



SIERRA
CLUB

- 40 Years on the SLO Coast -
Santa Lucia Chapter
1968-2008

July/August 2008
Volume 45 No. 7

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General Meeting

Our General Meetings are on their annual summer hiatus. See you in September!



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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

Too Little, Too Soon

Stand up for Santa Margarita on July 7: No info, no vote

The Santa Margarita Ranch development plan is in no shape for a vote at July 7 meeting of the County Planning Commission.

6,200 acres of Old California – the largest piece of privately owned valley oak savannah left in the state – is slated for sprawl development as residences, wineries, churches, golf course, dude ranch, convention center, etc.. The project would incur eleven Class I impacts, the highest level of impact under the California Environmental Quality Act, making it the most destructive development in county history.

The Final Environmental Impact Report that will receive its first public hearing at the July 7 meeting of the County Planning Commission could find no way to mitigate these impacts. Hence “overriding considerations were determined necessary based on significant and unavoidable impacts associated with agricultural resources, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, noise, transportation and circulation, visual resources, and water and wastewater.”

Through an Environmental Impact Report and comment process that



Don't let the entrance gate to Santa Margarita Ranch become the last vestige of Old California.

outdated and makes it impossible to determine long-term availability of water. Trout Creek and Rinconada Creek, both critical habitat for endangered steelhead, have now run dry for the first time on record. Why hasn't data gathering for this summer and

- Well records should be made available to verify resources to the public.

- What **riparian rights have been established** to allow diversion and storage in reservoirs? This effects current and future development plans on the ranch.

- How can the watershed support further irrigation demands of 2,000 **more** acres of crops or **any** residential development, especially golf resorts?

- How can the Final Environmental Impact Report be certified for a Future Development Plan that is vague and **has no alternatives?**

- The watershed is clearly being compromised with even current usage. If the developers wish to contend that water will be available for this project, have them **open up the record** and prove it!

A copy of the staff report is available at the Planning Dept. website, www.sloplanning.org. The first hearing will be held at **1:00 p.m. Monday, July 7, County Government Center, 1055 Monterey Street, SLO.**

“...available groundwater data from the Ranch are not sufficient to determine the long-term impacts of existing and proposed groundwater pumping. Because the safe yield of the aquifer system cannot be verified, the overdraft condition of the aquifer system is not known . . .”

- Final Environmental Impact Report for Santa Margarita Ranch Agricultural Residential Cluster Subdivision Project and Future Development Program

is now more easily measured in pounds than pages, the developers have failed to answer basic questions about the impacts and sustainability of their proposed development. **The Planning Commission should vote to continue this item until it has all the information it needs before it.**

TAKE ACTION

Please attend the July 7, July 24, or August 14 meetings of the Planning Commission and make some or all of the following requests:

- A **Resource Capacity Study** based on data reflecting current conditions – i.e. drought – needs to be undertaken to determine the long-term safe yield of the Upper Salinas watershed. Existing data is already

fall for an updated resource capacity study been required in the Final Environmental Impact Report?

- What problems will be created by ranch wells determined to be **diverting subterranean stream flow**? Address this **now** before it's too late for our streams and wildlife.

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photo: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.

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LOBBY DAY

come join us in sacramento for

Sierra Club's nearly 200,000 California members are the source of our political power. Each summer, as the Legislature is deciding the fate of critical bills, we bring several dozen members to Sacramento to help us pass our priority bills.

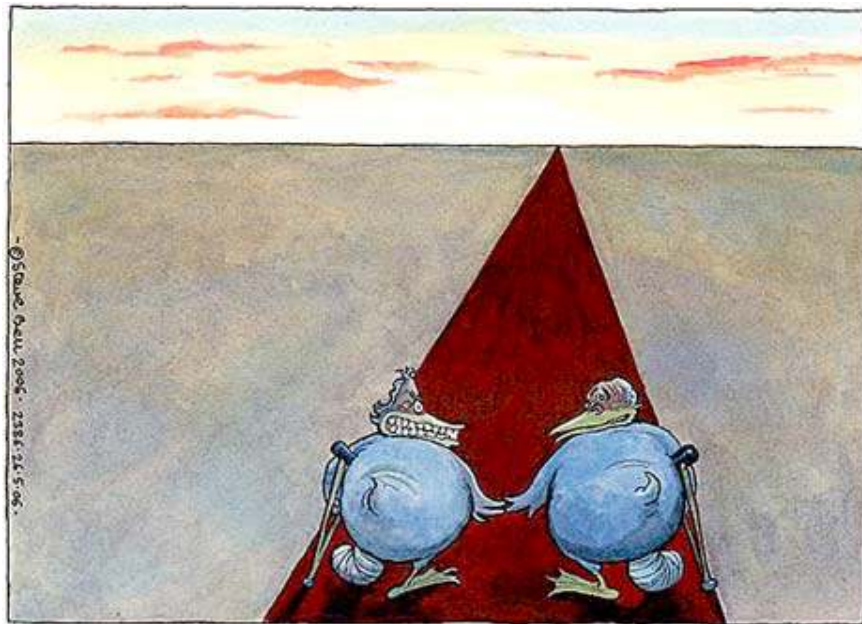
We particularly encourage attendees from districts seen as "swing votes" so that the targeted legislators hear from constituents.

**SUNDAY TRAINING/
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 August 10 & 11, 2008**

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Hold That Line!

The sun is setting on our hyper-growth Board of Supervisors, but...



Steve Bell

"Citizen action still works," mused FCC member Michael Kopps recently, reflecting on the efforts of three million people who successfully inundated Congress with the demand that it slap down FCC Chair Michael Powell when he made a major play for media consolidation. Powell wanted to give even greater control over the information we see and hear to a handful of media giants. He assumed no one would notice or care.

He guessed wrong. And on June 3, so did the backers of Jerry Lenthall and Debbie Arnold, who thought that if they bought enough ads, erected big enough billboards, corralled enough celebrity endorsements, slung enough slurs, and poured down money from big donors like a hundred-year flood, they could discreetly obscure things like their candidates' ghastly voting records or extreme political positions and float their folks into office. They thought they could hold the status quo in place and keep the subdivide-&conquer party going in SLO County for another four years. They thought wrong.

In retrospect, the tipping point came early, and it was surely the Cayucos Viewshed ordinance, presenting as it did, and like no other issue, the stark spectacle of special interests

writing their own ordinance, with the Board's three-man majority hovering at their elbows and asking if they could freshen up their drinks.

It was too much, even for those for whom ordinarily nothing is too much. The placid surface of the *Tribune* rippled with incredulity; too-hip *New Times* started spitting fire, and the writing was on the wall. Both papers seemed to be startled awake by the sight. (The Trib fell back into slumber in time to endorse Lenthall – the supervisor who, as Board chair, rammed the special-interest version of the viewshed ordinance through the process for his supporters. The Trib thought he had earned a second term because he seemed to be learning from his "mistakes." The voters thought otherwise.)

Perhaps the most telling outcome was in the hugely lopsided race between the two candidates with the least amount of difference between them: The political obliteration of über-growther Harry Ovitt, by an overwhelming margin, in the most staunchly conservative district in the county, in favor of his opponent, Frank Meacham, a candidate considered very similar to Ovitt but who

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SANTA LUCIAN

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Outings, events, and more!

Now is the Time for Solutions to Global Warming Pollution

By Bill Magavern, Director
Sierra Club California

California stands at an environmental and economic crossroads. Behind us lie the carbon-belching energy guzzlers of the 20th century. Ahead, a cleaner, greener economy. Choices made in Sacramento in 2008 will determine how quickly we get there, as powerful polluters seek to bog our state down in fossil-fuel dependency.

Two years ago, the legislature and governor made California the first state in the nation to put an enforceable limit on emissions of the pollutants that are warming our planet. AB 32, the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 (Núñez/Pavley), requires the Air Resources Board (ARB) to formulate a master plan this year that will roll back those emissions to 1990 levels by 2020; the plan should also put our state on track to meet the scientifically established goal of an 80% reduction by 2050, the goal established by Governor Schwarzenegger's executive order. Meeting this challenge is essential to protecting human health, along with our magnificent forests, coast and wildlands, from the effects of global warming pollution.

