



Jul./Aug. 2012  
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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

## How About Now, Guys?

It's time for the '08 Board of Supervisors to think about its legacy



Throughout the fall and winter of 2008-09, our "Messages to the new board," a series of suggested initiatives for the newly elected majority on the County Board of Supervisors, were published in *New Times*.

The outcome of the 2008 election meant the county was finally in a position to overcome the imperative of short-term profit that had held the board in an iron grip for twelve years, courtesy of entrenched special interests. It was time to take bold action to protect our natural wealth; our coast and ocean, farming and rural lands, wildlife habitat and public health.

Compiled in consultation with the best and brightest policy wonks and land use activists in the county, the Messages formed a how-to guide for affordable housing, political reform, the protection of agricultural land and support for localized food and energy production. Each county supervisor was provided with his own bound copy of all five messages at the first meeting of the new board in January 2009.

The official response from the supervisors was dead silence. Over the ensuing four years, it became increasingly clear that this board's plan was not to take the county in a different direction than that of their pave-it-all predecessors, but to slightly alter the course that board had been taking while still heading in the same basic direction. Political expediency has been the order of the day, and virtually none of those 2008-09 recommendations to the board has been implemented.

The messages to the new board constituted a road map to a better future. They stand today as a monument to lost opportunity and unfulfilled promise: but for a lack of political courage, here is what might have been.

During the recent campaign, when asked why they thought the Sierra Club decided not to endorse them, it pleased Supervisors Hill and Patterson to characterize us as "environmental extremists" (see "Why We Didn't Endorse Them," page 5). We invite our members and any other interested parties to go to [www.santalucia.sierraclub.org/M2supes.html](http://www.santalucia.sierraclub.org/M2supes.html) and judge for themselves the extremity of the environmental positions we took after the 2008 election.

That was during the brief period when it seemed that the new board majority would be likely to implement some or all of these common-sense measures. The June 5 electoral results have dictated that the board majority of 2008 -- which Sierra Club activists had more than a little to do with creating -- will come to an end at the end of 2012. So the board has

six months to start making up for lost time; a last chance to put in place policies that will protect our resources, secure a sustainable future, and demonstrate the kind of leadership and political courage that voters thought they had secured on election night, four years ago.

Go to: [santalucia.sierraclub.org/M2supes.html](http://santalucia.sierraclub.org/M2supes.html)

### Messages to the new board

Part One: Give us a level playing field

The June election set the stage for a seismic shift of power on the County Board of Supervisors, the government entity that has the most direct impact on the quality of life in San Luis Obispo. The result was a clear mandate: out with the old majority whose lips and not to spread development and unsustainable growth, while their votes and feet voted to experience rural subdivisions on agricultural land, to measure progress in the form of such projects as San Miguel Ranch and Lardner, and to unsustainable growth from shantytowns to Supervisors. The old board put a big bet on community water resources, roads, and other infrastructure. They proclaimed a allegiance to smart growth, affordable housing, and protecting ag land, but assured that the goal of affordable housing remained out of our reach and



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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.**

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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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 Sierra Club, PO Box 421041, Palm Coast, FL 32142-1041



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

## Sierra Club General Meeting

Wed., July 25, 7-9 p.m.

### The Best of the Bioneers



**BIONEERS**  
 Revolution from the Heart of Nature

The annual Bioneers conference is a gathering place for the most visionary environmental thinkers in the U.S. Two remarkable speakers at the last meeting in October 2011 were Amory Lovins, chair of the Rocky Mountain Institute, and Rebecca Moore, a professor at U.C. Santa Cruz. Tonight we will be screening the videos of their presentations. Lovins presents arresting

data to show a practical plan for taking the U.S. off oil and coal by 2050. Moore demonstrates eye-popping uses of Google Earth Outreach by environmental activists in California, Brazil, and other places to reveal otherwise hidden depredations of natural resources.

Stacey Hunt, director of local Bioneers affiliate, Ecologistics, will introduce the program and engage in discussion afterward.

**Steynberg Gallery, 1531 Monterey St., SLO**  
**For information: Joe Morris, 549-0355, [dpj1942@earthlink.net](mailto:dpj1942@earthlink.net)**

## August 19: Come Lobby with Us

*By Kathryn Phillips, Director  
 Sierra Club California*

John Muir, the Sierra Club's founder and the intellectual touchstone of California's environmental movement, realized early that it takes more than a strong appreciation of nature to protect the state's natural heritage. Seventeen years before he founded the Club with a few friends in 1892, Muir wrote a letter to a state Senator urging action to protect the state's forests.

Many, many more letters, articles and visits to state and national elected officials would be among the weapons Muir used later in life to persuade lawmakers to create Yosemite National Park, Sequoia National Park, and to unsuccessfully fight the dam that destroyed the Hetch Hetchy Valley. He left a legacy of advocacy that resulted in great wins and some depressing losses. Muir established early the Sierra Club's important role in lobbying for nature and environmental quality.

Today, Sierra Club California lobbyists, and the volunteers who support our work by writing and talking to legislators to persuade them to protect California's environment, are the clearest evidence that Muir's legacy can't be ignored in the state Capitol.

Throughout the year, we send action alerts via email to Club members like you. Without fail, thousands of you respond. We know this not just because we get the reports from the Club's online staff. We know this because we hear from legislators about the impact those calls and letters and emails have had on them.

Once a year, we ask volunteers to join us for a day of lobbying. If you've joined us before, we're asking you again to consider spending a Sunday and Monday in Sacramento in August. If you've never lobbied with

us, we're asking you to join us for the first time.

On Sunday, August 19, we'll provide training about best lobbying practices, information about the bills we need pushed or defeated, and some of the inside information about Capitol politics that will help you and your chapter members be more effective here and from your home base. On Monday, August 20, we'll create teams among the volunteer lobbyists and send you out together to meet with legislators and their staff members.

We'll pick up the tab for a bed at the local hostel, within walking distance of the Capitol Building. Otherwise, we can suggest other places to stay near the Capitol. We



can also provide some travel assistance for people coming from targeted legislative districts.

By the time you're done on Monday afternoon, you'll have earned at least two things: One is the sincere gratitude of all of us who work at Sierra Club California; we know our influence at the Capitol is only as strong as your voice. The other is the right to say you have walked in John Muir's shoes and pressed legislators to do the right thing for California's forests, meadows, air, water, wildlife, and people.

You can sign up for lobby day at [sierraclubcalifornia.org/lobby-day-2012](http://sierraclubcalifornia.org/lobby-day-2012).

And hurry! We have space for 50.

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## Visit us on the Web!

[www.santalucia.sierraclub.org](http://www.santalucia.sierraclub.org)

*Outings, events, and more!*



## Join the Rooftop Revolution @ [www.sierraclub.org/solarhomes](http://www.sierraclub.org/solarhomes)

**Sierra Club has partnered with Sungevity to help families go solar, save money, reduce pollution and support the Sierra Club**

The Sierra Club has partnered with Sungevity, one of the country's leading residential solar providers, to help families go solar easily and affordably.

The new partnership will help consumers save money on electricity bills, reduce pollution and support the Sierra Club's overall mission to explore, enjoy and protect the planet. Through this partnership, each time someone goes solar with Sungevity and the Sierra Club, he or she will receive a \$750 cash gift card and Sungevity will contribute \$750 to the Sierra Club. The partnership is available to any new residential solar customers who visit [www.sierraclub.org/solarhomes](http://www.sierraclub.org/solarhomes) in the states Sungevity serves -- Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Maryland, Massachusetts, and New York.

With many Americans still struggling in today's tough economy, it has become harder for consumers to prioritize efforts like reducing pollution and supporting their favorite non-profits, while simultaneously saving money. The Solar Homes partnership allows Sierra Club supporters to accomplish all three by adding residential solar panels to their homes. Any homeowner in California is eligible.

Going solar can help consumers save money on their electricity bills. For example, Sungevity found that on average, customers can save up to 15% on electricity costs from day one when they go solar. Under the solar leasing plan, homeowners can "rent their rooftop," allowing them to save money on their electric bills by paying Sungevity directly, without any upfront costs, financing, installation,



**GET A FREE SOLAR EVALUATION WITH SIERRA CLUB**

and maintenance.

Rooftop solar also helps people protect the planet by reducing pollution: every kilowatt hour of solar generated replaces electricity that might otherwise come from dirty fossil fuels like coal.

"We are honored and excited to be working with The Sierra Club on the organization's solar partnership," said Danny Kennedy, Sungevity's founder and president. "This partnership makes so much sense, especially as the economy continues its slow recovery. Now, homeowners who want to save money on their electricity rates and support the Sierra Club can do so simultaneously at no cost to themselves."

Sungevity is recognized as a "B Corp," one of the "Best for the World" companies, for using the power of business to solve social and environmental problems by harnessing the power of private enterprise to create public benefit for all stakeholders, not just shareholders.

For more information about the partnership, visit: [www.sierraclub.org/solarhomes](http://www.sierraclub.org/solarhomes).

*Going solar with the Sierra Club and Sungevity is a win, win, win!*

- A win for you: You can lock in your electricity rate for the next 20 years, free yourself from dirty energy, and do it all with no upfront investment. Most homeowners start saving on their power bills immediately. And if you go solar this summer, you'll get a \$750 cash gift card.

- A win for the planet: Powering your home with solar energy is the single best way to shrink your carbon footprint - the equivalent of taking 1.5 cars off the road.

