



SIERRA
CLUB

June 2006
Volume 43 No. 6

Inside

To hunt or not to hunt?	2
Whoa, Dalidio	3
It's the water	4
Lyme disease alert	9
Paddlers Corner	9
Letters	10
Classifieds	11
Outings	12

GENERAL MEETING

No meeting this month. If you have purchased your ticket, we'll see you at the Awards Banquet in

COMING IN JULY:

Our summer picnic!



Please recycle

This newsletter printed on
100% post-consumer recycled paper
with soy-based inks

SANTA LUCIAN



Protecting and
Preserving the
Central Coast

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

Will Health Commission Do the Right Thing?

Report on genetically engineered foods goes to the commissioners

By Mike Zelina and Teresa Campbell
SLO GE Free

Ever wonder how it happened that the engineered ingredients of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) worked their way into grocery stores years before you even knew genetic engineering existed?

A glance at the workings of the County Health Commission's GMO Task Force helps in the understanding of how we ended up feeding GMOs to our families without ever being asked or given the choice.

The GMO Task Force released their final report at the May meeting of the Health Commission. This task force was created by the Health Commission to investigate health concerns of GMOs after Measure Q -- the ballot initiative to ban the growing of genetically engineered crops in our county -- garnered 49,000 votes. In the interest of forming an "unbiased" committee, the Health Commission explicitly forbade anyone who had supported Measure Q from being on the task force. However, it openly welcomed applicants if they worked against Measure Q.

Three task force members selected

were active in the "No on Q" campaign, and a Cal Poly professor who signed the ballot argument opposing Measure Q was made the chair of the task force.

The addition of new members earlier this year did at the request of SLO GE Free little to balance the committee. One of the new members expressed their attitude regarding GMOs with the statement "the cat is already out of the bag." Another new member said they were interested in learning more about GMOs. Meanwhile, a SLO GE Free task force ap-

plicant with a PhD and extensive expertise in health and nutrition was denied a seat on task force.

Based on its composition, the task force might be more accurately identified as the GMO Lobbying Task Force.

So how did GMOs get on your plate without you knowing about it? Just like our county's GMO task force, the people who develop, support and invest in GMOs are put in the positions of deciding whether or not they are safe and okay for consumption by

continued on page 10

Capps Saves Coast

Congresswoman beats back attempt to reverse 25 years of bipartisan protections for sensitive coastal areas

On May 18, Congresswoman Lois Capps celebrated a victory for coastal protection when the House voted to reject an amendment to an Interior Department appropriations bill that would have reversed the long-standing bipartisan Congressional ban on new offshore drilling, the second of two such amendments beaten back over two days. The amendment was replaced by a bill co-authored by Capps and Rep. Adam Putnam (R-FL) reauthorizing the moratorium.

"I am pleased that my colleagues soundly defeated this ill-advised proposal to roll back protections against new drilling off our coasts," said Capps. Rep. John Peterson's (R-PA) amendment to the 2007 Interior Appropriations bill would have reversed the longstanding Congressional moratorium that has protected coastal areas from new oil and gas drilling on the West Coast, the entire East Coast, and the Eastern Gulf of Mexico for 25 years.

Last year Capps successfully led the effort to protect the bipartisan moratorium on new offshore drilling by defeating Rep. Peterson's attempts to remove the protections from the 2006 Interior Appropriations bill. Earlier this year, Capps and 114 of her House col-



leagues sent a letter to the Appropriations Committee urging them to maintain these protections against offshore oil and gas drilling.

"Rep. Peterson just doesn't get it," said Capps before the vote. "We can't drill our way to energy independence. This is another failed Republican energy policy that won't solve our nation's energy needs and has been repeatedly and resoundingly rejected by the House and the American pub-

continued on page 8

Bay in the Balance

Water Board deadlocks on sewage plant upgrade

How fast should Morro Bay and Cayucos upgrade their wastewater treatment plant?

After several years of heavy pressure by the Natural Resources Defense Council, assisted by Surfrider, The Otter Project, ECOSLO, the Sierra Club and other local groups and residents, the answer went from "fifteen years" to "nine and half years" to "eight years."

After seven hours of testimony at a May 11 joint hearing of the Regional Water Quality Control Board and the Environmental Protection Agency, marked by fiery exchanges between the NRDC lead attorney and the Chairman of the Water Board, the Board went into closed session and deadlocked 3-3 on whether to renew the Morro Bay/Cayucos plant's exemption from the federal Clean Water Act. The longstanding waiver allows Morro Bay and Cayucos to continue discharging partially treated wastewater into the ocean.

If the Board ultimately grants the waiver, the plant can take up to

continued on page 8

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 84
SAN LUIS OBISPO
CA 93401

Santa Lucian
Santa Lucia Chapter of the Sierra Club
P.O. Box 15755
San Luis Obispo, CA 93406



photo/Karin Walsh

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

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

Join today and receive a FREE Sierra Club Weekender Bag!



My Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State _____ Zip _____
Phone # _____
email _____

Check enclosed, made payable to Sierra Club
Please charge my MasterCard Visa AMEX

Exp. Date ____/____

Cardholder Name _____

Card Number _____

Membership Categories INDIVIDUAL JOINT

INTRODUCTORY \$25

REGULAR \$39 \$47

Contributions, gifts and dues to the 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 \$1.00 for your Chapter newsletter.

Enclose check and mail to: **F94Q W 2500 1**
Sierra Club, P.O. Box 52968, Boulder, CO 80322-2968



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

A-Hunting Will We Go?

Paul Watson, who came to SLO's Palm Theater on April 23 to address a fundraiser for his Sea Shepherd Conservation Society's next anti-whaling campaign in the Antarctic, resigned from the Sierra Club's Board of Directors the same week.

One of our 15 national directors, Watson was elected to the board in 2003 for a three-year term, which ended May 17. Saying, "I won't fade quietly into the night," Watson tendered his resignation on April 17 in protest of the use of Club resources to finance a contest to encourage sport hunting.

The contest is an essay competition entitled Why I Hunt? (www.sierraclub.org/huntingfishing/whyihunt). First prize is a \$12,700 hunting trip to the Sportsman's Lodge in Alaska. Additional prizes totaling \$3,000 will also be awarded.

"It appears to me that the Sierra Club should have better projects to spend \$15,700 on than sending some nimrod to Alaska to shoot wildlife," said Watson. "Last year they turned down my request for a \$5,000 grant to help the rangers in the Galapagos National Park deal with poachers."

Watson last year protested the posting of pictures of Sierra Club leaders posing with their trophy kills on the Sierra Club website. The Club is spending some \$200,000 annually on hunter outreach programs. Less than 20% of our members are hunters (www.sierraclub.org/huntingfishing/whoweare.asp)

It may be time for a referendum on where our members stand on this

issue, what resources should be devoted to it, and if current practices are reflective of Club policy.

Sierra Club Policy On Sport Hunting & Fishing:

Wildlife and native plant management should emphasize maintenance and restoration of healthy, viable native plant and animal populations, their habitats, and ecological processes. Acceptable management approaches include both regulated periodic hunting and fishing when based on sufficient scientifically valid biological data and when consistent with all other management purposes and when necessary total protection of particular species or populations. Because national parks are set aside for the preservation of natural landscapes and wildlife, the Sierra Club is opposed to sport hunting in national parks.

— Adopted by the Sierra Club Board of Directors, December 10-11, 1994

The Atlantic Chapter asks the Board of Directors to establish a contest, "Why I Don't Hunt." The contest will be conducted within the same framework and promotion of the contest "Why I Hunt" sponsored by the Sierra Club in 2006.

Prizes will also be comparable in value. The contest will provide an opportunity to participate by the vast majority of Sierra Club members and Americans who had no interest in or indeed were not even eligible to enter the first contest.

— Resolution of the Atlantic Chapter Executive Committee, April 29, 2006:
Forwarded to the Board of Directors
May 16, 2006

PUC Slips Into, Out of Town

\$19 Million Asked for Diablo Canyon on the Q-T

An administrative law judge with the California Public Utilities Commission came to San Luis Obispo on May 4 to hold two public hearings on Pacific Gas and Electric's request to fund a feasibility study on relicensing the Diablo Canyon nuclear power plant. At stake: \$19 million of your money and another 20 years of nuclear waste on the shores of Diablo Cove.

Did you know about it? "I was amazed to learn that no press release had been sent by CPUC to local media regarding the public hearing on PG&E's 2007 General Rate Case," said Rochelle Becker Executive Director of the Alliance for Nuclear Responsibility and Chair of the Santa Lucia Chapter's Diablo Canyon Task Force. "I asked the Tribune if they were running an article on the meeting and at first they thought the notice had 'slipped under the radar.' After looking into the matter, they determined that no release had been received.

"I contacted the radio and TV stations and they also were not informed of the meeting. This is unacceptable for a community who, as PG&E ratepayers, are being asked to fund a \$19 million study of the feasibility of license renewal. The PG&E study could very likely result in an additional 20 years of high level radioactive waste produced and stored on our seismically active coast."

PG&E's rate case requesting \$19 million for an in-house feasibility study began May 30th at the CPUC in San Francisco. The Alliance for Nuclear Responsibility and the Sierra Club are filed as intervenors in the case.

"I have requested that the CPUC hold an additional public participation hearing after the close of hearings in San Francisco and give San Luis Obispo ratepayers an opportunity to address this important issue," said Becker.

TAKE ACTION

if you did not speak at the May 4 meeting or were unable to attend, you can still let the Public Utilities Commission know your thoughts on the matter.

email: public.advisor@cpuc.ca.gov
phone: 866-849-8390
mail: Public Advisor, CPUC
505 Van Ness Ave. Room 2103
San Francisco, CA 94102

Communications are tallied by issue and reported to Commissioners and key staff. Written correspondence is given to Commissioners, judge and staff, then placed in the formal file.

Points you may wish to make:

-Any ratepayer money should be directed to the California Energy Commission, not PG&E, for a comprehensive study of the state's dependence on nuclear generation past current licenses. This proposed study is formally supported by San Luis Obispo County.

- PG&E is requesting \$696,000 for its membership in the Nuclear Energy Institute, a lobbying group for the nuclear industry. Ratepayers should not be asked to fund entities working for greater profits for utilities. That expense should be assumed by shareholders.

