



June 2014
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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

Paso in the Crosshairs

The Paso Robles groundwater basin is a prime target in California's water wars

The only way to protect the Paso Robles groundwater basin from further overdraft is to either adjudicate the basin or create a public management agency with a fully democratic governance structure whose directors are elected at large, based on the principle of one person, one vote.

As we go to press, AB 2453, Katcho Achadjian's bill to create a "hybrid" form of governance for the proposed Paso Robles water district, is sloshing toward a vote in the Assembly. As you read this, it is either dead, amended to correct its catastrophic flaw, or sloshing toward its next vote in the Senate with said flaw intact.

The first two options would be preferable to the latter, as the Sierra Club has pointed out. The Santa Lucia Chapter has been joined in this protest by our state organization, Sierra Club California, as well as North County Watch, the Center for Biological Diversity, Defenders of Wildlife, California Teamsters, California Water Impact Network, Planning and Conservation League, El Centro Community Water Center, California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation, Clean Water Action, and San Luis Obispo County Cattleman's Association because of the potential catastrophe for democracy and the environment promised by the passage of AB 2453 if not amended.

The problem is the pesky existence of the 15 to 20,000 people who simply live in houses within the potential jurisdiction of the proposed groundwater management district and don't irrigate



No tomorrow A Santa Margarita vineyard watering bare dirt during a heat wave.

crops there. They have an obvious interest in policies that would sustain the basin; a less obvious interest in being forced to pay for expensive imported water schemes that would allow large vineyards to proceed with their expansion plans. Residents have an obvious interest in enforcing policies that would compel the biggest pumpers to pump less; the big pumpers are on record as having absolutely no interest in any such policies.

The "compromise" measure for the governance of the basin hatched when a local group that was supposed to represent the interests of residents caved in to the group representing large north county vineyards — a compromise blessed by the Board of

Supervisors, those large north county vineyards and their captive partner and opposed by virtually everyone else — pretends that there is a meaningful difference in the interests of an owner of 50 acres of land and the owner of 500 acres, and would hand them all a permanent 6 to 3 majority over local homeowners and renters. (This, as bill proponents sweetly put it, "gives everybody a say.")

The disenfranchisement that results from conflating an acreage-based vote with a general election is a precedent that must not be set. If the north county vineyards get a "special" water district where their votes count for more than the votes of residents, every region in the state with significant agriculture will likely see moves to create districts in which large ag operations get their own permanent board majority.

This will throw a large wrench into efforts to responsibly manage groundwater in the state of California.

The paper water trick

This year marks the twentieth anniversary of the creation of the Monterey Agreement. As two decades of ongoing legal challenges by public interest groups and water activists attest, it is not a happy anniversary. The agreement negotiated by the Department of Water Resources and six water agencies rewrote the State Water Project and created California's water transfer market. The Monterey Agreement's invention of entitlements — aka "paper water" — is the reason why the Paso Robles groundwater basin's 30 million acre feet of capacity is a fat target for water speculators. Once a water district is formed, the County could sign over its unallocated state water to the new district. Every other

State Loses Funds for Dunes Purchase



The long quest by the California Department of Parks and Recreation to purchase a land parcel owned by San Luis Obispo County in the Ocean Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area has come to an end, at least for the next fiscal year. The department's request for an allocation of \$5 million to purchase the land, known as the La Grande Tract, was rejected in two state budget hearings last month.

The May 20 vote by a Senate budget subcommittee to reject State Parks' request for the funds to acquire the land followed a vote for denial by an Assembly subcommittee earlier in the month and means the appropriation will not be included in the budget submitted to the governor next month.

The budget committee actions came after the Sierra Club, Defenders of Wildlife, Center for Biological

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photo/Karin Walsh

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

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Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

Coffee Time in Morro Bay



After seven years of argument, some very determined Morro Bay water activists were granted the time to make a presentation at the May 22 meeting of the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board. Marla Jo Bruton-Sadowski and Linda Stedjee were given twenty minutes to present concerns about the condition of the city's Main Street sewer trunk line and contamination of the groundwater and the ocean.

It was the climax of a years-long dispute between the activists and Water Board staff on the source of nitrate contamination of wells in the Morro Basin. Staff believe the nitrates are coming from fertilizer washing down from upstream agricultural operations. Local activists believe the source of contamination is the leaky pipes in the city's 50-year-old wastewater collection system.

The focus of the discussion came down to the nature of the testing that has been done on the wells. After some technical sparring over the isotopic signatures for sewage versus fertilizer, water board staff admitted that the results of those tests were inconclusive. After two hours of questioning, Board members swept aside assur-

ances by their executive officer and the City's representative that the performance of the water quality tests required by state regulations — which do not require testing for viruses or emerging contaminants — provided sufficient confidence that human waste is not contaminating the city's well water. Board member Michael Jordan noted that the city's water quality "could be lacking even though on the surface they appear to be in compliance with the regs."

The Board obtained a commitment from Public Works Director Rob Livick to conduct a caffeine test of well water — a simple, relatively inexpensive test that can indicate the presence of sewage and can be completed in a matter of weeks. The Board also told City officials they need to "put some urgency" into long-promised, long-delayed repairs to the trunk line and discussed potential funding sources.

Morro Bay Planning Commissioner Richard Sadowski, who has long pushed to fix the sewer lines and test the well water for evidence of sewage, told the Board that the

COFFEE continued on page 9

Busting the Coastal Act in Cayucos



We're calling this bluff Call us crazy, but we think that raised area to the left of the beach and the ocean is a coastal bluff, and the owner of this lot is obligated to set back his planned blufftop house from the top of the bluff, per the California Coastal Act.

When is a coastal bluff not a coastal bluff?

When is a sea wall not a sea wall?

Answer: When the County is issuing a Coastal Development Permit to an applicant who wants to build a beach house in Cayucos but wants to get around the California Coastal Act's requirement for establishing development setbacks from coastal bluffs and its proscription against new sea walls.

The County Planning Commission went along with that eyebrow-raising charade at its April 10 review of the Loperena project, deciding that the applicant had done enough to modify the project after objections to the original design were raised by the neighbors, Sierra Club, SLO CoastKeeper, Surfrider et al in our comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Report.

The County has said "close enough." We say "no cigar." The project as designed and modified remains a monument to marine erosion; the consequence of both putting structures on bluffs with no setback from the top of the bluff and erecting a reinforced concrete basement wall three feet from the beach that will deflect wave run-up to neighboring properties and intensify beach erosion — a configuration that will require construction of more shoreline protective devices over the decades. The applicant's consultants and the County have also low-balled probable sea-level rise through the end of the century.

This is not just about making the developer of a house on the beach in Cayucos go back to the drawing board; it's about avoiding the precedent of building on a coastal bluff with no setbacks and cantilevered over the beach, anywhere on the coast of California. If you allow one, you allow them all.

An appeal of the Planning Commission's approval of a permit for the Loperena project and certification of the Environmental Impact Report will be heard by the County Board of Supervisors on June 3.

Change of Address?

Mail changes to:

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or e-mail:

address.changes@sierraclub.org

Visit us on
the Web
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sierraclub.org](http://www.santalucia.sierraclub.org)



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Outings, events, and more!

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The Executive Committee meets the second Monday of every month at 5:30 p.m. The Conservation Committee meets the second Friday at 1 p.m. at the chapter office, located at 974 Santa Rosa St., San Luis Obispo. All members are welcome to attend.

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Citizens Congress in SLO

By Citizens Congress 2014

The Citizens Congress, the first national gathering of legislators, scholars, and public advocacy groups combating the corruptive influence of money in our political system, will convene on June 3 and 4 at the Cliffs Resort in Pismo Beach.

Since the 1970s, corporate business organizations have focused billions of dollars to organize and lobby for legislation that favors their special interests. This money buys access and influence in Washington; it dominates our policies, and corrupts our politics. Polls indicate that 90% of Americans favor removing the corrosive influence of money in elections.

Lawrence Lessig, a Constitutional scholar, has helped write numerous pieces of legislation, including some of the campaign finance amendments before Congress now.

Trevor Potter is a former Chairman of the Federal Election Commission.

Hedrick Smith is a Pulitzer Prize-winning former New York Times reporter who wrote the best seller *Who Stole The American Dream*.

We are inviting Sierra Club members as informed voters to come take part in the discussions and voting on ways to work together to get meaningful change enacted.

Participants can come for one or both days. United we are strong. Anyone interested can call Dianne Jackson at 466-4429. Registration and pricing information is also on the website: www.citizenscongress2014.org.

A Bad Day for Fracking



On May 20:

Santa Cruz County became the first county in the state to ban fracking...

The Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors accepted 16,000 petition signatures – 3,000 more than necessary – to put a fracking ban on the ballot in November...

The San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors directed staff to report

on what other counties in California are doing about fracking and come back with a report...

And the Energy Information Administration reduced by 96 percent its estimate of oil that can potentially be recovered by fracking the Monterey Shale formation underlying California.