ARB is off to a good start in its implementation of AB 32. While the agency did experience some rough spots last year, Chair Mary Nichols (who was appointed in the wake of that turmoil) and her team have successfully put the process back on track. They moved quickly to triple the number of early action measures scheduled for adoption by the end of next year, and they met statutory deadlines for adoption of mandatory emissions reporting and assessment of the emissions inventory.

But now, seeking to escape accountability for the pollution they cause, some powerful special interests are lining up to try to derail the progress of California's path-breaking effort to curb climate change. For example, the powerful California Manufacturers and Technology Association fiercely opposed AB 32 as it moved through the legislature. After the bill became law, CMTA started posturing as a cooperative party, claiming that it was interested in a successful implementation of AB 32. But earlier this month CMTA revealed its true goal, joining some obstructionist and reactionary Senate Republicans in calling for a one-year delay in AB 32's critically needed emission reduction rules.

These Senate Republicans held last year's budget hostage in a futile attempt to weaken California's Environmental Quality Act. Now, they're again showing why they're a minority party — they're so desperate to please their corporate contributors that they're trying to roll back vital protec-

tions that most Californians strongly support. They are out of touch with the governor and with the voters of all parties, who understand that cleaning up our air and atmosphere helps California's economy. In fact, AB 32 already is driving technological innovation that will fuel California's economy, and is attracting clean tech companies to our state. Delaying AB 32's emission reductions would not only worsen global warming, it would also hamper development of the Golden State's emerging green economy.

Green jobs have suddenly become a hot topic in the State Capitol, with several legislators introducing bills that seek to stimulate the clean-tech sector and train workers for tasks like installing solar panels and upgrading the efficiency of heating-and-cooling systems. Sierra Club California supports the twin goals of accelerating the shift to a green economy and training Californians for jobs that sustain both our families and our

ecology. In the words of Van Jones, founder of Green for All, "The new green economy needs to be the vehicle that reaches out and includes the people and the communities we have thrown away."

Leading the way toward that new green economy will be a major challenge for California's cash-strapped government. While ARB clearly takes the lead in California's greenhouse-gas reduction efforts, many other agencies need to play major roles in reducing emissions from transportation, land use, water projects, electricity, solid waste, forestry, agriculture, government facilities and other sources. California's government should have a united and coordinated approach to curbing global warming. For example, when the California Transportation Commission allocates funds for transportation projects, and when the Department of Water Resources plans water projects, they should assure that those projects reduce, rather than worsen, global

warming pollution.

The majority of the required cuts in pollution should come from performance standards that directly reduce emissions by forcing automakers to make cars that pollute less and use less gasoline, requiring oil companies to make cleaner gasoline, and making electric utilities acquire one-third of their power from clean energy sources. These measures will make California's air healthier to breathe at the same time as they help curb global warming. ARB's plan also should provide incentives for smart growth, so people can spend more time with their families and less in their vehicles.

Furthermore, polluters should have to pay for the privilege of emitting waste gases into our atmosphere. Revenue raised from the major polluters should be used to promote clean energy and public transit, reduce energy costs of low-income consumers, protect natural resources, and support skills training for green jobs.

The task is large and the stakes are high, but finding the right solutions to global warming can improve our quality of life.

- published in Capitol Weekly,
May 29, 2008



July 30 - Aug. 3: Cool Summit & Sustainability Conference in SLO

Sierra Club California's Energy-Climate Committee is planning a statewide "Cool Cities" summit for the end of July at Rancho El Chorro in San Luis Obispo.

"Cool Cities" is a Sierra Club campaign begun in 2005 that empowers city residents and local leaders to join the hundreds of municipalities that have made a commitment to stopping global warming by signing the U.S. Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement, then encourage their cities to implement smart energy solutions to save money and build a cleaner future.

The July 30 training will be organized largely by the new Cal Poly chapter of the Sierra Student Coalition, and is scheduled for the day before the start of the July 31-Aug 3 Sustainability Conference at Cal Poly (<http://sustainability.calpoly.edu/>). The 7th annual conference will bring together an estimated 1,000+ students, staff, faculty and administrators from around the state to explore the ways in which we can implement social, environmental, and economic sustainability in campus practice, policies and contemporary culture.

We urge every Sierra Club chapter to send a delegation to the July 30 training at Ranch El Chorro, and to register for the Cal Poly conference afterward.

The July 31-August 3 Conference program will provide inspiring keynote speakers, concurrent educational track sessions (panel presentations and interactive micro-workshops) and a poster session and exhibit, as well as on campus tours and field trips to sustainable sites in the region. Pre- and post-conference events will include workshops and a student sustainability convergence on the final day of the conference. An exhibit hall will showcase products and services for sustainable campuses. The goal of the event is to ensure that you will take away ideas and information

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A Future in Training



A future dialog: James Souza, Kate Lancaster, Barbara Bell, Janice Fong Wolf and Ken Smokoska.

Why are the Apollo Alliance, the Blue Green Alliance, Environment California and the Sierra Club all touting Green Jobs? Because Green Jobs provide a triple bottom line payback to the community in economic, environmental and social benefits.

On June 6, Santa Lucia Chapter Community Development Coordinator Ken Smokoska sat down with the San Luis Obispo Community Foundation's Director of Programs Janice Fong Wolf; Cal Poly professor Kate Lancaster; James Souza, Superintendent of the Santa Lucia Regional Occupational Program; Cal Poly Dean of Education Dr. Bonnie Konopak; Barbara Bell of the Community Foundation and network administrator Zach Stowasser at our SLO HQ to discuss the potential for a green trade technical high school curriculum for disadvantaged young people in the county.

Our future solar panel installers, wind turbine operators and green building tradesmen could come from the ranks of foster care, via innovative

curriculum and training programs that assist youth with the successful transition to independent living through sustainability. A local Trade Tech program in Vista, CA, will open this fall, with 100 freshman students accepted in its first year, growing to a maximum of 400 students in grades 9 to 12. Any student entering the ninth grade is eligible to apply; selection will occur by a public lottery.

Participants at the working lunch also discussed the possibility of linking a trade tech sustainability curriculum through a multi-disciplinary approach in California's K-12, community college and CSU systems.

Interested in helping with a Chapter Task Force to bring trade tech to San Luis Obispo County? Give us a ring at (805) 543-8717 or email ksmokoska@hotmail.com.

For more on Green Jobs, check out: www.greenforall.org and www.bluegreenalliance.org

For models of local trade tech programs, go to: www.tradetechhigh.org/index.htm and www.ssbx.org/.

Litigation Update

Cayucos Viewshed

Sierra Club v. County of San Luis Obispo continues to jam a stick in the jaws of the worse-than-nothing Cayucos Viewshed ordinance. Our legal encumbrance has blocked the flood of land sales, permit requests and automatic approvals for ridgetop starter castles that otherwise would have burst forth to take advantage of the sweetheart deal the (outgoing) majority on the County Board of Supervisors tried to hand to their supporters. A Case Management Conference is scheduled for July 8 before the Hon. Teresa Estrada-Mullaney, the third judge to have been assigned to the case since we filed it in January. The County has until July 30 to file a response to our petition and complaint.

Oceano Dunes

The parties to the lawsuits *Friends of Oceano Dunes v. the County of San Luis Obispo* and *Sierra Club v. the*



California Department of Parks have agreed to a mediation session on July 7 and 8.

The two lawsuits focus on the same issue, with diametrically opposed conclusions. The Sierra Club seeks to compel State Parks to acknowledge and abide by the Local Coastal Plan, which designates County land in the Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recre-

ation Area as a buffer between the riding area and the Dunes Preserve. The FoOD lawsuit against the County essentially argues the opposite, saying that clashing policies between the LCP, the Coastal Development Permit for the ODSVRA and State Parks' General Management Plan should be resolved in favor of the continuation of off-road vehicle use on County land and the approval of sale of that land to State Parks, which currently leases from the County.

The purpose of legal mediation is to see if all parties can generate possible options that would resolve part or all of a dispute and better serve the interests of the parties than proceeding with litigation.

Gary Friedman, a mediation law specialist from Mill Valley, was found suitable by all parties to conduct the two-day session.



Konstantinos Stampoulis

There's the Fire

Just before noon on June 12, the Forest Service called our office. It was the day of the Hunter Liggett fire. The fire was heading for King City. They wanted to know if they could get 100 copies of the "Trail Guide to Los Padres National Forest - Northern Section" shipped overnight for the fire fighters.

