



October 2006
Volume 43 No. 9

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DONT MISS
Smart Energy Solutions
SLO Vets Hall
October 10
8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.
- see page 6

COMING IN NOVEMBER:
The otters you save will be our own: Marine Protected Areas & how you can help - 7:00 p.m., Nov. 16, Ludwick Center, SLO.



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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

Candidates Endorsed by the Sierra Club

by Sarah Christie, Co-chair, Chapter Political Committee

Recruiting and supporting good candidates for public office is, along with voting, one of the cornerstones of a functioning democracy. Unless people of vision and integrity step forward to offer their leadership services to the people, we will be forever doomed to our country's currently pervasive "cacastocracy" — government by the worst men.

Ideally, these once and future leaders will demonstrate an understanding of the dire condition of our environment at every level. Polar bears and amphibians predicted to go extinct in our lifetime. Global warming turning the world's forests into firewood. Ag land converted from crop production to concrete as fast as we can rezone it, even as we begin to understand that looming oil shortages assure that a local food supply is our only hope of real national security. Who can reverse these trends? Enlightened elected leaders with backbones, that's who. And nowhere do our representatives make a more direct impact on the environment than here at the local level, where a measly 3 votes on a city council or the Board of Supervisors spell the difference between greenbelts,

open space and public trails, or traffic jams, big box shopping malls and taxpayer-funded "incentives" to developers.

The Chapter's Political Committee has analyzed all of the city council, mayoral, supervisorial, legislative and congressional elections taking place around the county in order to focus on those candidates who have potential to make real strides toward improving the state of the environment in San Luis Obispo and beyond. In order to warrant endorsement, candidates must demonstrate a commitment to the Club's guiding principles of protecting and restoring natural resources, support public trails and access to public lands, understand basic land use and environmental principles, and have the potential to run a viable, winning campaign. In addition, we look for candidates who have a demonstrated ability to think and act independently, rather than go along with herd mentality or be held to heel by special interests.

Some of our endorsements were "no-brainers." Others were made only after extensive interviews, discussion, evaluation of voting records, and calculations of

campaign viability. The ultimate litmus test was "Who will do the best job of standing up for the environment when the going gets tough?"

We hope that you will consider supporting these candidates financially or as a volunteer or both. Every campaign would welcome your involvement, whether it be phone banking, knocking on doors, licking envelopes or writing a check.

Here's looking forward to making progress toward a more environmentally sustainable future!

County Board of Supervisors, District 2:
Bruce Gibson. Without a doubt, electing Bruce Gibson as District 2 Supervisor will instantly double the I.Q. of the Board, giving our most important



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Q&A on Measure J

Does this Initiative set a precedent?

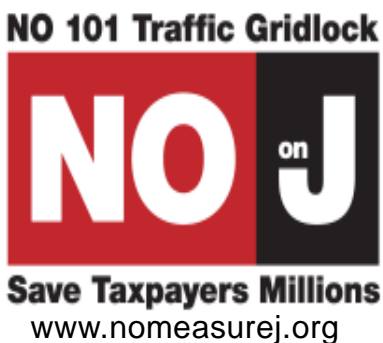
If this initiative succeeds in allowing these developers to write their own laws and dictate what happens within a community, others will follow suit to avoid local review of projects. Development by Initiative robs a community of the ability to control its own destiny.

Does the Initiative follow County regulations, guidelines, ordinances and zoning provisions, the Growth Management Ordinance or the California Environmental Quality Act?

No. The Initiative is a law unto itself. It allows the development to ignore zoning laws, bypass the normal review process, and build the project without being financially responsible for its numerous negative impacts. These laws and reviews are important protections for our quality of life, especially when dealing with a project of this magnitude.

What will happen if the Initiative does not pass?

The developers will have the option to go through the normal development



The California Farm Bureau, Chamber of Commerce, Building Industry Association & Sierra Club agree...

Proposition 90: Your Worst Nightmare

From Stateside Dispatch, Progressive States Network, 7/18/06 (abridged)

It's fair to say that no initiative on the November ballot — and possibly none ever to appear on a California ballot — poses a greater threat to the environment than Proposition 90.

Exploiting the unpopular *Kelo vs. New London* Supreme Court decision, far-right ideologues are pushing a number of nearly identical ballot measures in dozens of states across the country as reforms to "protect our homes." The backers claim that their efforts will prevent big corporations from using eminent domain to seize people's homes. In reality, these faux populist measures — backed by one New York City developer — will leave cities and counties powerless to protect the environment and strengthen communities in the face of sprawl development.

Undoubtedly, there have been abuses of eminent domain,

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photos/Kevin 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!



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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

Santa Lucia Chapter General Meeting

2006 Candidates Energy Forum

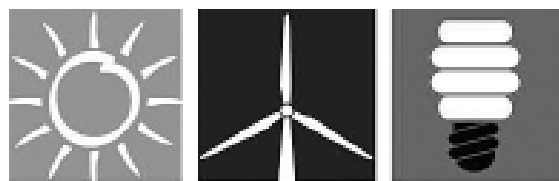
What do local candidates think about the burning issue of our time, and what local solutions do they propose?

Nine days after the SLO Smart Energy Summit (page 6), and 19 days before the election, you'll want to know where the candidates for Congress, state assembly, county supervisor, mayor, and city council races stand on climate change, building local clean power capacity, alternative fuels, green fleets, energy efficiency and renewable energy standards, and how they propose to get from where we are to an energy future that secures our health, safety, and the environment.

This is your chance to find out.

Thursday, October 19, 7:00 p.m.
SLO City-County Library
995 Palm St.
San Luis Obispo

Refreshments provided



Why the Sierra Club Supports Phil Angelides

By Bill Magavern
Senior Representative,
Sierra Club California

We can do better. We can have a governor who moves consistently toward a more sustainable future instead of an executive who tries to please his big-business supporters with one hand while making environmental promises with the other.

That is why Sierra Club has endorsed Phil Angelides for governor. The decision was reached after Angelides filled out a long questionnaire and met with us for a lengthy interview, and after 4 different committees of Sierra Club volunteers deliberated on the decision. (Governor Schwarzenegger declined repeated requests to return our questionnaire and meet with us.) Angelides impressed the interview committee with his thorough knowledge of policy issues and his ability to articulate his positions.

While Gov. Schwarzenegger deserves credit for programs to fund solar energy and reduce diesel emissions, among other advances, his pro-environment promises have too often been undermined by his strong ties to the corporate lobbies that oppose virtually every major proposal to safeguard our air, water and wild places.

Angelides has put smart-growth principles into practice, while Schwarzenegger has supported freeway expansion and the rollback of the landmark California Environmental Quality Act. Angelides supports the Clean Alternative Energy Initiative on the November ballot; Schwarzenegger opposes it. Angelides supports giving communities the ability to enforce California's public health and environmental laws, while Schwarzenegger backed the business-sponsored



initiative that took away that right. Angelides called a halt to the handouts to industrial dairies in the Central Valley, while Schwarzenegger tried to keep giving away pollution-control money to polluters.

Schwarzenegger has named one committed preservationist to the Coastal Commission; Angelides promises to name four.

Schwarzenegger went to Ohio in 2004 to campaign for George W. Bush, the most anti-environment president in our history, while Angelides has opposed Bush and is endorsed by environmental champions like Senator Barbara Boxer.

Schwarzenegger is proud of his role in creating the gas-guzzling Hummer; Angelides is proud that his family owns 3 hybrid vehicles.

While Schwarzenegger raises fears that businesses will flee the state if subjected to stringent environmental safeguards – a claim not supported by evidence – Angelides has based his campaign on the conviction that California can compete with anyone by taking the high road – offering its people the best educational opportunities and the cleanest environment.

Sierra Club California's interview committee was well aware of Angelides' record as a developer in the Sacramento area in the past, and we discussed it with him. We gave much more weight, though, to his record as our elected Treasurer over the last 8 years. He has put the weight of his office behind real investments in clean energy and smart growth, and has prodded corporations to clean up their environmental practices.

To help elect Phil Angelides, go to <http://angelides.vivademocracy.com>

SANTA LUCIAN

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High Stakes in State Ballot Propositions

By Bill Allayaud, State Legislative Director, Sierra Club California

In what has become the norm, the November 7th ballot will be filled with a wide range of issues placed there by the Legislature and by advocates pushing initiatives. Sierra Club California has taken positions on a number of these measures because they directly relate to the issues we care about. Some of these measures are very controversial and the stakes are high, so you are strongly encouraged to read up and vote! Here is a summary of each measure with the position adopted by the statewide conservation committee and Sierra Club California Executive Committee.

Proposition 1b – Transportation Bond: NO POSITION. This is a \$19.675 billion bond measure that will fund new lanes and other improvements on congested highways, new bridges, more mass transit, including rail, and improvements to port operations. At the time of this writing, a debate is still taking place within the Sierra Club as to a position. Among other arguments, some laud the over \$4 billion for mass transit, while others point out that highways should be paid for by user fees rather than general obligation bonds. The legislation that authorized this bond measure did *not* include waivers from environmental review for any projects. Please check at www.sierraclubcalifornia.org after mid-September for our recommendation.

YES on Proposition 1c – Housing Bond. This is a \$2.85 billion bond measure that will facilitate affordable housing of several types. It will also provide money to local governments to provide infrastructure for transit-oriented development and money for planning for infill development. Both of these, affordable housing and money for smart growth planning are consistent with our statewide growth management guidelines.

YES on Proposition 1d – Schools Bond. This is a \$10.4 billion bond measure for school modernization and to reduce school overcrowding. Like the housing bond, this is consistent with our growth management guidelines, as the schools that need this money the most are in urban areas and older suburban areas.

