



SIERRA
CLUB

April 2009
Volume 46 No. 4

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Atascadero

May 6

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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

Students Get Behind Clean Power

On April 18, a new conversation will begin

Power Shift 2009 brought over 12,000 young adults to Washington DC at the end of February to solve the climate crisis train, network and mobilize the youth vote at an unprecedented level. Through workshops, trainings, discussions, and rallies, Power Shift has united a generation around the defining issue of our time (www.powershift09.org).

The momentum that began in Power Shift 2007 (with Cal Poly leaders and Santa Lucia chapter interns Chad Worth, Nancy Cole and others in attendance), grew throughout the Power Vote campaign and is now ready to ignite Power Shift 2009.

The first 100 days of the new presi-



Energy Action Coalition: 50 groups, including the Sierra Student Coalition and Sierra Youth Coalition (Canada), have come together to run collaborative campaigns that help build the youth climate and energy movement and create tangible changes on the local, state, national and international levels.

dency and the 111th Congress will be a critical period for our elected officials to develop and consider policies that address the climate, energy and economic crises we face. The base of new leaders we are building through Power Vote, Energy Action Coalition and our Sierra Student Coalition (www.ssc.org) will make it clear that the solutions to climate change are the same as our solutions to energy and economic challenges. Young "climate voters" will demand the passage of bold, comprehensive climate and energy policies.

On April 18th, a ground-breaking conversation on America's energy future will begin. In congressional

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The Los Osos Sewer Needs Work

Massive project coming to Planning Commission April 23

The Coastal Development Permit for the Los Osos Wastewater Project will make its way to The Planning Commission on April 23 for approval. Before it gets there, the Commissioners should take some time to ponder the following issues:

Wasted water

The County is proposing an effluent "disposal" project at the Tonini Site, the potential treatment plant site furthest from town. The selection of the Tonini site – about ten times larger and five times more expensive than any of the other alternative sites — was driven by the fact that it

can accommodate spray fields for the disposal of effluent.

But should it?

California is in year three of a drought approaching biblical proportions. State water officials are calling for 20 percent cut in water use, twice the level of conservation called for in the LOWWP as alleged mitigation for the shut-off of septic flow to the aquifers. The Federal Bureau of Reclamation is unable to deliver irrigation water to more than 200 water districts in the Central Valley. Farmers have begun abandoning fields and destroying orchards. Reservoirs are at 35% of capacity. Los Osos' water supply is at Level of Severity III. It is against this backdrop that this project proposes to literally blow away treated wastewater in sprayfield disposal.

The solution to that problem is also the key to recharge of the aquifer, and the clearly superior means of effluent

disposal, and that is ag exchange – tertiary treated effluent made available to Los Osos Valley growers in exchange for reduced pumping of the lower aquifer.

Golden State Water Co. has already signaled their interest, commenting on the draft EIR: "If the water purveyors were to install tertiary treatment and look for recycled water users, how would they integrate with the County?"

In explaining the guidelines for the disbursement of its \$280 million in federal stimulus funds, the California Clean Water State Revolving Fund

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Sierra Club Photography Workshops Filling Up "Focus on the Environment"

Learn to communicate your passion for the natural world through still and video photography. The Santa Lucia Chapter of Sierra Club is offering a series of monthly workshops led by local professional photographers.

Photo-Painting with Paul McCloskey: May 16, 9:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. McCloskey considers himself "a digital alchemist." His "photo-painting" represents "a

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San Luis Obispo, CA 93406



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.

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.

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Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

north county
ENERGY TOWN HALL
 INTERACTIVE VISIONING WORKSHOP
SIERRA CLUB
 SANTA LUCIA CHAPTER
05.06.09
7PM-8:30PM
 PAVILION ON THE LAKE
 9315 PISMO AVENUE

Join us at Atascadero's Pavilion on the Lake for an interactive evening of dialog on the energy future of the North County, the shift to alternative clean power, and the new rules making it happen.

PG&E's Big Play: Foreign Fossil Fuel

By Rory Cox, California program director, Pacific Environment

While PG&E is asking customers to offset their greenhouse gas emissions with forest conservation by enrolling in the "Climate Smart" program, it is at the same time laying the groundwork for a project that will both raze forests and increase PG&E's carbon footprint. PG&E is a partner in a proposed pipeline project that will bring foreign natural gas into Northern California. If built, this will occur by using Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) technology. This enables natural gas to travel overseas by super-cooling the gas, at which point it becomes a liquid. Once liquefied, LNG may be transported overseas in specially built tankers, enabling the global trade in natural gas. Currently, there are no LNG import terminals on the West Coast of the U.S.

The LNG project includes an LNG import terminal that will be built on a sandy spit in Coos Bay, on the Southern Oregon Coast. Called the Jordan Cove Energy Project, the terminal will link to a new 230-mile gas pipeline, the Pacific Connector, that will move the imported natural gas across the Southern Cascades, connecting to an existing natural gas pipeline near the Oregon/California border. PG&E will own a large portion of the Pacific Connector, though neither the pipeline nor the terminal can exist without the other.

Oregon's former Secretary of State Bill Bradbury calls LNG a "giant step in the wrong direction" for a region

dedicated to fighting climate change. Here are some of the reasons why PG&E must drop their plans for this dangerous project.

The project will increase PG&E's greenhouse gas emissions: PG&E uses very little coal for electricity, and is highly dependent on natural gas from Canada and the U.S. Because LNG must go through an energy intensive process, and then get shipped thousands of miles overseas, it emits up to 25 percent more greenhouse gas emissions than domestic natural gas. Imported LNG will displace domestic natural gas, not coal, with this fuel

that has a higher carbon footprint, resulting in an increase in emissions. At the same time, PG&E is far behind on meeting the 20 percent renewable energy mandate required by state law by 2010. The Jordan Cove LNG project will cost hundreds of millions of dollars, money that could be invested in ramped up energy efficiency programs and renewable energy that will reduce our dependence on dirty energy sources.

LNG exports environmental problems and human rights violations. LNG will come from some of the world's most pristine, and unprotected, ecosystems. For instance, the largest LNG export facility in the world just opened on Sakhalin Island, Russia. This project has put at risk the critically endangered Western



Graaaaar! PG&E's gas project this way comes.

Change of Address?

Mail changes to:

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

Visit us on the Web!

www.santalucia.sierraclub.org

Outings, events, and more!

SANTA LUCIAN

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The *Santa Lucian* is published 10 times a year. Articles, environmental information and letters to the editor are welcome. The deadline for each issue is the 11th of the prior month.

send to:

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 COUNCIL OF CLUB LEADERS

The Executive Committee meets the third Friday of every month at 12:00 p.m. at the chapter office, located at 547-B Marsh St., San Luis Obispo. All members are welcome to attend.