While we feature the Los Padres Guide on our Chapter's website, where the Forest Service saw it, it is a publication of the Ventana Chapter of in Monterey. We don't have copies on hand here.

Santa Lucia Chapter Community Development Coordinator Ken Smokoska and Chapter Director Andrew Christie started making calls and leaving messages at every Ventana Chapter number they could find, as well as the Ventana Wilderness Alliance, Los Padres Forest Watch and Central Coast Books. Within half an hour, they had tracked down Ventana Chapter Chair Rita Dalessio and put her in touch with the Forest Service.

"The Ventana Chapter was honored to be able to donate 100 trail guides and maps to help the firefighters with this devastating fire," said Dalessio. "I delivered them that afternoon to the Salinas staging area and the Forest Service had them that evening."

Nice teamwork.

Solar Power Siting Issues Come to SLO

On July 9, the feds want to hear what you think

A Solar Energy Development Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) is being prepared for Arizona, California, Colorado, New Mexico, Nevada and Utah to govern the siting of solar power facilities on public lands.

Due to increasing local interest, a scoping meeting has been scheduled for San Luis Obispo at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, July 9. Venue not determined by press time.

Visit the "Public Scoping Meetings" page of the Solar Energy Development PEIS Web Site at: <http://solareis.anl.gov/involve/pubschedule/index.cfm>. Times and locations of the public meetings will be announced via the local media and the Web page.


The pre-registration period closes at 4:00 p.m. Central Time on July 9. If you do not pre-register, you may register at the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

For more information, contact the Solar Energy Development PEIS Webmaster at solareiswebmaster@anl.gov




Fernando Tomás

If you want to change this...




back into this:




Oceano Dunes

If you want to save this...



Cayucos Viewshed

from this:



...then you need to support us.

**Help save the Oceano Dunes and the Cayucos Viewshed:
Fund the Sierra Club's public interest litigation**

The Sierra Club is suing the State of California to establish a vehicle-free buffer area in the Oceano Dunes, as was promised twenty years ago in our Local Coastal Plan. We are suing the County of San Luis Obispo to fix a non-protective "viewshed protection" ordinance written by special interests that opens up the Cayucos Viewshed to regulation-free development. Litigation requires a significant outlay of funds. Please donate at the highest level you can. **Your donation is tax-deductible.**

Thank you, Sierra Club! Please put my tax-deductible donation to work on your conservation campaigns and making sure the courts work for us to secure the natural habitat and scenic values of these special places for future generations!

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Make your check out *exactly* to: **TSCF SLO Land Preservation Fund**

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Because funds from the SLO Land Preservation Fund go directly to the Santa Lucia Chapter's conservation campaigns and public interest litigation, your donation to the Fund is tax-deductible.

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Is Light Rail at the End of the Tunnel?

By Eric Greening

This article grew out of a response to a citizen asking why we haven't yet built a light rail system connecting our county's cities.

Most of us wrestling with local transportation issues (I represent the 5th District on the Citizens' Transportation Advisory Committee) are keenly aware that the single-occupant vehicle model is not sustainable even if the vehicles are powered by pure, sustainable angel dust, because the rapid increase in vehicle miles traveled creates increasing congestion, and the projects to increase road capacity to catch up with that congestion are increasingly expensive and ecologically overwhelming. (Just the amount of streambed that is dug up each year for road base is an enormous ecological affront!) We have long struggled with scenarios for viable light rail, and have so far not found the right population density in this area to support such a system. If local travel habits change dramatically, with a major shift from cars to transit, the population density needed to make a light rail system viable shrinks proportionally.

The opportunity that is presently arising for reconsideration of this possibility is the update of our Regional Transportation Plan, being undertaken through our Council of Governments. This effort, a major update rather than a minor tweaking, is just getting underway, and we welcome your participation as a citizen.

If a light rail system were to operate in our county, there are several possible models. One would follow, or occupy the median of, Highway 101. It would represent new construction. The capital costs of a new system, the inadequate median width in several stretches (including the entire Cuesta Grade), and the so-far lack of likelihood of sufficient ridership to amortize construction costs, have so far discouraged implementation.

Another possibility would be to use the existing Union Pacific tracks. This would avoid the need to invent a new system, and has the advantage of being able to include Santa Maria by the existing spur line from Guadalupe, but has the disadvantage of being very slow and circuitous over the Grade, and of being single-tracked, with inadequate sidings. It would be impossible to run a local service with any reasonable frequency without extensive double-tracking (at least where rights of way and the lack of narrow tunnels might permit), as there are so few places where conveyances traveling in different directions can get past each other, as well as freight and Amtrak traffic that share the line.

The rail bond we will likely see on the November ballot would, as currently written, be no help. It would create an entirely new high-speed system that would miss the Central Coast entirely, and unlike past rail bonds, there is nothing in it to create regional equity in spending. High-speed rail is intended not to provide local service (stops will be minimal), but to compete with our oversaturated air routes between metropolitan areas. Although a good idea in the abstract, I personally am reluctant to support it, because we are already up to our ears in debt and every new bond issue approved costs approximately double the value with interest, and cuts a chunk out of the next

Andrew Ciscel



The ideal: Minneapolis Metro Transit light rail, and a personal transit unit.

thirty years of state budgets, affecting the operating revenue that can keep transit going.

For now, our current transit operations involve good old-fashioned buses. And the current funding of our existing bus-based transit system is under assault. The main local source is the TDA or Transportation Development Act, 1/4 cent of locally collected sales tax. The Cities of San Luis Obispo and Morro Bay are the only cities that follow the legislative intent and use all applicable TDA for transit operations. The County and other cities use a loophole in the law to divert approximately half to roads, even though there are other sources for roads (gas tax subventions, etc.) In the current recession, TDA could suffer from reduced sales tax collections.

Meanwhile, the main state source is state transit assistance (STA). While the Governor's January budget would have sent \$3 million of STA into our county, the May revision raids this fund statewide; the effect on our county would be to reduce our share of STA to only \$1.3 million. We need to loudly and resolutely object to this raid. A governor who sees public transit as an easy mark for raiding while continuing to subsidize the single-occupant auto by stubbornly refusing to reverse his decision to cut vehicle license fees has no right to pose as

environmentally conscious.

So the big picture is discouraging, although we should see this as a call to action rather than despair. But let's get back to light rail, and end with one possibility close to home that may be worth further investigation. The Los Osos Valley Road corridor may be the best place in the county for a "pilot project" to test the worth of a region-wide light rail system. This 2-lane road connecting two major population centers is more and more congested, and funding for the huge expense of widening it is nowhere on the horizon. If we can find light rail options that are considerably more economical (even taking ongoing operations into account), Congresswoman Capps may be able to find some source of Federal "pilot project" type funding to get it going. Then, if enough people would ride it, we could demonstrate its worth and extend the idea county-wide.

If the auto age doesn't collapse of its own weight, we will, in a decade or two, reach a point of traffic saturation on Highway 101. At that point, we will face almost insurmountable costs if we want to 6-lane it. If light rail has, in a smaller "pilot project," been demonstrated as a more frugal local option, then there is a chance for implementation, but it won't be cheap or easy. It may be provable

that it is still cheaper and easier than laying and maintaining acres and acres more pavement.

A rail line can move far more people than a similar width of highway. In order for this capacity to be a meaningful criterion for approval, we just have to get to the point where enough people are ready to use it.

Get involved in our Regional Transportation Plan Update. It is not worth doing unless it includes some genuinely new thinking.

Hold that Line!

continued from page 2

bore the telling distinction of not actually being Ovitt. A 5-term incumbent doesn't get blasted out of office by a nearly 2-to-1 margin just because the other guy focused on absentee voters. Message sent: *We've had enough of what this man is selling.*

Overall, election night provided the verdict on cash vs. people. The people spoke. The forces of Engulf & Devour



Election night: Supervisor-elect Adam Hill.

stumbled and fell with a mighty thud. Jim Patterson, Adam Hill and smart growth won. Citizen action still works.

But with six months until the buzzer sounds, the big developers and the land speculators know they still have a shot with unsustainable projects now in the pipeline before the all-you-can-grab buffet closes. (See our front page.)

