

# SANTA LUCIAN



Santa Lucia  
Chapter

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

## Supervisors to Decide Our Clean Energy Future

### Community Choice is still the right choice

By Andrew Christie, Director, Santa Lucia Chapter  
Katie Davis, Chair, Santa Barbara Group, Los Padres Chapter

Based on the Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) law passed by the state legislature in 2002, Community Choice Energy programs started taking off in 2010 and are now rapidly proliferating. Community Choice programs have empowered local communities to decide where their electricity comes from and enhanced the economic vitality of the regions where they have been established.

There is not much question about where power generation in California is heading: away from centralized investor-owned utilities and toward Community Choice and its ability to offer communities local control, more renewable energy at competitive rates, and the investment of revenue generated to benefit local

residents and businesses.

Central Coast Power, a consortium of local governments in San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties, formed in 2015 to explore the feasibility of a Community Choice program. The consortium commissioned a tri-county feasibility study from consulting firms Willdan Financial Services and EnerNex. The study examined eight different geographical scenarios for the region with energy mix scenarios for 33%, 50%, and 75% renewable energy, comparing likely CCA costs with the rates of the two utilities serving the three counties.

On September 12, the Willdan/EnerNex study was released. It concluded, in every scenario, that a CCA program is not economically feasible and would cost ratepayers more than utility-provided power.

MRW & Associates, contracted to conduct a peer review of the study, pointed to half a dozen "areas where the



LEAN Energy US

## Yes, This is the Santa Lucian



Life is change. And change can be expensive.

Take, for example, the cost of maintaining a regular print publication. Two months ago, on the eve of our print deadline, the cost of printing the *Santa Lucian* in the broadsheet newsprint format we all knew and loved tripled overnight.

This month, we have switched to the least cost alternative format, i.e. the issue you're holding in your hands, which has entailed a mere 100% price increase instead

of a 300% increase.

So we really need to emphasize, for those of you who may not be aware, that **the Santa Lucian is available on line**, an edition which costs considerably less to produce. To turn off your print subscription and receive notification via email of our online edition when it posts, send an email to [sierraclub8@gmail.com](mailto:sierraclub8@gmail.com).

And for those of you who would like to ensure that a print edition of the *Santa Lucian* -- which now costs us north of \$1,300 per issue to print and mail -- will continue indefinitely despite the headwinds blowing out of cyberspace, feel free to enclose a note with your next donation so we can count heads to determine how many folks adamantly want to keep reading the *Santa Lucian* on paper.

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SPOD



## Release the Robo-Hounds

from Chapter and Group reports

At the October 11 meeting of the California Fish and Game commission in Atascadero, Sue Harvey, Conservation Chair for the Santa Lucia Chapter of the Sierra Club, spoke in opposition to amending the Fish and Game Code to allow the use of GPS collars on dogs in deer and pig hunting.

GPS collars would allow hunters to stay put, release their dogs, track them on GPS screens, then go forth and shoot the quarry after they determine their dogs have an animal at bay.

Hunting with hounds is fraught with issues of wildlife disturbance and animal cruelty, as dogs are released and “cross scent” to maim, wound, or fatally injure both targeted and non-targeted animals in the wild. Other than nine states south of the Mason-Dixon line, California is the only place in the continental United States that allows deer-hound hunting.

After over a year of contentious debate, the Fish & Game Commission approved an amendment to allow GPS collars for hound hunting of mammals and dog training. A lawsuit filed for noncompliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) compelled the Commission to publicly admit noncompliance and agree to redo the amendment to “do it right.” On April 26, 2017, they voted to 1. bring back the ban (that’s good); 2. delay implementing it for one year (that’s bad); and 3. amend the regulations to again allow GPS (that’s worse).

In an unbelievable turn of events, there will be no analysis or Draft Environmental Document because the Commission has determined that the proposed amendment is now exempt from CEQA.

At the hearing, Sue pointed out:

*HOUNDS continued on page 8*

## Sierra Club General Meeting Outings and Activism

Join us for a talk on hiking and outdoor education as a tool to get people involved and active in the local and national dialogue around environmental protection. We will discuss three local case studies and show a short film on “the nature fix.”



**Go Outdoors!** If we strengthen our relationship to nature, we may feel more compelled to preserve and protect it.

**Ascendo Coffee**  
974 Monterey, SLO  
Wed., Nov. 15, 5:30-7:15 p.m.

### Santa Lucian

EDITOR - Andrew Christie

**Lindi Doud**  
**Sandy Simon**  
EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

The *Santa Lucian* is published six times a year. Articles, environmental information and letters to the editor are welcome. The deadline for each issue is the 13th of the prior month.

send to: **Editor, Santa Lucian**, Sierra Club, P.O. Box 15755, San Luis Obispo, CA 93406. sierraclub8@gmail.com

### Santa Lucia Chapter

**2017 Executive Committee**  
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Chuck Tribbey (12/19) VICE-CHAIR  
Lindi Doud (12/17) TREASURER  
Stephanie Gong (12/17) SECRETARY  
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# This is Your 2018 Chapter Executive Committee Ballot



It's time to select your Sierra Club Chapter's Executive Committee for 2018.

All current members of the Sierra Club's Santa Lucia Chapter are eligible to vote. If there is more than one Sierra Club member in your household, you may photocopy the printed ballot and mail both in the same envelope. After the election, the ExCom will convene a brief meeting to elect board officers and set the monthly date for ExCom meetings for 2018.



