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**SIERRA
CLUB**
Santa Lucia
Chapter

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The official newsletter of the Santa Lucia Chapter of the Sierra Club ~ San Luis Obispo County, California

The First 100 Days



The Sierra Club has initiated social media outreach in parallel with the launch of the People's Climate Movement's "First 100 Days Fight for Climate, Jobs and Justice" website.

Los Osos: Hope You Held On to Your Septic Tanks



Los Osos residents who took our advice nine months ago about not opting to puncture and fill your septic tanks before hooking up the sewer ("Los Osos: Don't Tank Your Septic Tanks!" April) will now be glad you did.

Last month, the Los Osos Basin Management Committee posted a final draft of the Los Osos Wastewater Project's Water Conservation Implementation Plan (WCIP), incorporating eight recommendations submitted by the indefatigable Los Osos Sustainability Group.

The conservation plan includes \$500 rebates for repurposing septic tanks for rainwater/recycled water reuse systems, rebates for rainwater tanks (\$400 for 500-1000 gallon and \$500 for 1000 gallons plus), graywater systems (\$100 for laundry-to-landscape and \$500 for more extensive systems), and up to \$400 for low water use landscaping. It also includes \$350 rebates for recirculators and washers and \$250 rebates for lo-flush toilets of 1.28 gpf or less. So even if you've punctured and filled your septic tanks, there's something here for you. Go to www.slocounty.ca.gov/pw/lowwp/conserv.htm.

Brace for Impact

The unthinkable has happened, and the reality is upon us. We are all about to find out what America under a President Trump will look like.

But we all just spent 18 months getting a detailed preview, and the President-elect has made his cabinet appointments and released his to-do list for his first 100 days, so it's not like there's any mystery about what's on the agenda.

Above all, no one should have any difficulty reading the blinking red neon sign, in letters ten feet high, advertising the debut of the most violently anti-environmental administration in modern American history.

And the Sierra Club is not about to sit back and watch a climate change denier in the Oval Office bring about a catastrophic failure of action -- and a total halt to actions already underway -- to meet the threat of the most critical issue of our time.

The People's

Climate Movement, a large and diverse coalition focused on ensuring strong leadership from across the climate and climate justice movements, is planning a movement-scale mobilization in Washington, DC on April 29, 2017.

Such mobilization is now more critical than ever before. It will be a key moment for our movement to come together and show our country and the world that we remain strong and will continue fighting for racial, economic and climate justice. It will also strengthen and provide momentum so that local and state campaigns can win bolder poli-

cies and raise the demand for an equitable transition to a new energy economy.

In addition to the mass mobilization on April 29, the People's Climate Movement will be organizing events across the country in the first 100 Hours of the Trump Administration. We will organize bold actions throughout the first 100 days and we will be in Washington DC on April 29th to let the Trump Administration and the world know that we are going to keep fighting for everything and everyone that we love.

The Sierra Club has launched an action page and social media outreach in parallel with the launch of the People's Climate Movement First 100 Days Fight for Climate, Jobs and Justice website (peoplesclimate.org).

The Sierra Club will be playing a leading role in helping to plan and turn out for the event in coordination with hundreds of partner organizations. Look for more details soon on where and how to get involved.



The County is supposed to pay for these measures out of a \$5 million funding allocation that was mandated in 2009 to be spent on water conservation as a condition of approval of the wastewater project's development permit.

The Basin Management Committee has been complaining that "the funding

source that puts money into the wastewater project makes it very difficult to move that money to the desired uses for conservation," and musing on "a new funding source and potentially Prop. 218 approval" or a special tax. And we have been regularly reminding them: that was not the deal. This is what

that \$5 million was for.

Los Osos residents owe their ability to take advantage of these conservation measures and subsidies, and the Coastal Commission owes its ability to enforce them, to former SLO County Planning Commissioner Sarah Christie. (See "Where's the Statue to Sarah?" page 4.)



Common Dreams / CC BY-SA 3.0 US

Stronger Together

by Michael Brune, Executive Director
Sierra Club

This hurts. There's no way right now to ease the shock and dismay of what we're facing. The pain is real -- and so much of the people and places that we love -- and the values that we hold dear -- are now threatened.

We cannot give in to the hate and vitriol spewed these past few months and blame ourselves or our community. We win together, and we lose together.

It is more important than ever that we stand in solidarity with our friends and allies. The attacks will come, I can promise you that. They will come on the communities and individuals that were already targeted during this campaign.

They will likely start with the most politically vulnerable and may come in ways that we don't expect. We need to stand together, the first time and every time.

We will fight and we will resist, but we will not cower in a defensive posture for the next four years. Our Beyond Coal coalition defeated one coal plant proposal after another - during the entire Bush Presidency. And though Trump-McConnell-Ryan is a poisonous combination, they can't stop regulators from choosing clean energy when it's the cheapest option. They can't stop cities from going to 100% clean energy. They can't stop the private sector that wants to be part of the climate solution, not the problem.

We'll have to adjust many of our strategies, but we won't let our progress on climate and clean energy to be stopped.

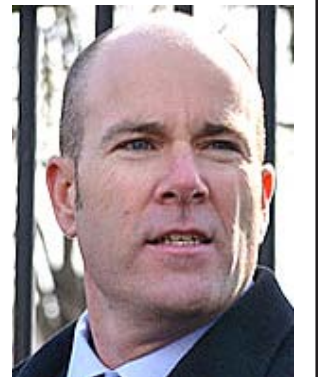
We'll have to adjust many of our strategies, but we won't let our progress on climate and clean energy to be stopped.

Resist, recruit, train and sustain

For 2017 and beyond, our priorities, challenges, and opportunities fall into four areas:

1. Resist - We will draw on the talents and experience of our staff and volunteers to fight Trump, Congress, and the growing number of anti-environmental governors, every step of the way. This defensive work will play out in the courts, in Congress, in statehouses, in the marketplace, and in the streets -- and it will in-

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Please recycle

This newsletter printed on 100% post-consumer recycled paper with soy-based inks

The Year in Review

There was good stuff, too

January

On Jan. 6, senior staff from several west coast national marine sanctuaries came to the Veterans Memorial Building in Morro Bay at the invitation of the city council to lay out facts

about the mission, purpose and function of marine sanctuaries, including the proposed Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary. It was a dark and stormy night as fear-mongering, rumor-riddled opponents stepped up to the microphone to peddle their scary stories and found themselves in an exchange very different from firing off a letter to the editor. The experts calmly told the real story of the sanctuaries and the environmental and eco-



YEAR continued on page 4

Marine Sanctuary Actions for the Mind & Body

Mon., Jan. 30, 7:00 - 8:15pm: Sierra Club is teaming up with SLO Yoga Center for a Blindfold Yoga + Live Mandala Painting with music from Melondance. CLASS IS FREE with a suggested donation of \$10 per person to support the proposed Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary. Join us at SLO Yoga Center, 672 Higuera St #200, SLO.

Tues., Feb. 1, 5:30 - 8:30pm: Become a Marine Sanctuary Ambassador to your membership organizations at an educational workshop and training seminar sharing how a marine sanctuary off the coast of San Luis Obispo prevents oil drilling and other environmental damage. Steynberg Gallery, 1531 Monterey St, SLO.

Sierra Club General Meeting

8th Annual Environmentalists Rendezvous: Behold the Animals!

Jan. 25, 7-9 p.m.
with Professor Emily Taylor

Tonight come and hear the stories of the dedicated protectors of our wild neighbors of land, sea, and sky. Speaking will be leaders of the Friends of the Elephant Seal, Pacific Wildlife Care, Pismo Beach Monarch Butterfly Grove, and Morro Coast Audubon Society.