Proposition 1e – Levees and Flooding Bond: NO POSITION. This is a \$4 billion bond measure that would allow

deteriorating levees in the Sacramento River system, including the Delta, to be fixed. The legislation that authorized this measure provides for a streamlined permitting process, but not an exemption for any environmental review or permitting process. Also, the footprint of the levees cannot be expanded.

YES on Proposition 84 – Water Supply/Quality and Parks Bond. This is a \$5.3 billion bond that would allow for improvements to quality of local drinking water supplies, conservation of open space, streams, and forests through increased purchase of parks and conservation easement, and water quality work including for clean beaches. This omnibus measure seems to have something for everybody, hence a diverse group of entities support it. Monies from the park bond measures passed by voters over the last eight years are nearly gone.

NO on Proposition 85 – Parental Consent for Abortions. This constitutional amendment is very similar to Prop 73, which we the Sierra Club opposed and which narrowly lost during last year's special election. It would require parental consent or a court order prior to a woman under the age of 18 receiving an abortion. Many health care groups oppose the measure because it could encourage illegal, unsafe, amateur abortions. Sierra Club has had taken pro-choice positions since 1969 in support of our policies on population and women's access to family planning services and reproductive health care.

YES on Proposition 87 – The Clean Energy Initiative. This measure will fund a \$4 billion dollar effort to reduce California's dependence on gasoline and diesel by 25% over 10 years, through incentives to make alternative fuel vehicles and alternative fuels more widely available and affordable to consumers and by funding research to bring clean, renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies to the marketplace more quickly. The money will be raised by a tax on oil companies per every barrel of oil extracted from land or water areas in California.

YES on Proposition 89 – The Clean Money Initiative. This measure, sponsored by the California Nurses Association, would enact public

financing of political campaigns and set new limits on political contributions and expenditures. This initiative proposes to remove corporate wealth as a major factor in elections through a voluntary system in which candidates may receive public campaign funding from the Fair Political Practices Commission in amounts varying by elective office and type of election. Prop 89 also sets new limits on campaign contributions to state-office candidates and campaign committees and new restrictions on contributions and expenditures by lobbyists and corporations. The primary revenue for the Clean Money Fund is generated by a 0.2 percent increase in taxes on corporations and financial institutions.

Arizona and Maine, where Clean Money systems have been operating for six years, have proven it works. Clean Money candidates now hold nearly 80% of the legislature in Maine and 10 out of 11 statewide offices in Arizona, including the governor's office. Voter turnout and participation has increased significantly as confidence in government has risen.

Not surprisingly, legislators elected with Clean Money in Arizona and Maine have much better environmental voting records than legislators elected with private money. Legislators in Maine who used Clean Money scored nearly twice as high on the League of Conservation Voters scorecard as those who did not.

We need the same reform in California. If we want clean air and clean water, we have to have Clean Money. That's why Sierra Club California strongly endorses Prop 89.

NO on Proposition 90 – Eminent Domain and Damages: "The Taxpayer Trap." See front page. This amendment to the State Constitution would both result in billions of dollars of taxpayer money being spent on litigation and payouts for bogus damages, and in local and state agencies becoming reluctant to regulate the uses that affect our air, water, and land. Defeating this measure is the highest priority for all environmental groups in the state.

Diablo Canyon License Renewal "Study" Challenged

The Alliance for Nuclear Responsibility and the Sierra Club have filed a protest with the California Public Utilities Commission over a settlement agreement that would allow PG&E to charge ratepayers for a study of the feasibility of renewing the operating license for the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant, as well as the construction of an on-site high-level radioactive waste storage facility and new reactor vessel heads.

The waste storage facility may have to be redesigned and rebuilt pending the outcome of an environmental review recently won in court by Sierra Club and the SLO Mothers for Peace, and PG&E has stated that the reactor vessel heads have no defects and have not otherwise made a case for their replacement. PG&E has already completed two license renewal feasibility studies (in 2003 and 2005). Sierra Club and the ANR purport that PG&E's request for this feasibility study is a thinly disguised means by which to obtain full ratepayer funding for the full license application.

CPUC staff have stated that it "opposes PG&E's Diablo Canyon license extension feasibility study. Considering that PG&E would complete its license extension feasibility study in 2009, 10 years before it would need to initiate the license extension application process at the NRC, PG&E's intent to begin its license extension feasibility study in 2007 is quite premature."

Yet, the settlement agreement states: "PG&E decided it makes sense to engage in the three-year feasibility process in order to develop the factual and regulatory information necessary to determine whether to apply to the NRC for license renewal." Sierra Club and the Alliance for Nuclear Responsibility believe that factual and regulatory information developed between

2007-2010 will have little if any bearing on the actual costs of license renewal when the current licenses for Diablo Canyon's reactors expire in 2021 and 2025.

After ratepayers have been charged for an in-house "study" of license renewal, there will be little else for PG&E to do but sign and send it in to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission as a completed application.

The California legislature recently passed a bill that would mandate that the state analyze the costs, benefits and risks of California's reliance on aging nuclear plants, storing hundreds of tons of high-level radioactive waste, located in active seismic zones, and vulnerable to acts of terrorism. Ratepayers would be better served if that independent analysis were completed before the CPUC forces them to fund an in-house feasibility study that may be superfluous.

Morro Bay Power Plant EPA Hearing Date Set

By Jack McCurdy

Will the air in Morro Bay, and for an unknown number of miles into San Luis Obispo, be safe to breathe if it contains toxic emissions from a new Morro Bay Power Plant?

That is the question before the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency when it conducts a hearing on a Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) permit, permit sought by current plant owner Dynegy, Inc., for the proposed plant. The hearing is set for Tuesday, Oct. 24, in the Veterans Memorial Hall, 209 Surf St., Morro Bay, at 6 p.m. it is called a .

Residents are urged to attend the hearing to show their objections to the permit, which would allow dangerous emissions levels that could imperil their health, undermine property values and

hurt tourism and business. The permit is at www.epa.gov/region9/air/permit/r9-permits-issued.html

The central and uncontested fact is that ground-level concentrations of particulate matter (PM), which EPA considers a significant health risk, would rise 60% in Morro Bay primarily as a result of the proposed plant's operating capacity being increased by 20% to 1200 megawatts, and reduction of the height of the smokestacks from 450 feet to 145 feet, which would prevent winds from blowing as much of the PM away from the community surrounding the plant.

The EPA analysis assumes that a new

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Taking Issue

problematic recent environmental commentary & coverage in our local press

“Study finds breathing problems for 9/11 workers”

Los Angeles Times, September 6, 2006

Summary: 70 percent of rescue workers at the World Trade Center site developed breathing problems while working there and many are still suffering today.



Mentioned nowhere in this story is the “why.” The White House suppressed warnings of health risks at Ground Zero in the aftermath of the terrorist attack. The EPA failed to find toxic hazards because it did not look for them, and failed at least a dozen times to change its safety assurances as new information arose -- even after it became clear that people were getting sick.

Both EPA and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) assured families they could clean up contaminated dust themselves with wet rags and discouraged them from wearing safety masks.

In August 2004, the Sierra Club issued the report *Pollution and Deception at Ground Zero*, which documented that many hundreds of people in New York City had become ill because of exposure to pollution from the September 11, 2001, attack. The report found that if our federal government had responded to the disaster with proper vigilance for people’s health, many toxic exposures could have been avoided. It also expressed concern that such missteps could be repeated in a future disaster.

A year later, in the report *Pollution and Deception at Ground Zero Revisited: Why it Could Happen Again*, the Sierra Club reviewed the federal administration’s new emergency management policies – and its continued failure to provide a proper cleanup and health management response to the 9/11 attack – and concluded that Americans should assume that in any future national disaster, if political pressure is applied to resume human activity in the affected area:

♦ EPA will fail to determine how harmful the contamination is and how far it spreads; also, under its new relationship with the Department of Homeland Security, it may use weakened toxic

cleanup goals under a new federal “optimization” policy;

♦ Under the new *National Response Plan*, messages to the public about health and safety will be filtered by centralized “PR” staff who answer to an administration that has repeatedly disregarded scientific data if it conflicts with a political agenda;

♦ OSHA will not enforce safety laws to protect rescue and recovery workers – and under the new *National Response Plan*, OSHA will not have “the last word” in debates on worker safety;

♦ The federal government will fail to conduct a proper cleanup of the contamination;

♦ The federal Administration will praise, then abandon, the rescue/recovery workers and the people who return to rebuild the area but then suffer health effects; and,

♦ No one will be held accountable for our government’s failure to protect the public from the aftermath of a terrorist attack or national disaster.

At times, our nation may have to make hard choices, but concealing from the public critically important information about health risks is not the way to manage the situation. Americans deserve – and should be able to expect – the straight story about what risks they face. They also have a right to expect strong government action to protect rescue and recovery workers and to ensure safety for the people who return and restore the affected area. Anything less is a betrayal of the public’s trust in national leadership.

“PG&E to appeal Diablo ruling”

David Sneed, *The Tribune*, August 31, 2006

Summary: SLO Mothers for Peace and the Sierra Club sued the Nuclear Regulatory Commission over its failure to consider the possibility of a terrorist attack when it approved the design of PG&E’s nuclear waste dump at Diablo Canyon. The 9th Circuit Court of Appeals agreed with us, telling the NRC such consideration was required.



Why is PG&E – which was not originally named as a plaintiff but inserted itself into the case – filing the appeal of the court’s ruling instead of the NRC?

