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**SIERRA
CLUB**
Santa Lucia
Chapter

June 2016
Volume 53 No. 6

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



Capps Asks for Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary

By Andrew Christie, Chapter Director



Her finest hour Congresswoman Lois Capps, center, flanked by Chumash tribal members and fellow elected officials on the Pismo Pier, May 2.

Crucial Diablo Outfall Meeting June 28



The permit that allows the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant to take in and discharge cooling water is scheduled to expire in 2018.

On June 28, the State Lands Commission will hear from its staff a summary of issues that the proposed renewal of Diablo's outfall permit raises under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). If the Commission decides to proceed with a full environmental review, it will be the first time that the operations of the plant have been subject to CEQA.

PG&E doesn't want that to happen.

The Sierra Club strongly supports review of PG&E's application for the renewal

of Diablo Canyon's outfall permit in the context of an analysis of the environmental impacts that would be incurred by extending the period the plant is allowed to lease submerged public lands for their present use.

Commission Chair Gavin Newsom has noted that Diablo presents complex circumstances (See "Diablo at Outfall's End," May). We agree, and we support Commission staff's recommendation for a broad review within a policy context that includes California's long-term energy goals, which are significantly impacted by the presence of a nuclear power plant – i.e. wind and solar energy sources are being curtailed by virtue of the inflexible space Diablo takes up on the energy grid. The state's goal is to generate half of California's electricity from renewable

sources by 2030. Nuclear energy is a competitor with renewables, and it is not "clean" or renewable.

An environmental evaluation of the Diablo Canyon plant and the impacts of its offshore intake and outfall is long overdue. We do not support any proposal to avoid CEQA or "grandfather" the extension of the permit beyond its scheduled expiration in 2018.

The June 28 meeting of the State Lands Commission will be held in Sacramento at 10 a.m. **SLO County residents may attend and comment via video uplink at a satellite location at the Inn at Morro Bay.**

On May 2, I was standing in the crowd at the press conference that Congresswoman Lois Capps held on the Pismo Pier to announce that she has formally asked the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to begin the designation process for the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary, when a thought occurred to me.

I thought that when I got back to the office I should probably start printing out and collating e-mails, meeting agendas, memos, articles, drafts of public testimony, plus scrawled notes

and other ephemera of the last several years, which, if gathered in one place, would help tell the story of how this effort began and progressed; an inventory of the actions that led up to this day.

Because this is starting to feel historic.

The week before, I had been sitting in the offices of the Northern Chumash Tribal Council with five other people — most of the same folks, give or take, who had first gathered in a living room in Shell Beach three years ago for the first meeting to discuss how to

go about making 10,000 square miles of ocean into a marine sanctuary for the Central Coast.

Then came NOAA's 2014 announcement that for the first time in nearly twenty years, they were reviving the moribund selection process for marine sanctuaries, but in a new way: taking nominations from local residents of coastal areas. Previously, potential sanctuary sites had been selected by NOAA administrators. This was to be a grass-roots nomination process.

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Support the
Chumash Heritage National
Marine Sanctuary

Sign the petition at
tinyurl.com/CHNMSpetition

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Join us for a FUNraiser at Tiber Canyon Ranch

Come join us for some fun at Tiber Canyon Ranch on Saturday, June 11.

Stroll about the grounds and visit tables where you can chat up Sierra Club Chapter leaders to find out more about what we do, how you can help, and how we can help with your own environmental concerns. The day will be about entertainment and information, with opportunities to join the Sierra Club, volunteer or donate to support our environmental work.

Here's your chance to get involved with your local chapter of the nation's oldest and largest grassroots environmental group. Check out volunteer opportunities in chapter leadership, leading local hikes, water quality, land use, politics, marine wildlife, and all the other issues the Club is involved in.

**Free admission
Free food & drinks**

One-of-a-kind art, jewelry, craft items, signed first editions by local authors for sale.

Plus the soul-stirring music of Sonnie B!



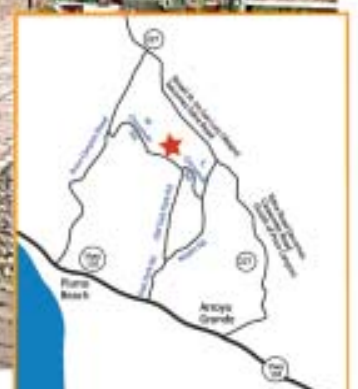
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EXPLORE, ENJOY, AND
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Saturday, June 11, 2016
3:00 - 5:30 p.m.
280-W. Ormonde Rd., SLO

Special guest: Ash Lauth of the Center for Biological Diversity on how to fight the Price Canyon oil field expansion.



For more info, contact: sierraclub8@gmail.com

Santa Barbara Oil Spill Brings Gusher of Indictments

On May 17, state and local prosecutors announced the indictment of Plains All-American Pipeline on four felony counts and 42 misdemeanors in relation to last year's rupture of a Santa Barbara oil pipeline and 143,000-gallon oil spill. Some 20,000 gallons of the offshore crude went back into the sea, befouled Refugio State Beach, killed hundreds of sea lions, dolphins and sea birds, shut down fisheries and contaminated coastal waters for miles south. The company could be forced to pay up to \$2.8 million in fines.

Plains All-American didn't report the leak to federal regulators until three and a half hours after workers discovered it, grossly underreported the amount of oil that had spilled, and notoriously apologized to local residents for the "inconvenience."

"We will never forget what we experienced in the days following that spill," said state Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson (D-Santa Barbara: "a half-mile slick of crude oil along our coast, the stench of petroleum, oil-drenched birds, holiday visitors sent home, and a beach transformed into a toxic clean-up site."

"I think at the time it was pretty clear that they weren't doing the appropriate monitoring and that they have a long history of not doing the appropriate monitoring," said

Kathryn Phillips, director of Sierra Club California. "There's some satisfaction in knowing that the legal authorities are pursuing this. We hope it will result in some penalties that can be used to help restore some of the damage."

The Pipeline Safety Act (H.R. 5050), now working its way through Congress, was spearheaded by Representative Lois Capps in the wake of the Refugio spill, would require more frequent integrity inspections when risk factors are present, designating all coastal beaches as "high consequence areas," and commissioning a scientific study on causes of pipeline corrosion and the best ways to prevent it.

"Drafting this bill has been a long process, and it hasn't always been easy," said Capps. "But it is an important step forward to improve pipeline safety across the country. Now we will work with the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and the Senate to pass a final bill that can be sent to the President to be signed into law. I am very hopeful that we can make this happen before the end of the year."

Defendants are scheduled to appear at an arraignment of All-American Pipeline and its regulatory compliance specialist on June 2 in Santa Barbara.



Oil Eyes on Price Canyon

The fate of California's groundwater may hang on the EPA's decision on an application to keep dumping wastewater from the Arroyo Grande Oil Field into an aquifer.

In February, state oil regulators submitted an application to the Environmental Protection Agency to remove federal protections from the Price Canyon aquifer that Freeport McMoRan has been using as a dumping ground for the wastewater from oil drilling operations in the Arroyo Grande Oil Field.

The after-the-fact application was triggered by a scandal that broke last year when it was discovered that the state had granted more than 2,000 permits to illegally inject toxic oil field wastewater into underground water sources that were supposed to be off-limits under the federal Safe Drinking Water Act. To come into compliance with the law and continue dumping, all oil companies

wastewater into protected aquifers that have not filed an official exemption by December 31 will be shut down.

As you might imagine, there is a lot of industry interest in the fate of the first-up Arroyo Grande Oil Field exemption application. (See the ferocity of the industry's response and attempted erasure of the aforementioned oil wastewater dumping scandal when the Center for Biological Diversity pointed out serious concerns with the proposed exemption of the Arroyo Grande Oil Field ("Oil industry spokesman: Facts should win out over fearmongering," *The Tribune*, April 1.)

For Freeport McMoRan, an exemption is crucial to the oil company's plans to expand its Price Canyon operations by more than 450 new wells, with an attendant increase in the injection of their toxic byproduct into the aquifer.

The EPA has responded to their exemption request with a letter to state regulators asking for more information due to inadequacies in the application, "particularly regarding the drinking water wells in the area."

A question the EPA didn't ask: Do state and federal officials have the will or ability to ensure that wastewater injection will not impact nearby water wells or water available for beneficial

use? So far, the answer to that question has been a resounding no. And that includes the EPA.

Six reasons why not

Two Freeport MMR projects – an extension of an expired ten-year-old permit to drill 31 previously permitted oil wells and a separate application for to increase Price Canyon oil production tenfold with 450 new wells – are on hold at the County until the EPA has ruled on the company's exemption request.

