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

Save Our National Marine Sanctuaries



Send in your comments by July 26

The four spectacular U.S. National Marine Sanctuaries that have been created over the past thirty-six years along the California coast are now in jeopardy. The present-day Channel Islands, Monterey Bay, Cordell Bank, and Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuaries underpin thriving regional economies and iconic seascapes, while providing essential protection for healthy ecosystems supporting important fisheries. Together, their protection today serves as a planetary model for sustainable management of our marine environment in a manner compatible with beneficial human uses.

Globally recognized as America's national treasures in our oceans, our long-protected coastal waters have suddenly become the focus of an Executive Order mandating a "review" of any National Marine Sanctuary designated or expanded within the past ten years. This pending inter-agency evaluation is expected to prioritize any potential for offshore oil and gas or frozen methane hydrates and subsea minerals that could be exploited if protection is removed. The current Administration's "review" also directs federal agencies to make sure that an open public process with sufficient engagement by elected officials and interested citizens led to the designation of the affected waters, which

accurately and exactly describes the bipartisan effort by which our National Marine Sanctuaries were each created.

From wave-splashed rugged coastal headlands to fishing communities to deepwater coral gardens, our coastal waters that have been protected or augmented within the past ten years are now being threatened.

TAKE ACTION

The public comment period soliciting your own thoughts on this is now open. You can quickly participate and add your personal response by going to saveourmarinesanctuaries/contact

Or send a letter to:

EO 13795 Review
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Silver Spring Metro Campus Building 4 (SSMC4)
Eleventh Floor
1305 East West Highway
Silver Spring MD 20910

Win the Loss

by John Coequyt, Senior Director, Sierra Club Federal & International Climate Campaign

As the news broke that Donald Trump was withdrawing the U.S. from the Paris Climate Accord, in the middle of what seemed like the worst day of my career, I noticed that we were winning the loss, and I was suddenly hopeful.

I've since realized that optimism wasn't shared broadly, and I wanted to share my perspective. Let me start by explaining that I have been working on international climate policy for a long time. I was in Bali in 2007 when the world threatened to leave

the U.S. behind after it withdrew from the Kyoto Protocol, I watched the climate talks unwind in Copenhagen in 2009, and I celebrated in Paris in 2015 when all the nations of the world unanimously adopted the Paris Agreement. And in one day, I watched Donald Trump try to throw that all out and walk away from the global consensus on climate change.

Yet, given all that happened, I now believe that the global response and the news coverage that preceded and followed

Trump's announcement was a big step forward.

For years, we have been saying that climate change is an economic opportunity and a top tier diplomatic issue, but until now, that went largely unreported in the media. Then suddenly, voices ranging from world leaders to businesses to community leaders began condemning Trump's decision to withdraw the U.S. from the Paris Agreement, and the media quickly followed suit.

It was incredible. The Sierra Club was quoted in CNN, BBC, ABC News, LA Times, BuzzFeed News, and USA Today, among many others. We drove more than 55,000 calls to the White House in anticipation of the announcement, nearly 15,000 calls to the Senate following Trump's speech, and had more than 58,000 action takers online. Our tweets were retweeted thousands of times, including by celebrities like Leonardo DiCaprio and Rosie O'Donnell, and #ParisAgreement, #ParisClimateAgreement, #ParisAccord, and #ParisClimateAccord were trending across the country for hours.

We still have a lot of work to do to resist Trump and capitalize on this teachable moment, but I know for certain that this massive and widespread opposition was not the reaction that the White House expected.

Even more encouraging is the fact that the so-called



nuclear option — the U.S. leaving the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) — appears to be permanently off the table. At the same time, our champions now have a new platform from which to speak. ("Donald Trump said he was elected by voters of Pittsburgh," said Pittsburgh said Mayor Bill Peduto, "but his misguided decision to withdraw from the Paris climate agreement does not reflect the values of our city. Pittsburgh will not only heed the guidelines of the Paris agreement, we will work to move towards 100 percent clean and renewable energy for our future, our economy, and our people").

We will move the country forward on climate action, with or without Trump. The work **Ready for 100** has done to build a coalition of Mayors for 100% Clean Energy is well positioned to capture this momentum and grow rapidly in a powerful way (see page 4).

I am looking forward to continuing to #Resist and doing everything we can to make Trump regret the decision that CNN's Fareed Zakaria characterized as "the day that the United States resigned as the leader of the free world."

I am excited by the opportunity we have to win the loss. I am ready to help the U.S. continue to move forward on climate action.

Where There Should Not be Pot

Cannabis grows don't belong in the Carrizo

Cannabis is now legal in California, and no small number of individuals are seizing the main chance to jump into what has long been the state's number one cash crop, soon to be sold over instead of under the counter. A statewide land rush staking claims for cannabis grows is shaping up, and regulations need to keep pace.

The County Planning Commission will deliberate on inland and coastal versions of the County's draft cannabis ordinance beginning in late July. This is the County's opportunity to avoid repeating a long-term prior mistake, one with striking parallels to the current situation. Wine has been legal in California since 1933, but it was just in the last three years that our local elected officials grasped the full import of allowing the planting of an infinite number of grape vines over the now severely depleted Paso Robles ground water basin.

Because more than 90% of the cannabis permit applications received by the County are in the California Valley region, the most crucial need for environmental safeguards in the ordinance is the Carrizo Planning Area. (The California Valley is contained within the larger planning area.) At the very moment when the Carrizo Plain National Monument is under threat from the Trump administration (see page 3), this ordinance, as drafted, will allow additional pressure on endangered species in the region — who do not generally recognize or stay within lines drawn on a map — by bringing high levels of pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers to the area immediately adjacent to the monument, along with impacts to the region's scarce groundwater.

Last February, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife conducted marijuana cultivation permit application site visits to 51 sites, a representative sample of the approximately 260 sites in California Valley for which the County had, at that time, received applications. They concluded:

"Marijuana cultivation and the related activities has likely caused and/or would likely cause unlawful take (as defined under Section 86 of the Fish and Game Code) of giant kangaroo rats on at least 35 of the 51 sites visited. Unlawful take of federally listed fairy shrimp species has likely occurred on at least one site. Unmitigated loss of listed species habitat will increase at every grow site if the County permits the grows, unless a condition of each individual approval is prior acquisition of a State Incidental take permit pursuant to Fish and Game Section 2181(b) from the Department.... None of the growers have obtained or applied for incidental take authorization under the California or Federal endangered Species Acts, and their activities are likely to result in take of both State- and federally listed species."

Cannabis grows should be prohibited in the Carrizo Planning Area, which should be extended to the north and west. The Cannabis prohibition should extend north to Highway 46 and west to Shell Creek Road.

Otherwise, the ordinance should require four conditions for any proposed cannabis grow:

POT continued on page 3

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Just say no to pot on the Carrizo.

Fill Your Lungs

When it comes to the Oceano Dunes, outrage is what Sacramento needs to hear now

For the last six years, California State Parks has failed to meet the directive to bring dust pollution at the Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area to levels within state and federal limits.

The full measure of that

dust plumes that blow off the dunes and create hazardous pollution levels for South County residents are triggered by off-road vehicles. They continued to fight the Rule for five years after it was adopted in 2011, up to and including

residents of Guadalupe, who are directly in the path of the plume but lack even a single monitoring station. They don't even know when to stay indoors.

The article concluded: "In the meantime, Fuzie said he wants to assure

In 2016, the ODSVRA reported six snowy plover kills to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. All were found dead in vehicle tire tracks on the beach.

"Interim" vehicle limits were set 16 years ago and have never been adjusted—part of the failure to conduct a carrying capacity study to determine how many vehicles the dunes ecosystem can withstand without long-term damage.

For 14 years, State Parks has refused to heed the advice of the scientific subcommittee of its Technical Review Team to study the potential benefits of year-round closure of the ODSVRA's Pacific snowy plover nesting area to vehicle traffic.