The answer may have been given at the July 25 “end of cycle” meeting the NRC held at the Embassy Suites Hotel in San Luis Obispo. It was supposed to be an annual performance assessment of the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant, but it was held the month after the 9th Circuit’s ruling hit the headlines, and local citizens in attendance clearly had something other than employee performance on their minds. After NRC staff gave their summary at the “town hall” style meeting, about the only thing the audience wanted to know was why PG&E was still building its nuclear

NRC spokesman David McIntyre said his agency will not join PG&E in the lawsuit. “We will most likely file an amicus brief in support of it,” he said.

waste dump after the court had ruled that the NRC must take the facility’s design back to the drawing board. The other prominent question of the day was: Would the NRC appeal the 9th Circuit ruling to the Supreme Court?

NRC Staff repeatedly replied that it was still “weighing its response to the court’s decision” and that its role was “to make

sure the facilities are designed and operated safely.”

The Sierra Club representative at the meeting pointed out that the NRC’s failure to immediately state that it would comply with the court’s ruling was a clear indication that it intended to file an appeal, and asked how it could reconcile an appeal – a denial of its obligation to require that a high-level nuclear waste dump be designed in a manner as protective against terrorist attack as possible – with its asserted role of “making sure the facilities are designed and operated safely.”

“We’ve already answered that question,” said NRC Reactor Projects Chief Bill Jones, and immediately declared the meeting adjourned.

A month later, the NRC resolved that apparent conflict by letting PG&E appeal the ruling instead.

Assessor Shills for Wal-Mart

by David Broadwater

County Tax Assessor Tom Bordonaro is using his office and partisan political connections to manipulate public policy in Atascadero. He brought two Wal-Mart operatives into his secretive new group, the “Central Coast Taxpayers Association.” The CCTA sent 10,000 glossy mailers to Atascadero residents promoting a Wal-Mart in town and opposing a sales tax ballot measure.

Bordonaro signed the mailer as the “San Luis Obispo County Assessor”, neglecting to identify the two other CCTA board members from his political party, Rene Bravo and John Peschong. Peschong gave an as-yet undisclosed amount of money to the CCTA. Another Bordonaro – CCTA - Wal-Mart operative and Wal-Mart’s chief PR man met with three Atascadero City officials in July to discuss their campaign.

While Bordonaro and Bravo are past chairs of their Party’s County Central Committee, Peschong is a former chair of the California Republican Party, Republican National Committee Regional Political Director and Reagan advisor with Bush-Rove connections. Peschong is running Wal-Mart’s campaign in Atascadero through his company, Meridian Pacific, Inc., a Republican campaign outfit now hired by Wal-Mart. Bordonaro’s working relationship with him on Wal-Mart’s behalf is not insignificant or accidental.

“Tom Bordonaro’s use of his title as County Assessor and his clumsy attempts to enlist partisan Republican operatives to influence a municipal land use decision is without precedent in this county,” said Sierra Club Executive Committee member John Ashbaugh, “and, I should hope, without any shred of support in this community.”

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"Is a Wal-Mart in Atascadero so bad?" editorial, *The Tribune*, July 2, 2006

Summary: Never mind wages that force employees onto the public dole, the long trail of small businesses driven into bankruptcy and downtowns destroyed; *The Tribune* advises the citizens of Atascadero to accept the fiscal necessity of a Wal-Mart SuperCenter for the sales tax revenues it will bring, or risk cutbacks in essential services.

Wal-Mart is not "big" -- it is a private economic enterprise that has reached a historically unprecedented scale, eliminating competition, altering political and cultural landscapes worldwide to suit its dictates, and driving down wages. It deforms global markets by hammering down the prices it pays to suppliers and manufacturers -- and, in turn, the wages those companies pay to their employees, degrading the quality of life in the countries where it does business.

The only rationale for singling out Wal-Mart, versus any mom-&-pop retailer who pays similarly, is that Wal-Mart is big.

The Wal-Mart proposed for Atascadero -- unlike those in Arroyo Grande and Paso Robles -- is a SuperCenter, a gigantic retail outlet that sells everything and the kitchen sink under one roof, and can afford to do so at prices undercutting local merchants just long enough to drive them out of business. Corporate welfare dished out to Wal-Mart by state and local governments in the form of tax subsidies greatly assists in the execution of this business plan.

Does the presence of a Wal-Mart on the outskirts of town automatically destroy a quaint downtown? Arroyo Grande, which has a Wal-Mart, also has a quaint downtown district. Ditto Paso Robles. This does not mean that a Wal-Mart helps a downtown. But neither does it necessarily destroy a downtown.

Bond measures and assessment districts are the other way of funding city government services without handing over a community's soul to big box retail developers, under the traditional principle that people who drive on roads should pay to keep them in good working order.

If cutbacks are not acceptable then Atascadero needs to face up to today's economic realities and accommodate retail growth, which under current California law, is the only viable driver of sales tax revenue to finance city governments.

"Critics note that Wal-Mart will be transferring sales from other Orleans Parish businesses, reducing sales tax revenue.... Wal-Mart will drain \$25 million in sales from other local retailers, which would cost the city \$875,000 a year in sales taxes.... Studies elsewhere have indicated that Wal-Mart can capture 60% or more of its sales from existing merchants. A \$100 million Wal-Mart sales level could mean \$60 million in 'stolen' sales from the city at the same time, or an offsetting loss of roughly \$2.1 million annually in sales tax. New Orleans is used to fighting pirates, but even Laffite would have been humbled by the extent of revenue 'captured' from existing merchants." -- ["New Orleans: Wal-Mart and the Pirates," *Sprawl-busters*, Jan. 9, 2002]

"Cathedral City, California, gave Wal-Mart millions in tax and building gifts in exchange for promised future sales tax revenue. But just as the tax breaks were coming to an end, Wal-Mart decided to build a bigger store the next town over. Wal-Mart closed down the Cathedral City store, leaving the town with no tax revenue, no retail business, and 60 acres of an abandoned big box store." -- [*Campaign for America's Future*]. It closed the standard retail Wal-Mart in Rocklin, California, and opened a SuperCenter in nearby Roseville, blowing a \$650,000 hole in Rocklin's sales tax revenues.

The tax holiday the City of Paso Robles handed to Wal-Mart to open a store there is coming to an end. The corporation will have to start paying taxes... unless, of course, it shuts down the Paso store and open a SuperCenter in Atascadero, leaving Paso with the hole it carved out of its tax base and an empty big box, and taking its former customers with it.

Ultimately, the destructive impacts of Wal-Mart are not really Wal-Mart's fault. They are the fault of every president and Justice Department since the Reagan administration that has failed to enforce the anti-trust laws that were passed to protect us from the monopolistic power that Wal-Mart now wields.



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Baywood and Balalaikas

By Joe Dickerson

What do you get if you mix a gaggle of boats, a bunch of balalaikas, and a pinch of good old Morro Bay fog? You get the first annual *Boatzart* Concert.

It all started when the San Luis Obispo Mozart Festival opted not to sponsor a fringe concert in Baywood Park as part of this year's Mozart Festival. So the Baywood Navy decided they would do something on their own. And boy did they ever! Before I get to the paddling part, let me congratulate the Baywood Navy, all their volunteers, and the Big Rock Balalaika Band for staging an incredible event. In attendance were dozens of canoes, kayaks and sailboats plus a parking lot full of folks who drove, walked, and bicycled to hear an hour of wonderful Russian and other music. Most of us also sampled the free cookies that were so generously provided by the Baywood Navy's Woman's Auxiliary. Loads of fun all around.

The SLO Paddlers group met at the Morro Bay Marina in the fog for a 10:30 a.m. launch and a leisurely paddle to Baywood. There were only five boats in our little flotilla, although a group of seven boats had launched earlier. I didn't think this boded well for the

turnout at the concert but I needn't have worried. On the way we saw tons of terns (sorry) and played lookie-lu along the Los Baywood waterfront.



We arrived at the concert venue during the sound check, found our boats and settled in to enjoy lunch. The beach was already crowded with boats and more boats continued to arrive throughout the sound check and well into the concert itself. The huge crowd was very appreciative, even applauding several times during the sound check. Speaking of sound checks, as a musician myself I was super impressed with the job that Rich Rolsman did with the sound. Outdoors on a pier is not conducive to good acoustics, but the sound quality was excellent whether you were on the beach or out on the water in your boat. Great job, Rich.

After a very enjoyable hour, including some Rus-

sian sing-alongs -- well, they were more like mumble-alongs as folks tried to remember their college Russian -- we launched for the return trip. Predictably, all the boats (the official count was 50), that had arrived at Baywood over a period of an hour or two were now headed back to the marina en masse. If you've ever done the 405 at rush hour, you have some idea of what it was like. The fog wasn't any worse, but the wind had picked up considerably, which added to the challenges and the fun.

We got back to the State Park Marina tired, a little wet and more than a little cold, but some hot Bayside clam chowder and a dark, frothy beverage made all right with the world.

Again kudos to the Baywood Navy et al. I, for one, can't wait 'til they do it again.



