



SIERRA  
CLUB

Jan. 2007  
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Jan. 26

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# SANTA LUCIAN



*Protecting and  
Preserving the  
Central Coast*

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

## A New Dawn at Carrizo Plain

### Resource Management Plan for National Monument back on track, public input needed Jan. 27

One year ago, the Bureau of Land Management was determined to perform a once-over-lightly Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Carrizo Plain National Monument's new Resource Management Plan.

Carrizo is home to vast archaeological and cultural resources, and some of the rarest and most valuable wildlife habitat in the United States. The Sierra Club joined with the Wilderness Society, Center for Biological Diversity, Los Padres Forest Watch, Natural Resources Defense Council and others in pointing out to the State Director of the BLM that the more thorough standard of review mandated by an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) must be met in the crafting of a management plan for Carrizo's 250,000 acres of historic California grasslands. Last August, the BLM finally agreed.

Two months later, the BLM announced the reassignment of Bakersfield Field Office Manager Ron Huntsinger to Washington, removing the primary obstacle to a conservation-based Resource Management Plan for the Carrizo Plain National Monument. The escalating toxic working relationship between Huntsinger and Monument Manager Marlene Braun, who fought Huntsinger's cattle-grazing preferences in favor of a plan that would favor conservation over grazing, had

come to an end when Braun took her own life in March 2005. The new management plan went on hold. The Chapter went to the media and provided reporters with the background for investigative stories that ran in *New Times* and the *L.A. Times*, kept the heat on BLM and informed the pub-



Per Bothner



lic about what's at stake at Carrizo.

Now, with San Luis Obispo natural resources director Neil Havlik at the helm, a revived advisory committee will begin meeting on the Management Plan, and Havlik is eager to move in a new, positive direction -- toward the management of a monument where wildlife roam, not where cattle graze.

That's where you come in.

*continued on page 5*

## Welcome to 2007: A Year of Action, A Year of Collaboration

*By Karen Merriam, Chapter Chair*

It's hard to believe that this is the beginning of my third year as Chair of the Santa Lucia Chapter. And once again I have a wonderful group of fellow volunteers to serve with me on the Executive Committee for 2007.

Jack Morrow from Cambria will again serve as Vice Chair; Tracy Haydon of Santa Margarita is our newest (and youngest) member, and graciously volunteered to be our Secretary; Steven Marx of SLO continues as our Treasurer; John Ashbaugh of SLO is our liaison to the Political Committee and Chapter historian; Cleve Nash is also from Cambria, and Cal French of Paso Robles will continue as our delegate to the Council of Club Leaders, as well as serving as the Chair of the California Nevada Regional Conservation Committee (CNRCC) and other important appointments for the Club.

As you can see, we need better representation from the southern reaches of our county. Please, you folks in

*continued on page 10*

## 2007 General Meetings: Fridays at St. Stephens

As the new year dawns, we are bidding farewell to the Ludwick Community Center and the sound of rhythmically bouncing basketballs in the gymnasium that has long accompanied our monthly meetings, and setting up camp in St. Stephens Episcopal Church at 1334 Nipomo Street, at Pismo, just south of downtown SLO (see page 2).

Our meetings will still be held at 7 p.m., but now on the last Friday of the month. Mark your calendar....



*continued on page 3*

## Let's Review Your Chapter at work in 2006

**In January...**

The Sierra Club's newly formed national Radiation Committee selected Rochelle Becker, chair of the Santa Lucia Chapter's Diablo Canyon Task Force, as a charter member of the committee, which tracks state and federal radiation-

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photo/Kevin Walsh

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

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## Santa Lucia Chapter General Meeting *Eucalyptus Without Tears*

Are they invasive species?  
Are they wildlife habitat?

Let them stand?  
Cut them all down?

Hear the experts:

Dr. Matt Ritter, Cal Poly Plant Conservatory Director, Biological Sciences Department  
Dr. Kingston Leong, Cal Poly -- monarch butterfly specialist  
Rick Matthews, Parks and Recreation Commissioner, District 5

**Friday, January 26,  
7:00 p.m.  
St. Stephens Episcopal  
Church, Ramsden Hall  
1334 Nipomo St., at Pismo  
San Luis Obispo**

**Enter parking lot off Pismo**

**Refreshments  
provided**



# When Diablo Wins, You Lose

On December 14, the California Coastal Commission could and should have required PG&E to pay full freight in exchange for a permit to replace the steam generators at the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant: A conservation easement over all 9,130 acres of company-owned land outside the plant's security zone in exchange for the permit that will allow the devastating impacts of the plant's cooling system on marine wildlife to continue for at least another ten years, and likely four times longer than that.

The easement would have ensured that the land will never be developed, conserving a significant portion of Central Coast watershed in perpetuity. The easement was urged by the Sierra Club and Mothers for Peace when we appealed the County's land use permit to the Coastal Commission.

The rationale of the majority of Coastal Commissioners in refusing to require this as a condition of the project beat the logic of Alice in Wonderland by several orders of magnitude.

Because the power plant's impacts are primarily on marine resources, and PG&E's land is terrestrial, the Commission decided there wasn't enough of a nexus between the marine impacts and the preservation of land to offset those impacts. But PG&E simply has no other feasible way to mitigate the impacts of the continued operation of its power plant. It's true that a 9,000-acre easement would be barely adequate and not equivalent to direct preservation of the marine environment, but that's a reason to require it, not to deny it, because PG&E has nothing else to give that could begin to offset the plant's environmental damage. Its only other options would be upgrading the plant's cooling system (reputed price tag: \$1.3 billion) or shutting down the plant.

The Commission's staff report acknowledged that the environmental impacts of replacing the generators are not limited to the construction project, but include the additional decades of impacts from the continued operation of the power plant. But for the new generators, the plant would have to shut down by 2014. A majority of Commissioners determinedly failed to grasp this point.

The easement would have cost PG&E nothing. Instead, they offered to preserve 1,200 acres as part of their project proposal, not as mitigation for its impacts. The Commission barred future withdrawal of water from Diablo Creek for other uses at the plant, mitigating impacts on the riparian environment, not the cooling system's impacts on the marine environment, and everyone called it a day. (At one point, as a PG&E attorney was extolling the 1,200-acre offer as a generous gift to the community, Commissioner Larry Clark asked, with understandable curiosity, "Do you think it might be seen as an even more generous gift to offer 9,000 acres?" The lawyer mumbled a terse, inaudible reply and fled the podium.) The 9,000-acre easement would have cost PG&E nothing.

The upshot: A development project that will result in significant environmental impacts, detailed in the staff report, has been issued a development permit by the California Coastal Commission with NO mitigation for those impacts. As far as we know, that's unprecedented.

Coastal Commissioner Katcho Achadjian put the cherry on Alice in Wonderland's upside-down cake when he made the motion to strip the 9,000-acre easement out of the proposed project conditions because the DREAM Initiative — a county ballot measure passed six years ago that urged long-term conservation of Diablo Canyon lands — fulfills the goals of the proposed easement.

Commission staff pointed out to Katcho that the DREAM Initiative was merely advisory and is not enforceable. The proposed conservation easement would have fulfilled the goals of the initiative, which does nothing by itself. Katcho voted against the easement anyway, and prevailed. (His subsequent public attempt to explain his actions showed he has confused the concepts of "special interests" and the public interest.)

The *Tribune* failed to report most of this, but got the headline right: "Diablo wins conservation fight."

True enough. Everyone else, and the coast, lost.

## SANTA LUCIAN

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The Executive Committee meets the fourth Friday of every month at 4:30 p.m. at the chapter office, located at 1204 Nipomo St., San Luis Obispo. All members are welcome to attend.

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# Energy Solutions Group Takes Shape

Chapter joins in formation of strategic alliance for regional energy planning

The steering committee responsible for the Smart Energy Solutions Summit held in SLO last October has morphed into the Strategic Energy Alliance for Change (SEA Change).