SANTA LUCIAN

Andrew Christie
EDITOR/LAYOUT sierra8@charter.net

Karen Merriam
Jack McCurdy
Tarren Collins
EDITORIAL BOARD

Mariko Fujinaka
GRAPHIC CONSULTANT

The Santa Lucian is published 10 times a year. Articles, environmental information and letters to the editor are welcome. The deadline for each issue is the 7th of the prior month.

send to:

Editor, Santa Lucian
c/o Santa Lucia Chapter, Sierra Club
P.O. Box 15755
San Luis Obispo, CA 93406.
sierra8@charter.net

Santa Lucia Chapter

2006 Executive Committee

Karen Merriam
CHAIR kmerriam@digitalputty.com

Steven Marx
TREASURER

Cleve Nash
MEMBER ccnash@charter.net

Jack Morrow
VICE CHAIR jlmorrow@earthlink.net

Katherine Wassenberg
MEMBER cwassenberg@hotmail.com

Cal French
MEMBER ccfrench@tcsn.net

John Ashbaugh
MEMBER jbashbaugh@charter.net

Cal French
COUNCIL OF CLUB LEADERS

The Executive Committee meets the fourth Friday of every month at 2:00 p.m. at the chapter office, located at 1204 Nipomo St., San Luis Obispo. All members are welcome to attend.

Standing Committee Chairs

Political
Sarah Christie
Richard Kranzdorf

Conservation
Pam Heatherington
pheatherington@charter.net

Membership
Cal French

Acting Program Chair
Letty French lmfrench@tcsn.net

Litigation
Jan Marx janmarx@fix.net

Diablo Canyon Task Force
Rochelle Becker
beckers@thegrid.net

Desal Task Force
Jack & Bea Morrow
jlmorrow@earthlink.net

Other Leaders
Speakers Bureau
Ira Winn 805-781-9466
Open Space
Gary Felsman 805-473-3694
Calendar Sales
Bonnie Walters 805-543-7051
Chapter History
John Ashbaugh 805-541-6430
Publicity
Margaret Hennesey 805-481-2240

Activities

Outings
Eliane Guillot gelgu2003@yahoo.com
Gary Felsman 805-473-3694
Canoe/Kayak jbeigle@charter.net
Jack Beigle 805-773-2147
Equestrian bdenneen@slonet.org
Bill Denneen 805-929-3647

General Information

Santa Lucia Chapter
P.O. Box 15755
San Luis Obispo, CA 93406

Chapter Coordinator
santa.lucia.chapter@sierraclub.org
Andrew Christie 805-543-8717

Chapter office hours are
Monday-Friday, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

1204 Nipomo St., San Luis Obispo
www.santalucia.sierraclub.org

Change of Address?

Mail changes to:

Sierra Club National Headquarters
85 Second Street, 2nd Floor
San Francisco, CA 94105-3441
or e-mail:
address.changes@sierraclub.org

Visit us on the Web!

www.santalucia.sierraclub.org

Outings, events, and more!

Dalidio's Law

County voters asked to set precedent, create fiefdom

By the County Coalition for Local Control

By now everyone knows that Mr. Ernie Dalidio, backed by his developer partners, Scott Dabney of Texas and Bill Bird of L.A., are placing an initiative on the SLO County ballot this November to build a huge shopping mall (approximately 530,000 square feet) on the Dalidio Ranch property next to the city of San Luis Obispo. SLO City voters turned down a proposed megamall there last April. Now, the developers are using an aggressive tactic to force the project upon city residents by going "over their heads" to county voters. Whether or not you like the project, you should be deeply concerned by the way the initiative, if approved, would undermine local control and the dangerous precedent it would set. It would mean that voters in Paso (or any community) would be making decisions about projects in Arroyo Grande (or any community), leaving local residents and/or election officials with no say. This is a major reason why a county-wide group, **County Coalition for Local Control (CCLC)** is organizing to oppose this initiative.

If county voters are gullible enough to shut their eyes and "just vote yes," a giant shopping mall or nuclear power plant or landfill (whatever the developer wants) could spring up next to any community, anywhere, despite the General Plan,



- ♦ California Nurses Association
- ♦ Sierra Club
- ♦ United Domestic Workers of America
- ♦ Vote the Coast
- ♦ The Tribune

endorse **JUDY VICK** for District 2 Supervisor

♦ *She has the right idea*

We need leadership that is in touch with the real-life challenges faced by the people who are the backbone of our community. Judy will work to protect *everyone's* quality of life and the health of our environment.

♦ *She has the right experience*

A decade of service as a licensed professional in our County's health and human services, working collaboratively with public health, social services, probation, drug & alcohol services and mental health, along with non-profit agencies like the Women's Shelter Program, E.O.C. and the Family Care Network to meet the needs of families. Emily's List and Wellstone Action-trained, a neighborhood activist, *she knows how to make county government work for the people.*

♦ "She is the right woman for the job." ~ District 5 Supervisor Jim Patterson

Vote Vick June 6!



paid political advertisement

fect would opening a mall this size with no overpass have on the flow of freeway traffic as it goes through the city of San Luis Obispo? Gridlock? We will never know for sure because

environmental review. This is *not the same project* that got an EIR in the city. As a new project, it has new impacts. As an example of a few big differences, there was no sewage

This "planning and impact analysis be damned" approach to development, if county voters are gullible enough to allow it, would be the fastest way to break our county wide

"I am truly disappointed that Dalidio is trying to bypass the county review..... Dalidio should be treated just like everyone else who files a request in the county. The public review process is essential to work out all the problems this project presents and to make this development work in its environment."

- Ned Rogoway, County Planning Director, 1959-1980

zoning, and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). That's right, there is no Environmental Impact Report (EIR) required for a project approved by initiative. The Dalidio Ranch initiative would preempt all zoning ordinances and be exempted from state law requiring analysis of related traffic, air quality, flood hazard, school, water, sewer, fire, police and other community needs and effects. Rewriting the County General Plan, San Luis Obispo Area Plan and Land Use Ordinances, this initiative would carve out the "Dalidio Ranch Land Use Category", overriding "most other existing County regulations, guidelines, ordinances, and code provisions that regulate land use and development, including Title 22 and Title 26 (the Growth Management Ordinance)" [Initiative Ballot Summary]. It would be a law unto itself, a law by the developers for the developers.

Because there will be no EIR, voters will not have the benefit of all the hard facts regarding the project's impacts, or whether the whole county or only one city would pay for them. For example, what effect would a project that size in that location have on Highway 101 traffic? When project was on the city ballot, the EIR said that the mall would generate so much traffic, that a new overpass would have to be built to handle it, and even so there would be gridlock on neighboring roads. That is one reason city voters rejected the project. They did not want a project that big in that location and did not want to pay for the overpass.

When the project is on the county ballot, the developers try to hide all these problems by simply leaving the overpass out of the design. What ef-

these developers are not required to pay for reports surfacing the hard facts regarding traffic, or any other impacts, as they would be through the normal county EIR and approval process. Furthermore, county planning staff, public works staff, traffic engineers, firefighters or sheriffs will have no input into conditions of approval for the design. The developers are deliberately trying to escape environmental review and staff imposed conditions of approval.

The developers claim that the project has already been subject to

treatment plant or housing in the old project and there was an overpass. Over the years, there have been many different designs for this project, including two in the city of San Luis Obispo. Each of those got an EIR, but the one before county voters will not have its own EIR. "Borrowing" from past environmental analysis of other projects will not give anyone a true and accurate accounting of all of the impacts of this projects, let alone any mitigation, or enforcement of mitigation.

open to rampant, uncontrolled development. The stakes are very high. Defeating this initiative will take an incredible amount of dedication and hard work. Please volunteer to help now. County Coalition for Local Control (CCLC) needs your help now. If you want to preserve our county, as we know it, please send a postcard with your name, address, phone numbers and email address to **CCLC, Post Office Box 121, and San Luis Obispo 93406 or call 805 594-8888.**

The Unseen Impact

By Eric Greening

Most projects of this scale benefit from the routine interactions with staff that happen as they go through the planning process. Interaction with fire professionals, environmental health professionals, traffic professionals, etc. bring about conditions of approval that ameliorate impacts on the community. The CEQA process catches many of these impacts, but many such catches result not from CEQA analysis but from the staff review that occurs while the project that will ultimately receive CEQA review is still being defined.

Much of this quiet staff work results in Conditions of Approval, or simply in tweaks in the project description that are made before the project reaches a public hearing stage. Some of the tweaks result in reduced Class 3 impacts where greater impacts would have otherwise occurred; some tweaks become

the mitigations that allow Class 2 impacts to be reduced to insignificance.

Items not caught by staff can be dealt with during the detailed review that occurs at the Planning Commission. The upshot is that most projects, when finally acted on, are different from — and better for the public than — what the applicants initially proposed.

With a ballot initiative, not only is there no environmental review and no staff-imposed conditions to protect the public interest, but even if the need for such conditions were to become obvious to all as people become more familiar with the project described in the initiative, those conditions could not be added to the project! The project that is voted on in November must be the very same project that signatures were gathered on in April.

An Instance of Initiative Abuse Averted

A Punitive Damages Measure that Chevron was seeking to place on the November ballot has been withdrawn before any signatures were submitted.

The proposal was Chevron's attempt to avoid responsibility for contamination it has caused. Sierra Club California had taken an opposed position on the initiative, part of the mounting opposition from local governments and environmental groups that made it clear to Chevron that this measure was a sure loser.

"We are grateful to Senator Joe Dunn and the legislative leadership for their help in deterring this polluter protection measure," said Sierra Club California Senior Representative Bill Magavern.

It's the



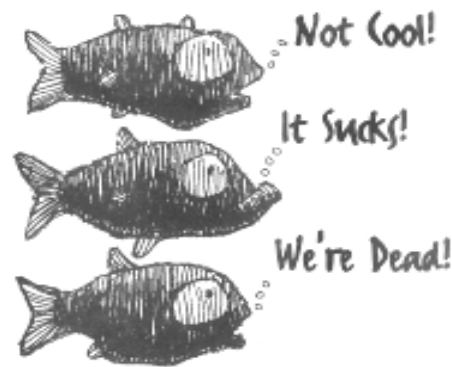
Morro Bay: Once-Through Cooling Headed for the Waterfall?

By Jack McCurdy

Seven years after Duke Energy unveiled plans to build a new Morro Bay Power Plant, a brand new owner reportedly wants to do what Duke failed to do, but the task appears to be more daunting than ever.

Everything imaginable — ranging from pending court decisions on power plant operations to a developing new state policy limiting their impacts on marine resources—is going against the LS Power Group in its goal to replace the 52-year-old plant with a new, larger and more environmentally destructive facility.