HopeDance

Films in October

Stupidity
Fri., Oct. 6, sunset/outdoors, Secret Garden, SLO

Short Film Favorites
Sat., Oct. 7, sunset/outdoors, Utopia Bakery, SLO

Iraq for Sale
Sun., Oct. 8, 4:30 & 6:30, Faulkner, SB
Fri., Oct. 13, 7:00pm, SLO Library
Sun., Oct. 15, 6 & 8:00pm, SLO Library

Iraq for Sale - Producer Robert Greenwald to speak
Fri., Oct. 13, 7:30pm, Marjorie Luke Theater, SB

CodePink Activist Lynne Levine
80th Birthday Bash with Folksinger Jim Page, Sat., Oct. 14, 6-10 p.m., SLO Library

Conversations with God
Fri., Oct. 20, 7:00pm, SLO Library
Fri., Oct. 20, 6:00pm, Faulkner, SB
Sun., Oct. 22, 3:00 & 5:30pm, SLO Library

\$5 donation appreciated. For more information on films and events in October, go to:
www.hopedance.org, or e-mail info@hopedance.org
Tel: (805) 544-9663

We've Got the Power

Regional clean energy summit scheduled for October 10, SLO Vets Hall

San Luis Obispo is the site of "Smart Energy Solutions: It's Our Choice," a regional community summit at the SLO Vets Hall on October 10, a day of panels, booths and presentations covering the range of possibilities for the central coast's transition to a clean energy economy.

8:00 a.m. - Registration opens

8:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. - Welcome

9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

Building homes today for tomorrow

-Marilyn Miller Farmer, Architecture Departments, California Poly and Cuesta College

-Dick Willhoit, President, Estrella Associates

-Jennifer Rennick, architect

-Andrea "Andy" Pease, architect



9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

Land use planning as a tool to

reduce energy consumption

-Joe DiStefano, Calthorpe Associates

-Rick Cole, City Manager, Ventura

-Vicente del Rio, professor of City and Regional Planning, Cal Poly

-R. Thomas Jones, Dean, College of

Architecture and Environmental Design, Cal Poly



10:45 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

New Vehicle/Transportation Options

-Ken Dewar,

-Mikel Roberston,

-Ron Cogan,

-Plug in America

10:45 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

Making your business better

-Rob Peña, Associate Professor of Architecture, Cal Poly

-George Garcia, garcia architecture + design

-Richard Beller, Architect

-Polly Cooper, architect, San Luis Sustainability Group



12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Lunch Keynote: It's Our Choice

-Paul Fenn, author of California's

2002 Community Choice

law, San Francisco

Solar Power

Facility proposal, and

Energy Independence Ordinance



1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Changing transportation patterns

-Lisa Quinn, Program Coordinator, SLO Regional Rideshare

-Don Hubbard

-Robert (Red) Davis, vice president, San Luis Obispo Bicycle Coalition

-Larry Allen, Executive Director,

San Luis Obispo County

Air Pollution Control District



1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Community choice: community and regional energy production

-Paul Fenn, Local Power

-Ken Smokoska, California

Alternative Technologies

-Steve Heckerth, Energy

Conversion Devices

-David Rubin, Director of

Service Analysis, PG&E

3:15 p.m. - 4:45 p.m.

Generating power for your

home or business

-George E. Radford, Radford Industries

-David Carrell,

Senior Account Executive for

On-Site Power Generation,

SoCalGas

-Steve Best, geothermal designer

-Matthew Woods,

Director of Sales, REC Solar



3:15 p.m. - 4:45 p.m.

How to build local will

-Tam Hunt, Energy Program Director,

Community Environmental Council

-Carla Din, Western Regional Field

Director, Apollo

Alliance

-Karen Diemer,

Deputy Director,

City of Arcata,

Department of

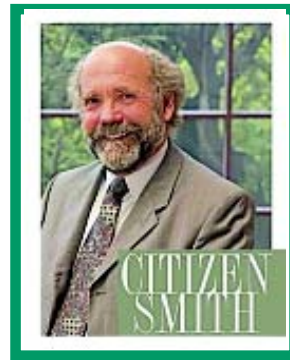
Environmental

Services

-Smitty Smith,

State Director, Public

Citizen, Texas



See full program and register at: www.smartenergysummit.org

Sierra Club Finalizes Energy Policy

On September 16, the Sierra Club's national Board of Directors approved a draft of the Club's energy policy, a document that had been the subject of intense discussion and debate throughout the summer.

The Santa Lucia Chapter weighed in by appointing an energy task force that determined areas of needed improvement in the policy and drafted a resolution that we conveyed to the California Nevada Regional Conservation Committee, which endorsed it at two meetings over the weekend of July 15. After several subsequent drafts, Sierra Club's current, much improved policy now correctly refers to itself as an "energy resources policy," recognizes land use and agriculture as significant energy issues, and acknowledges the essential role of "full cost accounting" when looking at the full range of energy supply scenarios, including environmental costs and benefits, all in accordance with the Chapter's resolution.

To read the policy, go to www.sierraclub.org/policy/conservation/energy.asp



Chapter Energy Task Force members Karen Merriam, Ralph Whitaker and Ken Haggard met over the summer to draft our resolution on the Sierra Club's energy policy.



Sammy the Steelhead gets the word on the Smart Energy Summit at Coastal Clean-up Day, Sept. 16.

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Chapter Contributes to Protection of Stenner & Chorro Creeks, Brughelli Ranch

The Santa Lucia Chapter of the Sierra Club has donated \$5,000 to the Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County toward the purchase and retirement of development rights on four important land parcels: the Union Pacific Railroad Properties below West Cuesta Ridge and the Brughelli Ranch on Buckley Road, just south of the City of San Luis Obispo.

San Luis Obispo and the Land Conservancy are seeking to raise \$260,000 by the end of the year to complete these major conservation projects. The three railroad parcels comprise much of the headwaters of Stenner and Chorro Creeks, and include valuable rare plant and animal habitat, along with portions of the Shooters and Morning Glory Trails.

The parcels are essentially private in-holdings located between Forest Service lands and Camp San Luis Obispo. They contain 13 underlying legal lots and total approximately 315 acres. The Land Conservancy has recently entered into a long-term partnership with Camp San Luis Obispo and the National Guard Bureau to assist them with purchasing conservation interests through a program called the "Army Compatible Use Buffer" program (ACUB). The program provides funds that can be used to protect lands located within three miles of Camp San Luis Obispo, and requires that all property interests be owned and managed by a qualified conservation organization.



Stenner Creek watershed from Railroad properties

These parcels will be the Land Conservancy's first acquisition under this new program, which is anticipated to run through 2013.

The purchase price for the three property interests is appraised at \$448,000. Camp San Luis Obispo will provide \$350,000 in funding, while the Morro Bay National Estuary Program will provide matching funds of \$49,000 in the interest of protecting lands in the Morro Bay watershed. The Land Conservancy needs to raise an additional \$60,000 to complete the purchase and cover appraisal and closing costs.

The City of San Luis Obispo has received an offer of a bargain (i.e., below market) sale from Ercole and Naomie Brughelli to preserve their 390-acre property on Buckley Road in agricultural use in perpetuity. The purchase price of the easement, \$750,000, is about 75% of what an independent appraisal found the easement to be worth. The remaining \$225,000 is being donated by the Brughelli family. The ranch has been in the family for generations and they wish to keep it as a viable, working farm and ranch forever. The acquisition is considered to be an important step in the implementation of the City of San Luis Obispo's Greenbelt Protection Program, and will be the City's second major agricultural conservation easement.

The City of San Luis Obispo currently has \$550,000 on hand to fund this transaction, and is therefore seeking to raise \$200,000 from community sources. This needs to be done quickly, as the Brughellis need to complete the transaction by the end of 2006.

At the completion of this project, along with the Guidetti Ranch on the southern border of the Brughelli Ranch, the City of San Luis Obispo will have created a 1,790-acre working landscape along the southern border of city.

Please join us in the effort to bring these two worthy projects to completion.



View of Cerro Romauldo from Union Pacific Railroad Properties below Cuesta Ridge.



Brughelli Ranch



Where to Send Contributions:
All donations are tax deductible and should be made payable and sent to:

The Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County
Collaborative Conservation Project
743 Pacific Street
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

**notice
anything
different?**

Yes, color has come to the *Santa Lucian* -- an historic first. And it will be an historic last, unless you let us know you like it and want us to keep doing it.

Did you read more of this issue than usual? Did you linger over the articles? Did the cover catch your eye and persuade you to pick it up and take a look instead of tossing it into a corner for later? If so, then it's worth it (about an extra \$150 per issue). But you'll need to let us know. Send your input ASAP to sierra8@charter.net, or Sierra Club, PO Box 15755, San Luis Obispo, CA 93406.

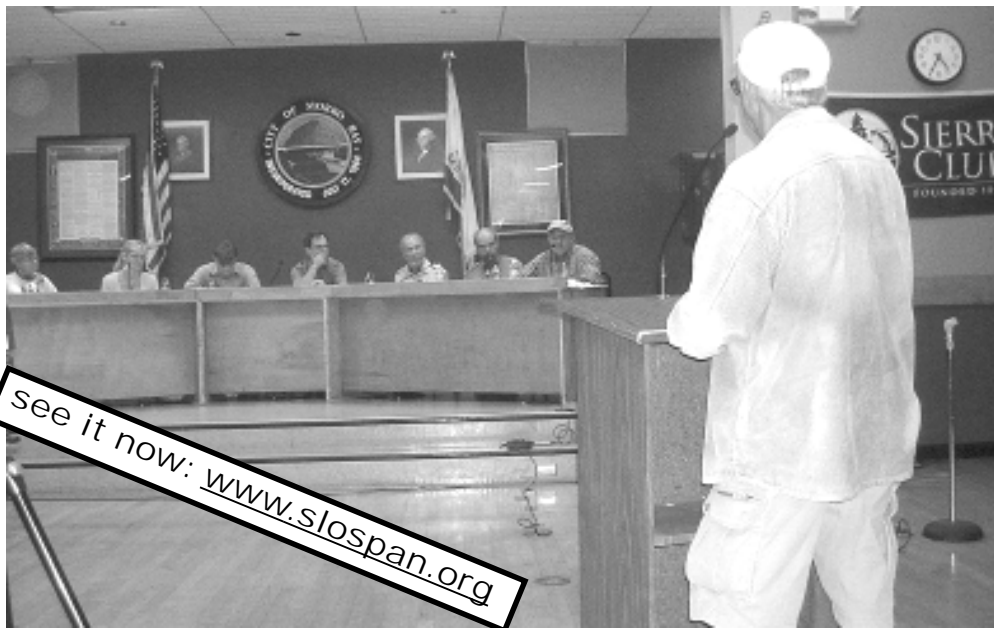
“Talk About the Bay” Rocks the House

On Saturday, September 2nd, an enthusiastic audience packed the house at the Morro Bay Veterans Hall for “Talk About the Bay,” aka The TAB Conference, where they heard and quizzed state legislators, scientists, and wastewater treatment experts over a wide range of issues relating to the Morro Bay estuary and the watershed, including liquified natural gas, eminent domain, nuclear power, cat feces, power plant cooling technology, the Los Osos sewer, and the nature and necessity of environmental activism.