That last event caused 13 billion barrels of fantasy oil and 3 million fantasy jobs – the engine behind the push to frack California – to vanish.

Food & Water Watch, 350.org, Environment California, Center for Biological Diversity, Californians Against Fracking, Sierra Club, Santa Barbara County Water Guardians, SLO Clean Water Action, Students Against Fracking, and Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom are among the groups that brought about the results in those three counties.

Momentum!

Update: 20 from 300

Cal French Circle Widening

We are pleased to report that 115 members have signed up for the equivalent of \$20 monthly donations, including those opting for an annual \$240 lump sum.

We are moving ever closer to our goal of \$20 @ month from 300 members, which would provide the equivalent of \$72,000 per year, what we need to meet our basic operating costs, keep the office open, and know that we have a secure source of funding that will

allow for effective budget planning.

You can donate via PayPal using the “Donate” button at www.santalucia.sierraclub.org, or through your bank’s bill-pay service, or with a check for \$240 covering a year’s worth of monthly donations.

Whichever way you choose, you will automatically become a sustaining member of the Santa Lucia Chapter’s Cal French Circle -- a vibrant, empowering group of friends.

Dirty Fuels, Clean Futures

Sierra Club report includes a focus on a California fracking moratorium

Our world faces an unprecedented environmental, social, and economic challenge.

Top scientists agree that climate disruption is primarily due to the release of billions of tons of carbon dioxide and methane from fossil fuels.

World leaders in 2008 set a target of no more than a 2-degree Celsius rise in global temperatures as the upper limit to avoid climate catastrophe.

Scientific modeling asserts that such an upper limit in global temperatures by 2 degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit) will result in catastrophic events, including significant sea level rise, superstorms, drought, and extinctions.

At current annual global emission rates of 31 billion tons of carbon dioxide worldwide, burning oil, gas, and coal that release another 500-600 billion tons of carbon dioxide into the air would push us past this 2-degree Celsius tipping point by 2030.

Last June, President Obama announced a historic national Climate Action Plan that builds on the administration’s successes to date: increase fuel economy of cars and light trucks (Corporate Average Fuel Economy CAFE standards) to conserve 12 billion barrels of oil and keep 6 billion tons of carbon dioxide—more than the total amount of carbon dioxide emitted by the United States in 2010—from being emitted over the next 12 years; double the amount of wind and solar powered electricity generation; and raise energy efficiency standards for appliances.

Currently, the administration is leading an effort to set historic carbon pollution standards for dirty power plants and also increase mileage efficiency for heavy trucks.

The result is that for the first time in

20 years, domestic carbon dioxide emissions are decreasing, and the United States is no longer the top carbon dioxide emitter in the world.

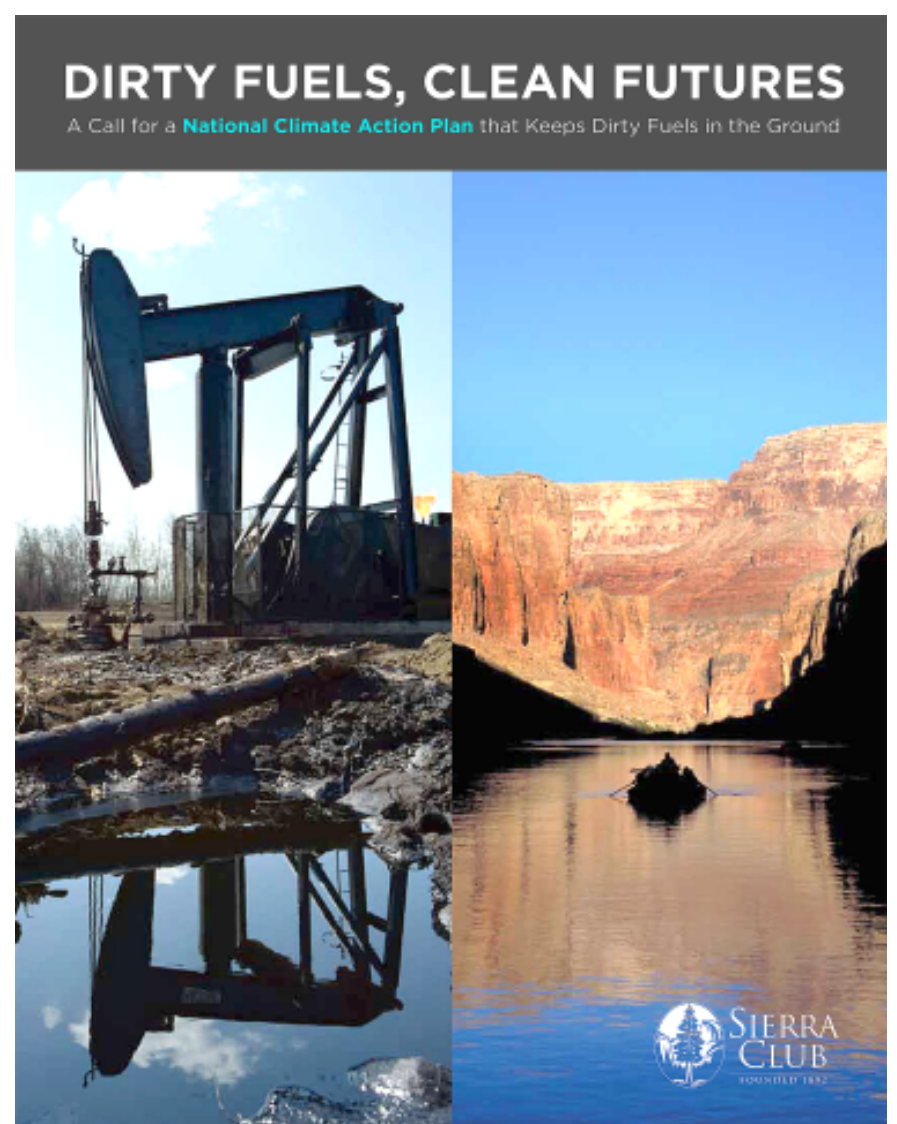
Clearly, President Obama is doing more than any other president in reducing our nation’s carbon emissions. However, even as the administration is reducing domestic greenhouse gas emissions, it is also advancing an “all-of-the-above” energy strategy that promotes greater domestic fossil fuel production, exporting these climate disrupting fuels abroad, and opening up millions of acres of our nation’s most treasured lands and waters to dirty fuel extraction.

Dirty Fuels, Clean Futures highlights major new climate disrupters that have the potential to release billions of tons of new carbon dioxide into the air, negating the administration’s progress in reducing carbon pollution from vehicles and power plants.

President Obama can take pragmatic actions to keep dirty fuels in the ground and put our country on a new path to a clean-energy future. Over the remainder of his time in office, he has an opportunity to require all federal resource management agencies to fully disclose potential carbon pollution; not allow any oil shale and tar sands extraction; reform coal mining on federal lands; put oil drilling in the Arctic Ocean off limits; not issue any new oil and gas leases that require fracking until impacts on water, air and climate are averted; and stop massive plans to export coal and liquefied gas to other countries.

Keeping these dirty fuels in the ground puts our country on a path where our economy is powered by energy that is clean, safe, secure, and sustainable.

Read the report at sierraclub.org/ourwildamerica



MPA's Want You

California Ocean Science Trust, in partnership with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, invites members of the Central Coast ocean community and interested members of the public to provide input on the Draft Central Coast MPA Monitoring Plan.

A network of marine protected areas (MPAs) has been implemented in California state waters under the Marine Life Protection Act. Monitoring to evaluate the performance of the MPAs is a key element in implementing and managing the statewide MPA network. The Central Coast MPA Monitoring Plan will guide implementation of a scientifically rigorous, cost-effective

approach to monitoring that reflects management needs and local priorities.