Committee Chairs

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Annual Sierra Club Banquet

Mark your calendar for May 30

The Santa Lucia Chapter of the Sierra Club, in San Luis Obispo, our annual spring benefit & awards banquet on Saturday, May 30, at 6:30 pm.

The banquet will be held at the SLO Botanical Garden, on Highway 1 just west of San Luis Obispo, a showcase for sustainable architecture and landscape design. The dinner will provide local, organic foods and there will also be good music and fun.

The theme of this year's banquet is "Landscapes of Change." The intention is to highlight the Chapter's commitment to the health of our natural ecosystems as the basis for the political and economic changes that we face at this time.

We are pleased to have keynote speaker Michael Fitts from the Endangered Habitats League in San Diego to talk about EHL's innovative approach to environmental advocacy that captures the value of collaboration. He will be bringing us vision and breadth of experience from outside the SLO bubble that embodies the concept of the landscape of change we'll be celebrating.

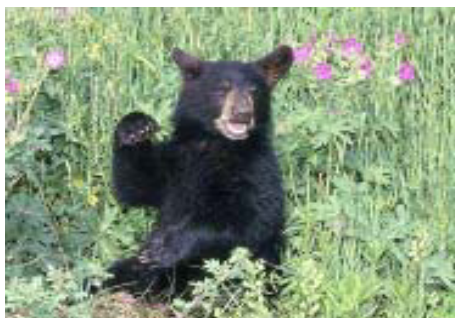
See our May issue for details.

Banquet Volunteers Wanted:

We need help with set-up, take-down, ticket taking, registration.... Your admission & dinner are free! Call Kim Ramos at 543-8717 or e-mail kimramos@yahoo.com.

When in Doubt, Shoot 'Em

Help Fish & Game re-think the SLO bear hunt



www.firstpeople.us

As it turns out, the California Department of Fish & Game's recent determination that there are enough black bears in SLO County to justify hunting them was a finger-in-the-wind kind of deal.

"Hunting of bears and other large mammals should be based on strong scientific data, not guesswork," says Jeff Kuyper, Executive Director of Los Padres ForestWatch. "We need to allow bears the freedom to roam in our local back country, and base decisions on their management only after gathering all of the scientific data needed to make an informed decision."

According to ForestWatch, Fish & Game's study involved hanging cans of fish from tree limbs, with monitors visiting the bait sites and recording signs of teeth marks or bear prints. While these studies indicate where bears are located, more detailed studies (such as radio telemetry, DNA analysis of hair or scat, or mark-recapture) were not performed, leaving biologists with no data to estimate the actual number of bears in the county.

The public comment deadline on the hunt proposal has been extended to April 20. Send your comments to: Wildlife Branch, Calif Dept. of Fish and Game, 1812 9th St., Sacramento, CA 95811. Email: wildlifestrategy@dfg.ca.gov; Fax: (916) 445-4048. Comments must include your name and mailing address.

Copies of the Negative Declaration may be reviewed online at: <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/news/pubnotice/docs/20090217-Bear-Regs-Neg-Dec.pdf>.

Check www.lpfw.org for updates.

presenting...

THE SHOES OF SHAME AWARD

An occasional feature recognizing our elected officials for the expression of outstandingly dubious sentiments in land use planning

And the shoe goes to...

County Supervisor Frank Mecham, for "Authorizing Changes to the Ag Cluster Ordinance."



"We heard over and over again from people who are actually involved in these and who have the opportunity to use this tool that it is a tool that you need to keep in the tool box. I didn't hear anybody speak against [ag clusters] that has the opportunity to do one. Anybody that is speaking against this does not have the opportunity to do one for whatever reason."

"There is talk about economics, that these are not an affordable housing opportunity. I disagree with that in one respect; that the ranch owner that may want to put his family on there could in a sense provide affordability from that standpoint."

- SLO County Board of Supervisors meeting, 2/17/09



Special delivery: Eight trashbags of donated shoes outside the Board of Supervisors' chambers on December 19, 2008, shortly before constituents delivered them to the dais to commemorate the Board majority's unforgivable vote to develop Santa Margarita Ranch.



Most worthy of note in Supervisor Mecham's defense of a defective land use measure that is plainly causing the county to lose agricultural land to development is the unassailable logic that people who profit mightily from a practice tend to be in favor of that practice regardless of the harms it does otherwise, and that their opinion on the matter should be given the same weight as the views of those who don't "have the opportunity" to engage in the practice -- i.e. the non land-rich.

Clinching the award: the Supervisor's idea that ag clusters are affordable housing. Using Mecham's logic, the Santa Margarita Ranch cluster could be providing affordable housing for 100 relatives of developers Rossi, Filiponi and Wittstrom. If they can afford it, then it must be affordable.

Have a shoe, Mr. Supervisor.

Support our local chapter



photo/Kern Kiser

We send out an appeal in March to each of our members, asking for contributions directly to our Chapter. These contributions really do make a difference to us, and are an important part of our Chapter's budget.

When you make a donation to the Chapter, you support the Sierra Club's work in your own backyard. You allow us to continue our work to protect wilderness and wildlife, to improve the quality of life in our cities, and to promote the enjoyment of nature.

Please be as generous as you are able—remember, these funds directly affect your way of life in your neighborhood.



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

NRDC Names Carrizo a BioGem

Each year, the Natural Resources Defense Council selects wild places across the Americas that face an imminent threat of destruction. There are now 13 BioGems, from the Alaskan Arctic to Chile, all of which sustain rare and extraordinary wildlife, from threatened polar bears to endangered gray whales to the giant kangaroo rat.

The last mentioned is a denizen of the 250,000-acre Carrizo Plain National Monument, the newest BioGem. This wildland is home to the greatest concentration of endangered species in California.

Despite its designation as a national monument, this pocket of Eden isn't safe from the ravages of oil and gas drilling. Vintage Production plans to explore for oil reserves in the plain, right through habitat for the endangered kit fox and other key species. The road building and drilling that accompany oil extraction would cause irreparable damage to the fragile plain.



Vintage has been responsible for nearly a dozen oil spills over the past few years, including one near the Sespe Condor Sanctuary. Opening this national monument to Big Oil could prove disastrous for the kit fox and other rare California wildlife.

NRDC's BioGems Defenders program helped turn back the Bush administration's repeated attempts to open Greater Yellowstone, Utah's Redrock Wilderness and Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to destructive oil and gas drilling.