A new plant would produce more power and cover more ground space



Once-through cooling's stakeholders weigh in.

but have lower smokestacks and be much more efficient. But it also would kill more marine life carried into the plant in water from the Morro Bay National Estuary for cooling purposes and would spew out 60% more ground-level concentrations of particulate matter, which poses a significant health risk to Morro Bay residents.

Duke obtained a license from the California Energy Commission to build a new plant on the shores of the Estuary before selling its four plants in California, but did not obtain a federal discharge permit from the

Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board, which LS Power still needs in order to build.

The core dispute in all power plant licenses and permits along the California coast is whether they should be allowed to use ocean water, called once-through cooling, or should be required to use closed-cycle cooling, such as dry-cooling, where a limited amount of fresh water is recirculated in a plant, much like in a car radiator, with no environmental impact on the water source.

Times change

These are the hurdles facing LS Power:

- Pending decisions by federal and appellate courts on whether owners of existing power plants can replace those facilities with new ones and continue to use ocean water, killing marine life, even if habitat restoration programs are designed and financed to compensate for those impacts. The federal Second Circuit court hearing a key appeal already has issued a landmark decision that the U.S. Clean Water Act requires alternative cooling technologies for new plants.

- The possibility that the state appellate decision could overturn regulatory approval of the use of ocean water for new generating units at the Moss Landing Power Plant. The issues in that case are almost identical to those in the Morro Bay regulatory review, and if, in effect, LS Power is required by to install closed-cycle cooling at Moss Landing, the handwriting would be on the wall in Morro Bay.

- An historic new state policy against the use of once-through cooling by power plants is emerging, which could directly affect the Morro

Bay, Moss Landing and proposed or possible replacement projects at all the 21 coastal plants in California.

The state Ocean Protection Council in April called on the “State to implement the most protective controls to achieve a 90 to 95 percent reduction in (environmental) impacts” from power plants. Also in April, the State Lands Commission, which has jurisdiction over state tidelands where power plant facilities are often located, urged the state to “develop policies that eliminate once-through cooling from all new and existing power plants in California.”*

The State Water Resources Control Board, which has jurisdiction over discharge permits for plants, is expected in June to approve a similar policy restricting use of once-through cooling.

This evolving state policy grew out of a landmark California Energy Commission report last year that, for the first, time showed that the 21 coastal plants are causing serious damage to coastal resources. Subsequently, a coalition of environmental groups, including the Sierra Club and the Coastal Alliance on Plant Expansion, have waged a strong campaign to change state policy, which has proven successful so far.

- The Environmental Protection Agency in 2004 approved new regulations for existing power plants, such as Morro Bay's, that are much more stringent in controlling use of once-through cooling and must be followed for the first time in the Regional Board's review of the Morro Bay case.

- The power industry in the past has formed a united front behind their demands to use once-through cooling and opposition to alternative cooling technologies, such as closed-cycle cooling, on grounds that alternatives were unreasonably costly and often infeasible on plant sites, which has

been Duke's argument in both the Morro Bay and Moss Landing cases.

Not so difficult after all

But that front is cracking. Before selling its Chula Vista plant in San Diego, Duke reportedly agreed to use dry cooling at a planned replacement plant there after a long struggle by environmentalists to stop the use of water for cooling from San Diego Bay. Whether LS Power will agree with Duke's position has not been reported.

In April, PG&E announced it would use dry cooling at a planned replacement plant on Humboldt Bay in Eureka, which has been using once-through cooling. A PG&E official said the bidder to build the new plant determined that dry cooling would be economically feasible.

These two developments are important because the cost and site feasibility are expected to be central issues if and when the Morro Bay project is officially considered by the Regional Board—unless one or both of the court decisions are handed down and they favor alternative technologies.

Before that takes place, however, the Board is expected to require LS Power to obtain a renewed permit for the existing plant, which expired six years ago and has been on administrative extension while Duke was planning a new facility. LS Power may be required to pay for restoration to compensate for the documented significant loss of fish and crab larvae in water used by the old plant. A hearing on that permit, if LS Power seeks it, is expected to be held later this year.

Duke operated two of the generating units at the plant on a very limited basis for the past two years. Two other units were shut down in 2003.

*Southern California Edison has petitioned the Office of Administrative Law (OAL) to overturn the resolution of the State Lands Commission.

Sierra Club California Lobby Day: August 13-14, 2006

Help Sierra Club California discuss priority environmental issues such as global warming, forestry, flood control, and outdoor education with our legislators at the State Capitol – Beginners welcome!

This is a great opportunity to protect the environment by influencing the political process and to practice your advocacy skills, as well as meet new people with similar issue interests from around the state.

Training for Lobby Day will take place on Sunday afternoon, August 13, in Sacramento. Sierra Club California's lobbyists will provide helpful tools and knowledge for achieving successful meetings with legislators and their staff members. The lobbyists will also discuss the

legislative process and provide talking points on the priority bills that you will discuss in the capitol.

Lobby Day Participants will attend meetings with key legislators at the State Capitol in Sacramento on Monday, August 14, throughout the day. The



day will end with a debriefing and wrap-up back at the Sierra Club office.

Sierra Club California will provide free hotel accommodations in double-occupancy rooms in a nearby hotel, and will also provide Sunday dinner, Monday breakfast and Monday lunch. Most transportation expenses will also be reimbursed with prior approval.

The registration deadline for Lobby Day is August 1. Please register as soon as possible as we may receive more applications than we have space for; preference may be given to applicants from our targeted districts. Early registration is helpful as we make appointments with legislators.

Please contact Sabrina Juarez, Sierra Club California Legislative Aide, for more information at 916-557-1100 ext.107 or at Juarez@sierraclub-sac.org.

Water

Nipomo: "Paper Water" Plan Challenged

By Gordon Hensley
Environment in the Public Interest

How will our County balance water needs for the unique habitat on the Nipomo Mesa and support increasing urban needs as well? The Nipomo Community Services District has spent a good portion of last year trying to come up with an answer.

An attempt at a partial answer came in January 2006 in the form of an update to the District's Urban Water Management Plan. However unsupported assumptions about the long-term availability of projected "paper water," to be purchased from the City of Santa Maria, led Environment in the Public Interest, the San Luis Obispo CoastKeeper®, to challenge NCSO in court.

Every development proposal made from now on will look to this document to justify continuing the conversion of agricultural land and habitat on the mesa. The plan must provide an accurate evaluation that the

District, the County, and the public can rely on with certainty to properly manage water resources for the public good and protection of the environment. Of equal concern is the availability of water to support the projected 6,000 new homes to be accommodated by the anticipated water and that water dependant habitat on the Mesa is protected.

Issues that remain unanswered in the Plan that could affect the reliability of supplemental water from Santa Maria include a clause in the agreement reserving for the City their rights to the water promised to Nipomo CSD. In addition, a future environmental review could find that the proposed delivery pipeline is not feasible.

The Urban Water Management Planning Act (UWMPA) requires water agencies, such as NCSO, to create and periodically update local water management plans to be used as guidance in such water and land use planning decisions. The fundamental purpose of UWMPA is for public water agencies to inform the general public regarding water supply quantity and quality. As SLO CoastKeeper attorney Babak Naficy commented, "Unfortunately in this case, it appears that NCSO viewed the environmental mandates in the law as mere obstacles or hoops to jump

through on the way to completing the document. By choosing this approach, NCSO failed to support key findings and factual assertions contained in their Plan."

An Urban Water Management Plan is required and needed. Time spent now to assure an accurate evaluation of the reliability of the supplemental water supply anticipated by NCSO will avert significant problems and frustration both for those interested in development in Nipomo as well as those interested in protecting the unique habitat on the Mesa.

EPI/San Luis Obispo Coast-



Keeper®, founded in 2002, is an aggressive watchdog organization dedicated to enforcement of water quality, watershed protection, and planning regulations on the Central Coast. A member of the international Waterkeeper Alliance, EPI/SLO CoasKeeper distributes a weekly e-mail alerting subscribers to issues of interest from state, regional, and local agencies. To join the Alert List, email your request to: g.r.hensley@sbcglobal.net

Los Osos: Could 30 years of delay pave the way to sustainability?

By Gail McPherson
Los Osos Technical Task Force

Could the protracted 30-year battle to sewer Los Osos be a blessing in disguise?

The delay has prevented Los Osos from building an antiquated ocean outfall, inefficient technology, and infrastructure. Contrary to popular perception, Los Osos is a community with a commitment to responsible water and wastewater practices that could actually turn out to be a shining example of 21st century watershed management-based on real and sustainable environmental and social interdependence.

The relationship between sustainability and responsible water management is complex. It requires a marriage of the social and technological dimensions of water recycling on a watershed basis.

A bit of history: The collection and treatment of human

waste using precious water as a conveyance medium was never really a good idea. Centuries ago, the use of water centuries ago was based on a paradigm "flush and forget it." Water washed the streets where waste from chamber pots was tossed, or waste was piped along with storm flows into sewer farms and into creeks and rivers. Water is life, but the desire to flush and forget isn't much different today, albeit we have indoor plumbing and increasing levels of wastewater treatment. The fact remains, water "disposal" is still a core industry practice, and so far the term "sustainability" only means that government can assure taxpayers have enough to pay for the outmoded paradigm.

21st Century Paradigm

Want to learn about merging ethics and design, smart growth, sustain-

continued on page 8



Just outside Yosemite National Park on 50 Acres of beautiful forested hillside

Private cabins with bath or shared bath, dorms and tent cabins.

Full service Ayurvedic spa with sauna, hot tub, cold plunge, massage, scented soaking room & yoga classes.

Meeting rooms to accommodate conferences & retreats of all sizes.
Outdoor amphitheater with fire pit.

Cafe at the Bug serves fresh Californian cuisine with Vegans & Vegetarians options.

Visit us once, and you'll come back for a lifetime.

Yosemite Bug Rustic Mountain Resort
6979A Highway 140, Midpines, CA 95345
toll free 866 826 7108 or 209 966 6666

Website: www.yosemitebug.com
E-mail: bughost@yosemitebug.com



Taking Issue

problematic recent environmental commentary & coverage in our local press

“Here’s a way to boost tourism and benefit the entire county”
The Tribune, April 9, 2006

Over the next three years, the county’s burgeoning lodging supply -- hotels, motels, inns and resorts -- will far outstrip demand. Solution: a room tax to go toward vastly expanding the promotion of tourism.