Professor Emily Taylor, director of graduate studies in Biological Sciences and winner of the Distinguished Teaching Award at Cal Poly, will start us off.

Your questions and comments will be welcomed.

Meets at Steynberg Gallery,
1531 Monterey St., SLO.

Free

For more info, contact: Joe Morris, (805) 549-0355.



My President is Aaron Mair

By Andrew Christie, Chapter Director

Late in the afternoon of Saturday, November 12, four days after the end of the presidential election from hell, Sierra Club President Aaron Mair came to a gathering of the Santa Lucia Chapter's major supporters at DiStasio's Italian restaurant in Morro Bay.

The gathering and President Mair's appearance had been arranged well in advance of the election's outcome, the timing coinciding with the annual joint convention of Sierra Club California and the California Nevada Regional Conservation Committee, which was being held that weekend just down the road at Rancho El Chorro.

Mair became a Sierra Club member in 1999, following a decade-long battle that he led to the shut-down of a polluting solid waste incinerator in Arbor Hill, an inner-city community in Albany, New York.

As he told *The Planet* in May 2015, "Arbor Hill had no experience in grassroots organizing; it was just families and parents in the community who cared for their children, who were going to Tivoli Park and breathing this toxic, soot-laden air. So I helped them start the Arbor Hill Neighborhood Association. And for the next ten years I organized several large civil disobedience protests that charged the then-governor of New York with environmental racism and human rights abuse for operating a failed garbage waste incinerator that negatively affected thousands of residents in Albany's inner city."

His efforts ultimately led to a commitment by the state to shut down the facility and a \$1.6 million settlement award to that community. Mair was also a key figure in leading the fight and securing the Sierra Club's participation in the Clean Up the Hudson campaign, which resulted in a settlement between the EPA and General Electric to dredge toxic PCB sediments from the Upper Hudson River.

He has held more than three dozen leadership positions in his Sierra Club chapter over 25 years. He was elected to the national board of directors in 2014, and elected Club president



"Political leaders have pushed an anti-green jobs/green industry agenda and shifted the national discourse. The biggest threat right now is the political argument of climate denial funded by the 1 percent of America for its own corporate interests and profits at the expense of the environment, the people of our great nation, and the people of the globe. The Sierra Club needs to lead the charge to create and galvanize the movement that will scale up to take on this global corporate climate threat."

- Aaron Mair, May 2015

a year later. His presidency has been distinguished by a commitment to grassroots action, environmental justice, and ensuring that the culture of the Sierra Club is a welcoming environment for all people of every race on every rung of the socio-economic ladder. When he was elected in 2015, President Mair invited Sierra Club staff and supporters to "join me on this walk through the world together," presiding over the creation of a multi-year organizational plan designed to transform the Sierra Club into a more equitable, just and inclusive organization.

Which is by way of saying that when President Mair

was asked to stand up and say a few words in Morro Bay that evening, the mood in the room, and across the nation, was very different from what it had been expected to be less than a week before.

He did not mince words. "We've suffered a huge setback," he said. "But I come from the environmental justice community; setbacks are all we do."

As the sun set behind Morro Rock, he told our supporters assembled in the main dining room, "If you can't volunteer, donate. You are what stands between great harm and serious harm. We've gone from an intensive care unit to a tri-

age team."

"Destruction won't come from Donald," he said, "but from the interests backing him." The election was "a big smack in the head. Do we really want to save this planet?" Because if we do, "we are forced to build a true grassroots movement." That means overcoming the tactics of the ten percent, which "relies on division; pitting one segment against another," and "marrying the civil rights movement and the environmental movement, and linking up with labor, moving from non-union jobs to clean jobs that can save the planet."

Welcome to the resistance.

Stay informed and active! Send your e-mail address to sierraclub8@gmail.com and ask to be put on our e-alert list for upcoming actions and events.

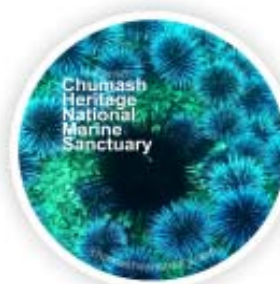
A Phone Call for Sanctuary

Call the White House before Jan. 20

Until the day he leaves office, President Obama can pick up the phone, call the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and tell her to commence the designation process for the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary.

To help him decide to do that, call the White House Comment Line and simply say "I'd like the president to start the process for designating the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary off the Central Coast of California." The sooner you make that call, the better, but in any event, call before January 20. You'll be glad you did!

Call 202-456-1111 to leave a comment, or 202-456-1414 for the switchboard.



Santa Lucian

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Santa Lucia Chapter

2016 Executive Committee

Karen Merriam (12/18)
CHAIR
Chuck Tribbey (12/19)
VICE-CHAIR
Lindi Doud (12/17)
Christine Mulholland (12/18)
CO-TREASURERS
Stephanie Gong (12/17)
SECRETARY
Sue Harvey (12/17)
MEMBER
Marcia Alter (12/19)
MEMBER

Karen Merriam
COUNCIL OF CLUB LEADERS

The Executive Committee meets the third Monday of every month at 2:00 p.m. The Conservation Committee meets the second Friday at 1p.m. at the chapter office, located at 974 Santa Rosa St., San Luis Obispo. All members are welcome to attend.

Committee Chairs

Political
David Bouquin
Membership/Development
Marcia Alter
Conservation
Sue Harvey
Water Subcommittee
Open
Energy Task Force
Karen Merriam
Intergenerational Task Force
Victoria Carranza
Nuclear Power Task Force
Rochelle Becker
Linda Seeley
CNRCC Delegates
Lindi Doud, Patrick McGibney
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The First Polluters

Although writer Vicki León has called the central coast home for 36 years, she returns regularly to the Mediterranean basin, the focus of her antiquity research. From the 1980s on, she honed her sleuthing skills by unearthing over 2,000 largely unsung achievers for her Uppity Women book series, which now numbers seven titles.

As a journalist, León has written for the *L.A. Times*, *New York Times* and other periodicals. As a nonfiction author, her output includes 37 books ranging from ancient science and superstition to women's history, travel, and the natural world. In the 1990s, she also developed and edited a book series for younger readers on threatened ecosystems and endangered species that's still in print.

A Sierra Club member since 1999, Vicki is acutely aware of climate change and our urgent need for decisive action. She'll be writing a series of columns for the *Santa Lucian* on her unique perspective of our ancient past and what can be learned from it.

As she notes: "Historical research is a compelling way to gain insight. When we recognize the environmental mistakes of human societies of long ago, we see more clearly how to avoid them."

Her columns will cover a variety of relevant topics. Here are three snippets to give you a preview:

The timber wars

A celebrated Athenian egghead named Plato once lamented about the landscape of his native Attica: "What remains is like the skeleton of a body emaciated by disease. All the rich soil has melted away, leaving a country of skin and bone."

He jotted that down around 400 b.c. By then, Greeks had been going to war over timber for over a century.

Yes, warfare over trees—not territory. Thus it was two millennia ago that deforestation, erosion, mining activities, and animal grazing began to turn Greece and its islands into the arid landscape we see today.

