

# SANTA LUCIAN



**Santa Lucia Chapter**

**Nov/Dec. 2020**  
Volume 57 No. 6

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

## Dare You Walk Upon The Beach?

On October 8, the California Coastal Commission heard an update on the long-delayed Public Works Plan (PWP) the California Department of Parks and Recreation is preparing for Pismo State Beach and the Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area. State Parks has also drafted a Habitat Conservation Plan for the ODSVRA.

Both documents have raised a raft of concerns among environmental groups and resource agencies, centering on the requirement that the PWP and the HCP must be consistent with State Parks' Coastal Development Permit, the County's Local Coastal Plan, and the

Coastal Zone Management Act.

The ODSVRA is adjacent to Oceano, SLO County's most disadvantaged coastal community, but the people of Oceano cannot enjoy their local beach when it's open to off-highway vehicles, derive little economic benefit from the ODSVRA, and suffer poor air quality because of the

off-highway vehicular activity there.

Oceano's residents are part of the decades-long struggle to resolve the contradictions between OHV recreation interests and State Parks' ostensible mission to preserve California's extraordinary biological diversity and protect its most valued natural and cultural

resources.

Although the Coastal Commission had no action item for the dunes on its October agenda, it is expecting the draft Public Works Plan from State Parks by end of the year. The Commission will then proceed to approve, deny, or amend that plan.

*DUNES continued on page 6*

### Inside

Nov. 4: Count every vote	2
Your 2021 chapter ballot	4
Time to THRIVE	8
EPA: Clean it up	10
Welcome new members!	12



**Extra-legal** The recent significant increase in grading at Oceano Dunes requires a Coastal Development Permit. State Parks hasn't sought one, adding to its list of Coastal Act violations at the dunes.

# Sierra Club General Meeting

7p.m. Wed., Nov. 18

## Threats to Our Public Lands

How protected are our local public lands?

Rebecca August, Director of Advocacy for Los Padres ForestWatch, will bring us up-to-date about Federal threats to Montaña de Oro, the Los Padres Forest, and the Carrizo Plain, including

## Count Every Vote!

By Martha Cody,  
Protect the Results

Rallies to Count Every Vote, sponsored by Protect the Results, will be held nationwide on Wednesday, November 4th, the day after the election, and locally at 5:00 p.m. at the SLO County Courthouse, located at 1050 Monterey Street in San Luis Obispo.

Protect the Results is a coalition made up of over 100 organizations, including Indivisible, Moveon, the NAACP, the Women's March, the Sunrise Movement, the Service Employees International Union, United We Dream, the Movement for Black Lives, Sierra Club, and Republicans for the Rule of Law.

Trump and the Republicans have been engaged for

oil development, commercial logging, biofuel harvesting, and methane release. Find out the status of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Assuming we know the election results by then, she will share her

perspective on what the future holds for our public lands, especially during a potential lame duck session. Afterwards, meet the candidates for the Santa Lucia Chapter ExCom. We meet Nov. 18 at 7p.m.

on Zoom. RSVP to [camintzer@gmail.com](mailto:camintzer@gmail.com).



CENTRAL COAST  
WILD HERITAGE

Andrew Christie  
EDITOR

Lindi Doud  
EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

Denny Mynatt  
PRINT MEDIA COORDINATOR

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](mailto:sierraclub8@gmail.com)

### Santa Lucia Chapter

#### 2020 Executive Committee

Carole Mintzer (12/21) CHAIR  
Heather Howell (12/20) SECRETARY  
open (12/20) MEMBER  
Stephanie Carlotti (12/20) MEMBER  
Carmen Bouquin (12/21) MEMBER  
Janine Rands (12/22) MEMBER  
Mila Vujovich-LaBarre (12/22) VICE CHAIR

Kevin O'Gorman TREASURER



SIERRA CLUB  
SANTA LUCIA

The **Executive Committee** meets the third Monday of each month at 6:00 p.m. in the chapter office, located at 1411 Marsh St., Suite 204, San Luis Obispo. All members are welcome to attend.

#### Committees

##### Political

Alex Mintzer

##### Membership/Development

Heather Howell, Dani Nicholson  
Stephanie Carlotti

##### Conservation

Sue Harvey

##### Nuclear Power Task Force

Rochelle Becker  
Linda Seeley

##### Zero Waste Task Force

Janine Rands

##### CA Conservation Committee

delegates  
Stephanie Carlotti, Janine Rands

##### Council of Club Leaders

delegate  
Jennifer Bauer

##### Facebook Administrator

Kim Ramos

##### Bookkeeper

Sandra Cirilo

##### Public Lands Task Force

Holly Sletteland

##### Outings

Chuck Tribbey, Lisa Ludovici

##### Webmaster

Stephanie Carlotti

##### Trail Guide

Gary Felsman

##### Chapter Director

Andrew Christie [sierraclub8@gmail.com](mailto:sierraclub8@gmail.com)

##### Santa Lucia Chapter

P.O. Box 15755  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93406  
805-543-8717

##### Office hours:

closed until Feb. 28  
1411 Marsh Street, Suite 204  
San Luis Obispo, CA

Printed by Poor Richard's Press, San Luis Obispo

VOTE continued on page 11

## Carbajal, Feinstein Applaud NOAA Decision to Keep Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary on Nomination List

Congressman Salud Carbajal and Senator Dianne Feinstein congratulated the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) on its recent decision to keep the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary on the nomination list for designation as a marine sanctuary.