But even if the EPA decides everything's fine, the County should uphold the appeal of Freeport's extended permit for 31 new wells and strongly signal to the company that it would be wise to simply withdraw its application for another 450 wells beyond that.

There are at least six good reasons why:

- 1. Things change.** A lot has been discovered about the nature of oil field injection wells that was not known when Freeport MMR got its permit in 2005, much of which has been learned in just the seven months since the SLO County Planning Commission gave Freeport an extension, and none of which was contemplated, analyzed or mitigated in the extended permit (see #'s 3, 4, 5 and 6).

- 2. The EPA has done a lousy job.** When it comes to administering the regula-

tions that are supposed to protect potential groundwater supplies from contamination by injected oilfield wastewater, the record of the EPA should give the County little cause for reassurance. In March, the Government Accountability Office released a report entitled *EPA Needs to Collect Information and Consistently Conduct Activities to Protect Underground Sources of Drinking Water*, reviewing the widespread failure of the agency in assuring the protection of federally protected aquifers from pollution by oilfield injection wells. The Associated Press noted that the GAO report, in enumerating all the places where EPA has failed, "made an object lesson of California," singling out the EPA's poor performance here re the aforementioned illegal dumping scandal.

The EPA responded to the GAO report by saying it agreed with the report's findings and that it would take steps to improve its oversight operations...but that was pretty much the same thing the EPA said in response to a 2014 GAO report entitled *Drinking Water: EPA Program to Protect Underground Sources from Injection of Fluids Associated With Oil and Gas Production Needs Improvement*. And while EPA "generally agreed" again with the GAO in 2016, the GAO noted that the EPA "does not plan to require well-specific data and analyze needed resources. GAO continues to believe that EPA should take both actions to better assess if programs protect underground sources of drinking water."

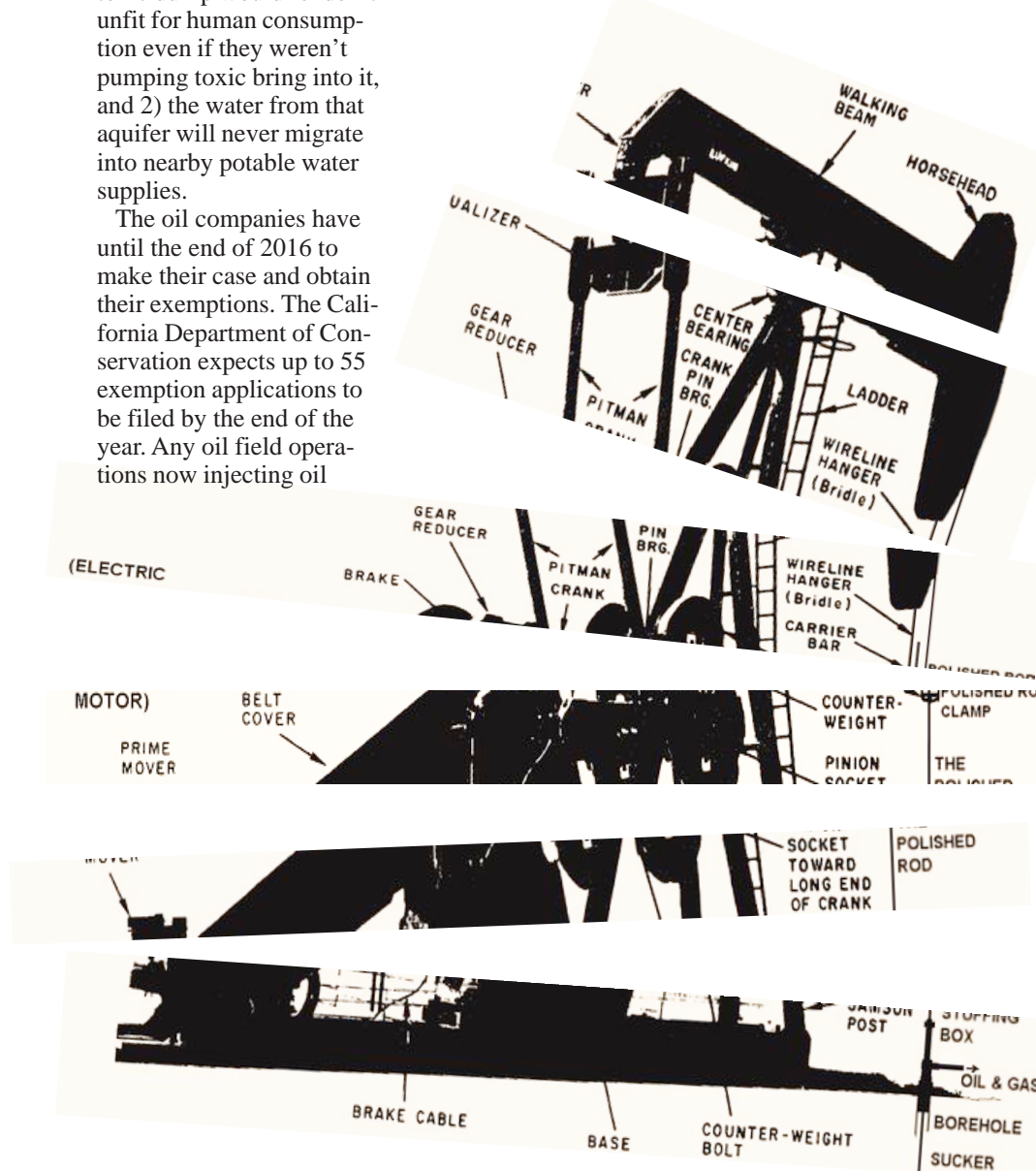
- 3. Even if the EPA was doing a good job of enforcing the regulations, the regulations don't work.** On March 23, the Natural Resources Defense Council filed a petition with the EPA demanding the repeal of the regulations that permit exemptions to the Safe Drinking Water Act in order to allow the pumping of hazardous waste into underground aquifers. The petition noted that the regulations, written more than thirty years ago, have caused the contamination of drinking water, and "the existing process for evaluation of aquifer exemption requests has allowed for the approval of applications without scientifically-defensible evidence which demonstrates that the water cannot reasonably be expected to serve as a public source of drinking water in the future. The existing rules therefore violate the

Only eight oil fields have a higher carbon intensity ranking than Arroyo Grande.

who benefited from the state's "oopsie" must now obtain exemptions from federal protections by persuading regulators that the injection of a particular oil field's wastewater into a particular aquifer won't endanger California's supply of drinking water.

To do that, they must convincingly show that 1) the water quality of the aquifer serving as their toxic dump would render it unfit for human consumption even if they weren't pumping toxic bring into it, and 2) the water from that aquifer will never migrate into nearby potable water supplies.

The oil companies have until the end of 2016 to make their case and obtain their exemptions. The California Department of Conservation expects up to 55 exemption applications to be filed by the end of the year. Any oil field operations now injecting oil



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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 1p.m. at the chapter office, located at 974 Santa Rosa St., San Luis Obispo. All members are welcome to attend.

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A Chance to Save Our Wetlands and Streams

by Arthur Feinstein
California/Nevada Regional Conservation Committee

After a two-year hiatus, the State Water Resources Control Board is once again taking up its proposed Wetlands and Riparian Areas Protection Policy (WRAPP). They hope to release a draft of Phase 1 (wetlands definition, permitting process) by the time you read this and hold public hearings in the third quarter of the year. If we hope to protect our few remaining wetlands and intact streams, we will need to make a strong presence at these hearings and generate lots of letters and emails.

Why should we care? The State has lost over 80% of its historic wetlands and over 98% of its riparian areas. Wetlands are one of the most bio-productive habitats in existence. Over 70% of commercial fish species depend on wetlands at some time in their life cycle. Wetlands are the base of the aquatic food chain (wetland vegetation breaks down and provides food for the upward ladder of species). Tidal marsh wetlands play a large role in reducing flood impacts (a lot of Hurricane Katrina's impacts were the result of wetland loss in the Gulf).

Riparian habitats are equally important for freshwater species and flood reduction. Vernal pools and other seasonal wetlands help reduce flooding by acting as sumps that collect rainwater and then recharge our aquifers and provide habitat for many listed species of plants and invertebrates as well as for migrating birds.

So it's sort of important.

If you want to join the CNRCC Wetlands Committee, please email me at arthurfeinstein@earthlink.net or call at 415-680-0643.

Update: Cambria desal plant

Backward Still Runs Cambria's Water Scheme

"First the verdict, then the trial!"

- The Red Queen,
Alice in Wonderland

Two years ago in these pages, we published a retrospective of the regulatory misadventures of the Cambria Community Services District ("Cambria CSD Still Crazy After All These Years," Sept. 2014).