- A win for the Sierra Club: Sungevity will give \$750 to the Sierra Club for everyone who goes solar through this program. This means more money for Sierra Club's important environmental campaigns in California.

Here's how it works:

1. Go to [www.sierraclub.org/solarhomes](http://www.sierraclub.org/solarhomes)
2. Enter your address and energy use to get a free solar evaluation for your home.
3. Your free Sungevity quote will detail your solar options, show you what your home would look like, and how much you would save.

*Repower your home and America's future - go solar today!*



## NRC Commissioner Nuked

In June, the nuclear industry and their political flacks in Congress forced Gregory Jaczko out of his position as Chairman of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Jaczko was the most safety-conscious and least industry-indebted of any chairman in the Commission's sketchy history.

On April 6, the SLO-based Alliance for Nuclear Responsibility had met

with NRC Chairman Jaczko after his tour of the disabled San Onofre nuclear power plant for a productive meeting discussing the costs to California ratepayers of inadequate NRC oversight and the myriad impacts this entails. Local groups and city representatives who had organized with

*NUKED continued on page 10*



**Last words** Alliance for Nuclear Responsibility representatives Rochelle Becker, David Weisman and John Geesman chat with soon-to-depart NRC Chairman Jaczko (right).

## Up on the Roof

*The blog of Sierra Club Executive Director Michael Brune*

Let me start with a confession: I'm the executive director of the country's largest environmental organization, and I don't have solar panels on my roof.

Now wait a minute. Before you judge, I do have a few justifications. We have young children and funds have been tight... we had been planning to move for a while... we were saving up to buy a house, etc. All valid reasons, if I say so myself. But still, no solar.

Until now.

Last year, the Sierra Club ran a pilot program in California to spread the news to our members and supporters that there's never been a better time to add solar panels to their roofs. It was a big success, so now we're expanding to seven states: Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Maryland, Massachusetts, and New York. If you're a homeowner in one of those states and decide to buy or lease a rooftop solar system through our partner, Sungevity, you can power your life with sunshine for as little as \$0 down.

That's not bad, but it's far from the only reason you should check out the program. As I wrote last year, solar is as green as it gets, and with the price of solar panels dropping dramatically, there's never been a more affordable



time to install a system. You can help displace dirty coal, or fracked natural gas, or even nuclear power, one home at a time. You'll also lock in an affordable rate and protect yourself against soaring electricity rates in the years ahead.

The first step is to do what I did: Request a solar iQuote. By using a satellite view of your roof like the one in Google maps, Sungevity can make a preliminary estimate of your system's size. According to my iQuote, a solar system on our family's roof would eliminate about 89,000 lbs. of carbon pollution during my lease, which is the equivalent of planting 1,037 trees (or of not driving 101,915 miles).

After you supply Sungevity with data on your utility bills, they can also give you an idea of exactly how much you can expect to save (based on the plan you choose). On average, Sungevity customers save about 15 percent on their electric bills.

*ROOF continued on page 10*



# California Voters to Decide on Labeling of Genetically Engineered Food

## Polls show overwhelming support for historic labeling initiative

On June 11, the California Secretary of State's office announced that the Right to Know initiative to label genetically engineered foods will be on the state's November ballot.

The historic initiative would be the first law in the United States requiring labeling of a wide range of genetically engineered foods.



"We're thrilled that Californians will have the opportunity to vote for the right to know what's in our food," said Stacy Malkan, a spokesperson for the California Right to Know campaign. "This initiative is pretty simple. It's about our fundamental right to make informed choices about the food we eat and feed our families."

The initiative requires labeling of genetically modified organisms (GMOs), which are plants or meats that have had their DNA artificially altered by the insertion of genes from other plants, animals, viruses, or bacteria, in order to produce foreign

compounds in that food. This type of genetic alteration occurs in a laboratory and is not found in nature.

There is virtually unanimous support across the political spectrum for labeling of genetically engineered foods. Nine out of ten voters in the U.S. and in California back labeling, according to recent polls. In March, more than one million people submitted comments to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration on a petition for mandatory labeling of genetically engineered foods, more than any other petition in the FDA's history.

Twenty states have tried to legislate GMO labeling, but none have succeeded due to intense opposition from corporate special interests. The Right to Know initiative puts the issue directly in front of voters. The campaign

estimates food companies and their allies will spend upwards of \$100 million on the effort to defeat the initiative. (Per *Grist*, "two carefully named, industry-backed 'astroturf' groups leading the charge" are the Coalition Opposed to the Costly Food Labeling Proposition and California Citizens Against Lawsuit Abuse.)

"All eyes are on California, and the voters of this state will support our right to know what's in our food when they vote this November," said Malkan.

For more information, go to: [www.CARighttoKnow.org](http://www.CARighttoKnow.org).

# \$50 REWARD!

\$50 will be paid to the first person who can provide a copy of a government study that proves that genetically engineered food is safe for human or livestock consumption. This study must be completed by the Food and Drug Administration or the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Proponents of genetically engineered crops, such as the Bt corn sold at Farmers Markets by Hayashi and Sons, claim that such crops have been proven safe.

SLO GE Free does not believe that safety testing of genetically engineered crops has been done by any government agency.

Consumers should not accept unproven claims of safety.

GE proponents who cannot prove the safety of their crops need to admit that all those who eat Bt corn and other genetically engineered crops are serving as guinea pigs in a big uncontrolled experiment.

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NOTE: Studies on Bt corn done in Austria and France showed Bt corn to be harmful to test animals. A study in Canada found Bt toxin in human blood samples.

CONSUMERS: If the questionable safety of GE crops concerns you, please let the manager of the SLO Farmers Market know your opinion. Call Peter Jankay at 544-9570, or email him at [pjankay@sbcglobal.net](mailto:pjankay@sbcglobal.net) and ask him to STOP the sale of genetically engineered Bt corn at the markets he manages until Bt corn has been proven safe by the FDA or USDA.

SLO GE Free, Jesse Arnold, 927-3096.

# Judgment Day Coming for Morro Bay-Cayucos Sewer

## Future of both communities riding on decision of California Coastal Commission

The City of Morro Bay has dug itself into a hole with a seriously wrong-headed plan for a new wastewater treatment plant, and will have a high mountain to climb when it makes a second try for a permit at the California Coastal Commission, possibly as early as the Commission's August meeting in Santa Cruz.

Complicating matters politically: the Morro Bay city council majority responsible for driving the debacle was voted out of office in the June election.

The existing plant, occupying the prime coastal property it was built on back in the day, when the site was considered a sandy wasteland of no particular use, is to be replaced. At numerous public workshops held by Morro Bay and Cayucos under their Joint Powers Agreement to discuss alternative sites, the vast majority of residents requested that the applicant relocate the plant.

For several years, residents, local business owners, the Sierra Club, Surfrider, and the City planning commission have told the City Council and the Cayucos Sanitary District Board the following:

The Local Coastal Plan (LCP), implementing the requirements of the California Coastal Act, requires the protection of scenic and visual areas but the project as proposed calls for two-story facilities in a designated sensitive view area. The LCP requires maximum public recreation opportunities but the project as proposed consumes oceanfront property better suited to recreational use. The LCP requires water reclamation but city planners are ignoring the demand for recycled water and the project as proposed cannot accommodate storage of recycled water.

Morro Bay's need to secure a future water supply is obvious in its dependence on state water and in the fact of the nitrate contamination of its groundwater basin, which it must rely on during annual maintenance shut downs of the State Water Project. (The Los Osos sewer project was approved by the Coastal Commission contingent upon full tertiary treatment and the dedication of 100% of its treated effluent to reclamation and beneficial reuse.)

Compared to alternative sites, the proposed project site has the highest risk of flooding, tsunami, sea level rise, earthquake liquefaction and sea level rise, and can't accommodate future build-out.

The alternative sites meet all LCP requirements, are outside the flood plain and tsunami inundation zone and reduce the visual impacts of the plant. The other sites would allow for recycled water storage, the phase out of the ocean

outfall, and future build-out. Perhaps most importantly, the selection of any alternative site over the existing site would open a new piece of prime oceanfront property for Morro Bay for dedication to visitor serving purposes, in line with the Coastal Act. (And while cost considerations are not a factor in judging permit conformity with the LCP and the Coastal Act, the value of that property would offset the expense of moving the proposed plant to an alternative site.)

Shell Beach relocated its wastewater treatment plant, retaining the existing collection system and enhancing coastal access. Coastal Commissioners are unlikely to be moved by arguments that Morro Bay can't do likewise.

The Sierra Club is one of the appellants of this project. We will be asking the Coastal Commission to find that the project as proposed is infeasible, the alternative sites require additional review, the City's LCP should be amended to rezone the site of the current treatment plant from Light Industrial to Visitor Commercial Serving use, and the immediate urban and agricultural use of recycled water is required. This would reclaim 475 acre feet of water per year and reduce the ocean outfall by 25%. A timeline for reclamation of the remainder of all the recycled water produced should be put in place for urban reuse, irrigation, groundwater recharge and environmental enhancements.

**Loaded for bear** Appellants will have plenty to say to the Coastal Commission about the deficient sewer plan concocted by the outgoing Morro Bay city council and city staff.



# Why We Didn't Endorse Them

Our post-election analysis: we wonder where the green went

Yes, we know: the best outcome of the June 5 election would have been the reelection of Jim Patterson to the Board of Supervisors. But we also know that “the best” is a long way from what it once could and should have been.