- Make an X or checkmark in the box for the candidate of your choice. Vote for no more than three candidates.
- Ballots must be received by **5 p.m., December 1, 2017**, at the Chapter office.
- Sign and date the flap of the envelope. Do not write your name on the ballot.
- Mail your ballot to **Elections Committee, Santa Lucia Chapter P.O. Box 15755, San Luis Obispo, CA 93406** with sufficient time to arrive by the deadline, or drop it off via the door mail slot at the Chapter office at 974 Santa Rosa Street, SLO.

**Dawn Annoni**, lifetime native of San Luis Obispo County.

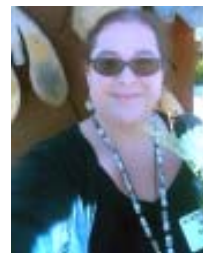
The opportunity to be a member of the Santa Lucia Chapter of the Sierra Club Executive Committee is a unique chance to be a voice for chapter members, as well as assisting in making environmental education decisions. Frequently taking part in the natural habitat and hiking trails in our area allows for an experience that should not be taken for granted nor taken away due to San Luis Obispo County or the City of San Luis Obispo planning future development and potentially affecting the current open space policies. Making a positive impact on our environment by leaving a global footprint ensuring lifelong sustainability for generations to come, including my children and future grandchildren, is of the utmost importance to me.



Dawn Annoni

**Violet Cavanaugh**, indigenous woman of the Northern Chumash Tribe.

I was called to action by my elders, community and the current political climate. I am a farmer, beekeeper, business owner and the carrier of the knowledge and medicine of my people. In January, I was asked to run on a progressive slate and am now proud to be one of 14 35th district representatives of the state Democratic Party. I was motivated to do more while working on the Bernie Sanders campaign. I've consulted in local politics for more than 20 years, working with the county, city, and Coastal Commission to protect the environment. I hope to represent the indigenous community and environmental groups on large-scale projects such as solar farms, affordable housing and municipal projects.



Violet Cavanaugh

**Nan Cole**, Outings Leader, Santa Lucia Chapter.

I was brought in to help with community education on the proposed Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary in 2016-17 as an independent contractor. I studied City and Regional Planning at Cal Poly and got a Masters in Renewable Energy Management in Germany. I pair my studies in renewable energy with yoga, as both are tools for reflecting how to live in our bodies and in the world gently and compassionately. On Sierra Club outings, I combine my passions for yoga and hiking into one by offering a short yoga sequence mid-hike. I work to build awareness and activism through outdoor education, so participants are moved to enjoy, preserve and protect the outdoors that they experience. If elected to the Executive Committee, I will work on expanding my yoga hikes to locations all over the region and bridge the age gap of Sierra Club members.



Nan Cole

**Jennifer Von Der Lohe** has lived on the Central Coast for over 40 years.

I recently became an active volunteer with the Santa Lucia Chapter of the Sierra Club and am coordinating special events for the Chapter. I am running for the Executive Committee in order to make a positive contribution to our community. I recognize the pressure on our county to increase housing and energy production. My goal is to make sure that land use ordinances and environmental laws are adhered to in order to minimize the negative impacts that may be caused by population growth. My priority is to assist in maintaining the quality of life Central Coast residents enjoy by protecting the air and water quality while preserving our coastal and trail access through shared governance.



Jennifer Von Der Lohe

*Members who subscribe to the electronic newsletter may print out this ballot. Households with more than two members may make duplicate ballots.*



## And Now a Few Words from the Paso Robles High School Progressive Club

*On October 9, the SLO Grassroots Action Coalition held a roundtable discussion with Rep. Salud Carbajal.*

*Some two dozen local advocates for environmental, social justice, education and health issues sat down in the conference room at the Paso Robles Unified School District offices that evening and engaged in a two and half hour dialog with our Congressman.*

*Of those who spoke, none spoke quite like Mason Seden-Hansen, President of the Paso Robles High School Progressive Club, who read the following letter:*

Good evening, Representative Carbajal and fellow community members. I am honored to be here to as one representative of the next generation of voters.

I'm Mason Seden-Hansen and I am a senior at Paso Robles High School and president of the school's Progressive Club.

This evening I'd like to talk about how the future looks for many teenagers, the anxiety and insecurity we experience, and our collective hope for a more secure and sustainable future for our country.

Our generation grew up with 9/11, the War on Terror, the Iraq war, and the war in Afghanistan. We have never not been at war. We have grown up with the fear of school shootings and community mass shootings with no action from congress, with Republicans suggesting that this sort of violence is inevi-



table.

Our parents had terrible economic problems and our teachers and schools were stressed and underfunded, thanks to reckless repeal of regulation, which is occurring again. We are terrified of Pres. Trump who is more interested in himself than our country and its security or well-being.

Our earth itself is being trashed, with the complacency and even assistance of the Trump administration and Scott Pruitt's dismantling of the EPA.

The fabric of our very community is being torn apart on purpose, to keep poor and middle class people from working together.

Girls and women's rights are being attacked at every level, by violence and by a desire to keep them from birth control and a desire to control their right to end a pregnancy.

This is the world we live in, one in which our earth and our different peoples are not being respected.

We, the young people, intend to change

the world.

We see you, Rep. Carbajal, and the others at this table and in this room, as our partners.

This community is full of partners. There is no one that is not welcome

to join this partnership, and our group at Paso High is open to all. The government's purpose is to work for all the people.