Input on all aspects of the draft plan is encouraged. Written comments must be received by **5:00 p.m. PDT Wednesday, June 4.**

Input may be submitted via one of the following:

Online form: bit.ly/monitoringplancomments

Email: mpamonitoring@calost.org

Mail:

Central Coast Draft Plan Comments
California Ocean Science Trust
1330 Broadway, Suite 1530
Oakland, CA 94612

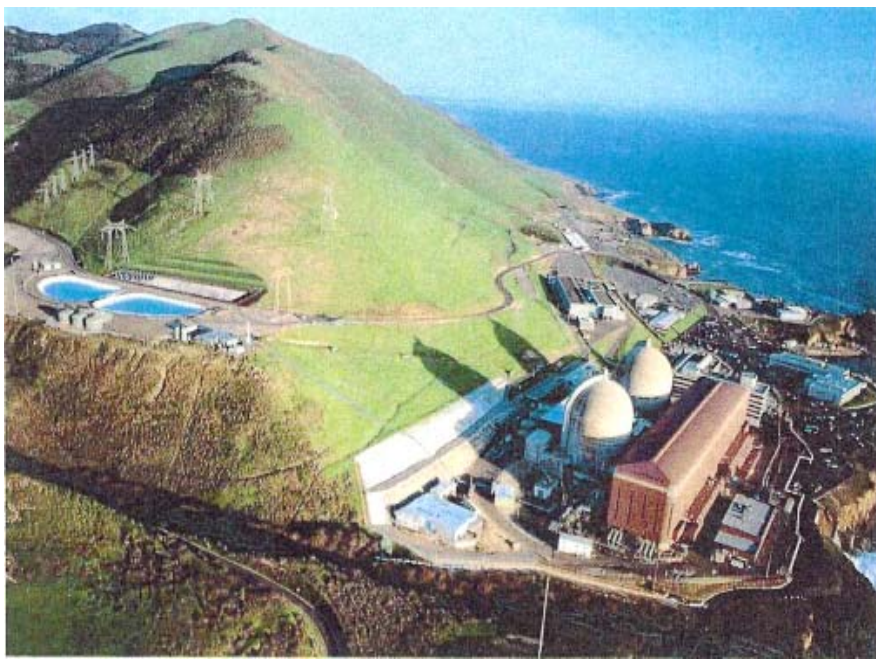
Visit the Central Coast program page on OceanSpaces.org for a PDF of the draft plan, printable input form, and guidance document that includes a list of locations where print copies are available for reference. Limited print copies are also available upon request by emailing mpamonitoring@calost.org.

All comments received will be considered, however individual

comments will not be responded to directly. A summary of key themes that emerge from the input provided will be developed following the open period and posted on OceanSpaces.org.

For more information about the draft plan and our work on the Central Coast, please visit <http://bit.ly/centralcoastmonitoringprogram> or contact Benét Duncan at benet.duncan@calost.org.

EPA Finalizes Standards to Protect Marine Life from Power Plants



Going up The cost of buying the aging Diablo Canyon plant a few more years of life now includes compliance with the new EPA rule. Will PG&E stick ratepayers with that bill?

On May 19, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) finalized standards to protect billions of fish and other aquatic life drawn each year into cooling water systems at large power plants and factories. The EPA rule establishes a framework as required by the Clean Water Act to address site-specific challenges.

An estimated 2.1 billion fish, crabs, and shrimp are killed annually by being pinned against cooling water intake structures or being drawn into cooling water systems and affected by heat, chemicals, or physical stress. (Or as *Tribune* columnist Joe Tarica once memorably put it, requiring PG&E to find an alternative to pumping 2.5 billion gallons of sea water a day through Diablo Canyon's cooling system is "all to save a bunch of little larvae from one small cove.")

"EPA is making it clear that if you have cooling water intakes you have to look at the impact on aquatic life in local waterways and take steps to minimize that impact," said Nancy Stoner, acting Assistant Administrator for Water at EPA.

The final rule establishes requirements under the Clean Water Act for all existing power generating facilities and existing manufacturing and industrial facilities that withdraw more than 2 million gallons per day of water from waters of the U.S. and use at least 25 percent of the water they withdraw exclusively for cooling purposes. This rule covers roughly 1,065 existing factories and power plants. The technologies required under the rule have been in use for several decades, and are in use at over 40 percent of facilities.

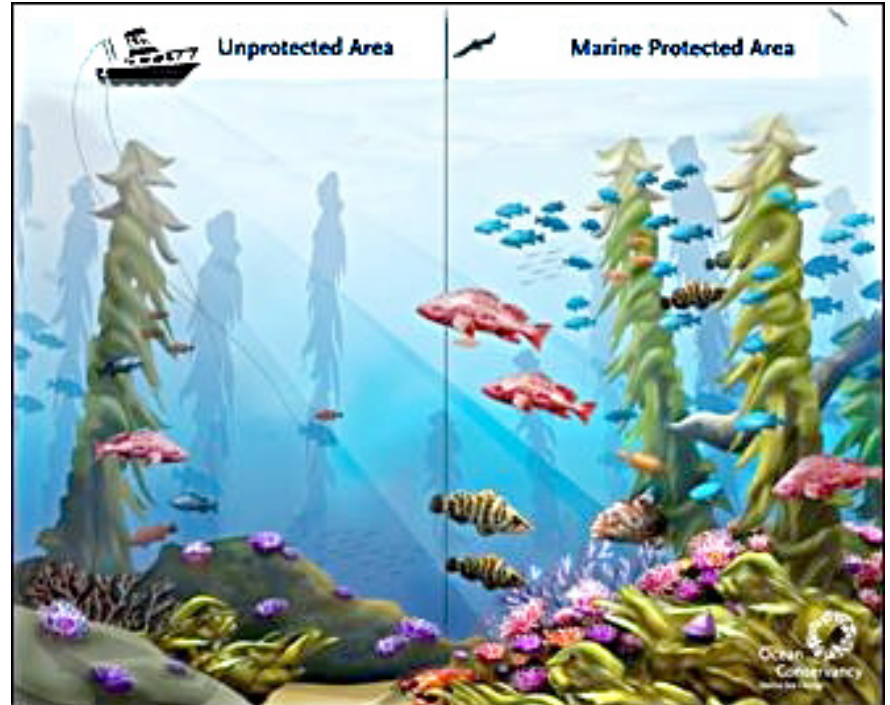
The national requirements, which will be implemented through National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits, are applicable to the location, design, construction, and capacity of cooling water intake structures at these facilities and are based on the best technology available for minimizing environmental impact. The rule establishes a baseline level of protection and then allows additional safeguards for aquatic life to be developed through site-specific analysis, an approach that ensures the best technology available is used. It puts implementation analysis in the hands of the permitting agencies.

There are three components to the final regulation.

- Existing facilities that withdraw at least 25 percent of their water from an adjacent waterbody exclusively for cooling purposes and have a design intake flow of greater than 2 million gallons per day are required to reduce fish impingement. To ensure flexibility, the owner or operator of the facility will be able to choose one of seven options for meeting best technology available requirements for reducing impingement.

- Facilities that withdraw very large amounts of water – at least 125 million gallons per day – are required to conduct studies to help the permitting authority determine what site-specific entrainment mortality controls, if any, will be required. This process will include public input.

- New units at an existing facility that are built to increase the generating capacity of the facility are required to reduce the intake flow to a level similar to a closed cycle, recirculation system. Closed cycle systems are the most effective at reducing entrainment. This can be done by incorporating a closed-cycle system into the design of the new unit, or by making other design changes equivalent to the reductions associated with closed-cycle cooling.



Pismo Preserve Moves Closer to Reality

Following an April 24 meeting of its Parks Commission and its strong recommendation, the County Board of Supervisors met on May 20 and voted to allocate \$1.1 million in County funds to aid in the acquisition of the Pismo Preserve, 900 acres of undeveloped land with ten miles of trails in the unincorporated area east of Pismo Beach. The Pismo Preserve land acquisition project will permanently conserve the natural resources on the property and significantly reduce current and future development, preserving the natural and rural character of the Central Coast.

The SLO Land Conservancy's original request for funds from the County was for \$1 million against the purchase price of \$12 million. In adding \$100,000, the Parks Commission was saying not just yes, but hell yes.

The Sierra Club urged the Parks Commission to support the County's funding piece at their meeting when the Commission made its recommendation to the supervisors, and we are urging

the Coastal Conservancy to contribute the state funding component.

South county is in dire need of more trails and open space, and we trust the city of Pismo Beach will act accordingly in recognition of this fact when they meet on June 17 to deliberate on their potential piece of the funding. Pismo Beach mayor Shelly Higginbotham told the *Tribune* on May 21 that the city council is "very excited about the preserve" but has not yet had a formal discussion "about where the money would come from."

Fresh off the historic twin debacles of trying to approve sprawl development in adjacent coastal canyons with the ill-fated Los Robles del Mar and Spanish Springs projects, perhaps the city council could set up a Bad Planning Atonement fund.

All funds need to be in hand for the \$12 million purchase by August 1. You can mail a donation to LCSLO, P.O. Box 12206, San Luis Obispo, CA 93406, or go to lcslo.org/project/pismopreserve.



Not just yes but hell yes! After the County Parks Commission voted to up the request from the SLO Land Conservancy from \$1 million to a recommendation that the County contribute \$1.1 million to the acquisition of the Pismo Preserve, commissioners and the public posed for a victory photo.

Transatlantic Trade Pact Endangers Action on Climate

On May 19, the *Huffington Post* posted a leaked version of the EU 'non-paper' (draft negotiating text) for a chapter on raw materials and energy in the trade pact that the US is negotiating with the European Union, the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP).

Trade negotiators have largely excluded the public from the negotiations, which makes leaks like this one of the best way to determine the real ramifications of the secretive trade deal. This leak reveals that the deal would endanger action on climate disruption despite calls by both President Obama and EU Commission President Manuel Barroso to address the global crisis.

