



Tehipite Topics

April/May 2008 ☞ Vol. 54, No. 3

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PG&E's Big Secret

by Charles M. "Chip" Ashley

"When one tugs at a single thing in nature, he finds it attached to the rest of the world." — John Muir

Sierra Club members need to know about a huge PG&E transmission project that will likely soon impact the Sierra Nevada foothills from Kern County to Fresno County, where a large substation will be built either near Humphreys Station or in Watts Valley. If this project is built, it will change the Sierra forever, in my opinion not for the better.



CLEAN ENERGY NIGHTMARE

The name of this project is the Central California Clean Energy Transmission Project, or C3ETP. The purpose of this billion-dollar project is to satisfy government mandates for renewables, to supply the Helms Project at Wishon Reservoir with necessary energy, and to meet needs of a growing population in and around Fresno and the northern San Joaquin Valley.

So far C3ETP has gotten little scrutiny from the media. Brief articles in the Fresno Bee and the Bakersfield Californian published in September and October of 2007 were little more than PG&E advertisements, presenting the project as almost all pro and little con. An ABC Channel 30 segment aired on January 31 was more balanced but not detailed enough to present the project in its totality.

C3ETP is still in the planning and study phase. According to the company officials, PG&E will submit an application to the California Public Utilities Commission about a year from now. If the application is approved, PG&E will begin by acquiring property and easements.

If land owners do not agree to the company's terms, the company will sue them using the eminent domain law to condemn the property. For example, my family property includes the forty acre parcel in Watts Valley that PG&E has chosen as one of two possible sites for its E2 substation. Since we intend to protect our property as open

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Chapter General Meeting

“Alaskan Wilderness”

presented by Heather Anderson

Wednesday, May 21th at 7:00
University of California Center
550 E. Shaw Ave., Fresno
(across from Fashion Fair).

There will be a May meeting with a new update on Alaska. We need to know what is going on: off-shore drilling, intrusion onto native lands and hunting grounds, and continual drilling threat along the north shore, including in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. New DVDs.

June 18th

“Energy”

presented by Carl Zichella

Conservation & Executive Committees

Wednesday, May 14th at 7:00 P.M.
Wednesday, June 11th, at 7:00 P.M.
University of California Center, 550 E. Shaw Ave., Fresno



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Merced Group

Conservation and Executive Committee Meetings

Thursday, May 1th
Thursday, June 5rd
Rod Webster's home, 7:00 P.M.
345 E. 20th St., Merced

Conservation meeting is first and can last 30-40 minutes. Anyone with an interest in local, state or national conservation issues is welcome to attend. Come just to get informed or get as involved as you wish.

Upcoming Meetings and Events

Heartland Festival at River Dance Farms

May 31st and June 1st
The toll-free number for the Heartland Festival is (877) 394-1420.

Outings

Please see the Tehipite and Yokuts (Modesto area) chapter listings for outings. Phone Rod Webster at (209) 723-4747 to coordinate carpools.

Merced Group General Meetings

Third Thursday of each month

Sierra Presbyterian Church
3603 M St., Merced
(corner of M and Yosemite Blvd)
Meetings start at 7:00 P.M. and are finished by 9:00 P.M.

May General Meeting Annual Picnic

Instead of our May General meeting we will have our yearly picnic on Saturday, May 3rd, 11:00 to 3:00 at River Dance Farms. Bring your plates, cups, utensils, drinks, and a dish to share with all. We will provide tables and chairs.

June General Meeting

Thursday, June 19th at 7:00 P.M.
Possible Meeting Topic, "China and the Peace Corps"



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet



Bear in mind the consequences.

The Yellowstone grizzly bear is an irreplaceable part of America's natural heritage, a symbol of the independence that defines the American character and an icon of all that is wild and free. The Bush administration set forth a proposal that would remove federal protection for the Yellowstone grizzly bear. Help Sierra Club protect our forest friends; they prefer the woods than being on display.

Get grizzly and JOIN Sierra Club.