“Marine sanctuaries play an essential role in protecting California’s sensitive marine and coastal areas from further oil and gas development. Designating this unique region on the Central Coast as a National Marine Sanctuary will help preserve our natural environment and cultural heritage while also helping to fight climate change,” said Rep. Carbajal.

“Protecting our biologically diverse marine areas also directly benefit our state’s \$1.9 trillion coastal economy, including our robust tourism and commercial fishing industries. I am thankful this five-year extension was granted, and I urge NOAA to move forward with designating this area as a sanctuary to protect it for future generations.”

“The Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary would protect sacred Chumash sites while helping combat climate change, said Senator Feinstein. “Permanently designating the sanctuary would protect one of the largest remaining kelp forests while preserving our cultural heritage. Kelp forests absorb twice as much carbon as forests on



On October 19, the research vessel *Nautilus* explored a largely unknown area west of Santa Lucia Bank, a proposed location in the nominated Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary. The Northern Chumash Tribal Council’s Violet Walker joined with NOAA research team members Lizzie Duncan, Laura Francis, Lisa Wooninck, and Julie Bursek for a live online discussion on how scientists manage Sanctuaries and why expeditions like this one are so important.

National marine sanctuaries are charged with conserving and managing the living and non-living resources within their boundaries deemed to be of irreplaceable national significance. The *Nautilus* research cruise will help to identify these vital assets and inform decisions regarding the proposed protected area.

land, but California has already lost more than 90 percent of its kelp. I welcome this five-year extension but it’s a no-brainer that this should be made permanent as soon as possible.”

The deadline for the proposal to either move forward with designation as a national marine sanctuary or be removed from the nomination list was October 5th. In July 2020, Congressman Carbajal, Senator Feinstein, and Senator Kamala Harris urged the Department of Commerce to grant a five-year extension of the proposal to create the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary.

NOAA recognized the broad community support for the nomination, reviewed new evidence of the historical significance of the region, and agreed to a five-year extension on the

proposal on October 1st.

“Impacts of climate change on our local oceanographic and atmospheric features over the last five years remain unknown and present significant and necessary research opportunities,” said Carol Georgi, Ocean Protection Program Coordinator for the San Luis Obispo Chapter of the Surfrider Foundation.”

Fred Collins, Chair of the Northern Chumash Tribal Council, said the re-nomination decision represented a victory for “thrivability — all things connected, all things dreaming together for the abundant life of Grandmother Ocean — for fishermen and fisherwomen, tourists, and all that dwell on the shining, magical, mysterious, majestic coast line of the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary.”



## Want to Help Get the Sanctuary Over the Finish Line?

You can help us get the word out on the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary and get the designation process started!

To direct a donation specifically to our Sanctuary efforts, make your

*SANCTUARY continued on page 8*

## Memo from Heather Howell

Hello, Friends and Fellow Earth Protectors:



I have decided to step down from my position on the Santa Lucia Executive Committee as Board Secretary, effective Jan.1, 2021.

It was a very difficult decision because I love being in the center of environmental activism and having a *vote* to shape, in part, our county-wide future. (Speaking of which, see your ballot on page 4.)

My sole motivation for “termining out” was to allow for greater diversity on all levels of the Sierra Club, not any lack of enthusiasm or ideas for our continued growth and vitality in

*HOWELL continued on page 11*

# One More Vote

## It's time to select your Sierra Club Chapter's Executive Committee for 2021

The race is on for the next members of the Santa Lucia Chapter's Executive Committee, the policy-making body of your Sierra Club chapter. There are a total of four positions open this year. Three are for 3-year terms (2021-23) and one is for a 1-year period to complete the term of a seat that became open in late 2020. The top three vote-getters will be elected to the 3-year terms, the fourth will fill the 1-year term. All current members of the Sierra Club's Santa Lucia Chapter are eligible to vote.

This year, you may vote online or by mail. You are encouraged to vote online by going to [sc.org/santaluciaelection](https://sc.org/santaluciaelection).



## Executive Committee Candidates Statements

### Ayanna Chambers

I have lived on the Central Coast since I was 13 years old. Before that, I was an Army Brat, living in Texas, Louisiana, Washington, and Germany. My father met my mother here in Paso Robles, where she was born and raised. I left for college, earning a BS in Communications from Chico State and an MBA from Regis University. I recently returned to the Central Coast to care for my mother and daughter.