Come the new year, we can actually start putting real solutions in place for real problems, turn lip service paid to "sustainability" into the real deal. Until then, opportunities for mischief abound every other Thursday at the Planning Commission, and every Tuesday at the Board of Supervisors. You, dear citizen, must make the effort to weigh in, be present when need be, and stick some of your fingers in the dike. When the A-Team finally hits the field next year, we don't want them to have to spend a year or more cleaning up even more of a mess the losers made. That's grunt work. We want the field clear for the real work that lies ahead, and that's fun work: Securing a livable future, ending waste, and turning right-side up that which has long been stood upon its head. We must start the job of bringing about the real abundance that comes when the economy is correctly positioned in service of, and subservient to, the environment — a clean, healthy, functioning environment — and not the other way around.

That will be then. This is now. Stay sharp.

Fair Trade Day

In honor of World Fair Trade Day, May 10, an estimated 50,000 people in 70 countries took time out to participate in events and celebrations promoting the right to an equitable and just livelihood. In addition, more than 12,000 people around the country participated in a coordinated Fair

Trade Coffee break, a new world's record!

In our neck of the woods, the SLO Fair Trade Coalition, with an assist from the Santa Lucia Chapter, prevailed on the County Board of Supervisors to officially proclaim May 10 Fair Trade Day in SLO County.

With over 200 celebrations in the U.S. alone, this year's World Fair Trade Day was the largest fair trade celebration in American history.

Thanks to everyone who participated in local events, bought fair trade products or just spread the word about the benefits of fair trade.

For more details about World Fair Trade Day 2008, visit the Fair Trade Resource Network's website, www.fairtraderesource.org/wftd-08/.



Chapter's 40th Birthday Bash Raises Spirits, Cash

photos: Steven Marx and Andrew Christie



By Karen Merriam, Chapter Chair

Now that's what we call a party.

All the Santa Lucia Chapter's annual awards banquet fundraisers have been memorable, this year's May 31 edition at Temple Beth David, marking our fortieth year on the Central Coast, was pretty special.

The venue was perfect, all the table settings were lovely, the food fantastic, the music was upbeat and hit just the right note, the silent auction was very successful, Chef Noah Smukler outdid himself, we had plenty of wine, and wonderful people helping us in every aspect of the event. I think we even made money.

Many thanks to our keynote speakers, U.S. Representatives **Lois Capps** (D-23rd) and **Jerry McNerney** (D-11th), and to our Very Special Guests: Assemblymember **Pedro Nava** (D-Santa Barbara), SLO Mayor **Dave Romero**, SLO City Councilwoman **Christine Mulholland**, County Supervisor **Jim Patterson**, and County Supervisor-elect **Adam Hill**.

Special thanks to:
 Congregation Beth David and Rabbi Norman Mendel & staff
 Café Roma
 The Rizzo Family
 Wild Horse Vineyards
 Pasolivo Olives
 Clay Thompson & Fredericka Churchill
 Claiborne & Churchill Winery
 Tolosa Winery
 Robert Schiebelhut
 Castoro Cellars
 Bimmer Udsen
 Carmody McKnight
 Gary Conway

Rinconada Dairy
 James & Christine Maguire
 SweetEarth Organic Chocolates
 Joanne Currie
 Scott Secrest
 Natural Investments LLC
 SLO Morning Kiwanis
 Central Coast Kayaks
 Albert's Florist
 Pandora Nash
 Cayucos Land Conservancy
 Jeri and Lee Bidell
 Verona ReBow
 Helianthe Stevig
 Linda Rollison
 Steven and Jan Marx
 Frog Palace
 Ocean Breeze
 Sycamore Springs

our Event Planning Team:

John Ashbaugh
 Shaba Mohseni
 Patricia Duron
 Rosemary Wilvert
 Rose Marie Shapley
 Marcia Alter
 Noah & Laura Smukler

and last but not least:
 Jennifer Cooper of Rep. Capps' office
 Bryan Bowers, SLO Graphic Arts

Andrew Christie, Chapter Director
 Ken Smokoska, Chapter Community Development Coordinator
 ...and my fellow members of the Executive Committee!

It felt to me that the fruition of a lot

of hard work of these past years -- the work of building community, creating a positive, solutions-driven vision for our Chapter and for the central coast -- was affirmed that night. What a swell party that was!



Chapter Treasurer Steven Marx (right) conveyed all our thanks to Representative Jerry McNerney, the man who unseated environmental enemy Richard Pombo in the upset election win of 2006.

Volunteers Bring Top-Notch Service to 40th Birthday Banquet

By Shaba Mohseni, Volunteer Coordinator

The path to an outstanding event can be an arduous one, but not when it's the Sierra Club's Santa Lucia Chapter, and specifically the group of volunteers who comprised the setup, kitchen and cleanup crew at this year's Banquet. I want to extend a heartfelt thanks to those smiling faces who answered the call to assist. Your help was invaluable in making this event spectacular!

Our kitchen team, comprised of Jeffrey and Ariella Pienack, Alston Paff, and Andrew Christie, with a spontaneous pitch-in by Lucia Casalinouvo, worked with wonder-chefs Noah Smukler and Laura Lopez, carefully prepping ingredients and creating masterpiece spreads on each

table. Thank you to set-up and serving crew members Christie and John Cut-ter, Carol Singleton, Rachael Willey, and David Drake for dialing in the outstanding decor and ambiance and providing additional support throughout the dinner. We're grateful to Nita Kenyon and Abe Perlstein for bringing in fresh energy during tear-down and cleanup. We hope you had an enriching time with friends and peers, and we are indebted to

you for making this a better Chapter for all!



SLO Nuclear Activist Receives Congressional Recognition

Rep. Capps conveys thanks of Congress to Rochelle Becker

The highlight of the Sierra Club banquet was the moment when Grover Beach resident Rochelle Becker received both the Kathleen Goddard Jones Award, the highest honor bestowed by the Santa Lucia Chapter of the Sierra Club, and a Congressional certificate of special recognition from Representative Lois Capps honoring her work.

Becker was a guest at the banquet, unaware that she was to be named the recipient of the Chapter award and the Congressional certificate of recognition. A preview clip from David Weisman's forthcoming documentary *Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Nuclear Power *But Were Afraid to Ask*, produced for Becker's Alliance for Nuclear Responsibility and partly funded by the Santa Lucia Chapter, was shown preceding the award.

"All of Congress applauds you for your work," Capps told Becker on handing her a Congressional certificate "in recognition of outstanding

and invaluable service to the community."

Becker, in addition to her executive director duties with the Alliance for Nuclear Responsibility, heads the Santa Lucia Chapter's Diablo Canyon Task Force and is vice-chair of the Nuclear Power Task Force for the Sierra Club's national Radiation Committee. She received Sierra Club's 2007 Environmental Alliance Award last fall in San Francisco, where she shared honors with former Vice President Al Gore, in recognition of her capacity to build alliances and promote community understanding of the need to decommission nuclear power as part of our transition to a renewable domestic energy economy, one in which nuclear subsidies are redirected to energy efficiency and new technologies as part of the investment in a



Capps (right) on Becker: "Thank you for honoring Rochelle and letting me be a part of that."

smart energy policy. A former leader of San Luis Obispo Mothers for Peace, Becker founded

the Alliance for Nuclear Responsibility in January 2005 to address the economic issues around nuclear power.



Dear wonderful Sierra Club members,

Thank you so much for surprising me with the Kathleen Goddard Jones Award. What a privilege to be the recipient of this award for my work addressing the myriad of nuclear power challenges over the years at your 40th Anniversary celebration. Kathleen was a leader on nuclear/environmental impacts in our community, making this award very special for me.

The additional surprise of the tribute and award by Congresswoman Capps was heartwarming, and I will display both awards with pride in my home. The evening was perfect. I also thank you for putting me at the "political table." Of course, I took full advantage.

Since co-founding the Alliance for Nuclear Responsibility four years ago, I have had the honor to work closely with local, state and national Sierra Club members and staff, resulting in many successes and opening many doors. I have been proud to work with Sierra Club leaders in the drive to a clean, affordable and independent energy future. And I am so very proud of our local Chapter as leaders among leaders in protecting our earth.

I would like to invite representatives of the Santa Lucia Chapter's committees and the general membership to join a brain-storming session on next year's agenda for nuclear power issues. Please e-mail me at rochelle@a4nr.org if you're interested and we'll set up a day convenient for all.