"This trade proposal spells out more of the same," said Ilana Solomon, director of the Sierra Club's Responsible Trade Program, "More dirty fossil fuels when we should be transitioning to clean energy, more climate-disrupting carbon pollution, and more risk for communities on both sides of the Atlantic. Dirty fossil fuels must stay buried in the ground if we're going to avoid climate catastrophe. This proposal should be buried with it."

The analysis by the Sierra Club and PowerShift reveals the true intent of the EU proposal. If enacted, the proposal would:

- expand fossil fuel exports from the U.S. to the EU,
- increase the EU's reliance on fossil fuel imports,
- limit the ability of governments to set the terms of their energy policy, and
- restrict the development of local renewable energy programs.

"This proposal exposes the contradiction of policy makers who promise to do everything they can to act on climate and then push a trade and investment agreements that would devastate our climate," said Peter Fuchs, Executive Director of

PowerShift. "Europe should phase out the use of its own fossil fuels and it should not be importing fracked gas or any other fossil fuel from the U.S. This proposal is more evidence why trade negotiators are holding the details about this deal so close to the vest."



The Public Lands

By Dave Foreman

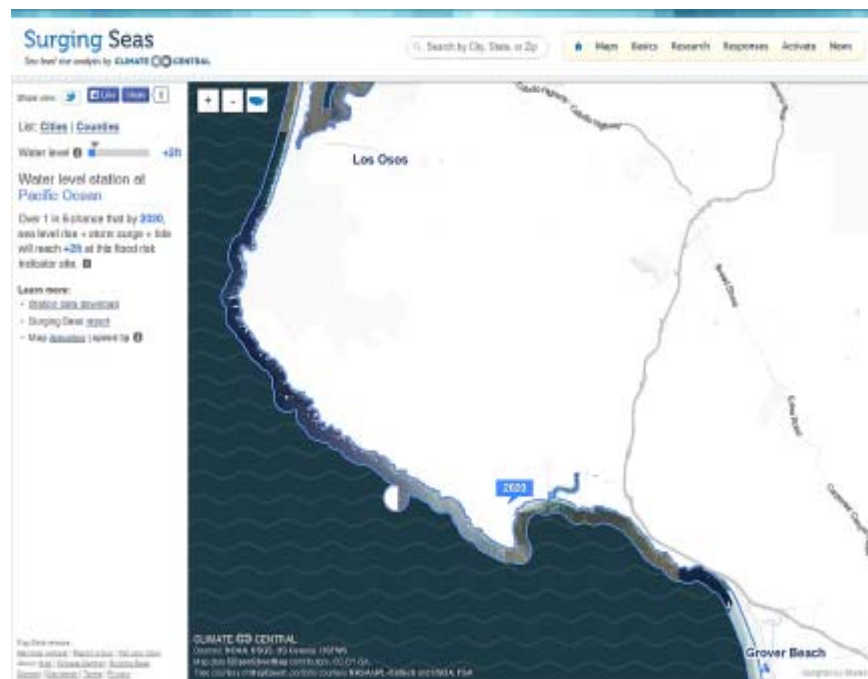
One-third of the nation's Land was the title of the report of the congressionally set-up Public Land Law Review Commission in 1970, and one-third of the nation's land is yours and mine.

Not the timber companies'. Not the land and cattle companies'. Not the mining companies'. Not the rich folks'. Not the land speculators'. Ours. One-third of the acreage of the United States of America is yet owned by her citizens and overseen by the federal government—740 million acres in all. These are the National Parks, National Wildlife Refuges, National Forests, and Bureau of Land Management lands. Moreover, the sundry states own on behalf of their citizens another 197 million acres, such as grazing and oil leasing lands in the West, timber lands in the East, and state parks, state forests, and state hunting areas in all of them. All of this came out of a long history of public domain allocations and decisions like Yellowstone National Park, Adirondack Forest Preserve, and President Harrison's forest reserves.

These lands are why the United States has a conservation legacy unmatched elsewhere in the world. Underline that last sentence. As I have learned more about international conservation, I've wondered why the whole game of protecting land seems

PUBLIC continued on page 9

Surging Seas



Under any circumstances, coastal populations and economies will reshape themselves over time. But the new research on West Antarctic Ice Sheet decay — and the amount of humanity in the restless ocean's way — point to unrelenting centuries of defense, retreat, and reimagination of life along our coasts.

Climate Central has developed an online tool that allows you to search or navigate an interactive map to see areas below different amounts of sea level rise and flooding, down to neighborhood scale, matched with area timelines of risk. The tool also provides statistics of population, homes and land affected by city, county and state, plus links to factsheets, data downloads, action plans, embeddable widgets, and more.

Across the country, nearly 5 million people live less than 4 feet above high tide — a level lower than the century flood line for most locations analyzed.

Compounding this risk, scientists expect roughly 2 to 7 more feet of sea level rise this century — with much of the difference depending on how much more heat-trapping pollution humanity puts into the sky.

Check it out at sealevel.climatecentral.org

SAVE THE DATE:
California's Underwater Parks
Webinar Series

"Communicating About MPAs," a one-hour webinar on California's new underwater parks, our network of Marine Protected Areas. Presentations will feature University of California marine biologist Mark Carr; and California Fish and Game Commission President Michael Sutton. The next webinar in the series will be held at 3 p.m. on June 23. RSVP to Danielle Brown at danielle@mbnmsf.org.

Sip & Solar

By Stacey Hunt

"Sip and Solar" was the theme of a get-together at Burbank Ranch in Paso Robles May 8 hosted by GRID Alternatives.

Guests enjoyed wine and appetizers while Regional Director Anna Lisa Lukes recapped the organization's achievements since opening their Central Coast office in 2010. "We will be putting in our 500th installation project this year," she said, estimating the efforts have reduced greenhouse gasses in the region by 30,000 tons and saved low-income families \$9 million in electrical bills.

GRID Alternatives is executing a simple but effective concept: obtain donations and grant funding to install

solar electric systems on the homes of low-income families. And while they're at it they provide free green jobs training to hundreds of people volunteering for the installations. In fact, three GRID Alternatives volunteers went on to be hired as solar installers at the Topaz Solar Farm on the Carrizo Plain.

Lukes spelled out the qualifications for assistance from GRID Alternatives. "You must make no more than 80% of the area median income and own your own home," she says. "The house itself must be in good shape." GRID's primary source of funding, the California Single-Family Affordable Solar Homes Program (SASH), requires a

SOLAR continued on page 9

Last Call at the Oasis

Lake Mead is a few feet away from the point at which Hoover Dam stops generating electricity and Las Vegas turns into a ghost town.

There will be no more snow in California by the end of the century.

Watering the lawn accounts for 50 to 75 percent of home water use.

The waste generated by 6,000 cows in a Confined Animal Feeding Operation is equivalent to the waste produced by 140,000 people.

These were some of the sobering facts on view when HopeDance Films brought a timely screening of *Last Call at the Oasis* to Rabobank in Cambria on April 30.

The film, made by the producers of *An Inconvenient Truth* and *Food Inc.* drives home several points about our species' "infinite capacity to deny reality," as well as our need to radically re-think the way we do agriculture. In its most inspired and painfully funny section, the producers sit down with some of the marketing experts who have made the totally pointless and environmentally devastating bottled water business into a billion-dollar industry and persuade them to come up with a PR plan for the sale of, ahem, recycled bottled water, aka "toilet to tap." Jack Black is hired as a commercial spokesman for "Porcelain Springs" water. Focus groups and "man on the street" taste tests ensue, and pitchman Black eventually manages to take a swig on camera and declares it to taste just fine -- the point being that we will all soon have to do likewise.

Representatives from the Sierra Club, Permaculture Guild and SLO GreenBuild spoke with the audience after the film on how it related to Cambria's own urgent water issues, with advice on the pitfalls and alternatives to desalination and where to go locally to get a rainwater catchment system.

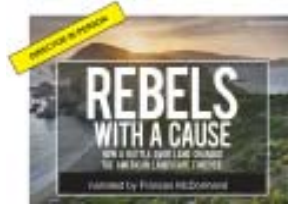


“Rebels” Rocked

The environmentally inclined who turned out for the Sunday matinee SLO premiere of *Rebels with a Cause* at the Palm Theater on May 18, a benefit screening for the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary campaign, saw a vividly, and often movingly, told

tale of what it takes to save the places you love.

More than any other movie you are ever likely to see, “Rebels” makes clear the connection between the long, highly uneven, often frustrating battles small groups of people wage to protect



irreplaceable unspoiled wildlands, and the incredible outcomes those battles can achieve. It details how the people of Marin County, throughout the ‘50s, ‘60s and ‘70s, went about creating Point Reyes National seashore and the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, and got all the surplus military bases in the bay area turned into parks. They saved San Francisco from itself, avoiding the 16-lane highway bottleneck to the Golden Gate Bridge that would have been necessary to accommodate the development that would have happened on all that land if not for the determined efforts of local citizens – including a few congressmen, county supervisors, and Sierra Club legend Edgar Wayburn — to preserve it in its natural state.