I currently work for an Agency that provides therapy to children with Autism.

I am interested in the Sierra Club because I want to move towards an ecological way of living. I want to be able to pass the information on to my daughter, as well as my nieces and nephews. I love hiking and experiencing the beauty of the area.

The Sierra Club has the potential to make change through politics or minds. As a group, we can be mighty, influencing the world to change.

### John Sanders

My journey as an outdoor educator began while I was in the graduate marine science program at UC Santa Cruz. I collaborated with a group that included the Dean of Summer Programs, the Assistant Superintendent for Instruction for Monterey Peninsula Unified School District, local middle school instructors, community activists, and KTEH, a PBS affiliate in San Jose, to design a summer residential science program for 6th - 8th grade students. As a result, the UC Santa Cruz Summer Science Program was initiated.



While cruising Monterey Bay on a whale watching trip, my students and I witnessed an attack by over a dozen Orcas (the largest of the dolphins), on a Grey whale and her calf. No

textbook or video could have had a similar impact on the students, nor could they ignite student interest in marine science, the way this experience had. It was also when I became committed to experiential, outdoor education.

For the past 18 years I've been a Naturalist/Outdoor Science Educator with the Kern Environmental Education Program (Camp KEEP). During that time I've interacted with thousands of 5th and 6th graders from Kern, San Luis Obispo, and Monterey Counties.

In 2011, Delphinus School of Natural History was founded, as a regional, Summer Science-Exploration program for elementary and middle school students. We now incorporate camps for older students, adults, and interns. Our programs focus on nature awareness, promote environmental stewardship, and offer instruction in Natural History, Animal Behavior, Estuary Science, Coastal Geology, and Freshwater Ecosystems.

### Carole Mintzer

I moved to San Luis Obispo County from Orange County in April of this year. The last time I made a big move like this was more than 20 years ago, and I found a great way to meet people and get involved in my

community was through the Sierra Club. During my time in Orange County (OC), I chaired Sierra Club's OC Conservation Committee for two years and the OC Political Committee for two years. From 2010-2015 I served on the Executive Committee of the Angeles Chapter, which covers both Los Angeles and Orange Counties. During the last three of those years, I was the Chapter Chair. What I learned is that an organization as large and diverse as the Sierra Club needs a committed, collaborative executive team to support its volunteers and help them and the Club achieve their goals. I am grateful that the Santa Lucia Chapter ExCom welcomed me to fill a vacant position on the ExCom this past June and elected me to serve as Chair in August. I would appreciate



*CANDIDATES continued on next page*

your vote so I can continue to participate as one of the Chapter's executive team leaders.

**Stephanie Carlotti**

I have been a member of the Santa Lucia Chapter for a year and a half. During this period, I have taken on several responsibilities that are of great benefit to the Chapter. I manage and do all the design work for our chapter website. In addition, I have taken on the role of Chair of the Fundraising Committee, and I am currently planning our Chapter's next fundraiser to be held in January of 2021. In recent months, I have been a vigilant advocate for bringing our Chapter on board with Sierra's Club's goal of "re-branding" around diversity, equity, and inclusion. Our chapter wants to have a more diverse Executive Committee and a more diverse membership.

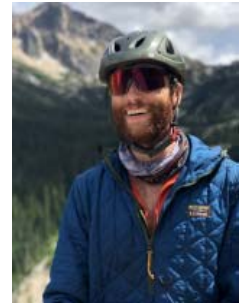


I've served as Assistant Director of Children's Television Workshop, the producers of Sesame Street, and as a member of the Board of Fight Back of Harlem. I co-founded and served on the board of Single Parent Project of New York from 2010 until 2015 when I relocated to San Luis Obispo, where I have served on the board of the Jewish Community Center Federation of SLO.

If elected to the Executive Committee, I will continue to offer many volunteer hours to assist the Chapter with everything from envelope stuffing to web design, e-blasts, and event planning. I will also be a strong voice and advocate to create a more diverse membership in our County and to advocate the need to include racial justice as a key component in defeating climate change and climate injustice.

**Dylan Stephens**

My parents' business was a non-profit focused on importing handmade goods from local indigenous communities. During my early education, I would miss weeks of school to visit places such as Indonesia, Thailand, and South America. As a result, I was fortunate enough to meet people native to these countries and learn valuable lessons that I could not learn in a classroom.



Soon after I turned 16, I flew to Switzerland to see my family and then spent several weeks living on a farm, WWOOFing. Living on a biodynamic farm, I spent my time tending to grapes and the vegetable garden which fed us each day. This is where my deep fascination with plants began. From then on, I took it on my own accord to read and educate myself on the complexities of botany and planted my own garden at home.