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Please charge my: Visa Mastercard AMEX

Cardholder Name _____

Card Number _____

Exp. Date ____/____/____

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|------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
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| Contributing | <input type="checkbox"/> \$150 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$175 |
| Life | <input type="checkbox"/> \$1000 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$1250 |
| Senior | <input type="checkbox"/> \$24 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$32 |
| Student/Limited Income | <input type="checkbox"/> \$24 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$32 |

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Enclose a check and mail to Sierra Club, P.O. Box 52968, Boulder, CO 80322-2968 or visit our website www.sierraclub.org

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C3ETP, from page 1

space and therefore will not agree to PG&E's terms under any circumstances, PG&E will have to take possession of the property through eminent domain. Company officials have said they will do exactly this.

According to documents and maps presented at a meeting in Fresno on February 6 and published on the web site of the California Independent Service Operator (Cal ISO), the non-profit coordinator of California utilities, planners are studying ten possible alternate routes, through the foothills and the San Joaquin Valley. Seven of these terminate at a substation called the E2 substation at Humphreys Station or Watts Valley, in the foothills.

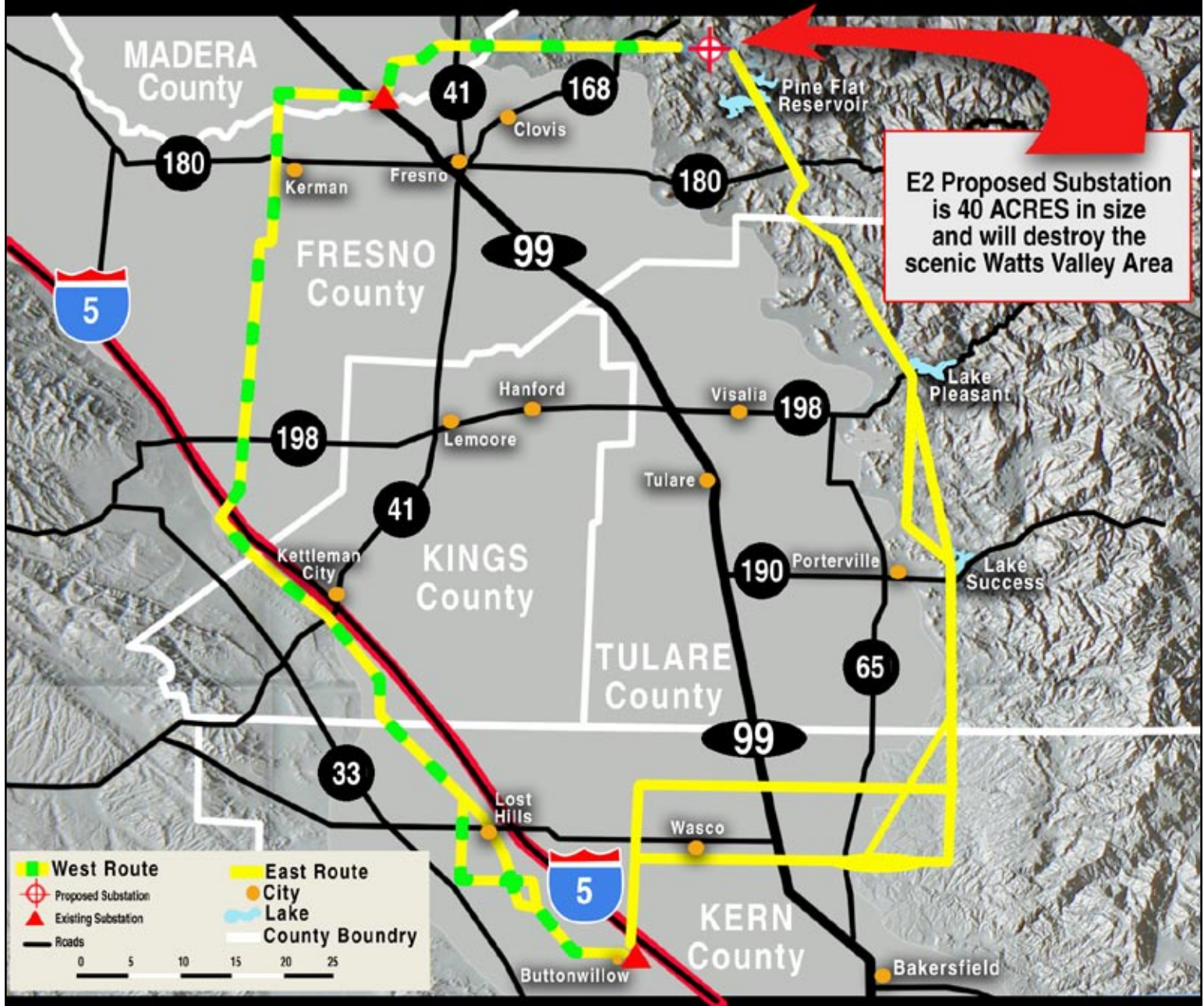
Our neighbors and we strongly believe that placing this substation and all its concomitant incoming and outgoing utility lines in Watts Valley will not only greatly diminish our quality of life but also devastate the natural environment, which is habitat for countless species of flora and fauna, including the bald eagle, the golden eagle, and the black-tailed deer.