As many of you may recall, we did not endorse a candidate for either Patterson's or Adam Hill's seat. Supervisor Hill sent us an irate reply in response to our letter of notification of his non-endorsement, which he evidently forwarded to the local media. Speculation immediately commenced as to why the Sierra Club would not endorse candidates widely perceived to be two of the “greenest” supervisors on the board.

The short answer is that neither candidate actually wished to be perceived that way, and both have the voting records to prove it. Instead, they wished to be seen as “moderates.”

A longer answer must begin with the observation that a legacy of blown chances and environmentally unfriendly votes did not make the incumbents worse than their challengers, but did not merit endorsement by the oldest, largest grassroots environmental group in the country.

In its endorsement of Patterson, *The Tribune* noted that Patterson had shown himself to be “more moderate” than the “wacko environmentalist” depicted by his political opponents. Among the evidence of moderation listed were his refusal to endorse the ballot measure that would have provided a permanent funding source for the upkeep of all State Parks, and forcing the county's strongest and smartest environmental advocate off the Planning Commission. His votes for a Cayucos mega-mansion and a General Plan-busting project in Templeton were approvingly cited as additional proofs of his moderate credentials.

On Dave Congalton's KVEC talk show, Patterson called the Sierra Club “environmental extremists.” Interviewed in *New Times*, Hill proudly stated “I am not an environmentalist per se,” shrugged off his loss of support from “the farther left environmental community” and spoke wistfully of “other places” where “there are probably much more practical environmentalists that are trying to work with [policy makers].”

Four years ago, those practical environmentalists were us, and this was almost one of those other places (see our front page).

Hill went on to discuss his “yes” vote at the permit hearing for the aforementioned bad project in Templeton, a meeting at which he called Supervisor Gibson “pedantic” for his lone insistence on adhering to the General Plan and the County's adopted Smart Growth principles rather than saddling the citizens of Templeton with a poorly designed project. (Hill apologized to Gibson for calling him pedantic. He didn't apologize to Templeton for his vote.)

It was presumably in furtherance of the moderate strategy that the Hill campaign sent the Sierra Club's notification of his and Patterson's non-endorsement to the press, seeking to underscore the difference between the moderate candidates and environmental extremists like us.

## On their record

What does “moderate” mean?

We, too, wish we had “more practical” partners to work with; policy makers who understand that, as a practical matter, moderation should not mean driving toward the cliff at 60 miles per hour instead of 100 miles per hour.

We have wished they could have grasped that:

- The principles of Smart Growth are not realized when those principles are tossed out the window when reviewing the permits of major development projects.

- Our agricultural heritage and ag land is not preserved by allowing the de facto rezoning of ag lands as commercial event centers.

- The goal of localizing our energy sources is not served by stripping every reference to local energy out of the Energy chapter of the General Plan.

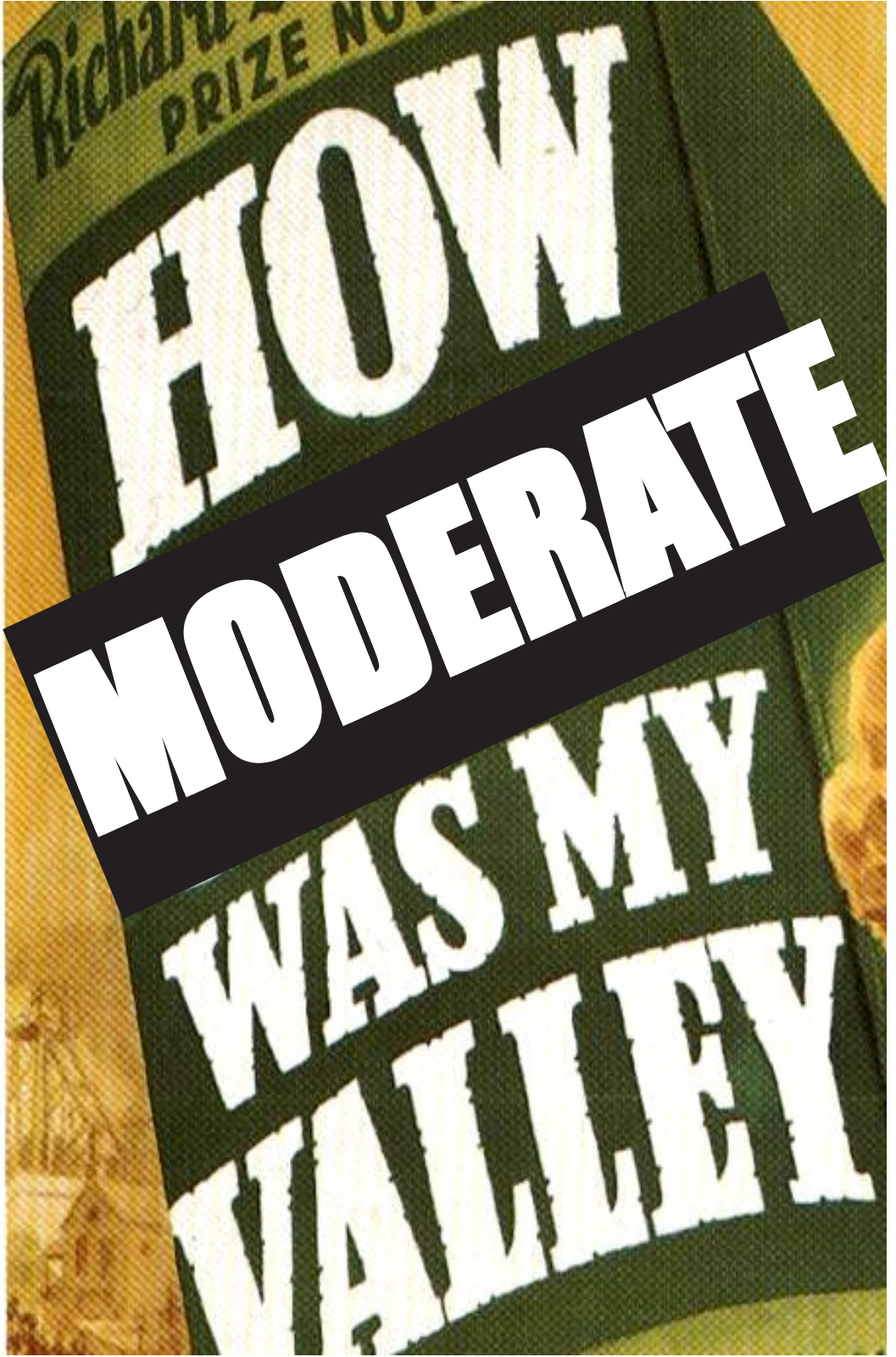
- The goal of increasing renewable energy production without inflicting severe impacts on endangered species is not served by approving two huge solar projects in the Carrizo Plan with inadequate mitigation for their impacts on habitat, leaving it to a local nonprofit and national environmental groups to litigate or threaten litigation in order to get an additional 9,000 acres set aside for species habitat protection -- something the County should have required.

- The goal of including affordable housing in housing developments is not achieved by giving developers the option of buying their way out of the inclusion of affordable housing in developments.

- The public interest is not served by jacking up the fee to appeal a development permit to the board of supervisors, thereby making it more difficult for the public to appeal, and for the board to fix, deficient projects.

- The public interest is not served by turning a blind eye to a grand jury investigation's clear evidence of attempted fraud in a Planning staff report that sought to facilitate the sale of County land in the Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area by concealing inconvenient County policies from the Planning Commission.

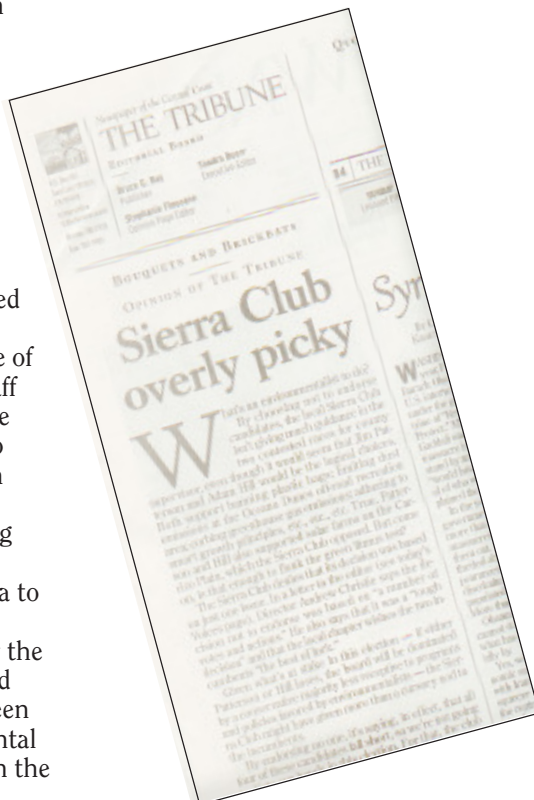
- It would have been a good idea to allow a bid to be submitted on a pressurized collection system for the Los Osos Waste Water Project and find out whether it could have been designed to have less environmental impact — at half the cost — than the



gravity system that the Public Works Department's obvious technology bias forced on residents. That fateful choice is responsible for the problematic “dewatering” and low-flow/minimum slope issues now haunting the project.