San Luis Beautiful

Meet local **S.L.O.P.E. Artists** exhibiting their original landscapes

All sales help benefit The Land Conservancy of SLO County

Art at the Octagon Barn

Celebrating 25 years of local land conservation

Enjoy Bluegrass on Saturday by "Better Late Than Never" and **Classical Ensembles on Sunday** by Youth Symphony Principals

Join us for a weekend of fine art, music, history and local foods

May 2 & 3 at the Barn

www.LCSLO.org

for Tickets and Family Event Details (Children attend FREE)

Letters

send to: sierraclub8@gmail.com, or Sierra Club, P.O. Box 15755, San Luis Obispo, CA 93406. Letters may be edited for space.

CFL's: Not to worry

In response to the letter (March) claiming that compact fluorescent light bulbs can trigger voltage spikes up to 500 volts, potentially damaging other electronic equipment on the same circuit:

I looked at the voltage spikes from several common sources: incandescent, CFL, laptop battery charger, portable room fan (enclosed, not rotating), variac [variable transformer], and a laboratory-grade power analyzer. (Note: House power has a 170V peak; 120V is the RMS value or average voltage over time. Also many home devices are plugged into surge protectors, and many sensitive devices have a surge protector built in.)

Here's a summary:

CFL #1- MaxLite brand 15W: **100V spike**, damped sine wave with a 7 microsecond period (fairly new bulb).
 CFL #2 - Duro-Test 20W, made in Germany: **50-60V peak**, hash wave (garbagey), 200 nanosecond duration (older bulb).
 CFL #3 - Duro-Test 20W, made in Germany: **150 V peak**, hash wave, 200 nanosecond duration (older bulb).

CFL #4 - Ecospiral 23W, made in China: **50V spike**, damped sine wave, 10 microsecond period (new bulb).
 CFL #5 - Lights of America 23W, made in China: **50V spike**, damped sine wave, 8 microsecond period (new bulb).
 Incandescent bulb - General Electric 100W: **40V spike**, half-sine wave 300 nanoseconds.

Dell laptop battery charger - **50V peak**, hash wave, 100 ns duration.
 MacBook battery charger - **20V peak**, 400 ns duration.
 Square box summer fan - **50V peak**, .5 ms duration.
 Voltech power analyzer - **50V spike**, damped sine wave, 7 ms period.
 Variac - **180V peaks**, 300 ns duration
 Camera battery charger - **100V**, 100 ns duration.

With respect to voltage spikes, CFLs are often better than incandescents, and not a lot worse than common electrical devices.

Jessica Granderson, PhD
 Postdoctoral Fellow
 Environmental Energy Technologies Div.
 Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory

Speeding Toward Plug-in Vehicles

By Sherry Boschert, Sierra Club California Climate and Energy Committee

The mayors of San Francisco, Oakland, and San Jose have declared their intention to make the Bay Area the electric-vehicle capital of the United States and formed the Bay Area Regional Electric Vehicle Initiative.

Five new charging stations by Coulomb Technologies were installed in San Jose as a demonstration project. San Francisco took the next step, creating a Green Vehicles Showcase in front of City Hall with three more Coulomb chargers installed in record time. Seven city agencies and departments got all the approvals and scheduling done in a month.

The San Francisco chargers serve three converted plug-in Prius hybrids—one owned by the city, and two belonging to car-share services City CarShare and ZipCar. City CarShare also planned to add a second plug-in Prius conversion to its fleet in Berkeley.

The Bay Area Regional Electric Vehicle Initiative gathered major stakeholders for a productive half-day meeting on "Preparing the Bay Area for Plug-in Vehicles." The event drew around 100 representatives from the nine-county Bay Area including fleet managers, local and regional agencies and coordinating groups, utilities, companies, and non-profit organizations. Representatives from six major automakers attended: BMW, Ford, GM, Mercedes, Nissan, and Toyota. The initiative laid plans to create three working groups to generate policy and funding that will focus on government, the private sector, and advocacy.

San Francisco and the non-profit group Plug In America are planning a public Next-Car Expo, tentatively scheduled for the fall, to showcase plug-in vehicles now or soon to be on the market. (www.pluginamerica.org). Cities that want to get ready for the new generation of plug-in vehicles can access a new resource from the Rocky Mountain Institute, the esteemed non-profit organization known best for its work around energy efficiency. The Institute tapped the knowledge of major stakeholders and created Project Get Ready: (<http://projectgetready.com>), which features a dynamic menu of actions that communities can take to accelerate the shift to electric drive and includes the "business case" for each. The Project is partnering with Portland OR, Indianapolis IN, and Raleigh NC as demonstration sites, and hopes to attract 20 cities for regular discussions.

The federal economic stimulus bill includes major funding for all aspects of plug-in vehicles, including significant incentives to buy them. Consumers can get a \$2,500 to \$7,500 tax credit for buying vehicles equipped with 4- to 16-kilowatt hours of battery energy. The legislation expands the number of vehicles

eligible for the tax credits from 250,000 from the entire auto industry to 200,000 vehicles per manufacturer. At least eight car companies have announced plans to put plug-in vehicles on the road in the next few years, which could mean 1.6 million plug-in vehicles qualifying for the credits.

The stimulus bill also, for the first time, included smaller tax credits for consumers who purchase two- and three-wheeled plug-in vehicles (e.g. electric motorcycles or the three-wheeled Aptera), plug-in hybrid conversions, and neighborhood electric vehicles. Other funds in the bill will boost battery manufacturing, charging infrastructure, and more. Funds for plug-ins and related industries could potentially total \$1.4 billion.

The \$14.1 billion for plug-ins in the stimulus bill breaks down as follows:

- \$6 billion: loan guarantees for innovative technology
- \$2 billion: plug-in-vehicle tax credits
- \$2 billion: advanced-battery manufacturing grant
- \$1.7 billion: automobile-purchase sales-tax credits
- \$1.7 billion: advanced energy investment manufacturing tax credits
- \$400 million: deployment of vehicles and infrastructure
- \$300 million: federal purchase of high-efficiency vehicles
- \$54 million: alternative refueling property-tax credits
- \$10 million: loans for manufacturers of advanced-technology vehicles.

President Obama pledged during his campaign to put one million plug-in hybrids on the road by 2015. The efforts described above could lead to even more.

The main thing that's still missing is the cars. So far, major automakers have delivered only promises. The only plug-in vehicles available today are the high-end Tesla Roadster sports car, electric bikes, scooters, and motorcycles and low-speed neighborhood electric vehicles. All are good options, but they are not enough to make more than a tiny dent in the greenhouse gases coming out of America's vehicles.

For more information on plug-ins, including ways to encourage automakers to produce them, see: www.pluginamerica.org

Reprinted from The Yodeler, newsletter of the SF Bay Chapter.



Keeping Our Connection with Our Members

A dedicated cadre of volunteers from the Chapter will be calling every one of our 2,300 members at some point throughout the remainder of the year *just to say hello*. We will not ask you for your money or your time. We will be calling to let you know we are thinking of you, and we want to hear any praise, gripes, or great ideas you'd like to pass along to your Chapter staff and committee members.