This is the record of the California Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division's compliance and cooperation at Oceano Dunes.



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The **Executive Committee** meets the second Monday of every month at 2:00 p.m. and 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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failure was presented concisely in the May 19 issue of *The Tribune*, under the headline "Oceano Dunes dust is still a problem – and State Parks isn't helping, air board claims."

The article speaks for itself, especially in several sit-up-and-take-notice statements by the Air Pollution Control Officer for the region concerning the situation on the Nipomo Mesa ("...no one should be outside... "worst air quality in the nation....")

But the most telling quote comes from State Parks Deputy Director Mathew Fuzie: "One of the base questions is how much of that is an ecological process and how much do you mitigate a natural process?"

Deputy Director Fuzie is here attempting to re-litigate an argument State Parks has lost. For the two years it was in process, State Parks furiously disputed the Dust Rule implemented by the Air Pollution Control District and the central finding of a peer-reviewed study: The

getting their day in court. OHV officials and their friends presented their "natural process" arguments to a judge, at great length. They lost. The nature of the dust pollution from the dunes remains as the APCD described it:

The major findings resulting from detailed analysis of the diverse and comprehensive data sets generated during the Phase 1 and Phase 2 South County PM Studies clearly lead to a definitive conclusion: OHV activity in the SVRA is a major contributing factor to the high PM concentrations observed on the Nipomo Mesa.

At this late date, on the evidence of Mr. Fuzie's musings, State Parks is still trying to fight the science, sounding like dust-league climate change deniers following the creation-of-doubt playbook. This cannot bring comfort to the long-suffering residents of the Nipomo Mesa, nor to the arguably worse off

residents that State Parks will try to reach an agreement with the APCD that is beneficial for everyone."

Should that statement be believed? Let's look at the record.

For 35 years, the Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area has been out of compliance with its Coastal Development Permit, which required designation of a permanent entrance and staging area within 18 months of the ODSVRA receiving its permit in 1982.

For 29 years, State Parks has failed to conform with San Luis Obispo County's Local Coastal Program, which requires designation of 580 acres of County-owned land within the SVRA as a buffer between the riding area and the Dunes Preserve.

For 17 years, State Parks has promised to create a Habitat Conservation Plan to protect the endangered species in the park. State Parks signed a consent decree with the Sierra Club in 2004 that required the timely creation of an HCP.

**SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY
AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT**
3433 Roberto Court • San Luis Obispo, CA 93401
(805) 781-5912 • FAX: (805) 781-1002 • website: slccleanair.org

NOTICE OF VIOLATION No. 2963

Name Cal. Department of Parks and Recreation - OHV Div. Telephone (916) 324-4442
Address 1725 23rd Street, Ste. 200, Sacramento, CA 95816
Re Premises or Operations at Oceano Dunes SVRA, Oceano, CA

You are hereby notified that pursuant to:

<input type="checkbox"/> Rule 202, H&SC 42300 (No Permit/Authority to Construct)	<input type="checkbox"/> Rule 206, H&SC 42301 (Failure to meet permit conditions)
<input type="checkbox"/> Rule 401, H&SC 41701 (Visible Emissions)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rule 402, H&SC 41700 (Public Nuisance)
Opacity/Ringlemann _____ %/#	<input type="checkbox"/> Rule 701, 40 CFR, Part 61 (NESHAPS - Asbestos)
<input type="checkbox"/> Rule _____ H&SC _____	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rule 1001 - Coastal Dunes Dust Control Requirements

An offense has been committed through the failure to comply with sections C.2, F.1.f, F.1.g and C.3 of District Rule 1001, and the creation of a public nuisance in violation of District Rule 402.

Point of observation Oso Flaco Air Monitoring Site
Weather N/A Wind N/A
APCD Permit to Operate Number N/A
Emissions from: Basic Control Open Fire
Was source emitting in violation at end of observation? Yes No

Issued by Rona K. Dwyer Date June 12, 2017
Time: Arrival N/A Departure N/A Issued by Certified Mail
Violation Date(s): December 15, 2016 - March 24, 2017, ongoing nuisance activity noted.
Please advise the Air Pollution Control Officer in writing by June 26, 2017 of corrective action on this violation and measures taken to prevent further occurrences. Your response does not preclude further legal action.
Served to Mathew Fuzie Title Acting Dep. Director

SIGNING THIS NOTICE IS NOT AN ADMISSION OF GUILT.
sent via e-mail and certified mail.
Signature _____ Date _____

On notice After six years of belligerent non-compliance, the ODSVRA finally got served.

Air District Lays Down the Law at Oceano Dunes

Regulators reach end of patience with ODSVRA

On June 12, after years of belligerent non-compliance by California State Parks' Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division, the SLO County Air Pollution Control District finally issued a Notice of Violation to the Division for its ongoing failure to abate the hazardous levels of dust kicked up by off-road vehicles at the Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area.

The move by the Air District was especially notable in that it went beyond the notice of violation of the Dust Rule to cite the OHMVR Division for the creation of a public nuisance, a separate violation.

As we go to press, State Parks has formally replied to the County's Air Pollution Control Officer. That reply, and any negotiations between the agencies, will be confidential until a settlement is reached.

Meanwhile, Senate Bill 249, a bill to reform State Parks' Off Highway Vehicles program, has passed the Senate and is making its way through the Assembly. It can be amended to address the problems plaguing San Luis Obispo County.

Fill your lungs and let them hear you in Sacramento: It's time to solve the problem of the Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area.

TAKE ACTION

Contact Assemblyman Jordan Cunningham at <https://ad35.asmrc.org/>

or:
State Capitol, Suite #4102, Sacramento, CA 94249 | 916-319-2035

or:
444 Higuera, Suite 100, San Luis Obispo, 805-549-3381

and tell him:

Amend SB 249 to bar recreational vehicle activity in an SVRA if such activity significantly contributes to elevated levels of particulate matter that exceed state or federal standards.

The Oil Train on the Edge of Forever

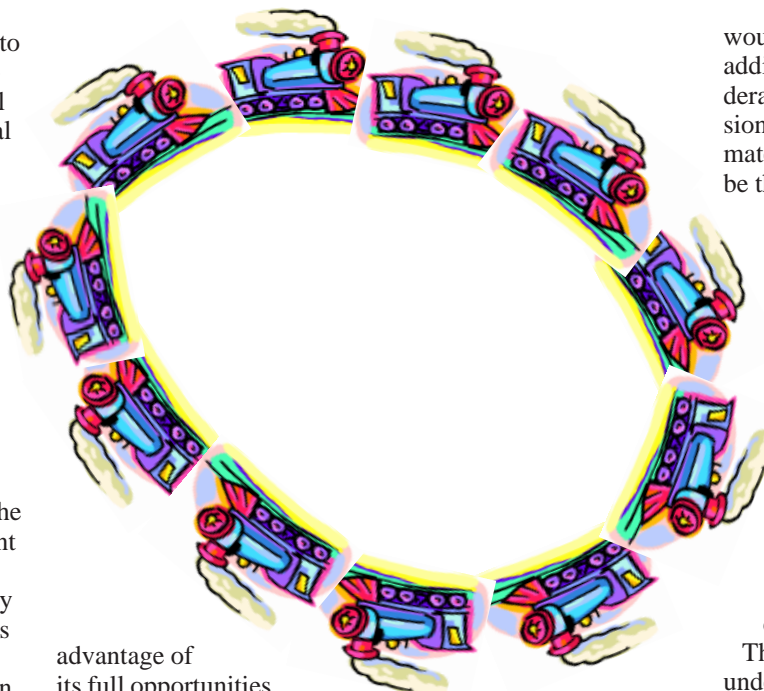
In August, Phillips 66 is scheduled to go back to court for yet another try at reviving its moribund proposal for a terminal for tar sands oil trains on the Nipomo Mesa. Hence, the Sierra Club will be going back to court with them, along with Center for Biological Diversity, Surfrider, Stand.earth, and Communities for a Better Environment.