Between now and 2009, about 3,600 more rooms will be added to the county's lodging supply. That's at least a 7 percent increase per year. But demand, at current growth rates, will grow only 1 percent per year.... Just to keep occupancy at current levels...demand needs to grow at a rate about seven times faster than current growth.

This is the classic example of unplanned, runaway growth feeding on itself: Massive spending on the promotion of tourism in order to jack up demand to meet (over)supply.

...if occupancy rates tumble, prices will go down as well. And that will jeopardize hoteliers' profitability, thus threatening jobs and leading to a possible decline in tourist-generated sales tax revenue.

“Tumbling occupancy” is the wrong-end-of-the-telescope description of building 3,600 hotel rooms with no tourists to put in them. A better solution would have been for city and county planners, city councils and the Board of Supervisors to have looked at the same supply-

and-demand data when the projects that will collectively add 3,600 more rooms were before them. All projects could have been conditioned, scaled down or re-designed to be built in phases in order to avoid the glut and economic dislocation we are now facing. Attempting to correct oversupply by creating demand -- at a time when soaring gas prices will be cutting down on long-distance vacations for the foreseeable future -- is a poor substitute for sound planning.

Spending to create increased tourism does not include spending to solve problems created by tourism. The City of San Luis Obispo recently broke with its longstanding policy of not advertising open space/hiking opportunities outside the county, arranging for five national travel writers to hike Bishop's Peak on June 5 so they could go back home and write about the experience “for their 20 million readers.” The city's trails are based on a local level of use. Trailheads with no parking lots are located in R1-zoned neighborhoods. There aren't enough rangers now, and the city's trails are experiencing serious erosion even at current levels of use. Weekend hikes are coming to resemble a trip to Disneyland more than an outing to commune with nature. If a few million additional tourists were to stampede to SLO and fill up all those surplus rooms, *The Tribune* and the Visitors and Conference Bureau would doubtless count it a roaring success. But what would we have left?

...the assessment [on tourists of an extra 1 percent on the price of each night's stay] would generate \$1.8 million annually to be spent on marketing, more than double the Visitors and Conference Bureau's current marketing budget.

[Without this increase in tourism marketing] we're convinced that the status quo will lead to an oversupply and quite possibly to substantially more difficulties for local hoteliers and innkeepers ...which will miss out on sales tax dollars generated on the backs of visitors -- dollars that would help support SLO County's quality of life.

Another lesson from the city of SLO: In 1989, more than 70% of its voters voted for Measure G, urging that commercial growth be held to 1%, the same as residential growth. It was, alas, an advisory measure, and the city council has been “interpreting” it to death ever since. In 1992, when the City balked at incorporating Measure G's commercial growth cap into

its Land Use Element, the *Tribune* editorialized in favor of limits on commercial growth, saying:

We urge the council as a whole to stand back and look squarely at the Land Use Element as a blueprint for the future, not as a solution for the problems of the present.

What a difference 14 years makes.



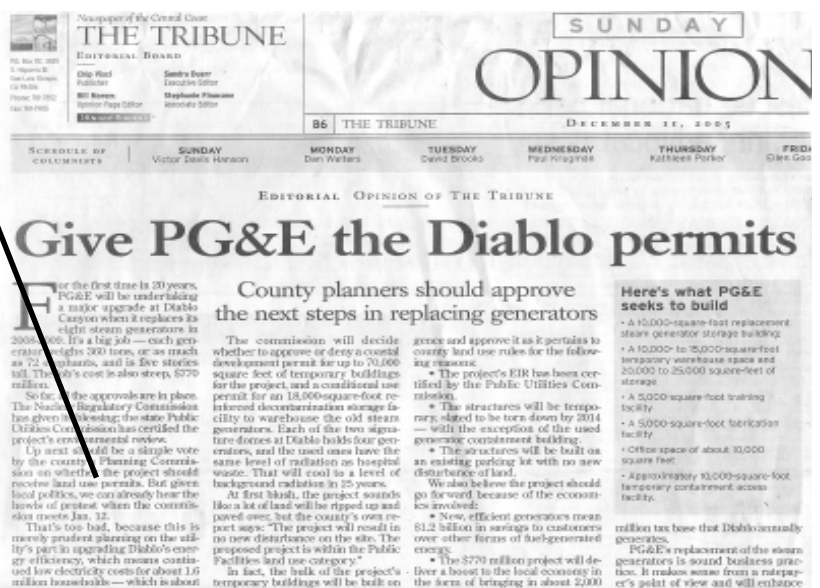
“Give PG&E the Diablo Permits”
The Tribune, December 11, 2005

The Planning Commission is urged to grant PG&E's request for coastal development permits to remove and replace the Diablo Canyon Nuclear power plant's defective steam generators and store them on site.

All the “approvals in place” studiously ignored the only fact that mattered, as did the *Tribune*: Replacing the steam generators guarantees another 20-40 years of Diablo Canyon's environmental impacts and prohibited public coastal access. Instead of the “simple vote” urged on Jan. 12, one Planning Commissioner insisted that those impacts be considered. She was overruled and the project wrenched away from the Planning Commission (and the *Tribune* scolded her for “highjacking” the hearing by insisting that the issues be heard, which it found “questionable at best, and abusive at worst.”) The permits were rubber-stamped at the Board of Supervisors in March. The Santa Lucia Chapter and Mothers for Peace immediately appealed to the California Coastal Commission. In May, the Coastal Commission found substantial issue on appeal on the basis of, yes, those additional decades of Diablo Canyon's environmental impacts and bar to public coastal access that the project would entail. The Commission will hold a de novo hearing on the permits this fall (i.e. start over and do it again).

So far, all the approvals are in place.... Up next should be a simple vote by the county's Planning Commission.... But given local politics, we can already hear the howls of protest when the Commission meets Jan. 12.

Had the County done the right thing last January, the Coastal Commission would not now have to step in and do the job right. A pity those “howls of protest” weren't listened to at the time.



“Who’s to blame for big bellies?”
J.M. Hirsch, Associated Press
The Tribune, March 19, 2006

The article quickly answers its headline’s question about the national obesity epidemic, exculpating the food industry: “We’re all a part of it” because “consumers are not making good choices.”

These answers come from three of the reporter’s four quoted subjects, primarily “some experts:” former food industry executive James Tillotson and industry lobbyist Robert Earl, versus a lone industry critic.

The format, including the article’s

“blame yourself” conclusion, is the template for dozens of similar stories that have appeared with increasing frequency in the nation’s newspapers and on local TV news programs as obesity-related

annual health care costs in the U.S. have climbed past \$100 billion and the threat of litigation and legislation to hold the industry responsible for its products has grown.

Responses to the article’s assertions are drawn from the expose *Fast Food Nation* by Eric Schlosser (Houghton Mifflin, 2001).



It’s tempting to blame big food companies for America’s big obesity problem.... But some experts say neither the problem nor the solution is nearly so simple.

The obesity epidemic that began in the United States in the late 1970s is now spreading to the rest of

the world, with fast food as one of its vectors. Between 1984 and 1993, the number of fast food restaurants in Great Britain doubled — and so did the obesity rate among adults.... The sale of fast food in Japan more than doubled; the rate of obesity among children soon doubled, too.... In China, the proportion of overweight teenagers has roughly tripled in the last decade.... A study of middle-aged Japanese men who had settled in the United States found that their switch to a Western diet doubled their risk of heart disease and tripled their risk of stroke.... A survey of children’s advertising in the European Union found that 95 percent of the food ads there encouraged kids to eat foods high in sugar, salt, and fat. The company running the most ads aimed at children was McDonalds.... It seems wherever America’s fast food chains go, waistlines start expanding.* (FFN, pp. 242-243)

The fast food chains annually spend about \$3 billion on television advertising, in addition to marketing alliances with the nation’s leading toy manufacturers, sports leagues and Hollywood studios.

Sure, companies set the stage with cheap, calorie-dense foods. But government also has propped up agribusiness, the medical community was slow to take on obesity and good nutrition, and consumers seem determined to move less and eat more, says Tillotson.

The Federal Trade Commission’s proposed 1978 ban on television ads directed at children seven years old or younger was supported by the American Academy of Pediatrics, the National Congress of Parents and Teachers, the Consumers Union and the Child Welfare League, among others. But it was attacked by the National Association of Broadcasters, the Toy Manufacturers of America, and the Association of National Advertisers. The industry groups lobbied Congress to prevent any restrictions on children’s ads.... In April of 1981, three months after the inauguration of President Ronald Reagan, an FTC staff report argued that a ban on ads aimed at children would be impractical, effectively killing the proposal. “We are delighted by the FTC’s reasonable recommendation,” said the head of the National Association of Broadcasters. (FFN, pp. 46-49)

Earl says he knows of no company that has deliberately manipulated ingredients...to make flavor more complex and appealing to get people to eat more of it.

Since the end of World War II, a vast industry has arisen in the United States to make processed food palatable. Without this flavor industry, today’s fast food industry could not exist.... Flavor compounds sometimes contain more ingredients than the foods being given their taste. (FFN, pp. 121-125)

“I would love to blame somebody else. The reality is it’s each person’s responsibility,” says Ellen Van Gelder, 41, who has battled her weight her entire life. “You put the food on your plate. You choose whether to eat it.”

The flavors of childhood foods seem to leave an indelible mark, and adults often return to them, without always knowing why, [as] a source of pleasure and reassurance, a fact that fast food chains work hard to promote.... The health risks faced by the nation’s children far outweigh the needs of its mass marketers. Congress should immediately ban all advertisements aimed at children that promote foods high in fat and sugar.... Every month, more than 90 percent of the children in the United States eat at McDonald’s. (FFN, pp. 123, 262)

Companies have tried to help people make better choices, he says, offering healthier products...but people can’t be forced to make the right choice and consumer disinterest doomed many of these products.

A number of attempts to introduce healthy dishes have proven unsuccessful. A taste for fat developed in childhood is difficult to lose as an adult.... The major chains have apparently decided that it’s much easier and much more profitable to increase the size and the fat content of their portions than to battle eating habits largely formed by years of their own mass marketing. (FFN, p. 241)

*None other than one of this article’s quoted experts, James Tillotson, is a booster for this phenomenon, urging the Western diet onward into every corner of the globe. In a November 2002 presentation to the World Health Organization and the World Bank entitled “Multinational Food Companies and Developing Nations Diets,” under the heading “FACTORS FAVORING MULTINATIONAL FOOD COMPANIES ENTERING THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES,” Tillotson noted that “Industrial countries’ domestic markets [are] maturing for many food products and commodities,” but, thankfully, “developing countries’ markets [are] favorable to food products based on the Western diet.”