I would like to highlight some of your work that we appreciate, and what we are asking of you today.

We greatly appreciate your support of Rep. Ted Lieu's bill to take the power of a preemptive nuclear strike away from our apparently deranged president. Please do everything in your power to prevent further escalation of conflicts with Syria, North Korea and Iran.

It is estimated that 200 of our classmates at PRHS are living and studying with DACA status. These students are our friends and classmates, and today I am here for them. We greatly appreciate your support of the DREAM act, and hope that you will do whatever possible to help pass it before President Obama's executive order expires.

We appreciate that you have fought against the most imminent threat to our health care security: Republican

attempts to dismantle the affordable care act. We greatly appreciate your vote against Paul Ryan's disastrous American Health Care Act. However, we also support Medicare for All and ask that you cosponsor Rep. Conyers' bill.

We support women's rights, birth control, abortion rights, and protections against violence. We greatly appreciate your vote against the 20-week abortion ban, and thank you for continuing to fight to prevent any attacks on women's rights and women's health that this congress will propose.

Our generation supports gay rights 100% and many of our friends, family and coworkers are gay.

Any leader who cannot support these fellow citizen's rights has chosen ignorance over compassion. We support a Military of Excellence and we want the military to exemplify those rights in their own ranks by welcoming all Americans of every stripe.

We applaud your work on the Climate Solutions Caucus, and your efforts to find lasting solutions to the very real threats of climate change. We

applaud your support for our county's precious Carrizo Plain National Monument and efforts to build offshore wind farms and carbon-free energy sources. We support measures such as a carbon tax, which Rep. John Delaney, a fellow climate solutions caucus member, has proposed. This bill currently only has two cosponsors. It would be an amazing step forward for climate solutions in our district if you could cosponsor this bill.

We greatly appreciate your sponsoring of the CHANCE Act, which would make college more affordable and accessible for students of all backgrounds. Any help with college tuition and student loans at the Federal level is greatly appreciated and needed.

And so this evening we are seeking to create a new America. Thank you for being one of the national leaders that we can partner with to offer a vision of hope and security for all our people and all of our futures.

Sincerely,  
Mason Seden-Hansen  
President, Paso Robles High School Progressive Club



To which Rep. Carbajal replied: "I look forward to voting for you for president."

**CCA**

*continued from page 1*

Draft Study was potentially overly conservative or made questionable assumptions that might explain why its conclusion was negative while others have been affirmative.” These red flags ranged from the fact that the study failed to “reflect the most recently-reported contract prices for renewable energy and does not reflect the general downward trend in renewable prices seen over the past few years” to a failure to “account for the proposed dramatic uncontested reductions” in the fees utilities charge CCA programs for billing services.

Energy experts elsewhere have elaborated on the study’s fatal error: using old data on the cost of renewable energy to project future renewable energy costs for Community Choice programs. The report pegs those costs at 8.8 cents per

kilowatt hour. But recent utility contract prices have been averaging 6 cents per kWh.

The report’s price projections relied on a chart by the California Public Utilities Commission listing average energy contract prices over the years. “Every year of price data going back to 2005 in that chart drags this long tail of all the contract prices from earlier years, rather than the price only for contracts signed in each year,”

says energy consultant Robert Freehling. “By creating this cumulative snowball of past prices for each year of data, the CPUC creates what in financial analysis is called a ‘lagging indicator’ — in this case an extreme lagging indicator — where each year in the chart actually reflects prices from years earlier.”

On October 3, the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors voted to do a more in-depth peer review of the study that reexamines some of its fundamental assumptions.

Beyond the realm of clashing consultants, reality has already refuted

the study’s “not economically feasible” conclusion. As the peer reviewers note, the study’s conclusions contradict other recent CCA technical studies,

be cost-effective in both PG&E and SCE territories,” said Samuel Golding,

all wrong. Staff should call up Redwood Coast for advice, start relying on proven experts, and

**“Which is more likely to be wrong: a consultant’s spreadsheet or real-world experience?”**

but Community Choice has already made its own case for itself in the real world, via MCE Clean Energy, launched in 2010 in Marin County; Sonoma Clean Power, launched in 2014 serving Sonoma and Mendocino Counties, and many more programs now established or coming on line including Redwood Coast Energy Authority, Apple Valley and Silicon Valley Clean Power.

“Community Choice has proven to

president of Community Choice Partners. “Willdan and Enernex insist it’s wildly more expensive. Which is more likely to be wrong: a consultant’s spreadsheet or real-world experience?”

Golding is candid in his assessment of where the study went wrong: “It doesn’t capture the key regulations that impact Community Choice energy agencies in the real-world, or how the utilities’ rates should be forecasted. This study is a poster child for all the reasons why we strongly advise communities to avoid relying on consultants for this sort of modeling. Redwood Coast CCA bypassed the consultants and brought in a nonprofit owned by public power utilities, launching a successful CCA in less time than this study took to get it

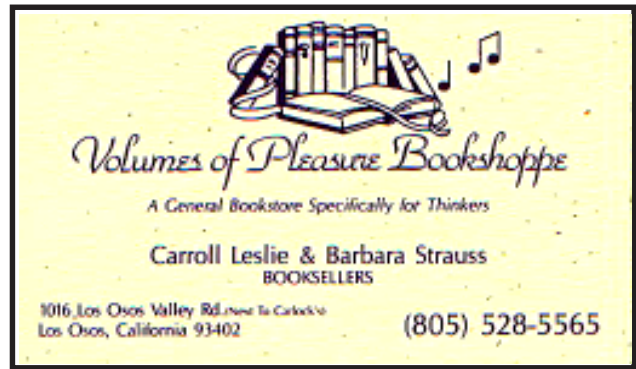
get on with it.” For SLO County and northern Santa Barbara County, here’s the most important correction made by the MRW peer review, analyzing a “middle of the road” (50% renewable energy) Community Choice scenario: A corrected model with revised assumptions resulted in lower rates and a cleaner energy mix than PG&E. On December 5, the San Luis Obispo County’s Board of Supervisors will be presented with the Willdan study – and, one hopes, the MRW peer review of that study – as they ponder the answer to the question “Should we proceed with a Community Choice program?”