“I hate to use the word ‘synergy’ because its been used to death, but the synergy in that room was something to behold,” said Santa Lucia Chapter Chair Karen Merriam. “The big picture, on a scale you just don’t ever see in a city council or supervisors meeting, was delivered at the TAB conference, in a big way.”

The brainchild of the Ocean Outfall Group, TAB was primarily organized and underwritten by the Santa Lucia Chapter, and co-sponsored by ECOSLO, Surfrider, the SLO Coast Alliance, the Morro Bay National Estuary Program and *New Times*. Our hope was to tie together all the terrestrial and marine issues affecting the way we use, pollute, treat and re-use water. Our success far exceeded our expectations.

In the course of the discussion,



Left to right: Henriette Groot of CAPE; Haydee Dabritz, UC Davis; Dan Berman, Morro Bay National Estuary Program; Dana Ripley, Ripley Pacific; State Parks docent Curt Beebe; Coastal Commission Executive Director Peter Douglas; and Assemblymember Pedro Nava take questions from the audience.

ceeded to raise \$2,000 in less than thirty seconds. (Go to www.santalucia.sierraclub.org to see how you can help out in this worthy effort)

Nava, the day’s keynote speaker, began his remarks with the observation that “California has 1,100 miles of coastline and the last time we checked, they ain’t making any more,” then ripped into plans to locate extremely dangerous Liquified Natural Gas terminals in densely populated areas of Long Beach and

Oxnard. He was equally withering on the practice of once-through cooling, the old technology by which California’s coastal power plants, including Diablo Canyon and the Morro Bay plant, kill 50 million larvae and small fish per day. (“Why would a power company commit itself to an outdated technology that brings us nothing but death?” Nava asked. “Profit!” shouted an audience member. “Thank you,” he replied.)

Nava, as a member of the state Ocean Protection Council, expressed his determination to “kill once-through cooling” and require plants to upgrade to more expensive but far less destructive cooling technology.

California Coastal Commission Executive Director Peter Douglas devoted his talk to citizen involvement and activism and the proposition that “The greatest threats to the

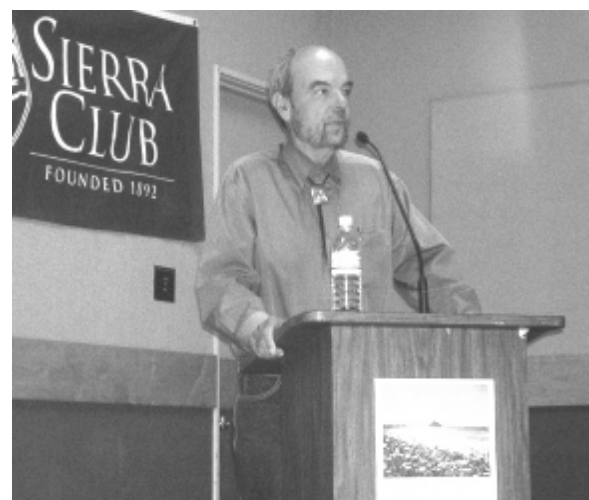
environment are ignorance and apathy.”

As ancillary threats, Douglas identified what he called “the strategic dominance of the dark side” — front groups with “the-public-be-damned” agendas fighting on behalf of special interests and against the public interest — and “cognitive dissonance reaction syndrome, which is what happens when Bush tells you we’re winning in Iraq or corporations tell you they have the public’s best interests at heart, and then you look at reality.”

Douglas called environmental activ-



Pedro Nava



Peter Douglas

Assemblymember Sam Blakeslee (R-Santa Lucia Obispo), in an unscheduled appearance, gave a quick update on the Los Osos wastewater treatment plan and acknowledged his colleague, Assemblymember Pedro Nava (D-Santa Barbara) and the Sierra Club for their support of his bill, AB 2701, the best chance of getting a treatment system built for Los Osos, and also AB 1642, Blakeslee’s bill requiring an accounting of the potential full cost to the state of continuing to operate nuclear power plants storing nuclear waste on site for decades to come.

SLO City Resources Manager Neil Havlik made a pitch for a fundraising project for the purchase of watershed properties to save them from development and protect the watershed from the inevitable impacts such development would bring (see page 7).

Nava immediately leapt to the microphone and pledged \$1,000 to the SLO Land Conservancy for the purchase if someone in the audience would match it. He immediately got a match, said “okay, now who’ll match that?,” and pro-



The TAB conference would not have been possible without a major charitable donation from the Judy Vick campaign of surplus funds from her primary bid for the Board of Supervisors. Thank you, Judy!



Haydee Dabritz gives an interview to KSBY outside the Vets Hall before her presentation

ism “a labor of love. We can never give up, because the environment is never saved; it’s always being saved. Despair or capitulation are not options.”

Nava agreed, urging the public to hold public officials accountable. “You have got to let us know you’re out there,” he said. “You have to make sure there are consequences for doing bad things. People act differently when there are witnesses.”

Haydee Dabritz, who has been doing doctoral research at UC Davix on otter infections and mortalities at Morro Bay, distributed an audience survey to help

in tracking the rate of infection of otters with the *T. gondii* virus to water contamination by cat feces, Dan Berman of the Morro Bay National Estuary Program, Dave Nelson of CAPE, Dana Ripley of Ripley Pacific, and State Parks docent Curt Beebe gave presentations or participated in the Q&A panel afterward fielding questions from the audience.

It’s impossible to convey the full scope of the TAB conference in this space, but you can see it for yourself. The conference can be viewed on the web and on Channel 21. Check www.slospan.org for schedule.

Diablo

continued from page 3

“Energy costs are beginning to break the back of our economy, and that tide can only be turned if California begins planning responsibly for future energy needs,” said Rochelle Becker, Executive Director of the Alliance for Nuclear Responsibility. “It would be irresponsible of the CPUC to allow PG&E’s request for funding for its own study to proceed 19 years before the current license expires. After an independent analysis of all costs, benefits and risks of California’s continued reliance on aging nuclear plants is complete, perhaps we will have determined that nuclear power will not be the energy choice for our future. In that case, ratepayers would have wasted \$14 million on a premature and pointless feasibility study that could have been used instead for a down-payment on a serious study of how to replace Diablo Canyon’s 2000 megawatts by 2025.”

“These issues must be addressed before the Public Utilities Commission passes on the costs to ratepayers for a PG&E in-house study that gets to decide whether the continued operation of a dangerously sited and vulnerable nuclear plant will be profitable and reliable for 20 years beyond current license terms,” said Andrew Christie, the Sierra Club’s San Luis Obispo chapter director. “For these reasons, the CPUC should reduce the Settlement Agreement by \$14 million and deny PG&E’s request for a license renewal feasibility study a decade and a half before there is any need for one.”

PG&E’s track record of accurate forecasts for costs at Diablo Canyon has been dismal, and a license renewal feasibility study fifteen years before expiration will not give ratepayers any assurance of future costs. PG&E has admitted that costs are often beyond the utility’s control, and ratepayers are held hostage to NRC mandates.

Diablo Canyon was designed in the 1960s, and, like all nuclear plants, is now exhibiting dangerous signs of aging. The “unknowns” in the nuclear industry continue to surprise oversight agencies and result in millions of dollars charged to ratepayers to fix. Components that ratepayers and oversight agencies anticipated would last the life of nuclear reactors are now failing and there is no guarantee they will not fail again and need to be replaced during a license renewal period.

A report issued September 18 by the Union of Concerned Scientists found that nuclear reactors are prone to costly, lengthy shutdowns for safety problems regardless of their age or the experience of their managers.

So many costs are in flux in the energy sector, to guess today at a forecast that would accurately gauge the costs of operation of the Diablo Canyon plant during a license renewal period from 2025-2045 is virtually impossible.

Joey Racano

Classifieds

October issue ad deadline is **October 13**. 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.

Meeting Minutes

highlights from recent chapter committee meetings

Executive Committee meeting, August 1, 2006

Present: Chair Karen Merriam, Steven Marx, John Ashbaugh, Cleve Nash, Katherine Wassenberg, Jack Morrow, Andrew Christie (staff), Richard Kranzendorf (Political Com Chair), Jan Marx (Legal Com chair), Jim Gates (guest).
 Absent: Cal French

...
 The ExCom agreed to do everything possible to assist the No on Measure J campaign.

...
 Karen presented the reconfiguration of the Energy Task Force to implement the Chapter Energy Campaign and discussed the budget for Smart Energy Solutions; she is submitting a grant application to national SC.