Coming off the success of the Summit (see page 6) and reviewing the comments of attendees, we noted that there is currently no program or plan within the County for engaging in a full examination of energy policy alternatives. Consequently there is neither a coordinated planning effort within the County to address the issues comprehensively nor a coordinated outreach effort to educate the public on best practices. We will seek to spark regional thinking and action toward countering the adverse economic and environmental impacts of high energy costs, the

depletion of finite energy resources, the emission of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere, and, ultimately, our dependence on distant sources of energy.

The Strategic Energy Alliance will advance regional solutions for sustainable energy policy and community action by bringing together government, the private sector and the general public within San Luis Obispo County to promote public awareness and best practices in the generation, distribution and use of energy.

The group is formulating goals and strategies, including :

Reduce, greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) throughout the county to 2000 levels by 2010, and to 1990 levels by 2020, consistent with the Air Pollution

Control District's "Climate Change Action Plan."

Secure commitments from local governments to prepare General Plan Energy Elements that specify goals and implementation measures for energy conservation, the use of renewables, and green building.

Secure commitments from local governments to use renewable energy sources to meet at least 20% of the region's demand for electricity by the year 2010, and 40% by the year 2017.

Secure commitments from local governments to study the feasibility of creating a Regional Power Authority and implementing a Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) program to achieve the region's goals for using renewable energy.

Under California's Community

Choice Aggregation law (AB 117), adopted in 2002, cities and counties are authorized to procure, generate and sell electricity. A Regional Power Authority could choose the resources for generating electricity. A municipal power authority can operate less expensively than an investor-owned utility because of its tax-exempt status and eligibility for low-interest financing. PG&E supports the creation of CCAs because investor-owned utilities' current sources of revenue come mainly from transmission and distribution services. Thus, CCAs are collaborative rather than competitive endeavors between municipalities and investor-owned utilities.

If your organization would like to become part of SEA or participate in this process, contact Andrew Christie at the Chapter office.

## Wrap-Up: Results from the Legislative Session and 2006 Elections

By Sierra Club California Staff

After a productive legislative session for the environment, Sierra Club California identified five topmost-priority bills for Governor Schwarzenegger to sign. The Governor responded with a mixed record, signing 2 of these top-tier bills and vetoing 3. Those that he signed included AB 32 (Pavley and Nuñez), which puts a cap on greenhouse gas emissions, and AB 1870 (Lieber), which adds a smoke test to Smog Check. AB 1012 (Nation), which would have increased clean alternative fuels, SB 1796 (Florez), which would have helped to improve flood protection, and SB 927 (Lowenthal), which would have enabled improved security and air quality at specified ports, all fell victim to the Governor's veto pen.

Sierra Club California requested the Governor's signature on an additional 34 environmental bills, making the overall requested number 39 bills. Of

this total number, including the top-priority bills, he ended up signing a total of 25 and vetoing 14.

The most important bill that the Governor did sign was AB 32, the Global Warming Solutions Act, which made California the first state to adopt a binding limit on greenhouse gas pollution. Sierra Club California will now work with the Air Resources Board and other state agencies to effectively implement this landmark law.

Additionally, enactment of AB 1870 literally allows Californians to breathe easier, as it eliminates the loophole that allowed visibly smoking vehicle tailpipes to pass Smog Check.

Another triumph was the passage of SB 1360 (Kehoe), which creates a central registry of conservation easements on the internet for the convenience of the public. Conservation easements are

*continued on page 10*



HopeDance and the Santa Lucia Chapter arranged for Peak Moment TV to film in San Luis Obispo on November 10. The producers wanted to talk to people who are doing something to reduce dependency on fossil fuels and build local community, so we lined up a half-hour interview for "Peak Moment Conversation episode #41," conducted by producer Janaia Donaldson (far right) with (left to right) Ken Smokoska, chair of Sierra Club California's Climate Change/Energy Committee; Aeron Arlin Genet of the county Air Pollution Control District; and SLO Green Build's Nick Alter - all veterans of the Smart Energy Solutions summit we co-chaired exactly one month previously, and now members of the Strategic Energy Alliance. See the interview on line at [www.peakmoment.tv/conversations/41.html](http://www.peakmoment.tv/conversations/41.html)

### Let's Review

*continued from page 1*

related legislation and submits comments on proposed regulations.

At the County Planning Commission, we argued against the County giving PG&E permits to replace Diablo Canyon's steam generators on the basis of an environmental impact report that pretended that extending the life of the plant had nothing to do with triggering an inevitable request to renew the plant's license, and therefore that twenty additional years of impacts need not be reviewed. The Planning Commission, after a 12-hour hearing, punted to the Board of Supervisors, which rubber-stamped the permits without considering the full impact of the plant's continued operation. Joined by the San Luis Obispo Mothers for Peace, we immediately appealed to the Coastal Commission. In May, the Commission found "substantial issue" for appeal of the project as a violation of the California Coastal Act, with two Coastal Commissioners filing their own appeal.

The Chapter Director attended the Eco-Farm Conference in Pacific Grove, joining a discussion held by Cal GE Free on various county initiatives to ban the growing of genetically engineered crops in California.

At our general meeting, Jeff Kuyper of Los Padres ForestWatch introduced members to this new grassroots organization that has already racked up major accomplishments in protecting our part

of the National Forest system from development inroads and bad management.

### In February...

We started the year asking if your mayor had signed on to the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement. On February 28, Chapter Chair Karen Merriam and former City Councilmember Jan Marx presented a Sierra Club "Cool Cities" award to San Luis Obispo's Dave Romero, the first mayor to take us up on it and join 194 other mayors (now well over 300) across the country.

Chapter chair Karen Merriam asked Supervisor Shirley Bianchi if, in view of the threatened prospect of the San Joaquin Valley dumping selenium-tainted water into Estero Bay and Congress inclined to lift the ban on offshore oil drilling, perhaps now would be a good time to make a serious try at getting the border of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary extended down the SLO coast. We hope to get a resolution before the Board of Supervisors in early 2007.

At our general meeting, we hosted Conner Everts, Executive Director of the Southern California Watershed Alliance. Everts focused on the Cambria desal project, pointing out that desalination in the United States has simply never

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# Taking Issue

problematic recent environmental commentary & coverage in our local press

“Foul water blamed on years of discharge,” Sonia Patel, *The Tribune*, November 21, 2006  
“Nipomo readies for flood season,” Larissa Van Buerden-Doust, *The Tribune*, November 27, 2006  
“What Toxins Lie Beneath,” David Sneed, *The Tribune*, Dec. 5, 2006

**Summary:** In seemingly unrelated stories, the residents of Morro Bay discovered the groundwater in six local wells was contaminated with nitrates above safe drinking levels, the residents of Nipomo prepared for inevitable flooding with December rains, and Oso Flaco Lake and 18 other water bodies in the county are on state water officials’ watch list due to high levels of contamination.

All of these stories are actually about the same thing: The impacts of development on water in the form of flooding and polluted runoff.

On November 16, the Sierra Club released its second annual “Guide to America’s Best New Development,” featuring ten ground-breaking projects that help keep our drinking water clean. Runoff and sewage overflows are the largest sources of water pollution and growing threats to the health of our water, so in choosing projects to be recognized with this year’s top development honors, the Sierra Club looked for simple but highly effective solutions that help keep untreated and poorly treated sewage and toxic urban runoff out of our drinking water sources.

All of the projects highlighted in the report use simple solutions that can be easily replicated across the country and that have been proven to help keep our water clean by reducing the volume and impact of stormwater runoff. The report makes the point that there is a better way to build and produce healthy and livable communities, highlighting a diverse set of projects taken on by developers, communities, local utilities and even nuns. They involve solutions both big and small, from rain gardens and natural plantings in Seattle to recreating wetlands at a Motherhouse in Monroe (Nipomo take note: Natural flood control) and a giant underground cistern at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. By incorporating creative methods for managing polluted stormwater runoff these projects help keep sewage, toxics and litter out of our water.