- The public interest was not served by declining to re-hear and rescind the Santa Margarita Ranch ag cluster permit, the Estrella River gravel mine permit and the Cayucos Viewshed Ordinance, the three most grievous land use violations of the previous board, leaving local nonprofits to do the corrective heavy lifting at great expense in blood and treasure.

And so on. After racking up that record, Hill had the good fortune to run against a crackpot. Patterson, up against a flood of special interest cash and having inexplicably endorsed a redistricting plan that significantly tipped the political scales against him, needed an energized base and a record that showed the kind of strong, principled conviction that attracts independent voters. Instead, he had acquired, as per *The Shredder* in *New Times*, a “crumple-prone” reputation -- a brand of moderation that reliably wins endorsements from *The Tribune*, but is not very helpful in winning elections. And in waiting weeks after absentee ballots had mailed before mounting a response to his opponent's smear campaign, Patterson appeared to be reading from the John Kerry “swift-boating” playbook -- eight years





# One-World Global Governance for Real

NAFTA was nothing — here comes the Trans-Pacific Partnership and a parallel world of special corporate rights

*The trade issue is at the core of US economic deterioration, yet it is the great silence in the 2012 campaign.*

- William Greider, *The Nation*, Feb. 6, 2012

Santa Lucians will recall that we recently explored in these pages an alleged eco-conspiracy to impose one-world government, a fantasy that has gripped the imaginations of the more conservative residents of SLO County (“Agenda 21 Meets Godzilla,” May). True believers in this conspiracy base their belief on a mildly worded twenty-year-old U.N. document, the fevered imagination of Glenn Beck, the It’s a Small World ride at Disneyland and a galaxy of websites practicing the fine art of distortion and quoting out of context.

This month, we regret to inform you that we can now bring you the real deal in global take-over conspiracy: the Trans-Pacific Partnership.

Disguised as a trade agreement and negotiated in secret – the latest round of negotiations occurring, with great irony, over the Fourth of July weekend – the TPP essentially lays out the means for corporations to handcuff governments and institute a regime of global governance in service to their interests.

We know this thanks to portions of the text that were leaked in June after two years of closed-door negotiations. The leaked text can be read at [tinyurl.com/tppinvestment](http://tinyurl.com/tppinvestment).

Although the Trans-Pacific Partnership is being peddled as a trade agreement, the leaked text reveals that its primary purpose would be to limit how signatory countries may regulate foreign firms operating within their boundaries, allowing them to challenge environmental and

public health safeguards and giving them greater rights than domestic firms.

The leaked text reveals that the drafters are aiming to give unfettered rights to foreign corporations at the expense of environmental and other public interest policy. The TPP’s definition of “investment” goes far beyond “real property” as defined under domestic law, and would expose wide swaths of common domestic policy to attack. It sets up a two-track legal system, with foreign firms empowered to skirt domestic courts and laws to directly sue governments in non-transparent private tribunals. These trade tribunals could award corporations unlimited cash compensation for any claimed “takings” – i.e. laws they feel might reduce their profits – if they were made to shoulder the intolerable burden of having to obey the laws domestic businesses are subject to.

“The top U.S. trade official effectively has said that the administration must keep TPP secret because otherwise it won’t be able to shove this deal past the public and Congress,” said Lori Wallach, director of Public Citizen’s Global Trade Watch. “U.S. officials are rewriting swaths of U.S. law that have nothing to do with trade. They have agreed to submit the U.S. government to the jurisdiction of foreign tribunals that can order unlimited payments of our tax dollars to foreign corporations that don’t want to comply with the same laws our



domestic firms do.”

“Our worst fears have been confirmed by this leaked text,” said Margrete Strand Rangnes, Labor and Trade Director for the Sierra Club. “Government officials have touted the TPP as a ‘21st Century Agreement.’ But the language in the investment chapter echoes outdated trade agreements which put the profits of corporations over environment and public interest policy. The full text of the TPP must be publicly released and the secretive nature of the talks must come to an end.”

The TPP represents the ultimate extension of the world-beating corporate agenda known as the investor-state regime. To date, corporations such as Exxon Mobil and Dow Chemical have launched more than 450 cases against 89 govern-

ments using investment rules similar to those in the leaked text. Dozens of environmental laws and regulations have been challenged, and countries—including the U.S.—have spent millions of dollars fending off corporate attacks on government policy.

“The Sierra Club recognizes and appreciates that the United States is pushing for a strong and legally binding environment chapter of the TPP,” said Strand Rangnes. “However, the investment chapter would severely undermine attempts to strengthen environmental law and policy. The Sierra Club could not support an agreement with such harmful investment provisions.”

The Sierra Club will continue to demand transparency and a rewrite of the TPP as the next round of negotiations starts in July in San Diego.

## The Next Bad Thing

The common wisdom, per a reassuring pronouncement in the June 14 edition of *New Times*, is that the new pro-business, anti-environment majority on the County Board of Supervisors won’t be able to get up to much mischief in the foreseeable future because there is nothing major “looming on the horizon” that represents an opportunity for “apocalyptic change.”

Meet the Laetitia Agricultural Cluster Subdivision.

Unless the current Board acts fast this year, this south county mega-development will come before the development-friendly board for its next try at a permit next year.

For more information on the project, go to the website of the Nipomo Hills Alliance, [www.stoplaetitia.com](http://www.stoplaetitia.com)

The Sierra Club’s comments on the project’s recirculated Draft EIR can be read at [santalucia.sierraclub.org/news/news.html](http://santalucia.sierraclub.org/news/news.html).

### Stop the Laetitia Ag Cluster

By The Nipomo Hills Alliance

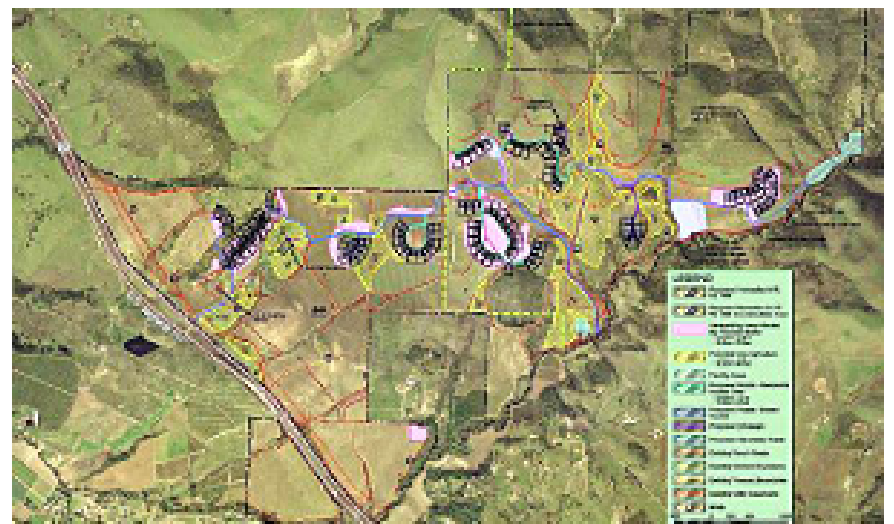
Firstly, we should point out the numerous water studies conducted by the applicants hydrogeologist have consistently overestimated the water supply while repeatedly revising estimates of water demand downward.

The work done by GeoSync appears to have been very thorough. However, this peer review was based on testing data provided by the applicant’s hydrogeologist, who didn’t even provide data and testing plans to GeoSync for Phases 1 & 2 (and perhaps phase 3 as well) until after the testing had been concluded.

Secondly, their estimates of a water

duty factors of .44 AFY, while mathematically possible, are realistically not attainable. Comparable developments are using water duty factors of 1.44 to 1.5 AFY. GeoSync’s water duty factor is more suitable to small urban lots than to one-acre rural lots.

Even if one accepts these low demand estimates there do not appear to be adequate measures in place to implement and enforce the proposed water conservation methods. The threat to deny permits and licenses subsequent to occupancy as a deterrent is laughable. A relatively small increase in the water duty factor from .44 to .60 plus the Ranch HQ would nearly equal the estimated sustainable yield of 62.4 AFY ( $102 \times .6 = 61.2 + 1 = 62.2$ ). The addition of the Dude



Ranch with its unsupported requirement of 13 AFY for their 77 units only exacerbates the problem. Considering rainfall was 138% of normal during the testing period, it is apparent there is little, if any, margin of error.

Thirdly, they are attempting their version of bait and switch. The reduction in Los Berros Creek flow was

LAETITIA continued on page 7





# Morro Mania Was a Day to Remember



By Joe Morris, Outings Chair

On June 9, outings leaders Bill Waycott and Andrea Ortiz led a hardy bunch of hikers on a unique event: a one-day ascent of the five major publicly accessible Morros in San Luis Obispo County. Nine participants, who climbed one or more of the Morros, joined them.

As far as anyone can remember, this happening was the first time in our chapter's history when Islay Hill, Cerro San Luis, Bishop Peak, Cerro

Cabrillo, and Black Hill were all climbed in a single day, for a total mileage of over 13 miles and 3,500 feet of elevation gain. Bill conceived of the idea and skillfully coordinated the planning. Andrea assisted with her usual cheerful energy.

Leading a day of five hikes posed some unique challenges. Five meetings were held to tackle such questions as: When must the day begin and end? Where could restrooms be found (none of the trailheads have "pit stops.") How to accommodate slower hikers? How much drive time would need to be factored in?