As one of the activists reflects at the end of the film, “Nobody remembers you, they don’t remember the struggle; they just know it’s there.... We gained a lot of experience, those of us who

were in the land-saving business, that we can pass on to younger generations.”

Our thanks to Kelly + Yamamoto Productions and the Cal Humanities foundation for agreeing to let us use the film for a fundraiser for the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary campaign, to Sierra Club California organizer Mike Thornton for setting it up, and of course to Jim Dee and his policy of making the Palm available for a good cause.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is expected to release its criteria for new national marine sanctuaries later this summer. The inspiring historic example of this film gave us new resolve to secure national marine sanctuary status for the waters of the central coast.



Post-show Santa Lucia Chapter Director Andrew Christie, environmental writer John Hart and producer-director Nancy Kelly listen to Northern Chumash Tribal Council Chair Fred Collins respond to a question from the audience after the movie.



Hands Crossed the Sand

The Fifth Annual Hands Across the Sand on May 17 was a huge success all over the U.S., around the world, and in our corner of the world in Avila Beach, where Surfrider and Sierra Club hosted. Thousands turned out globally to join hands and say *no* to filthy fuels.

We called on President Obama to reject the Keystone XL pipeline and other tar sands pipelines and called on local and state leaders to protect our communities by rejecting projects that expand the extraction and use of fossil fuels — including expanding offshore drilling, seismic blasting and hydraulic fracturing — and instead accelerate the shift to clean, renewable energy.

In addition, these global events call attention to the impact of climate disruption, such as rising sea levels, super storms, drought, forest fires, flooding and ocean acidification.

Hands Across the Sand, founded in 2010, grew into an international movement after the BP oil disaster that year when people came together to join hands, forming symbolic barriers against spilled oil. Four years later, as millions begin to understand that President Obama’s energy and climate policies fall short if they fail to keep dirty fuels in the ground, a rising tide of grassroots activism is demanding that we choose a clean energy future over the dangerous and dirty fuels of the 20th century.



Forward! Assembly candidate Heidi Harmon roused the crowd with her message on curbing climate change.



This far and no farther Local citizens took a stand against the Keystone Pipeline and sent the President a message.



“The Face of the Wild” Tickets On Sale June 16

Limited to the first 100 guests

**Santa Lucia Chapter’s Annual Fundraiser
Celebrating Our Commitment to Protecting & Preserving Nature
Sunday, August 3rd, 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Tolosa Winery, 4910 Edna Road, San Luis Obispo**

Tickets will go on sale June 16th at 8:00 a.m. for “The Face of the Wild,” the Chapter’s 2014 fundraiser at the Tolosa Winery.

Tickets will be available online from Brown Paper Tickets, at this link: <http://thefaceofthewild.brownpapertickets.com>

Tickets are limited to the first 100 guests.

2014 marks the 50th Anniversary of the Wilderness Act, and we are pleased to have Matt Sayles of Los Padres ForestWatch join us to give guests the low-down on what the momentous new Coastal Wilderness Bill would mean for the cause of preserving natural land in San Luis Obispo County.

Bid to win:

- Wind Wolves Preserve tour
- Animal masks by contest winners
- Wild edible plant pike & forest feast for 4
- A Night of Luxury Camping
- Monterey Street Experience! Chocolate and wine gift basket from Mama Ganache Artisan Chocolaters, gift card from Splash Cafe and one night at Petit Soleil
- Original art by top local artists.

African Photo Safari Up for Bid at Silent Auction
\$6,000 package/no minimum bid

Two South Africa photo safari packages will go to the highest bidders in the “Face of the Wild” silent auction.

The “I Dreamed of Africa” package includes six days and six nights luxury accommodations for two provided in Hemingway-style tents, the Heritage Safari Lodge or Zulu Nyala Game Lodge, all meals, and two daily open land cruiser game tours.

The tour package is valued at \$5,950. There will be no minimum bid. The winning bidder may book a tour any time within two years of purchase.

“We have provided this fundraising opportunity to Red Cross, American Cancer Society, Hospice, Boys & Girls Club, private schools and hospitals,” said Jean Huisman, U.S. representative for the Zulu Nyala Group. “The winning bidders have the chance to take extraordinary photographs, enjoy panoramic views while sipping a cool beverage, or experience the thrill of up close viewing of some of the most spectacular wildlife on the continent.”

Dinner by Two Cooks Catering

Wines by Tolosa Winery

Music by Moon Pie



Want to Help Out?

You can help make this an event to remember!
Volunteers needed for:

- Invitation follow-up calls
- Sponsor follow-up
- Set-up and take-down on August 3rd
- Silent auction & event team members
- Signage

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Sierra Club Santa Lucia Chapter Annual Fundraiser

Face of the Wild

Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Wilderness Act on August 3

call for entries

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**CREATE HAND HELD MASKS THAT
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EVERYONE Moms, Artists, Dads, Kids, Dogs, and Frogs can make a hand held mask, “Bal Masque” style, on a stick with any material that inspires you

*** All masks will be for sale to fundraiser attendees
*** Jurors will chose 3 masks for the silent auction where minimum bids start at \$ 250.00

Wild Mask Jurors: Timo Beckwith, Mary Fullwood, & Elizabeth Johnson

Deliver completed masks with prices to Sierra Club Office on Wednesday, Thursday, & Friday July 16, 17, & 18, from 2-6pm or arrange with Karen

Masks will be on display during the August 3 event at Tolosa Winery and posted on the Sierra Club Santa Lucia Chapter website.

Information guru
805-440-2714 or email:
karen@karenmerriam.com

Update: A Stream of Success in Nipomo

By Ralph Bishop

As mentioned here last month, there has been a historically documented problem in Nipomo's Old Town community concerning upstream activities in the watershed – streambed alteration, discarded ag irrigation tubing, construction waste dumping, etc. – that have had disastrous effects downstream.

A recent development has provided hope that common sense and respect will prevail. With the assistance of Supervisor Caren Ray and Dave Flynn of County Public Works, and the cooperation of a new upstream organic farm operation in resolving issues around a stream blockage, a culvert of insufficient size to handle storm flow at Delesaguas Creek and Thompson Road has been removed.

Duncan Farms probably didn't realize when they installed it that the volume of storm water was far greater than their small culvert could handle and

were not familiar with the history of widespread damage done in the community due to stream channel blockage during storm events.

Daniel Diaz and the Mullah Street neighborhood (see "Water (Barely) Under the Bridge," May) are very grateful to their upstream ag neighbor who produces food that improves our lives in a natural way. Continued comprehensive cooperation has the potential to alleviate the contention between neighbors and regulatory intervention that has caused everyone so much grief for over a decade. All Mr. Diaz and Old Town Nipomo neighbors have asked from their ag neighbors is the understanding and outgoing concern that what happens upstream has a direct effect on the health and well-being of their downstream neighbors.

Thank you, Duncan Farms. May your future be clear and unobstructed.



Much better The removal of a too-small culvert (above) freed the creek (below).



At Long Last RESCO

The long-awaited final project report of the San Luis Obispo Renewable Energy Secure Communities project has been released by the California Energy Commission.

The report is a resource that will help our communities understand our local renewable energy potential -- how much wind, sunlight, etc. is available.

California's Renewable Energy Secure Communities program was created to advance the deployment and integration of renewable and distributed energy resources at the community level and provide local sources of power at competitive rates in line with statewide energy policy.

The SLO RESCO project was undertaken to inform local government officials of the available pathways to achieve the program's goals. The report includes case studies of local distributed generation and "lessons learned," high-level surveys of local

renewable and distributed energy resources, detailed studies of select end-uses of solar and biomass potential, and the technical resource potential of select resources. An Energy Atlas was created to summarize the findings of the resource survey and technical potential estimates as an outreach tool for the public.

Significant local outreach was undertaken by the project to form an advisory committee comprised of local decision makers, educate the public and inform San Luis Obispo County's EnergyWise Action Plan.

Congratulations to report authors Paul Fenn, Samuel Golding and Robert Freehling of Local Power Inc., and SLO RESCO local project team: Eric Veium, Chad Worth, Ken Smokoska, Lorna Mosher, and Mark and Elana Shefrin for bringing this project to fruition.

The report is available on line at www.energy.ca.gov/publications.

Paso

continued from page 1

water district in the state could likewise park its excess state water allocations. The "paper water" is assigned to the basin, and then "excess" real water is then sold outside the basin for millions of dollars in profit.

"The Monterey Agreement's bloodless coup against representative democracy in California water policy should piss off everyone who cares about the state's rivers and equitable use of the California State Water Project," wrote longtime California water watchdog Tim Strohshane fourteen years ago. "Major corporate agribusiness and developer constituencies in water entitlement-rich districts (north and south) profit handsomely from buying and selling water they don't own."

The Monterey Agreement came up against a stiff challenge in a court ruling handed down in March that found its Environmental Impact Report deficient.