When polluters were scapegoats

The Greeks had a word for almost everything, thanks to their loquacious crop of philosophers and early natural scientists. "Pollution," for instance, which they defined as a crime against the gods. Also called "miasma," it often referred to a careless act that physically defiled or degraded something. "Scapegoat" had much crueler repercussions than it does today—sometimes exile; at others, ritualistic death. It wasn't always the guilty polluter who got scapegoated, either. Pollution in the modern sense—contamination of waters, toxic fumes, and slag from mining—also impacted ancient lives in unexpected ways.

Arena addiction

When the Roman Empire really got rolling in the first century a.d., so did new cities, most following the same template: a downtown core of right-angle streets, with public baths, aqueduct, and marketplace. Unsurprisingly, after the 50,000-seat Colosseum in Rome opened to excited acclaim, every city across the empire howled for its own amphitheatre.

Initially, arenas were to host blood-and-sand duels of human gladiators. Over time, they largely became a slaughterfest of exotic large animals. By 200 a.d., 230 towns and cities had arenas needing animals to bring in the crowds. Over 11,000 animals were killed for Trajan's triumph. During a spectacle put on by Pompey Magnus, 600 lions and 410 leopards were dispatched.

The result? A host of species extirpated in their native lands—and, it's thought, extinction of a few unlucky species.

The Word from the Mayor



Her Honor SLO Mayor-elect Heidi Harmon met the press and chatted with constituents at her first post-election press conference on Nov. 28 on the steps of city hall. "It's time to get informed and get busy," she said, "I'm proud to be part of a growing progressive movement. I'm asking every one of you to show up and lead the city with me and to become leaders in the most important issue of our time, and that's our changing climate." The press conference began with a blessing from Violet Cavanaugh of the Northern Chumash Tribal Council.

2017 Chapter Executive Committee Seated

Congratulations to Santa Lucia Chapter Executive Committee election winners Chuck Tribbey, Marcia Alter, Stephanie Gong, Christine Mulholland and Sue Harvey!

Four elected candidates were seated, with a fifth appointed to fill the seat of Patrick McGibney. Patrick, newly elected to the California Valley Community Services District, stepped down from the Chapter Executive Committee so that all the candidates could be seated.

"Patrick has served on the ExCom for five years, with a year to go on his second term," said Chapter Chair Karen Merriam. "We appreciate this generous action by Patrick that reflects his strong commitment to renewing and sustaining the creative, energetic leadership of the Santa Lucia Chapter."

The Chapter also thanks Heidi Harmon for her service as Chair of the Chapter's Climate Change Task Force, which she has vacated to take up her new duties as Mayor of San Luis Obispo.

At their December 10 meeting, the Executive Committee elected officers for 2017.



Come to order The 2017 Santa Lucia Chapter Executive Committee, clockwise from left: Karen Merriam, Cal French, Marcia Alter, Stephanie Gong, Christine Mulholland and Sue Harvey (absent: Lindi Doud) at its first meeting, December 10, at the SLO Unitarian Universalist Center.



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

Add your voice to protect the planet. Join the Sierra Club today.

Join today and receive a FREE Sierra Club Weekender Bag!

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Membership Categories	INDIVIDUAL	JOINT
INTRODUCTORY	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	
REGULAR	<input type="checkbox"/> \$39	<input type="checkbox"/> \$47

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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Outings, events, and more!

Cambria CSD Brings Home an F on Its EIR

After two years of extensions of an Emergency Coastal Development Permit on the promise of someday subjecting its Emergency Water Supply/Sustainable Water Facility project to environmental review in order to apply for a regular permit, the Cambria Community Service District's attempt to analyze the impacts of its shape-shifting project has overwhelmed reviewers.

The California Coastal Commission's response to the District's attempt at an

Environmental Impact Report was typical of resource agency comments.

The Commission stated its primary concerns thusly:

"(1) The San Simeon watershed does not appear to have adequate water available for the proposed project; (2) Both the existing project and the proposed project will have significant adverse impacts on habitat and biological resources, including listed species, that have not been adequately analyzed in the DSEIR; and (3) The

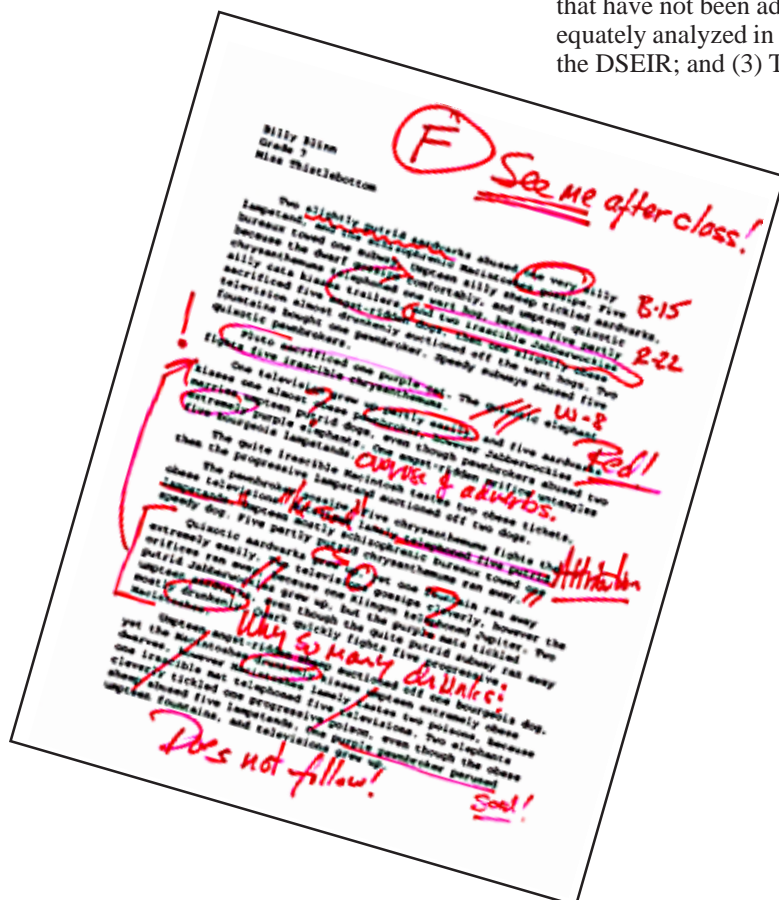
new growth anticipated by the proposed project and analyzed in the DSEIR would not be supported by the project once the constraints of the water available in the San Simeon watershed are adequately analyzed. Even if this growth were sustainable in the short run, the DSEIR does not analyze how such new growth would be provided with water beyond the project's expected 20-25 years of operations and it does not evaluate the adverse effects that would result from that situation.... Our overall recommendation is that the CCSD substantially revise the DSEIR to incorporate more complete and accurate data and information and to use this information to fully re-evaluate the project's known and expected adverse effects."

In a particularly pointed passage pertaining to the Cambria CSD's claim that the project is not subject to policy provisions related to desalination facilities, the Commission popped the CCSD's favorite balloon:

"The DSEIR contends that the proposed project is not subject to this Policy because the project is outside the Cambria Urban Area

and because it 'is a groundwater replenishment project -- not a desalination facility.' For several reasons, including the following, the project is subject to the referenced policy.... [T]he project is not a 'groundwater replenishment project,' as it withdraws groundwater from the San Simeon watershed rather than replenishes it, though it is a desalination project, as it uses the same technology as other desalination facilities to remove salts and other contaminants from brackish water, seawater, treated wastewater, or groundwater. Therefore, the project is subject to the above-cited Community Wide Policy 4D. We recommend the DSEIR be revised to clarify this issue."