We reviewed the CSD's behavior over the span of a decade in which the District has demonstrated its unswerving belief, despite repeated evidence to the contrary, that if they throw enough money, lobbyists and lawyers at a water project, they can get a permit, despite the flagrant failure of those projects to conform with the requirements of the California Coastal Act.

The occasion for that stroll down bad memory lane: To address its never-substantiated water emergency (see "Cambria's Shock Doctrine," Jan. 2015), the CSD had just decided to put Cambria on the hook for a \$13 million loan for a permanent desalination plant in the environmentally sensitive San Simeon Creek watershed instead of the temporary facility recommended by the Coastal Commission — prior to completing an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and with only a temporary emergency Coastal Development Permit, and despite direct warnings from Coastal staff that the project "will likely cause 'take' of endangered species and cause long-term harm to sensitive habitat" and that it would be a good idea



The perils of cutting corners The Cambria CSD's malfunctioning desal brine pit is just one of the chickens coming home to roost in the attempt to parlay a fake emergency into a water source for future development.

for the directors of the District to find out the answers to questions about how much damage the project will do and at what cost to the District "before locking into a long-term project and its associated liabilities."

They didn't. (See "Cambria CSD Reaps First Installment on the Whirlwind," April 2015.)

But, as it turns out, that was just the warm-up. To truly burnish its rep as the biggest scofflaw on the Central Coast when it comes to trying to dodge the rules put in place to protect coastal habitat and wildlife, now it's time to double down. At its March 24 meeting, the CSD officially morphed its unconditioned, unreviewed, unmitigated emergency water supply facility into an anytime-we-feel-like-it water supply facility. The CSD affirmed that the emergency water supply project has been "rebranded" and the after-the-fact EIR will now have to "evaluate use of the facility to supply water to existing and future customers," raising the stakes and the height of the regulatory mountain it has to climb to gain a regular Coastal Development Permit.

In an effort to make the facility switcheroo palatable in the EIR, the District is now focused on finding the

funds for a Buildout Reduction Program (BRP), buying up, merging or retiring development rights for lots to keep Cambria below a total buildout of 4,650 residential water connections.

At the April 18 meeting of the BRP committee, attorney Mark Rochefort, through his alternate, submitted a good question. He wanted to know if the water facility would have the capacity to provide water for 4,650 hookups. We have another question: If the water facility provides water for 4,650 hookups, what will that ultimately do to the Santa Rosa and San Simeon Creek watershed and the environment?

Piloting this ship into the unknown is CSD Director Greg Sanders, the mastermind behind the CSD's multiple previous failed desal projects and the debacle of a failed

half-million dollar legal war the CSD waged against the Coastal Commission over the design and placement of water storage tanks. Sanders came to the CSD from the law firm of Nossaman,

CAMBRIA cont. on page 6

It Took Some Doing



Take a hike Cambria Pines Lodge is no longer sealing off public access to the coast by closing and locking a gate it placed over the trail to the sea. Thank you, hard working Coastal Commission staff.

Sierra Club Endorses Kamala Harris for U.S. Senate

On May 10, the Sierra Club announced its endorsement of California Attorney General Kamala Harris for U.S. Senate.

As Attorney General, Harris has fought to protect key climate safeguards including defending California's landmark carbon tax and President Obama's Clean Power Plan, taken on environmental justice issues by standing up for the families at Mira Loma, and held companies accountable for dumping hazardous waste.

"The Sierra Club is proud to endorse Kamala Harris for U.S. Senate," said Sierra Club Executive Director Michael Brune. "Harris has a proven record of rejecting the ploys of corporate polluters and fighting to protect our environment and the health of California's families. Congress desperately needs more climate champions like her, which is why Sierra Club will mobilize its members throughout the state to ensure she is elected."

The Sierra Club previously endorsed Harris' bids for Attorney General.

"I'm honored and proud to have the support of Sierra Club in this race," said Harris. "Together, we've done great work here in California to fight climate change, hold polluters accountable and win justice for families who have been harmed by environmental disasters. But on so many environmental issues, majorities in Congress have stood in the way of real progress nationally. I'll bring our bold California approach to protecting our environment to Washington and fight hard to get results on these critical issues."



One for the Kit Fox

Beginning circa 2010 with the proposal to situate the First Solar and SunPower utility-scale solar plants in the Carrizo Plain, home to the largest concentration of threatened and endangered species in California, the Santa Lucia Chapter has expressed concern with our parent organization's reluctance to challenge solar projects proposed in sensitive habitat (see "A Solar Settlement," Sept. 2011). Last year, several chapter leaders persuaded Sierra Club California to establish a Large Scale Renewables Task Force, comprised of leaders from eight California chapters. We met for six months over the course of 2015-16 to hash out the language of this resolution on future Club policy for the siting of utility-scale renewable energy projects. Here's hoping.

Protect Crucial Habitat from Poorly Sited Renewable Energy Projects

In view of the likely increase in utility-scale solar and wind projects in California in the wake of AB 350 mandating 50% of retail electricity sales from renewable energy by 2030, and in response to recent studies that demonstrate significant impacts that inappropriate siting of large-scale renewable energy facilities have had and will have on the wildlife habitats of California and Nevada; Sierra Club California (SCC) asks that the Beyond Coal Campaign work with its California/Nevada Chapters to:

- Refine the large-scale renewable energy facilities siting guidelines and criteria as used in California/Nevada in order to afford due consideration to the size and location of projects in relation to local ecosystems and sensitive species. The purpose of this is to avoid severe and unnecessary impacts to ecologically important land areas and/or the fragmentation of habitats and wildlife corridors that make up California/Nevada's unique ecosystems;
- As part of this process, re-evaluate how the Club considers those projects proposed to be sited on "disturbed lands" that may or do serve as habitat for sensitive species, as opposed to "disturbed lands" so degraded or contaminated that they are unlikely to provide habitat for sensitive species;
- Develop an improved system for collaboration between the national Beyond Coal Campaign and Early Review Team and California/Nevada Chapters in implementing these revised guidelines and criteria, thus allowing timely decisions on the appropriateness of projects in order to provide substantive input to the agencies during their deliberations;
- Better involve and make more use of the on-the-ground expertise and advocacy of California/Nevada chapters in the Beyond Coal Campaign's efforts to get federal, state and local agencies to require appropriately sited facilities.
- Review the Club's current policy on large-scale renewable facility mitigation of impacts to consider the potential for conjunctive uses on non-arid lands that could prove environmentally beneficial and encourage research to develop improved mitigation techniques.



Endangered A San Joaquin kit fox on the Carrizo Plain.

Passed by the California/Nevada Regional Conservation Committee, May 1, 2016.



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

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

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Looming Trade Deals Threaten Efforts to Keep Fossil Fuels in the Ground

Last month, 415 civil society organizations sent this letter to every member of Congress

Dear Member of Congress,

To protect our communities and avoid disastrous levels of climate change, the U.S. must boldly act to keep fossil fuels in the ground. Recent decisions – such as protecting the Atlantic coast from offshore drilling, enacting a moratorium on new coal leasing on U.S. public lands, banning fracking in New York, and rejecting the Keystone XL tar sands pipeline – have made progress toward this critical end. Such fossil fuel restrictions must be expanded to adequately safeguard our communities and climate.

However, two pending trade deals pose major barriers to this climate imperative. The Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) and the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP), as proposed, would empower an unprecedented number of fossil fuel corporations, including some of the world’s largest polluters, to challenge U.S. policies in tribunals not accountable to any domestic legal system. There, the firms could use the trade pacts’ broad foreign investor rights to demand compensation for U.S. fossil fuel restrictions. These “investor-state dispute settlement” (ISDS) cases would be decided not by judges, but by lawyers who typically represent corporations.

We strongly urge you to eliminate this threat to U.S. climate progress by committing to vote no on the TPP and asking the U.S. Trade Representative to remove from TTIP any provision that empowers corporations to challenge government policies in extrajudicial tribunals.

In January, TransCanada – the company behind the Keystone XL pipeline – illustrated that the climate threats posed by such trade deals are real. The company announced it would use the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) to ask a private tribunal of three lawyers to order the U.S. government to pay more than \$15 billion – more than \$100 from every individual U.S. tax return – as “compensation” because President Obama rejected a pipeline that threatened oil spills and increased climate disruption.

But the TPP and TTIP would more than double the number of fossil fuel corporations that could follow TransCanada’s example and challenge U.S. policies in private tribunals. Indeed, the pacts would be the first to allow the world’s largest polluters – including all of the eight largest private greenhouse gas emitters outside of the U.S. – to wield this tool against U.S. climate policies. The fossil fuel firms that would gain this right are currently fracking on our public lands, drilling for oil off our shores, building liquefied natural gas (LNG) terminals on our coasts, running refineries in our cities, and operating fossil fuel pipelines and trains in nearly every region of the country. No previous trade deal has given such broad rights to corporations with such broad interests in maintaining U.S. fossil fuel dependency.