Treasurer's Report: Steven discussed coordinating bookkeeping/accounting with national SC.

...
 Conservation Committee: Andrew discussed the "closed door policy," persuading businesses to keep their doors closed rather than air conditioning the great outdoors. We have signed onto the NRDC letter opposing State Water Board's plan to allow stormwater discharge into Areas of special Biological Significance. Tracy Haydon will run for

ExCom. John Ashbaugh and Cleve Nash will run again. Katherine Wassenberg is moving to Greece and resigning her seat.

...
 Andrew Christie has been promoted to Chapter Director.

...
 The Board of Supervisors denied our appeal of the Cambria desal project as expected. We will appeal to the Coastal Commission.

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Endorsements

continued from page 1

local government entity a much needed upgrade. Supervisor Jim Patterson and the articulate and genteel Gibson will stand a good chance of being able to sway some key swing votes in the years to come. Gibson is an excellent fit for the environmentally and socially conscious North Coast. As the District 2 Planning Commissioner, Gibson has demonstrated a bottomless appetite for detail and an ability to articulate his position in a way that more often than not garners a majority of votes. We hope that once elected, he will get to work suggesting revisions to the County's General Plan that will eliminate many of the deficiencies in that document he has grappled with on the Planning Commission.

Congress, 23rd District: **Lois Capps**. Congresswoman Capps led efforts to stop new oil and gas drilling off of our coasts, reduced the amount of new drilling in Los Padres National Forest, and protected us from shouldering the financial burden of cleaning up MTBE contamination in our water supplies. Capps is backing a legislative agenda mandating an end to tax giveaways to Big Oil, and initiatives for energy-efficient technologies and domestic alternatives such as biofuels.

Arroyo Grande - Mayor: **Tony Ferrara**. Mayor Ferrara doesn't really need the Sierra Club's endorsement: the former City Councilmember is running unopposed for a second term. But we believe in giving credit where credit is due. Ferrara has been an effective leader in preserving agriculture land, containing sprawl by effectively creating a greenbelt within the

city limits. This is no small feat considering the escalating pressures to develop farmland elsewhere in the county. Arroyo Grande's strong defense of its General Plan standards is refreshing — and emblematic of Ferrara's commitment to good land use planning principles.

Arroyo Grande - City Council: **Joe Costello, Chuck Fellows**. Incumbent Joe Costello earned the Sierra Club's endorsement four years ago, and his record on the Council easily earned our continued support. He has worked to strengthen creek protection by enforcing setback standards, voted consistently to protect agricultural lands within city boundaries, and understands the importance of maintaining the character of AG's Village.

It's high time for AG Planning Commission Chair Chuck Fellows to move up the ranks. As a retired realtor with an educational background in biology and horticulture, Fellows understands the economic importance of preserving natural ecosystems. He also understands how to get things done. As a private citizen and president of the citizens group "Save the Village," Fellows initiated the local policy of keeping corporate chain stores out of the downtown Village. Anyone willing to take on corporate power to protect local communities deserves our support!

Atascadero - City Council: **Mike Brenner** (2-year seat), **Ellen Beraud** (4-year seat). Brenner is a retired police officer who is making his first run for public office because he is unhappy with the current council's direction. His unequivocal opposition to the Wal-Mart SuperCenter plan,

specific recommendations for strengthening the city's native tree ordinance, and commitment to government transparency make him a good choice for Atascadero.

As an Atascadero City Planning Commissioner, Beraud brings a respectable record of strong decisions that favor the environment, community character, and balanced growth. Her understanding of land use planning, combined with her experience dealing with city staff and a proven commitment to upholding the

General Plan assures she will hit the ground running as a council member.

Morro Bay - Mayor: **Jeff O'Dell**. With an incumbent Mayor



who opposes expansion of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, favors the smallest possible area for state marine reserves, and supported a lawsuit to remove the snowy plover from the Endangered Species List, Morro Bay is overdue for a city leader more in touch with the mainstream values of citizens rather than narrow special interest groups. As a for-



mer MB City Councilman and Harbor Commissioner, O'Dell is no stranger to local government. His early involvement in the National Estuary Program and his contributions to research focused on protecting the Bay give him a substantive understanding of the challenges facing our urban estuary. www.odellformayor.com

Morro Bay - City Council: **Betty Winholtz**. More than earning re-election, Councilwoman Winholtz has been adept and enthusiastic in advocating for the public interest on wastewater treatment, endangered species, the non-destructive operation of power plants -- and, on her own time, forcing State Parks to get all its permits in order before they start cutting down trees. Fearlessness is a fine quality in an elected representative.

Paso Robles - City Council: **Greg Haas**.

If elected to the Paso Robles City Council — hell-bent on turning Paso Robles into San Jose — Greg Haas will be the lone voice for smart land use in a dark room full of deaf men. As District Representative for Congresswoman Lois Capps (D-Santa Barbara), one of Congress' most reliable environmental



continued next page

Measure J

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process, just like everyone else. They would have to help solve the traffic problems they create and pay their fair share of the costs.

What will happen if the Initiative passes?

Like the proverbial Trojan Horse, this initiative is full of unknown dangers. Once passed, it can't be changed at

all by the public except by another election. (The developers have written a "one-way escape hatch" for themselves, so that current and future landowners *do* have the power to initiate changes.) The normal development and environmental review process is designed to: 1) flush out hidden problems, costs and impacts and 2) make developers protect the public from intended and unintended consequences. A "yes" vote will allow developers to circumvent that process.

How would traffic be affected?

The project is so large that over 24,000 new car trips would be generated every day, with no plan for how to control congestion. It will lead to gridlock at numerous major intersections, including Los Osos Valley and Madonna Roads, as well as on Highway 101. The San Luis Obispo Council of Governments (SLOCOG), which represents every municipality in the county, says "the initiative as proposed provides inadequate funding to mitigate development-generated traffic."

What would happen to County-wide freeway improvements?

According to SLOCOG, if the Initiative is passed, building the Prado Road Interchange would become their number-one funding priority. Other long-planned regional freeway projects such as improvements to Highway 46

and Highway 101 (Atascadero), Brisco Road (Arroyo Grande), and Willow Road (Nipomo), would all be trumped by the Prado Road Interchange. This is not fair to the North and South County, who have been waiting years for these intersections to be fixed.

How would the project affect existing businesses and city budgets?

City-commissioned studies found that about one-third of San Luis Obispo city's business would be lost to a new mall in that location and size range, but the certain loss of businesses by other cities has not even been studied. Lost sales and occupancy tax revenues will be drained from every city's budget, making it harder to pay police and fire services. The City of San Luis Obispo alone would lose \$1 million a year; the loss by other cities is not known.

What about flood hazard?

The Initiative exempts the project, which is located in a flood plain, from many flood protection provisions. It would increase flooding on Highway 101 and put existing neighborhoods and the Downtown at greater flood risk.

Would the development hook up to the City Sewer System?

No. The project would put a free-standing *sewage treatment plant in the middle of town*, next to an existing neighborhood, in a flood hazard zone and directly over an aquifer. The Regional Water Quality Control Board has stated that it does not favor such a system because of potential operational and maintenance failures. The odor and health problems that could result are obvious.

What about emergency, fire and police protection?

The project would not have urban standards of emergency, fire and police protection, since it would be relying on county services. This would pose dangers to individuals, as well as to the whole community.

What about "being fair" to Mr. Dalidio?

The developers want to avoid the review that's required for every other proposed project, allow the entire county to decide whether to permit a project whose impacts will be felt primarily by the residents of one city, rewrite the County's General Plan, receive public gifts of re-zoning and their own land use category, all so that the property of one land owner, worth about \$10 million, can be re-valued at \$100 million-plus, leaving the public with the bill. That's unfair -- to all of us.

Would the developers pay their fair share for the freeway and road improvements?

No. The City's analysis determined that, since the Mall would generate 52% of the new traffic on the Interchange, the developers' "fair share" of costs was 52%, which the developers agreed to pay in the 2004 Development Agreement. But now they say their "fair share" is no more than 26%. Cal Trans calls the Interchange "development-driven" -- i.e. unnecessary except for the need to handle traffic for a huge mall -- and now estimates building the Interchange would cost approximately \$40 million, and the flood control work would cost about \$29 million, and more in the future. The developers cap their share at a conditional \$4 million, no matter how much the interchange actually costs. Other traffic mitigations are either underfunded or ignored.

If I like organic farming, should I vote for the Initiative?

No. If the landowner wants to farm organically or otherwise, he certainly does not need an Initiative to do it. The project would pave over 90% of the prime agricultural land on the site. Such wholesale conversion of ag land violates the Agriculture and Open Space Element. Once ag land anywhere can be spot-converted to any use via initiative, the county's open, rural environment will quickly disappear.

YES on Measure Y

In polls and surveys, the residents of the city of San Luis Obispo have consistently made it clear that maintaining open spaces within and around the urban reserve lines of the city is a funding priority and essential to insure the quality of life in San Luis Obispo. We all depend on these vistas and valleys, pathways and woodlands for "the solace of open spaces."

Increasing population, development, and economic pressures make it more important than ever to ensure the protection of the city's natural heritage. The Chapter has been a key partner with the City in protecting Bishop Peak and the Brughelli Ranch. The Chapter has contributed funds, trail-making know-how and muscle, along with hundreds of volunteer hours to improve and maintain our open spaces. Testimony by Chapter staff at City Planning and Council meetings has helped the City to maintain firm guidelines in the definitions of open space and its uses.