Santa Lucia Chapter Executive Committee Member Katherine Wassenberg (left); Terry Hooker, manager of the Cal Poly sustainable farm’s Community Supported Agriculture program; Lisa Quinn of County RideShare, and Kathleen de Chadenedes, a convivium leader for SLO Slow Foods and member of the Central Coast Ag Network, spoke on “Eating Sustainably” at the Chapter’s April meeting.

So, yes, Big Food really is the problem. No, consumers did not create and are not responsible for the woes inflicted by our industrial food system, but this article is almost right in one respect: Through our food choices, we can have an impact on the practices that harm our health, our planet, and our quality of life.

Get more information from the Sierra Club’s True Cost of Food Campaign at www.truecostoffood.org.

Los Osos

continued from page 5

able technology or wastewater management? Google the web and you'll find a goldmine of resources to aid in creating community-wide wastewater management programs that are holistic, renewable, efficient, smart, sustainable, and small-footprint. These aren't buzzwords; Austin, Texas, and communities all over the country¹ have embraced the connection between the technological and social dimensions of watershed-wide water recycling and sustainable water management. Merging alternative wastewater treatment with smart growth is a creative combination Los Osos and neighboring regions need to succeed.

David Venhuizen, the Austin based "Water Guy," who is considered a leading light in the movement to decentralize wastewater systems², questions if the political divide is depriving Los Osos of being a "community." This, he says, is the key ingredient for successful "Sustainable Communities."

Sustainability is smart. Smart growth is about preserving what a community has and can be -- protecting resources and still planning for the future.

And wastewater management is one of the great opportunities in community planning says Julie Beth Hinds, director of planning and zoning for South Burlington Vermont³. She urges working with wastewater management to use technologies and management programs that are there to support desired community growth. Just accepting whatever wastewater solution seems to be appropriate, she says, is the wastewater tail wagging the land-use dog.

Rethinking watershed protection

That's called facilities planning, which is a core concept in smart-growth strategies, in which engineers must take a hard look at *all available options*. We see the results where zoning and land-use have been solved with the wrong application of the "tools" of wastewater projects based on the "flush and forget it" paradigm, fueled by cheap CWA grants and loans, with the narrow focus of collect, treat & dump.

Old habits die hard. Many developers that created the sprawling communities that piped waste to behemoth centralized plants like East Bay MUD, Los Angeles Hyperion, and the Sanitation Districts of Orange County relied on engineers, firms and planning policies that continue to support the unsustainable dinosaur infrastructure. As Congress and the EPA now struggle with the fiscal realities of the multi-trillions required to maintain our nation's aging wastewater systems, rethinking successful, comprehensive integrated watershed protection plans must include on-site and decentralized approaches and creative recycling solutions. And the State is getting on board⁴ after being behind the curve for nearly 20 years. The latest State lending policies require sustainability to be answered in the planning process in order to get a loan.

I have heard it said "No sewer project can succeed in Los Osos." Yet Los Osos is far along in the process of making the hard and urgent choices that will face all communities concerned about their future. As resources are depleted, prices rise, and dependence on old systems becomes untenable, everyone will struggle for the courage to shift paradigms.

The heavy lifting

Los Osos is embattled, defiant, and gutsy. Los Osos is also a smart com-

munity. Smart communities recognize the interdependence of ecology, ethics, and design. Los Osos voters knew intuitively that "sustainability" is more than just gathering enough customers with the income to pay for a wasteful, fragmented treatment appliance -- a huge energy hog built a spill away from a National Estuary. They know they can't afford to waste most of the treated water to the Bay by "disposal" and then simply import water. Los Osos knew to say NO -- even when lawsuits by opponents, threats of fines from the water boards, and dissolution of their local control were applied.

Because *all* the "waste" water related problems must be addressed on a holistic basis, implementing the most beneficial strategies in each situation must be managed by *one* authority. The Water Guy asks, "Whether homes are on individual septic or a common wastewater system, can the community recognize themselves as part of *one wastewater management solution*?"

Good question. Since the election, the Los Osos CSD has aggressively sought solutions and a comprehensive approach. The new board, made up of scientists and engineers, immediately implemented water conservation programs to protect high-quality waters and continued to replace leaking water lines to reduce waste. They requested legislation from Assemblyman Blakeslee for authorization for septic management for ALL on-site systems. They meet regularly with the Water Board Staff, and are updating the voluntary septic management program.

Los Osos knows the whole basin is a "ground water quality protection zone" and is looking to provide a holistic wastewater management master plan that will embrace true Basin-to-Bay water reclamation and recycling. On parallel paths, the district is monitoring and planning possible remediation of groundwater that is high in nitrates. Large discharges from community sources will require systems to treat the water to acceptable standards or provide the water for landscape irrigation.

John Yaroslaski, Ensitu Engineering⁵ was tasked with reviewing the on-site systems (septic) within the entire basin, knitting together the best management practices for the on-site systems. He will also review alternative technologies for interim improvement in water quality, drilling new wells in the upper aquifer and developing strategies to improve high ground water levels and help improve septic operation.

The recently completed studies on salt water intrusion sounded the alarm, and the district requested a severity level 3 Resource Capacity (water status) from the County⁶. The District Engineer, Wallace Group, coordinates the ongoing scientific studies for master planning. Ripley

Capps

continued from page 1

lic. This renewed proposal to allow new oil and gas drilling off of our economically and environmentally priceless coastline is as misguided as it was last year."

In an attempt to make the measure more palatable, it was phrased to specifically permit drilling for natural gas, not oil.

"So called 'gas only' drilling has been dismissed by the Administration

Pacific,⁷ selected to update the Wastewater Facilities Plans for areas where septic systems are prohibited, is reviewing lifecycle and sustainable system technology based on *all* alternatives.

The team's view of treated wastewater effluent as a resource, including the nutrients remaining in it, is a concept that would virtually eliminate disposal to creeks, the Bay or the groundwater as a means of managing the effluent. Ideally all effluent is re-used in agricultural and landscape irrigation, thus protecting groundwater quality and offsetting demand. Winter storage ensures all effluent is available for reuse.

The nitrogen in the effluent would be used as fertilizer, thus reducing the need for the farmer to apply chemical fertilizers to the soil. (Another consequence of our dependence on fossil fuels is a soon-to-be-realized dramatic shortage in fertilizers worldwide. Wetlands and natural processes may be employed, with added benefits of natural systems receiving water, with added protection from urban and agricultural runoff.

Los Osos is painfully aware that it is still the conventional wisdom in California to fund large, centralized wastewater and energy systems reliant on fossil fuels or nuclear power, and it takes courage and vision to resist this. Los Osos made the hard, urgent choices to shift from the State's path of least resistance, and make the hard choice that other communities will someday have to make too.

Determining a future based on true sustainability of an integrated water resources management plan is heavy lifting. Los Osos leaders seek to grow a healthy community through outreach, mediation and networking. All stakeholders are needed to work cooperatively to create a community-wide wastewater management program that is holistic, renewable, smart, and sustainable. There is an opportunity here that we must not let slip away.

¹ <http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/sustainable>

² *The Rock*, Venhuizen's Comet, p-6 May-June & Personal email

³ *Small Flows Quarterly*, Winter 2006, Vol. 7, No 1

⁴ Sustainability Criteria and Life Cycle comparisons at: <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resdec/resltn/2005/rs2005-0006.pdf>.

⁵ Ensitu Engineering, Morro Bay Ca. www.ensitu.com

⁶ Co. Severity level 3 www.slocountywater.org

⁷ Scope of work on LOCSD web site www.lososocsd.org

and even the oil industry as a fool's errand that is risky and not appealing to producers," said Capps. "To be perfectly clear, drilling for gas means drilling for oil. To pretend otherwise is just folly. I will fight this terrible proposal and work with my colleagues to continue to protect the ban on new oil and gas drilling off of our coasts."

And she did.

Bay in the Balance

continued from page 1

eight years to upgrade to at least full secondary treatment. If the waiver is denied, the upgrade must be completed in five years (which the NRDC demonstrated has been achieved by several other California coastal communities with larger plants and far more wastewater to treat).

Clean Water Act waivers are relics of a less environmentally conscious past. Morro Bay/Cayucos has one of only ones left on the west coast; all other facilities have upgraded to full secondary-stage treatment of sewage, the legal minimum, with many further upgrading to tertiary treatment, which results in water clean enough to be re-used in landscaping and agriculture.

The primary focus of controversy at the May 11 hearing was sea otters and how they relate to the regulatory concept of a Balanced Indigenous Population (BIP). The Water Board staff and the EPA contended

that a Balanced Indigenous Population of marine wildlife exists in Estero Bay and therefore the plant's outfall is doing no harm. The environmental community countered that the EPA determines the presence of

BIPs solely by studying simple benthic (sea bottom) life, whereas the clear intent of Congress in the Clean Water Act was to protect all marine wildlife from water pollution, and the high local mortality rate for otters is a clear indication of a failure to meet that standard in Estero Bay.

The disconnect between Congressional intent and EPA testing was underlined when the Cayucos Sanitary District's attorney asserted "we believe you can have a balanced indigenous population with or without sea otters."

The parasite *Toxoplasma gondii*, a factor in high otter mortality locally, is present in cat and opossum feces. At the hearing, this led to an extended discussion of cat litter, which Board Chair Jeffrey Young did not want to believe is being flushed down the toilets of local resident in Morro Bay and Cayucos, potentially introducing the parasite into the treatment system. He was confronted with the reality of flushable cat litter, which is being marketed by the manufacturers on the basis of this convenience.

Toward the end of the day, after much wrangling over statistics, inconclusive studies and opposing interpretations of data, Steve Shimek of the Otter Project asked "Can we all agree that cleaning up wastewater is a good thing and the otters will be better off with a cleaner ocean?"

The Board will re-convene and attempt to break the deadlock on June 8.

TAKE ACTION

Attend the June 8 meeting and ask the Water Board to deny another Clean Water Act waiver for the Morro Bay/Cayucos wastewater treatment plant.

The meeting will be held offsite in San Luis Obispo. Check www.swrcb.ca.gov, click on "Central Coast," and then "Board Meetings" for location and agenda.