Thank you again for your recognition and your friendship,
Rochelle Becker

In Muir's Footsteps

by Rosemary Wilvert, SLO Poet Laureate 2007, remembering the Sierra Club's founder on the occasion of the Santa Lucia Chapter's 40th Anniversary, May 31, 2008

If John Muir could hear our cry for disappearing places – rainforests, polar ice, viewsheds, sand dunes –

he could believe his heart-breaking defeat, the damming of Tuolumne River, might be undone.

Muir lives as long as one person sees no interest too moneyed, no regime too entrenched to challenge,

no mistake too set in concrete. Someday wanderers will again roam the glacier-carved valley Paiute Indians named *Hetch Hetchy* for the "wind in the grass."

Can we wait another century to see our schemes crumble or be crumbled, to say we're sorry

as the Tuolumne waits to reclaim its course with the wind and lichens and grass?

The window narrows on a shrinking world. We speak up in Muir's name and say *Enough*.



Some Awarded Evening

After naming Rochelle Becker the recipient of the Kathleen Goddard Jones Award, Chapter Chair Karen Merriam bestowed the Chapter's Star Award on longtime Club activists Cal and Letty French (right), an Environmental Hero award on SLO Coast Alliance President Eric Greening, the Unsung Hero Award on Bonnie Walters, and the Chapter Leaders Award on our Community Development Coordinator, Ken Smokoska

(below). Finally, the Chapter Executive Committee did the only thing that could stop her, crowning her with a surprise Laurel of Leadership (right) and leaving her (almost) speechless.



Above & Beyond

Ken Smokoska received the Chapter Leaders Award (left) in recognition of his unfailing energy, reliability, and ubiquitous presence throughout the community, his vast scope of knowledge on renewable energy issues, and his dedication to that cause.

Environmental Hero Award winner Eric Greening, "the sixth Supervisor" on the County Board of Supervisors, represents all the districts of the County, and speaks on behalf of the health and integrity of our human and natural resources. He champions

those whose voices get lost in the clamor of politics and bureaucracy, and his influence on public policy in the County is profound.

Unsung Hero Award winner Bonnie Walters is always there, lugging around the heavy boxes, never complaining, but ready to share her great love for the natural environment, as handsomely presented in the Club books and calendars she sells on our behalf, ensuring a constant flow of revenue for our campaigns.



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Looking Good, Los Osos

On May 23, representatives of the local chapters of Surfrider and Sierra Club met with County Public Works staff helping Los Osos Waste Water Treatment Project, executives and engineers with the Wallace Group, and legendary wastewater treatment designer and inventor Jonathan Todd. The Wallace Group hosted the meeting at their SLO headquarters.

The wide-ranging discussion included the potential of ponding systems for Los Osos (*not* the type that failed to gain approval ten years ago when the Los Osos CSD put all its eggs in that basket, which would have consumed sixty acres of Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Area and likely never have passed muster with the California Coastal Commission), the use of constructed wetlands for the disposal stream — with the vast ma-

majority of the flow going to re-use, not disposal — and alternative energy demonstration projects for biodiesel, algae production, etc. Todd expressed interest in serving the project as a consultant.

The Los Osos Wastewater Project team made it clear that they are intent on fielding proposals on all options before preparing the Environmental Impact Report, and “let the EIR drive the selection,” as Public Works Director Paavo Ogren put it. We couldn’t agree more.

Things are looking good for a Los Osos sewer; sooner rather than later, and better — addressing both treatment and recycling — than anything that was ever on the table over the long, long course of the sewer wars. After it’s done, we may find out that some things are worth waiting for.



Clockwise: John Waddell and Mark Hutchinson of County Public Works, Wallace Group civil engineer Cheryl Lenhardt, LOWWP team leader Paavo Ogren, Jonathan Todd of Todd Ecological and Rob Miller of the Wallace Group.

...and sounding good

The San Luis Bay Chapter of Surfrider worked with the Santa Lucia Chapter of the Sierra Club and citizens of Los Osos to prepare documents submitted to the SLO County Board of Supervisors and the LOWWP Project Team at the May 6 meeting of the Board of Supervisors. The documents reinforce the importance of sustainability principles reviewed during the EIR scoping process and throughout the development of the LOWWP.

“[Public Works Director] Paavo Ogren said it was the most productive presentation of matters offered thus far for the whole Los Osos Waste Wa-

ter Project process,” said Dr. Mary Fullwood of Surfrider. “The Board and Staff all were so pleased and grateful for what everyone pulled together.” Supervisor Jim Patterson asked Surfrider to put the documents on the Web and let the County know so they can post a link.

and Sustainable Development Criteria/Guidelines are available at www.slosurfrider.org.

Following is the memo to the Los Osos Wastewater Project Team (abridged):

Subject: EIR Recommendations and Goals for a Sustainable LOWWP

Project Team:

We appreciate your decision early in the LOWWP process to make sustainability a chief goal with the following commitment stated in the project’s mission statement:

“To evaluate and develop a wastewater treatment system for Los Osos, in cooperation with the community water purveyors, to solve the Level III water resource shortage and groundwater pollution, in an environmentally sustainable and cost effective manner, while respecting community preferences and promoting participatory government, and addressing individual affordability challenges to the greatest extent possible.”

We commend your team and the Board of Supervisors for recognizing the reality that declining resources and other environmental pressures—locally, statewide, nationally, and worldwide—require that sustainability is the new development paradigm—and we congratulate you for taking a proactive, leadership role to ensure that present and future residents of our county enjoy a healthy environment and thriving economy.

The US Environmental Protection Agency Office of Research and Development has stated, “achieving sustainable environmental outcomes must be a long-term national environmental goal” (“Sustainability Research Strategy,” October 2007), and the California State Water Resources Control Board has declared sustainability a “core” value, defining it as “balancing environmental, economic and social factors in an equitable manner to maintain and protect the water resources needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own water resources needs” (SWRCB Meeting, Division of Financial Assistance, January 2005). In June 2006, the Board of Supervisors endorsed “Building Principles of Smart Growth,” adopting sustainable development principles, which balance “economics, the environment, and social equity (the three E’s) to create sustainable growth” (“Smart Growth Criteria for Development Projects,” SLO County Planning & Building, September 2006).

We encourage the Board to continue in this direction, emphasizing the 3E’s of sustainable development, Economy, Environment, and Equity, often referred to as the “Triple Bottom Line.” Consistent with this approach, we urge the Project Team to apply the criteria for sustainable development we’ve compiled, along with the American Planning Association (APA) guidelines for wastewater infrastructure (see Attachment #2). To maximize project outcomes, we suggest that Brandman Associates and the Project Team develop a sustainability matrix for evaluating and optimizing benefits to the environment, the economy, and the people.

...and sounding really good

Lake Tahoe-based Blue Turtle Seduction came back to SLO County on May 27, rocking the house at the SLO Down Pub in Arroyo Grande. As in two previous recent SLO appearances, the band and venue donated a portion of the proceeds to the Appropriate Technology campaign.

This is a campaign of the San Luis Bay Chapter of Surfrider, the Santa Lucia Chapter of the Sierra Club and SLO Green Build. Working together with local government agencies, we are seeking to educate the community on the importance of emerging tech-



Blue Turtle sez: “Go big or go home!”

nologies that will aid in sustainable development and green building in San Luis Obispo County, with an emphasis on wastewater treatment and water quality.

Cal Poly’s Organic Edge

By Cindy Douglas, Farm Manager and Anastasia Killham, Outreach Coordinator, Cal Poly Organic Farm

Mirroring a nationwide trend, organic and locally grown products are increasingly being requested by college students. Cal Poly is no exception. In a recent survey of high school seniors who will be going into agricultural colleges, organic agriculture was the number one major of interest. This is likely due to a greater eco-consciousness in young adults and an increased understanding of the impact that agriculture has on the environment. The next generation of farmers will need to know how to farm in congruence with nature through promoting biodiversity and conserving resources.

A walk through the Campus Market, a campus eatery and mini food mart, reveals a retail section devoted to organics. The Market now incorporates Cal Poly Organic Farm spring mix into their daily salad bar and student enrollment in the year-round vegetable program, offered by the Cal Poly Organic Farm, is on the rise. Of

course there’s room for improvement compared to universities like UC Berkeley, which now boasts a certified organic kitchen, or Duke and Yale, which offer cafes featuring locally grown ingredients.

The Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education sees colleges and universities at the center of the movement for sustainable development, stating in their 2006 Review of Campus Sustainability, “Campuses are laboratories that invent the future.... It is fitting, then, that colleges and universities are taking the lead in taking society to a sustainable future.”

Since 1989, the Cal Poly Organic Farm has been providing educational opportunities in sustainable and organic agriculture through an on-campus farm that serves as the center of a thriving network of producers and consumers. Over time, the

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Agents of Change

In deliberating on this year's recipients of their Agent of Change awards, the Empower Poly Board of Directors decided upon five individuals on the Cal Poly Campus and in the San Luis Community "who have shown a genuine passion in the realms of social, economic and environmental sustainability."

Two of this year's honorees were Cal Poly faculty member (and Santa Lucia Chapter Executive Committee member) Steven Marx and Santa Lucia Chapter Chair Karen Merriam.

The awards were presented at EPC's Agents of Change May 29 Gala at the Sandwich Factory in SLO, which also featured the premiere of the European Smart Energy Study Tour movie that the students put together in the course of our trek across northern Europe last spring.



Congratulations to our change agents, Steven Marx (back row, 2nd from left) and Karen Merriam (2nd row, 3rd from right).

Redefining the Rules and Roles of Environmental Politics

By Assemblyman Sam Blakeslee

The Legislature used to be a lonely place for environmental Republicans. Those of us who dared to vote for – or even worse, author bills - advancing clean energy, resource conservation and emissions reduction were typically shunned by our fellow Republicans and mistrusted by the Democrats. Once considered green renegades, a growing wave of environmentally-minded Republican Assemblymembers have banded together to lend our voices, and our votes, to the promotion of innovative policies that improve air and water quality, increase energy efficiency, and expand alternative energy while growing our economy.

As Chair of the newly created E3 (Energy, Environment and the Economy), an environmental caucus within the Republican caucus, I am working to increase collaboration among legislators, putting sound policy before partisan politics. This year, E3 has authored the following legislative proposals:

- ▶ **Green Chemicals in Schools** (AB 2808 Garcia): Encourages schools to replace dangerous cleaning supplies with non-toxic alternatives by the year 2012.
- ▶ **California Green Building Certification** (AB 2144 Smyth): Creates a California certification program to encourage sustainable building practices; allows local agencies to adopt standards of the state green building codes; establishes a less expensive alternative to the privately-managed LEEDs (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design ratings).
- ▶ **Green Entrepreneurs & Green Collar Jobs** (AB 2792 Blakeslee): Creates a new program within the California Conservation Corps that prepares participants for a career as a "green collar" skilled laborer.
- ▶ **California Sustainable Biofuel Certification** (AB 2790 Blakeslee): Creates a certification program to encourage the in-state sustainable



And Then We Partied

Thanks to a way too big jar of animal crackers and a license to party, matters threatened to veer out of control when the Empower Poly

Coalition's senior class members dropped by Sierra Club HQ after hours on Friday, June 13, to commemorate their graduation

Thankfully, order was eventually restored and we toasted the graduates, Agent of Change award winners Marx and Merriam, and a smashing year of collaboration between the Chapter and Poly's student activists, which also saw the establishment of the Sierra Student Coalition on campus.

The Empower Poly grads leave their organization in good hands: The hard-charging clean energy activists in the freshman, sophomore and junior classes.



production of biofuels as defined by a life-cycle analysis; allows biofuel feedstock growers and producers to certify their products with the special designation if they so choose.

Additionally, an important responsibility as Chair of E3 is to identify key environmental protection bills authored by Democrats around which Republicans can rally in support. E3 Legislators meet twice monthly to review bills under consideration for our support, working closely with the author's offices on amendments to strengthen the policy objectives.

The end of May marked the Assembly's house of origin deadline, when hundreds of bills move from the Assembly to the Senate. E3 used this opportunity to showcase our commitment to helping authors obtain the necessary votes to move their bills. In many cases, we did more than just vote in support of these bills – we spoke in support, lobbied other members and added our names as co-authors.

I will conclude by highlighting three tough votes on important environmental bills:

- ▼ **AB 1991** (Mullin): On the Assembly floor, I worked to block the passage of this bill that would set a dangerous precedent of waiving environmental law by enacting a special agreement between the City of Half Moon Bay and a private developer,

allowing the developer to proceed with plans to build on wetlands.

- ▼ **AB 1920** (Huffman): I supported this bill to require utilities to purchase excess electricity from small-scale solar and wind systems. This bill will provide additional incentives for persons to invest in renewable energy technology and to avoid wasting electricity so as not to give it back to the utility for free.

- ▼ **AB 1879** (Feuer): Despite significant industry opposition, I supported and am working closely with the author on this bill that will improve the health and safety of Californians by allowing the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) to control toxic substances in the consumer products that we come into contact with on a daily basis.

I will continue working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to protect our environment while strengthening our economy, creating jobs, capitalizing on advanced technologies, and reducing market barriers.

You can view the environmental voting records of California's legislators at www.sierraclubcalifornia.org

The Sierra Club encourages all Republican California Assemblymembers to bring their environmental voting scores up to the level of any Democratic Assemblymember.

Cool Cities

continued from page 3

to be able to immediately implement the sustainability practices and concepts that you learn at the conference as you return to your community.

Of special note will be the Student Convergence hosted by the Empower Poly Coalition and our local Sierra Student Coalition. These students are our community's leaders for climate change solutions. They were the organizers of Cal Poly's Focus The Nation on January 31, 2008 (<http://focus.thenationslo.pbwiki.com>).

"Our community is thankful to the 5,000 students, faculty, staff and community members who participated in Focus the Nation," said Sierra Club California Energy/Climate Committee co-chair Ken Smokoska. "Now that we've learned many different solutions to global climate change, let's make it happen."

One thing you can do to combat global warming right now is to sign-up at www.coolcities.us/slo/.

We Do PayPal!

The Santa Lucia Chapter has plunged headlong into the 21st century and made it possible for you to donate to us electronically, 24 hours a day, without even asking you (but we will keep asking you). Go to www.santalucia.sierraclub.org and look for the friendly orange button.



Climate Action Starts Here

With grant funding from the County Air Pollution Control District and the national Sierra Club, the Chapter is initiating a campaign to sign up all seven cities and the County to undertake inventories of the green house gases emitted by municipal operations and assemble action plans that will reduce those emissions to 7 percent below 1990 levels by 2012, then cut current levels by 50 percent by 2025, and 80 percent by 2050.

The Sierra Club, working with the Empower Poly Coalition, will assemble Climate Action Groups and other local volunteers and coordinate training on emissions inventory software provided by the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI). The APCD will subsequently help underwrite cities' implementation plans.

The Sierra Club is also providing funding for the effort due to the program's alignment with the priorities of our Cool Cities program, which has enrolled hundreds of cities across America in the project of finding smart energy solutions that reduce carbon emissions, lower energy bills, save taxpayer dollars and protect the environment.

"Finding out what your emissions are is the first step toward everything



Polly Mertens and Santa Lucia Chapter Community Development Coordinator Ken Smokoska display the results of an hour and a half of Saturday afternoon brain-storming at the Sierra Club office on June 7, an informal get-together of citizens interested in participating in the Climate Action Program that the Santa Lucia Chapter has undertaken with aid of the County Air Pollution Control District.

else," said Ken Smokoska, who is also co-chair of Sierra Club California's Energy/Climate Committee. "Targeting cuts and implementing programs to hit those targets means reducing waste, cutting city electric bills and operating costs, attracting and

incentivizing green jobs and building a green energy economy: It's all good. Cities are already asking to sign up for the SLO Climate Action Program before we've even put together the teams to formally go out and pitch the program to them."

Moonlit Nights at Clair Tappaan Lodge

Hikes, auction, food and fun at 4th annual Clair Tappaan Lodge fundraising weekend

By Olivia Diaz

Watching a full moon rise over the shadows of pine trees at 7,000 feet is worth the drive. Join us August 15-17 at the Clair Tappaan Lodge for the August Fund Raiser and take a hike under the light of the full moon. This year our astronomical theme will be the moon, including a talk on fascinating aspects of the moon by Dr. Paul Guttman.