As they drafted Measure Y, the Chapter had the opportunity to remind the Council of its commitment to respect the expressed wishes of residents to preserve and protect open space. Opponents of the measure argue that the City needs to reorient its spending priorities toward basic services rather than continue offering favors and subsidies to developers. They note that the funds raised by this measure could be used for any purpose the City wishes.

But the reform of a city's spending priorities is best accomplished by electing representatives who will implement such reform, not by aggravating the level of fiscal hardship. Public promises count, as do the independent audit, citizen oversight and "sunset" clause that are part of this measure.

The Santa Lucia Chapter supports the proposed sales tax increase because it will enable the City to fulfill its commitment to protect open space and revive its open space acquisition program.

leaders, Haas is well-acquainted with policy issues ranging from the Endangered Species Act to National Marine Sanctuaries. Count on Haas to be a staunch advocate for water quality, open space, recreation and public trails and a renewable energy agenda that the city could and should adopt as a bi-partisan act of fiscal responsibility. We are confident his political skills will bring the others along.

Port San Luis Harbor District: **Stew Jenkins**. Jenkins is running for "re-election" to the Port San Luis Harbor District, a reference to his previous term from 1979 to 1989.



Jenkins is motivated to return to the Port by his desire to make the Port San Luis Lighthouse more accessible to the public -- who, after all, owns the property even though it is land-locked by PG&E and guarded by men in black jumpsuits toting machine guns at the entrance to Diablo Canyon. The impeccably restored turn-of-the-century lighthouse, the best kept secret among the County's public lands, could become an international attraction and a true benefit to local residents. Jenkins is motivated to run for office for the right reasons: To put public lands in public hands.

San Luis Obispo - Mayor: **Christine Mulholland**. The most unapologetic champion of the environment of any elected official in the County, City Councilwoman Mulholland is challenging Mayor Dave Romero as the city's top elected official. By electing Mulholland,



the citizens of SLO could send no better message to all the big box developers and high-rise hopefuls who seek to cash in on SLO City's charm by destroying it for short-term gain. Her unwavering opposition to the Dalidio project and her unpopular but substantively correct opposition to the Bridge Street project (building affordable housing in a flood zone with Industrial zoning) are examples of her

Morro Bay Plant
continued from page 3

plant would use water drawn from the Morro Bay National Estuary to cool the plant (once-through cooling), even though that highly controversial and destructive process has not been approved by state regulators, and a new state policy to sharply restrict or prohibit it is under review. Alternative cooling technologies "were not analyzed," says the EPA.

For the last seven years, the Coastal Alliance on Plant Expansion (CAPE), along with the Santa Lucia Chapter, has been advocating effective environmental and air quality controls if a new plant is built. In comments filed on the proposed permit, CAPE argues that the predicted 200 tons per year of PM emissions are understated by at least 100%.

The air quality modeling submitted to the EPA by Duke Energy, the original applicant, notes CAPE, "assumes no distribution of particulates beyond a six-mile radius of the (plant), whereas all of the scientific literature indicates that particulate emissions are regional pollutants by nature."

willingness to be the lone voice of reason, when necessary. But her reputation, advanced primarily by development interests, as a "no-growth obstructionist" is misplaced. As a council member, Mulholland has voted in support of numerous housing and commercial developments, as long as they adhere to the General Plan. As mayor, Mulholland will be able to exert a bit more influence over the council's business, and assure that the City's environmental agenda does not get marginalized. If elected, and Measure J passes, she has vowed to use the full weight of the regulatory process to continue fighting the Dalidio project, with the goal of preserving the land for future agricultural use.

San Luis Obispo - City Council: **Terry Conners, Alan Settle**. Settle is the longest-serving elected official in SLO, having served multiple terms as both Mayor and Councilman. While the Sierra Club has not agreed with him on every issue (such as his support for the Dalidio development), on balance he can be counted on for a pro-environment, pro-quality of life vote. His willingness to buck staff and push for the formation of an Environmental Quality Task Force showed leadership.

Terry Conners and his family are well-known to SLO residents, as they have been active in civic affairs for decades. Conners has been recognized with state and local awards for his innovations in solid waste recycling. He has the kind of genuine commitment to the SLO way of life and willingness to listen and learn that is needed on the Council.

Action Short of Endorsement

A number of candidates did not meet all of the strict criteria to warrant a full en-

Prop. 90
continued from page 1

but that doesn't excuse this attempt by ideologues to eviscerate local citizens' power to rein in sprawl and encourage community revitalization. Sadly, that's exactly what's going on -- the debate over *Kelo* has been hijacked by campaigns backed almost entirely by one billionaire that are designed to benefit fat-cat developers at the expense of local citizens' right to govern their own communities.

The right-wing campaign doesn't stop with restricting eminent domain, but includes a Trojan horse: Additional anti-environmental provisions smuggled into ballot initiatives under the guise of "Kelo reform." These proposals play directly into the hands of large developers, while claiming to be populist proposals to fight the "special interests" -- the special interests that are funding these ballot measures.

Investigating the funders of the "takings" initiatives quickly reveals a number of organizations: Americans for Limited Government, America at Its Best, the Fund for Democracy, and Montanans in Action.

All appear to be funded and controlled by the same individual: New York developer Howard Rich.

Rich is a libertarian right-wing bigwig and he's got deep pockets. The relationships between these key funding organizations is complex and hidden by a conscious effort to cover Rich's tracks. In California, the funding for the takings initiative has come from the Fund for Democracy, which is directly

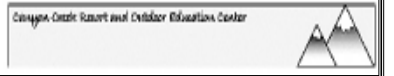
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In the mountains near Smithers, British Columbia. Easily accessible by air, road or rail, yet located in a true wilderness setting. Area activities include canoeing, kayaking, rafting, biking, hiking, fishing, wildlife viewing and cross-country or downhill skiing. Canyon Creek borders an ecological preserve and is adjacent to Babine Mountains Provincial Park. Local wildlife includes wolf, grizzly bear, lynx, mountain goat, moose, elk and mountain caribou.

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Mention this ad and 5% of your rental goes to your local Chapter.



dorsement, but nevertheless may warrant your consideration due to the nature of their public service record, or the dismal environmental records of their opponents. We suggest you learn more about these candidates and consider their merits:

Sharon Beery, 22nd Congressional District. You have to admire Beery for taking on the copiously GOP-funded and prodigiously connected Kevin McCarthy for the open seat vacated by Bill Thomas (R-Bakersfield). Beery is conducting a person-to-person campaign that is refreshing in its honesty, but lacks a demonstrable plan to get her message out to a majority of voters. But Beery is the stuff grassroots democracy is made of, and she would be a breath of fresh air in DC.

Bob Cuthbert, 33rd Assembly District. Challenging the ever-popular Sam Blakeslee (R-San Luis Obispo) is a hard slog, even for a political veteran like Cuthbert. Grassroots organizer that he is, Cuthbert sees opportunity in the challenge. The former UFW/UAW organizer is networking with labor, environmental and social justice groups to form a coalition that will build strength in the coming months and years as he plans to fight for long-term political change.

Nick Gilman, Paso Robles City Council. By far the strongest and most knowledgeable advocate for affordable housing of

all candidates we interviewed and a staunch supporter of recreational trails and urban greenbelts, but doesn't think a renewable energy plan is feasible for Paso and does not favor open space or ag preservation within city limits.

Gary Peruzzi, Paso Robles City Council. Recently retired from the city's Parks and Recreation Department, Perruzzi wants to make recreation a higher priority for the city. We don't know how far he would be willing to rock the boat to make this happen, given his close ties to the City Manager and other senior staff.

Brian Kreowski, Port San Luis Harbor District. While his votes on the Harbor District have not always favored marine protections or increased public access, they haven't always been anti-public trust, either.

John Ewan, SLO Mayor. Ewan has built a reputation on the City Council as a bridge-builder and a peace-maker with pragmatic leadership skills. Serving as Mayor would keep Ewan on the council as a moderate voice and consensus builder. We were disappointed by his lack of support for the Environmental Quality Task Force and his willingness to grant tax breaks to the Dalidio developers in order for their project to "pencil out," but he has been a strong supporter of affordable housing, renewable energy, and alternative transportation.

"Proposition 90 is the greatest threat to our homes, our neighborhoods and the environment that I can recall seeing in all my years of public service."

— Peter Douglas
Executive Director,
California Coastal Commission

controlled by Rich. Additional money has come from Montanans in Action (MIA). MIA has received money from Americans for Limited Government, which is controlled by Rich. MIA is under investigation in Montana for refusing to release the names of its backers.

What we know for sure is that this rich New Yorker "[t]hrough a web of organizations...is backing eminent-domain initiatives in Arizona, Idaho, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, Oklahoma and Washington with \$4 million," according to *Capitol Weekly*, "though no state has received as much financial support as California."

In their opposition ballot argument, the League of California Cities notes that the proposition's backers "want you to believe Prop. 90 is about eminent domain."

"That's the bait. But hidden in the fine print of the measure is the trap -- a far-reaching section unrelated to eminent domain that would lead to huge new costs for all California taxpayers. Prop. 90 would change California's constitution to enable large landowners and corporations to demand huge payouts from state and local taxpayers just by claiming a law has harmed the value of their property or business -- no matter how important the law or far-fetched the claim."

According to William G. Hamm, formerly California's nonpartisan legislative analyst, "Prop. 90 could require BILLIONS OF DOLLARS IN NEW TAXPAYER COSTS EACH YEAR, if communities and the state continue to pass or enforce basic laws to protect neighborhoods, limit unwanted development, protect the environment, restrict unsavory businesses and protect consumers."