Their answer should be yes.

**How It’s Done**

This first of its kind report, created and published by South Bay Clean Power – a consortium of 14 Southern California cities between Palos Verdes and Malibu – is intended to serve as an educational resource for elected officials, staff and CCA advocates to provide real-world insights from five leading portfolio managers on their approach to managing energy risk, how their services help CCAs and allow effective integration of local distributed energy resources, and substantial guidance on how best to manage key CCA regulatory risks.

South Bay Clean Power is scheduled to launch in June 2018.





# Coastal Commission Clears the Air

On September 14, the California Coastal Commission came to Cambria Pines Lodge and got an earful from the public, environmentalists, regulators, and advocates for environmental justice, overwhelmingly urging them to pass the strongest version of the proposed dust control program for the Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area, the source of what can be, on any given day, a plume of dust 1,500 feet high, a mile wide, and twelve miles long, and the worst air quality in the nation.

We had urged residents to bring their outrage over State Parks' years-long failure to clean up the hazardous air pollution created by off-road activity in the ODSVRA. As it



turned out, quite a lot of the outrage was on the other side of the dais, coming from Coastal Commissioners.

Both the SLO Air Pollution Control District and the

California Air Resources Board had deemed the plan submitted by State Parks to be weak beer. Coastal Commission staff agreed, tossed it out, and fashioned a permit that would

give CARB and APCD sign-off authority on any proposed measures, and require approval from the Commission's executive director. They disallowed the Off-

Highway Motor Vehicle Division's attempt to set predetermined limits on the amount of dust mitigation to be undertaken in a given year and restrict the type, amount, and location of dust control abatement.

This will be determined instead on the basis of ongoing air quality modeling. Control measures will be allowed in any areas found to be highly emissive.

Ultimately, just about the only voice of support for the State Parks' plan as originally drafted was that of County Supervisor John Peschong, who went to extraordinary lengths to try to

## Commissioner Morales on Environmental Justice



“The environmental justice issue involves two parts: it's ensuring that there is a disparate negative impact on certain groups and populations,

but it also includes a process aspect to it; that those very people that are disproportionately negatively impacted be part of the process. And unfortunately when it comes to people of color and low-income people, they have very little access to these meetings for various reasons. So in the most minor of ways I just want to bring them into the room just by numbers, which is really the most inadequate way, but if we look at just the

community of Oceano, the San Luis Obispo County demographic shows that the county as a whole has 21% Latino, versus Oceano, which has 48%. In the county of San Luis Obispo, the median disability of those under age 65 is only at six and a half percent, whereas for Oceano it's at 11%. People under age 65 without health insurance: The average in South San Luis Obispo County's 8%, and the uninsured rate in Oceano is 32%. In terms of persons living in poverty, the average in San Obispo County is 14% and the average in Oceano is 20%.

So those that are most immediately impacted who are not able to be here today are clearly low-income, uninsured, people of color. Air quality is of issue to every single human being and every living thing but it is an environmental injustice in this case clearly for people of color and low-income people in the vicinity.”

*AIR continued on page 5*

### Commissioner Padilla Sums Up



“ I think it’s important that I put a couple of thoughts on the record on the broader picture here. Because I think this is something that touches every commissioner up here; it’s a little emotional for all of us. As the Chairwoman said, we try not to be emotional, to be more rational, but passion is

not always a bad thing. I think this is the right step in the right direction on this long-running mess, frankly. In the broader sense, I agree with the testimony from Sierra [Club] that it’s overall wholly inadequate to the bigger picture. I think the elephant in the room is the land use provisions, the conflict between the requirement statutorially that we provide for recreational uses, and the parameters and the intent of the Coastal Act. Frankly, I am

shocked, still, that with respect to proximity to ESHA and with respect to communities that have significant environmental justice issues; with respect to the provisions in the Coastal Act that deal with hazards, and that statute happens not to include something dealing with public health – maybe that’s a legislative idea – but it still amazes me that we allow vehicles and off-road vehicles to be driving around in ESHA dunes. It blows my mind. And somebody said it well earlier; it’s like we have to weigh between

the value of people’s right to recreate in a cool way and abhorrent public health impacts. To me, I’m sorry, in my world, forgive me if you think I’m crazy, but that in itself is ludicrous that that’s even a discussion. Somebody had testimony earlier, and I respect everyone’s position, that, you know, riding up on the dunes next to ESHA is just how they choose to enjoy the beach. And I just have to say respectfully: No, not if your enjoyment of the beach destroys Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Area, creates

significant public health hazards that oh by the way just happen to affect communities of color, communities of lower economic status, and present significant environmental justice issues. No, you do not have the right to do that. Not in California, not when the people of California in their millions, not once, not twice, but three times, have reaffirmed the values, the intent and the structure of the Coastal Act. You just don’t. And I think fundamentally there need to be legislative remedies here; I think maybe we need to look at amendments to the provisions that deal with hazards to include public health; maybe there needs to be conversations between our commission and our appointing authorities in the legislative leadership and the governor: ‘Hey guys, we need to put this on your radar because there’s this giant plume drifting into these communities, and there are people showing up at our hearings on oxygen tanks, and somebody needs to move a bill. Because maybe we need to not just allow this to be happening in the Coastal Zone.’ I’d like to offer too: It’s a big state. And I don’t know that it means you gotta do this next to the Pacific Ocean, on a beach, next to an environmentally sensitive habitat area. And any suggestion otherwise, to me, is perfectly insane. ”