Two months ago, I completed a cycling tour from Mexico to Canada: a charity ride that lasted 46 days, spanned over 2,400 miles, and raised \$11,000 for the Equal Justice Initiative (Turn the Wheels). This trip taught me what I need to survive, and what I need to feed my soul. The beauty of the Sierra Nevada and Cascade ranges became my only source of entertainment, and as I found myself losing track of days, miles and the last time I washed my clothes, I discovered that I didn't miss the material things of home, but was glad that I could help fight for racial justice.



**2021 Santa Lucia Chapter Executive Committee Ballot**

If voting on line: Go to [sc.org/santaluciaelection](https://sc.org/santaluciaelection) by December 7.

If voting by mail:

- Make an X or checkmark in the box for the candidate of your choice. Vote for no more than four candidates, including write-in candidates.
- Your mailing label should indicate whether you have a JOINT or SINGLE membership. Joint members please use both check boxes to vote.\*
- Sign and date the flap of the envelope. Do not write your name on the ballot. Mail to: **Elections Committee, Santa Lucia Chapter, P.O. Box 15755, San Luis Obispo, CA 93406** with sufficient time to arrive by the deadline.
- Ballots must be received by **5 p.m., December 7, 2020**, at the chapter office. Mail only; No drop-offs.

\*If it's not on the label and you're not sure, drop a note to [sierraclub8@gmail.com](mailto:sierraclub8@gmail.com)

Stephanie Carlotti   
  Dylan Stephens   
  Ayanna Chambers  
 Carole Mintzer   
  John Sanders   
  Write In \_\_\_\_\_  
 Write In \_\_\_\_\_

## Dunes

*continued from page 1*

Hence, we are about to arrive at a critical moment in the history of the ODSVRA. We hope to see a near-term change to the status quo management strategy for the ODSVRA that would support a broader range of low-impact, non-OHV recreational activities, opening up the park for more people to use and appreciate and resolving issues involving harm to listed wildlife and human health.

As the Dunes Alliance noted in an October 21 letter to Wade Crowfoot, Secretary of the California Natural Resources Agency, and Armando Quintero, newly appointed Director of the California Department of Parks and Recreation, it's not looking that way.

We pointed out that Director Quintero's contemplated substantial regrading of the beach to facilitate the reopening of the area to vehicles requires a separate Coastal Development Permit. This permit would ensure that the work

conforms to the Coastal Act and San Luis Obispo County's Local Coastal Program. Without this permit, regrading work should not commence.

Moreover, substantial grading by State Parks at Oceano Dunes would not conform the Public Resources Code's recently upgraded soil conservation standards and habitat conservation plans for State Vehicular Riding Areas.

Long term, the commission should proceed to implement its staff's recommendation to phase out OHV activity over the next five years in favor of sustainable, low-impact passive recreation of the kind found in virtually every California beach community – all of which, not coincidentally, have done far better economically than Oceano.

On October 7, Governor Newsom signed an Executive Order to protect California's "long-term vitality" from "the loss of biodiversity – the variety and variability of plant and animal life in our state – and the impacts of climate



**Glad to hear it** In the discussion of Oceano Dunes with State Parks at the Coastal Commission's Oct. 8 Zoom meeting, Commissioner Linda Escalante told Parks Director Quintero she was pleased to hear, per the Governor's Executive Order the day before, that the Director agrees the restoration of "an iconic ecosystem is critical to our survival." Deeds must follow words.

change."

The Executive Order was announced at that day's meeting of the Coastal Commission, the day before commissioners heard an update of State Parks' progress or lack of same with its Oceano Dunes management plan. During that update, several speakers and Coastal Commissioners connected the dots and pointed out that the Governor's order should underscore for the Commission the necessity of the phase-out of OHV activities at Oceano Dunes.

The Executive Order requires relevant state agencies to "highlight opportunities for additional action to preserve and enhance biodiversity," and requires the Natural Resources Agency – wherein both the Department of Parks and the Coastal Commission reside — to develop strategies "to achieve this goal in a manner that builds climate resilience, reduces risk from extreme climate events and contributes to the State's effort to combat

climate change," and "expands equitable outdoor access and recreation for all Californians." This is to be the goal of all "relevant agencies."

As this describes the benefits that would result from the elimination of off-highway vehicles from the environmentally sensitive habitat of the Oceano Dunes complex – the only thing standing between rising seas and South County's coastal communities — and the prevention of that habitat's further erosion by those off-road vehicles, the Commission's duty is clear.

We thank Governor Newsom for this visionary Executive Order and look forward to its implementation of it at the Oceano Dunes by State Parks and the Coastal Commission.

## TAKE ACTION

Sierra Club's Santa Lucia Chapter is part of the Dunes Alliance, which is working to secure a vehicle-free Oceano Dunes and beach. Here are a few ways to get involved:

Talk to your friends and public officials -- spread the word!

Increase your impact with letters or by speaking to your local representatives about the issue.