"Prop. 90 would trap taxpayers in a lose-lose situation," says the LCC. "If communities act to protect their quality of life, taxpayers could be forced to make huge payouts. Or, if communities couldn't afford the payouts, basic quality-of-life protections simply couldn't be enacted. That's why conservation groups warn that the measure would drastically limit our ability to protect California's coastline, open spaces, farmland, air and water quality."

For more information visit the NO on Prop. 90 website: www.NoProp90.com

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.

Wed., Oct. 4, 11, 18, 25, 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 gfelsman@onemain.com for meeting location.

Sat., October 7, 8:30 a.m., West Cuesta Ridge Hike from Stenner Creek Road. Meet at the wooden bridge on Stenner Creek Road 1/2 mile past the Old Train Trestle. 1500 to 2000 foot elevation gain. I hope to hike both Shooter's and Morning Glory that day. Bring lunch, water and dress for the weather. Details call Gary 473-3694. You will traverse what the Land Conservancy is trying to preserve (see page 7).

Sun., Oct. 8, 0930, Sun, BIKE TOUR of WOODLANDS: We'll bicycle about 8 miles the roads of this 'instant city'. Meet at junction of Willow & Albert Way. On the last bike-tour we saw a "city" replacing a 1,000 acre "euke forest"—you have to see it to believe it—amazing. Who said water is limited on the mesa? Call 929-3647 or bdenneen@kcbx.net a few days before to confirm and for details.

Sun., Oct. 8, BIRDING ON OSO FLACO Lake; Osó Flaco Lake is a small freshwater lake nestled in the Guadalupe Dunes. A stopover on the birding flyway we expect to find American bitterns, ruddy ducks, ring-neck ducks, white pelicans, Virginia rails, sora rails, and raccoons. NOTE: There is a parking fee of \$5.00 per car and a mile portage from the parking area to the lake. We will help you portage your boats. Please allow an extra hour for the portage. Bring your boat and equipment, PFDs, binoculars and your picnic lunch that you can eat in your boat. LAUNCH OSO FLACO CAUSWAY PUT IN 10:00 AM FOR DETAILS PLEASE CALL Joe Dickerson 693-9534 or 688-5025

Sat., Oct. 14, 8:30 a.m., Valencia Peak-Oats Peak-Coon Creek Loop Hike. Join the leader on this fall hike in Montana de Oro. This is a moderately strenuous hike of about 9 miles and 2000 ft. of elevation gain. We will explore several areas of the park from the peaks to the riparian habitat of Coon Creek to the bluffs along the ocean on the return to the cars. There is a possibility of ticks and poison oak. We will meet in the parking lot of the visitors' center in Montana de Oro. Bring water, snacks/lunch, and dress for the weather. For details, call Chuck at 441-7597. (3D)

Sat-Mon., Oct. 14-16, Service and Celebration on the Carrizo Plain: In 2001, William Clinton created the Carrizo Plain National Monument under the authority of the Antiquities Act of 1906. The area is now part of the National Landscape Conservation System, special landscapes managed by BLM. This outing, sponsored by the Sierra Club and The Wilderness Society, will celebrate the one-hundredth anniversary of the Act. On Saturday, we will remove and/or alter barbed wire fencing to benefit pronghorn antelope. Sunday's celebration will be a hike in a rugged and little-known area of the Caliente Mountains WSA. Those who are able will continue fence removal on Monday. For information, contact Leader: Craig Deutsche, (310-477-6670), deutsche@earthlink.net. CNRCC Desert Com/Wilderness Society

Sun., Oct. 15, 0930, TOUR de NIPOMO: Bicycle ride stopping at Park, Native Garden, Creekside Preserve, Dana Adobe, High School. Meet at Nipomo Library. Eight miles with many stops. Kids OK. Call 929-3647 or bdenneen@kcbx.net a few days before to confirm and for details

Sat., Oct. 21, 8:30 a.m. Stony Creek Exploration Hike. Come explore the remote and seldom used trail in the Garcia Wilderness. This hike will be an out and back hike on the same route. The trail may be overgrown and may be a lot of poison oak. It will be 8 miles with 2,000 elevation gain. We will pass through a locked gate east of Pozo to reach the trailhead. Meet at the Pacific Beverage Company in Santa Margarita. For further information contact Carlos at 564-0317.

Sat., Oct. 21, 0930, Sat. DANA ADOBE CREEK HIKE: See riparian habitat, oil leak, historical site followed by lunch at Felicity's 441-6782. Easy hike, dogs OK

Sat., Oct 21, Covington Flats Hike - Joshua Tree National Park. Would you like to go for a scenic loop hike in a seldom used but very beautiful area of the park? The plan is to mix a section of the California Riding and Hiking Trail with some cross-country hiking that will include great overviews looking down into the low desert, and some lovely hi desert scenery. The hike will begin at about 4000 feet and hopefully on a cool clear fall morning. This should be about a five-hour hike and about a seven-mile distance. A couple of quarts of water and a high protein lunch should do you fine and your momma proud. Call Ann and Al Murdy at 760-366-2932 (directly, no messages) or email aemurdy@eee.org. CNRCC/San Geronimo Chapter

Sat - Sun., Oct 21-22 - Avawatz Mts. and Death Valley Tour of the proposed wilderness. The area includes rugged mountains, deep canyons, open valleys, bajadas, pristine dry lakebeds and rare

springs and creeks. Saturday the tour will take us to Sheep Creek in the Avawatz Mts., through some of the "Bowling Alley", which is a Death Valley proposed wilderness addition, and camping at Owlshhead Springs. Sunday will include a stop at beautiful Saratoga Springs for lunch and then a trip to China Ranch with a hike to Amargosa River waterfalls. The roads are dirt and rough at times, so 4-WD is strongly recommended. The camping is primitive, so bring all food for weekend and lots of water. Camera and binoculars also highly recommended. Bryn Jones, of California Wilderness Coalition, will guide the tour with an abundance of information on the area. To sign up contact: Carol Wiley at earthlingwiley@webtv.net. To sign up by phone contact Carol Wiley (760) 245-8734 or Estelle Delgado (760) 241-7327. CNRCC Desert Com

Sun., OCT 22, 0930, GEOLOGY TOUR of MESA: A car-pool tour of Ralph Bishop's Geology sites as in Corrine Ardoin's Nat'l Hist.Nip. Mesa meet at Library. Finished at 1230

Sat-Sun, Oct 28-29 - Antelope Protection Carcamp (Nature Study/Work Party): With little rainfall and few water sources, the species that live in Carrizo Plain are both hardy and endangered. Particularly beautiful are the pronghorn antelope, which evolved in these wild, open spaces. Then cattle ranching left a legacy of endless fences - which are deadly to the pronghorn. Join us for a weekend in this remote area removing fencing for their benefit. Work hard on Saturday; take some time Sunday to enjoy the monument. Camp at Selby campground, bring food, water, heavy leather work gloves, and camping gear for the weekend. Potluck Sat night. Alternate date in case of rain: Nov 11-12. Resource specialist: Alice Koch. For more information, contact Leaders: Cal and Letty French, 14140 Chimney Rock Road, Paso Robles, CA 93446, (805-239-7338). Prefer e-mail ccfrench@tcsn.net CNRCC/Santa Lucia Chapter

Sat., October 28, Tomales Dunes with the Great Coastal Places Campaign: Sierra Club Coastal Director Mark Massara will lead activists from throughout the state on a easy and informative hike through one of California's great coastal places: the Tomales Dunes. This magnificent and relatively isolated spot lies across from Point Reyes National Seashore in Marin County and is one of the largest unprotected stretches of dunes in California. The Sierra Club has been working for years to protect the dunes from the threats posed by the unpermitted RV campground, Lawson's Landing - the largest RV campground in California.

The Great Coastal Places hike series is designed to bring people together to experience our fragile, threatened coastline and show the simple things you



September 9: Hiking Big Sur.



Photo by Joaquin Palting

can do to make a difference in protecting the coast for future generations. Tomales Dunes has sensitive wetlands, multiple endangered species and a future in doubt.



Learn how much you can do with very little time commitment. For more information email Mark at savethecoast@sierraclub.org or call Catherine Caufield at (415) 663-9312.

Sun., Oct., 29, 0930, CALLENDER DUNES HIKE: Meet at west of Callender Rd. at Hwy #1 We'll hike into remote dunes to Chumash Midden, see Black Lake. Dogs OK. Call 929-3647 or bdenneen@kcbx.net a few days before to confirm and for details.

Sun., Nov. 5, 0930, Sun, BIKE TOUR of WOODLANDS: We'll bicycle about 8 miles the roads of this 'instant city'. Meet at junction of Willow & Albert Way. On the last bike-tour we saw a "city" replacing a 1,000 acre "euke forest"—you have to see it to believe it—amazing. Who said water is limited on the mesa? Call 929-3647 or bdenneen@kcbx.net a few days before to confirm and for details.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12 CANOE/ KAYAK MORRO BAY: Here is a chance to get a little exercise before that Thanksgiving Dinner. Join us for a picnic and a short hike on the sand spit. Bring your boat and equipment, PFDs, binoculars and your picnic lunch. LOW TIDE 10:48 PM. 3.1' PUT IN 10:00 AM Joe Dickerson 693-9534 or 688-5025 HIGH TIDE 3:48 PM. 4.0' LAUNCH AT MORRO BAY STATE PARK MARINA

Sun., NOV. 12, 0930, KAYAK OSO FLACO, I have an extra kayak but U have to move it & mine. Bring binos. See a lot of birds (maybe Whistling Swan). Call 929-3647 or bdenneen@kcbx.net a few days before to confirm and for details.

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.