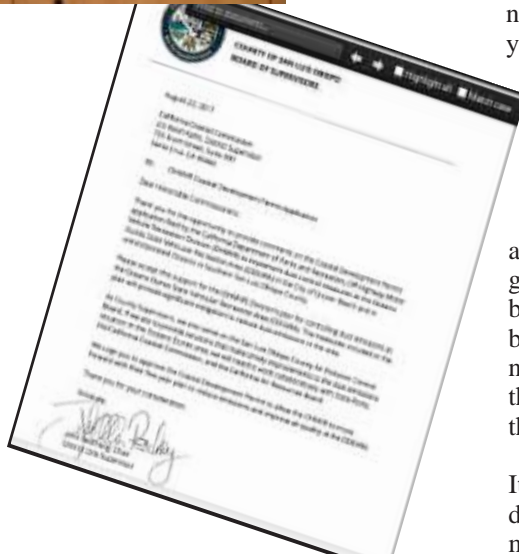
### Explaining to Chairman Peschong

Five days after the Coastal Commission meeting in Cambria, several members of the public asked the County Supervisors to explain how it was that Board Chair John Peschong wrote a letter to the Commission on behalf of the Board enthusiastically endorsing the discredited and discarded original dust control plan for the ODSVRA, even though the board had never voted to send such a letter. The following dialog ensued between Supervisor Bruce Gibson and Supervisor Peschong.

**PESCHONG:** With that, we’ll close public comment, bring it back to the board.

**GIBSON:** Mr. Chairman, if I might, I’m gonna take this opportunity to register my objection to the letter that you sent to the Coastal Commission, dated August 22nd. It was written on what appears to be full board letterhead, signed by you as Chair, and its phrasing can’t be read [as] any other than an egregious fabrication of a non-existent board position. This is no small matter, sir. I believe you owe this board an explanation and an apology for this.

**PESCHONG:** Okay, well first off its not on full board letterhead, it’s on my letterhead; our full board letterhead has all the names. At no time do I mention actually any of the other supervisors. I will tell you I give you my explanation. It was going to be signed by myself and supervisor Arnold. She did send her own letter. And I know you clarified it





**Peschong**

*continued from page 7*

at the board meeting of the Coastal Commission and I think that matter has actually been put to rest. At no time, no time, did I imply that it was the full board that had agreed with me.

GIBSON: Well let me read from the letter, sir. First of all the letterhead does not have your name on it.

PESCHONG: That is not the full board letterhead.

GIBSON: *[holding up letter]* That is what you wrote. This is what you wrote it on. This is a copy of the letter that's in the file of the Coastal Commission.

PESCHONG: That is correct.

GIBSON: It has not got your name on it; you signed it as the Chair, and among the phrases is: "As County Supervisors, we also serve on the Air Pollution Control Board..."

PESCHONG: Mm-hm.

GIBSON: "...we urge you to approve the Coastal Development Permit..."

PESCHONG: Mm-hm.

GIBSON: "...we will need to work collaboratively...." It quite clearly says "Please accept this support for the off road motor vehicle division's plan."

PESCHONG: Yes.

GIBSON: There is nothing in here that suggests this is your personal opinion.

PESCHONG: Other than my personal signature.

GIBSON: No. No, sir: you wrote it as "chair," and you wrote it on letterhead that was not your personal letterhead. This is an egregious breach of the process, an egregious breach of trust in being able to try to leverage what appears to be a full board opinion –

PESCHONG: I never benefitted *[crosstalk]* –

GIBSON: I will let the black and white read for itself.

PESCHONG: Okay, thank you.



**Hounds**

*continued from page 2*

"GPS is not a necessary addition to the sport of hunting. A hunter must keep his/her animal under control. It is inconceivable to claim that a dog will be under the owner's control when it is released with GPS with the intent that the animal can run for miles out of the sight of the owner.

"There is no meaningful or scientific information to support the Commission's finding that this change is exempt from CEQA review. Under CEQA, a project is an activity which may cause either a direct physical change in the environment, or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment. The environment includes the wildlife and public trust assets."

"A finding for exemption must be based on evidence that public trust assets will not be harmed. We see no such evidence. Is there a potential that these GPS dogs will be active in environmentally sensitive areas? Exemptions are precluded for environmentally sensitive areas. There is no analysis of potential cumulative impacts from GPS collared dogs.

"Your plan to amend Section 265 and lift the ban on GPS-collared hunting dogs is not ready for prime time. You must do CEQA review."

Randal Massaro, President of Union Members for the Preservation of Wildlife, said that if the GPS collars are approved hunters will have "no incentive to keep up with their dogs in wildlife habitat and terrain when they can sit in vehicles and watch a screen indicating their dogs' ranging one to seven miles or more."