Meanwhile, the most promising of the efforts to wrestle water back into the hands of the people of California may be State Senate Bill 1168, the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, just introduced by Senator Fran Pavley. The measure would require all groundwater basins to be managed sustainably by local entities and for those entities to develop groundwater management plans. In the absence of such local efforts, the state would be authorized to develop, adopt and implement a plan.

Some specific policies the legislature could incorporate into SB 1168 as it moves forward are:

- * All local governments with significant groundwater resources should be required to form groundwater districts, or pursue adjudication, by a date certain.
- * Groundwater districts should have a consistent number of directors statewide (5 or 7).
- * Groundwater district directors should be democratically elected by all registered voters within the district—one person, one vote.
- * Groundwater district directors must live in the district in order to be eligible to serve as a director.

Under the (poli)Sea

Conserve and protect your favorite marine resources

By the Marine Action Team

The Marine Action Team (MAT) is a national issue team with the Sierra Club Grassroots Network, focused on four "Charge Areas:" marine mammal protection, marine protected areas, marine and coastal ecosystems conservation, and fisheries management issues.

We are currently initiating a recruiting effort to fill eight seats on the MAT Core Team, two for each of the four Charge Areas. One such seat would be filled by an activist, the other by a qualified subject matter expert (who might also be an activist). Prior leadership experience at the chapter level is a plus!

The Marine Action Team is an excellent opportunity to engage in regional and national club-wide initiatives and policy development. We are actively recruiting through mid-June, and hope to have a new Core Team appointed and operating by the first of July.

To get involved, please fill out our recruitment survey at <http://bit.ly/MarineActionTeam>.

More information on the Marine Action Team can be found on Sierra Club's Grassroots Network: <http://content.sierraclub.org/grassrootsnetwork/teams/marine-action-team>.

- * Groundwater districts should have the authority to require meters on existing wells, not just new ones.
- * Groundwater districts should have the ability to prohibit new wells, consistent with exiting "taking" law.
- * Groundwater districts should have the authority to set progressive fee structures.
- * Groundwater districts should have the authority to set caps on total volumes pumped.
- * Groundwater districts should have the authority to prohibit wasteful water application, where other, more conservative alternatives exist (i.e. mandate drip irrigation for grapes, prohibit overhead application for frost protection, etc.)
- * Groundwater districts should have some limited land use authority within district boundaries, with independent regulatory authority separate from the local government permitting process. This would enable them to pass water-related ordinances that could restrict irrigated acreage, mandate recycling/recharge, offer incentives, etc.
- * Groundwater districts should have administrative penalty authority. There is also value in basin adjudication or State Water Board management of basins that are not being adequately or appropriately managed. Water is becoming an increasingly valuable commodity, and as demand increases, so do efforts by corporate interests, entrepreneurial purveyors and industrial-scale agriculture to control the resource. The adjudication process would benefit from streamlining measures that would reduce the costs and shorten the amount of time necessary for local groups to pursue adjudication.

Let's hope the legislature will elect to pursue the statewide solutions contained in SB 1168 instead of approving piecemeal, ad-hoc measures like Katcho's bad bill, AB 2453.



Back in the day In May 2009, the SLO RESCO team and advisors met at the Sierra Club to plot the future course of local clean energy. Left to right: Mark Shefrin, Santa Lucia Chapter Chair Karen Merriam, Elana Shefrin, Ken Smokoska, Eric Veium, Jim Cole.

Solar

continued from page 5

deed restriction on the property. The Central Coast office currently serves Santa Cruz, Monterey, San Benito, San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara Counties. There are six other regional offices in California and others in Colorado, New York, New Jersey and Connecticut. A mid-Atlantic office in Washington D.C. will open in the Fall of 2014.

The Central Coast office installs approximately 100 projects per year, working with groups such as Peoples' Self Help Housing.

"They usually find out about us by word-of-mouth," says Lukes. GRID

Alternatives is currently looking for installation volunteers. "We like to get students out on break, teams from local businesses, or people who are just interested in solar," Lukes says. "They will receive a two-hour orientation and the rest is on-the-job training."

The Sip and Solar events are designed to raise awareness of the program and create a source of private funding to ensure sustainability for the program long after the SASH Program sunsets.

For more information go to www.GRIDalternatives.org/ or call Anna Lisa Lukes at (805) 769-9120.



Coffee

continued from page 2

manner in which the caffeine test is conducted is critical to obtaining a meaningful result. Sewer flows and the timing and duration of pumping activity at the well(s) to be sampled must be carefully coordinated to ensure that the test is valid.

Linda Stedjee agreed, writing in a follow-up note to the Board and Morro Bay City Council that the people "primarily responsible for the nitrate study that says well nitrates come from fertilizer, not sewage, is the same group

that in 2009 gave the City the infamous attempt to conduct a stream flow interference study [that] was abruptly halted after residents asked the Council how one could measure stream flow interference in a dry stream." A second attempt the following year was also halted after "a DFG official on patrol found that they had not bothered to obtain any permits and had damaged the banks of a steelhead trout stream. Bottom line: If they could make mistakes like that in dealing with Chorro

Valley well issues, one might assume they could make mistakes with a Morro Basin well nitrate study."

"Hopefully," Stedjee concluded, "by working together, City government and residents can start making a meaningful change in the state of health of our groundwater and ocean."

The Water Board said it expects to receive and report the results of the caffeine test at its September meeting.

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Public

continued from page 5

easier in the United States (not that it's easy here, but alongside other countries we are better off). Our public lands are the answer. I know of no other country that has such a set-up with its citizens owning and having a strong say in the running of one-third of the country's land acreage. Two federal laws above all give citizens and their clubs sturdy handles to help guide stewardship of the public lands: the Wilderness Act and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)....

In no other nation do citizens have as many handles on the gears of public conservation as do those of the United States and none have anything like our federal public lands. The United States is a stand-alone nation for conservation most of all because of the public lands and a steadily more open door for citizen input on their stewardship. Our matchless system of US

public lands is the key for our gains in conservation, notwithstanding the economic, political, and philosophical might of those fighting protection of public lands in the United States: resource agencies, corporations, politicians, landscapers, and conspiracy nuts.... We conservationists should never brook mistaken catcalls from "new conservationists" that our hoary conservation path has failed owing to the weight we give to set-aside public lands.

Mind you, I am not saying that America's public lands are flawless or the best they can be. They are far from that. But we have them! And that is wonderful and worth more than we often think.

-- "Around the Campfire with Uncle Dave Foreman," The Rewilding Institute, March 27, 2014.



July 11 is World Population Day

Event details:

Join the Sierra Club's Global Population and Environment Program and our partners for a World Population Day chat to learn more about the connections between family planning, reproductive health, climate and the environment.

Find out how meeting women's basic needs helps improve the lives of families, communities, local environments, and the planet, and hear how the Sierra Club and others are working to foster a balance between the Earth and its inhabitants in a world of seven billion people and growing.

Want to be a part of the solution? The conversation will conclude with ways to take action and get involved.

RSVP at: action.sierraclub.org/

WHO: Sierra Club's Global Population and Environment Program and guest speakers.

WHAT: Healthy People, Healthy Planet: A World Population Day Chat

WHEN: Friday, July 11 2:00 p.m. EST

WHERE: Via Google Hangout! Link will be sent to your inbox!

Questions: Contact population@sierraclub.org. Visit the Global Population and Environment Program at sierraclub.org/population

Greenspace Presents
The 2014 Speaker Series
CHUMASH HERITAGE NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

Fred Collins, Tribal Administrator of the Northern Chumash Tribal Council and **Andrew Christie**, Executive Director of Santa Lucia Chapter of the Sierra Club, will discuss this exciting grassroots proposal to protect and preserve our ocean heritage.

Wednesday June 4, 2014
Rabobank
1070 Main Street
Cambria, CA
6:30 pm
\$5 donation appreciated

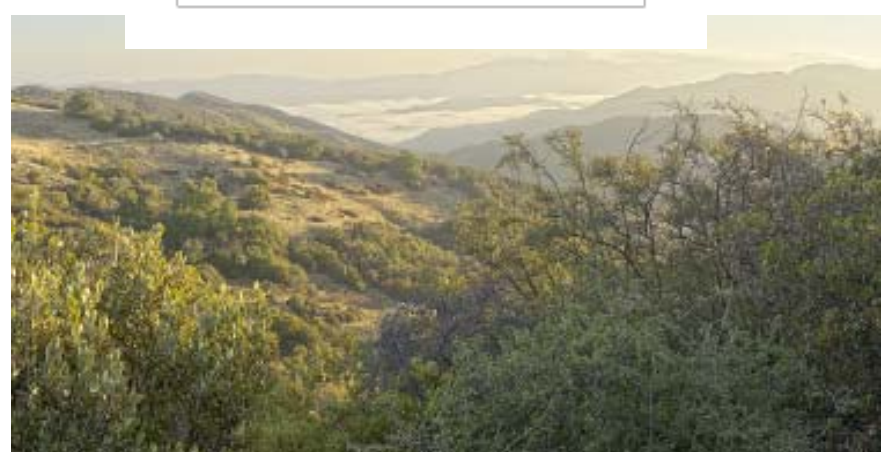
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This land is our land Addition to the Santa Lucia Wilderness, as proposed in the Central Coast Wilderness Bill (Capps).