Tag #PeopleForTheDunes and @dunes.alliance on Facebook and Instagram with your favorite Oceano beach day photos!

Do you want People for the Dunes stickers? Spanish and English available. Reach out to [peopleforthe dunes@gmail.com](mailto:peopleforthe dunes@gmail.com) for more information.

## Director Quintero, What's Your Priority?

In a press release announcing the Oct. 30 "first phase" reopening of the ODSVRA (street-legal vehicles only), Armando Quintero, the newly appointed director of the California Department of Parks and Recreation, said:

*"Public safety during COVID-19, the protection of natural resources and providing recreational opportunities at Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area and Pismo State Beach are priorities for California State Parks."*

And there we have the crux of the problem.

Director Quintero is surely familiar with the saying, in one form or another: If everything's a priority, then nothing is a priority.

*PRIORITY continued on page 9*

## Here's What's Supposed to be Happening at the Oceano Dunes

On July 11, 2019, the California Coastal Commission directed that "all of the conditions in this [Coastal Development Permit] staff report be addressed as permanent conditions within the PWP process."

That meant everything you see to the right of this column, as short-term measures, plus the phase-out of off-highway vehicle recreation as fundamentally incompatible with the protection of coastal resources at the Oceano Dunes.

The Coastal Commission must pass these short-term measures as amendments to State Parks' Coastal Development Permit. They could have and should have done that at their July 2019 meeting. They must do so now, no matter what they do with the Public Works Plan.

If they don't, State Parks is more than likely to slide by with their standard m.o. of vague, unenforceable but sincere sounding language in the PWP.

That's not an option with clear language in an amended Coastal Development Permit, which requires the permit holder to do as it says as a condition of their permit, and which would hold both State Parks' Public Works Plan and Habitat Conservation Plan to a higher standard that both must meet.

- **Increase Predator Management.** Implement an improved predator management plan, including enclosures for trash and food waste, and BMPs for addressing predation of sensitive species (including by coyotes, raccoons, skunks, opossums, ravens, gulls, owls, and peregrine falcons).
- **Increase Operational Enforcement.** Increase enforcement of all vehicular use limits, all vehicular speed limits, and all other vehicular requirements, including through additional signs, rangers, and parameters for verifying that the number of vehicles in the Park does not exceed maximum allowances.
- **Add Fencing.** Install additional fencing in specific areas to better protect coastal resources (including fencing in the south Oso Flaco Lake area, fencing suitable for enhanced predator management, fencing to better define the southern enclosure, and fencing to ensure all vegetated dune areas are appropriately fenced off).
- **Enhance Public Outreach.** Institute a public outreach program to increase use of appropriate beach and dune areas by lower-income, youth, and tribal parties.
- **Eliminate the TRT.** Eliminate the Technical Review Team (TRT) and replace it with an annual reporting program that is processed through Executive Director review and approval.
- **Add Special Events Protocols.** Require a separate CDP for all special events that could result in adverse impacts to coastal resources, including music festivals, concerts, OHV events (e.g., Huckfest), and any other special events that propose an intensity of use beyond those specified in the CDP.
- **Prohibit Night Riding.** Prohibit vehicular and OHV activity during nighttime hours (i.e., from one-hour after sunset and to one-hour before sunrise).
- **Prohibit Arroyo Grande Creek Crossing.** Prohibit vehicular crossings of Arroyo Grande Creek when it flows (i.e., shut down all OHV and camping operations during this time) except for emergency vehicles, and monitor the creek to ensure that users are not allowed south of the Creek when it will soon connect to the ocean and to provide time for users south of the Creek to exit before it connects to the ocean.
- **Reduce Use Limits.** Reduce interim vehicular and OHV daily use limits to an amount proportionate to the acreage that has been removed from vehicular/OHV use (e.g., due to dust control requirements, other enclosures, etc.).
- **Eliminate Exceptions to Use Limits.** Eliminate the four exceptions that allow unlimited vehicular and OHV use on Memorial Day, Fourth of July, Labor Day, and Thanksgiving weekends.
- **Evaluate Entrance Modifications.** Evaluate changes that can be made to provide vehicular access into the Park in way that can reduce coastal resource impacts, particularly as such vehicular access relates to Arroyo Grande Creek crossings and more normal and typical beach uses north of the riding area.
- **Make Seasonal Enclosure Permanent.** Make the roughly 300-acre seasonal endangered species enclosure area permanent, and restore the area to enhance habitat.
- **Allow for Future Closures for Required Dust Control.** Allow perimeter fencing and/or vegetation and related development (e.g., monitoring equipment, etc.) for dust control purposes for all areas specified by the San Luis Obispo County Air Pollution Control District.

# Exxon in Sheep's Clothing

### Just like zombies, Big Oil wants your brain

All residents of the Central Coast: Run, don't walk, to your keyboards and pull up the Oct. 20 *In These Times* article, "Exxon Spends Millions on Facebook To Keep the Fossil Fuel Industry Alive."