The action comes after the County Planning Department recommended denial of a project permit, the Planning Commission agreed, the County Board of Supervisors upheld that denial on appeal, and Phillips' previous court challenge failed.

This challenge deserves to fail, too, for the same reason the first one did: Phillips initially sued before their appeal could be heard by the board of supervisors.

They are now going back to court without bothering to appeal the County's denial of its project to the Coastal Commission, even though the project is appealable under both the Coastal Act and the County's regulations.

State administrative law requires that aggrieved parties exhaust their administrative remedies, including any and all available appeals, before seeking judicial review. The purpose of this requirement is to provide the opportunity for agencies to remedy any legal deficiencies, thus avoiding unnecessary judicial review. Exhaustion is also important as it informs the court of the final agency action. In other words, the court should not have to guess what would have happened had the applicant taken



advantage of its full opportunities to seek agency redress of its grievances.

In this case Phillips is seeking judicial review of the County's finding that Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Area exists on the project site. (See "Why It All Came Down to ESHA," April.) That finding supports the County's decision to deny the project; it is not severable from that decision and

cannot be subject to separate judicial review.

Instead, Phillips was required to first seek Coastal Commission approval on appeal, and then file a lawsuit if the Commission did not overturn the County's decision.

Phillips can now notch up one more very bad thing that its project, if approved,

would bring to California in addition to the threat of derailment, spills, explosions, bad air and decimated habitat. That would be the potential precedent if Phillips is not required to first appeal the County's denial to the Coastal

Commission before seeking judicial review. Such a result would allow applicants throughout the state to avoid the Coastal Commission process and go straight to court.

This process would undermine one of the most important safeguards of the Coastal Act, which is to ensure an opportunity for the Coastal Commission to review local decisions of broad regional and state-wide importance, such as a decision regarding a major energy facility.

Let's hope the Coastal Commission intervenes in the lawsuit to protect its jurisdiction and head off that alarming state-wide precedent.

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“ The designation of these monuments established critical safeguards for some of our country's most treasured lands, and to attempt to undermine those protections would be not only illegal but also a short-sighted and misguided betrayal of the interests of future generations of Americans. ”

- California Attorney General Xavier Beccera, letter to Secretary Zinke, June 8, 2017



photo/Kevin Walsh

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

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

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Trump: Hands Off California's National Monuments

The Trump administration is moving forward with a review of 27 national monuments. In California, seven are included in the review. Berryessa Snow Mountain, Carrizo Plain, Cascade Siskiyou, Giant Sequoia, Mojave Trails, San Gabriel Mountains and Sand to Snow National Monuments are irreplaceable.

These magnificent lands celebrate our mountains, deserts, forests, canyons and oceans. These places are living museums that tell the stories of cultures dating back millennia as well as the stories of people today. They also provide thousands of jobs and millions of dollars in economic benefit to surrounding communities that have been revitalized by and depend on recreation and tourism.

Any effort to alter or eliminate our national monuments is an attack on our natural resources, history and economy. Our public lands help define who we are as a nation. Instead of asking

which parts of our history and heritage we could roll back or even eliminate, we should be asking how we can expand them.

The only logical conclusion for this review is the same one people came to when each of these monuments was originally designated with public review

and engagement: these national monuments deserve to be protected for generations to come.

To send this message to Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, go to tinyurl.com/handsoffCA.

You must send your comment by July 10 for it to be included in the official record.



Non-negotiable Soda Lake, Carrizo Plain National Monument.

Pot

continued from page 1

- A minimum parcel size
- Permanent residency on site
- Site Plan Review, including an environmental determination pursuant to CEQA when the site is located within a Sensitive Resource Area (SRA), or there is identified habitat for state or federally listed wildlife or plant species, or there is designated critical habitat on or adjacent to the project site.
- A sustainable source of on-site water.

To meet the requirement of that last condition, in the current draft, cannabis cultivation located either in a groundwater basin at Level of Severity III pursuant to the last Biennial Resource Management System report is required to provide an estimate of water demand prepared by a licensed professional engineer or other expert on water demand, and a description of how the new water demand will be offset at a ratio of 1:1. This requirement should also apply to groundwater basins at an unknown level of sustainability (such as the Edna and Carrizo basins), and the offset should be 2:1. An offset of 1:1 would only assure the inevitable decline and overdraft of the basin.

Grows that could meet these conditions would be allowed; those that couldn't, wouldn't.

At the moment when the Carrizo Plain National Monument is under threat, this ordinance will allow for more pressure on the region's endangered species.

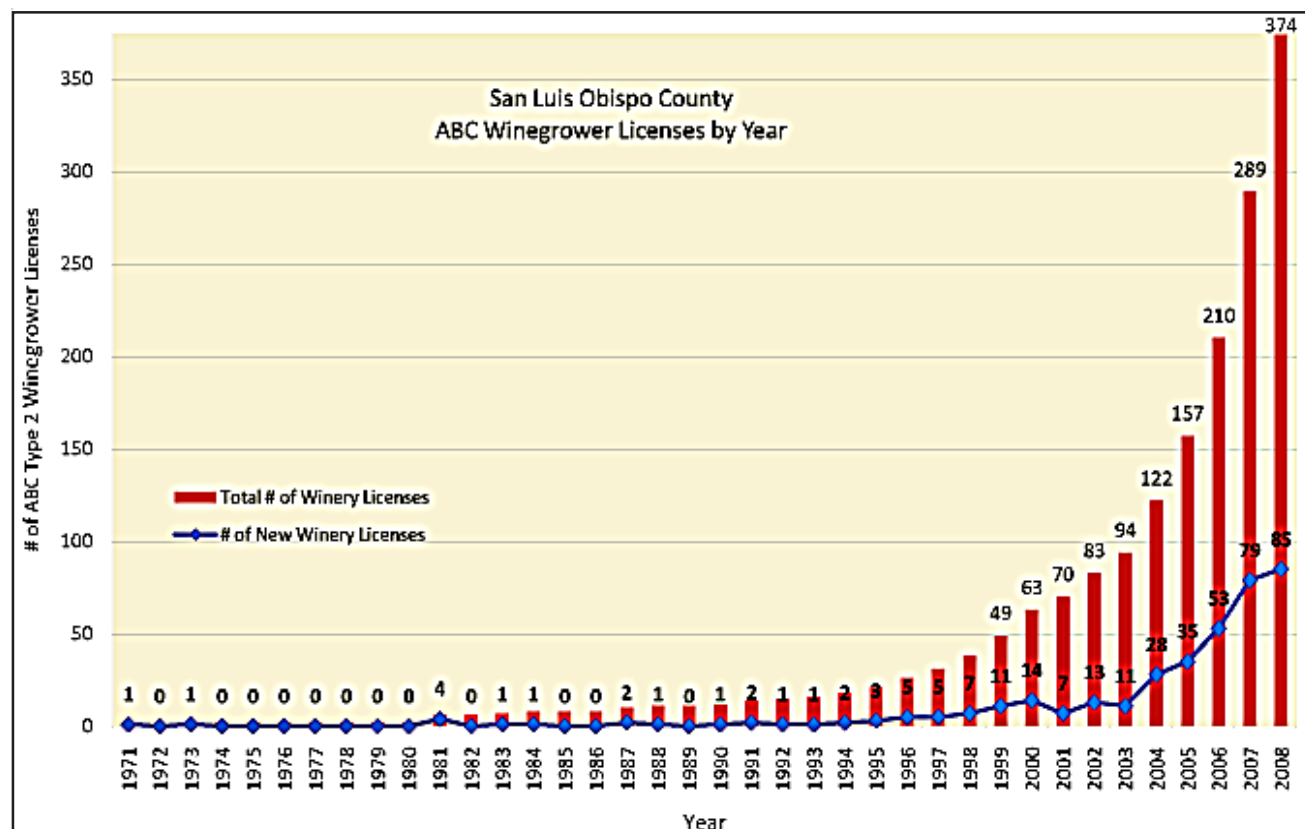
The first Planning Commission hearing of the ordinance is scheduled for July 27, with a second hearing in early August.