How should the Sierra Club get involved? PG&E has the resources to provide necessary scrutiny. C3ETP has thus far received little expert scrutiny outside PG&E and the energy industry. As a land owner in Watts Valley, I speak from an admittedly biased perspective, but my neighbors and I feel that PG&E has purposefully kept this the negative aspects of this project, such as eminent domain and environmental destruction, from the public eye.

The environmental impact reports required by the government will be done by subcontractors paid by PG&E. The Sierra Club has the resources and expertise to properly scrutinize these reports well before C3ETP moves to the land-acquisition and construction phase.

See C3ETP, page 5

Preliminary Project Map -C3ETP- Nov 17, 2007 (prior to Field Studies)



C3ETP, from page 4

Neither PG&E nor Cal ISO has invited public comment on the plan. The notification we received from PG&E about October 1 contained an 800 number to call for information on the project. However, the company officials we spoke with have no decision-making power. Indeed, it became immediately clear that they do not consider it their job to bring land owners' criticisms and complaints before company officials with decision-making power. Though superficially polite and sympathetic, these low-level representatives have done a great deal more dictating to us than listening. Indeed, they seem more a buffer against the public for their higher-

ups than a conduit of information from the public to them.

I can hardly claim objectivity in this onerous matter. The onus my family bears at the prospect of part of our ranch, part of beautiful Watts Valley, being subjected to this kind of degradation causes us great sadness. Perhaps Watts Valley should be sacrificed for "the greater good" of the larger community that needs the additional energy the project will provide. On the other hand, it is all too easy for us as partisans to conclude that this beautiful place that we and several other families have kept as open

See C3ETP, page 10

Make Every Day Earth Day

by Heather Anderson

Earth Day (April 22) almost coincides with John Muir's birthday (April 21). With Muir's involvement in conservation questions, he became an inspiration to environmentalists everywhere. He was aware of the need for a wake-up call. The man who took up that challenge was Gaylord Nelson, former governor and later senator from Wisconsin. He convinced President Kennedy to embrace environmental protection and conservation. Nelson sponsored many environmental policies, from a ban on DDT, a promotion of gas mileage standards, to the landmark Wilderness Act of 1964. He worked endlessly to help pass the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, and the Endangered Species Act. In an age of national "teach-ins" against the Vietnam War, Nelson staged the first Earth Day celebration; in 1970 twenty million people took part. In 2000, more than five hundred million people worldwide participated in environmental events.

Unfortunately, the issue to which he was most devoted in the last decade of his life, population, was rarely mentioned. Nelson asked us to imagine what it would be like with twice as many everything: twice as many people, twice as many schools, highways, and parking lots. It is an issue folks are reluctant to address. In 1960, for example, global population was three billion; by 1999, it had doubled to six billion, and by 2050 it is expected to be nine billion. In Nelson's eyes, population growth is a threat to environmental sustainability,

There is much to do, but at what level? Global, local, or both? Media coverage suggests global warming as the major world issue of the day. Brian Fagin in *The Great Warming* is worried about drought, and notes how drought in earlier times has brought cultures to the edge of collapse. The difference is that now climate is changing faster and will affect billions of people in one of the richest nations, people ill prepared to cope with severe water shortages, with depleted aquifers and dry aqueducts. The energy problem is related to that of global warming; the Sierra Club voted it as the number one issue worldwide. We can shift to a safer cleaner energy future by smart energy solutions such as "clean car" (more efficient cars), energy efficiency with renewable sources like wind power, solar power, bioenergy, geothermal energy, hydropower, and stopping our dependence on nuclear, coal, and oil.