Fossil fuel corporations are increasingly using ISDS under existing trade and investment pacts, contributing to a recent surge in cases. In fact, half of the new ISDS cases launched in 2014 targeted policies affecting oil or gas extraction, mining, or power generation. Law firms specializing in ISDS are now explicitly advising corporations, including fossil fuel firms, to see ISDS as a “tool to assist lobbying efforts to prevent” unwanted policies, as threats of costly ISDS cases can chill policy proposals.

By empowering many more firms to launch ISDS cases against the U.S., the TPP and TTIP would pose a major threat to efforts across the country to restrict fossil fuel activities, including these:

- **Fracking:** The TPP and TTIP would undermine efforts in various states to restrict the dangerous practice of fracking by granting ISDS rights to more foreign fracking firms than all 56 existing U.S. trade and investment pacts combined. The threat is real – a gas corporation named Lone Pine Resources is currently using NAFTA’s nearly identical foreign investor rights to ask an ISDS tribunal to order compensation from Canada for a fracking moratorium in Quebec.
- **Offshore drilling:** The TPP and TTIP would empower oil and gas corporations with more than 10 million acres’ worth of U.S. offshore drilling leases – one out of every three leased acres – to use ISDS threats to resist offshore drilling restrictions, posing a threat to coastal communities and the climate. That is 24 times more area than that leased to firms with existing ISDS rights.
- **Oil and gas extraction on public lands:** The TPP and TTIP would allow corporations with leases for oil and gas drilling on over 720,000 acres of U.S. public lands to launch ISDS cases against U.S. federal leasing restrictions, undercutting our ability to limit greenhouse gas emissions.
- **Fossil fuel pipelines:** The TPP and TTIP would enable corporations that own tens of thousands of miles’ worth of fossil fuel pipelines in at least 29 states to go to private tribunals and, like TransCanada, demand billions of dollars for delays or denials of dangerous pipelines.

The TPP and TTIP’s unprecedented expansion of U.S. ISDS liability would similarly threaten efforts to protect communities from fossil fuel trains, LNG terminals, refineries, and other fossil fuel hazards.

Much of the world’s remaining fossil fuel reserves are on or adjacent to Indigenous lands and territories. Unfortunately, the nation-states engaged in the TPP and TTIP agreements have not strongly defended Indigenous land rights and Indigenous peoples’ right to free, prior, and informed consent. Ultimately, such trade deals grant more rights to transnational corporations, often at the expense of Indigenous rights, undermining special protections of Indigenous lands and cultural resources. For Indigenous peoples wanting a just economic transition away from oil and gas development, these deals pose severe risks to their sovereignty and ability to self-determine their futures as nations and tribal citizens concerned about the climate, health, and environmental impacts from fossil fuels.

We strongly urge you to stand up for healthy communities, clean air and water, Indigenous peoples, property rights, and a stable climate by committing to vote no on the TPP and asking the U.S. Trade Representative to remove from TTIP any provision that empowers corporations to challenge government policies in extrajudicial tribunals.

Sincerely,

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Alaska Climate Action Network
Alaska Inter-Tribal Council
Allegheny Defense Project
Alliance for Democracy
Alliance for Democracy - Portland OR
Amazon Watch
Angelica Foundation
Animals Are Sentient Beings, Inc.
Arise for Social Justice
Arnold Piacentini, Pro Se
Asamblea de Gonzales
Asian Pacific Environmental Network
Athens County Fracking Action Network
Atlantic Energy Ltd
Barranquilla+20
Battle Creek Alliance
Be the Change
Berks Gas Truth
Beyond Extreme Energy (BXE)
Biofuelwatch
Black Oak Wind Farm, LLC
Bold Nebraska
bottomup economy
Breast Cancer Action
Breathe Easy Susquehanna County
Bus For Progress
Campaign for Renewable Energy
Carmelite NGO
Cascadia Wildlands
Catskill Citizens for Safe Energy
Catskill Mountainkeeper
Center for a Sustainable Coast
Center for Biological Diversity
Center for Earth Ethics
Center For Food Safety
Center for International Environmental Law
Center for Media and Democracy/PRWatch
Center for Popular Democracy
Center for Sustainable Economy
Center of Concern
CEO Pipe Organs/Golden Ponds Farm
Chatham Research Group
Chicago 350.org
Chico Peace and Justice Center
Citizen Gas & Oil Advisory Lobby
Citizens Against Ruining the Environment
Citizens Climate Lobby
Citizens Coal Council
Citizens Coalition for a Safe Community
Citizens’ Environmental Coalition
Citizens for a Clean Harbor
Citizens for Global Solutions
Citizens for Sanity.Com, Inc.
Clean Air Watch
Clean Energy Action
Clean Water for North Carolina
Cleveland Environmental Action Network (CLEAN)
Climate 911
Climate Action Alliance of the Valley
Climate Action Now Western Mass
Climate First!
Climate Solutions
Coal River Mountain Watch
Coalitions of Mutual Endeavor
Columbia Divest for Climate Justice
Community Research
compressor and pipeline opposition in Windsor ma.
Conejos Clean Water
Conservation Congress
Cook Inletkeeper
Cooperation Jackson
CorpEthics
Corporate Accountability International
Crockett-Rodeo United to Defend the Environment
CT Progressives
Clean Up the River Environment (CURE)
Delaware Riverkeeper Network
Divestment Student Network
Don’t Waste Arizona
Dream of the Earth
Dryden Resource Awareness Coalition
Earth Care
Earth Care International
Earth Day Initiative
Earth Day Network
Earth Ethics, Inc.
Earth Ministry/Washington Interfaith Power & Light
Earthjustice
Earthworks
East Africa Climate Change Network
East Bay Community Solar Project
EcoEquity
Eco-Justice Collaborative
Ecology Party Florida
Eco-Poetry.org
Elders Climate Action
Endangered Habitats League
Endangered Species Act Coalition
Endangered Species Coalition
Energy Action Coalition
Energy and Policy Institute
Environment, Economics and Society Institute
Environmental Action
Environmental Justice Center at Chestnut Hill United Church
Environmental Justice League of RR
Environmental Youth Council St Augustine
EPIC- Environmental Protection Information Center
Fairbanks Climate Action Coalition
Fairmont, MN Peace Group
FLOW (For Love of Water)
Flush The TPP
FOGH (Friends of Grays Harbor)
Food & Water Watch
Food Democracy Now!
Food Empowerment Project
Forest City 350
Fossil Free Northwestern
Fox Valley Citizens for Peace & Justice
Frack Free Colorado
FreshWater Accountability Project
Friends of Hudson
Friends of Merrymeeting Bay
Friends of the Bitterroot
Friends of the Earth - US
Fund for Democratic Communities
GAIA: Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives
GARDEN, Inc.
GARJAN-Nepal
Gas Free Seneca
Generaci3n +1
Global Exchange
Good Business Association of Rochester
Grand Riverkeeper/LEAD Agency, Inc.
Grassroots Environmental Education
Grassroots Global Justice Alliance
Grays Harbor Audubon Society
Great Lakes Bioneers Detroit
Great Old Broads for Wilderness
Green America
Green Map System