Groups involved with wildlife rescue and rehab can attest to the ensuing tragedies, especially of fawn attacks. Hounds themselves are often wounded in altercations and/or incur lethal injuries when confronting other predators in wildlife habitat. Some hounders claim to abide by "fair chase" and "ethical hunting" principles, but with mind-boggling advancements in technology, hunting in general has reached a tipping point in abandoning these principles.

**TAKE ACTION**

GPS collars would be a violation of Fish and Game Code section 3008, requiring that hunting dogs be kept under control. The final hearing and vote is planned for December in San Diego. Send your comments to [fgc@fgc.ca.gov](mailto:fgc@fgc.ca.gov) in opposition to the proposed amendment to Section 265, Title 14, CCR.

For more information, contact Marilyn Jasper, Conservation Chair, Sierra Club Placer Group, at [mjasper2@gmail.com](mailto:mjasper2@gmail.com). For talking points, go to [www.fgc.ca.gov](http://www.fgc.ca.gov), click on the "Meetings" (tab), select "2017," and click on the video link for the April 26, 2017, Fish and Game meeting in Van Nuys.



**Diablo in Decline: The Waiting Game**

*By the Alliance for Nuclear Responsibility*

Sixteen months after the announcement of the historic agreement to phase out California's last nuclear power plant, this next-to-final chapter is expected to occur before the end of 2017. After the Proposed Decision is announced, parties will have a chance to

offer comments, and then the decision (or a revision) will be placed on the agenda of the California Public Utilities Commission for a final vote.

One outcome is certain: The plant will be retired no later than 2025. However, before that day comes, there

are many variables to be reconciled, among them:

- \* How much and what type of replacement energy will be needed
- \* Approval of a settlement greatly reducing PG&E's

*DIABLO continued on page 10*



**Air**

*continued from page 6*

make it appear that he was weighing in on behalf of the entire board of supervisors (see “Explaining to Chairman Peschong,” page 7).

A few notes:

● **State Parks, time’s up:** Commissioners let the California Dept. of Parks’ rep know that they were tired of “going in circles,” overwhelmingly approved their staff’s beefed-up version of the Coastal Development Permit for the dust control plan, and for good measure, added a timeline requiring annual progress reports, with the first one due five months hence. An attempt by State Parks rep’to characterize their 5-year program window as “short” — after six years of foot-dragging and failure — drew an immediate, scathing retort from Commission Chair Dayna Bochco: “Five years is not short if someone’s dying.”

● **Off-roaders flame out:** The off-road advocates who spoke wanted it to be known that they opposed any version of the dust control program and boasted of their half-dozen lawsuits to delay and derail same (as we predicted, lawsuit #7 — against State Parks and the Coastal Commission — followed promptly upon the issuance of the dust control program permit). They trotted out their age-old complaint about how little room they have in which to ride and their mantra that “not one square

inch” of the riding area must be given over to conservation or hazard abatement got no traction. They were told: “The issue isn’t the size of the park. The issue is compliance.”

A coastal commissioner brought the off-roaders’ chief spokesman back to the microphone and asked, gently and repeatedly, how his demand that every acre of dunes planted with native vegetation to reduce hazardous dust emissions be replaced with an acre of dunes currently closed to riding — i.e. the Dunes Preserve — would be beneficial to public health or result in a reduction of dust emissions. He simply repeated himself until he was told to sit down.

A speaker pointed out that the overwhelming majority of people asking for the strongest dust rule are local residents, whereas the majority of off-roaders come from hundreds of miles away to use their playground and leave locals to live with the consequences. She was immediately followed at the microphone by an off-roader who obligingly proclaimed that the membership of his group is from Kern County and the San Joaquin Valley. Okay, then.

● **Amazing coincidence dept.:** On the same day that the Coastal Commission approved the Oceano Dunes SVRA dust control program permit, Senate Bill 249 was passed by the legislature and sent to the Governor’s desk for signature. Spelling out the terms of the reauthorization of the

state’s off-highway motor vehicle recreation program, the bill was backed by multiple environmental organizations under the umbrella of the OHMVR Reform Group. It requires that a report be filed with the legislature every three years on the “actions undertaken to ensure compliance with federal and state Endangered Species Acts, local air quality laws and regulations, federal Clean Water Act and regional water board regulations, or permits” at State Vehicular Recreation Areas. It formally recognizes natural and cultural resource protection as a priority for the OHV Program and mandates incorporation of the best available science into the Program’s planning, monitoring, and management. The coalition in support of SB 249 included community-based, state, national, and international organizations. In anticipation of the OHV program’s reauthorization, we worked together for more than two years to address growing concerns around endangered species protection, air quality, erosion, and ongoing illegal riding into protected areas.

● **The Coastal Commission is back:** What a difference 18 months and a firestorm of public criticism makes. After one of the lowest points in its history — the firing of former executive director Charles Lester by a bare majority of Coastal Commissioners in February 2016, a glaringly obvious genuflection to coastal de-

velopment interests courtesy of those interests’ best friends on the Commission — the resulting roar of public fury and glare of media attention took the complicit commissioners by surprise and rendered undoable any plans to follow up with the gutting and neutering of the Commission. Three commissioners abruptly departed; their remaining colleagues have been on their best behavior ever since, and the replacements for the unmourned departed have proven to be amazingly strong coastal protectors — perhaps never more so than on September 14 in Cambria.