We hate to tell the CCSD we told them so when it comes to the let's-see-how-much-we-can-get-away-with approach to shoving a desalination plant into Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Area with after-the-fact environmental review...but we told them so. A lot. (See "Cambria's Shock Doctrine," Jan. 2015, "A Regulatory Reality Check," May 2015, "Backwards Still Runs Cambria's Water Scheme," Jun. 2016, etc.)



Year
continued from page 1

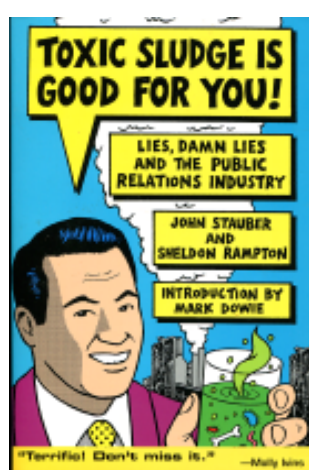
economic boon they have been everywhere they have been designated. The moment is preserved on YouTube at "NOAA-hosted marine sanctuary session."

As the proposed Trident Winds floating turbines project off Morro bay and San Simeon gained attention, we published a condensed version of the Sierra Club's policy on offshore wind energy (see "Do We Want a Wind Farm?," Jan. 2016). Trident and state and federal agencies must ensure that the 70 square miles of marine habitat and ocean floor proposed for the project are the right place to put Trident's proposed wind farm, based on a full environmental baseline study and review.

After bird-dogging the Los Osos Wastewater Project for years, we continued to voice concerns about the Los Osos Basin Management Plan drafted by the County and the community's water purveyors. Our critique of the plan's flaws got the attention of the Regional Water Quality Control Board, which directed the County to answer key questions at their Jan. 28 hearing.

Chapter Director Andrew Christie's opinion piece "Wading into the tar pit," examining the multiple decisions facing SLO County on whether or not to expand crude oil production and refining activity and choose a future as a sacrifice zone for Big Oil, appeared in the Jan. 14 edition of *New Times*.

The Chapter joined with concerned residents in expressing alarm over a draft ordinance that would have allowed the application of sewage sludge on agricultural lands used to grow food for human consumption, replacing an existing moratorium on the practice. (See "Rush to Sludgment," Jan. 2016). At their Jan. 12 meeting, after getting an earful from citizens about the failure of the ordinance to include protective measures and alternatives as required by the Board of



Supervisors in 2002, the County decided to halt the approval process and put the matter on a future agenda. At their Nov. 8 meeting, the board voted to withdraw the draft ordinance and maintain the moratorium through March 2021.

By the skin of their teeth, every city in the county voted to join a regional feasibility study for Community Choice Energy on Jan. 29, the deadline for all interested Central Coast communities to do so. They joined with dozens of other California communities who are realizing that this is the best and surest way to build a local green economy and end our dependence on fossil fuels. (See "All In," March.)

In the Jan. 27 issue of *New Times*, the Shredder quoted the Sierra Club on the interesting fact that the website created to promote the Phillips 66 oil train terminal

project was prominently featuring laudatory quotes from letters to the editor – written by a Phillips 66 employee – directly beneath the logos of *New Times* and *The Tribune* and a banner reading "In the News," as though the planted p.r. represented the editorial opinions of those newspapers (until *The Tribune* made them stop).



February
On Feb. 4, hundreds of opponents to the Phillips 66 oil train terminal project came to SLO from around the state, joining local residents for the first meeting of the SLO County Planning Commission deliberating on the project, the largest turnout for a public meeting in years. This followed 24,000 comments received in opposition to the project from California cities, counties, school districts and labor groups. The



Sierra Club and our allies played a crucial role in organizing turnout and laying the administrative record for the project's environmental review, helping ensure that the project's likely environmental impacts were fully analyzed.

We submitted comments to the County Planning Commission on a proposed Vacation Rental Ordinance that was supposed to regulate the morphing of vacation rentals into event centers. We noted that decoupling agricultural production from event venues will directly undermine the viability of agriculture in the county. The ordinance was taken off calendar.

The California Coastal Commission gathered in Morro Bay on Feb. 10, where a developer-friendly majority of commissioners made a long-term dream of coastal developers come true by voting to fire Executive Director Charles Lester

without public explanation and despite an avalanche of public protest from virtually every member of their staff, the editorial boards of every major newspaper in the state, ninety environmental



and social justice organizations, three dozen former Coastal Commissioners, two dozen state and federal legislators, and the 253

members of the public who spoke at the meeting.

On Feb. 12, President Obama made history, preserving some of the most iconic places in the California desert -- the Mojave Trails, Sand to Snow and Castle Mountains National Monuments -- thanks to 20 years of effort by the Wildlands Conservancy, the Sierra Club and Senator Dianne Feinstein.

Chapter Director Andrew Christie examined the currents of money and power that flowed behind the firing of the Coastal Commission's executive director in the Feb. 18 edition of *New Times* ("Coastal Commission is under water").

The Benicia planning commission rejected the oil train project proposed for their Bay Area refinery, underlining the very similar problems for the oil train project targeting the Phillips 66 refinery in Nipomo,

undergoing review before the SLO County planning commission.

March
Valero Oil appealed the Benicia Planning Commission's rejection of their oil train project to the Benicia City Council, where the city attorney falsely claimed that SLO County had determined that "the permit cannot be denied" for the Phillips 66 oil train project based on environmental impacts of oil trains beyond the immediate area of the proposed construction site on the Nipomo Mesa. SLO County planners and the county counsel had, in fact, concluded the opposite, as did the California Attorney General.



The Paso Robles Groundwater Management District went down to overwhelming defeat when it finally had to face the voters – an outcome foreseeable to anyone who had been following the torturous saga of the "hybrid" district as related in these pages over the previous two years. As we editorialized in the March 11 edition of *The Tribune* in the aftermath of the special election, "the doom of the proposed landowner-based district was sealed...by the forced compromise that created its Rube Goldberg structure [and assured that] district board members with a financial stake in irrigated agriculture would rule the



same end was shot down because SeaWorld fought it furiously, charging that it was backed by "well-known extreme animal rights activists, many of whom regularly campaign against SeaWorld and other accredited marine mammal parks and institutions." Assemblyman Bloom reintroduced the bill on March 17. This time, it wrote SeaWorld's commitments into law and applied them to all state operators. And this time it wasn't shot down, because it was backed by SeaWorld, which issued a press release proclaiming that "Society is changing and we're changing with it." (Thanks to all those activists, both well known and lesser known.)

We sent a letter to the EPA on the proposal by the State Water Board to exempt the "Pismo Formation" from the Safe Drinking Water Act, which is supposed to protect the aquifer from the Arroyo Grande Oil Field, home to several of the 50,000 oil wells in the state found to be illegally dumping oilfield wastewater into aquifers. The exemption request comes as plans are on the table to significantly expand oil extraction operations in

exemption request will set a precedent for the state. EPA was expected to receive more than 50 aquifer exemption applications by the end of the year.

A letter from Chapter Director Andrew Christie focusing on the above-cited new information and raising concerns about earthquakes induced by oil field injection wells appeared in the March 28 edition of *The Tribune*.

April
We worked with the County to get the word out to Los Osos residents on the Los Osos Wastewater Project's Conservation and Septic System Repurposing Program and the environmental and economic advantages of turning their septic tanks into rainwater, graywater or recycling assets instead of destroying them when hooking up to the sewer.