Mark Hertzgaard (author of *Earth Odyssey: Around the World in Search of Our Environmental Future*) talks about a "global green deal," and states that not only could we

reduce the impact on our air, water, and other natural systems, but we could make money doing so. He also comments that: 1) We have no time to lose; water scarcity, climate change, and species extinction are getting worse, and faster. 2) Poverty is a central problem; four billion of the earth's six billion are inconceivably deprived, and as they strive to improve their condition, our environmental footprint will expand with the need for more cars, more computers, and more everything. 3) We have the technology to solve the situation. We can work more efficiently, do more with less. We urge cool cities. What about cool companies and cool cars as well?

What action can we take? Perhaps we can be more effective by working within a larger group. There are any number of groups which further environmental goals. I just returned from Washington D.C. as a member of the Alaska Wilderness League, lobbying Congress to protect Alaska's wild lands. It gave me a more personal visual picture of Congress. We can also write, phone, email, or fax our senators and representatives (capitol switchboard 202-224-3121). We can write a Letter to the Editor, plant a tree, or grow a vegetable garden. The Central Valley Air Quality Coalition (CVAQ) is currently monitoring the San Joaquin Valley Air District's plan to attain the federal standards for particulate matter. The Air District Board will be voting on this plan 9:00 A.M. April 30th. (Call 486-3279 for more information on how to get involved in CVAQ.) Our mayor is finally supporting greenhouse gas reductions with the idea of Fresno as a "cool city." City and regional growth planning is being taken up by the Blueprint Roundtable (Call 233-4148). Groups like Revive the San Joaquin River (226-0733) and the San Joaquin River Parkway and Trust (248-8480) work continuously to protect the water, our river, and the riparian area. (Richard Sloan will be working with volunteers to clean up the river on Earth Day, 9:00 to 4:00. Call 696-2971 to join him.) There is always a need for volunteers. So, let's shrink our environmental footprint: walk more, ride less, buy less, recycle more, save water and energy, save paper, save animals and species, save agricultural land and parks, save habitat, forests and wilderness.

Go to a park, a hilltop, a river, meadow, or even your garden to celebrate inwardly for this unique planet, a planet with amazing diversity, incredible beauty, and the most intricate ecological web-of-life. Rachel Carson called her experience with the earth *The Sense of Wonder*. Author

See *Earh Day*, page 8

Ferguson Slide on Highway 140

by George Whitmore

I was at the meeting of the Mariposa County Board of Supervisors this morning to listen to the Caltrans presentation describing their intentions on the Ferguson Slide. They have two different projects ongoing. One is to provide a temporary solution to enable vehicles up to 45 feet long to travel Highway 140. This would be totally separate from the other project, which would provide a permanent solution. The following comments are regarding the temporary solution. For ease of discussion, I will refer to downstream as being “west” and upstream as being “east”. I realize that the actual compass bearings are different.

Caltrans plans to install two new temporary bridges which would be longer than the existing ones.

On the downstream end of the project, the south end of the new bridge would be where the present temporary bridge abutment is, and the north end would be to the *east* of the present bridge abutment. Thus, the new bridge would be significantly longer than the existing bridge, increasing the radius of the turns at both ends of the new bridge (compared to the existing bridge). However, the span would still be short enough that it would not require a pier to provide support between the two abutments.

On the upstream end of the project, the south end of the new bridge would be where the present temporary bridge abutment is, and the north end would be to the *west* of the present bridge abutment. This would be two spans, one of 170 feet and one of 130 feet, connected on a pier. The reason for making one span longer is to move the pier as far away as possible from the main channel of the river. Again, the greater length (compared to the existing bridge) would significantly increase the radius of the turns at both ends of the new bridge. I realize not everyone is into geometry. Longer radius means opening up the curve so it can accommodate longer vehicles. The new bridges would still be single lane, but they would accommodate vehicles up to 45 feet long, whereas the present bridges are restricted to vehicles no longer than 28 feet. The existing one-lane road, which connects the bridges, would be surfaced with additional asphalt to accommodate more traffic and heavier vehicles.