We look forward to keeping our connection with you.



Karen Merriam

Karen Merriam, Chair
Executive Committee

FLEA MARKET to FINE ART FUNDRAISER and BARBEQUE

For the benefit of SAVE THE PARK, a non-profit that educates the public and fights to preserve wildlife habitat

Saturday, April 11, 2009, 10 a.m - 3 p.m.

RED BARN at Los Osos Community Park
2180 Palisades Ave. at Los Osos Valley Road

Live Music

\$10 TRI-TIP or \$5 VEGETARIAN HOT DOG
(Suggested donation)

For Information, call 772-5912

An Energy Task Force

Building on the Santa Lucia Chapter's "Cool Cities" campaign successes of the last three years, the Chapter has established an Energy Solutions Task Force to serve as a resource to the chapter, state, and national Sierra Club in formulating policy, best practices and educational programs related to energy and climate change.

The task force will assist the county of San Luis Obispo in meeting the mandates and opportunities provided by new state energy and emissions laws, develop a comprehensive plan to become carbon neutral, reach zero net energy, move away from dependence on fossil fuels, and localize renewable energy resources, production and use.

The task force has the following functions:

Identify all Sierra Club energy/climate change policies and initiatives at national, state and local level; survey state and federal laws and ordinances that directly affect SLO County energy policy and practices; survey SLO county energy policy and initiatives; and identify SLO county and municipal government entities, businesses, non-profit organizations, universities, colleges, schools, and others engaged directly or indirectly in formulating energy policy, implementing energy/climate change programs or action plans to benefit San Luis Obispo county.

The Task Force will also identify levels of integration of diverse county-wide energy/climate change efforts, identify gaps in current energy policy, programs & activities, and prepare documents that reflect these findings.

Community outreach, education & engagement efforts will include identification of energy/climate change education efforts underway and materials already available and

create new materials as needed, identify gaps in outreach, education and engagement at all levels, and identify tasks for citizen engagement and action.

A Brighter Idea

On March 4, in a meeting room at Margie's Diner in SLO, Bernie Kotlier told a roomful of electricians and electrical contractors what the future holds for them: A new green industrial revolution is underway, he said, and it's going to be an electrical revolution. You'll either be part of it, or you will fall by the wayside. And global warming, whether you believe in it or not, is driving this business



Opportunity knocks: Bernie Kotlier lays out the future for the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers at Margie's Diner

Photography

continued from page 1

convergence of today's digital photography/imaging technology with traditional printmaking and the fine art of plein-air painting...it's all about light." Learn the mystery and joy of bringing light to the images that capture your imagination. Cost: \$40.00

Photographing endangered animals, people and landscapes with Dave Garth:

June 13, 8:30 am – 10:30 am
www.davidgarth.net/cm/Home.html
When Dave Garth is not hard at work as the Executive Director of the SLO Chamber of Commerce, he's out in nature with his camera, at home and abroad. During recent years, Garth has focused on helping endangered animals and peoples of the third world. His animal and wilderness photographs have been taken in North America, Central America and Africa. His humanitarian photography has been associated with the work of Rotary International to improve the human condition of the world's most needy. Cost: \$40.00



How to get your video message onto YouTube with David Weisman:

July 25, 9:00 am – 12:00 noon. Use your video camera advocacy—and make sure that your audience can really see and hear your subject! Award-winning documentary film

maker David Weisman will offer a hands-on workshop in citizen video advocacy, so bring your camcorders, tripods, microphones, headphones and any accessories you have to learn how to better use them. If you don't have accessories, you'll learn how to turn ordinary household items into useful video tools. Cost: \$60.00

All workshops will take place at First American Title Company, community room, Pacific and Morro Streets, San Luis Obispo. Size of workshop is limited to 40 participants.

To Register call or email Linda Brownson Linda.sierraclub8@gmail.com 805-543-8717

To save your place, send your check, made payable to the Santa Lucia Chapter Sierra Club, to P.O. Box 15755, San Luis Obispo, CA 93406.

Coming this fall: Central Coast wildlife and coastal habitat photography with Cleve Nash – TBA.

Karen Merriam. "We will develop a Chapter plan for community outreach, education and engagement based on these findings."



promise to double the production of alternative energy in the next three years.

Kotlier, the director of Green Energy Solutions for the Joint Labor Management Cooperation Committee, IBEW/NECA, travels the state preaching the gospel of energy audits and electrician apprenticeship programs. "42.7 percent of the electricity load in buildings is lighting," he says. "There are 9 billion square feet of office space in need of energy retrofit. The California Public Utilities Commission's highest priority for meeting future energy demand is energy efficiency. Renewable energy and energy efficiency will be the drivers of the economy."

Another number worth remembering: Zero, as in zero net energy, meaning a building that generates and feeds into the grid as much energy and it takes out. The PUC's goal for 2020 is every new residence will be grid neutral, and every commercial facility by 2030.

After Kotlier regaled the room with stories of green energy expert contractors who have gotten into the energy audit business and now can't hire enough people to keep up with demand, Hank Lewis, head of the IBEW Local, thanked him for coming and told his colleagues "I hope the light went on for you."

of commercial buildings. That opportunity is underscored by the ability of energy efficiency to cut energy use by up to 50 percent, the need for private utilities to aggressively adopt energy efficiency measures to collect on energy use incentives and bonuses, and President Obama's

California coast ever undertaken, concluded that the ocean will rise five feet along the length of our coastline by the end of the century. “Regional planners are recommending that some new construction be halted, other properties protected and still others abandoned,” reported the *San Francisco Chronicle*. On March 12, the *L.A. Times* reported that California’s interagency Climate Action Team is considering several proposals in response, including “limit coastal development in areas at risk from sea rise; consider phased abandonment of certain areas; halt federally subsidized insurance for property likely to be inundated; and require coastal structures to be built to adapt to climate change.”

This is not good news for a proposed gravity system which includes about half a dozen pumps on the shore of the Morro Bay estuary. If saltwater enters a sewer pipes, it can destroy both the collection system and the treatment plant. The Planning Commission needs to ask the LOWWP team some serious questions about this, and about the level of seriousness at which the EIR addressed these climate change impacts on this project; a level that needs to be raised

necessary off-basin could be accomplished on large tracts of currently dry-farmed ag land — about 400 acres that would more than welcome all effluent available on a year-to-year basis while a program of full on-basin exchange is established.

To sum up

* A deepening statewide drought is the worst possible timing for a wastewater treatment project that proposes to dispose of a large portion of treated effluent and only start getting around to reclamation and reuse at an unspecified later date. The design/construction window for the Los Osos Wastewater Project is sufficient time to undertake contract negotiations with local growers so as to at least begin phased ag exchange upon completion of the project and assure maximum mitigation of seawater intrusion. This will also make the LOWWP eligible for state water bond money.