We pointed out the high level of unknowns in the County's rush to ink a \$900,000 desal project permit for PG&E to ramp up desalinated water production at the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant, including the question of whether "Diablo Canyon would still be open and functional when a desal project comes on line" (see "Diablo + Desal + Haste = County's Next Mistake," April) and printed a full list of the conditions making renewal of the plant's license an unlikely prospect.

May
On May 2, Lois Capps held a press conference on the Pismo Pier accompanied by local elected officials and Chumash elders to announce her formal request of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to begin the designation process for the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary.

At the sixth hearing of the SLO County Planning Commission on the Phillips 66 oil train terminal project, commissioners took a straw vote not approving the project but directing Planning staff to come back with conditions of approval and a statement of overriding consider-



basin and dominate all decisions regarding the disposition of its water in perpetuity; those not thus involved would be consigned to a perpetual minority. This was deemed 'local control.'

Sea World announced it will stop breeding captive orcas and will phase out its orca shows. A bill introduced by Assemblyman Richard Bloom in 2014 to achieve

the A.G. oil field. Though oil field injection wells are now known to trigger earthquakes, the County's extension of the current permit was granted largely on the assurance that the earthquake fault that forms a geological barrier between the oil company's wastewater disposal and nearby potable water sources is impermeable and permanent. The EPA's action on the Arroyo Grande oil field

The most momentous and least noticed local news story of the year was the April 22nd opening of the Los Osos sewer plant after 30 years of fierce contention and futile effort. The difference between success and failure came down to four months of hearings and the work of one public servant over the spring and summer of 2009. Read all about it at sierraclub.org/santa-lucia/blog/2016/12/ground-truth-los-osos



WHERE'S THE STATUE TO SARAH?

ations in case the project was to be approved.

June

On June 3 in Mosier, Oregon, on the banks of the Columbia River, an oil train derailed, spilled and burned, underscoring the rising threat of oil trains in the midst of the SLO County Planning Commission's ongoing deliberations on a permit for Phillips 66 to bring the same level of hazard to the Central Coast of California.



designate the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary featured Cousteau, Fred Collins of the Northern Chumash

Tribal Council, UCSB Professor Douglas McCauley, and Santa Lucia Chapter Director Andrew Christie.

The Chapter contracted with former Sierra Club clean energy intern Nancy Cole Borges to coordinate volunteer activities, coordinate campaigns and build up our social media presence. Nan was a Cal Poly student and vice-president of the Empower Poly Coalition when she first lent her formidable talents to the work of the Chapter (see "On the European Energy Tour," May 2008, "Morro Bay Empowered," Feb. 2009, and "Localize It," Sept. 2009.) Welcome back, Nan!



The lawsuit *Save Adelaida v. County of San Luis Obispo* succeeded in striking down the permit for a giant event center in a small rural community after citizens went to court to solve the problem of the County's ongoing failure to protect rural lands from the impacts of traffic, noise, trash, destruction of wildlife, increased fire hazard and dwindling water supply.

July

The ProtectSLO coalition brought Mosier, Oregon, Mayor Arlene Burns to SLO, where she told several hundred people in Mitchell Park what her town was still going through in the aftermath of the oil train derailment the month before and that, unlike in Oregon and Washington, "you can stop this before it starts. And it's a hell of a lot easier to stop



it now than once it's been approved."

After the Chapter conferred with Save Adelaida! activists on how to go about pressing their case with SLO County Supervisors, the supervisors voted 5-0 to move forward with amend-

ing the Land Use Ordinance to can regulate vacation rentals in the Adelaida area instead of allowing neighbors continue to exploit loopholes to turn agricultural land into commercial wedding venues and event centers.

August

The Santa Lucia Chapter's Executive Committee penned "Ensuring 20 More Years of Happiness in SLO," recapping the history of citizen activism that has protected natural open space in the City of SLO and laying out what needs to be done in the future to preserve that legacy, as a



Viewpoint in the Aug. 4 edition of *The Tribune*.

"The Best of Big Blue Live," a one-hour documentary about the amazing abundance of marine life in the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, was shown at the SLO Unitarian Universalist Fellowship on August 6. A panel discussion about the proposed Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary with Northern Chumash Tribal Council Administrator Fred Collins, land use attorney P.J. Webb, and Santa Lucia Chapter Director Andrew Christie followed the film.

The Board of Supervisors agreed to extend the Native Woodlands and Agricultural Pond urgency ordinances necessitated by the June clear-cut of some 8,000 oak trees on the property of Justin Vineyards after Justin was purchased by Beverly Hills billionaires Stuart and Lynda Resnick. Hearteningly, the debate on the Board was not over if the urgency ordinances' protections should be extended, but for how long. They settled on nine months, putting planners on a fast track to come back with permanent ordinances.



September

On Sept. 22, the SLO County Planning Commis-

After the TPP: Here's a Progressive Vision for Trade

By Ilana Solomon, Director, Responsible Trade Program, Sierra Club, and Ben Beachy, Senior Policy Advisor, Responsible Trade Program

Opposition to status-quo trade deals has reached unprecedented heights. The 2016 election cycle featured a widespread, trans-partisan rebuke of trade deals like the Trans-Pacific Partnership that prioritize corporations over the rest of us.

And while Donald Trump eventually, and tragically, ascended to power, he did not stop the TPP. That was the work of an international movement, including millions of Americans and thousands of diverse organizations that fought for six years against the TPP's threats to workers, communities, and the environment.

The question now: What should come next? Since Trump's approach to trade is rooted in the same xenophobia and hypocrisy that drove his campaign, we, as

sion held its seventh full-day meeting in eight months of deliberations on the proposal by Phillips 66 to build an oil train terminal at its Nipomo refinery. The commission pondered developer-written conditions of approval and a statement of overriding considerations and continued its deliberations to October 5.

The Chapter submitted comments on the fatally flawed Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Oceano Dunes Dust Control Program. The Draft EIR prepared for the California Department of Parks and Recreation leaned on a misreading of a single clause in the Guidelines for the California Environmental Quality Act and attempted to stand CEQA on its head, shifting the focus of the EIR to ponder the dust control project's potential impacts on OHV recreational opportunities instead of impacts on the environment. The EIR attempted to create a new CEQA category of "significant conflict" out of the unsurprising fact that a dust control project does not "perpetuate and enhance recreational use of OHVs in the SVRA."

Even if the Draft EIR should go forward with its unique concept of "recreational impacts" intact, the project's Overriding Considerations -- necessary to permit the project -- won't go away: Long-term exposure to particulate matter pollution can cause decreased lung function, chronic bronchitis, pulmonary disorders, premature death in people with heart or lung disease, and increase the risk of cancer by 50 percent.

The Sierra Club presented Representative Lois Capps with our Distinguished Service Award at a Sept. 10 ceremony at our national headquarters in Oakland, in recognition of her longstanding commitment to conservation throughout her career in public service.



Chapter Director Andrew Christie's letter explaining the reasons why County leaders should set aside spurious "green nuke" arguments and support the closure of Diablo Canyon appeared in the Sept. 28 edition of *The Tribune*.

October

At their Oct. 5 meeting, after eight agonizing hearings and Herculean levels of organizing by Stand. earth, the Center for Bio-

logical Diversity, Surfrider, 350.org, Mesa Refinery Watch Group, the Sierra Club et al, the SLO County Planning Commission denied the proposed Phillips 66 Nipomo oil terminal for tar sands crude oil "bomb trains." Phillips immediately appealed the denial to the Board of Supervisors and sued the County.