During construction, traffic would continue as at present on the existing bridges. Because the project is *between* the existing bridges, they anticipate minimal disruption of traffic. In order to expedite construction of the new bridges, removal of the old bridges will be done later, as



Oblique aerial photograph of Ferguson Rock Slide. Dashed (yellow) lines indicate extent of the rock slide based on visual inspection. Rockfall source area, talus, and new scarps are indicated. Photo taken by Ed Harp, USGS on June 13, 2006. Additional information on the slide is available at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/sierral/conditions/ferguson-chron.shtml>.

a separate project. There would be no permanent change in the river corridor. Assuming that there would be a later project to address the problems on a permanent basis, these new bridges would eventually be removed. Since these are considered to be temporary structures to address an emergency, there will not be a full environmental review under NEPA and CEQA. That is, there will be no EIS/EIR.

Caltrans has contractors on tap, ready to start construction as soon as two necessary permits are obtained. These are

See Slide, page 10

Water Concerns

by Lydia Flores

We may be in a drought, but the media seem to think that because we had a bit of rain, we now have plenty of water. We don't. The aquifer that sits under this great Central Valley is being drained due to the amount of water required for agriculture and residences. Those homes have swimming pools, too. People want many ponds and artificial waterfalls and that use up water. Do you know that a moratorium was declared for construction in Shaver Lake area? It was due to lack of water. Do you know that people are selling their homes in the Coarsegold area, because, since Chuckhansi has become a business, the water pressure is down? Not only that, but the casino is planning to enlarge its campus, which means a need for water to serve the guests. The homes in that area will have even less water.

You would think that we have some agency to monitor all this, but we don't. It is a tug-of-war between the agri-business and the developer. The citizen isn't even taken into account. Sometimes environmental studies are not completely done before construction is approved. On the reservation, I don't think our city has jurisdiction, but what they do affects us. When Chuckchansi opened, it did not have enough water, so the city of Fresno was selling water from the hydrant at Tulare and Van Ness. Recently I heard that some farmers were not going to sow any seed this year since they can make more by selling their water than if they raised crops. Is it right for a farmer to do this, since he is already subsidized for water? There are many questions we need to ask. We need to speak up now if we want to have sufficient water for ourselves and our children for years to come, particularly if our climate changes. The land needs to be kept fallow in areas so the rain water can seep down into and replenish the aquifer. Let's not become an asphalt city like Los Angeles. They now want our water since they have not been wise in planning, development and care for the environment. We need to take responsibility for water use before it is too late. ❀

Central California

Science and Engineering Fair

by Gerald Vinnard

Every year, the Central California Science and Engineering Fair provides junior high and high school students with an opportunity to compete in the preparation of exhibits on science and engineering projects. For several years, the Tehipite Chapter has presented awards for outstanding projects in the area of environmental sciences. This year, your Chapter authorized two awards of \$100 each to entries in the two categories, to be selected by judges Don Gaede, M.D., and Gerald Vinnard.

The selection process this year was exceptionally difficult, because of the large number of excellent projects in the environmental area. The award-winning projects finally selected were as follows:

Junior Division: Sarina Ortiz and Jessica Williams, for their exhibit entitled, "Global Warming."

Ms. Ortiz and Ms. Williams attend Clay Joint Elementary School, and their teacher is Gaylen Langel. Their project compared the output of carbon dioxide and other pollutants of four different gasoline brands.

Senior Division: Jasleen Bains, for her exhibit entitled, "Investigating the Bioremediation Effectiveness of *Pseudomonas Putida* Under Various Environmental Conditions by Using Hexane for Retrieval – Year Two."

Ms. Bains attends Sanger High School, and her teacher is Nathan Whittington. Her exhibit analyzed the performance of *Pseudomonas putida* bacteria in consuming spilled oil under various water and temperature conditions.