* The SLO County Farm Bureau and local environmental organizations — not usually known for agreement on land use issues — are unanimous on the undesirability of the proposed Tonini site: vastly larger and more expensive than any of the alternative



Required reading: The 2006 Los Osos Wastewater Management Plan Update included Technical Memo 7, “Los Osos Growers’ Field Trips to the Monterey Area.” During their tour of the Monterey Regional Water Pollution Control Agency facilities, local growers learned that the MRWPCA has “95% voluntary participation of growers irrigating with recycled water, and more recycled water would be used if recycled water was available for 100% of their needs.” Seawater intrusion was “the driving force for implementing the water recycling program.”

Executive Officer Roger Briggs wrote: “I ask that you

continue to give overall watershed health, including water balances that repel seawater intrusion, the priority that it deserves as you make project recommendations to the Board of Supervisors.”

The County’s status as lead agency on this project was created by AB 2701. Of the County’s mandate to build a wastewater treatment project, AB 2701 states: “These efforts may include programs and projects for recharging aquifers, preventing saltwater intrusion, and managing groundwater resources to the extent

that they are related to the construction and operation of the community wastewater collection and treatment system.”

We read that, and urge the Planning Commission to read it, as the legislature letting the county know that it is free to include these elements in the project. This was the intent of the legislature, which specifically put recharging the aquifer and managing groundwater within the scope of the measure authorizing the wastewater project. This can — and must — be part of this project.



Standing water: The Tri-W site, Feb. 23, 2006, four days after a rain storm. The same Baywood fine sands sealing this water on the surface are under the Broderson disposal site. The County asserts that secondary-treated effluent will readily percolate down through this soil.

to the level at which California is now addressing these impacts statewide.

The Tri-W site

Directly from the Technical Advisory Committee’s Pro/Con Analysis:

- “ - Small acreage and location in center of town required most expensive treatment and higher costs overall
- “ - Limited flexibility for future expansion, upgrades, or alternative energy
- “ - Greater risk associated with system failure due to proximity to Bay
- “ - Greatest distance to spray fields and ag reuse
- “ - It was the unanimous opinion of the NWRI that an out of town site is better due to problematic issues with the downtown site....”
- ...etc.

We hope the Planning Commission will see the need to make changes in this project. The funds allocated for purchase of the dubious Broderson disposal site and the exceedingly large Tonini property as the treatment plant site — an added expense, proposed to accommodate those wasteful sprayfields — should go instead to the purchase of a site that need only accommodate a treatment plant and adequate storage ponds, fund the cost of a tertiary level of treatment -- making ag exchange possible .

Any excess temporary irrigation

sites, meaning a significant loss of prime ag land, in order to accommodate water-wasting spray field disposal. The better option is to save that money and spend it on tertiary treatment, inside the basin, thereby expediting ag exchange as quickly as possible.

* The environmental impacts of the deep trenching and dewatering required for a gravity collection system need a closer look, per the RWQCB.

* “Greener” does not equal “more expensive.” Making the project more sustainable can actually reduce the cost of the project, as with bond funding available for the inclusion of water reclamation and 100% grant-funded infiltrative bioswales, incorporated with and underwriting the cost of the excavation of sewer laterals. (Check out www.lowimpactdevelopment.org/greenstreets and the article at right.)

In a February 23 letter to Public Works Director Paavo Ogren, Regional Water Quality Control Board

“The way that treated effluent from the LOWWP is used will impact the balance of the basin – one way or the other – as well as water quality. If the project’s reuse and/or disposal of treated effluent does not contribute to balancing the basin, then the project exacerbates the problem of seawater intrusion (SWI), which poses an even greater risk to the basin.”

-- Los Osos Community Advisory Committee, on the Draft EIR

Green Streets Improve Water Quality and Beautify Cities

by Celia Scott and Debbie Bulger
Ventana Chapter

How a coastal city deals with storm-water runoff has a major effect on the health of the bay or ocean the city faces.

City runoff is laden with gasoline, oil, tire dust and other pollutants from our streets. Because water runs downhill, urban runoff which is not properly managed will pollute all the water bodies that receive it. On the Central Coast, that runoff ends up in our creeks, our rivers, and the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary.

Portland, Oregon, and Seattle, Washington, are demonstrating to the world there is a better way. These cities, and others across the United States, are designing and building Green Streets which trap stormwater runoff and capture pollutants. Green Streets use landscape-based drainage features such as green planters, curb extensions, swales, and porous paving to mimic the natural hydrologic cycle, control flow, and improve water quality while at the same time beautifying and increasing the safety of streets.

Experience in multiple cities across the U.S. has shown that Green Streets



Green Streets trap stormwater runoff and capture pollutants.

can be more cost-efficient in managing urban stormwater runoff than the usual “gray” infrastructure of concrete gutters and storm drains. Cities that have constructed Green Street structures include Milwaukee, Philadelphia, and Chicago, in addition to Portland, Seattle, and others. In April 2007, the Portland City Council approved a Green Street policy in order to:

- Reduce polluted stormwater entering Portland’s rivers and streams,
- Improve pedestrian and bicycle safety,
- Divert stormwater from the sewer system and reduce basement flooding and sewer backups,
- Reduce impervious surface so stormwater can recharge groundwater,
- Increase urban green space,
- Improve air quality and reduce air temperatures,
- Address federal and state requirements to protect watersheds, and
- Increase opportunities for industry professionals.

portlandonline.com

Taking Issue

problematic environmental coverage & commentary in our local media

“Grow Greener,” by Edward L. Glaeser, *L.A. Times*, March 4, 2009

Summary: From the lofty heights of neoclassical economics and Massachusetts, the Glimp professor of economics at Harvard’s Taubman Center for State and Local Government argues in favor of California tossing out its land use regulations and filling up all the undeveloped holes in the state. Otherwise, people will go live in less temperate climates and use more energy for heating and cooling. Hence, anyone who opposes massive new development in California is worsening global warming.

The author did not factor in the GHG impacts of moving massive amounts of water from northern California to the temperate but arid climates of L.A. and San Diego, for any purpose. Water-related energy use accounts for more than 19% of the electricity and 30% of the natural gas consumed in the state, not to mention the environmental impacts of draining the Delta to serve thirsty metropolitan areas. The most recent and graphic example of how this is affecting the environment is the fact that these massive, prolonged water diversions, in addition to endangering the Delta Smelt, have decimated native salmon runs. This in turn is contributing to the rapid decline in orca populations, the southern-most population of which are now threatened with extinction primarily due to the loss of their primary food supply—Northern California salmon.