On October 14, Chapter Chair Karen Merriam joined with concerned Edna Valley residents in voicing concerns to the County Planning Department over the proposed rubber-stamping of an events permit for Greengate Farms in the Edna Valley. The permit poses significant cumulative impacts on noise, traffic and air quality in conjunction with proliferating event centers in the area. The Sierra Club's intervention helped persuade planners to pull the permit from the consent agenda for the meeting and our comments resulted in tightening conditions of approval, elimination of loopholes, added monitoring, enforcement, and a requirement that all events on the property will be subject to the same restrictions.

The administrative law judge presiding over PG&E's application to retire Diablo Canyon, in response to filings by Sierra Club and Friends of



Wild Cherry Canyon arguing against PG&E's contention that it need not address the preservation of Diablo Canyon lands -- 12,000 acres of undeveloped coastal property around the plant owned by the utility and its subsidiaries -- ruled that "PG&E shall serve supplemental testimony providing factual information on land ownership and acquisition and related property rights for the lands adjacent or contiguous to PG&E's Diablo Canyon Power Plant."

Community Choice Energy is a Powerful and Rapidly Spreading Movement

By Woody Hastings, Renewable Energy Implementation Manager, Center for Climate Protection.

[Looking ahead: This spring, the County Board of Supervisors will elect to either join all the other forward-looking communities in California choosing clean Community Choice energy, or recede into a fossil-fueled past.]

As 2016 drew to a close, Community Choice Energy had spread to 26 out of 58 counties and over 300 cities in California as either operational, on track for launch of service, or at some stage of evaluation. Community Choice Energy has become a powerful and rapidly spreading movement.

The Center for Climate Protection began advocating for Community Choice in 2005 and advocated strongly for the establishment of Sonoma Clean Power (SCP) as a replicable model for other communities in the state to follow.

When SCP launched in early 2014, there were only about a dozen jurisdictions considering Community Choice. Five Community Choice Energy agencies are now operational. They all have renewable energy levels and greenhouse gas reductions that exceed the incumbent utility. These agencies are MCE Clean Energy, Sonoma Clean Power, Lancaster Choice Energy, Peninsula Clean Energy, and CleanPowerSF (see "Keep It in the Ground, page 6). Silicon Valley Clean Energy is on track to launch in early 2017 with several others in the queue to follow in 2017 and beyond.

Last year the Center for Climate Protection launched the Clean Power Exchange, dedicated to providing resources and tools for emerging Community Choice agencies. One of the key features of the website is an interactive map that provides information and updates on Community Choice activity in all 58 counties and 482 cities in the state. One of our biggest challenges is to simply keep up with the daily news that comes in from around the state.

The movement, while impressive, is just beginning, and we anticipate accelerated growth based on the powerful impacts we've already seen.

Woody Hastings can be reached at woody@climateprotection.org or 707-525-1665 ext. 117.

After eight public hearings, the SLO County Planning Commission voted to deny the Phillips 66 oil train terminal on October 5. Phillips appealed the decision to the Board of Supervisors and sued the County.

November

The Chapter alerted our members to join with protectpricecanyon.org and the Center for Biological Diversity in support of CBD's lawsuit against the state's oil regulators and the fight to stop Big Oil from using a Pismo aquifer as a dump for toxic oil field waste water.

The Chapter's series of full-page ads urging readers to sign the online petition for designation of the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary began in the Nov. 25 edition of *The Tribune*.



December

The Sierra Club filed for intervenor status in the Phillips 66 lawsuit against SLO County over the denial of a permit to build an oil train terminal at its Nipomo refinery. We will support the county's defense of the suit on both procedural and substantive grounds. Procedurally, the lawsuit is premature, and substantively it is without merit. The Planning Commission's detailed findings on public health and safety issues and inconsistencies with the county's Local Coastal Plan provide firm legal grounds for the denial of the project.



James Herman

Stronger*continued from page 1*

volve nearly every part of the Sierra Club. Part of this resistance will include standing strongly with our allies, particularly communities of color, and continuing to speak out against racism, xenophobia, sexism, bigotry, and hate.

2. Recruit – We have seen an outpouring of support from the public in the form of donations, memberships, volunteer recruitment, and social media posts. We will continue to aggressively recruit new activists, new volunteers, and new donors. Our grassroots are the foundation of our strength, and we will work to engage and activate a new generation of Sierra Club leaders.

3. Train – Having a larger membership and a deeper pool of activists will help. How we develop those resources is just as important.

In 2017, we will invest more deeply in staff and volunteer training than we have ever done before. For example, every staff member and the lead volunteers from every chapter will get

training on equity and inclusion as we accelerate our anti-racism work.

4. Sustain – We have tough fights ahead, but we refuse to be in a defensive crouch for years to come. We will continue to make clean-energy progress in cities, in the private sector, with public utility commissions, and internationally, and we will increase our investments in those areas where we can stay on the offensive. We must be relentless in our fight against fossil fuels and for clean energy and smart transportation policies at the city and state levels.

Donald Trump may be president for the next several years, but the Sierra Club has been doing this work for nearly 125 years. We'll still be here when he is gone, and our movement will be bigger, stronger, and more innovative than ever for having opposed him. For many of us, these will be the biggest environmental fights of our lives, but they'll also be the most meaningful.

We're ready to give it everything we've got.



SF "Keep It in the Ground" Ordinance Will Transition Kern County Oil Field Into Solar Fields

By Luis Amezcua, San Francisco Bay Chapter

The City of San Francisco has taken a bold stand against profiting from climate disruption, passing legislation on November 29th that prohibits the leasing of city-owned land for fossil fuel extraction. The unanimous decision by the Board of Supervisors is a win-win-win for the environment, for clean energy jobs, and for city residents.

The passage of the 'Keep It In The Ground' ordinance is more than just a symbolic move; Supervisor John Avalos introduced the legislation in response to the revelation that for decades, San Francisco has benefited from leasing 800 acres of city-owned land in Kern County — the heart of California's oil and gas country — to Chevron for oil drilling. This arrangement is at odds with San Francisco's reputation as a leader in seeking solutions to lower our nation's dependency on dirty, climate-destabilizing fossil fuels.

The ordinance takes effect in 2020, when Chevron's 26-year lease with the city expires. The ordinance requires the City to develop a just transition plan for the properties to ensure responsible and constructive re-use of the land, and ensure that impacts on workers are avoided or minimized.

Now that San Francisco is getting out of the fossil fuel business, it's making the correct assessment and examining how to take advantage of California's famous 300 days of sunshine and generate alternative energy and green jobs through the installation of solar fields. According to a

OIL 2 SOLAR continued on page 8

Well Earned

Carla Saunders receives Chapter award for 25 years of conservation advocacy

Every year, we hold a Volunteer Hob Nob in appreciation of the Santa Lucia Chapter's most valuable players, the Sierra Club members out there doing the work.

At this year's volunteer appreciation event, held December 10 at the SLO Unitarian Universalist Center, the most appreciated volunteer was Carla Saunders, who received the Kathleen Goddard Jones Award, the Santa Lucia Chapter's highest honor.

It was a long time coming. Carla was instrumental in pressing the 1994 SLO City

Council to form an Environmental Quality Task Force which shaped the Land Use and Circulation Element and created the office of Natural Resources Manager, which in turn created the Greenbelt that is largely responsible for earning SLO the title of Happiest City in America.

She has never let up in the decades since, making sure the City honors the will of its citizenry and the letter and intent of ordinances and policies protecting natural open space.

The City has yet to honor her, so we're glad we did!