The Chapter congratulates and compliments all of the students who competed in the Fair. ❀

Earth Day, from page 6

Barry Lopez (1998) wrote simply: "We have taken the most obvious kind of wealth from this continent and overlooked the more lasting, the more valuable and sustaining experience of intimacy with it, the spiritual dimension of a responsible involvement with this place." Think of our great heritage of natural landscapes, our collection of public lands which belong to each of us as an American citizen. Think of what you have done and what you can still do to cherish and protect. ❀

No Fee Bill

by Vicki Hoover

The Sierra Club has long opposed the current, worrisome trend for land management agencies to charge fees to access the public lands that have traditionally been free for visitors.

The new no-fee bill introduced in the US Senate last December, S. 2438, fits right into our Sierra Club anti-fee policy. The bill needs more cosponsors to help it move promptly through the Senate.

Your calls to Senators Barbara Boxer and Dianne Feinstein will demonstrate that citizens of California support an end to fee programs such as Southern California's "Adventure Pass," for access to large parts of our four National Forests. Contact info for Senators is listed below.

BACKGROUND

The Fee Repeal and Expanded Access Act (S. 2438, the FREA Act), will terminate access fees for all lands administered by the US Forest Service, BLM, US Fish & Wildlife Service and Bureau of Reclamation. These fees began in 1996 with the "Fee Demo" program and were extended in 2004 by the current fee legislation, which was attached as a rider to a must-pass appropriations bill.

For National Parks, S. 2438 will require Congressional approval of entry fee increases, and terminate second layer fees such as those for backcountry access and interpretive programs in National Parks. The new \$80 America the Beautiful Pass will be scrapped, and replaced by the former \$50 National Parks Pass.

Senator Barbara Boxer
(202) 224-3553

Senator Dianne Feinstein
(202) 224-3841

Can you ask family and friends also to make these brief calls? This no-fee campaign is entirely a grassroots effort - The success of S. 2438 depends on all of us.

WHAT TO SAY

When somebody answers the phone at the Senator's office, simply leave a message asking the Senator please to cosponsor S. 2438. Leave your name and the city or county you live in.

You may also add a brief reason why the Senator should support S. 2438, (such as: fees discriminate against lower-income Americans; or, fees are double taxation; or, fees change the historical relationship of Americans to our

unique public lands; or, fees force lands managers to prioritize developments that make money. It's not necessary to go into much detail.

S. 2438 was introduced by Senators Max Baucus (D-MT) and Mike Crapo (M-ID), and has been cosponsored by Senators Jon Tester (D-MT) and Ken Salazar (D-CO). This bill seeks to end a failed fee experiment that for 10 years burdened Americans with a double tax and kept many away from public lands they had once enjoyed.

Passage of S. 2438 would help derail the alarming trend of the land agencies and motorized recreation industry to promote public lands recreation as a "commodity", for which citizens, like "customers" of a business, must shell out payment. Passage will give us time to persuade our land managers that recreation is NOT a "product" that we "buy" from them; we are NOT their "customers".

S. 2438 would repeal the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act of 2004, sometimes called Recreational Access Tax (RAT) and reinstate legislation dating back to the 1965 Land and Water Conservation Act that limits the use of fees on public lands. National park fees can continue at present levels.

The ultimate solution to the problem of agency recreation management will be to provide adequate Congressional appropriations to our land managers.

Fee opponents have waited over ten years now for legislation with a good chance of ending fees for access to the public lands we love to visit. Now that it's here, S. 2438 needs our determined and consistent support.

Sierra Club national Recreation Issues Committee is leading the Club's fight against fees and commercialization on public lands. http://clubhouse.sierraclub.org/go/leaders/conservation/wpst/recreation_issues.asp

For more information, contact Vicky Hoover, Recreation Issues Committee at (415) 977-5527, or vicky.hoover@sierraclub.org. I can email you the Club's fact sheet on this issue. Or contact Alasdair Coyne, To Keep the Sespe Wild, (805) 921-0618, or sespe@sespewild.org. Check out our Listserv Lists support site for more information: <http://www.sierraclub.org/lists/faq.asp> ☞

C3ETP, from page 5

space for many generations is being sacrificed to wastefulness and greed. The Sierra Club can help to bring a diversity of opinion to bear on C3ETP so that it can properly be determined in the free and open public marketplace of ideas whether this project should finally go forward.

