ski, (from Tehipite website)



Saturday, January 16 (Yokuts)

“Winter Hike Along the Tuolumne River”

Easy 1-A four-mile hike along the Tuolumne River from Legion Park, Modesto. Meet at the parking lot by American Legion Hall (1001 S. Santa Cruz Ave.) at 9:00 AM. Free. Dogs and children welcome. Info: Dorothy 209.549.9155. Heavey rain cancels.

January 24 – Sunday

Snowshoe to Panoramic Point, Kings Canyon

Outing rated (1A) but can be easy or hard, depending on snow conditions. Poor conditions will result in trip postponement to the following Sunday.

Karen Hammer (559) 298-5272

January 30, Saturday (Yokuts)

Cosumnes River Preserve Day Hike (1A)

Migrating birds, valley oak savannah, and marsh habitat will be the main areas of interest on this outing. We will stop by the visitor’s center for a short orientation, look for birds amongst Lost Slough, and hike about 5 miles through the preserve. Bring lunch & beverage, good walking shoes, binoculars and bird books, rain/cold weather gear, \$\$ for parking & carpooling. Rain cancels. We will meet at No. Modesto Park n Ride at 9 am. Contact leader Elaine Gorman at 209.524.7630, gford@sbcglobal.net, to sign up. Note: Alternative hike if flooding closes trails.

February 21 - Sunday

Snowshoe from Coyote Trailhead (1A or 2A)

Conditions will determine whether we follow Eagle Trail or Coyote Loop trail. Poor conditions will result in trip postponement to the following Sunday.

Karen Hammer (559) 298-5272



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Deadline for *Tehipite Topics* is the second Friday of each month. Please submit material to TehipiteTopics@gmail.com

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Controversy may also be a factor in the delay. The board agreed to throw out a tainted health-impact report that has brought widespread criticism to the board. The author of the report, CARB statistician Hien Tran, had lied on his resume about his academic credentials, claiming to have a PhD from U.C. Davis. Tran had attended the school, but did not complete his dissertation.

CARB chair Mary Nichols apologized and admitted that she and several staff members had known about but did not disclose the falsehood before the board had voted on the diesel regulations last December. Tran was demoted and suspended for 60 days.

Two board members, Fresno cardiologist John Telles and San Diego County Supervisor Ron Roberts, joined truckers and industry groups to harshly criticize the Nichols and the board. Interestingly, Telles and Roberts get jolly “thumbs up” at the web site KillCARB.org. Nichols and board members Dan-

iel Sperling and M.D. John Balmes get “thumbs down.” Remaining board members anxiously await the judgment of KillCARB, whose catchy logo admonishes viewers to “Put California on a No CARB Diet.”

Despite Tran’s resume lies, the science of his report may be valid. Even Dr. Telles doesn’t question the report’s science. Columnist Dan Walters quotes Telles: “Failure to reveal this information to the board prior to the vote not only casts doubt on the legitimacy of the truck rule, but also upon the legitimacy of CARB itself,” Telles said, adding, however, that he doesn’t question the validity of the science.”

Tran’s report says emissions from large diesel trucks and buses cause an estimated one thousand premature deaths each year in California.



Henry David Thoreau On Housing



Something to think about before next visiting your favorite real estate broker or architect: “If one designs to construct a dwelling-house, it behooves him to exercise a little Yankee shrewdness, lest after all he find himself in a workhouse, a labyrinth without a clue, a museum, an almshouse, a prison, or a splendid mausoleum instead. Consider first how slight a shelter is absolutely necessary. I have seen Penobscot Indians, in this town, living in tents of thin cotton cloth, while the snow was nearly a foot deep around them, and I thought that they would be glad to have it deeper to keep out the wind.... A comfortable house for a rude and hardy race, that lived mostly out of doors, was once made here almost entirely of such materials as Nature furnished ready to their hands. Gookin, who was superintendent of the Indians [wrote], “The best of their houses are covered very neatly, tight and warm, with barks of trees, slipped from their bodies at those seasons when the sap is up, and made into great flakes, with pressure of weighty timber, when they are green.”