Developers elsewhere are helping create truly livable communities and implementing simple solutions to curb the pollution generated by their projects. We need these kind of inventive projects and clean water practices here, unless we want to see more stories like those at right.

San Luis Obispo County’s proposed Storm Water Management Program (SOSWMP) is currently awaiting a public hearing and approval at the Regional Water Quality Control Board. As it stands, the program has a pervasive lack of specific measures that the County could adopt to reduce stormwater pollution. The Water Board needs to take heed of and incorporate the examples in the Building Better report.

Profiles of the winning projects can be viewed at: [www.sierraclub.org/buildingbetter](http://www.sierraclub.org/buildingbetter)



State news, Associated Press wire, *The Tribune*, Oct. 17, 2006

**Summary:** The 9th Circuit Court of Appeals agreed with Bay Area neighbors of a bioweapons facility at Lawrence Livermore Laboratory that it cannot open until the potential environmental impacts of a terrorist attack have been considered.

Our home town paper devoted all of 4 inches on the bottom left corner of page A4 to one of several stories unfolding around the country on legal rulings that have come about as a result of the court decision won by SLO Mothers for Peace and the Sierra Club last June.

The 9th Circuit applied the ruling we won against the Nuclear Regulatory Commission at Diablo Canyon to halt the opening of the bioweapons lab in the San Francisco suburb of Livermore.

The *Tribune* didn’t notice or didn’t care, and thus didn’t mention, that this ruling came about due to a case won by two environmental groups in San Luis Obispo.



## Death comes for the RPD

By Sue Luft  
President, North County Watch

At the end of 2006, a well-deserved death came to the countywide land use proposal called Rural Planned Development (RPD). At their final meeting of the year, the Board of Supervisors were forced by by overwhelming public opposition to kill the proposed ordinance.

The decision by the Board of Supervisors is a sweet victory for the dedicated group of land use advocates who have followed this issue since it was first presented to the Board in June, 2005.

Outgoing Supervisor Shirley Bianchi said to “step on it quick before it multiplies” and made the motion to kill the RPD and send the issue of underlying lots to the recently formed Transfer of Development Credit (TDC) Blue Ribbon Committee. As Harry Ovitt lobbied to give the RPD ordinance to the TDC Committee, Jim Patterson clearly stated that the committee should disregard the proposed RPD ordinance and act as though they have been “given a blank sheet of paper”.

Testimony and letters by the Santa Lucia Chapter of the Sierra Club, ECOSLO, Land Conservancy of SLO County, Environment in the Public Interest, North County Watch, Greenspace – the Cambria Land Trust, Adelaida Area Association, Creston Citizens for Ag Land Preservation, and other concerned citizens, and a Santa Lucia website feature with supporting documents, drove the point home that the RPD must die – and so it did.

### The Problem

The problem of “underlying legal lots” or “historic parcels” or “antiquated subdivisions” is serious. The discovery by landowners of underlying lots on their land has been described as being like “winning the lottery”. These “magic subdivisions” dramatically increase the perceived value of property and can allow the property owners to circumvent local restrictions on land development and avoid county policies established to preserve our working farms and ranches.

Subdivision of agricultural land is clearly the first step toward urbanization of those lands. One speaker described it as the “leapfrog development ordinance”.

### RPD History

The RPD would not have solved the problem of underlying lots but would have been a Christmas gift worth millions to the development interests that backed the ordinance.

However, letters and testimony by

continued on page 10



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**Carrizo**  
continued from page 1

The nine-member Carrizo Plain National Monument Advisory Committee, charged with advising the Secretary of the Interior on public land issues in the Carrizo Plain National Monument, will meet on Saturday, January 27, 2007, at the Carrisa Elementary School on Highway 58. The school is located approximately two miles northwest of the Soda Lake Road turn-off on Highway 58. The meeting will begin at 10 a.m. and finish at 5 p.m. There will be a public comment period from 3-4 p.m.

Monument staff will present updated information on the progress on the draft Resource Management Plan, and discuss other coordination opportunities. The public may present written or verbal comments. Individuals who plan to attend and need special assistance such as sign language interpretation or other reasonable accommodations should contact BLM at:

Bureau of Land Management  
Attention: Johna Hurl, Acting Monument Manager  
3801 Pegasus Drive  
Bakersfield CA, 93308  
Phone (661) 391-6093  
e-mail [jhurl@blm.gov](mailto:jhurl@blm.gov)

If any point has become clear through the long, painful journey toward appropriate management and conservation of Carrizo, it is that the Bureau of Land Management needs to hear from the public, loud and clear, and in large numbers, that we want the designation of "National Monument" to mean what it says it means, and we want this precious land preserved. Please circle January 27 on your calendar, and make a point of coming to Carissa Elementary School by 3 p.m. to let them know.

For more information on the issues at stake in the Carrizo Plain National Monument Resource Management Plan, see "Will BLM Do the Right Thing at Carrizo?," Jan. 2006 *Santa Lucian* (<http://santalucia.sierraclub.org/lucian/jan06.pdf>).

# California: Comin' At Ya



## Feds try to quietly route nuke waste through the state

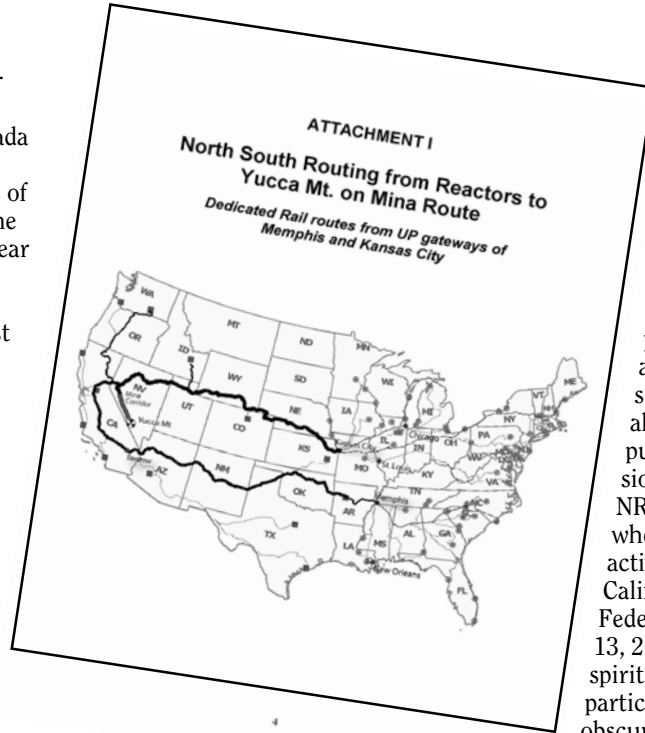
by Rochelle Becker,  
Sierra Club Radiation Committee

In early November, the Alliance for Nuclear Responsibility received a statement filed by the state of Nevada addressing the U.S. Department of Energy's October 13, 2006, notices of intent (NOI) to make changes in the plan to transport the nation's nuclear waste to Yucca Mountain, Nevada, for storage.

One of the little changes: At least 40% of the nation's high-level radioactive waste is now proposed to travel nearly the entire length of California, entering at Barstow and exiting over Hwy 80 out of Sacramento, but the DOE did not find it necessary to schedule any hearings on this Notice in California.

The Alliance for Nuclear Responsibility immediately contacted state agencies to determine if California had been notified and if hearings had been requested. Within hours, Commissioner James Boyd of the California Energy Commission sent a request that hearings be held and that the date for comments be extended. A follow-up letter and comments were filed by the CEC and the Alliance for Nuclear Responsibility, jointly filed with national organizations. To date, no response.

According to the Governor's office in Nevada, DOE failed to provide any maps showing the new rail access routes or main line rail roads that are proposed for nuclear waste shipments. Key information about the actual communities affected and potential impacts are intentionally obscured by the NOI in an apparent effort to suppress public involvement and meaningful participation. The states of California and Utah -- two states that stand to be significantly im-



Did you know about this?

pacted by development of a rail access route to Yucca Mountain using the proposed Mina corridor -- were left totally in the dark by DOE.