TAKE ACTION

Submit comments now to Brandi Cummings (bcummings@co.slo.ca.us) RE: Cannabis Ordinance Public Review Draft. Or mail to:

County of San Luis Obispo Planning & Building Dept.
 ATTN: Brandi Cummings
 976 Osos Street, Room 300
 San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

cc 5th District Supervisor Debbie Arnold at district5@co.slo.ca.us



Never again The County's natural resources and wildlife habitat can't afford a "weed rush" equivalent to another winery explosion.

The First Polluters

Rome revisited: America's shabby scorecard on lead paint, lipstick & toxic discards

by Vicki León

There is an unsettling lesson in the cascade of events that was the fall of the Roman Empire and the role that lead may have played in its demise (see the May and June installments of this column). But rather than smirking over the sad lack of awareness in that long-ago world, we need to take a harder look at our own sorry track record when it comes to lead.

Leaded gasoline and lead-filled paint are now banned in this country (and nearly worldwide), but it took decades, countless roadblocks, and nasty, David-versus-Goliath fights to do so.

Our "David" in the gas battle was an Iowa geochemist named Clair Patterson, who set out to measure the age of the earth. During his research in the 1950s, he serendipitously discovered how deeply lead-polluted our nation was.

The man had guts. Patterson took on the petroleum giants, who'd given the innocuous name "ethyl" to tetraethyl lead, their murderous additive to gasoline.

more than half of US-made bright red lipsticks tested contained detectable, sometimes unacceptable lead levels. None even listed lead as an ingredient! Like Roman ladies' misuse of cinnabar, lead has no business whatsoever being on lips—or ending up in stomachs.

Even more stomach-churning: over a lifetime of lipstick wearing, today's woman swallows an amazing amount of it—four pounds, on average.

Speaking of children: why are they so apt to be poisoned by lead paint, toys, and jewelry?

Possibly because lead compounds taste sweet. As we learned earlier, from infancy on, kids learn about their surroundings through sight, sound, touch, and taste. Kids, especially those who are home alone and hungry, might turn to something candylike, even if it's not food. Even if it's deadly.

Lead might compel a teething child to chew on a painted windowsill or playpen; make a kindergartner look at a leaden toy soldier

most of those being poisoned are young children in impoverished circumstances. They are kids living in aging houses built prior to 1978, when the lead-paint ban began. Or dwelling in rundown clusters of HUD housing or overcrowded apartment complexes. These kids may also attend deteriorating schools, whose classrooms and hallways are filled with lead dust.

The people most apt to occupy that housing and attend those schools tend to be people of color, sometimes with family members born elsewhere. Their kids endure a higher percentage of lead-related symptoms and deficits.

Statistical studies seem to bear this out. For example, a 2008 study in Ohio of 376 pregnant women living in the inner city tracked lead-blood levels of moms and offspring for seven years. Lead levels of the kids ranged from normal to 37 micrograms per deciliter (the Federal guideline is 5 micrograms).

Lead's utility, cost and versatility often makes lead poisoning a moving target. In mid-20th century, it manifested itself through deadly car-exhaust emissions and lead-lined "tin" cans. Later, the use of lead paint in housing and in schools in the United States became ubiquitous. Today, we've made headway



Still on the Roman road
When it comes to the need to keep lead out of commercial products and protect the most vulnerable members of society, our historical learning curve has been murderously steep.



behavioral issues.

Remember that 2008 Ohio inner-city study of 376 pregnant

women and offspring? It clearly showed how lead remorselessly leaves its mark—and not just on physical health.

A followup study of 250 of the now-adult children revealed very troubling and surprising new evidence. Males in particular were especially damaged, with a high correlation of their blood-lead levels to violent crime and arrests. Dr. Kim Cecil, who analyzed their MRI scans, noted: "This is independent biological evidence that the brain is affected by lead."

That study's shocking news was recent. We cannot turn back that clock, but we can stop poisoning the rest of the world's children as well.

We can begin by halting the export of our mountains of junked electronics and our aging, toxin-filled ship carcasses. What happens when our malignant discards get where they're going? Armies of children,

from India to Africa to Malaysia, disassemble them. Sorting pieces into saleable heaps, they work to help feed their families.

As these kids slave away, they absorb lead dust and other toxins as readily as our kids knock back juice from the very containers that may end up in Somalia or Mumbai.

Surely, as a nation, we can do something about that—by making manufacturers (as enlightened ones already do) take back that dead printer or computer, and by insisting on lead-free, toxin-free products to begin with, and leaning consistently on the politicians we as taxpayers pay to do their part.

And finally, by doing research, instead of falling for slick ads, to make earth-friendly purchases for our children. Small gestures, perhaps. But it is a small, possibly redeemable world, after all.



All yours Lead batteries dumped in Thiaroye, Senegal.

Ethyl stopped engine knock, but also injected massive lead fumes into our atmosphere. Over 90 percent of it came from our car-crazy nation's tailpipes.

Despite heavy-handed threats, Patterson persisted. By 1970, we had a Clean Air Act that became law. Sixteen years later, sales of leaded gas were prohibited nationwide. Patterson never won honors or glory—just the satisfaction of toppling a hugely toxic menace.

Not all the battles over lead poisoning have been victorious. In Part I of this series, after reading about the dire cosmetics Roman women inflicted on themselves, it's easy to feel superior to those tortured females of long ago, forced to choose between toxins and ghastly pale lips. The ugly truth? That issue is still with us.

A 2007 product test by the Commission for Safe Cosmetics revealed that

as the equivalent of a lollipop; push an 8-year-old to sample paint chips on a weather-beaten wall. Being low to the ground, children also inhale and touch-taste quite a bit of lead dust—which is wicked potent.

Since the late 20th century, recalls of toxic toys and other children's products have occurred on a regular basis. Safety regs continue to be tightened to protect kids—but what about the multi-millions of lead-contaminated toys already in attics, closets, thrift stores, school lockers, and flea markets?

Part of the war on lead contamination gets half-hearted treatment. Being brushed aside may be due to the cold-hearted fact that

to mitigate these problems but they are by no means vanquished.

Even though experts who lived 2000 years ago in the era of Roman fresh-water systems warned of the dangers of their own lead pipes, we as a nation installed a similar system of



Breathe LBJ signed the first Clean Air Act.

lead-based municipal plumbing, made even more tainted by the use of lead solder to connect them.

As nations began to trade goods across oceans and borders, the usefulness of lead increased. China, for

"Buy Clean" Bill Passes State Assembly

On May 31, the Buy Clean California Act (AB 262) passed the California Assembly on a vote 68-3. If it passes the Senate and is signed into law, it will significantly reduce pollution from state infrastructure projects.

The bill directs the state of California to use its purchasing power to reduce industrial climate pollution. Jointly authored by Assembly-members Rob Bonta (East Bay) and Susan Eggman (Stockton/Tracy) and co-authored by Asms. David Chiu (San Francisco) and Marc Steinorth (Inland Empire), the bill requires

state agencies to consider the climate pollution of products used in infrastructure development, such as steel, mineral wool insulation, and glass, when it is making purchases of those materials.

"We applaud Assembly-members Bonta, Eggman, Chiu, and Steinorth for their vision and leadership," said Kathryn Phillips, Director of Sierra Club California. "They—and all the legislators who have voted for this bill—demonstrate that California must and can

continue to lead the way to a low-carbon, prosperous economy. Buy Clean California ensures that taxpayer dollars are spent in a way that's consistent with our environmental values."