Green Neighbors DC
Green Sanctuary Committee, CCNY, UU
Green Sanctuary Task Force of the UU Church of Bloomington, IN
Greenaction for Health and Environmental Justice
Greenbelt Climate Action Network
Greenpeace USA
Guemes Island Environmental Trust
Gulf Restoration Network
Harford County Climate Action
HBERVISION.COM
Health Care Without Harm
Heartwood
Hilton Head for Peace
Holy Cross International Justice Office
Home
Honor the Earth
Idle no more SF Bay
Indigenous Environmental Network
Inspiration of Sedona
Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy
Institute for Policy Studies Climate Policy Program
Interfaith Moral Action on Climate
It’s Not Garbage Coalition
Kauaians for a Bright Energy Future
Kentucky Environmental Foundation
Kids Climate Action Network
Klamath Forest Alliance
Klamath Riverkeeper
KyotoUSA
Labor Network for Sustainability
League of United Latin American Citizens
Leave it in the Ground Initiative (LINGO)
Lehigh Valley Gas Truth
Liology Institute
Little Village Environmental Justice Organization
Long Branch Environmental Education Center
Los Alamos Study Group
Louisiana Environmental Action Network
Lower Mississippi Riverkeeper
Maine Fair Trade Campaign
Malaw National Youth Network on Climate Change
Mangrove Action Project
Mercy Ecology, Inc
Midwest Environmental Advocates
Milwaukee Riverkeeper
Minnesota Interfaith Power & Light
Minnesota Public Interest Research Group
Minnesota Public Interest Research Group (MPIRG)
MN350
Monroe County of NY for Bernie Sanders
Mormon Environmental Stewardship Alliance
Mountain Watershed Association
Movement Generation Justice & Ecology Project
National People’s Action
NC WARN
New Energy Economy
New Place Fund
No Fracked Gas in Mass
North America Rising Tide
North Country 350
NYC Friends of Clearwater
Ocean Conservation Research
Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition (OVEC)
Oil Change International
Peace and Freedom Party
Peninsula Interfaith Climate Action
People Demanding Action
People of Albany United for Safe Energy - PAUSE
Physicians for Social Responsibility
Physicians for Social Responsibility Wisconsin
Physicians for Social Responsibility, Arizona
Physicians for Social Responsibility/New York
Physicians for Social Responsibility-Philadelphia
Popular Resistance
Prince William Soundkeeper
Protect All Children’s Environment
Public Citizen’s Climate and Energy Program
Public School Teacher
Rachel Carson Council
Rainforest Action Network
Redwood Alliance
Renewable Energy Long Island
Resident Allied for the Future of Tioga
RikkiTikkiTekki, LLC
River Guardian Foundation
Rochester Pachamama Alliance
RochesterEnvironment.com
Rogue Climate
Russian Riverkeeper
Safe Climate Campaign
San Bernardino Valley Audubon Society
San Francisco Bay Area Chapter, Physicians for Social Responsibility
Santa Cruz Climate Action Network
Save Our Sky Blue Waters
Save the Frogs!
Science & Environmental Health Network
Sierra Club
Sisters of Charity of Nazareth Congregational Leadership
Sisters of Charity of Nazareth Western Province Leadership
Sisters of Mercy West Midwest Justice Team
Sisters of the Holy Cross Congregation Justice Committee
SLO Clean Water
Slow Food USA
Soil not Oil Coalition
Somerville Climate Action
Southwest Workers Union
Stand
Stone Quarry House
Stop the Frack Attack Advisory Council
StopNED
Students for a Just and Stable Future
SumOfUs
Sunflower Alliance
Sustainable Energy & Economy Network
Sustainable Medina County
Sustainable Tompkins
SustainUS
Tar Sands Action Southern California
TEDX, The Endocrine Disruption Exchange
Texas Drought Project
The Comite Civico Del Valle
The Compression Institute
The Enviro Show
The Green Resource Hub of the Finger Lakes
The Lands Council
The Mad Scientists’ Research Society
Thomas Merton Center Environmental Justice
Tikkun & The Network of Spiritual Progressives
Tonantzin Foundation
Toxics Action Center
Toxics Information Project (TIP)
Transition Express Inc
Tri-Valley CAREs (Communities Against a Radioactive Environment)
Turtle Island Restoration Network
U.S. Climate Plan
UK Tar Sands Network
Unitarian Universalist Church In The Pines
United for Action
United Sludge Free Alliance
Uranium Watch
UU Binghamton Green Sanctuary Committee
UUCB Social Justice Committee
VOICES of St Tammany: Against Fracking
Voices of St. Tammany
Wall of Women Colorado
Wasatch Clean Air Coalition
WCL Environmental Law Society
West Berkeley Alliance for Clean Air and Safe Jobs
West County Toxics Coalition
Western Nebraska Resources Council
Westlake Democratic Club member
Wica Agli
Wild Virginia
WildEarth Guardians
Wilderness Workshop
Wisconsin Environmental Health Network
Women’s Earth and Climate Action Network (WECAN)
Women’s Environment and Development Organization (WEDO)
Women’s Voices for the Earth
World Faith Malawi
Yolo MoveOn
Youghiogheny Riverkeeper

July 6-12: Stop Oil Trains

By STAND

Despite the threat of explosions and toxic air pollution, oil trains continue to pass through our cities and towns, by schools and stadiums, and over our drinking water sources. People have the right to know where and when these trains are running — and they have the right to say no. This July 6-12th — for the 3rd year in a row — over 100 communities are taking the fight to #stopoiltrains to the federal and state government, and to the rail and oil industries.

Here's how to make this year's #StopOilTrains Week of Action the best year yet:

Host or join an event at stopoiltrains.org.

Recruit event hosts/RSVPs via email & social media:

- Send an email to your list (find a sample at bit.ly/stopoiltrainskit)
- Post on Facebook:

- This July 6-12th, we will stop oil trains. Want to host an event in your community? Sign-up at stopoiltrains.org to your event on the map! Together, we'll take action across North America to #StopOilTrains!
- Will you join us to help protect communities and the climate? Together, we'll take action across the US and Canada to #StopOilTrains! Sign-up at stopoiltrains.org

Tweet!

- This July 6-12, we're taking action to #StopOilTrains. Sign-up to host an event at stopoiltrains.org #StopOilTrains

- This July, we're building people power to #stopoiltrains & move beyond extreme oil. Join us —> stopoiltrains.org

Become a partner

- Sign-up or learn what it means to be a partner at bit.ly/woapartner. (Find the partner toolkit at bit.ly/stopoiltrainspartner)
- Once signed up, you'll be added to the Crude Awakening Network list (oilnet@googlegroups.com). You'll receive general updates and sample content every week.

Build the Buzz

- Let all the coalitions and lists you're a part of know about the #StopOilTrains week of action.
- Create and share content — blogs, posts, video, graphics, etc. Let us know if you need support with this!

Let's #StopOilTrains, together.



Jack McCurdy, 83 - "Unsung Hero" and Morro Bay Resident

A gentle man with a deep sense of justice

By Sandra Beebe

Jack McCurdy, one of the truly unique people to dwell in Morro Bay in recent years, died on March 23, 2016, at the age of 83. He fought a long battle with cancer and for over a year also endured the ravages of Parkinson's Disease. Neither quelled his spirit and he continued to be concerned about Morro Bay and his friends there.

Jack had a stellar career in journalism before he moved to Morro Bay in 1980. He was a reporter for the Los Angeles Times for 20 years and was California correspondent for the Chronicle of Higher Education from 1980-2000. He was a member of the Times staff that won the Pulitzer

Prize for coverage of the Watts riots in 1965, and was awarded the International Reading Association Print Media Award in 1968 in recognition of outstanding reporting in newspapers, magazines and wire services. He was the author of two books.

Jack never lived the life of a laid back retiree in Morro Bay. He was active politically and fought to keep Morro Bay the treasure that it is. An example of this was in 1989 when Tri-W Inc. wanted to turned pastoral land across from Morro Bay into a gigantic shopping mall. He was one of those who battled to keep this from happening for he knew it would destroy what Morro

Bay was. He worked diligently for political candidates who he felt would protect the life style that was uniquely Morro Bay. He was quite concerned about health issues caused by the presence of an active power plant located on the Bay. Jack did not just care about political and environmental issues, for he was a crusader for social causes that would improve the lives of

Oilfield

continued from page 2

Safe Drinking Water Act and EPA must revise them. Furthermore, the agency can and must impose a moratorium on any new or expanded exemptions until such revisions are finalized."

One of the biggest problems with the EPA's outdated assumptions: The agency has not "taken account of developments since the existing rules were written in the early 1980s, including... improved technologies for water treatment and corresponding increases in the use of desalination of brackish groundwater as a drinking water source, and advances in our scientific and technical understanding of groundwater, especially in the areas of computer modeling and contaminant fate and transport."

As a result, the regulations — enforced or not — have permitted and are continuing to permit the destruction of aquifers that could have potentially provided drinking water at the moment when climate change and drought are shrinking the supply of drinking water and population growth is increasing the demand.

4. We're making earthquakes. A study of increased seismicity in Kern

County concluded that California has the same problem that is now engulfing Oklahoma: earthquakes caused by oilfield injection wells. The first study to make the link between earthquakes and California's oil operations was published in the scientific journal *Geophysical Research Letters* in February. The state is now embarked on a three-part study of the phenomenon, the first part of which is scheduled to be released in December.

On May 22, the *Sacramento Bee* published an op ed by the Center for Biological Diversity's climate science director — coauthor of a 2014 analysis of the oil industry's wastewater-injection wells in California — noting that, despite the increasingly obvious seismic risk, state regulators are "letting oil companies increase quake risks by drilling injection wells near faults across the state."

This is doubly problematic for Freeport MMR's Price Canyon operations, as the Edna Fault is one of the "permanent" geological barriers that regulators are promising will keep the oil wastewater contained instead of migrating to nearby wells. If Freeport MMR is permitted to drill new wells and increase the volume of wastewater it's injecting, it would do so near the earthquake fault that those wells have a good chance of triggering.