Despite the fact that national changes in rail routing as a result of using a Mina rail spur would mean exponentially more shipments in California and would require the use of an entirely different main line railroad segment in Utah, DOE has refused to schedule public meetings in those states or even formally seek their input. There is nothing in the NOI that even hints at the wide-ranging, all-encompassing effects of the changes DOE is proposing. One can only conclude that DOE is intentionally seeking to mask the im-

port of its actions and withhold crucial information from the public.

A fundamental principle underlying the National Environmental Policy Act is the requirement for federal agencies to transparently set forth proposed actions that have the potential to affect people and the environment and to follow procedures designed to not only allow, but also to encourage, meaningful public participation in the decision-making process. Like the NRC's failure to follow NEPA when licensing a high-level radioactive waste storage facility on California's fragile coast, the DOE Federal Register Notice of October 13, 2006, failed to adhere to this spirit of openness and inclusive participation and actually served to obscure the extent of the changes being proposed and the nature and extent of their likely impacts.

We agree with the state of Nevada that the Department of Energy's notices are "procedurally and legally deficient" and "should be withdrawn and reissued with provisions incorporated for meaningful public participation, sufficient time for reviewing and commenting on the proposed actions, and attention to both the letter and spirit of the National Environmental Policy Act."

We await a response to our comments from the DOE, but we are not holding our breath. The Alliance for Nuclear Responsibility has brought this issue to the attention of California state and federal legislators and will keep our community informed of the actions that may be taken to demand accountability from the Department of Energy.

## Empower Poly!

Uniting the students of Cal Poly to advocate leadership and action for a sustainable future, the Empower Poly Coalition of sustainability clubs is a student-founded initiative formed in the spring of 2006 to serve as a link and political powerbase for campus organizations.

The EPC recently applied for the Ecomagination Green Campus Challenge, sponsored by mtv-U and General Electric, with the idea of establishing a student environmental center at Cal Poly. Dubbed the Powerhouse Project, this was developed by an interdiscipli-

nary student group within the College of Architecture and Environmental Design's (CAED) Sustainable Environments minor. The project focuses on the positive impact of creating a student hub and research center for sustainability on campus.

The Santa Lucia Chapter was pleased to grant funds to EPC last December to be used as seed money to promote the organization, its members and its goals. We look forward to our continued work together as we join forces to implement sustainability for a healthy future.

**A GET-TOGETHER:** Empower Poly is having a mixer for everyone working on energy and climate change/sustainability issues: 4 - 7 p.m., Jan. 13, 1615 Tiffany Ranch Rd., Arroyo Grande. RSVP: 541-1360.



EPC Vice President Tylor Middlestadt awaits his turn at the podium, seated behind Air Pollution Control District chief Larry Allen at December 7 dedication of the solar panel array on the Cal Poly Engineering building, the largest solar power generating facility in the county.

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E-mail: [bughost@yosemitebug.com](mailto:bughost@yosemitebug.com)



### Sierra Club On the Air

Saving the planet starts at home so the Sierra Club is launching Sierra Club Radio -- tips and stories we all can

use as consumers, citizens, neighbors and parents to make responsible choices and connect to the growing environmental community.

Sierra Club Radio is a weekly half hour program broadcast every Saturday at 3:30 pm on 960 AM in the Bay Area, on the Web at [www.sierraclubradio.org](http://www.sierraclubradio.org)



# What He Said

Remarks of Smitty Smith, Director, Public Citizen - Texas, at the Smart Energy Solutions summit, San Luis Obispo, October 10, 2006. Smith spoke as a member of the panel on "How to Build Community Will."

SMART ENERGY SOLUTIONS

IT'S OUR CHOICE



I have learned a tremendous amount today by being here and listening to what's going on in this community and in California, and it's my great pleasure to come back here about once a year and learn from y'all what you're working on so I can take it back; I think we have a really tremendous opportunity here to make profound changes very rapidly.

That's the good news; the bad news is we really have to do it. We're old enough to know how to do this and we've got to get ourselves together very quickly and make some profound changes. We're sort of in a perfect storm. We heard at the beginning of our process here today that we're running out of oil, and the smart people tell us that the economic disruptions are really going to be profound in

will last for the rest of my life – but we're going to have a dramatic push toward federal legislation that will likely be very much modeled on what you have done out here in California. And everything will change. Suddenly everybody's going to be looking to do what they can to reduce global warming gases. And you are the frontrunners, the people who are gonna have to figure out how to make it work for the rest of the nation, and in many ways, the rest of the world.

Believe me, we all look at what you do. I steal it, copy it, take it back to Texas, improve on it, and then y'all steal it back and improve on whatever I did and make it better in California. I'm proud to acknowledge that we stole your renewable energy program from you,

what some of those elements have been in terms of our program in Austin and at the state level and share some of our experiences, but also talk about some of the things I think we can do in the next three to five years that can make a tremendous difference.

One of the things that we've doing in Austin is challenge the community, just as you are, to develop a plan for sustainability. And being in Texas, environmental stuff doesn't matter. It's all about "bidness." One of the things we try to explain to folks is if you don't do something quickly, y'all are gonna be buying product from someplace else. Texas is the energy capital, and now we're importing oil, we're importing wind turbines from Japan and Ger-

about making money, but back in Texas it's important to us. It's also an organizing principle for our communities. Cities are all about enabling people to consolidate their efforts and minimize their effort in order to be able to make more money and to live better. That's why we're here. I think that's important to keep track of.

You all have the power in each of our communities to make an enormous difference and to solve problems. We've heard about the efforts that are being made to analyze where your energy goes, not just in your city, the businesses and buildings, but in your individual homes. That's a critical first step.

Taking a look at the way you power your communities is the second step.

A comparison was made between the results of investments in wind energy and the same amount of investment in nuclear energy. The results were clearly favorable for wind energy. With the same investment, much more energy could be generated with wind. Moreover, with investments in wind energy more new jobs were generated than with investments in nuclear energy.

("Éole ou Pluton?," Paris, *Detente*, Bonduelle & Levevre, 2003)

about three to five years. Let me say that again: You've got three or five years before we start to see some significant changes in our ability to pay for the fuel, not only for our own cars but for our fleets of buses and trucks and operations of our cities and so forth. And we all know that global warming is getting significantly worse.

And in about that same period of time, we're going to have a change in the presidency. If and when that happens – there are moments when I think this is an imperial presidency that

took it to Texas, and we now have more wind power, up and turning, than you do. I understand from my California colleagues in the lobbying business, on the environmental side, that they use that to their advantage when they say "those Texans are beating us; you can't let that happen!" and it's very effective. So I challenge you to beat us one more time, and will do this one-upmanship to our mutual benefit.

I'm here today to talk a little bit about some of the success we've had and



## Plugging in...

The Sierra Club needs to explicitly advocate for its membership to loudly and publicly inform car manufacturers that they will refrain from buying a new vehicle until it has a plug on it.

Consider that the auto industry spends many billions of dollars advertising their products. They do this for a reason: Advertising works. If an organization the size of Sierra Club puts some advertising of its own behind a "We will not buy!" campaign, this will send a serious shiver down the spines of those who depend on increasing sales to keep their jobs. The car companies claim they give us what they want, but if we don't tell them loudly that we want plugs on our cars, they will continue to ignore us.

During Q&A sessions after screenings of "Who Killed the Electric Car?", I always left the crowd with that request, that they call Toyota, or any major OEM, and tell them they were not going to buy a new car until it had a plug. And then don't. Don't spend your money. I found that most folks really liked that idea. It's easy to encourage people to not spend money. I told them to just wait because EVs and PHEVs were coming soon, and if they kept their money earning interest, it would be easy to afford the first plug-in cars as they glided into showrooms around the country.