AB 262 now moves to the state Senate, where a final vote is expected later this summer.

"The leadership of our Assembly will pay dividends in the form of reduced emissions for many years to come," said Jose Tengco, West Coast Director of BlueGreen Alliance.

example, has been happy to sell us huge quantities of cheap toys and lead-based kiddie jewelry, ignoring the effects on its own workforce. We were pleased to buy them, and now we're scrambling to rid ourselves of them—quite a chore, given the untold millions sold by Target and others.

At least we're aware, and worried, at this point. And we should be. The damage that lead exposure does to adults aside, children and those unborn should be our focus. Because our crisis is their bleak future, unless we act.

Lead, the "miracle metal," has no safe level of consumption. None. Its effects are far more devastating on babies in the womb and small children. It only takes a minute amount in the blood to permanently harm a child. Damage can range from lower I.Q. scores to neurological problems, from anemia and seizures to

Conference of Mayors Passes Landmark Resolution Supporting 100% Clean, Renewable Energy

At their June 26 Miami Beach meeting, the U.S. Conference of Mayors approved a historic resolution that establishes support from the nation's mayors for the goal of moving to 100 percent clean and renewable energy in cities nationwide.

Introduced by the Co-Chairs of Mayors for 100% Clean Energy, the "100% Renewable Energy in American Cities" resolution could pave the way for cities across the country to adopt 100 percent renewable energy targets within their communities.

"By approving this historic measure, we are showing the world that cities and mayors can and will lead the transition away from fossil fuels to 100 percent clean, renewable energy," said Columbia Mayor Steve Benjamin.

"There is more work to be done to realize this vision for our nation, but this vote represents an important first step towards cleaner air and water for our families, more good-paying jobs in clean energy, and stronger cities across the country."

"Mayors are ready for 100 percent clean and renewable energy," said Salt Lake City Mayor Jackie Biskupski. "Salt Lake City has set the ambitious but achievable goals of generating 100 percent of the community's electricity supply from renewable energy by 2032, followed

by an 80 percent reduction in community greenhouse gas emissions by 2040. We are taking action to achieve these goals and I am honored to join mayors from across our nation to lead the transition to clean, renewable energy."

According to a new Sierra Club analysis, if member cities in the U.S. Conference of Mayors were to transition to 100 percent clean and renewable electricity, it would reduce electric sector carbon emissions by more than that

MAYORS continued on next page



GO TO <http://www.buycleancalifornia.org>

Coastal Commission Meeting in Cambria, Sept. 13-15

The California Coastal Commission will hold its September 2017 meeting at the Cambria Pines Lodge, 2905 Burton Drive, Cambria, Sept. 13-15. All Cambria residents are urged to give the Commissioners are earful on the wild ride that has been the Cambria CSD's emergency/permanent desal project. The project is not yet on the Commission's agenda, but there will be two opportunities to speak on it during general public comment, held at 9 a.m. on the 13th and 14th. The current aspects of the project likely to be of greatest interest to the Commission: the Water Board's cease & desist order and the deficient Environmental Impact Report that has put the project on hold (see "Cambria CSD Brings Home and F on Its EIR," Jan.), as well as the project manager's bland assertion that no comments received from the public and resource agencies -- including the Coastal Commission's concerns -- warranted revision and recirculation of the EIR.

The most significant agendized item on the Commission's docket is its annual review of the Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area's Coastal Development Permit and related issues (see page 2).

The date of that hearing will be posted on the Commission's website, along with the agenda for the rest of the meeting, at least two weeks prior. Go to: www.coastal.ca.gov/meetings/agenda/#/2017/9.

Nature Nurturers Needed

SATURDAY, JULY 8

9AM - 11AM

Volunteer to water 50 oak seedlings that were planted at Bishop Peak.

Will you help us ensure these seedlings grow up to provide shade for us and shelter for wildlife?

Location:
Patricia Trail Head for Bishop Peak, SLO

Saturday, July 8 at 9am

For more info contact ECOSLO
805-239-3928 or programs@ecoslo.org

Please dress in layers, wear closed-toed shoes and sunscreen. Tools, water and snacks are provided. Bring gloves if possible.






Our Scenic Byways

On June 7, the SLO Council of Governments announced the completed installation of fifteen interpretive panels at locations off Highway 1 between Morro Bay and Piedras Blancas Motel.

The signs showcase biological, historical, and cultural information about the areas along the San Luis Obispo North Coast Byway



and are meant to contribute to a richer experience for all travelers and residents of San Luis Obispo County.

Locations of the new Interpretive Panels along the North Coast Byway include:

- Morro Bay Harborwalk (four signs)
- North Point Natural Area
- North of Cayucos Veterans Hall
- Cayucos Pier
- Estero Bluffs State Park along trail
- Harmony Headlands State Park along trail
- Cambria Chamber of Commerce
- Hearst San Simeon State Park, Santa Rosa Creek parking area
- Pico Avenue cul-de-sac, San Simeon (three signs)
- Piedras Blancas Motel, south side

California has just seven

nationally designated Scenic Byways and three nationally designated All-American Roads. The coast route between San Luis Obispo and Monterey consists of two All-American Roads, split into two adjoining routes. The "San Luis Obispo North Coast Byway" spans 57 miles, from San Luis Obispo to the County line, and the Route 1, Big Sur Coast All-American Rd. winds another 72 miles into Monterey County.

Numerous studies have shown scenic byway designation provide a boost to the local economy and help protect a region's intrinsic qualities.

Sept. 2: Kayaking California's Natural and Cultural Heritage



Join Sierra Club on a half-day kayaking excursion of Morro Bay on Saturday, September 2. Learn about the marine wildlife while paddling out to the dunes to explore the cultural legacy of the Chumash people and learn about the proposed Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary.

We will be joined by members of the Northern Chumash Tribal Council and Erin Aiello, a grad student at Cal Poly and veteran guide of eco-tourism kayak trips through Morro Bay. She will discuss her academic subject: eelgrass decline and restoration in Morro Bay, as well as flora and fauna of the Estuary.

There will be live music by the Cimo Brothers on the sand spit and a bag lunch provided.

Morro Bay has tame waters and is the perfect destination for individuals with little or no kayaking experience. Bring comfortable clothes. No flip-flops. Tennis shoes, water shoes or open toed sandals acceptable. We will have water available, but it is also highly recommended to bring your own. Life jackets and dry bags will be provided. \$55 per person. Kayaks depart from A Kayak Shak in Morro Bay at 9a.m., so plan to arrive at 8:30 for kayak assignment and safety information. For more information, contact Nan Cole at cole.nancy.j@gmail.com.

Mayors

continued from previous page

of the five worst carbon polluting U.S. states combined. If the 100 percent energy targets were achieved by 2025, the total electric sector carbon pollution reductions would fill anywhere from 87 percent to 110 percent of the remaining reductions the United States would need to achieve in order to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement.

36 cities across the United States have now committed to transition to 100 percent renewable energy. 118 mayors, including San Luis Obispo Mayor Heidi Harmon, have signed onto this vision in their community as part of the Mayors

for 100% Clean Energy initiative Co-Chaired by Mayor Philip Levine of Miami Beach, Mayor Jackie Biskupski of Salt Lake City, Mayor Kevin Faulconer of San Diego, and Mayor Stephen K. Benjamin of Columbia, South Carolina.

"Climate change may be the challenge of our generation, but it is also the opportunity of a lifetime," said Mayor Philip Levine of Miami Beach, Florida.

"This landmark resolution reinforces our collective resolve to combat the threats of climate change like rising seas by advancing bold and innovative solutions that reflect the best of our nation's ideals. As host city for this year's

U.S. Conference of Mayors, I am proud to represent Miami Beach and stand with mayors across the country in supporting a vision of 100 percent clean, renewable energy for my community."