5. Well injection sites have been found to harm surface water. With regulatory concerns understandably focused on the potential harm to groundwater due to the injection of oilfield waste deep into the earth, not much attention has been paid to potential impacts on adjacent streams and other water bodies in the vicinity of injection wells. And to be fair, who would have thought? How could such wastewater migrate from a deep injection well site to a stream?

As yet, no one knows. But we know it's happening. In May, the U.S. Geological Survey published the first studies that "demonstrate water-quality impacts to a surface stream due to activities at an unconventional oil and gas wastewater deep well injection disposal site."

"Considering how many wastewater disposal wells are in operation across the country, it's critical to know what impacts they may have on the surrounding environment," said Duke University scientist Christopher Kassotis, the lead author on one of the studies. "These studies are an important first step in that process."

6. Some oil sources are worse than others. When it comes to applying the directive to "keep it in the ground" if we are to avert the worst effects of climate change, (see "Looming

Trade Deals Threaten Efforts to Keep Fossil Fuels in the Ground," facing page), the Arroyo Grande Oil Field is uniquely bad news for greenhouse gas emissions.

This was made clear in a 2015 staff report done for the California Air Resources Board calculating carbon intensity values of crude oil supplied to California refineries. Carbon intensity, a measure of the GHG emissions per unit of energy of fuel, was calculated by ARB staff for all crude oil supplied to California refineries in the years 2010-2014, plus crudes that may be supplied to California refineries in the future. They analyzed the carbon intensity of oil — a value representing production, transport, and use divided by energy content — from oilfields in eleven states and thirty countries.

In evaluating the life-cycle carbon emissions of oil fields around the world, the report found that most fields fall within a carbon intensity range of 8 to 12. Some low-end outliers register a carbon intensity value in the range of 2.5 to 7.5. High-end outliers consisted of about two dozen oil fields with values that fall between the high teens and the high twenties. An even smaller number of way-out-there outliers register carbon intensity values above 30. The Arroyo Grande Oil Field's carbon intensity value is 32.6.

In a study of hundreds of operations in the world's major oil producing areas, only eight oil fields have a

higher carbon intensity ranking than Arroyo Grande.

For this fact alone, set against multiple policies in the County's General Plan that provide "a framework

If Freeport is permitted to increase the volume of wastewater it's injecting, it will be near the earthquake fault that those wells have a good chance of triggering.

for moving toward an energy future that transitions from traditional, non-renewable fossil fuel energy sources to the production of environmentally sustainable, renewable energy supplies that do not degrade ecosystems," it is clear: the expansion of the Arroyo Grande Oil Field should not even be on the table.

When taken into account along with all of the above, SLO County has more than enough cause to exercise its discretion to deny a discretionary permit for the extension of Freeport McMoran's expired drilling permit for 31 new wells, and reject its application for 450 new wells in the Arroyo Grande Oil Field.

TAKE ACTION

Join the residents of Price Canyon in resisting the ten-fold expansion of the Arroyo Grande Oil Field, which would forever change the nature of SLO County. To be notified of hearings at the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors, send a request to sierraclub8@gmail.com.

Los Osos: Say Yes to the Tank



Attention Los Osos residents: if you recently got this postcard from the County but tossed it without reading it or misplaced it, we'll summarize: **Do not punch a hole in your septic tank and fill it with sand before you hook up to the sewer.** Select the clean & close option and you'll be eligible for a potential \$500 future rebate for residents who elect to hang onto their septic tanks so they can use them to store non-potable water for irrigation and other recycling uses.

You can retain an invaluable asset in the midst of a drought that has no end in sight, and wind up paying less than the cost of destroying it.

Contractors will recommend tank demolition based on familiarity. Tell them you want to Clean & Close!

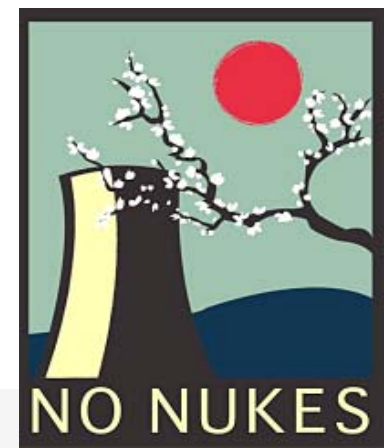


Taking Issue: Keeping nuclear power alive

problematic environmental coverage & commentary in our local media

“Environmental Progress Letter to IL Legislature/Leaders,” April 4, 2016.

Summary: “Environmental Progress Illinois,” a group founded by Michael Shellenberger — a political strategist who advocates for nuclear power, fracking, and no environmental limits to growth — wrote a letter to urge Illinois’ leaders and utilities to save Illinois’ nuclear plants, raising many of the same arguments being made by Shellenberger and other nuclear advocates to “save Diablo Canyon.” Rebutting them here is Dave Kraft, Director of the Nuclear Energy Information Service.



ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRESS LETTER TO IL LEGISLATURE/LEADERS

April 4, 2016

The Honorable Bruce Rauner, Governor of Illinois
 The Honorable Michael Madigan, Speaker, Illinois House of Representatives
 The Honorable John Cullerton, President, Illinois Senate
 The Honorable Christine Radogno, Minority Leader, Illinois Senate
 The Honorable Jim Durkin, Minority Leader, Illinois House of Representatives
 Attorney General Lisa Madigan
 Mr. Christopher M. Crane, CEO, Exelon
 Mr. Mauricio Gutierrez, CEO, NRG

Dear Governor Rauner, Speaker Madigan, President Cullerton, Attorney General Madigan, Minority Leaders Radogno and Durkin, Mr. Crane, and Mr. Gutierrez,

We are writing as scientists, conservationists and environmentalists to urge you to do everything in your power to keep all of Illinois’s nuclear power plants running for their full lifetimes.

Illinois generates more zero-emissions electricity than any other state. Most of it comes from the state’s six nuclear power plants, which produce about half of Illinois’ total generation and 90 percent of its low-carbon generation. These plants are in their prime and could stay in service many more years and even decades.

Unfortunately, Illinois is at risk of losing one or more of its nuclear plants and with them the progress the state has made in clean energy.

If Clinton and Quad Cities nuclear plants were replaced by natural gas, carbon emissions would immediately increase the equivalent of adding two million cars to the road. If they were replaced by coal, the carbon emissions would more than double.

The rise in conventional air pollutants from moving from nuclear to coal or natural gas will increase premature deaths.^[i] One study found that world nuclear energy has prevented an average of 1.8 million premature deaths from fossil fuel pollution, and could prevent up to seven million additional ones in the future.^[ii]

Using the same methodology, Clinton and Quad prevented 18,640 premature deaths from coal pollution. And if they run their 60-year lives, Clinton and Quad nuclear plants will prevent between 2,468 and 5,474 deaths from coal.^[iii] If their licenses are extended to 80 years, a possibility the Nuclear Regulatory Commission is now considering for other plants, those numbers would double.

Illinois’ nuclear plants are at risk of being closed prematurely in part because they are excluded from federal and state clean energy policies. First, the federal production tax credit subsidy for wind is not available to nuclear energy. This credit sometimes turns Illinois wholesale electricity prices negative by encouraging wind farms to overproduce during periods of low demand when no one wants their electricity and it threatens to overload the grid. Nuclear plants must pay to supply the grid during temporary wind surges, while wind farms continue earning money from the credit.

Second, the Illinois Renewable Portfolio Standard, which requires 25 percent renewable energy by 2025, excludes nuclear, further disadvantaging Illinois’ largest source of clean energy.

It would take many years for the Illinois wind and solar sectors, which together comprise six percent of the state’s current generation, to grow enough to replace nuclear’s output. And because solar and wind cannot provide the reliable power of nuclear, much of the nuclear energy would have to be made up for with coal or natural gas.

We encourage all of you to find a fair and reasonable solution to keep all Illinois nuclear plants running for many years to come.

Sincerely,

[List of environmental scientists and conservationists]

Comment [F1]: If “progress” is defined as merely the act of “moving forward,” recall: you are moving forward when you jump off a cliff. Real progress also requires intelligence and logical, rational decision-making — all of which seem to be absent in this letter. — Dave Kraft, Director, NEIS

Comment [F2]: ... but no energy economists, or people with reactor experience...

Comment [F3]: Would this also include PROHIBITING Exelon from ever shutting down a plant because it was money-losing?

Comment [F4]: This is false. Nuclear plants are NOT “zero-emissions” — they are permitted by regulation to release radioactive emissions into the environment. They could not function if this were prohibited. Perhaps the authors meant, “low-carbon emissions.”

Comment [F5]: Illinois has 4 of the oldest operating reactors in the U.S. at Dresden and Quad Cities. They are of the same design and older than the 3 that melted down and exploded at Fukushima, Japan in 2011.