The results of a year-long investigation found that Exxon Mobil has spent millions of dollars to create local front groups and fund millions of social media ads nationwide in support of projects like its proposal to truck offshore oil from Santa Barbara to SLO County.

The article concludes:

"In Santa Barbara, as it does across the country, Exxon hopes to turn the tide on its pumping, trucking and fracking through its laxly regulated social media lobbying efforts; its political consultants and campaign software; and its

well-funded and heavily motivated supporters. Exxon's \$16-million ad spending spree underscores that the fight against the fossil fuel industry is far from over."



**Gotcha** "Santa Barbara for Safe Local Transport" is actually "part of a campaign by the giant oil corporation Exxon Mobil to change public sentiment about its offshore drilling in California's Central Coast."

## Sanctuary

*continued from page 3*

check out to The Sierra Club Foundation and write "Chumash Sanctuary" on the memo line. These donations are tax deductible.

Send to:

Sierra Club  
P.O. Box 15755  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93406



## 100 Members of Congress are Ready to THRIVE

We've reached a milestone in our efforts to pass the THRIVE Resolution, a Green New Deal-aligned recovery plan that will put 16 million people back to work building an economy that prioritizes climate, racial, and economic justice.

The THRIVE (Transform, Heal, and Renew by Investing in a Vibrant Economy) Agenda is our road map to a just recovery — a congressional resolution that came out of months of collaboration between dozens of grassroots groups. It upholds eight pillars:

1. Create millions of good, safe jobs with access to unions
2. Build the power of workers to fight inequality
3. Invest in Black, Brown, and Indigenous communities to build power and counteract racial and gender injustice
4. Strengthen and heal the nation-to-nation relationship with Indigenous nations
5. Combat environmental injustice
6. Avert climate and environmental catastrophe
7. Ensure fairness for workers and communities affected by economic transitions
8. Reinvest in public institutions that enable workers and communities to thrive.

Ask your member of Congress to become a cosponsor of the THRIVE Agenda and endorse this bold plan of action. In just over a month, 100 members of Congress have signed on to the resolution. Help us reach 125 cosponsors! Call 1-855-980-2349 to ask Rep. Carbajal to sign on as a cosponsor to the THRIVE resolution.

Here's a sample phone script:

Hi my name is [Name], I'm calling from [City] to ask Representative Carbajal to cosponsor the THRIVE Resolution. It envisions a recovery that advances climate, economic, and racial justice. I'm a big supporter of THRIVE and I hope my representative will consider becoming a cosponsor to the resolution. We need a bold recovery effort that is centered on the principles of justice. Thank you for your time today.

For more information: <https://www.sierraclub.org/THRIVE>



**Priority**

*continued from page 6*

To be generous: He's new on the job. He probably does not know just how done with administrative vague-speak local residents are when it comes to the ODSVRA. He probably hasn't read the years of *Tribune* editorials precisely calling out and thoroughly blasting the idea that recreation should be considered a priority equivalent to public health and safety.

But one would have to be more than generous to assume that Director Quintero has not read the staff reports of the California Coastal Commission or their correspondence with his agency, or is unaware of the comments of the commissioners from the dais at their monthly meetings, since July 2019. Over the course of those 15 months, at every opportunity, the Commission has made it as clear as possible: It is no longer possible to maintain the pretense that off-road vehicles are in any way compatible with the protection of a fragile coastal dunes complex, threatened

species and environmentally sensitive habitat area, and for that reason, OHVs must be phased out at Oceano Dunes in favor of traditional, low-impact beach recreational use. (See "Oh, is That What You Said?," March/April 2020.)

Nor should one assume that Director Quintero has not read the draft Habitat Conservation Plan for the Oceano Dunes and its Environmental Impact Report as prepared by his agency. Those documents are so intent on maintaining the false equivalence between recreational activity at any cost and protecting the environment that they try to stand environmental law on its head and squint at it sideways in order to make motorized recreation into



something protected by the California Environmental Quality Act.

To accord him the full benefit of the doubt, we should assume that Director Quintero, as the head of his agency, is fully aware of this recent history and everything his agency has done

prior to his arrival, and the last thing he wants to do is trudge down the dark, well-trodden road taken by of his predecessors, all of whom were struck with regulatory blindness and deafness at the behest of the off-road lobby.

That road is a cul de sac at the intersection of delay and defiance. Lisa Mangat, Director Quintero's immediate predecessor, was to bureaucratic word salad as Julia Child was to duck a l'orange. Memorably, a full year after being told it was time to start planning for an Oceano Dunes without dune buggies, when asked why that wasn't happening, Mangat told Coastal Commissioners, "we'll start maybe having the robust conversation that perhaps we needed to have sooner about what exactly your comfort level is in terms of your sense of what's consistent with the Coastal Act."

Memo to Director Quintero: The correct answer is "Yes, we will comply."