The environmental opponents of California growth...emphasize that California's water crisis makes further expansion impossible. But today, the overwhelming majority of water in California is directed to farms, not people. Using 10% of the state's agricultural water for new households could address the water needs of a massive increase in state population.

When California won't build, people go to less restrictive places, such as Atlanta, Houston or Phoenix, which happily erect new housing. The pro-development policies in these places promote affordability, but they do so at an environmental cost. Carbon emissions are much higher in these growing areas than they are in California.

The coal-fired power plants that largely power those places, but not California, have a little something to do with that carbon emissions stat. The other little something is the fact

that California has implemented energy efficiency policies which have kept our per capita energy consumption flat for 30 years even as our population and economy has grown.

Much of America struggles with cold winters and hot summers. Making such difficult climates comfortable for humans requires a lot of energy. By contrast, much of coastal California is pretty pleasant year-round, requiring far less energy. The natural implication is that to reduce carbon emissions, more Americans should live in temperate California.

Up to 50 percent of all energy generated is wasted, and can be captured and cut through energy efficiency measures. Rather than admit to that “natural

implication” or suggest an alternative to the narrow paradigm of neoclassical economics, one in which costs to natural systems are factored into economic growth, Glaeser instead acknowledges a single environmental cost – greenhouse gas emissions – and puts it in the driver’s seat of a bulldozer.

In other words: Habitat loss? Species extinction? Increased sprawl and traffic (and GHG emissions)? Underwriting private profits at public expense? You better suck it up, California, because if you don't allow that kind of rampant development, places with lax regulations will! This is a variation on the “race to the bottom” model that has served the free-traders so well. (You better cut wages, suppress unions, and ratchet down environmental protections even more, Mexico, or we'll shut down the factories that we moved here and move to Malaysia!)

Stopping new development may seem green, but it isn't. When new homes aren't built in California, they are built in other places that are far less environmentally friendly. The best way for Californians to save the planet is to tear down the barriers that stop new development.

Glaeser's analysis retains the fundamental flaw in the theology of traditional economics: The belief that there are no limits to growth. E.F. Schumacher, Howard Odum, Herman Daly and Bill Rees were some of the first economists to break with the neoclassical fraternity and insist that full cost accounting — including the value of nature and the costs exacted upon it – be included in economic cost-benefit calculations. They argued for the value of ecological systems and analysis of our ecological footprint. Isolating one impact and using it as an argument against other environmental and resource protection measures is not what they had in mind. It's a tactic that outstrips the power of the best adjective ever devised to describe such logic: Orwellian.

After sustaining a double-digit growth rate for much of the mid-20th century, California's population grew just 7.9% from 2000 through 2007.... California's growth has slowed because the state has made it increasingly difficult to build new homes.



Upshot:

Beware the sweeping conclusion based on a narrow argument. The author would have done better to place this conversation within the frame of “living within our means,” which includes designing smaller, more efficient houses wherever they are built, conserving resources such as water and native habitat, and making use of improved technologies, such as super-efficient, low-emission wood stoves to heat homes, such as those in the author’s chilly region of the country. Source material could be grown on site or locally, keeping the impacts and the resources directly linked.

“Budget persistence has paid off,” by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, *The Tribune*, Feb. 20, 2009

“Mr. Maldonado returns from Sacramento,” by Colin Rigley, *New Times*, March 5, 2009

“Nonpartisan primaries are foundation of reform,” by Abel Maldonado, *The Tribune*, March 5, 2009

Summary: Our Governor and Senator Maldonado congratulate themselves and are congratulated for standing up to “special interests” and bravely passing a state budget.

Thanks to Assembly Speaker Karen Bass (D-Los Angeles) and Senate President Pro Tem Darrell Steinberg (D-Sacramento), the Republicans failed to get their full hit-list of environmental and public health rollbacks into the final package.

Remember, what’s good for the special interests is usually not good for the people.

The process of passing a state budget still involves... senseless delays that impact real Californians and a seeming inability to look beyond the year immediately in front of our faces.

Here’s what the Republicans tried to force into the budget:

- Pesticides: They demanded undermining of legal and regulatory commitment to reduce use of pesticides that contribute to air pollution in agricultural areas.
- Air Pollution/Greenhouse Gas: They tried to tie up in knots all the air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions measures (including California’s landmark AB 32 program) proposed by the California Air Resources Board by requiring them to undergo an endless loop of economic analyses overseen by the Business, Transportation and Housing Agency. The proposal would have led to endless litigation and essentially gave veto power over air and green house gas regulations to the BTHA.
- “Business-Fiscal” Review of Environmental Policies: They demanded establishment of an “ad hoc committee” of three agency heads, including the Secretary of Business, Transportation and Housing, to have veto power over environmental requirements for selected projects.
- Exempting some road projects from environmental and permit review: They succeeded in forcing California Environmental Quality Act exemptions for eight major projects. The Governor requested but did not get National Environmental Policy Act exemptions.

- Warner Chabot, CA League of Conservation Voters; Ann Notthoff, NRDC

“California’s government is hopelessly broken. Led by state Senator Abel Maldonado, Republicans turned the budget negotiations into a hostage crisis by exploiting the rule requiring a 2/3rds vote of the legislature to pass a budget, which allows a small cabal of extremist Republicans to hold the state hostage to their demands, as they have done year after year. Only TWO other states — the small states of Rhode Island and Arkansas — require a 2/3rds supermajority to pass a budget. To support a repeal of the 2/3rds rule, go to www.couragecampaign.org/RepealTwoThirds.”

Maybe it’s because he has nothing to lose, or that he now has a platform with which to raise his voice, but Maldonado’s tone and stern expressions seem to say: To hell with them -- it was the right choice.

-- Rick Jacobs, The Courage Campaign



California politics is now dominated by hyper-partisans. Unless and until we reform the system that allows these hyperpartisans to continue being elected, we will be a state held hostage.

“The Republicans demanded - and eventually received - concessions on labor and environmental laws in return for their willingness to consider tax increases. The participants kept a tight lid on discussions out of a conviction that a public airing of the ideas being discussed would create an uproar that would poison a deal.... ‘The fact that they dragged non-budgetary policy issues into these secret negotiations is outrageous,’ said [Sierra Club California Director] Bill Magavern. ‘These are weakenings of environmental protections that never could have survived the regular legislative policy process and would have been opposed by a majority of Californians. It’s a very secretive and undemocratic - small d - way to address the state’s budget.’”

- SF Chronicle, 2/15/09

Upshot:

The fact that the state budget negotiations were hijacked and delayed by Republican demands to gut environmental and public health laws was the most scandalously under-reported story of the new year. Most of our news media defaulted to lazy politicians-fighting-with-each-other obfuscation rather than reporting the real story -- that one political party held a gun to the state’s head -- because reporting the real story would have seemed “partisan.”