Comment [F6]: “Clean energy” is nowhere defined here. And nuclear is NOT clean. It produces many forms of radioactive wastes which must be sequestered from the environment for hundreds to tens-of-thousands of years, at enormous risk and societal cost. Nuclear reactors also rely on dirty uranium mining for fuel. The U.S. has over 10,000 abandoned uranium mine sites, and over 200 million tons of mill tailings not yet remediated. This is no example of “clean” anything.

Comment [F7]: Then, DON’T replace them with natural gas or coal. Get the Exelon obstructionists out of the way and fix the Renewable Portfolio Standard, adopt the higher targets in the Clean Jobs Bill to replace them with more renewable energy and energy efficiency. ASAP.

Comment [F8]: Using the same methodology renewables could make the same claims, different numbers, BUT were PREVENTED from being constructed by the nuclear industry and its lobbyist arm.

Comment [F9]: That’s because nuclear reactors are NOT clean; nor are they RENEWABLE.

Comment [F10]: That’s a federal piece of legislation, not state. If the State has a problem with this, it should have weighed in on the renewal of the PTC legislation this year.

Comment [F11]: Again, that’s because nuclear is not RENEWABLE energy.

Comment [F12]: Then we have no time to waste. Fix and strengthen the RPS TODAY!!

Comment [F13]: Undefined here, and not proved. Iowa’s wind production contests and/or disproves this unsubstantiated assertion.

Comment [F14]: See above. This is illogical; and part of the self-fulfilling prophecy created by Exelon and its lobbying fleet.

Cambria

continued from page 3

Guthner, Knox & Elliott, which boasts of its speciality of removing sundry “obstacles that stand in the way of development” in the course of defending “development projects against environmental challenges.”

Coastal Commission: Not buying it

On May 16, the Acting Executive Director of the California Coastal Commission sent a letter to the County warning that the third time would definitely not be the charm if the County sought to renew the Cambria CSD’s twice-renewed “emergency” Coastal Development Permit for the desal plant — a permit that was supposed to have been followed up with an appli-

cation for a regular CDP within 30 days of the emergency permit’s issuance on May 15, 2014. Instead, “The CCSD has failed to submit a complete application to the County and has twice requested emergency permit extensions, in part to allow the CCSD to complete an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the emergency project. The County has granted those extensions, resulting in a current emergency CDP expiration date of June 30, 2016.”

The letter goes on to count off the reasons why “we recommend the County not again extend the existing emergency CDP:”

1) The CCSD has modified the project in a manner inconsistent with the requirements of the existing

emergency CDP.

2) The CCSD has operated the project for non-emergency purposes.

3) The CCSD is out of compliance with the emergency CDP.

4) Before the CCSD can continue operations, the facility must be modified in a manner not authorized by the emergency CDP.

The letter went into considerable detail, noting first and foremost that the project has changed from an “emergency water supply” resulting from a claimed Stage 3 Water Supply Emergency into a “sustainable water project” and “both the CCSD and the County have started processing development applications for Cambria that would result in new and additional water users reliant on the project.”

No one gets an emergency permit for a project to facilitate future development.

Further, the CSD has never submitted monitoring reports on well levels, pumping data, etc. as required by their emergency permit, and “although the CCSD has maintained its Stage 3 Emergency declaration since 2014, it has operated the facility almost entirely during times when the aquifers were well above critical levels.” The CSD ran the plant for four months last year when San Simeon Creek was flowing, despite stating that it would only operate when there were no surface flows in the creek.

And due to its “emergency” rush to desal, with no time for an Environmental Impact Report or

application for a regular Coastal Development Permit, the facility has run afoul of “several problems associated with its use of an evaporation basin and blowers designed to handle its discharge, and the Regional Water Quality Control Board has required that the CCSD find an alternative method to handle the project discharge, which the CCSD has not yet done. The CCSD has also had to curtail facility operations due to water quality issues in both San Simeon Creek and the underlying aquifer. To correct these problems and restart operations, the CCSD will need to make as-of-yet unknown modifications to the project; however, the emergency CDP requires that modifications not permitted in the County’s initial approval require a new and separate

authorization.”

The Executive Director concluded: “We have expected the County and CCSD to evaluate these issues during review of the CCSD’s follow-up permit application at some point over the past two years and have offered to assist in that review; however, the review has not yet occurred. We believe the focus of all involved parties at this point should be completion of the follow-up permit application and the EIR to allow for the necessary project review.”

That EIR is expected to be completed in August, triggering the Coastal Development Permit review process.

That is the moment when Cambria is likely to start learning the high cost of short cuts.

Trump's Climate Denial Would "Negotiate" Away U.S. Leadership



DonkeyHotey LLC/kr/p/CTGK

By Khalid Pitts, Sierra Club Compass, May 23, 2016

As the entire world has seen by now, Donald Trump told Reuters this week that he is "not a fan" of the universal climate accord agreed to in Paris and that "at a minimum I will be renegotiating those agreements, at a minimum. And at a maximum I may do something else."

There's little ambiguity about what "something else" means—Trump is talking about bringing the U.S. out of an agreement adopted universally by essentially every country on earth.

Unfortunately, what Trump is really doing here is proposing to negotiate away American leadership. What he said is not just unrealistic, it would do irreparable damage to the United States and our role abroad. Building a physical or virtual wall around the United States is not a solution -- and it's especially not a solution to one of the most pressing challenges of our time.

What's more, the whole situation forces the question: How exactly would a climate-denier negotiate an agreement about climate action?

Trump's comments were definitely historic — but for

all the wrong reasons. Trump is on track - if elected - to be, to all appearances, the only head of state in the entire world to outright deny the science of climate change.

It's important here to recall that the Paris agreement is an excellent deal for the United States. It gives us assurances that as we take action to address the climate crisis, other high-emitting countries will do the same. For the first time, it requires all countries to put forward plans on how they will reduce their carbon pollution.

That's why Trump's comments also show how little he understands about conducting foreign policy. Leading up to and following the Paris agreement, and with temperature rise on a continual march forward, climate change has become a top level diplomatic priority for nearly all leading countries around the world. A great many of our allies and largest trading partners see Paris as an historic achievement. Many poorer and more vulnerable countries see it as essential to their survival. If Trump were to try to unwind it, that would have enormous consequences detrimental to our ability to achieve key international priorities. We would do grave damage to important relationships, and we can be sure that countries would be much less likely to cooperate with us across a range of issues including trade, security, counter terrorism, etc.

Trump may have gotten his start in reality TV, but now it's time for a dose of actual reality. Besides the fact that his agenda is simply wrong, Trump also doesn't know what he's talking about. The agree-

ment is already heading into force, and the U.S. will not be able to withdraw for four years after ratification. And there is no "renegotiating" the Paris agreement. You can't get more than 190 countries to renegotiate a deal they are already implementing and on board with.

Trump needs to hit the books. As with so many issues, he seems to have a fundamentally reckless lack of understanding about this agreement.

To put an even finer point on what he said in specific about China - that China would not adhere to its pledge - Trump fails to recognize the dramatic movement China has made to reign in its coal pollution. We are now looking at a peaking of Chinese carbon emissions well ahead of schedule, and that is at the same time that the country is rapidly scaling up renewable and low carbon sources of energy. China has recently built on its already substantial commitments by shutting 1,000 coal mines & imposing a moratorium on many new coal plants. So he's just totally wrong and uninformed on this.

What's clear above all is that during this election, the choice between the candidates on the climate crisis could not be more obvious — and that's true no matter who ultimately becomes the Democratic nominee. At this critical time for our planet, our families, and our communities, Donald Trump is ignoring the climate crisis and will do anything he can to dismantle government safeguards even if clean air and water are put at risk.



Classifieds

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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., June 4th, 8:30 a.m. Big Sur: Ragged Point to Salmon Creek. Strenuous hike in beautiful Silver Peak Wilderness, 15 miles, 3,600 ft. gain. We climb coastal ridge on Baldwin Ranch Rd for 7 miles, then uphill trek on Spruce Creek trail out to Salmon Creek trail down to highway. On trail for about 7 hrs. There will be a car shuttle back to Ragged Pt. Advise you bring trekking poles or walking sticks for steep downhill on road plus sturdy hiking shoes, sunscreen, and 2 quarts of water. Poison oak on trails. Meet at Washburn Day Use parking area in San Simeon State Park, 1.2 miles north of Cambria on Hwy 1. Please RSVP with leader beforehand. Extreme heat postpones. Leader: Carlos Diaz-Saavedra, 546-0317.

Wed., June 8th, 10 a.m. Islay Loop Trail, Mon-

tana de Oro State Park. Join us for a 2.5-mile hike, 325 ft. gain, past views of late-spring wildflowers, mountains, valley, creek, and ocean. Meet at Spooner's ranch house, 2.5 miles after park entrance. Leader: Vicki Marchenko, 528-5567 or vmarchenko57@gmail.com.