**Vote**

*continued from page 2*

years in systematic efforts to suppress the vote by gerrymandering, voter suppression laws, and outright intimidation and violence.

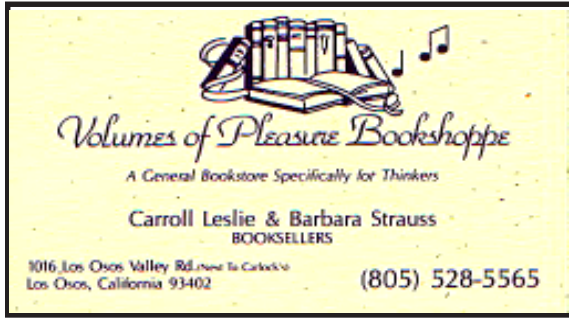
In addition to the get-out-the-vote and early voting campaigns we have all been working on, we need to be prepared for the post-election period. Trump has clearly signaled his willingness to do whatever he thinks is necessary to stay in power, including trying to stop the vote count. On November 4th, the outcome of the election may not yet

be known. In any case, we plan to gather publicly to demand that every vote be counted and the election be decided by all of the voters. We may need to show up repeatedly if the election results are unclear or disputed.

**TAKE ACTION**

Go to **protecttheresults.com**, then show up for the Count Every Vote rally at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, November 4, at the SLO County Courthouse, 1050 Monterey Street, San Luis Obispo.





### Get On Line with Your Sierra Club Chapter

Do you want to receive notification when our newsletter is posted on line instead of getting the print edition? Want to get e-alerts of upcoming Sierra Club meetings and urgent environmental issues?

Send an e-mail to [stephanie.carlotti@sierraclub.org](mailto:stephanie.carlotti@sierraclub.org), with “e-newsletter subscribe,” “e-alert subscribe,” or “subscribe both” in the subject line.

# EPA: Clean Up Your Act

Calling dirty water clean won't make it so

The Sierra Club has joined with other environmental groups in urging the Environmental Protection Agency to change the way it proposed to implement the Clean Water Act.

Across the country, there is tremendous need for investment in failing and outdated wastewater and stormwater infrastructure—many hundreds of millions of dollars over the next twenty years. A complete solution requires action, not only by regulators and dischargers themselves, but also by Congress and state legislatures, which must direct more funding to municipal water infrastructure. Our groups advocate forcefully for that funding.

This investment shortfall does not affect all communities equally. Many areas of the country have fallen into a two-tiered system, where the wealthy enjoy safe sanitation services and clean water while others get second-class services that pose risks to their health and environment. This inequitable outcome is not consistent with the Clean Water Act's regulatory approach.

EPA is proposing to amend a CWA guidance document that was issued in 1997. Unlike the 1997 guidance, it would lower the bar for what counts as “clean” water under the Act, so that polluted waterways may never have

to be cleaned up.

EPA must withdraw the current draft of the guidance and fundamentally reconsider the Agency's approach. The guidance protects neither public health and the environment nor the low-income households it purports to protect.

EPA cannot use this or any other guidance effectively to amend existing water quality standard regulations, such as the rules on variances, use designations, and anti-degradation that are referenced in the guidance.

The guidance uses legitimate concerns about affordability for low-income customers as justification to prolong ongoing pollution that harms human health and the environment, rather than driving solutions that achieve both affordability and clean water. The guidance makes it easier for EPA to reinforce existing inequities in access to clean water and sanitation, in which health and environmental burdens fall disproportionately on communities of color and low-income communities.

CWA regulatory agencies must ensure that municipal wastewater and stormwater



systems pursue all available opportunities to adequately and equitably fund necessary investments in clean water. EPA, the states, and municipal dischargers must work to implement solutions that enable those investments while also protecting customers who are least able to pay.

A revised version of the guidance should be a driver for those solutions, rather than an escape hatch that enables EPA to look the other way when a municipality points to high levels of poverty in its service area.

The guidance must consider not only the costs of compliance, but the benefits.

In preparing the new guidance document, EPA has primarily solicited the opinions of regulated parties, leading to a framework that promotes their interest in avoiding regulatory obligations, rather than the people's interest in having access to



# The Big Wave of Change

by Kalila Volkov

How comforting it feels  
 Sitting in my tiny personal library  
 Nourished by Source and written sources  
 Simply enjoying the space of this quiet moment  
 Then questioning, "I'm supposed to relax?"  
 The numbers of losses and threats are overwhelming  
 Toxic thoughts and evil actions  
 Going on all at once  
 With fake news to keep us confused

Yet for my good I let them go  
 Still caring deeply  
 But paying more attention  
 To our world of wonders  
 My heart's truth  
 My energies and attitudes  
 And global lovingkindness

Together we are riding the big wave of change  
 Like Alan Alda says, we have to "surf uncertainty"  
 Whatever happens while the forces duke it out  
 I want to keep remembering  
 To stay in my calm center  
 Merge with my Highest Self  
 And keep shining the light of hope

*Kalila Volkov is a singer with Coastline Arts, Lark Threshold Choir, Canzona Women's Ensemble and SLO Master Chorale, and the author of Hiking Trail, Treasure Land.*



## Howell

*continued from page 3*

this critical decade to come. I plan to continue volunteer on the Development, Fund-raising and Membership committees when possible, and encourage you to join me in a great contribution to our community and

planet.