In the current political environment, where the government often acts as a willing partner in billion-dollar undertakings like the Central California Clean Energy Transmission Project, the small voices speaking for nature are too often drowned out in the cacophony of powerful voices celebrating growth and profit. As a society we need to acknowledge from time to time that growth eats up resources as it now threatens to take one more big bite out

of the foothills and literally gobble up tiny Watts Valley. Ultimately, however, this story is about more than the Sierra foothills and Watts Valley. I hope it is a story about how—starting now with the Sierra foothills and Watts Valley—nature’s voice crying in the wilderness can receive, with the help of The Sierra Club, a full and just hearing and be preserved to live free.

To learn more about C3ETP go to www.caiso.com and search “Central California Clean Energy Transmission Project” or C3ETP. ❧

Contact the author at wattsvillepreservation@gmail.com.

Slide, from page 7

(1) A Section 7 determination under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. This would come from US Forest Service.

(2) Army Corps of Engineers permit. I think this is because it is a wetland.

Once construction starts, they hope to be done within twelve weeks, hopefully by the end of summer. They probably would work at night in order to expedite construction, and also to minimize impacts on traffic, including rafters. They would not work on big weekends (presumably meaning Memorial Day, Fourth of July, and Labor Day).

They do not anticipate traffic closures except on a very limited basis. Supervisor Fritz had expressed concern that, with the Park Service project at The Narrows having the road totally closed from 10:00 P.M. to 6:00 A.M., if Caltrans closed the road for their project, then El Portal would be totally isolated with no egress/ingress in either direction.

The main concern I heard expressed by citizens was that the project could negatively impact rafting unless construction is put off until later in the summer, when the river is down. (That could happen anyway, if the permits are delayed.)

Since this interim project seems to be consistent with what we had suggested in the past, I decided to make a public statement on behalf of the Tehipite Chapter. My main focus was to thank Caltrans for having listened to the concerns of many people, and for having come up with an interim solution which addresses those concerns. I did not say, “We support the project,” but a listener

might have inferred that. Since some of the people in the room knew who I was, as a result of my having been there previously, I thought it would look a little strange if I chose to have no comment. Interestingly, the Caltrans District 10 Director (Kome Ajise, Stockton) came up to me afterwards and appeared interested in having further communication.

Caltrans also commented on the permanent project, but—in the hope of minimizing confusion—I will not report on that in this message. ❧

Lobby Day

Come join us for our annual Lobby Day on Sunday and Monday August 10th and 11th. You will be part of a team that will help us in passing our priority bills during the most exciting and challenging time of the year at the State Capitol. Be prepared for interaction with other activists and our professional lobbying staff, as well as with legislators and their staff.

It is a two-day event with Sunday afternoon consisting of training by our lobbying team about how to lobby and learning about our priority bills so that you can effectively advocate for them. On Monday, you will work the halls of the Capitol as teams, with meetings scheduled from morning through the afternoon. We will focus on key remaining bills as the session winds down; hot issues this year are global warming, renewable energy, outdoor education, toxic chemicals, and reform of transportation and land use planning.

See Lobby Day, page 12

Outings Schedule

Outing Ratings

| Distance | Elevation Gain |
|-------------------|------------------------|
| 1) up to 6 miles | A) under 1,000 feet |
| 2) 6 to 10 miles | B) 1,000 to 2,000 feet |
| 3) 10 to 15 miles | C) 2,000 to 3,000 feet |
| 4) 15 to 20 miles | D) 3,000 to 4,000 feet |
| 5) over 20 miles | E) over 4,000 feet |

Our Tehipite Chapter Outings Co-Chairs are Carolyn Ordway (559) 449-7780 or jbord606@yahoo.com and Richard Sloan (559) 696-2971 or RiverRich1509@aol.com. Please contact them with any questions concerning our outings program. Contact the trip leader directly if you are interested in one of the listed trips.

Tehipite Chapter outings are free and open to the public. All leaders are unpaid volunteers assuming responsibility for a good trip, and your cooperation is mandatory. Please review additional trip and participant requirements at www.tehipite.sierraclub.org/outings.