The Imposter Monster Among Us

It's Lyme disease season

By H. James (Jim) Holroyd, MD, FAAP

Prior, practical knowledge of Lyme Disease to prevent and treat early is the only way to avoid the risks of devastating "late stage" illness.

Background and perspective

Throughout history, there has always been some population-wide infectious disease brought to our attention. Plagues have menaced mankind forever. Within just the years of the present generation there has been the concern with an epidemic of HIV infection. Fortunately, through much costly research, preventive and treatment measures, it has been pretty much controlled, particularly in the United States.

Now national and worldwide concern is focused on the threat of a potential pandemic of H5N1 bird flu infection among humans. And there are many other health issues for which we are concerned and which the media keeps in front of us.

Nestled in between HIV and bird flu, at least in the timeframe of media attention but equally as devastating and serious, is another — one which you have most likely heard of, but probably dismissed as more of an annoyance than a serious threat to you. It is called "Lyme Disease," and you should be worried about it! At the very least, you need to be *aware* of it.

More than 25,000 people in the United States contracted Lyme Disease in 2005 according to the Centers for Disease Control. They concede that the actual number of undiagnosed cases may be 10 times that number [250,000]. Fortunately, unlike either HIV or Syphilis, Lyme Disease is not infectious between humans. You can't give it to someone else. The exception is transmission intrauterine from infected mother to her fetus, and if the infected mother breast feeds her infant. These have both been proven.

Why the term "imposter or imitator?" Like Syphilis, the original great imposter, Lyme Disease infection can cause symptoms of disease in multiple organ systems. It affects the joints, muscles, connective tissues, skin, heart, peripheral nervous system, brain, eyes and hearing, among others. This may make it look like many different kinds of illnesses and lead the patient and physician down endless dead-end roads, missing the true diagnosis for months or even years. The end result of this is "late stage disease" and illness that is very difficult to treat and cure. The result is prolonged, painful suffering and huge expenditures for doctor bills, laboratory bills and medications, as well as loss of income from the inability to work.

Lyme Disease should be a present-day serious concern to every American, including us in California, contrary to myths and misinformation most of us have heard!

Cause

Lyme is a tick-borne infectious disease, transmitted to humans, in California, by the bite of the western black-legged tick. In other parts of the country, different species of ticks

are the vector. The infecting organism is a spirochete bacterium called *Borrelia Burgdorferi* [Bb]. Syphilis is also caused by a spirochete, although a different one. The spirochete travels down a path of infection from reservoir to host to victim. The reservoir of the spirochete in nature is the mouse.

Ticks acquire the organism while feeding on the mice. The host for the tick is commonly deer. Other wild animals like rabbits, elk, bears and birds, as well as domestic animals like cats and dogs also can harbor ticks. The victim is US!

Adding to the seriousness of Lyme infection is the fact that ticks are little sewers of other infection-producing bacteria and parasites. Co-morbid (simultaneous) disease symptoms can add to the multiplicity of symptoms to be dealt with.

Epidemiology

First, Lyme is *not* a disease limited to the East Coast of the U.S., particularly just New England. It is possible to become infected anywhere in the country. California has a large endemic area along its Northwest Coastal region.

Why should you be concerned about a disease acquired in that area? First, that area is only the primary endemic source in this State. Lyme can be contracted in many other areas within the state. Second, interestingly, it is not the residents of the endemic areas who are at the greatest risk. Living there, they are aware of the problems and dangers. They regularly practice preventive measures and are treated early & effectively because they get early diagnosis, since the disease is locally well acknowledged both by the residents and their doctors. Very savvy!

Those at highest risk, it appears, are visitors to the endemic sites. That is why we all need to be concerned. The victims are the unsuspecting tourists who yearly invade the areas at just the right (wrong) time of the year — vacation time, May through September. They trek thru the State and National Park redwood forests, fern glens and grasslands. That is you and me! The height of tick season coincides exactly with this vacation invasion. "Been there and done that!" Campers, scouts, hiking clubbers, and school field trip students all fall into the high-risk population. Age plays no role!

Identification

Further complicating the seriousness of this tick-borne infection is the problem of early diagnosis and proper treatment. It is not within the purview of this article to get into this web or to review the microbiology of the organism responsible for the illness. Suffice it to say that it is very difficult to get an early diagnosis of Lyme, particularly in the victim who leaves the area and goes home to a place where no one thinks about Lyme Disease. An exception would be those who are acutely aware of the problem, recognize they have been bitten or potentially could have been and undertook proper removal of the tick and cleaning steps of their skin, then acted immediately at the first sign of illness. Some say treat

before symptoms develop, just because of the bite or potential. Many infected people never knew they had been bitten!

Diagnosis and treatment of late symptoms is a whole different ballgame. Often there is life-long disability and even mortality. Nothing to mess around with!

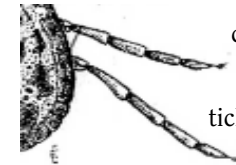
Prevention

Without trying to further describe the disease, what is the "good news?" They say an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure! Sure fits this problem. You CAN prevent yourself, family, and friends from contracting Lyme Disease, and still enjoy the great outdoors.

First you must be *aware*. Hopefully by now you are!

Then you act on the preventive measures that are proven to work. When you are in such areas where you can contract Lyme, be alert for ticks. One problem with looking for them on your body is that they can be very small, not like the large (1/4 inch) ticks we often think of. The nymphal stage is as small as a tiny splinter. Wear appropriate clothing to keep them off your skin and hair. Light-colored clothing is best, as it is easier to spot ticks.

Spray the outside of your boots/shoes, socks, pants, shirts and hat (NOT YOUR SKIN) with a tick-killing spray. A permethrin product is presently the most effective agent. Several brands are available: Duranon, Permanone, and Congo Creek Spray. Incidentally, DEETS while helping against mosquitoes, is of no value in preventing tick bites or in killing ticks.



It is also of practical importance to protect your domestic outdoor animals from ticks, just as we do in protecting them from fleas. We don't

want our furry friends to bring infected ticks to us. Apparently the best tick-killer for your animals is Bayer K9 Advantix, available from veterinarians. A product which contains 0.5% permethrin is available at most feed stores as a horse tick repellent.

Finally, it is important to check your skin, hair and clothes immediately on leaving the area. Shower or bathe with hot water and soap as much as is practical that same day. Check your body for hidden ticks. Even if you are camping in an area over a period of days, do this careful body wash and skin check before you retire each night.

Symptoms & treatment

Last but not least, for those who even think they may have been bitten, watch over the next days and weeks for the development of any unusual illness signs or symptoms. Commonly, infection can produce "out of season" flu-like symptoms within hours to a few days of exposure. These may last only a few days and be gone. Don't become complacent. A "bull's-eye" skin lesion may be present within a week at the site of the bite, or never appear as a sign. These initial, early symptoms may be your only clue. At this point, you need to urgently seek immediate medical attention and get appropriate treatment started. Good, easily available antibiotics ordered by your

continued on page 10

High Spirits at Low Tide

By Jack Beigle

Exploring Morro Bay estuary at low tide can be an interesting adventure but stay in the channels. There is lots of mud out there. In many spots, the mud is so soft that you cannot step out of your boat and walk. We launched at Tideland Park Ramp. The concrete launching ramp is safe even at very low tides.

We paddled to the heron nesting area. The tide was falling so we paddled close to the shore to avoid the strong current in the main channel. It is spring, and all of the nests were occupied. Several of the eucalyptus trees have died because the accumulation of bird droppings has changed the soil.

These bare trees looked like high-rise apartment buildings with many nests at many different levels. It looked like a cormorant tenement.

We watched the action for a while, then we paddled out into the main channel and drifted past Grassy Island. It is a really big island at low tide. After clearing the north end of the island, we turned west and paddled to the sand spit. It was a little early



for lunch so we hiked the pedestrian corridor through the fenced plover area and watched the start of a yacht race south of the harbor entrance.

We returned to the beach and enjoyed our picnic lunches and great conversation. It was almost slack water with only a slight outgoing current as we paddled back to Tideland Park. It was another great day on the estuary!

Check the outing schedule and join us on the water.



Letters

I have lead hikes/bikes/kayaks for the Sierra Club every Sunday for decades in the tradition of John Muir which basically is "show folks wilderness like Yosemite and Hetch Hetchy & they will want to protect them."

The May issue of the Santa Lucian had events in distant places (Alaska) and times (August) but did not have my local, current events. Should I retire or does there need be a change in listing local & current events that show the "treasures" that we have locally that need protection right now and here??

EldrBill - Bill Denneen
Nipomo

You can never retire, Bill! The editorial glitch that resulted in a less-than-up-to-date listing of events and non-appearance of a number of scheduled hikes last month, including many of yours, has been corrected. Your listed hikes once again coexist peacefully on our back page with longer-range outdoor opportunities, equally beloved by members who cherish our local treasures and also occasionally enjoy experiencing some of those further afield.

This letter is in response "Immigration, Trade and the Sierra Club," by Andrew Christie/Responsible Trade Committee (May Santa Lucian):

With an LTE limit of 300 words to cover this topic I will give the briefest outline of the reasons the Sierra Club needs to take a position against illegal immigration. Source material upon request:

1) If American are massive overconsumers what possible justification is there to make 3.3 million more of us a year?

2) Illegal immigration is a tool of globalization: free flow of capital to labor and labor to capital in order to increase profits, without regulation or regard for human and environmental impacts.

3) High levels of illegal immigration are a massive subsidy to business. Fine/jail illegal employers.

4) Cheap labor. Once it was American women and minorities—now illegal immigrants.

5) When the RTC argues for economic equity as the only solution to illegal immigration it is akin to the Catholic insistence on the rhythm method as the only moral means of birth control. A fine, moral idea, perhaps. Will it ever work? Will America shed its affluence? Should Mexicans consume more? Mexico's economic inequities are due to corruption, not low production.

6) Immigrants from Mexico and China are more fertile here than at home.

7) Finally, how did the SC stop advocating for realworld, realtime population stabilization? A hedge-fund billionaire, David Gelbaum, gave the SC \$100 million with this string: "I did tell Carl Pope in 1994 or 1995 that if they ever came out anti-immigration, they would never get a dollar from me." In 1998 a ballot question neutralizing Club policy passed 60-40. In 2004 an intra-club entity, "Groundswell," surfaced with \$500,000 to defeat population-stabilization candidates.

Big money from uber-capitalists. Soft money from who-knows-where.

Corporadoes in the boardroom; perpetual smog in the Sierras — for shame.