The day began, a mild, sunny one, with a two-mile hike up Islay Hill at 7:30 a.m. In the southern boundaries of SLO, Islay is the easternmost of the Morros, with grand views of several of the others. Bill leaped through the knee-high grass coming down to show people some ancient Chumash mortars. A four-mile walk up and over Cerro San Luis, with knockout views of SLO, followed. Then a lunch break with some communal watermelon at 12:30, and up Bishop Peak, the highest of the Morros. Near the top were several boulder caves, one of which was occupied by a turkey vulture who probably wasn't expecting company.

Onward! The caravan headed north to Morro Bay for a hike up Cerro Cabrillo, which gave the hikers a great view of the estuary.

Ending the day at 7 p.m. was an exuberant hike up Black Hill in Morro Bay State Park, with panoramic views of the coastline north to San Simeon. Bill and Andrea looked refreshed, hardly tired, with Andrea even pondering going contra-dancing that evening.

On to Morro Mania Day 2013!

## No Endorsement

continued from page 5

after any political campaign lost any excuse for making such a basic mistake.

It may be useful to take a closer look at the alleged extremism vs. moderation paradigm in a particular instance: the Templeton project which *The Tribune* cited in its Patterson endorsement and Hill brought up in his *New Times* interview. Here's what we wrote at the time our moderate supervisors voted to approve the Davis-Tucker Creek-side project in Templeton:

The applicant's design... will require filling in the flood plain area of the Recreation zoned land with eight to ten feet of fill, lobbying FEMA to change the flood designation areas, channelizing Toad Creek and building earthen berms on neighboring property to contain the flood waters of Toad Creek rather than restoring the creek as required by Templeton Design Standards, among other problems. The Templeton CSD raised objections to the project's proposal to construct these berms on their sewer lift lines. This issue was never addressed in the hearing and approval process. The unresolved, unmitigated traffic and flooding problems with this project will haunt the community and the county for decades to come.

Should we anticipate moderate unmitigated traffic and flooding, in line with that supposedly moderate vote? Is channelizing Toad Creek the mark of a moderate, whereas restoring Toad Creek as called for in the community design standards would have been left wing? Did deciding to build on top of sewer lines and ignoring all project-related impacts serve to differentiate Supervisors Patterson and Hill from environmental extremists?

### Then as now

In 2007, SLO County District 5 legislative assistant Anne McMahon said "Everything we need to know about how we can better manage growth has been known for years. Many organized community-wide efforts and conferences held in the county during the last ten years or more have all come to the same conclusion: we want to protect our agricultural lands, natural resources, unique communities, and more. Or at least, we say that's what we want. What has been sorely lacking is any

strong political will to do it."

True then. And, alas, still true now. The determinedly moderate candidate, slipping easily into the "environmental extremist" cadences of the far right, is trapped by two fundamentally flawed articles of faith: that the best position is always in the center, and compromise is an essential good, suitable for all occasions.

To that first belief, we presume our readers are familiar with Jim Hightower's observation about the only things to be found in the middle of the road (yellow stripes and dead armadillos). To the second belief, there is a difference between compromising on objectives and compromising on values. When compromise, a process in which it is sometimes necessary to engage, gets confused with goals, it becomes a core belief instead of a means to an end.

To candidates confused between means and goals, we recommend the words of Rose Ann DeMoro, director of the California Nurses Association, who recently told Bill Moyers: "I'm not interested in bipartisanship; I'm interested in social change."

As we point out on our front page, this board still has the same chance they had four years ago to begin to effect broad, meaningful change and secure what we all say we want.

In the end, the 2012 SLO County Board of Supervisors election was a local lesson on what "moderate" seems to mean now. It was about calculation and the constricted politics of our time; narrowed hopes, lowered expectations and limited horizons, the sense of what is politically possible telescoped far down from what many can still remember from times past, locally and nationally, when tides of progressive and populist ambition ran high.

As an example of the better way, we've reproduced below a portion of a famous speech Robert F. Kennedy gave in South Africa in 1966, in which RFK had a few things to say about practicality, pragmatism and political courage. The word "moderate" does not appear.

His words are a reminder of what politics is supposed to be, what it's for, and why anyone would want to be involved in it.

## Excerpt from the Day of Affirmation address

Robert F. Kennedy, University of Capetown, South Africa, June 6, 1966

The second danger is that of expediency; of those who say that hopes and beliefs must bend before immediate necessities. Of course, if we would act effectively we must deal with the world as it is. We must get things done.

But if there was one thing President Kennedy stood for that touched the most profound feelings of young people around the world, it was the belief that idealism, high aspirations, and deep convictions are not incompatible with the most practical and efficient of programs -- that there is no basic inconsistency between ideals and realistic possibilities, no separation between the deepest desires of heart and of mind and the rational application of human effort to human problems. It is not realistic or hardheaded to solve problems and take action unguided by ultimate moral aims and values, although we all know some who claim that it is so. In my judgment, it is thoughtless folly. For it ignores the realities of human faith and of passion and of belief -- forces ultimately more powerful than all of the calculations of our economists or of our generals.

Of course to adhere to standards, to idealism, to vision in the face of immediate dangers takes great courage and takes self-confidence. But we also know that only those who dare to fail greatly can ever achieve greatly.

It is this new idealism which is also, I believe, the common heritage of a generation which has learned that while efficiency can lead to the camps at Auschwitz, or the streets of Budapest, only the ideals of humanity and love can climb the hills of the Acropolis.

A third danger is timidity. Few men are willing to brave the disapproval of their fellows, the censure of their colleagues, the wrath of their society. Moral courage is a rarer commodity than bravery in battle or great intelligence. Yet it is the one essential, vital quality of those who seek to change a world which yields most painfully to change. Aristotle tells us that "At the Olympic games it is not the finest and the strongest men who are crowned, but they who enter the lists.... So too in the life of the honorable and the good, it is they who act rightly who win the prize." I believe that in this generation those with the courage to enter the moral conflict will find themselves with companions in every corner of the world.



## Laetitia

continued from page 6

categorized as a Class I unmitigable impact, therefore requiring a finding of overriding consideration on the part of the County. Applicants then proposed to mitigate this by not using wells number 12 and 13 for the project because of their proximity to the creek and adverse influence on stream flow adversely. Instead they drilled wells number 14 and 15, which allegedly are in a different aquifer as well as further from the creek. The revised DEIR bought this mitigation without any restriction to prohibit Laetitia's use of these wells for vineyard irrigation, agricultural facilities or the future Dude Ranch. Laetitia should be precluded not only from using wells 12 and 13, but also wells 11 and 8, which are also in close proximity to the creek and probably draw from the riparian aquifer of creek underflow.

Historically, Laetitia has met all of their vineyard and ag facility needs using existing wells in the lower western portion of their property (with the exception of well #9) and should be restricted to continuing to do so in accordance with the County's policy of ag water having primacy over residential needs.

Finally, it is apparent the applicants are using water in storage as a component of "safe" yield, which in essence means they are "mining" the aquifer.



# Club Pushes to Cut Toxics Exposure

By Annie Pham, Legislative Assistant, Sierra Club California

A state regulatory agency is preparing a long-awaited draft regulation to cut toxics in everyday products.

The rule, required as a result of a 2008 law Sierra Club California helped pass, has had a longer route to completion than initially envisioned. Known as a “Green Chemistry” rule, it was first released in draft form by the Department of Toxic Substance Control (DTSC) during the Schwarzenegger administration. That draft was so weak and ineffective the Brown administration went back to the drawing board to rewrite it.

Sierra Club California and other key stakeholders have had a sneak peak at the expected new draft. It’s much better than past versions. However, industry pressure is mounting for the rule to be weakened before it goes public.

Among the new draft’s improved features is a robust list of chemicals the regulators should consider as they evaluate groups of products for their safety. The new draft includes more than 2,100 chemicals, culled from other vetted lists of chemicals known to be harmful to people and the environment. Chemical industry representatives and manufacturers are asking that the DTSC’s list be cut down to as few as 100. There are more than 100,000 chemicals used in commerce.

Sierra Club California is working with allies to support the longer list, and asking that the list of products that contain the chemicals, and that are scheduled to be reviewed under the rule, be expanded. Additionally, we are pressing for ways for the public, not just industry stakeholders, to participate more fully as the regulation is implemented.

The Green Chemistry law intended that California, as one of the world’s largest economies, protect public health and the environment from unnecessary exposure to dangerous chemicals in consumer products. The new rule needs to reflect this intent. Sierra Club California staff are working with toxics safety allies to send a loud and clear message to the industry and regulators that our children and our environment demand safer products.

You can read our latest comment letter to DTSC at [sierraclubcalifornia.org/2012/06/04/clubpushestocuttoxicsexposure](http://sierraclubcalifornia.org/2012/06/04/clubpushestocuttoxicsexposure).

## TAKE ACTION

State regulators are facing industry pressure on a broad front, not just to weaken protections from toxics before a formal draft of Green Chemistry rules is released. The next few months will be a dangerous time for California’s environmental quality.

Big Oil is stepping up a strategy to attack landmark policies designed to

end its monopoly on transportation fuels. Organized legislative attacks on environmental review are in full swing, with help from the governor’s office.

Now, more than ever, the environment needs a strong voice in the State Capitol. Sierra Club California staff members are that voice, but we can’t do it alone. We need your help to make sure we have the resources—

especially the dollars—to keep us as active and effective as possible.

Every dollar you give literally buys lobbying time for the environment. Help us protect California. Please donate today.