Sun., June 12th, 2 p.m. Historic Walk: Jazz-Age SLO to World War II. Where are the hotel where Hearst entertained his celebrity guests, the speakeasies of the twenties, and the original French hospital? Find out and much more on a guided downtown stroll of San Luis Obispo. Hear stories of its changing city life from the Model T years to Prohibition, Depression, and then Pearl Harbor. Meet at corner of Marsh and Toro Sts. Leader: Joe Morris, 549-0355.

Sat., June 18th, (varying start times) Morro Mania! Join Andrea and Bill for their fifth anniversary hike, a one-day ascent of the five publicly accessible morros from San Luis Obispo to Morro Bay. All five can be hiked in succession or selected to meet your preferences and conditioning. Each has a beautiful and unique vista—from city to oak woodland, grassland, and finally seashore. Total roundtrip distance for all five hikes is about 13 miles, with 3,500 ft. of elevation gain. Bring plenty of water (store extra in your car), 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. It's requested that you notify Leader: Bill Waycott, 459-2103 or bill.waycott@gmail.com at least 24 hours in advance if you are com-

ing. Asst.: Andrea Ortiz, 934-2792. The plants, animals and geology of the area will be topics during the hikes.

Here's the schedule:

7:30 a.m. Islay Hill, 2 miles, 500 ft. gain, moderate. The easternmost 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 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: 11:15 to 12 noon. Throop Park, corner of Cerro Romauldo St. and Cuesta Dr. in SLO.

12 noon, Bishop Peak, 3.5 miles, 950 ft. gain, moderately strenuous. Highest of all the morros. From Hwy 1, go west on Highland Dr, then right on Patricia Dr. Park at trailhead on Patricia Dr just before reaching Anacapa Circle.

3:30 p.m., Cerro Cabrillo, 2.5 miles, 800 ft. gain, moderately strenuous. 360-degree views form Santa Lucia Mts. to coastline. Meet at Quarry Hill trailhead on South Bay Blvd., 1.4 miles south of Hwy 1 or 4 miles north of Turri Rd.

6 p.m., Black Hill, 3 miles, 650 ft gain, moderate. Ocean views from Montana de Oro north to San Simeon. From South Bay Blvd., drive into Morro Bay State Park on Main St. Meet at the parking area on north side of road, next to restrooms opposite the boat marina, just east of the campground entrance.

Sun.-Sat, June 19th-25th, Escalante River Backpack. Enjoy stunning landscape of southern Utah on backpack along 27 miles of Escalante River and 10 miles of deep and narrow Harris Wash Creek, with side trips to explore narrow canyons and creeks. Arrive in town of Escalante at the Escalante Interagency Visitor Center at noon MDT to get our free permit and latest route information. Then car shuttle between the beginning at the Hwy 12 bridge and the end at Harris Wash trailhead. Bring a daypack for the sidetrips and appropriate footwear for being in and out of the river all day. There is an option of ending the trip on the 24th or 25th. Leader: David Hardy, 702-875-

4826 or (email preferred) hardyhikers@embarqmail.com S. Nevada Group/CNRCC Desert Committee.

Sun., June 26th, 2 p.m. Ecology Walk of the Elfyn Forest. Come on an easy, one-mile stroll along the bluffs overlooking Morro Bay. We will discuss over 25 native plants, birds, and lichen plus several invasives adapting to this beautiful preserve of "coastal dune scrub" habitat. Learn about their uses by the Chumash and marvel at the ocean views. From South Bay Blvd. in Los Osos, turn west on Santa Ysabel toward ocean, then right on 17th St to end. Leader: Joe Morris, 549-0355.

Island Hopping in Channel Islands National Park

Jun. 12-14, Jul. 17-19, Aug. 21-23, Sept. 25-27, Oct. 23-25. Join us for a 3-day, 3-island, live-aboard cruise to the Channel Islands. Hike wind-swept trails bordered with blazing wildflowers. Kayak rugged coastlines. Snorkel in pristine waters teeming with colorful fish. Swim with frolicking seals and sea lions. Look for unusual sea and land birds. Watch for the endangered island fox. Or just relax at sea!



All cruises depart from Santa Barbara. \$650 cost includes an assigned bunk, all meals, snacks and beverages plus the services of a naturalist-docent assigned by the national park to help lead hikes, point out items of interest and give evening program. For more information, contact leader: Joan Jones Holtz; 626-443-0706; jholtzhl@aol.com.

To hold a reservation, mail a \$100 check to Sierra Club, and send to Joan Jones Holtz, 11826 The Wye St., El Monte, CA 91732.



Sanctuary

continued from page 1

Seven months after NOAA announced the new sanctuary nomination process, our grass-roots group of collaborators sent them a formal nomination for the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary.

NOAA rejected it, saying it lacked sufficient detail.

Eight months later, our undaunted band of nominators sent version 2.0 – about three times the size of the first one, with more than a dozen letters of support from academics, NGO's, local businesses and elected officials, and more than 600 listed individual supporters. NOAA accepted it.

One key date I can remember easily: January 6, 2016, the night NOAA came to Morro Bay for a town hall meeting to explain exactly what the national marine sanctuary program is about and how sanctuaries work.

It was a dark and stormy night, and it was Waterloo for sanctuary's implacable opponents, who for months had been holding forth at local government

meetings and plastering The Tribune with cock-eyed op eds and poorly informed letters to the editor. They sallied forth that night to hurl their arguments at NOAA... only to find out what happens when ignorance meets knowledge, rumor meets experience, anecdote meets authority, etc. (See "Facts vs. Fantasy," Feb. 2016.)

Slowly, surely, for the residents who packed the Morro Bay Vets Hall, and more watching the broadcast at home, the light began to dawn: A national marine sanctuary is the best thing that can happen to a coastal community. Those that have one want more of what they've got, per the recently granted request by the residents of Marin, Sonoma and Humboldt Counties to expand the area of the Cordell Bank and Gulf of the Farallones sanctuaries, fully protecting their coastal waters from the threat of future offshore oil and gas leasing.

On May 2nd, with Rep. Capps' announcement and her letter to NOAA, the Central Coast came a big step closer to becoming part of that reality.

NOAA still has to agree to Congresswoman Capps' request. (You can help them do so by clicking on tinyurl.com/CHNMSpetition.) Once the designation process begins, there will be more than a year of oral and written comments and lots more local meetings — official, transcribed, and part of the administrative record. At the end of that process, NOAA will make a final determination.

Sanctuary's implacable foes will surely show up for that process. But their numbers will be smaller, their arguments already publicly debunked. They will be greatly outnumbered by all of us — that's you, *Santa Lucian* reader, and all your friends and neighbors, asking NOAA to give us the final link in a spectacular necklace of natural gems, filling in the gap off the Central Coast and granting California's priceless coastal waters sanctuary protection from Point Arena to the Channel Islands.

When we speak in those meetings and submit those comments, whether we say it or write it or just hold it in our thoughts, let's remember the most important comment of all: "Thank you, Lois Capps."



Activities sponsored by other organizations

Wed., June 1, 5:30 p.m.-7 p.m. Tour of SLO Botanical Garden with a design presentation by Ken Haggard. Join the Green Building Alliance for a tour of the peaceful and picturesque landscapes of the SLO Botanical Gardens. Afterwards, Ken will lead a presentation on the sustainable design practices utilized for the Garden's education building, which was completed in 2007. Schematic design was a joint venture of San Luis Sustainability Group and Habitat Studio, based on passive solar design, natural lighting, strawbale construction and water conservation and production on site. 3450 Dairy Creek Rd., SLO. Contact Kevin Hauber, kevin@themortgagehouse.com.

Sat., June 11, 1 p.m.-2 p.m. : Pecho Coast and Diablo Canyon Plants at SLO Botanical Garden. Discover the flora along a protected strip of the Central Coast! Kelly Kephart, terrestrial biologist with PG&E, will be presenting on the plants and landscape management of this special region. Followed by free Garden tour at 2PM. Slobg.org/pecho. San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden, 3450 Dairy Creek Rd. \$5 for Garden members, \$10 for public. 805-541-1400 x 305.




"We are practitioners of nature.... It's an honor to see the efforts being made by agencies to do the right thing; to honor the First Nations people, the Chumash people. This is the place holder for our co-existence, and existence of tomorrow."

- Mati Waiya, Founder, Wishtoyo Chumash Foundation, May 2, 2016

June 8 is World Oceans Day

Go to www.worldoceansday.org and take action for the ocean

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.




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For further information contact:

Joe Morris, Outings Chair
Sierra Club, Santa Lucia Chapter
(805) 549-0355
dj1942@earthlink.net



John Muir, founder of the Sierra Club, in Yosemite