Bob Shanbrom
shanbrom@aol.com

Andrew Christie replies:

My article on the role of "free trade" in immigration addressed the actual causes of the problems that Mr. Shanbrom cites in his first, second, third, fourth and sixth points.

Per his fifth point, the article did not propose that America "shed its affluence" or that Mexicans consume or produce more or that government corruption is a

good thing. Rather than reprint it in full, I can only suggest that Mr. Shanbrom reread it.

Per his seventh point: David Gelbaum is a co-founder of the Wildlands Conservancy and Wildlands Endowment Fund, has given over \$250 million to the preservation of western wildlife corridors, and is largely responsible for the creation of Arizona's Vermillion Cliffs National Monument. It has always struck me that the logic of the alleged Gelbaum Conspiracy gets lost in the weeds pretty quickly: Is there any plausible connection between a donation and a membership vote on a policy question four years later? Is the Sierra Club alleged to be on the take because it has not adopted an "anti-immigrant" position? If someone offered me \$100 million to fund my work but warned that I would get no more if I ever took an anti-black, anti-woman or anti-environment position, I could take his money with a clear conscience.

The Sierra Club has never stopped "advocating for real-world, real-time population stabilization." Sierra Club initiatives on global population and responsible trade are about effective population policies in the context of the environment and family planning. At its most basic, that means universal access to reproductive health services and education for women and girls, reducing the global environmental impact of U.S.-based activities, and promoting environmental protection in international agreements. Sierra Club policy on immigration deals with root causes, not symptoms. Full text at: www.sierraclub.org/population/factsheets/migration011405.pdf

Since "Immigration, Trade and the Sierra Club: The Debate You're Not Hearing" appeared in the *Santa Lucian* — and after a similar version was posted on the website www.commondreams.org in April — more voices have been heard on the role of free trade in immigration. Among the most interesting:

"The Immigrants are Coming, The Immigrants are Coming," by John Buell, April 18, CommonDreams.org, www.commondreams.org/views06/0418-29.htm

"Immigrant Surge is Tied to the Failure of NAFTA," by Octavio Ruiz, April 22, *Mimeapolis Star Tribune*, www.commondreams.org/views06/0422-28.htm

"Immigration Flood Unleashed by NAFTA's Disastrous Impact on Mexican Economy," by Roger Bybee and Carolyn Winter, April 25, CommonDreams.org, www.commondreams.org/views06/0425-30.htm

"Mexico, NAFTA and the GOP," by Molly Ivins, May 5, *Boulder Daily Camera*, www.commondreams.org/views06/0505-25.htm

"South of the border: The impact of Mexico's economic woes," by Jeff Faux, May 18, *San Francisco Chronicle*, <http://sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?file=/chronicle/archive/2006/05/18/EDGDOJJKQP1.DTL>

"The Framing of Immigration," by George Lakoff and Sam Ferguson, May 20, CommonDreams.org, www.commondreams.org/views06/0520-23.htm

Letters to the editor can be sent to sierra8@charter.net or mailed to Santa Lucian, P.O. Box 15755, San Luis Obispo, CA 93406. Please keep letters under 300 words. Letters must be received by the 15th of the month for publication in the following month's issue.

Do the Right Thing?

continued from page 1

you and your kids.

Because the job of the task force was to look at health risks, the final report did identify many of the more glaring and undeniable public concerns with GMOs. Unfortunately, the report failed to mention several key pieces of information that justify these concerns. This information was referenced in the appendix but not discussed in the body of the report.

While the Task Force said they used science rather than speculation in developing the report, the presentation to the Health Commission was full of speculation supporting GMOs. The phrase "highly unlikely" was used repeatedly to describe the possibility of unintended consequences of GMOs.

Unfortunately, "highly unlikely" was used by the biotech industry regarding the possible contamination of non-GMO crops by test crops, and GMOs getting into the food supply. These "highly unlikely" have now occurred.

Coinciding with the release of GMO's in our food supply over the last ten years, this country has seen a spike in Type II Diabetes, allergies, and stomach problems. In several cases, the companies making the drugs to manage these conditions are producing GMO seeds. Monsanto/Pharmacia, Bayer/Bayer CropScience and Syngenta/Novartis are three examples. This is an issue of very big money.

What the hijacking of this local Task Force makes clear is that consumer education and spending is the

way to change our food supply and it begins with every grocery store visit.

Unless a food says "GMO Free," the only way you know it has not been genetically engineered is by buying organic. In particular, it is important to stay away from non-organic dairy, corn, soybean, and canola products. This includes the oils (hydrogenated or otherwise) and high fructose corn syrup. If you want to prevent the commercialization of the next big GMO crop, start buying only organic wheat products as well.

If this sounds complicated, just buy all organic. That way, you'll not only be avoiding GMOs, but also foods that are laced with pesticides, herbicides and chemical fertilizers, toxic chemicals produced by, guess who, the same GMO seed producers and drug companies.

The County's GMO Task Force report omitted facts that raise serious concerns with GMOs.

While the report conceded the lack of involvement by the Food and Drug Administration in testing and certifying these foods and admitted to several failings regarding regulation, it failed to mention the fact that the FDA, by its own admission, is ignoring the regulations set forth by Congress requiring them to verify all claims by applicants producing GMO crops that their newly engineered life forms are "generally recognized as safe" (GRAS).

There is no mention (other than a link in the appendix) of a USDA audit released in December 2005 entitled "Animal and Plant Health Inspection

Service Controls Over Issuance of Genetically Engineered Organism Release Permits." This audit found grave concerns including the following:

- The precise locations of GE field test sites for crops not yet approved for human consumption planted in the United States are not tracked by the USDA.

- The USDA did not review company protocols for handling and segregation prior to approval of test crops.

- The USDA did not verify the disposal of test crops. Particularly troubling are pharmaceutical and industrial crops never meant for human consumption.

An extensive summary of the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) report entitled "The Safety of Genetically Engineered Foods" was part of the GMO Task Force report. The NAS report makes it clear that genetic engineering carries a greater risk for unintended effects than conventional breeding. This fact was omitted from the Task Force report.

The Task Force report lists the recommendations of the NAS. However, two years after the publication of the NAS report, there is no evidence that any of the recommendations have been implemented by industry or the government.

The message of the Health Commission's GMO Task Force could be summed up as "don't worry about GMOs, trust our regulatory agencies." If you have a hard time swallowing that because Americans seem to be getting more unhealthy every year, try

switching to an all organic diet and see if you don't feel better.

Visit www.slofree.org for the latest updates as the Task Force report is reviewed by the Health Commission in early August. It then moves on to the Board of Supervisors.

Lyme Disease

continued from page 9

doctor and administered appropriately can cure the disease if started early.

If you develop these symptoms, after knowing you were bitten or even if exposed, when you see a physician do not take "Oh, you couldn't have Lyme Disease" for an answer! You could and more than likely do. Doctors are not all well informed presently about this disease and frequently miss it.

With all this said, once you are aware, do the appropriate prevention, and, if at all symptomatic, get treated early, you can prevent Lyme Disease and stay well. Get more information at www.LymeDiseaseAssociation.org.

Enjoy the great outdoors and our wonderful State and National Parks in safety.

H. James Holroyd is Emeritus, Clinical Professor of Pediatrics, University of Southern California, School of Medicine, Children's Hospital of Los Angeles

Classifieds

Next issue ad deadline is **June 15**.
 To acquire a rate sheet or submit
 your ad and payment, contact:
 Sierra Club - Santa Lucia Chapter
 p.o. Box 15755
 San Luis Obispo, CA 93406
 sierra8@charter.net

Local Government Meetings

- City of SLO--1st & 3rd Tues., 7:00 p.m.; 781-7103
- Arroyo Grande--2nd and 4th Tues., 7:00 p.m.; 473-5404
- Atascadero--2nd & 4th Tues.; 466-8099
- Cambria CSD -- 4th Thurs.; 927-6223
- Grover Beach--1st & 3rd Mon., 6:30 p.m.; 473-4567
 Grover Beach Planning Commission-- 2nd Tues.
- Morro Bay--2nd & 4th Mon.
- Paso Robles--1st & 3rd Tues., 7:00 p.m.; 237-3888
- Pismo Beach--1st Tues., 5:30 p.m.; 773-4657
- Los Osos CSD board-- 1st Tues. & 2nd Mon., varies
- California Coastal Commission-- 3rd Tues., varies
- SLO County Board of Supervisors-- every Tues.; 781-5450
- SLO Council of Governments; 781-4219
 SLOCOG Citizens Advisory Committee--1st Wed. every
 other month, 6:00 p.m.
 SLOCOG Board--1st Wed. every other month, 8:30 a.m.

HopeDance

\$5 suggested donation. For more
 information, call 544-9663 or go to
www.hopedance.org

Nobility A Look at the Future
 Through the Eyes of Nobel Laureates.
 Sat., June 3, 7:00pm, SLO Library

**Inside Iraq: The Untold
 Stories**
 Fri., June 9, 7:00pm, SLO
 Library

Buyer Be Fair
 Wed., June 14, 7:00pm, SLO
 Library

**Inside Iraq: The Untold
 Stories**
 Thu., June 15, 7:30pm, New
 College,
 Santa Rosa

Loose Change Second Edition
 Exploring 9/11. Wed., June 21,
 7:00pm, SLO Library

**The Great War For
 Civilisation: Conquest of the
 Middle East, a Speech by
 Robert Fisk**
 Wed., June 28, 7:00pm, SLO Library

**Occupied Minds: A Palestinian-
 Israeli Journey Beyond Hope and
 Despair.** Thu., June 29, 7:30pm, New
 College, Santa Rosa



Environmental Center of
 San Luis Obispo County

Preserving
 and
 Protecting
 Our Environment
 Since 1971

www.ecoslo.org

Downtown Office:
 1204 Nipomo Street
 San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

Phone: (805) 544-1777
 Fax: (805) 544-1871
 info@ecoslo.org

Law Offices of Jan Howell Marx
 A Client Centered Practice



Business
 Mediation
 Environmental Law
 Elder Law
 Real Estate
 Wills and Trusts

541-2716 janmarx@fix.net

The Land
 Conservancy
 of San Luis Obispo County

- ◆ Permanent Land
 Conservation
- ◆ Restoration and
 Enhancement
- ◆ Community Education

Saving Special Places

Join Us!
 P.O. Box 12206
 San Luis Obispo, CA 93406
 (805) 544-9096
www.special-places.org

OUTSTANDING GROUP!
 OUTSTANDING RESULTS!