“Due to the need to have two-thirds approval to pass a budget, Republicans succeeded in rolling-back the timeline for compliance for a major air quality regulation that reduced diesel emissions,” reports Irvin Dawid, Chair of Sierra Club California’s Air Quality Committee. “Air Resources Board chair Mary Nichols said it best: ‘This rollback will result in additional deaths in the state from diesel emissions.’” The *San Francisco Chronicle* editorial, “A dirty air budget deal,” called it “a backroom deal that may sicken or kill thousands in the name of a special-interest loophole.” Subsequent posturing by the state GOP on “special interests” and “hyperpartisanship” was worse than hypocritical. That website again: www.couragecampaign.org/RepealTwoThirds

PG&E*continued from page 2*

gray whale, has destroyed robust salmon habitat, and has undermined the subsistence lifestyles of the indigenous populations. In West Papua, Indonesia, an LNG export project has exacerbated a conflict between the West Papuan people and the Indonesian military. LNG means further dependence on foreign fossil fuel at a time when the U.S. should be pursuing energy independence.

The project will endanger wildlife habitat: The 230-mile long Pacific Connector pipeline will create a permanent clear-cut corridor that will be as wide as an 8-lane freeway its entire length. It will destroy thousands of acres of Southern Oregon habitat that is still recovering from decades of

runaway logging. It will cross over 100 streams and rivers, putting at risk already endangered salmon such as the Oregon Coast coho. It will raze 420 acres of forestland needed by the endangered northern spotted owl and marbled murrelet.

LNG is unreliable and costly.

Russia is home to some of the world's largest natural gas fields, and has been known to withhold natural gas deliveries to Europe in the winter when it's most needed. Iran and the rest of the Middle East also host some of the world's largest gas fields, and dependence on LNG from that region will exacerbate the same international tensions we currently see with our dependence on oil. Currently, the

world price for LNG is about 3 times more than the cost for North American natural gas. With LNG, California will be competing for supplies with countries such as Japan and Korea that have few options besides LNG, and are willing to pay top dollar for it.

The project is unnecessary. Due to aggressive efficiency measures, California's natural gas usage has decreased despite double-digit growth in population. The California Energy Commission and the state's utilities expect demand to remain flat through 2030, though other analyses demonstrate a 10 to 20 percent drop in natural gas usage with the acceleration of the state's renewable laws and further efficiency measures. As

California develops a cleaner energy grid, there is an abundant supply of domestic natural gas located in Canada and the Rocky Mountains.

Oregonians don't want it. Governor Ted Kulongoski has raised concerns that the project is not needed in Oregon. Both U.S. Senators and the Attorney General either oppose or have voiced concern over the project.

What you can do: To find out how you can help persuade PG&E to drop their LNG plans, please contact Rory Cox, California Program Director, at 415.399.8850 x302, or rcox@pacificenvironment.org.

To learn more, go to www.PacificEnvironment.org.

PowerShift*continued from page 1*

districts across the country, student organizers, business leaders, community members, local activists, and elected officials will convene for town hall meetings on how to transform our nation's greatest challenge into its most promising opportunity.

The town halls are being organized by the next generation of energy leaders at this moment. Communities

are uniting to address their elected representatives about local and national solutions for a clean energy future. Together, we are forging a multi-generational, multi-sector movement to usher in the transition to a sustainable and equitable energy economy.

For Step 1, go to <http://focusthenation.org> and sign up!

The Future that Wasn't*continued from page 6*

feet of Feather River water into SLO County, and 57,000 a/f to Santa Barbara County. Subscriptions for actual "wet" water fall well short of that total, especially in SLO County.

In the 1950's the plan was for the ancestor of the Coastal Branch to deliver—take a deep breath—760,000 acre/feet to the two counties! Yet even this was not considered enough to meet the growth needs of the Central Coast! The system was not even expected to deliver to the city of San Luis Obispo, which was to have been bypassed by the 22-mile tunnel from Santa Margarita to Arroyo Grande. SLO City and the expected-to-explosively-grow towns of the North Coast were to depend on the damming of every coastal stream north of Morro Bay, and a lateral pipeline. Most of the reservoirs were to have been considerably larger than the one present example of Whale Rock. After all, we were planning for *tomorrow!*

Yet even this did not complete the transfusion planned for the two counties. Separate from the Polonio Pass route taken by the ancestor of the Coastal Branch, there was another vast pumping project planned to lift 325,000 acre/feet over the Grocer Grade to water the Cuyama Valley and the growing cities planned for the

Carrizo Plain. The entire Elkhorn Plain was to function as a terminal reservoir.

Well over a million acre/feet was supposed to lubricate explosive population growth in our two counties, requiring huge energy facilities to create the power, huge highways and freeways to carry the traffic, and no telling what else. Plans for the rest of the state were on a similar scale. Yet what has actually happened, unsustainable as it is, is only a shadow of these apparent fantasies. What happened?

What happened was that the Sierra Club and other environmental organizations stood in the way, developing the political will to protect the abundant rivers of the northern coast of California. Once there were limits on what could be sucked out of the north, there were limits on what could be sent south.

When you consider what might have been, you will join me in thanking the ancestors, and in remembering that any victory for the environment, wherever it happens, helps us all.

While we're on the subject of the 1950's, do you want to know what kind of sewer systems they built in those days?

Oh.



Local Sierra Club stalwart Ken Smokoska (above the "N" in "tarsands") joined Bill McKibben, Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., NASA's James Hansen and 12,000 students on the front lines of climate change in D.C..

"What We Need to Know About Oceano Beach and Dunes"

Santa Maria area: Comcast Ch 25
Wed 9 am, Thurs 9 m, Fri noon

San Luis Obispo area: Ch 2
Mon 9 pm, Thurs 10 am, Sat noon

Or watch on:
www.safebeachanddunes.org

New & noteworthy on the site: "Off Roding vs. the Habitat in Arroyo Grande Creek," a video shot on Feb. 15 showing several OHV's repeatedly smashing through and running down the banks of the lagoon in order to render it suitable for loading a vehicle onto a flatbed, as Park rangers watch.

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

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

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Classifieds

Next issue deadline is **April 10**. To get a rate sheet or submit your ad and payment, contact:
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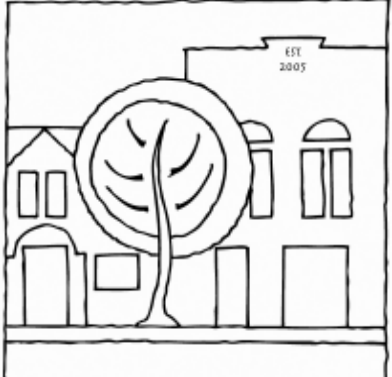
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Outings and Activities Calendar

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.