Peter Steynberg: An Interview

with Mary Parker Malotte

Owner of the Steynberg Gallery in San Luis Obispo, Peter J. Steynberg has navigated a long course from South Africa to becoming a community cultural leader and patron saint of local artists, musicians, poets, and lecturers of all varieties. Here, Mr. Steynberg reflects on his present role, environmental concerns and his love for the land (and the eland).

Tell me how you came to what you are doing now.

We took a big chance on buying this building and a big risk, and it has all worked out. It started out as a fine art gallery, and I made no money. So I had to change. Somebody gave me the idea of putting in a coffee shop. The coffee shop has just changed the way you run a gallery. I call it a soft opening because we get Cal Poly students, and even the high school kids coming in here, and we are exposing them to art. Here, people can linger and have a cup of coffee, or have breakfast while sitting next to a painting. So, it's been a long struggle. We've been here for fifteen years and the beginning was pretty tough to survive. Now, we've established what people expect us to be.

What is your philosophy toward the environment?

I'm a Sierra Club member. I think the environment in America has been destroyed. Los Osos is the Valley of the Bears, and you don't see a bear there anymore. The ice plants growing all over, which come from my country, South Africa, are destroying all the local vegetation. It's sad. We really have to work hard to take the environment seriously. And climate change, of course.

How does your background or previous experiences inform your views?

I come from South Africa, and we grew up closer to nature. People here have



lost a connection with nature. And every country in this world is being aided by America. But when you come back here, Americans don't look after other Americans. We should never have so many poor people in this country. It's shocking.

How do you see your world of art intersecting with environmental concerns?

My job is to keep the standard as high as I can, and we've become a cultural center. It's important to bring people through the front door. People need to have a place where they can get together and talk. I have the Sierra Club here once a month. We do poetry and art shows and lectures and soirees and different speakers coming in, everything from physicists to politicians to you-name-it. We talk about all sorts of things.

Do you think the world of business can cooperate with or support a green philosophy?

The single biggest thing is greed. That gets in the way of everything, really.

People get greedy, that's where the environment just takes a back seat. I'm very aware of the environment, and I care about the environment. It's about our survival. I wasn't born with the greed gene.

What causes would you like the Sierra Club to champion? Is there anything you'd like to tell the Sierra Club members?

One thing that does worry me is the nuclear power plant. It should disappear. I think the writing is on the wall. The power plant in Morro Bay is an eyesore. It's an incredible bit of land for tourist attraction and it's a real ugly thing—right on the beach. Everyone in California should have solar panels on their roof. That's probably one of the biggest things—they should make it easier for everybody to have solar panels. They have not really made it easy enough. That's number one: solar.

What are your great hopes for the planet?

I just hope that human beings will come to their senses.

And fears?

That people don't take climate change seriously. There is a huge group of people that don't feel that anything is happening. But there are no arguments. The scientists know what they are talking about.

Let's try a little Proust questionnaire, with a few Sierra Club flavored questions. What is your current state of mind?

I feel really happy to be where I am. Life has been really, really good to me. So I'm pleased to be where I am at this age. I appreciate every minute.

Do you have any environmental heroes?

Oh, John Muir. How can you not name

him?

What is your idea of happiness?

The pursuit of happiness is futile. I'm just happy. Swimming makes me happy. People make me happy.

What sight in nature do you find inspiring?

Rock art paintings. I actually wrote a thesis on rock art. In South Africa, I used to visit a lot of sites there. I've been to a couple of the Chumash sites too.

What would you change in the world today?

Greed. It's the single most destructive thing on this planet. Human greed. We need to learn to share.

Your favorite animal, plant and body of water?

Eland. It's a sacred animal of the Bushmen, a large antelope, the size of an ox. I love trees. I love the ocean and I love Lake Tahoe, it's incredible.

What do you most value in friends?

Loyalty. I have some very true and loyal friends. Honesty, too.

How would you like to die?

In my will, I've said—dispose of my body as cheaply as possible. I'll definitely have a green burial. And nothing fancy, a cardboard box would be fine. Just put me in the ground, I don't need anything. I don't fear it. Maybe I can make some good fertilizer for some plants. I don't have any fancy religious beliefs about the after life, and I'm happy with that.

What is your personal motto?

Oh, that's hard. Give me a week and I'll tell you. No, here's my motto, which I heard from a 109 year old woman who was interviewed locally. She said, "Be kind to everyone and mind your own business." That's what I live by now.

Dunes

continued from page 1

Diversity and Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility, joined by local groups Concerned Citizens for Clean Air, Mesa Community Alliance and Safe Beach Now, urged the budget subcommittees to strike the funding allocation for the purchase from the state budget.

State Parks last attempted to purchase the La Grande Tract from the County in 2007.

"State Parks taking ownership of this land would have meant the people of SLO County would lose local control, and efforts to compel the state to meet the requirements of the County's Local Coastal Plan for the protection of the Oceano Dunes from the impacts of off-road activity would be greatly hampered," said Andrew Christie, director of the Santa Lucia Chapter of the Sierra Club. "We let our legislators know that we don't think that's the way to protect California's coast, and there are better things the state could spend \$5 million on."

The funding appropriation used by State Parks in its previous bid to purchase the land expired in June 2013. At a March 23, 2013, meeting of the Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Commission, Commissioner Diana Perez said she would "like to see the opportunity to purchase the La Grande Tract" revived.

The controversial 584-acre parcel, sitting in the middle of the Oceano

Dunes SVRA, is currently used by State Parks under the terms of an operating agreement with the County. State Parks 2007 attempt to purchase the parcel made headlines when the Sierra Club pointed out that a map in the County's certified Local Coastal Plan (LCP), certified in 1984, showed that the land in question was designated a buffer area, where off-road vehicles should not be permitted. The County Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors agreed and determined that sale of the land for continued use as part of an off-road vehicle area would not conform with the County's General Plan and LCP.

Several lawsuits ensued involving the Sierra Club, State Parks, the off-road advocacy group Friends of Oceano Dunes, and the California Coastal

Commission. A legal challenge by the off-roaders claiming that State Parks' permit to allow use of the land by off-road vehicles preempted the County's Local Coastal Plan was dismissed in 2010 at the request of petitioners, placing the County's determination of nonconformity beyond legal challenge. In a subsequent lawsuit filed by the Sierra Club, the court noted that the County had determined "the use of off-road vehicles, on at least part of the SVRA, is inconsistent with its own General Plan, the County LCP, and the Coastal Act," but ruled that State Parks was not required to come into compliance within a specific time period, leaving the fate of the La Grande Tract in legal limbo.

Throughout January and February of 2013, Grover Beach Mayor Debbie

Peterson had several meetings and phone calls with Perez. On April 15, 2013, upon being told by Mayor Peterson that she had been "advised by a member of the State Vehicular Recreation Area Commission that State appropriation for purchase is about to expire," the Grover Beach City Council voted to send a letter to the County Board of Supervisors urging the County to resume efforts to sell the La Grande Tract to State Parks. The letter did not mention the land parcel's contentious history or address the Local Coastal Plan issues that had persuaded the County not to sell.

The Assembly budget subcommittee's vote for denial of the funds was based on their staff's recommendation that "the Coastal Commission is planning to hold a hearing later this summer for the purpose of conducting a comprehensive overview of the permit, the LCP policies, the current use, and the new air pollution control district dust rule. Thus, staff recommends the Subcommittee hold off on approving this acquisition this year, to give all parties a chance to sort out this issue."

On May 22, another Assembly budget subcommittee handed the OHV Division another setback -- and another victory for the environment -- when it approved a moratorium on funding for land acquisitions for new or existing State Vehicle Recreation Areas while the state examines the allocation process for the Off-Highway Vehicle Trust Fund.