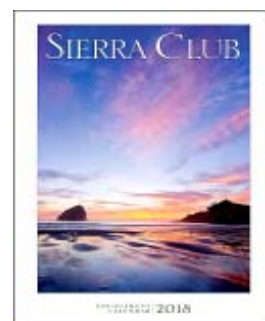
● **The problems at the Oceano Dunes are a long way from over:** State Parks’ rep at the Coastal Commission meeting whipped the covers off a surprise “public works plan” to

cure (this time, they promise) the decades of the ODSVRA’s non-compliance with and violations of state and federal environmental laws, its Coastal Development Permit and SLO County’s Local Coastal Plan. The other thing it would do is remove the ODSVRA from the jurisdiction of the California Coastal Commission and any requirement to comply with the Local Coastal Plan. What could possibly go wrong?

So there will definitely be more to talk about the next time the Coastal Commission returns to our neck of the woods (Pismo Beach, next February). But unlike previous occasions, when it looked like talking was all that would ever happen, there is now detectable movement, and it’s forward.

**2018 Sierra Club Calendar**

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## Diablo

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attempt to recoup their expenses for their aborted NRC license renewal process  
 \* The worker retention package and severance plan  
 \* Community Impact Mitigation Program funds for San Luis Obispo.

Other issues of interest to the community, including future land use and the maintenance of offsite emergency services support, have been relegated to a future Decommissioning Proceeding, which will take place largely in 2019.

Much local concern has been focused on getting the CPUC to approve the Community Impact Mitigation Program. These monies would help balance the County's budget as the tax value of Diablo Canyon wanes in its final years.

As a party to the original Joint Proposal to close Diablo, the Alliance for Nuclear Responsibility (A4NR) has advocated that keeping the plant running safely and reliably in its final years requires a functioning infrastructure with community support services (like schools) that the plant workers and community have come to depend upon. Well-maintained roads would be needed in the event of an evacuation.

The need for evacuation—however small the odds—reminds SLO residents that they will continue to live with the risks that Diablo poses for its remaining life. It's these risks—seismic, terrorist or mechanical—that make hosting the nu-

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clear plant different from being an energy producing community anyplace else on PG&E's grid.

At the CPUC's Public Participation Hearing held in SLO in September, A4NR's spokesperson, Executive Director Rochelle Becker and Outreach Coordinator David Weisman reminded Judge Allen that these risks merit fiscal compensation for SLO. A4NR spearheaded the effort to eliminate PG&E's request for \$52 million in compensation for their failed attempt to renew Diablo Canyon's operating licenses.

A4NR had opposed relicensing since it was announced in 2009, and in 2011 prevailed in getting the CPUC to reject ratepayer funding for the process.

As part of the Joint Proposal proceeding, A4NR and other parties entered into a settlement with PG&E that would cut their

request by approximately two-thirds, and along with other concessions on the part of PG&E, grant them a net recoup of just a few million of the \$52 million they had requested, a major savings for ratepayers. This settlement must be approved as part of the Proposed Decision.

There is much at stake for SLO County and all PG&E ratepayers as this case winds toward conclusion, bringing to a close a major chapter in SLO's history. At the same time, we can celebrate the start of a post-Diablo, post-nuclear renaissance for our community.

On a final note, A4NR invites readers of the *Santa Lucian* to celebrate this turning point and discuss what's next at its annual Peace Potato Fundraiser, a holiday-time celebration to be held on Saturday, December 3, from 11 a.m. to 3p.m. This

year, the party will be graciously hosted by Santa Lucia Chapter Chair Karen Merriam at her lovely home. To

RSVP, please send an email to Rochelle@[a4nr.org](mailto:a4nr.org).

More information at [www.a4nr.org](http://www.a4nr.org).

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## Bishop Peak: The Oaks Abide

By Holly Sletteland

The Bishop Peak oak planting program initiated by Sierra Club, ECOSLO, One Cool Earth and the City of SLO has achieved a 50% survival rate since it began in November 2016.



There was better survival in the lower meadow than up above.

If the 27 surviving seedlings grow to maturity, they will provide a lot of sustenance and shelter for wildlife and much needed shade for hikers. Definitely a worthwhile undertaking.

### Outings

*continued from page 12*

#### Saturday, Dec. 2nd, 1:30 pm to 3:00 pm, Sycamore Crest Trail Hike + Yoga.

Join Nan for a Yoga + Hike on the Sycamore Crest Trail. It's a wide dirt road on the north slope of Ontario Ridge. Begin at Sycamore Mineral Springs Resort in Avila Valley and hike up a 1.75-mile trail with a 575 foot elevation gain. We will do a 45-minute yoga session at the top with no mat required. Bring water and comfortable shoes. Parking at the resort is not advised; you may park at the Bob Jones trailhead and walk to Sycamore Hot Springs. For more information, contact cole.nancy.j@gmail.com.

#### Saturday, Dec. 2nd, 9:00 am to 12:00 noon, New Reservoir Canyon Trail Plant Walk.

Join us for a plant ID walk in Reservoir Canyon and the new trail that leads to Bowden Ranch. The focus of this fieldtrip will be riparian and serpentine plant communities, plants one would regularly encounter throughout much of the greenbelt surrounding the city of San Luis Obispo. It is 4 miles up and back,

ascending 800 ft. The ascent is gradual, along a winding trail towards the top of the ridge. Learn the easy to identify species, pick out plants that attract you, bring native plant samples with you to be identified. Meet at Santa Rosa Park in SLO at 8:45 am to car pool to the trailhead, or at the Reservoir Canyon trailhead at 9:00 am. Parking limited. Bring water and snacks, paper & pencil to take notes, and a camera for a photo record. Sturdy shoes, sunscreen, hats, layered clothing recommended. No RSVP needed. No dogs, please. If you would like a preprinted copy of the plant list, let the hike leader know 24 hours in advance. For information, contact Bill Waycott, (805) 459 2103, bill.waycott@gmail.com. Rain cancels.