You may securely donate online at [sierraclubcalifornia.org](http://sierraclubcalifornia.org) or send a check to Sierra Club California at 801 K Street, Suite 2700, Sacramento, CA 95814.



## Plovers Win Fight for Critical Habitat

On June 18, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service designated approximately 24,527 acres of coastal habitat in Washington, Oregon and California as critical habitat for the Pacific Coast population of the western snowy plover, including 1,076 acres of Morro Bay beach and 1,652 acres in the Nipomo and Guadalupe Dunes.

The plover is protected as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Critical habitat is a term in the ESA that identifies geographic areas containing features essential for the conservation of a threatened or endangered species, and which may require special management considerations or protection. Designation of critical habitat has no impact on private landowners taking actions on their land that do not require federal funding or permits. It is used to notify other Federal agencies of areas that must be given special consideration when they are planning, implementing, or funding activities that may affect designated critical habitat.

The designation revises the Service’s previous critical habitat designation for the plover and represents a significant increase from the 12,150 acres the Service proposed to designate as critical habitat in 2005. That designation was quickly engulfed by clouds of scandal wafting from the Bush administration’s anti-environmental Interior Department and got the Fish and Wildlife Service sued by the Center for Biological Diversity over improper analysis of economic impacts, inappropriate interpretation of the Endangered Species Act and its implementing regulations, and political interference. In settlement of that lawsuit, the Service proposed the revised critical habitat designation on March 22, 2011, encompassing a total of 47 discrete areas or units in California, nine in Oregon and four in Washington.

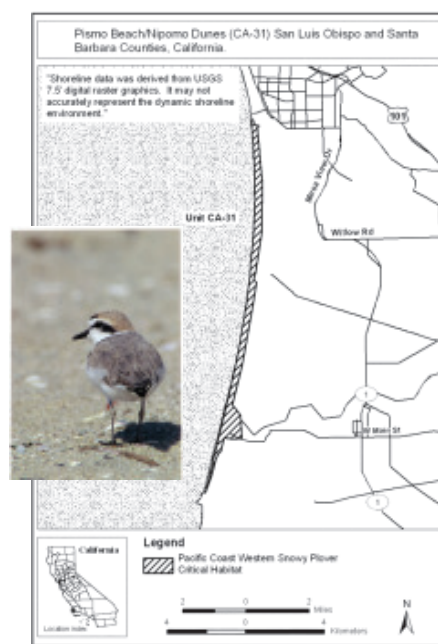
The expanded designation was bitterly opposed by the off-road lobby, which instigated a national letter-writing campaign to remove the Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area (Unit CA-31) from the proposed designation.

Fortunately, they failed. (See “Pull for the Plovers,” June 2011.) In our 2011 letter of comment to the Fish and Wildlife Service, the Santa Lucia Chapter pointed out that “State Parks’ management of the Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area continues to result in the take of Western Snowy Plover in violation of both State and Federal Endangered Species Acts, the California Coastal Act, and California Fish and Game Code Section 3511. We support the proposed rule revising designated critical

habitat for the Pacific Coast population of the Western Snowy Plover and urge special management considerations and protection for Unit CA-31 as required to minimize habitat destruction, degradation, and fragmentation associated with recreational activities and off-highway vehicle use.”

The designated critical habitat is part of the unique and increasingly rare coastal beach-dune ecosystem habitat along the Pacific Coast essential to the survival and recovery of the plover. Using the best available scientific information, the Service determined that the plover requires additional critical habitat to offset anticipated adverse effects of rising sea level due to climate change, and to reflect increased understanding of the important role that unoccupied habitat can provide for the conservation and recovery of imperiled species.

PLOVER continued on page 10



**Nice one** The environmental community prevailed in the designation of 1,652 acres of critical habitat for the snowy plover at the Oceano and Guadalupe Dunes.

## Letters

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

### About Sweet Springs...

I am a longtime supporter of Sierra Club both in California and Nevada, and find myself appalled at the short sightedness of the local Sierra Club’s view/support of the Sweet Springs plan to destroy old trees in the name of conservation (“About Sweet Springs...,” April). Did you all forget what the word means?

I live across the street from the Sweet Springs Preserve. One of my choices to live here were the beautiful and fragrant eucalyptus trees across the street and upwind from me. A native Californian myself, I grew up along the Northern California coast with these trees, and they were there long before my 63 years. It is the nature of life be in change. We may not always like the changes, but if you live long enough, it is clear that holding onto the past is a lesson in frustration. These old trees came to our land, thrived and made a home here for themselves and numerous plant and animal lives. In years to come, this purist, hold-onto-the-past view that includes cutting down the Cyprus and Eucalyptus trees will be pointed to as the grievous error it is. Let us take a long time to determine whether this is the right course before losing these iconoclastic behemoths that so many of us love and that now have an ecosystem of their own. Perhaps we should consider getting rid of all the non-native Californians before we kill these trees.

B. Misty Wycoff  
Los Osos

*It has been saddening to see Audubon’s proposed restoration project at the Los Osos Sweet Springs Nature Preserve — a project that will enhance the preserve’s value as wildlife habitat — become a contest of personal aesthetics vs. endangered species. The first requirement of conservation is to acknowledge that nature is about the reality of ecology and ecosystems, not an analogy about plants as immigrants seeking their fortune and meeting the requirements for citizenship. Managing Sweet Springs to give threatened species a chance to survive and the ecosystem a chance to recover from the encroachment of invasive species requires removing as much of the veldt grass as possible and thinning the eucalyptus — not including those that currently serve the needs of nesting raptors and Monarch butterflies — and replacing them with native coast live oaks, sycamores, myrtles, willows and coastal dune shrubs. The planning process will take the requisite long time to determine whether this is the right course.*

*The Sierra Club supports healthy ecosystems and the survival of endangered species. We do not support extinction under the euphemism of “change.” We support the East Sweet Springs habitat enhancement project because we have not forgotten what the word “conservation” means.*

### Losing Sleep and Waking Up Worried?

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## In Memoriam

Peter Douglas, legendary Executive Director of the California Coastal Commission, passed away on April 1. A memorial service was held at Crystal Cove on the Newport Coast of California on June 1.

He wrote these words to be read at his memorial:



I leave with warm feelings of love, friendship and gratitude in a heart that has now been stilled. Having come to terms with demons and virtues, my strengths, weaknesses and transgressions, I have no regrets other than not being able to do much I would yet have wanted to accomplish. My life has been challenging, meaningful, fulfilling and spiritually rewarding. During my brief time in the sun I was privileged with gifts of profound love, the adventures of parenting, the honor of service, and an enduring zeal for learning and discovery.

With the passage of years, I grew younger at heart. I looked within for answers to perplexing questions the inquiring of all ages ask. I found peace and harmony there, notwithstanding the push and pull of passions with which I was amply endowed. Though ever optimistic, I could not, of late, totally withstand a depressing sense of despair arising from a growing accumulation of proof that ours is a devolving culture characterized by avarice, intolerance, cynical manipulation of thought and suppression of critical thinking, intellectual myopia, dishonesty and laziness, selfishness, tyranny of corporate oligarchy, deliberate disenfranchisement, growing poverty, mindless, unconscionable despoliation of Gaia, and political pusillanimity by liberals and progressives.

Notwithstanding gnawing pessimism and no matter how irremediable the declining condition of the planet seems, humans are responsible and what you do and don't do is the legacy you leave -- your footprints in the sands of time and the measure of your presence here. My activist days are over, but yours are not. If you wish to give in my memory, give of yourselves -- renew your resolve and commit yourself to continuing making a difference. Never give up! Inspire and empower the young to get involved. Encourage activism. Speak truth to power and remember the power of truth. Mother Earth and the powerless need your courage, resolve, and convictions. Eschew pusillanimity. Don't become comfortable with the status quo. Your life is short; your legacy is long. Look within for meaning and reward. Do your best but by all means try. I knew the difficulties of staying with the struggle. But more importantly, I internalized the sustaining power of perseverance. There is reward in the trying, too. Make a difference! You are the only one who can. Carpe vita!

## Ocean & Coastal Amateur Photo Contest

Enter now & vote online

The 2012 California Ocean and Coastal Amateur Photography Contest is seeking your best summer beach pictures!

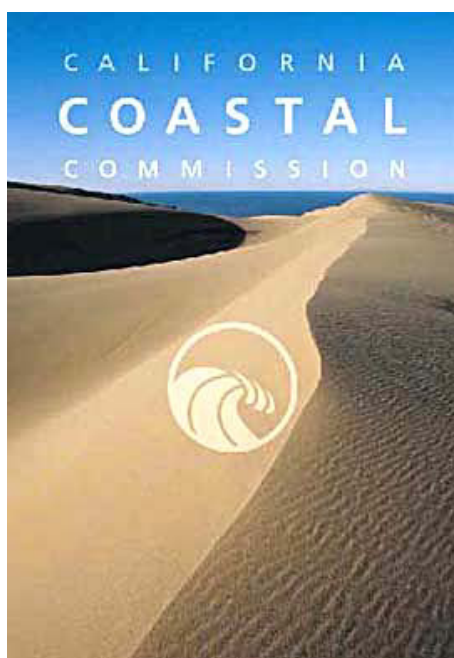
Amateur photographers are invited to upload up to five photos depicting the scenic coast and Pacific Ocean off California, native ocean and coastal wildlife, or people and the California coast, and then encourage your friends to vote.