We will follow the same formula of the previous three successful August Fund Raisers – live music, hikes with a theme, an outdoor silent auction in the yard on Saturday afternoon with a wine and cheese reception, a wild fish dinner on Saturday night and a raffle for a Peak Adventures rafting trip. All proceeds will go to help the Lodge meet the September 30 deadline to break even. Help keep this historic lodge part of the Sierra Club.

So far, we have Don Rivenes for a bird walk, Sue Graf for a native plants hike, Jeri Merrit for a Summit Lake hike/swim. Won't you join us, starting Friday, August 15, until Sunday noon to enjoy a summer weekend, the

air perfumed with warm pine tree resin and the sunshine and breezes, at Donner Pass? For \$150 per adult, you can enjoy the lodge all weekend, six meals, a wine and cheese reception, listen to live music and a lecture on the moon in addition to contributing to the well being of the Lodge.

On Saturday afternoon there will be a Silent Auction with items gathered from the region, and themed hikes on Saturday and Sunday. Throughout the weekend there will be opportunities to get to know each other.

There will be fees for one-day and for children. For details, click on: <http://motherlode.sierraclub.org/sierranevada/moon.html> Last year the Lodge filled up and we stopped taking reservations a week before the event, so don't wait too long to reserve your spot.

Hope to see you there. The Lodge is located at 19940 Donner Pass Road in Norden, CA. To make a reservation or to volunteer for the event, call the Lodge at (800) 679-6775 or (530) 426-3632.

owner for removing active nests from his trees in Pismo!

In 2007 I was arrested by the Pismo PD for trying to protect a heron nesting tree. The officer who arrested me knew nothing about the Migratory Bird Act. Now the Pismo PD has asked DFG to educate them about the wildlife laws. Pismo PD has also asked me to help them understand some of the more obscure federal regulations.

On July 4, 2007, I documented over 100 illegal fireworks displays in Shell Beach with photos and video. These displays scared the nesting peregrine

falcons and night herons off their nests and out of the area, for over five days. I also documented this with photos and movies. The babies left in the nests were eaten by crows and owls or starved to death. Concerned local residence complained to the police, Fire Department, DFG, USFWS and the Mayor. This year, the City raised the fine for using fireworks from \$600 to \$2,000 and has promised to step up enforcement. They are also printing a nice door hanger that volunteers will walk the neighborhood and give to each tenant. Once

Organic

continued from page 8

original 2-acre 'home site' has been utilized to demonstrate organic techniques that are appropriate for small farms and gardens. It was the first plot on campus to undergo the three year long organic certification process. There are now two additional blocks, totaling approximately eleven acres, which are also certified organic and demonstrate more commercial-scale agriculture.

The Cal Poly Organic Farm is *the* place to go for students interested in learning how to grow food more sustainably. Each quarter, students from a variety of majors learn by doing -- or growing, if you will -- how food is produced. They are likely to be introduced to as many as 25 different vegetable crops that are grown on the organic acreage.

Through the Community Supported Agriculture Program (CSA), a year-long vegetable subscription from the Farm, and the Organic Enterprise Course CRSC 203, students are introduced to practical hands-on knowledge about gardening and production agriculture. Students sow seeds, plant, transplant, weed, harvest, wash, pack and market food that is grown on the Farm. For many, these concepts and technical skills are entirely new.

Interest in organic agriculture is on the rise. Enrollment in the Organic Enterprise course hit an all-time high of 30 students for Spring '08 quarter. Typically there are between five and ten enterprise students per quarter.

School teachers, university professors and community groups are also coming to the Farm in increasing numbers with requests for guided tours and speakers. Event planners are incorporating CPOF produce into their event menus.

In the '07-08 school year, Farm staff, enterprise students and volunteers fed 300 households in the two seasons of the Farm's Community Supported Agriculture Program. CPOF's CSA members invest in the Farm at the start of a season to receive a weekly share of CPOF produce. Additional produce is purchased from a countywide network of Collaborative Growers.

Through ongoing communication, CPOF is able to supplement their shares with produce from other farms, resulting in a consistently diverse and abundant weekly share and a needed investment in the local agriculture economy.

The best way to support organic and sustainable agricultural education is by purchasing the Farm's produce through the year-round CSA Program or at the Thursday evening and Saturday morning San Luis Obispo Farmer's Markets.

For more information or to schedule a CPOF tour, call: 805-756-6139 visit: www.calpolyorgfarm.com, or e-mail: orgfarm@calpoly.edu.



Teddy Lovet

Even Pismo Can Change

By Terry Lilley, Save Our Seas

The City that worships Hummers, off road vehicles, car shows, hotels and concrete may just be making a slight shift toward environmental awakening.

For three years, I and other environmentalist have been complaining to the City about the lack of good, enforceable environmental policy. I have filed over 20 complaints of environmental abuse with the City, including over 300 photos and four full-length movies. This city has been run by developers and realtors, but now seems to have its ears open to hear from the wildlife-loving part of the community.

In the past, Pismo told land owners they could cut down their trees at will and this was common practice. The City failed to tell land owners that there may be colony nesting birds in the trees and it is a violation of state and federal law to remove them. One year ago, the City had never even heard of the Migratory Bird Act when I brought them copies!

Things have changed. The City is now well aware of these laws and they actively advise home owners about the need to check with DFG before cutting down old growth trees! This is a good shift in policy.

DFG and the USFWS for three years did not respond to my many complaints about heron nests being removed from the few remaining colony nesting sites in Pismo. With the help of the Sierra Club and the Coastal Commission, DFG now responds immediately to complaints called in about heron nests removal and DFG has filed charges against one land

someone actually gets a \$2,000 fine, I feel the illegal fireworks will stay in their boxes!

I am a very positive person and almost always I look at the bright side of an issue. The environmental problems in Pismo Beach are as large as the sand dunes that the four-wheel drivers tear up in their Hummers. I sometimes feel that tackling these problems is like trying to walk up the dunes on one leg, with cars zooming by at 40mph. I now feel that the cars are slowing down... and I and others are learning to walk faster!

Classifieds

Next issue deadline is **June 11**. To get a rate sheet or submit your ad and payment, contact:

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Recycle mercury containing Fluorescent Tubes and CFLs at county "Take Back" locations. See complete listing of locations at Integrated Waste Management (IWMA) links below
<http://www.iwma.com/>
<http://www.iwma.com/directory-aj/fluorescent%20tubes%20and%20bulbs.html>

bulbatatime@yahoo.com

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www.special-places.org
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San Luis Obispo, CA 93406
(805) 544-9096

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.

AWAKENING THE DREAMER SYMPOSIUM
PRESENTED BY THE PACHAMAMA ALLIANCE

Gain new insights into the ways we can shape and impact the direction of our world with our everyday choices and actions. Explore the link between environmental sustainability, spiritual fulfillment, and social justice.

Sunday, July 13
1:00-5:00 p.m.
Temple Beth David
San Luis Obispo
\$15 donation \$5 Students w/ I.D.
www.AwakeningTheDreamer.org
email: phelgewest@gmail.com

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E-MAIL: dave@helmholz.net

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NURSING HOME?

If you have loved ones in a nursing home or about to enter a nursing home – do not "spend down" their assets. Nearly **ALL** the assets of nursing home residents can be **SAVED**. Their care will remain the same. Nursing home residents have legal rights. Learn federal and state health insurance laws that work for the resident.

Law Offices of Geraldine E. Champion

805-473-4747
www.ca-elderlaw.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., July 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, 5:30 p.m. Informal Hikes. See website, or e-mail Gary Felsman for details. E-mail is located on the Website, www.santalucia.sierraclub.org

JULY 4th, 0930, OCEANO DUNES HIKE Meet at Melodrama in Oceano to hike levee via secret trail into remote dunes. Three-mile hike. Binos & Ref. Bks. (Sponsored by Elder Bill). Dog Owners be sure of location prior to bringing your pet. Call 929-3647 or <bdenneen@kcbx.net>.

Fri.-Sun., July 4-6, Schell Creek Backpack - Nevada: The 121,497-acre High Schells Wilderness was added to the National Wilderness System in December 2006. The Schell Creeks are one of the longest and highest ranges in the state. On this overnight backpack we'll cruise the crest line, including the two high points, North Schell Peak and South Schell Peak. Fairly strenuous, but there should be enough snow on the crest to replenish our water bottles. Possible day hike of Cleve Creek Baldy. To sign up, contact John Wilkinson, (408) 947-0858 or johnfw1@mac.com. CNRCC Wilderness Committee & Desert Committee.