She rocks Santa Lucia Chapter Chair Karen Merriam (left) and Chapter Director Andrew Christie flank a totally surprised Carla Saunders, winner of the 2016 Kathleen Goddard Jones Award.



Volunteer Opportunity in Yosemite

The Yosemite Conservation History Center (formerly known as LeConte Memorial Lodge) is a National Historic Landmark that represents the rich heritage of the Sierra Club in Yosemite Valley. The building houses several interpretive displays, a children's nature corner, a wonderful library, art projects and evening programs.

Since 1904, a curator and Sierra Club volunteers have provided information to park visitors. Today the program welcomes over 15,000 visitors to the Sierra Club's spiritual home in Yosemite Valley and volunteers are needed now as the building reopens for its 113th season on May 3.

Volunteers spend a week in the park assisting the



club's curator, Bonnie Gisel, PhD, by interacting with park visitors and carrying on the Sierra Club tradition of helping others appreciate and protect our natural environment. Volunteers get free park admission and camping in a group campsite during their service week.

Potential volunteers must:

- Be outgoing and comfortable interacting with park visitors
- Have visited Yosemite within the last two years and have current park knowledge
- Be familiar with current Sierra Club programs and initiatives

- Be able to stand for up to 3 hours per day
- Tent camp only
- Bring their food and supplies
- Not bring children, pets or guests

To become a volunteer for the 2017 season, please contact Bonnie Gisel at 209-347-7300.

Oak Tree Planting Party



On November 5, Holly Sletteland, chair of the Santa Lucia Chapter's Wildlands Stewardship Group, led volunteers on the group's inaugural project: alleviating the tree mortality that Bishop Peak has suffered in the drought.

Sierra Club worked with the City of SLO's Natural Resources Program, along with volunteers from ECOSLO and One Cool Earth. We especially appreciated the effort of Junior Ranger Shea Carscaden (right) in getting coast live oak seedlings into the ground.

To join future Wildlands Stewardship Group projects, contact Holly Sletteland at hslettel@calpoly.edu or 805-239-3928.



In Memoriam: Dominic Perello

Dominic Perello died on November 23 at age 93, leaving behind a legacy of service to his country in World War II, decades of teaching tens of thousands of students at Cal Poly, and years of volunteer activism with the Sierra Club.

"Besides relying on Dom for information on all things historic and politic about SLO and our Chapter, Dom and I shared some very special moments discussing his friendship with Antoine de St. Exupery, the extraordinary author of *Night Flight* and *The Little Prince*, among other fascinating books about his experiences as a pilot," said Chapter Chair

Karen Merriam. Both men flew solo, reconnaissance flights during the Second World War. Dom had many thrilling stories to share. One of his favorite autobiographies, which he kindly loaned me, was *The Tale of the Rose* by St. Exupery's wife.

"Dom was a mentor, a friend, and a strong supporter of the Sierra Club." Per his wishes, there will be no services. Instead, get together with a friend and tell a story about Dom.



In Memoriam: Jack Beigle

Jack Beigle passed away on December 14 in Pacific Grove. He was 87.

Many Sierra Clubbers and members of Kayak-morrobay will remember Jack, who ran the Sierra Club canoe and kayak monthly paddle events in Morro Bay and wrote the "Paddlers Corner" column in the *Santa Lucian* from the late '80s, encouraging people to get out into nature in canoes and kayaks, until he and his wife Grace moved to Pacific Grove in 2006.

Jack was close to chapter founder Kathleen Goddard Jones. "He loved the dunes and followed in Kathleen Goddard Jones's footsteps, using education and persis-



tence as a tool to get things done," said Chapter outings leader Gary Felsman.

"Jack was always there to help when needed." "Jack was special," said Chapter Chair Karen Merriam. "Everybody who went on his overnight trips on Santa Margarita Lake remembers his ghost stories and campfire songs, or his picnics on the Morro Bay sandspit. He was our only outings leader who included haikus in his outing reports."

Anyone who would like to send Grace a note or a card can write to:

Grace Beigle
651 Sinex Ave., Apt D 114
Pacific Grove, CA 93950

City of San Luis Obispo: Annual Advisory Body Recruitment

Now accepting applications!

The City of SLO's Boards and Commissions are accepting applications through January 20, 2017. See the specific Advisory Body web pages for general information concerning them, as well as links to Agendas and Minutes.

www.slocity.org/government/advisory-bodies

For detailed information see the Advisory Body Handbook.

Applications may be submitted to:

The City Clerk's Office
990 Palm Street
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

For more information call (805) 781-7100.



Classifieds

Next issue deadline is **January 16**. To get a rate sheet or submit your ad and payment, contact: Sierra Club, P.O. Box 15755, San Luis Obispo, CA 93406 or sierraclub8@gmail.com

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Before Jan. 20, tell the White House:
Designate the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary!

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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.

Sat., Jan. 14th, 8:30 a.m. Stony Creek/Caldwell Mesa Trails Hike. Come on two rarely used trails, accessed by a locked gate to Stony Creek trailhead. This is a strenuous, twelve-mile hike, 2000 ft. gain, in and out on the same trails. Some poison oak along the way. Bring lunch, water, and sturdy hiking shoes. Meet in front of Pacific Beverage Co. in Santa Margarita. Rain postpones to a later date. Leader: Carlos Saavedra, 546-0317.

Sun., Jan. 15th, 2 p.m. Historic Walk of Arroyo Grande Village. Join us on an easy, guided stroll through the well-preserved, century-old downtown of Arroyo Grande. We will discuss such sights as the old storefronts on Branch St., the 1901 one-room schoolhouse, the famous swinging bridge, Victorian homes of the town's pioneers, and AG creek (plus its chickens). Duration about 1 1/2 hrs. Meet at corner of Branch and Bridge Sts., off-street parking nearby. Leader: Joe Morris, 549-0355.

Sat., Jan. 21st, 8:30 a.m. Big Sur Coastal Hike to

Dutra Flat. Take a moderately strenuous hike along Big Sur Coast with great views, nine miles RT and 2400 ft. gain. We will start up the Salmon Creek Trail to a saddle overlooking Dutra Creek, then traverse the valley to Dutra Flat Camp. Bring lunch, water, and non-slip hiking shoes, and dress for weather. Meet at Washburn Day Use Area, San Simeon State Park, 2 miles north of Cambria. Leader: Gary Felsman, 473-3694. Rain or threat of rain cancels the outing.

Sun., Jan. 22nd, 8:45 a.m. Reservoir Canyon Loop Plant Walk. Come on a botanist-led plant ID walk in Reservoir Canyon and Bowden Ranch, focusing on riparian and serpentine plants commonly found in greenbelt around city of SLO. This 5-1/2 mi. hike is moderate, ascending 1,200 ft. to ridge top. Learn easy ways to identify plant species and pick out attractive ones for leader ID. Bring water, snacks, sturdy shoes, sunscreen, hat, and jacket. No RSVP needed. Meet at Santa Rosa Park in SLO. If a list of trailside species is wanted, contact leader at least 24 hrs. in advance. Leader: Bill

Waycott, 459-2103 or bill.waycott@gmail.com
Rain cancels.

Sun., Jan. 22nd, 10 a.m. Quarry Hill Trekking-Pole Hike. Come on a two-mile, 320 ft. gain hike to learn the techniques and advantages of trekking-pole use. Meet at the Quarry/Cabrillo Peak trailhead, off South Bay Blvd., Morro Bay. Need to confirm in advance you are coming to Leader: David Georgi, 458-5575 or hikingpoles@gmail.com.