If the Club gets behind this campaign, we can enlist the NRDC, UCS, American Lung Association, and so on.

These kinds of numbers are very significant. Think of the news coverage we could get by advocating such a campaign. It didn't take many people to stop Toyota and Ford from crushing their existing EVs, but it will take several thousand to get their attention that we need new product. Let's get started!



Paul Scott  
Plug In America  
[www.pluginamerica.com](http://www.pluginamerica.com)

(On September 10, 2006, Sierra Club's California-Nevada Regional Conservation Committee (CNRCC) voted to endorse Plug-In Hybrid Electric Vehicle (PHEV) Technology as a means to reduce oil consumption and greenhouse gas emissions and improve air quality. CNRCC comprises the 13 Sierra Club Chapters in California and Nevada, representing more than 200,000 members.)

many... what's this importing business all about? We ought to be manufacturing stuff here. And in fact, when you look at the history of the world, when there is economic chaos, **the economic power shifts to the regions and the cities and the states. Those states and those parts of this country that have a plan are going to be the most prosperous.**

We all know this. We can read history, we've read it time after time, and that lesson has been amply demonstrated.

And those people who have their own power, who know how to manufacture their own energy, who aren't dependent on outside sources of energy, are going to be those communities that thrive economically in the future. That's a really profound thing for folks to start to think about. Because instead of being able to get oil from Texas or from Alaska, we're gonna be running out of that stuff very quickly, and not be able to afford what we get. There may be times when the electrical system is not going to be able to provide that kind of affordable power – it will probably be able to provide electricity, but we may not be able to

And as you've heard today four or five different ways, you have a gift out here that not many states have, and that is the Community Choice program that you have that allows you to create your own power companies. We in Austin are blessed in that Austin is a municipal utility -- San Antonio is the other big municipal utility; it's second after L.A. in terms of size. We have 54 other municipal utilities. And when you have your own power system that is owned by the community, then suddenly you can make dramatically different choices. Being able to do this Community Choice Aggregation project is an important next step for most of your communities in determining the source of the power, but also to be able to **use that power of community choice to make investments that are going to make your communities thrive economically.**

Let me tell you what we did with our Solar Austin program. One of the things that's been interesting about this process is the process of how we decided that Austin, Texas, would be the most sustainable city in the United States. We sat

down and had a private briefing – no reporters, no spies, nobody gonna tell any tales – with the people who were running for mayor and for city council. And basically explained to them what was going to happen in the future with energy costs, and said "we would like you to know about options — renewable energy, coal, nuclear; what the costs are gonna be — and we would like to talk to you about economic development in your community. We're going to give you all this information and we're available to you to answer

questions privately later. We'll have a forum in three months where we're going to ask you what you're plans are."

And what happened was we got all but one candidate running on sustainability and renewable energy as one of their first three platform issues.

The current mayor sent us a letter saying "I'm asked to go to 35 to 40 forums each cycle; nobody had ever brought me in and briefed me before we were asked to be smart on their topic."

So that little technique made an enormous difference in changing the way people thought. For whatever reason – maybe because I'm old and have gray



Smitty Smith holds forth at the Smart Energy Solutions summit, with Tam Hunt of the Community Environmental Council, right.

afford it very much longer. How are we going to meet our needs locally?

That really gets people to start to think about it. And the other question is "How can we profit from this?" Texans are profiteers. So putting it in terms of what we can do to make money out of this deal, this coming crisis, gets people thinking, and I think that's the most important way to frame it: How can we survive and triumph economically as a community, as a county; how can we export our knowledge to others and make money off the deal?

Now y'all in California may not care

hair – they thought we knew what we were talking about. Or maybe because we brought in experts from the university.

That made a big difference in changing their political strategies. And because everywhere they went – we took this out of the Greenpeace book – we had young kids and senior citizens raising their hands and asking the guy running for mayor — and I'm not making this guy's name up, he's got the best political name in the nation, Will Winn: "Councilman Winn, what are you gonna do about renewable energy?"

So from the day he walks out of our briefing, he's getting hit on renewable energy, sustainability: "What are you gonna do, what's your plan?" So suddenly he's on the spot, he's thinking "This is a big damn deal to my people out here; I'd better have a plan." So he's calling us up, sending us e-mail, checking it out, and then he comes up with his plan, and his plan is to make Austin the country's most sustainable city.

In a very short time, less than five months after he was elected, we had a new city energy plan that

said we're going to have 30 percent of the city's energy consumption reduced through energy efficiency by 2020, and 20 percent of the remainder coming from renewables, a hundred megawatts of that coming from solar... and we created a fairly aggressive solar buy-down for solar being put on the rooftops.

And we also got the city to start talking about having a sustainable energy park. Because one of the things we really wanted to do was manufacture this stuff in our own community; to be able to put together the folks that manufacture the silicon, and the electronics, and the casings that the solar cells go into. We've not done as well as we would like to there, but it's part of the conversation:

**How are we gonna create a solar park? What kind of incentives can we use as a city to incentivize solar manufacturers to come here?**



And I'm sad to say that we've lost several solar manufacturers because y'all got better incentives out in California. We're learning from that. But we do have one of the new thin film solar manufacturers and there's an aggressive attempt to try to bring in the next generation of solar manufacturing companies to Austin.

Another thing that we did in Austin is take a look at where the rest of our energy goes – if it's not electricity, what else? Aha: It's the car. What can we do about it? Well, Austin Energy, after looking at the literature, decided that it wanted to go out and buy a hundred plug-in hybrids. They went to Ford and said "we'll buy a hundred of them," and

Ford said "Yeah, right. Come back when you grow up and have an order for ten thousand."

So Austin said "okay," and they've gone city to city – I think the last I heard they've got about 6,900 cars and pick-up trucks on order. The power of aggregate purchasing, getting a bunch of cities together, makes a huge difference in

terms of the price of the product, but it also gives to Ford or GM the belief that if they build something there will be a market. And cities are oftentimes great beta-testers for products. If you put it in a city fleet, you can train one mechanic instead of fifty to work on a particular kind of car, and you get real-time feedback on the first generation of a product. So the manufacturers are real excited about manufacturing a plug-in hybrid car and a plug-in hybrid pick-up truck to serve the need.

But we're not stopping there. We're looking at bucket trucks – the big things that service the light poles – and the other kinds of heavy trucks that are utilized for city service, figuring we're really the best people to try out this equipment at the city level and find out what works and what doesn't. And so Austin Energy has taken leadership on

## When you have your own power system that is owned by the community, then suddenly you can make dramatically different choices.

that.

Another thing that we're looking at is where can we put our community money. Our utility has a significant amount of capital that it invests in a variety of different things. Should we be investing in next generation technologies? Should we start looking at ways of building low-emission coal gasification plants with carbon sequestration — not because we want a coal plant, but because it will transform the market. If the city puts its money into carbon sequestration and figures it out, it may well be a technology that works and then gets picked up by a lot of other people who don't have the citizens' money to play with.

Cities and counties, through their investment packages that they're making for their short and long-term funds, through their purchases of retirement packages, all have a lot of money they can play with, and their investment decisions make a lot of difference.

Let me wrap up by suggesting a couple of other things. The question here is how can you build the community will. Well, you can always say you wanna beat those folks down in Austin, Texas, then I'll go home and say we wanna beat the folks out in California; that works well. But another thing we all have to look at is what can we do individually as we leave here. One opportunity you have this very night is to go to a movie called *Kilowatt Ours*, and for those of you that have not seen this movie, it's basically one man and his wife, who are twenty-somethings, that transitional generation, scratching their heads and saying "Where's our electricity come from?" And so he goes off and looks at where the coal comes from that is providing his electricity. There in the south-eastern United States, Texas or Wyoming, they have these big open pit mines, and they're blowing these mountains up, and he sees what happens to the people who live around him and the

pollution that's resulting from mining. And then he goes and takes a look at what's coming out of the smokestacks. And he talks to the doctors. And then he talks to the people around the nuclear plants. And then he scratches his head and says "I can't consciously continue this. I have to think of ways to reduce my emissions."