Online voters will pick a "viewers' choice" winner, while separate "judges' choice" winners will be selected for first, second, and third place. Winners will select from the following donated prizes:

- An overnight stay in Sonoma County courtesy of The Fairmont Sonoma Mission Inn & Spa.
- An overnight stay in Orange County courtesy of the Fairmont Newport Beach hotel.
- An overnight stay in San Jose, courtesy of the Fairmont San Jose hotel.
- An overnight stay in San Francisco, courtesy of the Fairmont Hotel San Francisco atop Nob Hill.

The deadline to enter is July 13th, 2012 and online voting runs through July 27th. Entry is free. To enter your photos or vote for others, visit [mycoastalphoto.com](http://mycoastalphoto.com).

Sponsored by the California Coastal Commission, Thank You Ocean Campaign, and Fairmont Hotels & Resorts of California.



## MPA Watch: A Citizen Action Network for Healthy Oceans

Protected area management can only be effective if it is based on accurate knowledge on how people are affecting the resources within the protected area.

- Dr. Peter Mous  
The Nature Conservancy

By the Otter Project

The Central Coast is home to California's first network of underwater parks, known as Marine Protected Areas, developed under the Marine Life Protection Act. Designated in 2007, these 29 MPAs set the standard for the rest of the state.

Implementing the MLPA requires more than just establishing MPAs. Now that they are designated, stakeholders must ensure their success through active monitoring and by building awareness in local communities.

The Otter Project promotes the



The Otter Project

rapid recovery of the California sea otter through science-based policy and advocacy. As part of our effort to protect sea otter habitat, the Otter Project was heavily involved with the formation of Marine Protected Areas along California's central coast. We will be training a network of volunteers to monitor resource use in and around MPAs from Año Nuevo to Cambria. Volunteers will be trained to identify ocean activities and collect data. MPAs are a cutting edge tool of ocean conservation and we want to know how they work!

Volunteers will be responsible for collecting and recording data on near-shore ocean resource use. This will involve monitoring shoreline and

### Ode to the Ocean

Wind, water, rocks  
Scour out the mind  
Leaving bare essence.  
The rest is flotsam and jetsam.

- Judith Bernstein

MPA WATCH continued on page 10

## National Ocean Policy Workshop

Sierra Club's Marine Action Team cordially invites you to attend a training on the National Ocean Policy (NOP) on Sunday, July 29, from 12-5 p.m. at the Goleta Branch Library, 500 N. Fairview Ave., Goleta.

Two years ago, on July 19, 2010, President Obama signed an Executive Order to establish the National

Ocean Policy to prioritize marine stewardship and better coordinate use of our ocean and Great Lakes resources. The NOP is not a new law, but rather a way to encourage all 27 agencies currently working in our oceans and Great Lakes to adopt a formal policy to strategically manage our oceans—and the economies and ecological systems that depend on them.

Since the summer of 2010, NOP implementation has been an uphill battle, mainly due to gridlock in Congressional appropriations and Federal budget cuts. Meanwhile, regional groups such as the Northeast Regional Ocean Council and West Coast Governor's Alliance on Ocean Health continue to collaborate and integrate their ocean policy and decision making.

The NOP is a significant document for our nation. To keep this policy from becoming nothing more than "pie in the sky," Sierra Club's Marine Action Team has adopted it and is aggressively recruiting activists throughout the country to join the team and help in the push for implementation.

Whatever your local ocean or marine related issue is—whether it is extension of a National Marine Sanctuary or wetland restoration—it can be benefited by the National Ocean Policy. One of the nine priorities of the NOP is Coastal Marine Spatial Planning, which plays a huge role in protecting marine ecosystems—as evidenced by the Marine Life Protection Act and the network of Marine Protected Areas now spanning the length of the California coast.

The Sierra Club Marine Action Team will be hosting nine trainings in various regions throughout the Nation (California, Washington, Virginia, Hawaii, the Gulf and the Southeast) this summer to train local Sierra Club members on

- The history of the NOP;
- Content of the NOP;
- Current Status and Issues surrounding the NOP;
- How to use the NOP to benefit your local campaign/marine issues; and
- How you can stay involved and help implement the NOP (letters, lobbying, etc.).

For more information, contact NOP Project Manager Roxy Carter at [roxyjesselyn@gmail.com](mailto:roxyjesselyn@gmail.com).





**Roof***continued from page 3*

Generally, people who can afford to purchase a system outright will get the biggest overall savings, but there are advantages to leasing a system besides not having to write a big check (solar panels have gotten a lot cheaper recently, but they're still a significant investment for most homeowners). One is peace of mind: Sungevity is responsible for the maintenance of leased systems, and they continuously monitor performance to make sure everything's working right. And when your lease is finished, you can always opt to purchase the system at fair market value. For more on how solar leases work, see our website.

There are plenty of great solar installers across the country. The Sierra Club chose to partner with Sungevity because we support their

vision to grow a grassroots movement of clean-energy homeowners. If you choose Sungevity, you'll receive a \$750 cash gift card — and Sungevity will contribute an additional \$750 to the Sierra Club. Not bad. The best reason to start harvesting all that free sunshine that's falling on your rooftop, though, is that each kilowatt hour of solar you generate either replaces electricity that might otherwise come from burning a fossil fuel like coal or natural gas.

And if you charge an EV or plug-in hybrid vehicle at home, you're displacing yet another dirty fossil fuel — oil (and saving still more money).

Getting an iQuote doesn't cost anything and takes only a few minutes. If you're a homeowner like me who's been itching to go solar, give it a try — and let me know how it goes.

**Topaz Solar Farm construction is underway and will continue for the next three years.**

For Project Information:  
[www.topazsolar.com](http://www.topazsolar.com)

**Questions?**

Construction Liaison, Dawn Legg:  
**(480) 390-6256**

To register anonymous comments:  
Toll-free Hotline: **(877) 228-3331**

*Bringing jobs,  
clean energy and  
opportunities to  
San Luis Obispo  
County*


**Plover***continued from page 8*

Over the last forty years, major coastal plover nesting areas have declined from 50 to 28.

In addition to loss of nesting habitat due to development, the size of the population has declined. About 2,500 Pacific Coast western snowy plovers breed along the Pacific Coast. Human activity on beaches during the breeding season, including operating off-road vehicles and horseback riding, can cause destruction of eggs and chicks. Predation and encroachment of exotic beach grass are other factors in the decline of the Pacific Coast western snowy plover.

The rule will go into effect on July 19.

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USE IN AND FOR GOOD HEALTH

**Nuked***continued from page 3*

Friends of the Earth participated in the meeting.

The California Public Utilities Commission is holding hearings on the Alliance's opposition to PG&E's new seismic study funding request for Diablo Canyon. The Alliance filed an opening brief on May 18 and a reply brief on June 1, urging the PUC to

direct PG&E to configure its onshore and offshore seismic surveys to specifically address Dr. Douglas Hamilton's testimony concerning the Diablo Cove Fault and the San Luis Range Fault and their interaction (see "Safety is Their Worst Priority," June).

Stay tuned. And stay up to date at [www.a4nr.org](http://www.a4nr.org).

**MPA Watch***continued from page 9*

ocean activities at a specified site for one or two-hour shifts. Shifts can be irregularly scheduled, but must be coordinated with a partner and committed to in advance.

It is widely acknowledged that ensuring compliance with MPA regulations is essential to the success of MPAs. Yet no quantitative studies on compliance to MPA regulations exist. To date, the success of MPAs has largely been evaluated based on ecological monitoring results.

To ensure that evaluations are

accurate, it is essential that we verify that the protected area in question was protected in practice, and not just on paper. That's where you come in.

**How does it work?**

MPA Watch is a new program coordinated by The Otter Project to train citizen volunteers and docent groups to monitor resource use in and around MPAs. Volunteers are assigned specific monitoring locations and asked to record activities they see taking place.

Volunteers' experiences in the field will be used to develop and improve standardized monitoring protocol and will give managers an idea of the scope of resource use and the tools to adaptively manage the program to ensure accuracy and reliability. The data gathered will be analyzed to answer the following questions:

- Are certain activities increasing around MPAs (i.e. increased wildlife viewing, diving, etc.)
- Are regulations being followed?
- What are the pros and cons of MPA use?

Answering these questions can help managers and stakeholders tailor enforcement and outreach efforts. The goal of MPA Watch is to foster compliance and inform management decisions for Central Coast MPAs by providing useful information to enforcement and

management agencies coping with new regulations.

**TAKE ACTION**

Spend a day at the beach & call it work! Volunteer for MPA Watch! The Otter Project is now seeking volunteers for this exciting monitoring program:

**Requirements**

**Endurance:** Volunteers must be able to spend at least one hour outdoors in unpredictable central coast weather. Some monitoring sites require moderate hiking.

**Open Mind:** Volunteers will be asked to use basic field technology (binoculars, GPS, digital cameras) and web tools (meetup.com and Google docs) to access materials and information, and report data. No previous experience required but willingness to learn is advisable.

**Flexibility:** Volunteers are asked to provide feedback on monitoring protocols and troubleshoot problems in the field.

**Commitment**

- Volunteers must commit to a minimum of 2 hrs/week of monitoring for at least 3 months.



- Volunteers must attend 2-3 hour training (Either via online training or an in person session, plus field time).
- Once trained, volunteer monitoring times are flexible but must be coordinated with a partner.
- Volunteers are also asked to attend a one-hour social catch up every 6 – 8 weeks to submit data, give input, receive feedback and collaborate with other volunteers.