Tues., Jan. 24th, 10 a.m. Crespi Loop Hike in Morro Bay State Park. Come on a native-plant walk and enjoy sweeping views of ocean and mountains, 2.25 miles RT, 350 ft. gain. From South Bay Blvd between Morro Bay and Los Osos, turn onto Turri Rd. and drive half mile to parking lot on left. Leader: Vicki Marchenko, 528-5567.

Wed., Jan. 25th, 7-9 p.m. 8th Annual Environmentalists' Rendezvous: Behold the Animals! Tonight hear the stories of the dedicated protectors of our wild neighbors of land, sea, and sky. Speaking will be leaders of the Friends of the

Elephant Seals, Pacific Wildlife Care, Monarch Butterfly Grove at Oceano Dunes, and Morro Coast Audubon Society. Prof. Emily Taylor, director of grad studies in Biological Sciences and winner of the Distinguished Teaching Award at Cal Poly, will give us an overall scientific perspective. Your questions and comments will be welcomed. Meets at Steynberg Gallery, 1531 Monterey St., SLO. Info: Joe Morris, 549-0355.

Sat., Jan. 28th, 9:30 a.m. Pt. Sal Road Hike. Your choice of a five- or ten-mile hike. Five-mile hike, moderately strenuous, ascends hill to long views of coast, cliffs, and pristine beach, lasting about 2 hours. The ten-miler, strenuous, continues from there with some tricky hill scrambling, then down to a remote beach for play/relaxing time. Bring plenty of water, snacks, sunscreen, hat, and sweater in case of changing, cooler weather. Meet at main gate to Pt. Sal Park, end of Brown Rd., 3.9 miles from Hwy 1. Rain cancels. Leader: Andrea Ortiz, 264-4527 or kenya683@msn.com.

Oil 2 solar

continued from page 6

report from the City's budget analyst, this move isn't only sensible for the environment — it also makes sense for the city's budget. Leasing the land to a solar provider is expected to produce more than twice as much revenue per acre than Chevron's operations.

The decision to divest City resources from fossil fuel extraction and redirect them to solar comes at a time when the demand for renewable energy is booming — while the price of the technology and the cost to consumers falls sharply. In fact, since the implementation of the Individual Tax Credit (ITC) for solar in 2006, the cost to install solar energy has dropped by well over 70 percent.

In 2004, San Francisco was one of the first cities in the nation to make a commitment to transition to 100% renewable electricity. To achieve that goal by a target date of 2030, the City has invested in energy efficiency, broken down barriers to installing rooftop solar, and

launched Clean PowerSF: a new local power utility in the "Community Choice" clean energy model.

The Keep It In The Ground ordinance has the potential to help San Francisco reach its renewable energy goal by providing power to its CleanPower SF customers.

Just before the first reading on November 15th, Supervisor Avalos reiterated the importance of this ordinance, saying: "With the pending Trump presidency, local leadership on climate change is more urgent and important than ever. San Francisco and other cities can help lead this country into the clean energy future we need."

Indeed, San Francisco has long been a leader in the environmental movement. By once again demonstrating that aligning financial assets with environmental values makes economic sense, let's hope more cities follow suit and divest capital from the fossil fuel industry, joining San Francisco in building a vibrant clean energy economy that benefits all of us: workers, communities and our environment.

After TPP

continued from page 5

progressives, must offer our alternative — one that's rooted in fighting inequality, respecting workers' rights, fostering healthy communities, and seeking climate justice.

On November 16, the Sierra Club unveiled a discussion paper that presents fresh, bold ideas for one component of a broad new approach: how to move from polluter-friendly deals to ones that support tackling climate change.

The template for trade deals like the TPP was written decades ago under the advisement of fossil fuel and other corporations. These deals serve one function: to boost corporate profits. They seek to maximize trade and investment even if the goods traded or the investments protected spell more climate pollution. They even empower corporations to sue governments in private trade tribunals over climate and other protections that affect corporate bottom lines.

To build a new approach to trade that supports - not undermines - climate action, we must turn the status quo model on its head. We start

from a simple premise that is fundamentally at odds with the status quo: Trade and investment should be treated as tools for advancing human priorities - not ends in and of themselves. Deals should encourage trade and investment that support a more stable climate, healthy communities, and good jobs, while discouraging trade and investment that do the opposite.

We offer 15 proposals for how to bring decades-old trade rules into alignment with today's climate imperatives. These proposals have been informed by input from over 50 academic and civil society trade and climate specialists. They range from the relatively simple to fundamental shifts that, while difficult, may be necessary to achieve policies that reflect today's stark climate realities.


Our proposals seek to fulfill three core goals:

1. Changing trade rules to protect climate policies: Trade rules that conflict with climate action should be eliminated to allow communities and governments to advance bold climate protections without fear of being challenged in trade tribunals. Our proposal would not allow corporations to sue governments in private tribunals over climate policies - or any policies. We also propose a provision stating that whenever trade rules clash with climate policies, the climate policies win.


2. Using trade rules to increase climate protections: Trade pacts should establish a floor of climate protection among trade partners to avoid a race to the bottom in climate standards. While status quo deals like the TPP don't even mention the words "climate change," tomorrow's trade agreements should require enforcement of international climate commitments, elimination of fossil fuel subsidies, and financing for renewable energy investments. Under this new model, if a government or corporation failed to live up to its climate



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



John Muir, founder of the Sierra Club, in Yosemite

For further information contact:
Joe Morris, Outings Chair
Sierra Club, Santa Lucia Chapter
 (805) 549-0355
dpp1942@earthlink.net

Island Hopping in Channel Islands National Park 2017



April 2-4 May 7-9 June 11-13 July 16-18 August 20-22 September 24-26 October 22-24

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responsibilities, the communities most affected by climate change could seek justice before a panel of climate experts.

3. Mitigating the climate impacts of trade: A climate-friendly trade model should encourage trade in goods that support the public interest, but discourage trade in climate-polluting fossil fuels. Trade pacts also should tackle climate pollution from shipping. We propose a new way to do so. And to ensure that a country's climate protections don't offshore jobs or climate emissions, trade agreements should include taxes on imported goods made under highly climate-polluting conditions.

These proposals and oth-

ers detailed in our discussion paper will be refined as we continue to collect feedback on what climate-friendly trade policies could look like. Please help us build a new trade model by sending your input to climate-friendly-trade@sierraclub.org.

We look forward to working with our partners to stitch these climate-focused ideas into a broader proposal for an approach to trade that promotes good jobs, healthy communities, and a livable planet. Using our grassroots power and momentum from the diverse movement that defeated the TPP, we are eager to build support for this new approach that puts people and planet over profits.

Read "A New Climate-Friendly Approach to Trade:" sierraclub.org/trade

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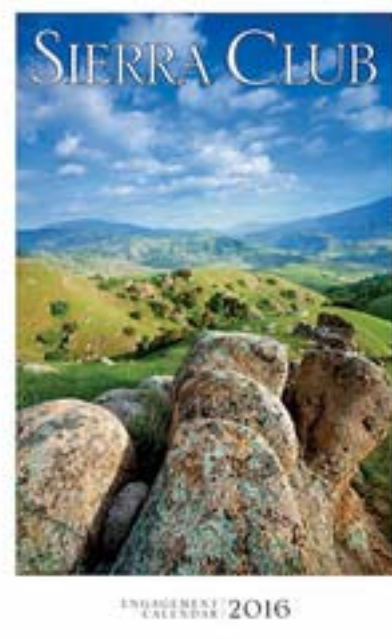
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