CST #2087766-40. Registration as a seller of travel does not constitute approval by the State of California. California has established a Travel Consumer Restitution Fund (TCRF) under the California Seller of Travel Act. The TCRF is not applicable to these Outings. The law requires us to advise you that you would not be eligible to make any claim from the TCRF in the unlikely event of default by the Sierra Club. California law also requires certain sellers of travel to have a trust account or bond. The Sierra Club has such a trust account.

May 10th - Saturday

Cross Country Skiing—Intermediate
Little Shuteye. Snowshoers are welcome.

Walt Taguchi (559) 435-2818

May 10th - Saturday

Day Hike (1A)
Lewis Creek

We will go from the bottom of Corlieu Falls to Red Rock falls.

A beautiful hike, mostly in the shade.
Call early.

Don Redmond (559) 268-1537

May 13th - Tuesday

Day Hike (1A)

Giant Sequoias at Grant Grove
This hike takes you through the northern portion of the General Grant Grove and Dead Giant Loop.
Carolyn Ordway (559) 449-7780

May 17th - Saturday

Day Hike (2D)

Yosemite Falls

A difficult hike, but well worth the effort. We climb to a spot within a few feet of the top of the falls.

Possible overnight in Camp Curry.
John Flaherty (209) 742-4668

May 17th - Saturday

Cross Country Skiing—Intermediate
Mt. Givens

Snowshoers are welcome.

Walt Taguchi (559) 435-2818

May 24th - Saturday

Day Hike (2B) Moderate

Alder Creek Falls

The waterfall is about 250 feet tall.

This trail is mostly in the shade.

Carolyn Ordway (559) 449-7780

June 7th - Saturday

Day Hike (2C) Moderate-Strenuous
Prepare for a steady four-mile uphill, gaining 2,400 feet to reach the top of Chilnualna Falls. Bring a camera and take lots of pictures. This is a very beautiful hike with lots of waterfalls.
Carolyn Ordway (559) 449-7780

June 14th - Saturday

Day Hike (1B) Moderate

Tuolumne Meadows

Annual hike to explore the Tuolumne River and many of the cascades flowing out of the high country. Possible overnight near Tuolumne Meadows.
John Flaherty (209) 742-4668

July 18th - 20th, Friday - Sunday

Car Camp and Day Hikes

Hike Saturday (2C) Dinkey Wilderness (3 Sisters Peak)

Hike Sunday (optional 2B) Coyote Lake. Non-aggressive dogs welcome.

Richard Sloan (559) 696-2971

August 8th - 10th, Friday - Sunday

Car Camp and Day Hike

Hike Saturday (2B) Cliff Lake (from Courtright Reservoir)

Richard Sloan (559) 696-2971



Your *Topics* editors sneaked away for a vacation. The picture above was taken in Capital Reef National Park



SIERRA CLUB TEHIPITE CHAPTER
 OF THE SIERRA CLUB
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Deadline for *Tehipite Topics* is the second Friday of each month—May 9th for the Summer issue. Submit material to Topics@BigBaldy.com.

Lobby Day, from page 10

You will find out that it is possible to have fun and save our environment at the same time! Past participants have found it to be an eye-opening and rewarding experience. A co-pay of \$25 upon registration will be used towards your lodging and food; some travel reimbursement will also be provided.

For more information, please contact Annie Pham, Legislative Aide at lobbyday@sierraclubcalifornia.org or (916) 557-1100 ext. 107.



clair tappaan a lodge close to nature

Built by Sierra Club members in 1934, this rustic, hostel-style lodge stands atop historic Donner Pass, just an hour and a half from Sacramento.

Springtime in the Sierra is a magical time. In early spring you can take advantage of longer and warmer days with extended ski and snowshoe tours or using the Lodge's own groomed trails. Later in the spring you can experience the explosion of wildflowers as you hike miles of trails behind the Lodge or on the Pacific Crest trail just 1.5 miles from the Lodge.

Guests enjoy excellent family style meals, a friendly staff and a casual and communal atmosphere.

See you on Donner Summit...



For more information about these programs or to receive a full schedule and description of Clair Tappaan programs please visit our website at www.ctl.sierraclub.org or call (800) 679-6775.