**Regions**

- Santa Cruz Region—ranges from Año Nuevo SMCA to Natural Bridges SMR.
- Monterey Region—ranges from around the Monterey Peninsula to Big Creek SMR.
- San Luis Obispo Region—ranges from the Piedras Blancas SMR down to Point Buchon SMR.

To sign up, contact: [volunteer@otterproject.org](mailto:volunteer@otterproject.org), or call 831-646-8837. Visit [www.otterproject.org](http://www.otterproject.org) for more info!

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# Classifieds

Next issue deadline is **August 15**. To get a rate sheet or submit your ad and payment, contact:  
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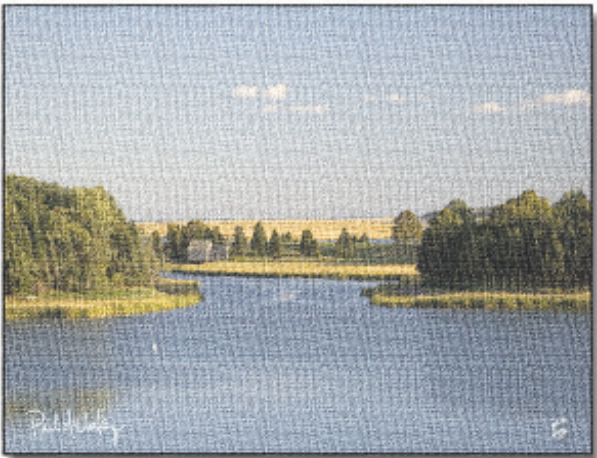
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**Rainwater Management**




**Low Impact Development**

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Chapter of the Sierra Club and the Surfrider Foundation, available for \$10 postage paid, while supplies last. Mail your check to Sierra Club, P.O. Box 15755, SLO 93406.

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# Outings and Activities Calendar

Seller of travel registration information: CST 2087766-40. Registration as a seller of travel does not constitute approval by the State of California.

All our hikes and activities are open to all Club members and the general public. Please bring drinking water to all outings and optionally a lunch. Sturdy footwear is recommended. All phone numbers listed are within area code 805 unless otherwise noted. Pets are generally not allowed. A parent or responsible adult must accompany children under the age of 18. 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 Chair Joe Morris, 772-1875. For information on a specific outing, please call the listed outing leader.

**Fri-Sun, July 13-16. Highland Range Nevada Service** Join ranger John from Nevada BLM for a scintillating wilderness service project in Highland Range, just south of Great Basin Nat. Park. Mark old historic trail, clean up aspen grove to keep vehicles on road, inventory arborglyphs, and erect fencing—all good work at a scenic location. Central commissary offered. Contact Vicky Hoover at [vicky.hoover@sierraclub.org](mailto:vicky.hoover@sierraclub.org) or 415-977-5527. CNRCC Wilderness Committee.

**Sat., July 14, 9 a.m. Lopez Lake/Duna Vista Hike** 7-mile, 1000 ft. gain, hike on loop trail past the two arms of Lopez Lake to Duna Vista lookout summit with 360-degree views of Pacific and Santa Barbara Cty, continuing to another lookout where the two waters meet. Duration about 3 hrs. Bring adequate water, snacks, hat and sturdy shoes and dress in layers for the weather. To reach French Boy Scout Camp trailhead, drive towards Lopez Lake Recreation Area. Just before entrance, after crossing a bridge over a lake side canyon, turn right on Hi Mountain Rd and proceed for .8 mile, turning left on Upper Lopez Canyon Rd for 4 miles to entrance of French Boy Scout Camp, on left side of road. Park in camp parking lot. Info.: Bill Waycott, 459-2103 or [bill.waycott@gmail.com](mailto:bill.waycott@gmail.com) Plants, animals, and geology of the area will be topics on the outing.

**Fri-Sun, July 20-22 Little Rock Canyon Wilderness** We will be

rebuilding culvert and doing route rehabilitation on edge of Little High Rock Canyon Wilderness in Black Rock Desert High Rock Canyon Immigrant Trails NCA. All meals except lunch are provided. Info.: Graham Stafford, 775-686-8478, [graham@grahamstafford.com](mailto:graham@grahamstafford.com) or Pat Bruce (Friends of Nevada Wilderness) at [pbruce@nevadawilderness.org](mailto:pbruce@nevadawilderness.org) Great Basin Group-Toiyabe Chapter.

**Sun., July 22, 1 p.m. City Walk of San Luis Obispo: Jazz Age to the Fifties.** Where is the hotel where Hearst entertained his guests, the speakeasies in the twenties, the USO dance hall for GIs after Pearl Harbor, and the original French Hospital? Find out and much more on a guided downtown stroll past historic stores, theaters, and hotels. Learn about SLO city life from years of the Model T to Prohibition and World War II. Meet at building designed by Frank Lloyd Wright, corner of Santa Rosa and Pacific Sts. Info.: Joe Morris, 549-0355.

**Wed., July 25, 7-9 p.m. Bimonthly Meeting: "Best of the Bioneers."** The annual Bioneers conference is a gathering place for the most visionary environmental thinkers in the U.S. At the last (October 2011) meeting were two remarkable speakers: Amory Lovins, chair of the Rocky Mountain Institute, and Rebecca Moore, U.C. Santa Cruz professor. Tonight's meeting shows videos of their two talks, each lasting about 35 minutes. Lovins presents arresting

data and graphs to delineate a practical plan for taking the U.S. off oil and coal by 2050. Moore demonstrates eye-popping uses of Google Earth Outreach by environmental activists in California, Brazil, and other places to reveal otherwise hidden depredations of natural resources. Stacey Hunt, director of the local Bioneers affiliate, Ecologistics, will introduce the program and take time for questions and discussion. Location: Steynberg Gallery, 1531 Monterey St., SLO. Info.: Joe Morris, 549-0355.

**Sat., July 28, 8:30 a.m. Cruickshank to Soda Springs Trailheads** Moderately strenuous, 10-mile hike, 2200 ft. gain. Trail begins with ascent to panoramic overlook of the southern Big Sur coastline, then enters Villa Creek Canyon and to Buckeye Camp for lunch, and finally across Redwood Creek to Soda Springs trail junction. Bring lunch, snacks, water, and dress for the weather. Ticks and poison oak are possibilities. Meet at Washburn Day Use Area in San Simeon State Park. From there, we will drive 40 miles to Cruickshank trailhead, first leaving a shuttle car at Soda Springs trailhead 4 miles south. Probable stop for eats afterwards in Cambria or Morro Bay. Info.: Chuck, 441-7597.

**Sat., Aug. 25, 10 a.m. Musical Walk of Old San Luis Obispo.** Join us on a



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

guided tuneful stroll past ten landmarks in the historic core of SLO, to discover two ancient adobes, a stagecoach stop, the Creamery, home of SLO's first millionaire, and a forgotten WPA project, accompanied by recordings of authentic songs from Mission days to World War II. Duration about 1 1/2 hrs. Meet at NW corner of Nipomo and Dana Sts. Info.: Joe Morris, 549-0355.



**YOSEMITE CONSERVANCY.**

Sign up for a course with the Yosemite Conservancy and support the future of Yosemite National Park. (And get free camping and entrance into Yosemite.)

**July 19-22 Seeking Muir's First Glacier** Naturalist Pete Devine will show you where John Muir discovered the first known glacier in the Sierra and what climate change has done to it since then.

**July 29-August 3 Advanced Backpack: Southbound** Ranger Dick Ewart takes experienced outdoorspeople on a favored route over the crest of the Sierra.

**August 2-5 Glen Aulin Backpack Trek** Author Suzanne Swedo brings her group to a special place along the Tuolumne River's high country canyon.

**August 23-26 Lyell Glacier Backpack Trek** Pete Devine brings a group to Yosemite's highest peak to see the west slope's largest glacier – before it disappears.

Free park entry, free camping. Lodging has been reserved (for an extra fee). Members of the Park's non-profit Yosemite Conservancy take 15% off the course fees. To learn more and register, see [www.yosemiteconservancy.org/adventures](http://www.yosemiteconservancy.org/adventures).



**The Sierra Club Needs You!**

**Become an Outings Leader**

- Lead hikes and camping trips
- Introduce others to nature
- Explore the outdoors
- Make new friends
- Protect the environment
- Get healthy exercise

For further information contact:

Joe Morris, Outings Chair  
Sierra Club, Santa Lucia Chapter  
(805) 549-0355  
[dpj1942@earthlink.net](mailto:dpj1942@earthlink.net)



John Muir, founder of the Sierra Club, in Yosemite



## Island Hopping in Channel Islands National Park

**August 12-14, September 9-11**

Explore the wild, windswept islands of Channel Island National Park. Enjoy the frolicking seals and sea lions. Train your binoculars on rare sea and land birds. Hike trails bordered by blankets of wildflowers and plants found in no other place on earth. Kayak or snorkel the pristine waters—or just relax at sea. All tours depart from Santa Barbara aboard the 68' twin diesel Truth. \$590 fee includes an assigned bunk, all meals, snacks, beverages, and the services of a ranger/naturalist who will travel with us to lead hikes, call attention to items of interest and present evening programs. Proceeds will go to benefit Sierra Club California's political programs. 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; [jholtzhl@aol.com](mailto:jholtzhl@aol.com).