#### Saturday, Dec. 9th, 9:00 am, Anniversary hike to Cerro Alto.

Join the leader on this late fall hike. This is a 7.1 mile loop hike with about 1,700 ft. of elevation gain. The trail begins at Cerro Alto campground and climbs through forest and chaparral before reaching the summit. From the summit there

is a 360 degree view which includes the Morros and the coastline. We will return via the eucalyptus grove and the Boy Scout trail to the campground. For those who do not wish to do the entire loop, there is an optional shorter route back to the campground. Total mileage for the shorter option is 4 miles. Bring water, snacks, and dress for the weather. Possible risks of ticks and poison oak. Meet at Cerro Alto Campground on Highway 41, eight miles east of Morro Bay, 12 miles west of Atascadero. There may be a day use fee. Heavy rain cancels. We'll probably go for lunch at Taco Temple after the hike. For info, call Chuck, (805) 441-7597.

#### Saturday, Dec 9th, 8:00 am, Fernandez Semi-loop Hike.

This hike is on a remote trail northeast of Pozo in the La Panza Mountain Range. Maintained by our

friends in the Central Coast Concerned Mountain Biking club. The route is a moderately strenuous 11-mile, 1,600 feet of elevation gain. Part of our trek will go off the trail to follow Fernandez Creek and later return to the trail. There will be some poison oak exposure. Meet in front of the Pacific Beverage Co. in Santa Margarita. Dogs on leash are welcome. Rain will postpone this to a later date. Leader Carlos Diaz-Saavedra, (805) 546-0317.

#### Sunday, Dec. 17th, 5:00 pm, Victorian Christmas Historic Walk, San Luis Obispo.

Guided stroll past 15 holiday-lit Victorian houses in the Old Town district to learn Christmas customs, events, and locales of the 1890s. Flashlight recommended. Meet in front of St. Stephen's Church, corner of Nipomo and Pismo Streets. Leader: Joe Morris, (805) 549-0355.

## Village Creek Plaza

168 **La Costa Grill**  
(805) 474-8797


170 **Cutting Edge Salon**  
(805) 481-3126


172 **Bend Chiropractic**  
(805) 474-4747

174 **House 2 Home Interiors**  
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(along Arroyo Grande creek next to AG Post Office)








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### Become an Outings Leader

- Lead hikes and camping trips
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- 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

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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, (805) 459-2103. For information on a specific outing, please call the listed outing leader.



**Saturday, Nov. 4th, 8:30 am, Rinconada to Hi Mountain Lookout Hike.** This hike takes place in the Santa Lucia Wilderness near Pozo. It is an "in and out" with most of the route on Hi Mountain Lookout Rd. There are great views from the 3,180 foot high Lookout towards Santa Margarita Lake and Lopez Lake and beyond. This is considered a moderately strenuous hike of

13 miles and 2200 feet of elevation gain/loss. The hike will take about 6-8 hours depending on the group. There will be some poison oak, but it can usually be avoided. Rain or extreme heat will postpone this to a later date. We will meet in Santa Margarita in front of the Pacific Beverage Co. Dogs on leash are welcome. Leader Carlos Diaz-Saavedra, (805) 546-0317.

**Saturday, Nov. 11th, 8:30 am to 11:30 am, Work Crew, Old Prospector Trail, Irish Hills, SLO.** Join hikers who want to help keep trails in good shape. We will be using loppers to remove branches of Ceanothus and other chaparral out of the trail, then cache the cut pieces off the trail. Meet in Costco parking lot, adjacent to Costco gas station, Los Osos Valley Road,

SLO. From there, we will walk to the trail. The upper half of the trail was completed in October, so work will focus on the lower half. Total distance will be 3 to 4 miles with a 500 ft. elevation gain. Use a small backpack for water, snacks, and sunscreen. Wear sturdy shoes, bring gloves, a hat, and layered clothing, as needed. Rain cancels. Contact Bill Waycott, (805) 459-103, bill.waycott@gmail.com.

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

**Saturday, Nov. 18th, 9:30 am, Guadalupe/Paradise Beach Hike.** Moderate, six-mile hike along pristine Guadalupe Beach to Mussel Rock and beyond. Duration @ 5-6 hrs. Bring water, lunch, windbreaker, hat, and dress in layers for varying weather. Eats afterward for those interested. From Hwy 101 in Santa Maria, take Main St./Hwy 166 to end at Guadalupe Beach. Meet near interpretive signs and picnic tables. Rain cancels. Leader: Andrea Ortiz, (805) 934-2792 or kenya683@msn.com.

**Sunday, Nov. 12th, 2:00 pm, Historic Walk of Arroyo Grande.** Guided stroll through the village area of Arroyo Grande to see century-old storefronts, one-room schoolhouse, swinging bridge, and Victorian homes of town's pioneers. Meet at corner of Branch and Bridge Streets. Leader: Joe Morris, (805) 549-0355.

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