So he and his wife, in their little 1200-square foot apartment, go on a crusade to reduce their energy bills by fifty percent. And they do so, at costs that are affordable and pay back within a year. And then they talk about the political strategies necessary to change the way we get our energy, all across the nation.

One of the things we've learned is the power of neighbors saying to neighbors: "We have a problem and we know how to solve it." Take in that movie. Going to see it tonight, then ordering it, taking it home, and having ten of your neighbors over for a potluck dinner is probably one of the most important things you can do. Watch the movie, have a conversation about what you all can do together, and what you all can do as a community. Have one of those visionary nights that talks about our responsibility, not only to ourselves and to our families, but as members of a community and members of the global community, to transform the way we're generating our electricity and to prepare for the future.

That's the challenge that we have walking out of this room: To pick up our knowledge today and put it to use and transform our communities and transform the rest of the globe.

Now lest you think you've got a lot of time to ponder this, **you've got three to five years to put your action plan in place, get your policies adopted, get your equipment ordered, and start installing it before the prices really go through the roof.** Those communities that take those steps now are going to be economic winners, and those that lag behind are going to be the economic losers. The choice is yours; the power's in your hands.



## 200,000+ Hi-Tech Jobs Can Come From Renewable Energy Market

Clean energy advocates and policy makers are calling for continued development of California's renewable energy industry as a means of providing a job boost to the state.

"Renewable energy technologies have the potential to grow California's economy and provide thousands of high-tech, high-paying jobs," says Bernadette Del Chiaro, clean energy advocate for Environment California Research and Policy Center, a statewide environmental advocacy organization. "With the right programs, California could develop a 'Green Energy Valley', similar to Silicon Valley, while bringing all the environmental benefits of clean, locally produced energy."

According to the 2003 report by Environment California Research and Policy Center, *Renewable Energy and Jobs: Employment Impacts of Developing Markets for Renewables in California*, state renewable energy programs such as California's Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) and programs to put more solar power on new homes would greatly increase demand for renewable energy equipment and services, encouraging California companies to expand their operations and tap into a growing international market. Currently, there are more than 200 companies in California involved in the renewable energy

industry with over 170,000 employees.

"By creating a clear market demand for renewable energy technologies, California policies such as the Renewable Portfolio Standard, makes it possible for companies to attract investments needed to expand our operations, increase production and hire more workers," says Vahan Garboushian, President & Founder of Amonix, Inc., a PV design and manufacturing company in Torrance. "Over the past five years, we've expanded our local operations by 300 percent as a result of an increased demand in renewable energy."

Capitalizing on the expanding local, national and foreign markets for renewable energy would have tremendous benefits for the state's economy. Given the rise in natural gas prices, California's primary fuel source for electricity, expanding renewable energy markets also helps stabilize prices and reliability.

"Given the state's economic and energy situation, growing our renewable energy industry is exactly the direction we need to be headed right now," says S. David Freeman, Chairman of the California Power Authority. "With the Energy Action Plan adopted by California's three state energy agencies, we hope to double our clean energy achieving the 20 percent renewable energy goal by 2010. Doing so will bring more jobs to

California the next decade."

Full realization of the Renewable Portfolio Standard goal of 20 percent would create an estimated 119,000 person-years of employment for Californians over the lifetimes of the plants built through 2017. The Energy Action Plan would bring about these jobs by 2010. Overseas renewable energy markets would create an estimated 4,300 new jobs for Californians in 2010 and 9,700 in 2017. This totals 201,000 person-years of employment. At an average salary of \$40,000 per year, this job growth would have payroll benefits of \$8 billion.

Jobs from a steady growth in the use of solar panels would add 2,700 person-years of employment. A more dramatic growth in the PV market would bring about the greatest job benefits, since solar creates more jobs than all other clean energy technologies.

"Solar power not only creates pollution-free and reliable electricity, but it creates more jobs per unit of energy than all other technologies," said Del Chiaro. "By expanding our solar market, we could export solar panels like we export vegetables, computer programs and Hollywood movies."

Wind power is expected to more than double within five years and grow to a \$60 billion industry by 2020. Geother-

mal power is projected to grow by 50% by 2010 and 230% by 2020 to a \$35-billion industry.

California should continue to promote an increased use of ultra-clean micropower such as solar photovoltaics and fuel cells through **state and local incentive programs**, building codes and requirements for existing and new buildings, and technology-forcing emission standards for dirty energy sources. It is also in the state's best interest to remove barriers to ultra-clean micropower such as interconnection rules and fees and standby charges.

Full realization of the RPS goals and a large increase in the use of ultra-clean micropower would result in a significant boost to California renewable energy companies, which would more effectively springboard the industry into global market dominance.

Other programs to promote research in renewable energy and commercialization of renewable energy technologies, and to **reduce subsidies and tighten regulations on fossil fuel and nuclear energy sources**, are also effective in leveling the playing field and thereby promoting a strong renewables industry. Maintaining and expanding these programs could have significant long-term economic benefits for California.

## Let's Review

continued from page 3

worked, at great expense, and should be any community's very last resort.

### In March...

We found ourselves at the center of a First Amendment dust-up when a Cal Poly prof tried to intimidate students who he learned were planning to attend a public lecture he had arranged by U.S. Forest Service Chief Dale Bosworth, hand out Sierra Club fliers provided by the Chapter asking "Where's the Fire, Mr. Bosworth?" and ask pointed questions about the Forest Service's extremely logging-friendly "fire management" policies. The story hit the *Daily Mustang* and Chapter Executive Committee member Steven Marx intervened with the Cal Poly Provost to protect the students' First Amendment rights from the prof in question, who quickly backed down, but not before we published his financial ties to the California Forest Products Commission and the Lumber Association of California and Nevada.

We pointed out to the County Planning Commission that their staff report on the EDA/Weyrick project planned for San Miguel – 24 residences on a toxic waste site – had no information as to the origin of the cadmium contaminating the site, health effects, by how much cadmium exceeded safe exposure levels, the likelihood of recurrence after cleanup, and potential water table contamination. We also noted that preparing a remediation plan after granting permits would be a violation of the California Environmental Quality Act. The Commission agreed and sent staff back to the drawing board.

In a legal action made possible by the Chapter's financial assistance, Save the Park prevailed in a settlement agreement with the County and the State Dept. of Parks over illegal tree-cutting. Both agencies admitted to breaking the law in secretly agreeing to cut or kill mature healthy pine, cypress and eucalyptus trees in coastal state parks without benefit of permit, as required by the County Code and the California Coastal Act. The community must now receive notice of any plan to cut trees on public property and be able to participate in the permitting process.

We received an inquiry from SLO City Councilwoman Christine Mulholland to check out a group that was asking the City to sign on to a "Resolution for Updating the Endangered Species Act." Sure enough, the "California Natural Resources Group" was a front for the business, big ag, forestry, mining, and construction lobbies, all looking to "streamline" the Endangered Species Act – and endangered species – right out of existence. The City was duly informed, and its endorsement was not forthcoming.

We hosted the breakout group on ag conversion and open space at ECOSLO's fifth annual EcoSummit at Camp Ocean Pines in Cambria.

At our general meeting, members learned about "living with lions" from representatives of the Mountain Lion Foundation, who passed along tips on reducing human-lion conflicts and living peacefully alongside our increasingly close neighbors as our species pushes deeper into lion country.

### In April...

Our long and persistent efforts to inform and improve the SLO City Planning Department's update of the City's Conservation and Open Space Element (COSE) came to an end when the City Council formally voted to approve the updated document on April 4.

Sierra Club partnered with ECOSLO and other local groups and individuals to help ensure that the proposed changes would not weaken or delete significant protections in the existing policy. We deleting loopholes and restored language from the 1994 Element, which had been drafted as part of a broad public process, as opposed to the essentially in-house document that the Planning & Development Dept. tried to set in stone this year.