The saga of the La Grande Tract

Feb. 2007: "OHV-quake!: 580 acres of off-highway land are up in the air."
 March 2007: "Coastal Commission Turns Up the Heat on Dunes"
 May 2007: "Sandstorm: At Oceano Dunes, the answer is blowin' in the wind"
 March 2008: "For the Dunes: Why We Sue"
 May 2008: "A Planning Scandal"
 Nov. 2008: "Litigation Update: Oceano Dunes"
 Jun. 2009: "Club Intervenes in Off-Roaders' Dunes Lawsuit"
 Jul. 2009: "Grand Jury Slams County Planning on Attempted Dunes Sale."
 Mar. 2010: "Catching Air: the health impacts of off-road vehicles on Oceano Dunes"
 Apr. 2010: "Case Dismissed: Off-roaders' Oceano Dunes lawsuit buried"
 Jun. 2010: "Kicking Up Dust: Off-roaders emitting obscuring clouds"
 Nov. 2010: "ODSVRA Lawsuit: Rolling the rock up the sand dune"
 Mar. 2011: "Judge Awards Sierra Club Legal Fees in Oceano Dunes Case"
 Jun. 2013: "Intractable"
 Sept. 2013: "The Dusty Trail"

all at [HTTP://SANTALUCIA.SIERRACLUB.ORG/LUCIAN/LUCIAN.HTML](http://SANTALUCIA.SIERRACLUB.ORG/LUCIAN/LUCIAN.HTML)

Classifieds

Next issue deadline is **June 13**. To get a rate sheet or submit your ad and payment, contact:
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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, 549-0355. For information on a specific outing, please call the listed outing leader.

Sun., June 8th, 10 a.m. Walk in Los Osos Oak State Reserve Easy, 1.3-mile, 100 ft. gain, walk through delightful ancient live oak forest, ducking head under occasional oak branch. Trail is compact dirt, some parts through sandy coast scrub and across short bridges; some poison oak off-trail. Directions: on Los Osos Valley Rd. from SLO, soon after entering Los Osos, meet in Oak Reserve parking lot across from Eto Rd. Leader: Vicki Marchenko, vmarchenko57@gmail.com or 528-5567.

Sat., June 14th, Varying times, The Morros of SLO County Join us for a one-day ascent of the five publicly accessible morros, near San Luis Obispo and Morro Bay. All five morros can be hiked in succession (see schedule listed below) or selected to suit one's preferences and conditioning. Each has a beautiful but different vista—from city to oak woodland to grassland to seashore. Total round-trip distance for all five hikes is about 13 miles, with 3,500 ft. elevation gain. Bring plenty of water (store extra water in your vehicle), lunch and snacks, and dress in layers for changing weather. The day is likely to start and end cool, but be quite warm at mid-day. A hat, sunscreen, and sturdy hiking shoes are essential. Confirmation with leader at least 24 hrs in advance is requested. Leader: Bill Waycott, (805) 459-2103 or email: bill.waycott@gmail.com. Asst.: Andrea Fischer-Ortiz. The plants, animals, and the geology of the area will be topics during the hikes.

7:30 a.m. Islay Hill, 2 miles, 500 ft. gain, moderate. The eastern-most of the morros, with views of five others. To trailhead, take Tank Farm Rd. east past Orcutt Rd, then south on Spanish Oaks Dr., then east on Sweet Bay Lane to end.

9:00 a.m. Cerro San Luis, 4

miles, 1,100 ft. gain, moderate. Has knockout views of SLO. Trailhead at the end of Marsh St., just before onramp to Hwy 101 south.

Lunch: 11:30 am, Throop Park, corner of Cerro Romauldo Street and Cuesta Drive.

12:30 p.m. Bishop Peak, 3.5 miles, 950 ft. gain, moderate. Highest of all the morros. Hike begins with lunch at 12:30, then up the trail at 1 p.m. From Hwy 1, go west on Highland Dr. (opposite Cal Poly entrance), then right on Patricia Drive. Park at trailhead on Patricia Dr. just before reaching Anacapa Circle.

3:30 p.m. Cerro Cabrillo, 2.5 miles, 800 ft. gain, moderate. 360-degree views from the Santa Lucia mts. to the coastline. Meet at Quarry Trail trailhead on South Bay Blvd, 1.4 miles south of Hwy 1 or 0.4 miles north of Turri Rd.

6:00 p.m. Black Hill, 0.5 miles, 100 ft. gain, easy. Ocean views from Montana de Oro north to San Simeon. From South Bay Blvd, drive into Morro Bay State Park, turn right at first fork onto Park View Rd., then right onto Black Hill Rd. to end.

Thurs-Sun, June 19th-22nd, Escalante Backpack. Moderate 3-night/4-day backpack into unique Southwest desert locale with cottonwoods and pines lining river. Wading shoes required for frequent river crossings. First day, hike in for 6 miles, then explore scenic side canyon with nice narrows and swimming holes on next day. Third day, move several miles for more side hiking. Last day, hike out. Route requires car shuttle. Limit: 12 people. Meet at BLM Visitor Center noon

Thursday, west end of Escalante, for permit. Leader: David Hardy at hardyhikers@embarqmail.com (preferred) or 702-875-4826. S. Nevada Group/CNRCC Desert Committee


Sat., June 21st, 8:30 a.m. Twitchell, Stone Ridge, & Kirk Creek (aka Vincente) Loop Hike. Hike on longest day of year, 11 miles, 3000 ft. elevation gain, in S Big Sur. with a 2.5-mile car shuttle, starting at north end near Limekiln and proceeding south. Initial part of trail is a strenuous 2000-ft gain taking 1.5 to 2 hrs (no switchbacks), then trails are less steep. Duration about 6-7 hrs. Poison oak along trail. Bring lunch, water, sturdy hiking shoes. Meet at Washburn Day Use area in San Simeon State Park, one mile north of Cambria, off Hwy 1. Extreme heat will postpone. Need to confirm with Leader Carlos Diaz-Saavedra beforehand if planning to attend, 546-0317.

Sun., June 22nd, 2 p.m. City Walk: Victorian-Age SLO. Guided stroll past 21 stately, century-old homes and churches in the Old Town Historic District, SLO's former "Nob Hill." See residences of past mayors, newspaper editor, and founder of Cal Poly. Eavesdrop on the lives of the newly rich who transformed the city at the turn of the twentieth century. Duration about 1 1/2 hrs. Meet in front of Jack House, 536 Marsh St. Leader: Joe Morris, 549-0355.

Sat., June 28th, 9 a.m. Islay Rd-Barranca/E. Boundary/Ridge Trails Moderate 8-9 mile loop hike in Montana de Oro State Park, 1600 ft. elevation gain—a wonderful chance to explore MDO backcountry. From Hazard Pk, great views of north and south coastlines. Bring water, lunch or



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.




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
Sierra Club
(805) 549-0355
dj1942@earthlink.net



John Muir, founder of the Sierra Club, at Yosemite

snacks, and dress for the weather. Slight possibility of ticks and poison oak. Meet in parking area across from Ridge Trailhead (Hazard Peak), before you reach the visitor center. Option of going out for eats after hike. Leader: Chuck Tribbey, 441-7597.

Activities sponsored by other organizations

Central Coast Mountain Bikers

Sat., June 7, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. Montana de Oro trail work. Meet at Park HQ above Spooners Cove. Wear work clothes, hat and gloves. Bring water. Tools and snacks provided. Parent needs to sign waiver for volunteers under 18. Contact: Gregbettencourt4408@gmail.com.

Citizens' Climate Lobby

Sat., June 7, 9:45 a.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 2201 Lawton Avenue, San Luis Obispo. Get ready to get involved and make a difference! For more information, go to www.citizensclimatelobby.org. Contact: citizensclimatelobbyslo@gmail.com.

SLO Botanical Garden

Sat., June 21, 1 p.m. Hummingbirds & Nesting Boxes. Helpful tips and hints for creating a backyard bird sanctuary. Discover the factors that

create unsafe and safe housing for your feathered friends. We learn the do's and don'ts of keeping your yard an active sanctuary throughout the year. Special focus will be paid to keeping hummingbirds happy and well fed through throughout the year. Bird boxes are available for sale and benefit the Morro Coast Audubon Society. Cheryl is a long-time resident of San Luis Obispo County. She became interested in bird boxes in 1999 and hasn't stopped building them yet. Cheryl currently works at the Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area on the Snowy Plover, Least Tern project. Presentation is \$5 for members/\$10 non-members. Followed at 2 p.m. by a free docent-led tour of the Garden. No preregistration required. For more information visit slobg.org/hummingbirds.

A \$3 fee is charged for parking by San Luis Obispo County Parks in El Chorro Regional Park April through September on weekends and holidays. For more information: (805) 541-1400 x304, education@slobg.org.

Island Hopping in Channel Islands National Park. 3-Days, 3-Islands: June 8-10, July 22-24, August 24-26, September 14-16. Join us as we explore these enchanting islands! Hike wild, windswept trails bordered with blazing wildflowers. Kayak rugged coastlines. Marvel at pristine waters teeming with frolicking seals and sea lions. Train your binoculars on unusual sea and land birds. Watch for the highly endangered island fox. Look for reminders of the Chumash people who



lived on these islands for thousands of years. Or just relax at sea. A ranger/naturalist will travel with us to help lead hikes, point out items of interest and present evening programs. All cruises depart from Santa Barbara. The \$590 cost includes an assigned bunk, all meals, snacks, and beverages plus the services of a ranger/naturalist.

To reserve space, send a \$100 check, written to Sierra Club to leader Joan Jones Holtz, 11826 The Wye St., El Monte, CA 91732. For more information contact leader; 626-443-0706; jholtzln@aol.com.