(805) 528-0100
 (805) 801-4444
 (800) 897-SOLD
 AUSLENDERGROUP.COM



OCEAN WEST

STEVE AUSLENDER REAL ESTATE GROUP

Skiing, Snowboarding,
 Backpacking, Climbing & Clothing



(805) 962-0049
 14 State Street
 Santa Barbara, CA 93101

(805) 543-1676
 667 Marsh Street
 San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

Socially Responsible Financial
 Planning and Investment Management.



NATURAL INVESTMENT SERVICES, INC.

Scott Secrest
 Financial Advisor

San Luis Obispo, CA
 805.235.3031
www.naturalinvesting.com

Natural Investment Services, Inc.,
 an Investment Advisor registered with the SEC.

A Will is a Way
 Make a commitment to the next
 generation by remembering the
 Sierra Club in your will. Your
 support will help others preserve
 the intricate balance of nature.

Contact:
 John Calaway
 Director of Gift Planning at
 (415) 977-5639 or e-mail:
planned.giving@sierraclub.org



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

Simple Touch

massage therapy
 katherine wassenberg, c.m.p.
 805.748.1002

\$10.00 discount for sierra club members
 located downtown SLO

Outdoor & Travel Clothing
 Backpacking & Camping Gear
 Maps, Topos, Books & Rentals

GRANITE STAIRWAY
OUTDOOR TRAVEL

871 Santa Rosa Street San Luis Obispo
 541-1533

Outings and Activities Calendar

All of our hikes and activities are open to all Club members and the general public. If you have any suggestions for hikes or outdoor activities, questions about the Chapter's outing policies or would like to be an outings leader, call Outings Leader Gary Felsman (473-3694). For information on a specific outing, please contact the outing leader. Outings Leaders please get your outings or events in by the 1st for the next month's outings.

Hiking Classifications:

Distance: 1 = 0-2 mi., 2 = 3-5 mi., 3 = 6-9 mi., 4 = 10-12 mi., 5 = 12 mi. or more.

Elevation Gain: A = 500', B = 1000', C = 1500', D = 2000', E = 2500', F = 3000' or more.

Sat., June 3, 9am. Three peaks loop in Montana de Oro SP. Bag Valencia, Oats, and False Alan peaks while enjoying a wide variety of habitat and scenery on this strenuous 12 mi., 2500 ft. loop hike. Several places to loop back early for those wanting a shorter hike. Lunch break in the Coon Creek cypress grove. Possible ticks and poison oak in places. Meet at visitor center. Bob Schwartz, 441-9508, <rws_usa@yahoo.com> (5E)

SAT. June 3/4 SANTA MARGARITA LAKE DAY TRIP OR CAMPOUT: Our goal for this outing is to enjoy a leisurely paddling weekend Santa Margarita Lake. We have reserved the Sapwi, Ecological Campsite on the north shore of the lake. We will all eat lunch at the campsite, then the Day Trip will return after lunch. Bring your boat and equipment, PFDs, camping gear, food and water. Phone Jack Beigle 773-2147 for reservation, park fees and details. **ADVANCE RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED FOR THE DAY TRIP AND OVERNIGHT.**

June 4th, 11 a.m., Sun., NIPOMO NATIVE GARDEN A celebration of Summer, Native Plants, Non-MOM's Day, Bill's B-Day at Nipomo Native Garden with a tour of garden followed by pot-luck, BBQ at 1230. Everyone welcome. Confirm a few days before at 929-3647, bdenneen@kcbx.net

Wed., June. 7, 14, 21, 28, 5:30 p.m. Informal Hikes. 2 -3 hour hikes around the San Luis Obispo Area. Bring water, snack, and dress for the weather. E-mail for meeting location.

June 11. 9:30 a.m., BLACK LAKE CANYON: Meet at junction of Leguna Negra and Guad. Rd (south end of Zenon), Hike into oak woodland, euke problem, see erosion from Greenhart and their new answer to the excess water problem. Confirm a few days before at 929-3647, bdenneen@kcbx.net

Tues-Mon, June 13-19 - Paria Canyon Backpack: Arrive at campground at trailhead June 12 late afternoon. Early start to beat the heat of the first few miles. After that the hiking is pleasant in the narrow canyon. Finest narrows in the world, brilliant red rock, dark narrows, lots of wading. Fine areas for swimming lower in canyon. Hiking with backpack is easy, mostly flat. A day or so could be 8 to 10 miles. About 41 miles with backpack with optional additional miles without. Limit 10. BLM fee \$40. Send \$20 deposit made to 'Sierra Club' and \$40 made to 'David Hardy' for BLM fee to David Hardy, Box 99, Blue Diamond, NV 89004, hardyhikers@juno.com, (702-875-4549). Contacts by email preferred. Toiyabe Chap/CNRCC Desert Com

Sat, June 17th, 8:30 a.m. Southern Big Sur Hike to a swimming hole: Come take a moderate 7 mile hike with 1800 foot elevation gain to Villa Creek Camp in the Silver Peak Wilderness located in southern Monterey County. Bring lunch, water, and what ever else you might like if you plan to take a dip in the swimming hole. Meet at Spencer's Market in Morro Bay. Cambria residents meet at the Washburn Day Use area at 8:55 a.m. As we will be arriving shortly there after. Possible eats after in Cambria for those interested. Details call Gary 473-3694. (3D)

JUNE 18, 9:30 a.m., FATHERS DAY POINT SAL HIKE: Meet at west end of Brown Rd. at locked gate. We'll hike up road to ridge, 2.5 miles, 1000 ft elevation change then decide to 1.continue to beach, 2.hike down ridge, 3. turn around. Many stops on the way, at 80 I promise to go slow. Confirm a few days before at 929-3647, bdenneen@kcbx.net.

Sat-Sat, June 17-24 - 7th Annual Ruby Rendezvous, Car-camp, and Backpack: Join us for one of the longest running and most enjoyable trip destinations of the year - the Ruby Mountains in northern Nevada. Four days car-camping with day trips up various canyons. Evening entertainment by acclaimed Cowgirl Poet, Merrily Wright and Friends (TBA), and 12 course Basque feast in nearby Elko. Days 5-7 backpack with (optional) peak bagging of Mt Fitzgerald. Stunning vistas are guaranteed for the entire week. Good physical condition needed. Group share of expenses (\$70-\$100 apx). For more information on past trips, visit www.climber.org. For signups contact leader: Allen Tatomer, allentatomer@hotmail.com, (925-439-0434). SF Bay Chap/CNRCC Desert Com

Fri-Sun, June 23-25 - Domeland Wilderness Basecamp: In the southernmost Sierras, this wilderness includes ponderosa pines, sage meadows, and the flowing South Fork of the Kern River. On Friday we backpack four miles to Rockhouse Basin, set up camp, and explore. Saturday will be a dayhike to climb one of the prominent domes; and Sunday will be a leisurely return to our cars. This will be an easy to moderate journey for learning backpackers. Leader:

Craig Deutsche, deutsche@earthlink.net, (310-477-6670). CNRCC Desert Com

Sun., June 25th, 9 a.m., Coast Hike: For details call 929-3647 or e-mail <BDenneen@KCBX.net> just before the nature hike.

July 2, 9:30 a.m., Point Sal Hike: Meet at west end of Brown Rd. at locked gate. We'll hike up road to ridge, 2.5 miles, 1000 ft elevation change then decide to 1.continue to beach, 2.hike down ridge, 3. turn around. Many stops on the way, at 80 I promise to go slow. Confirm a few days before at 929-3647, bdenneen@kcbx.net.

CHANNEL ISLANDS NATIONAL PARK & MARINE SANCTUARY— FUNDRAISING CRUISES

July 21-24: 4-day, 4-islands: San Miguel, Santa Rosa, Santa Cruz, Anacapa Islands (\$750)

August 25-29 & September 14-18: 5-day, 5-islands: San Miguel, Santa Rosa, Santa Cruz, Anacapa, and Santa Barbara Island (\$875)

All cruises depart from Santa Barbara. Participants are invited to board the boat the night before to ensure an early morning departure. Prices include assigned bunks, meals and snacks, and a ranger/naturalist who will lead hikes and help us identify whales, dolphins, seals, sea lions, and numerous species of bird and plant life. An archeologist will travel with us to help identify artifacts left by the native Chumash who inhabited these islands for thousands of years.

Each island is unique and offers its own special charm. **San Miguel** for its white, sandy beaches & huge con-



Photo by Joaquin Palting

gregation of elephant seals; **Santa Rosa** for its rare Torrey Pine forest; **Santa Cruz** for high mountains, deep valleys & the famous Painted Cave, **Anacapa** for the west coast brown pelican rookery, steep cliffs, a picturesque lighthouse and excellent snorkeling waters. **Santa Barbara Island** for pristine waters and a friendly colony of frolicking sea lions. All islands have rugged shorelines, dotted with sea caves, & inhabited by an abundance of wildlife. Activities include hiking, kayaking, snorkeling, beachcombing, or just relaxing at sea. In summer, warmer, pristine waters of the Marine Sanctuary will entice snorkelers and swimmers.

Proceeds benefit Sierra Club political programs in California. To make a reservation, sent \$100 check payable to Sierra Club to leader Joan Jones Holtz, 11826 The Wye St., El Monte, 91732. Information: 626-443-0706 or jholtzhl@aol.com

THE NATURE CORPS PRESENTS "EXPERIENCE THE REAL HAWAII"

Aug 2-9: Since 1987, The Nature Corps has offered award-winning volunteer excursions in America's National Parks. Now, these multi-dimensional excursions allow you to experience Hawaii the way few will ever do! Go behind the scenes to see the real Hawaii and explore beautiful and rare habitats few visitors will ever see.

As part of this volunteer vacation you will help to save the endangered and rare flora in Hawaii Volcanoes National Park. The other half of the trip will be devoted to learning about and exploring the natural wonders of Hawaii. You will have an opportunity to visit spectacular waterfalls, lush rain forests, remote seacoasts, snorkel around coral reefs teeming with undersea life, view glowing lava as it cascades into a moonlit ocean. These outings are not physically demanding so feel free to bring your family

or friends for a memorable vacation!

Sign up now while space is still available. Reasonable Rates, family and friends welcome. For more information and reservations visit our website at www.thenaturecorps.org/vol-hawaii.htm or call (800) 77-4-PARK.

This is a partial listing of Outings offered by our chapter. Please check the web page www.santalucia.sierraclub.org for the most up-to-date listing of activities.