The Chapter also managed to get approved a whole new policy element, which reads as follows:

*4.30.18: Accept the support of the County Air Pollution Control District in calculating emission inventories and*

*the development of balanced strategies for addressing climate protection through development of model ordinances and guidelines designed to meet the City's goals.*

The new policy was drafted by the Chapter, submitted to the Planning Commission and accepted by the Commission at its February 8 meeting, the last review of the draft COSE by the Commission before passing it on to the City Council for final review, amendment and adoption. At its April 4 meeting, following a presentation by Air Pollution Control District (APCD) Executive Director Larry Allen, the City Council directed staff to work with the APCD on implementing the green policies in the County's Climate Protection Plan. It then formally adopted the updated COSE.

The APCD is providing support for local governments to join the Cities for Climate Protection program.

At our general meeting, members learned about the challenge of eating sustainably from community leaders in

agriculture, farming and transportation, snacking on locally grown produce and locally prepared foods while watching the Sierra Club animated short "The True Cost of Food."

### In May...

The County Grand Jury released its Report on the County Planning Commission, an anonymous 14-page vendetta against two commissioners that proceeded from a premise that was factually incorrect, stating "The Planning Commission is an ADVISORY body," and got more wrong as it went along.

A compendium of the agenda and philosophies of the development lobby, the report described, with palpable outrage, project hearings wherein Planning Commissioners Bruce Gibson and Sarah Christie insisted on upholding the Local Coastal Plan, county zoning ordinances, and/or the California Environmental Quality Act, despite the fact that developers had projects to build and profits to reap.

When the Board of Supervisors met to deliberate, even the Board's pro-development majority couldn't afford to publicly defend the grand jury's report, and it was quickly disposed of.

We joined with other local groups and the Natural Resources Defense Council in requesting that a Regional Water Board meeting on the Morro Bay/Cayucos wastewater treatments plant's discharge permit be held in San Luis Obispo, the county where the affected residents live, not Salinas as planned. The Water Board acquiesced and the issue was finally heard here on May 11. We testified that the Morro Bay/Cayucos plant could not be granted yet another waiver to the federal Clean Water Act (one of only two waivers left on the west coast) due to the plant's inability to show that its discharge was not harmful to marine life. A focus of the hearing was sea otters and how they relate to the regulatory concept of a "Balanced Indigenous Population" (BIP). The Water Board staff and the EPA contended that a Balanced Indigenous Population of marine wildlife exists in Estero Bay and therefore the plant's outfall is doing no harm. The Chapter countered that EPA determines the presence of a BIP solely by studying simple benthic (sea bottom) life, whereas the clear intent of Congress in the Clean Water Act was to protect all marine wildlife from water pollution. The high localized mortality rate for otters is a clear indication of a failure to meet that standard in Estero Bay.

Toward the end of the day, after much wrangling over statistics, inconclusive studies and opposing interpretations of data, Steve Shimek of the Otter Project asked "Can we all agree that cleaning up wastewater is a good thing and the otters will be better off with a cleaner ocean?"

The Board deadlocked on whether to renew the plant's waiver from the Clean Water Act, pending a new study by EPA.

Thanks to the relentless efforts of Atascadero High School students and Cuesta Grassroots, Atascadero Mayor Tom O'Malley signed the U.S. Mayors Agreement on Climate Protection, officially joining the Sierra Club's national list of "Cool Cities," thanks to the relentless efforts of Atascadero High School students and Cuesta Grassroots. O'Malley promised to meet and exceed the goals of the Cool Cities program.

At our general meeting, a panel discussion with SLO Green Build, Cienega Energy Systems, the SLO Chamber of Commerce, Sierra Club California and the County Air Pollution Control District gave members a preview of October's Smart Energy Solutions summit.

### In June...

With co-appellants San Luis Obispo Mothers for Peace and former County Supervisor Peg Pinard, we won a legal victory whose effects immediately began to be felt nationwide (see "Taking Issue") when the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals agreed with our legal challenge to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission over Diablo Canyon's on-site nuclear waste storage plans. The NRC insisted that a terrorist attack on the high-level nuclear waste storage facility at Diablo Canyon was not "reasonably foreseeable" and it need not hold hearings on the matter or otherwise consider it as part of the facility's Environmental Impact Statement. The Court said otherwise.

Despite the ruling, PG&E is plowing ahead with construction of the facility as-is "at its own risk" (i.e. ratepayer's risk), and appealing the 9th Circuit's ruling to the U.S. Supreme Court.

The Chapter and the Alliance for Nuclear Responsibility intervened in a PG&E's ratepayer case at the Public Utilities Commission to request that the PUC freeze ratepayer funding for the Diablo Canyon dry cask storage project due to the 9th Circuit's ruling, which could require the project be torn out and redesigned after completion.

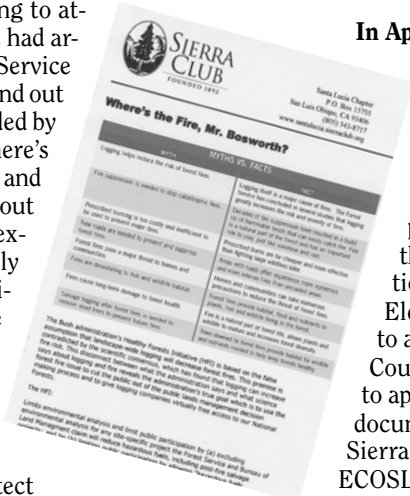
In another ratepayer petition to the PUC, we stated that, in the face of a pending California Energy Commission analysis on costs, benefits and risks of reliance on aging nuclear power plants, it would be irresponsible for the CPUC to allow PG&E to pass on to ratepayers the cost of a requested \$14 million "feasibility study" of license renewal for Diablo Canyon — a study that would lack only a signature, envelope and stamp to become a full-blown application to operate and produced high-level radioactive waste on our coast for another 20 years.

Our June 10 Awards banquet at the Atascadero Lake Pavilion was a smash hit. The Hushpuppies, a jazz ensemble featuring Jack Morrow, Vice Chair of the Chapter Executive Committee, on saxophone, set an upbeat tone for the evening. Sierra Club President Lisa Renstrom spoke to guests about the Club's goals in the coming year. As the sun set over the lake, Inga Swearingen entranced us with her unique jazz vocal stylings. To cap the evening, Chapter historian John Ashbaugh presented a terrific PowerPoint overview of 100 years of land conservation in SLO County. All that fun, and we raised \$11,000 for the Chapter's work.

### In July...

The Chapter joined Marin Audubon in opposing the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's proposed "special rule" to exempt counties in Washington, Oregon and California from the Endangered Species Act if they can successfully hit target rates for snowy plover recovery two years out of five. (In school, that kind of "success" would get you a C-minus.) The Service has not yet finalized the plan.

We met with the State Parks officials and the Technical Review Team to monitor Parks' progress in implementing the terms of their settlement agreement with the Sierra Club over the management of Oceano Dunes State



EcoSummit, March 2006.





Vehicular Recreational Area and study ways to avoid vehicle crossings of Arroyo Grande Creek.

**In August...**

Throughout the year, we joined SLO GE Free in watchdog duties over the County Health Commission's star-crossed efforts to assemble a task force on genetically modified organisms that was not overwhelmingly stacked in favor of the biotech lobby and folks with a great deal of self-interest in the propagation of genetically engineered foods. Thanks to our mutual efforts, when the Health Commission received the report of its task force, it also agreed to forward to the Board of Supervisors a 59-page citizens response (<http://tinyurl.com/jmpqh>) compiled by SLO GE-Free and the Santa Lucia Chapter, along with the just-released report of the Santa Cruz County Public Health Commission on GE crops, which had resulted in a vote by the Santa Cruz Board of Supervisors to enact an immediate precautionary moratorium on the planting of genetically engineered crops in their county.