I'd like to remind everyone that the Sierra Club is worthy of our highest commitment and ongoing financial and vocal support. In the last four tumultuous years, our fantastic legal team and member advocacy has been

**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



*John Muir, founder of the Sierra Club, in Yosemite*

**For further information contact:**

**Bill Waycott, Outings Chair**  
 (805) 459-2103 or  
 bill.waycott@gmail.com

among the most effective national voices for the prevention of the wholesale robbery of public lands and resources for corporate profit. We have blocked the Trump Administration over and over in court to gain reprieves for singular wild-life refuges and habitat, and blocked destructive drilling, pipelines and mining operations. We have promoted safe and sustainable transition to green new energy systems for the reversal of the climate

crisis.

Please join me with your good intentions and great ideas to lend a hand to the Santa Lucia Chapter of the illustrious Sierra Club, in the most important and fun work of our lives. Saving the environment is saving the planet. It truly takes a village to create our best life on the beautiful Central Coast of California!

With stubborn optimism,  
 Heather Howell

## EPA

*continued from page 10*

safe, clean water. We urge EPA to step back and seek input from a much wider set of stakeholders to inform the development of a revised proposal. We would welcome the opportunity to engage in this dialogue with the Agency.

### TAKE ACTION

Submit comments via [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov), re: Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OW-2020-0426; Proposed 2020 Financial Capability Assessment for Clean Water Act Obligations.



**A Will is a Way**  
 Make a commitment to the next generation by remembering the Sierra Club in your will. Your support will help others preserve the intricate balance of nature.

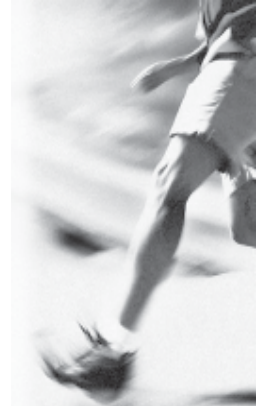
Contact:  
 Gift Planning at  
 (415) 977-5639 or e-mail:  
[planned.giving@sierraclub.org](mailto:planned.giving@sierraclub.org)



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

# Outings and Activities

Local outings have been suspended through February due to Covid-19. National and international travel booked through the national Sierra Club Outings Program and scheduled to begin before the end of the year has been canceled for the safety of participants and staff. If you're looking ahead to next year, we have many options, including international experiences and winter domestic trips. Many of our canceled 2020 trips have also been rebooked for 2021 and are now available for reservations. Call 415-977-5522 or go to [national.outings@sierraclub.org](mailto:national.outings@sierraclub.org).



## We Are On Meetup!

You don't have to be a Sierra Club member to be part of our Meetup Group. Go on the Meetup website, or download the app, go to "San Luis Obispo Sierra Club" and request to join.

[meetup.com/San-Luis-Obispo-Sierra-Club-Meetup-Group/](https://www.meetup.com/San-Luis-Obispo-Sierra-Club-Meetup-Group/)



## Welcome New Members!

Whether new to the Sierra Club or new to San Luis Obispo, welcome all to the Santa Lucia Chapter. We're very happy to have you aboard!

## **CREGOR'S DELI**

### **PASO ROBLES**

*Featuring*

*Fresh BBQ Tri-Tip*

*Delicious Deli-Sandwiches*

*Old Fashioned Fried Chicken*

**&**

*Fine Local Wines*



**611 Spring Street**

*the Corner of 6<sup>th</sup> and Spring*

**805-239-1917**

Casey Candaele  
Lucy J Swanson  
Marc Wood  
Ca Kovesdi  
Arvis Northrop  
Michael Multari  
Bruce Willard  
Brenda Cignatta  
Dianna Johnson  
Joan Daugherty  
Ann Balasuriya  
Tim Wands  
Russell Jacobson  
Abby Sommer  
Kristin Johnson  
Autumn Thayer  
Phillip Ehorn  
Beryel White  
Sue Prior

Linda Wolff  
Adriana Soriano  
Sandra Reed  
Gail Johnson  
Bonnie Romo  
Klaus Kueter  
Midori Doi  
Nelleke Mongin  
Sandra Drogichen  
Fiona Ripple  
Richard Sumabat  
Kristina Pickering  
Kathleen Yeung  
Paul Enman  
Evelyn Carroll  
John Wilkins  
Sheri Becker  
Jacquelyn Kane