Friday April 3 through Sunday April 5, CARRIZO PLAINS OUTING:

This could shape up to be one of the better years for wild flowers. Don't be one of those who only hears about what they missed or sees only the photos. Come experience it first hand. We have been offered the use of the house next to the visitors center to stay over night on Friday the 3rd. If you wish to stay over until Sunday, you will have to camp at nearby Selby Campground Saturday night. This will be a loosely structured weekend. Sat. at 9a.m. we will meet outside the

Visitor Center to go on a group hike or you may do something individually or in a smaller group. Please bring water, food, and whatever else you will need to stay the weekend. Friday evening we will have a potluck dinner at that house at 6:30p.m if you want to join us. Please contact Carlos at 546-0317 if you want to stay at the house with us as there is only a certain amount of space to sleep there. Rain will postpone this trip to a later weekend.

Sun.-Fri., April 5-10, Fences and Flowers in the Carrizo Plain - A service opportunity. Our National Monument is famous for open spaces, for abundant wildlife, and for its springtime wildflowers. Fences significantly restrict the movement of the resident pronghorn antelope, and our service will be in modifying and removing fences for their benefit. We will plan a welcome hike on April 5, three and a half days of service, and a full day for exploring the monument. Use of accommodations at Goodwin Ranch included. Limited to 12 participants; \$30 covers 5 dinners. For more information, contact leader: Craig Deutsche, deutsche@earthlink.net, (310-477-6670), or co-leader leader Melinda Goodwater, mgoodwater@shcglobal.net, (408-774-1257). CNRCC Desert Committee

Islay Hill Open Space Sun, April 12, 10 a.m. Join us for an easy hike with spectacular views of Edna Valley to the south and morros to the north. Pole Cats is dedicated to leading local Sierra Club day hikes and modeling the benefits of using trekking poles. 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. Confirm with David Georgi at 458-5575 or polecatleader@gmail.com for upcoming activities. Bipeds welcome

Sat., April 18th, 8:00 a.m. Machesna Mountain Hike: Come take a 12 – 15 mile, with 3000 foot elevation gain, hike through the Machesna Wilderness. Starting from American Canyon Campground, we will climb 1500 to an open meadow and pond below Machesna Mountain itself. After lunch we will climb another several hundred feet to a ridge over looking the Carrizo Plain. We will soon start our descent to a lush green valley, before climbing up to our final rest stop. We should have plenty of wildflowers, and pleasant weather. Bring lunch, water, sturdy hiking shoes, and plan to be out all day. Some of us may go to the Pozo Saloon after if open. Meet at Pacific Beverage Company in Santa Margarita. This is not a beginner's hike. Limit 20 people. For details, reservations and meeting place call Gary (473-3694)(5F). Rain or threat of rain cancels.

Sat.-Sun., April 18-19, Carrizo Plain National Monument Antelope Protection Work Party/Carcamp. Fencing built for ranches in what is now the Carrizo Plain National Monument are deadly to the beautiful pronghorn antelope that live there. Much progress has been made removing this fencing and it is making a difference. Join us for the weekend as we remove more fencing to assist the pronghorn in obtaining free access across the plain. Camp at Selby campground, bring food, water, heavy leather work gloves, and camping gear for the weekend. Potluck Sat. night. Rain bail-out dates: April 25-26. Resource special-



ist: Alice Koch. For more information, contact Leaders: Cal and Letty French, (e-mail preferred) lettyfrench@gmail.com or cal.french@gmail.com, or 14140 Chimney Rock Road, Paso Robles, CA 93446, (805-239-7338). Santa Lucia Chap/CNRCC Desert Com.

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.

Island Hopping in Channel Islands National Park Fundraising Cruises in 2009

May 1-4
July 17-20
August 7-10
September 11-14

Come and explore the wild, wind-swept islands of Channel Island National Park. In spring, the islands are ablaze with wildflowers. The pristine waters of the Marine Sanctuary will entice both snorkelers and kayakers in all seasons. Watch for the highly endangered Island Fox. Marvel at the sight of whales, dolphins, sea and land birds, endemic plants, and reminders of the Chumash people who lived on these islands for thousands of years. All islands are ringed with rugged shorelines and dotted with sea caves. Each island offers special charm: San Miguel for white sandy beaches and a huge congregation of elephant seals; Santa Rosa for a rare stand of Torrey Pines; Santa Cruz for high mountains, deep valleys and the famous Painted Cave, Anacapa for the brown pelican rookery, a picturesque lighthouse, excellent snorkeling waters and a colony of friendly sea lions who will swim with snorkelers and follow

kayaks.

Cruises depart from Santa Barbara aboard the 68' twin diesel Truth. The fee, \$950, 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 present evening programs. The proceeds from these fundraising cruises will benefit Sierra Club's political programs in California. To make a reservation mail a \$100 check, payable to Sierra Club to leader: Joan Jones Holtz, 11826 The Wye St., El Monte, CA 91732. Contact leader for more information: 626-443-0706; jholtzhln@aol.com



Other Local Outings

Not sponsored by the Sierra Club

Sun., April 5: Dunes Nature Hike. 0930. Call or e-mail a few days before to get meeting place. Kids & dogs OK.

Sun., April 12: Natrue Bike Ride in Nipomo Area. 0930. Meet at Library, Bicycle to Native Garden, new bike-lane, Dana Adobe. No dogs.

Sat., April 18th, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. TrailWerks at Johnson Ranch. Come join Mountain Cyclist, Hikers, Runners and Horseman as they work together to build a significant portion of new trail at Johnson Ranch south of San Luis Obispo. Breakfast and bar-b-que, t-shirt, raffle items as well as tools, guidance and crew leaders provided. We hope to get a BIG chunk of the new trails built this day. Meet at intersection of S. Higuera & Ontario Rd. (Sponsored by CCCMB).

Sun. April 19 Earth Day Special. 0930. An easy hike in the natural world celebrating ED (April 22),

which started in 1970. Call 929-3647 or bdenneen@kcbx.net a few days before for details. Kids & dogs welcome.

Sun., April 26, 10 a.m. San Luis Peak -Maino Hike. Meet at parking area which is just off southbound #101 underpass at end of Higuera. We'll be joining the "Pole-Cats". Dogs on leash. Out & back, so turn around anytime.

Sat.-Sun., May 2nd and 3rd. Art at the Octagon Barn. The San Luis Obispo Outdoor Painter Enterprises and the Land Conservancy of SLO have teamed up to celebrate their 25th anniversary at the Octagon Barn. Live Music, Paintings, tours and much more as the organization moves forward. For more information call 544-9066, or click here. (Sponsored by the Land Conservancy of SLO).