"Clean energy isn't just the right thing to do, it's the smart thing to do," said San Diego Mayor Kevin Faulconer. "We're going green in San Diego not only because it supports clean air and water, but because it supports our 21st century economy. It makes sense for mayors across the country to work together because when we talk about the future of our planet, we're talking about the future of our communities."

"What better way to kick off Donald Trump's energy week than with a message from our nation's mayors that cities are ready for 100 percent clean and renewable energy," said Sierra Club Executive Director Michael Brune. "Cities don't need to wait for Washington, D.C. to act in order to move the ball forward on clean energy. While Donald Trump props up corporate polluters that are threatening the health of people across our country, mayors are showing that local leaders can and will lead our nation toward a healthier, stronger and more prosperous future powered with 100 percent clean, renewable energy."



To the Max

The San Luis Ranch project as planned will bring maximum impact to SLO. What would be the minimum?

By James Lopes

On July 5, the SLO City Council will deliberate on approval of the San Luis Ranch project. As proposed, it would bring over 580 homes, 200,000 square feet of commercial space, 150,000 square feet of office space, a 200-room hotel, and all the attendant major impacts to roadways, traffic, city services and the environment that a development plan on that scale implies.

It doesn't have to.

The heart of that process is the Environmental Impact Report. The Final EIR before the Council should — but doesn't — examine smaller scale alternatives and compare them to the impacts of the proposed project. Such alternatives would result in insignificant environmental and infrastructure impacts and lower costs to the developer and the community. The Council does not have to — and shouldn't — make decisions about the project or any alternatives on July 5. Brakes should be applied to gain better information to avoid highly problematic impacts on the community. This could include a study session or workshop to discuss combinations of alternatives with the applicant and the community.

All concerned need a technical analysis of the potential impacts and mitigations of smaller scale alternatives so council members can make informed decisions about the scale of this project. These goals in the City Land Use Element need to be injected into the discussion:

- **City's Goals - Approach to Planning.** *The City should...have developments bear the costs of resources and services needed to serve them, except where the community deliberately chooses to help pay in order to achieve other community goals.* (p. 1-20)
- **1.11 Growth Rates & Phasing**
- **1.13.7. Development and Services.** *The City shall approve development in newly annexed areas only when adequate City services can be provided for that development, without reducing the level of public services or increasing the cost of services for existing development and for build-out within the City limits.* (p. 1-20)

These goals direct staff and decision makers to have the developer pay for the many public improvements which would be necessary to minimize significant impacts on the public. City services are directed to be in place with the development, not years later, without reducing the level of public services or increasing their costs to the public.

The City can legally require that the developer pay more than his long-term share of costs for these



services, because this is a specific plan, general plan amendment and annexation. It's done frequently elsewhere. Sometimes a development agreement is made where the developer is "paid back" for his expenses beyond his fair share of cost by other later developments which rely on the same services (including transportation facilities). These policies are worth the Council's discussion in regard to the huge impacts which the maximum project sizes are determined to cause in the Final EIR.

The Final EIR is inadequate because it gives does not adequately describe potentially viable project alternatives. The duty of the EIR is to identify project alternatives which would meet most of the project goals but reduce significant impacts, preferably to a level of insignificance.

However, the first meaningful alternative for a reduced project in the EIR (vehicle trip-reducing, page 6-5), briefly describes that just building the 200 units in Phase 1 would need major intersection improvements for Madonna Road & Dalidio Drive and Los Osos valley road & Froom Ranch Way intersections. That's how bad traffic is becoming.

This project alternative is rejected even though it would not require six other major road improvements listed in a mitigation summary table (4.12-1). The reduced Phase 1 project alternative is rejected because it would not accomplish most of the developer's project objectives, meaning the maximum allowed project. The EIR consultants apparently thought that all of the developer's maximum project objectives have to be met by any project alternative.

But the City of San Luis Obispo set the project objectives, in the land use element, as a variety of housing types and commercial development within desirable ranges of intensity. The developer is using the maximum end of the City's Performance Standards in the Land Use Element (page 1-88). The EIR then carries the developer's water and treats the maximum standards as if they are inviolate, even though the city guessed at ranges of stated minimums and maximums.

The ranges are intended to frame the environmental analysis with valid data for decisions. And they are not inviolate. The minimum sizes listed are even preceded by a footnote: "1. There can be a reduction in the minimum requirement

based on specific physical and/or environmental constraints." If even the minimum thresholds are found to cause significant impacts, then a reduction in the thresholds is allowed to determine if even lower ones will avoid significant impacts.

The Alternatives section should be impartially revised to describe project alternatives which are at the low to high ends of the ranges, and even less than the minimums if needed to determine acceptable impact levels. To achieve most of the objectives of the city policy, a much reduced scale of project would be acceptable. As a general plan/specific plan amendment, the project is entirely open-ended to be reduced to a scale which will not impose unavoidable significant impacts.

This alternatives discussion is the most important of all the major issues concerning the project. Without an evaluation of less-impactful alternatives, the decision focus continues to be the maximum allowed project. It is the duty of the impartial environmental analysis to describe the amounts of development that will be near or below the level of significant environmental impacts.

The entire chapter should be re-written with a more impartial review of smaller scale alternatives which meet most of the broad project objectives and performance standards in the Land Use Element. It is these ranges of Standards that are the "project objectives," not the developer's proposal. The City needs to complete its duty to report on any feasible project alternatives which would result in fewer major impacts than the proposed project, which has been proposed at the maximum of the Performance Standards.

We have seen three years of beautiful concepts, contemporary and worthwhile initiatives and lots of project promotion. Finally we have an EIR with which to evaluate this huge project. We need analysis of a range of meaningful project alternatives to have data to discuss the project realistically. The City Council needs to step in and order that the Final EIR be revised to analyze and compare smaller scale alternatives.

James Lopes is a retired community planner who served on the city of SLO's Architectural Review Commission and is a past chair and current member of Save Our Downtown.

And Now Some Good News from the Supreme Court

Behold an environmental ray of light in the darkness over D.C.

The Pacific Legal Foundation, rabidly anti-regulatory specialists in "property rights" cases (best known hereabouts for their failed attempt to deprive Morro Bay's western snowy plovers from the protections of the Endangered Species Act), got some bad news last month, which means the public got some surprising good news: The conservative-dominated U.S. Supreme Court handed down a ruling that actually supports responsible land use and discourages the rampant development of environmentally sensitive areas.

The June 23 ruling in *Murr v. State of Wisconsin* came down after the Court deliberated on the argument by the owners of two land parcels that they should be allowed to develop the second of two adjacent lots, in addition to the house they had built and expanded on their first lot, regardless of the fact that this would constitute development beyond appropriate density levels set by the local government. The PLF argued that the state barring them from doing so was an unconstitutional "taking" because it prohibited them from profiting from the use of their property.

By a 5-3 vote, the Supreme Court ruled against the PLF and their client and upheld the lower court's decision that two adjacent lots owned by the same family should be treated as one parcel for the purposes of a takings analysis. The common-sense ruling will make it a lot harder for outfits like the PLF to continue to argue in court that development restrictions on land parcels that already contain development constitute a taking, i.e. a complete prohibition on use of the land by the owner. Even Chief Justice Roberts, in his minority dissent, allowed that finding a prohibition on the sale and separate development of one of the lots to be a taking would depend on the financial impact of that restriction.

A key passage from the decision contained the worst news for the PLF and the best news for the future of the California coast:

"In particular, it may be relevant that the property is located in an area that is subject to, or likely to become subject to, environmental or other regulation. Cf. *Lucas*, supra, at 1035 (KENNEDY, J., concurring) ("Coastal property may present such unique concerns for a fragile land system that the State can go further in regulating its development and use than the common law of nuisance might otherwise permit")."