Sat., July 5, 9:00 a.m. Hike Cruikshank Trail-Buckeye Trail-Villa Creek Camp. Join the leader on this moderate 6 mile hike in the southern Big Sur region. There is about 1600 ft of elevation gain. There are wonderful views of the coastline at the beginning and end of the hike. Lunch will be at Villa Creek



Oats Peak hike

Coffee House Activists

Wed., July 9, 16, 23, 6:00 p.m. Each Wednesday, at a different coffee house throughout the county, SLO Coffee House Activists meet to write letters to their national and local representatives to give voice to their opinions on issues ranging from health care, peace and security, environmental protection and campaign finance reform. 7/9, Jobella's Coffees, Templeton; 7/16 Nautical Bean, SLO; 7/23, Andreini's, Arroyo Grande. Contact slocohouse@gmail.com

Camp which is in a beautiful stand of redwoods. There is a possibility of ticks and poison oak. Bring water, lunch or snacks, and dress for the weather. Meet at the Washburn day use area of San Simeon State Park. There will be a refueling stop following the hike. For info, call Chuck at 441-7597.

JULY 6, 10:00 DANA ADOBE We'll meet to tour the grounds & creek followed at noon with the regular tour of the facility itself by Arron. Call 929-3647 or <bdenneen@kcbx.net> a few days before to confirm and for details. (Sponsored by Elder Bill)

July 13, 10 a.m., Maino Open Space, Pole Cats is dedicated to leading local Sierra Club day hikes and modeling effective techniques for using trekking poles. Join us on July 13, 10 AM for an easy hike on the **Maino Open Space** trail. The Maino Open Space trailhead is located off the Marsh Street onramp of southbound Highway 101. From downtown SLO take Higuera Street to the intersection with Marsh Street and proceed as if to take 101 South. Immediately after the freeway underpass, bear right into the parking lot. Contact David Georgi at polecatleader@gmail.com for upcoming activities. Biped welcome.

July 27, 10 a.m. Quarry Trail, Pole Cats is dedicated to leading local Sierra Club day hikes and modeling effective techniques for using trekking poles. Join us on July 27, 10 AM for an easy hike on the **Quarry Trail**. Meet at the Cabrillo Peak trailhead. From SLO, go 12 miles north on Hwy 1 to Los Osos/Baywood Park exit just before Morro Bay. Go south on Southbay Blvd. and drive .7 miles to the State Park entrance. Continue straight for .2 miles and look for the dirt parking lot on the left. It is easy to miss. Do not wait at the Live Oak trailhead, which is shortly after the Quarry trailhead. Contact David Georgi at polecatleader@gmail.com for upcoming activities. Biped welcome.

Sat., Aug. 2, 9:00 a.m. Hike Salmon Creek Trail to Estrella Camp.

Join the leader on this moderate 6.4 mile hike near Ragged Point. There is about 1500 ft. of elevation gain.

Summer is a good time to hike near the coast. This hike will feature Spruce Creek and Salmon Creek. There will be a lunch stop at Estrella Camp. There is a possibility of ticks and poison oak.

Bring water, lunch or snacks, and dress for the weather. Meet at the Washburn day use area of San Simeon State Park.

This is located north of Cambria and a short distance past the Hamlet Restaurant. There will be a refueling stop following the hike. For info, call Chuck at 441-7597.

Sat. - Mon., August 2-4, Backpack the High Toiyabe Range (S): This trip in central Nevada will explore the east side of the Toiyabe Range, crossing a 10,000-foot pass between the South Twin Creek and Jett Creek farther south. The canyons have water; temperatures should be comfortable; views east and west across the Great Basin spectacular. Using a car shuttle our trip will be one-way, starting at 6100 feet and with a total distance of 19 miles, some on trail and some cross-country. For more info contact leader: Craig Deutsche, deutsche@earthlink.net, (310-477-6670). CNRCC Desert Committee.

August 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 Sundays, 0930 NATURE HIKES in the Nipomo Area Call (929-3647) or e-mail <bdenneen@kcbx.net> a few days before for details. Sponsored by Elder Bill. (Dog Owners be sure of location prior to bringing your pet.)

Wed., August 6, 13, 20, 27, 5:30 p.m. Informal Hikes. See website, or e-mail Gary Felsman for details. E-mail is located on the Website.

Wed.-Sun., August 6-10, Mt. Moriah (12,067') - Central Nevada Backpack: Moderate, 24 miles rt, about 18 with backpacks. This little visited area on the north end of the Snake Range is about 5 hours north of Las Vegas. We will start at Hendry's Creek trailhead (6000'), and hike for two days along the creek through pine, aspen and fir to 10,000'. Day hike on third day to the Table and the peak. Next two days going out, distance on the last day is short, to allow for travel time home. If there is an active thunderstorm pattern at Mt. Moriah, an alternative trip to the Toiyabe Range is planned. Group limited to 15. David Hardy (e-mail preferred) hardyhikers@embarqmail.com or (702-875-4549).

Wed., August 6, 13, 20, 27, 5:30 p.m. Informal Hikes. See website, or e-mail Gary Felsman for details. E-mail is located on the Website.

August 10, 10 a.m. Islay Hill, Pole Cats leads local Sierra Club day hikes

Island Hopping in Channel Islands National Park

Sierra Club California Fundraising Cruises Scheduled for 2008

July 18-21; 4 islands (\$775)
August 23-27; September 13-17;
5 islands (\$925)

Explore the wild, windswept islands of Channel Island National Park. In spring the islands are ablaze with wildflowers. In summer, the pristine waters of the Marine Sanctuary entice swimmers, snorkelers and kayakers. All year long, enjoy unusual plants and flowers, seals and frolicking sea lions, sea and land birds.

All cruises depart from Santa Barbara aboard the 68' twin diesel *Turth*. Fee includes an assigned bunk, all meals, snacks, beverages, plus the services of a ranger/naturalist who will travel with us to lead hikes on each island and point out interesting features.

To make a reservation mail a \$100 check, payable to Sierra Club, to leader: Joan Jones Holtz, 11826 The Wye St.,

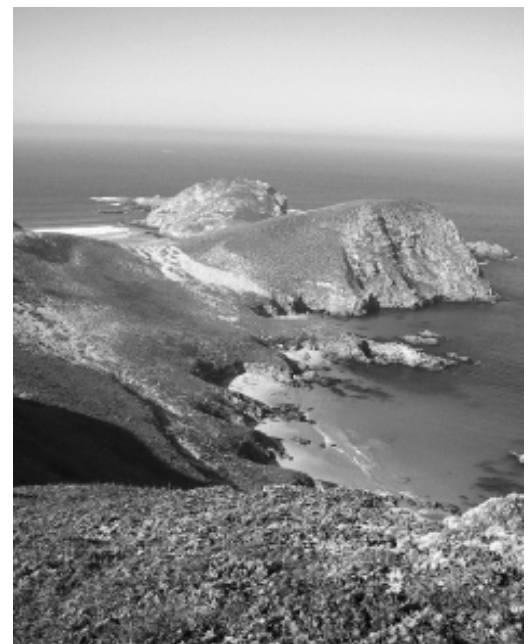


Photo by Joaquin Palting

and modeling effective techniques for using trekking poles. Join us on August 10, 10 AM, **Islay Hill Open Space** for an easy hike with spectacular views of Edna Valley to the south and *morros* to the north. From Broad, go east on Tank Farm, turn right on Wavertree, left on Spanish Oaks and veer right onto Sweetbay and park near cul de sac. Contact David Georgi at polecatleader@gmail.com for upcoming activities. Biped welcome.

August 24, 10 a.m. Maino Open Space, Pole Cats leads local Sierra Club day hikes and modeling effective techniques for using trekking poles. Join us on August 24, 10 AM for an easy hike on the **Maino Open Space** trail. The Maino Open Space trailhead is located off the Marsh Street onramp of southbound Highway 101. From downtown SLO take Higuera Street to the intersection with Marsh Street and proceed as if to take 101 South. Immediately after the freeway underpass, bear right into the parking lot. Contact David Georgi at polecatleader@gmail.com for upcoming activities. Biped welcome.

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.



El Monte, CA 91732. Contact leader for more information (626-443-0706; jholtzhln@aol.com)