"While we are disappointed in today's decision, we know the battle to secure constitutional rights is an ongoing effort," said PLF General Counsel John Groen. How far off the PLF is when it comes to stretching the constitutional definition of a "taking" could be measured by the dissent of Justice Clarence Thomas, who, even though he was on their side, proffered the opinion that the Takings Clause of the Constitution is not the hill the PLF should choose to die on when filing suit over land use regulations they don't like.

Oil and Water



Sierra Club photo

On June 29, Sierra Club chapter leaders joined with Protect SLO Water outside the SLO County Courthouse before the hearing of the Center for Biological Diversity's lawsuit defending the Price Canyon aquifer from oil field waste water. The judge's tentative ruling allowed the state to proceed with a recommendation to the EPA to exempt the aquifer from the Safe Drinking Water Act and continue to use it for dumping waste from the Arroyo Grande Oil Field (AGOF). The next opportunity to defend the aquifer will be the County's upcoming review of the massive propose increase in drilling in the oil field.

Letters

How we saved Harmony Headlands

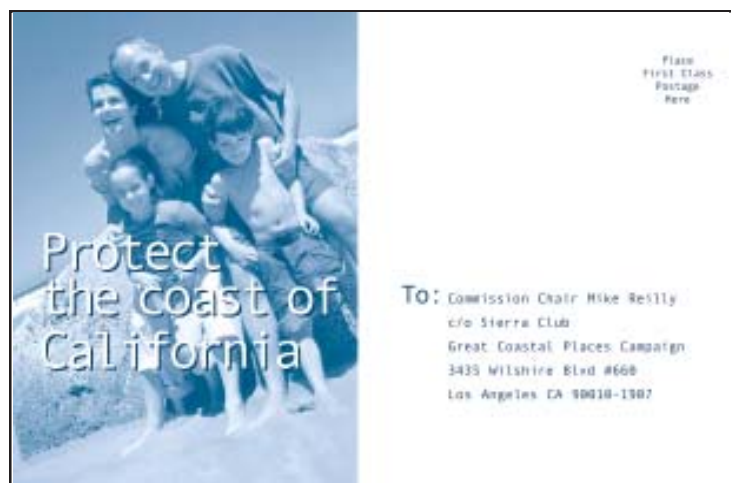
I enjoyed reading the Santa Lucian article about how Sierra Club worked to save the Harmony Headlands! ("How to Give Thanks for Harmony Headlands," June.)

I was the first (and only) chair of the Sierra Club's Great Coastal Places Campaign — the brain child

of the incomparable Elizabeth Lambe and Sarah Christie. It was a dream team with a brilliant vision: to create a body of activists ready and willing to take action for the coast. For five years, we held organizing meetings for Sierra Club members at each venue where the California

Coastal Commission met. We used Mark Massara's rock star status as the Coast Watcher to draw large groups — usually at least 100 members per meeting. We'd hold these organizing meetings the month of the CCC's meeting, and explain how the CCC works. Then we'd take a local issue,

highlight it at the CCC meeting, and urge folks to speak up and thank staff and the commissioners. We had cards with "I heart the Coastal Commission" for audience members to wave. We'd obtain members' addresses and email addresses, and activate them statewide on issues like the Harmony Headlands.




Winning ways The Sierra Club's Great Coastal Places Campaign kept the pressure on for coastal protection back in the day.

Tarren Collins
Shell Beach


Classifieds

Next issue deadline is **Aug. 18**. 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

Support our local chapter



We send out an appeal in March to each of our members, asking for contributions directly to our Chapter. These contributions really do make a difference to us, and are an important part of our Chapter's budget. When you make a donation to the Chapter, you support the Sierra Club's work in your own backyard. You allow us to continue our work to protect wilderness and wildlife, to improve the quality of life in our cities, and to promote the enjoyment of nature. Please be as generous as you are able—remember, these funds directly affect your way of life in your neighborhood.



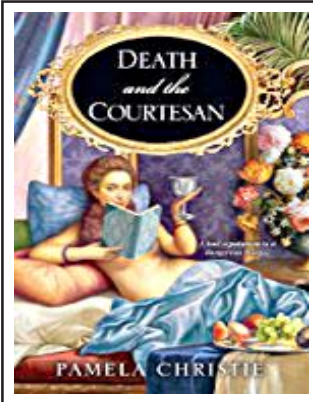
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Outings and Activities Calendar

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 Bill Waycott, (806) 459-2103. For information on a specific outing, please call the listed outing leader.

Sat.-Mon. July 1-3, Fourth of July. Expect several dozen people at this event on the edge of the Black Rock Desert about 100 miles north of Reno. This will be a busy weekend on the playa as many Burning Man attendees use this as a "shakedown" trip. We normally camp on the edge of the playa and visit hot springs, see the Lassen-Applegate branch of the Emigrant Trail, talk with new visitors, and similar activities. And there are usually large fireworks! The Playa is flooded as of the end of April, future conditions will dictate July activities but it will probably be dry by then. There's normally a potluck one night. There will also be a lot of Ham Radio activity so if you have a license, bring a radio! Call for repeater frequencies. David Book KD7YIM, (775) 843-6443, Great Basin Group.

Sun.-Thu. July 2-6, Central Nevada Backpack: Twin Rivers Loop, Arc Dome. This area has been described as one of "deep, rugged canyons, high bald peaks, elk and wet feet." The trip begins on the North Twin River, near Carver, about an hour's drive northeast of Tonopah, at an elevation around 6300 ft. After arriving at the trailhead, we will hike in 2 or 3 miles to our first camp. The next day we will hike around another 5 miles and camp. On day 3 we do a day hike (bring a day-pack) to the top of 11,773 ft. Arc Dome, 12 miles rte. with 4100 ft. elevation gain. Day 4 sees the start down South Twin, with a camp after several miles. The last day is the hike out. 16 miles, 3000 ft. elevation gain with backpacks. The group has the option to do the trip in the opposite direction. Elevation gain to the top of Arc Dome is 300 ft. less. Possibility of car pool or caravan from Las Vegas, details on trip sheet. Limit 12. Contact David Hardy, South Nevada Group, (702) 875-4826 hardyhikers@embarqmail.com. E-mail correspondence is preferred.

Saturday, July 8th, 9:30 am, Santa Margarita Lake Regional Park - Rocky Trail to Salinas Dam Overlook. This "less strenuous" hike is 3.6 miles in length with a 300-ft. elevation gain. Scenic hike skirts the west end of Santa Margarita Lake, a 6-mile long lake at full capacity after years of drought, weaving through grasslands and oak and grey pine woodlands. Views from the overlook extend across

Sat., Jul. 8, 9-11 a.m., Watering Bishop Peak oak saplings. Nature Nurturers Needed! Volunteers are needed to nurture 50 oak seedlings that were planted last fall on Bishop Peak. They are thriving after the plentiful winter rains, but need an extra boost of water to keep them going through the summer. Some have also outgrown their protective cages and need to be freed from the stranglehold of weeds. Will you help us insure these seedlings grow up to provide future shade for us and shelter for wildlife? Meet Saturday, July 8th, 9-11, Patricia trailhead in SLO. Bring gloves if you have them; wear layers, sturdy shoes, sunscreen, hat. Water & snacks provided. Sponsored by City of SLO, ECOSLO, and the Sierra Club. More info: 239-3928.



Salinas Bay. There is a county park entrance fee of \$10 per vehicle, so carpooling encouraged -- meet at the "Park and Ride" parking lot, just off the Highway 101 exit for Santa Margarita, Hwy 58 exit. Parking lot on right side, ¼ mile from freeway ramp. Meet at 9:00 am. If not carpooling, meet at the trailhead, just inside the park entrance by the flagpole, directly west of the entrance station. Bring plenty of water, hats and sunscreen. For more information, contact Jan Secord (805) 602-0403.

Sunday, July 9th, 9:00 am, Pismo Preserve: Join the Sierra Club and the SLO Land Conservancy for a docent-led hike to the top of the ridge at the Land Conservancy's Pismo Preserve for a 2-3 hour hike to view Point Sal to Point San Luis at the Avila Outlook. The hike will take approximately 3 hours with a distance of 5 miles and a 1,000 ft. elevation gain and is considered strenuous. Bring water, snacks, and dress for the weather. Space is limited. An online waiver form is required in advance. For more information, contact Nan Cole at cole.nancy.j@gmail.com.

Sunday, July 9th, 2:00 pm, Historic Walk of Morro Bay. Join us on a guided stroll past downtown buildings, murals, and the Embarcadero. We will uncover the town's hidden history from 19th-century fishing village to World War II navy base to seaside resort. Meet in front of the Bay Theatre, 464 Morro Bay Blvd. For more information, contact Joe Morris, (805) 549-0355.

Thursday, July 13th, 1:00 pm, SLO High School Hill hike and yoga. Join the Sierra Club on a hike up High School Hill (a.k.a. Outlook Hill, a.k.a. Murray Hill). Once at the top, we will do a 45 minute vinyasa yoga practice, with excellent views of the region.

The hike is short (approx. 2 miles up), but has a steep incline that will give you a good cardio exercise. Total hiking distance is 4 miles round trip with a 1492 feet elevation gain. This hike is considered strenuous. Trailhead is located at the end of Lizzy St. with easy parking. Bring water and good walking shoes. No yoga mat required. For more information, contact Nan Cole at cole.nancy.j@gmail.com.

Thursday, July 13th, 7:00 - 9:00 pm, Backpacking 201 Workshop, SLO Vet's Hall. This is an opportunity to meet hikers who have spent time on the Pacific Crest Trail. They will bring their equipment to illustrate what essentials are needed for a backpacking trip, how to lighten one's load before you get out on the trip, and discuss an assortment of food options to consider. Join backpackers Bill and Diana Waycott, and Timothy Kershaw of the Sierra Club and the California Native Plant Society for this workshop. Meet at the SLO Vet's Hall, 801 Grand Ave. Bring questions and equipment, if you think it needs a critique. For more information, contact Bill at (805) 459-2103, billwaycott@gmail.com.

Saturday July 15th, 8 am, Ragged Point, Murray Mine Rd., Spruce Creek Trail Loop. This challenging hike 15 mile hike has a common 2 miles at the beginning and end (4 miles total). The other 11 miles are a loop of both road and trail. All of it is in the beautiful but rugged Silver Peak Wilderness. This is definitely a strenuous trek, with some 4,000 feet of elevation gain. Expect to be out for up to 10 hours. There will be some poison oak on the trail section, and foxtails in the grassy areas. If you have gaiters, they would be worth wearing. Extreme heat will postpone to a later date. Meet at Washburn Day Use Area about 1.5 miles North of

Cambria. RSVP Carlos to let him know you plan to participate (805) 546-0317.

Saturday, July 22nd, 8:30 - 11:30 am, Survey of a rare plant habitat workshop, Los Osos. If you have an interest in collecting data at a rare plant habitat site, please join us for this workshop. San Luis Obispo County is home to many rare plant habitats, most of which have not been surveyed in many years. Join plant biologists, Melissa Mooney and Bill Waycott of the California Native Plant Society (CNPS). Work in teams during the workshop to identify and record the dominant plant species within a 60-foot radius from a predetermined GPS point. Once up to speed, we will survey other rare plant habitats in the county in future meetings over the next two years. This data will be forwarded to the state office for inclusion in the Manual of California Vegetation. For more information, contact Melissa at (805) 459-8099, mjmoon@charter.net. Meet at the corner of Highland Drive and Broderson Ave. in Los Osos. Bring a clipboard, sharpened pencil with a good eraser, if available a phone or device that reads GPS locations, along with a hat, water, and snacks.

Friday to Sunday, August 11th - 13th, Perseid Meteor Shower Campout. Expect about 100 people at this event in the Black Rock Desert about 100 miles north of Reno. Playa conditions permitting, we'll be camping mid-Playa about 10 miles from a couple of hot springs. Porta-potties but little else so bring water, food etc. There's usually a potluck/Dutch oven meal one night. LNT, dogs must be on leash and expect to pick up after them. David Book (775) 843-6443, Great Basin Group.


Saturday August 19th, 8:30 am, Point Sal to Rancho Guadalupe Beach, Paradise Beach and Mussel Rock. This hike takes you to some of the most beautiful coastline in Central California. Paradise Beach sees few people because it is situated a considerable distance from paved roads. This is considered a moderately strenuous hike of 11 miles with 1,200 feet of elevation gain. We will walk north from Brown Rd. with the destination of West Main St. There will be a car shuttle. Meet at the locked gate at the end of Brown

Rd., approximately 4 miles west of Route 1. For more information, contact Carlos (805) 546-0317.

Saturday, August 19th, 10:30 a.m. Harmony Headlands. This "Less Strenuous" 4.5 mile trail is easy with mild grade changes, most noticeable



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




The Sierra Club Needs You!

Become an Outings Leader

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

For further information contact:

Bill Waycott, Outings Chair
(806) 459-2103 or bill.waycott@gmail.com



John Muir, founder of the Sierra Club, in Yosemite

on way back. Due to the small parking lot at trail head (5 miles north of Cayucos, take a left by the billboard), encourage carpooling from Spencer's Market in North Morro Bay; take San Jacinto exit right, then back track on Main St. to the market. We meet there at 10 a.m. Basic amenities are a portable toilet shortly after the start of the trail & a few benches amid the grasslands. There are varied features: tall grasses, a pond, thistles and rocky outcrops. The wide trail enables side by side walking. The trail, per its name, leads to a pristine

ocean front (no beach access), where strong winds may blow. Bring water, sun hat, sun screen, a pair of binoculars, and dress in layers. No dogs allowed and shorts or sandals not advised (possible ticks). Time estimate, subject to how long we spend at ocean front, is 2 hours. Hike leader Jan Secord. For details or to make sure driving directions are clear, contact Eliane Wilson at (805) 748-7815. After-hike options are a short visit to craft sites in Harmony and/or lunch stop-over in Cayucos on return to Morro Bay.

Saturday, September 2: Kayaking California's Natural and Cultural Heritage, Morro Bay. -- see page 5.

Activities sponsored by other organizations

Wednesday, July 12, 5:30pm-7pm, Wine and Edible Weeds Walk at SLO Botanical Garden. Melany Vorass Herrera, Author of "The Front Yard Forager," will lead a walk identifying how to identify, forage and cook edible weeds growing in our area. Enjoy a sipping glass of Halter Ranch Wine and nibbling on some edible weeds. Info at slobg.org/weeds. San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden, 3450 Dairy Creek Rd. \$10 for Garden members / \$15 for non-members. No reservations needed. Call 805-541-1400 x303.

Island Hopping in Channel Islands National Park 2017

July 16-18, August 20-22, September 24-26, October 22-24

Join us for a 3-day, 3-island, live-aboard cruise to California's Channel Islands! Hike wild, 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 highly endangered island fox. Or....just relax at sea! All cruises depart from Santa Barbara. The cost, \$650, includes an assigned bunk, all meals, snacks and beverages plus the services of a naturalist-docent as-



signed 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;

jholtzln@aol.com. To make a reservation send a \$100 check, written to Sierra Club, to leader, 11826 The Wye St., El Monte, CA 91732.

LA COSTA GRILL

Happy Hour
4-6PM

Ta Corona

\$2.50 EACH

TACO / CORONA

168 Station Way, Arroyo Grande, CA 93420 | (805) 474-8797
(next to Arroyo Grande Post Office) www.costagrillag.com