Our citizens report concluded that the Health Commission should submit a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request to determine the location of all genetically engineered test plots in SLO County from the USDA, recommend that the Agricultural Commissioner institute a mandatory registration program for both test plots and approved genetically engineered crops, and recommend a precautionary approach to the adoption of genetically engineered crops in San Luis Obispo County to the Board of Supervisors, similar to the one adopted by Santa Cruz County.

Two weeks later, our county supervisors failed to lead, asking representatives of local traditional and organic farming interests to report to the board on a way that GE and non-GE crops can co-exist, despite copious and growing evidence at hand that this is fundamentally impossible and that attempts to do so elsewhere have not worked.

The Board of Supervisors approved a permit for "data collection" for a desal project in Cambria that would require drilling for beach wells on State Park property and conducting a seismic survey within the waters of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. Chapter Executive Committee Vice-Chair Jack Morrow led the Chapter's Desal Task Force in an appeal to the Coastal Commission, joined by co-appellants Mickey Burton, Greenspace of Cambria, and the Southern California Watershed Alliance. We noted that the project, as a feasibility study for a future desal plant, requires an Environmental Impact Report for the entire project, not just the beach wells, and that the transparent purpose of the facility is not "drought relief" but to support new urban development in Cambria and undeveloped coastline in the North Coast Planning Area. Coastal Commissioners Sara Wan and Mary Shallenberger also filed appeals based on the project's significant impacts to coastal resources. The County's permit has been stayed pending a Coastal Commission hearing and decision on our appeal.

**In September...**

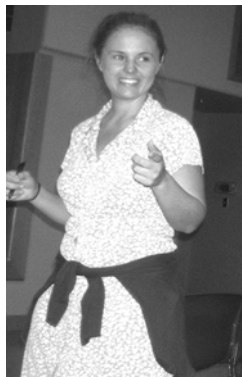
We started the month with a bang with "Talk About the Bay," a free public conference on Morro Bay watershed issues that was largely planned and underwritten by the Chapter, a co-sponsored by the Ocean Outfall Group, Surfrider, ECOSLO, the Morro Bay National Estu-



Sammy Steelhead and friend check out the Sierra Club's table at Coastal Clean-Up Day, Pismo Beach, September 16.

ary Program and the SLO Coast Alliance. Coastal Commission Executive Director Peter Douglas and State Assemblyman Pedro Nava anchored the event, whose subjects ranged from the state of the estuary and the Los Osos sewer to sea otters, power plants and the true meaning of coastal activism. The Ocean Outfall Group is now promoting the model state-wide.

The Chapter and HopeDance hosted the Sept. 18 SLO premiere screening of *Sipakapa is Not for Sale*, showing how Mayan communities in Guatemala are fighting back against the devastating effects of "free trade," along with a talk by Susan Knight, National Representative for the Sierra Club's Responsible Trade Program, on how international trade policies impact us all.



Susan Knight fields a question at Sipakapa is Not for Sale.

On September 20, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger signed the bill to enable turning over construction of the Los Osos sewer to the County. All summer, the Chapter worked with the office of Assemblyman Sam Blakeslee and lobbied in Sacramento for passage of his bill, AB 2107 – the only remaining way out of the sewer quagmire for the embattled, soon to be bankrupt town, which had run out of options and whose bond rating had slipped to a "CCC," meaning it would never be able to acquire the loans needed to construct a wastewater treatment project at an affordable rate. With luck, we now will live to see the day that the wastewater of Los Osos receives an acceptable level of treatment.

At our general meeting, members learned the lessons of Madagascar, as Cal and Letty French brought back slides of their recent trip, exposing the grim future that awaits at the end of a road of relentless environmental destruction.

**In October...**

We continued to meet with State Parks officials to monitor Parks' progress in implementing the terms of our settlement agreement over the management of Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreational Area, and ways to avoid vehicle crossings of Arroyo Grande Creek.

With North County Watch, The Chapter co-hosted a City Council candidates forum in Paso Robles. For the first time, the candidates were asked about their positions on Measure J and Proposition 90. We sponsored a Candidates Energy Forum in SLO at our general

**In Memoriam: Harold Miossi**

Harold was a giant among Democratic activists and environmental heroes in SLO County. It was fitting that he lived until the day after the election, and he would have certainly cheered the news. Harold led the fight in the 1950s to preserve Cuesta Canyon against a catastrophic proposal to bury it under an 8-lane freeway. He fought against Diablo Canyon in the 60s, and in the 70s he championed the creation of the Santa Lucia Wilderness with newly-elected Congressman Leon Panetta. Harold always offered stimulating conversation to anyone who crossed his path near his downtown office, particularly attorneys, fellow ranchers, and anyone who shared his interest in politics and the environment. Though he never married, Harold Miossi leaves a legacy that goes well beyond his extended family: He fought to preserve open space and vistas, wildlife and wilderness. Those values will be etched into our memories forever.

- John Ashbaugh

meeting, 19 days before the election. Attendees and viewers of [www.slo-span.org](http://www.slo-span.org) got the rare treat of hearing a cross-section of candidates from multiple races engage in a discussion of alternative energy solutions at the local, county and state level. Participants included Assemblyman Sam Blakeslee, SLO Mayor Dave

Romero, Morro Bay Mayor Janice Peters, County Board of Supervisors candidate Bruce Gibson, and a slew of city council candidates.

Serendipity strikes: By coincidence, the same week that the *Tribune* printed a letter from a Wal-Mart spokesman assuring the residents of Paso Robles that Wal-Mart would never think of closing the regular Wal-Mart in Paso – crippling the city's tax base – just because

they plan to open a Wal-Mart SuperCenter in Atascadero, the *Santa Lucian* printed two case studies of Wal-Marts elsewhere in California doing just that. It's standard operating procedure for the corporation.

Empty promises don't trump a business plan. Paso Robles residents won't have to find that out the hard way, as the subsequent election of Sierra Club-endorsed candidates Ellen Beraud and Mike Brennler to the Atascadero City Council appears to have punched Wal-Mart's ticket there.

A Superior Court judge ordered Haig Kelegian to pay his portion of the fines assessed in 2005 when, under public pressure brought to bear by Creston residents, ECOSLO and the Chapter, the Regional Water Board levied the largest fine ever assessed in the county for egregious damage done to a watershed: \$225,000 for grubbing hundreds of acres near Creston and letting the denuded soil erode into a creek.

Kelegian, one of the two land speculators fined, gave all the credit for the 400% increase in his originally proposed \$20,000 fine to the Sierra Club's Chapter Director (complaining to the Water Board, "he said my fine was too low, and you returned my check because he told you to!"). He appealed to the Regional Water Board, then the State Water Board, then, having lost at all administrative levels, took his case to Superior Court, where, in October, a judge ordered him to pay the fine.

Meanwhile, we participated in negotiations that resulted in the \$125,000 fine assessed against his business partner going to fund the re-vegetation of an eroded hillside in a rare blue oak woodland adjacent to Stadium Park in Atascadero and fence out destructive off-road vehicles, re-vegetate a strip of private property along the Salinas River in San Miguel, and assist the County Department of Parks and Recreation in the purchase of similar habitat elsewhere in the Salinas River watershed, preventing residential development in this highly sensitive and scenic area.

The County Planning Commission approved an Environmental Impact Report for the Chicago Grade Landfill. The Chapter had worked with residents near the landfill since 2005, identifying problem areas and assisting in the preparation of comments on the draft EIR that resulted in an improved project.

October 10 saw the culmination of nine months of planning and collaboration -- the Smart Energy Solutions Summit. The all-day event was organized by an amazingly diverse planning committee that included the Santa Lucia Chapter, SLO Green Build, the SLO Chamber of Commerce, the Home Builders Association, PG&E, ECOSLO, Coast National Bank, the County Air Pollution Control District, Cienega Energy Systems, County Supervisor Jim Patterson, and the Cal Poly School of Architecture. It brought over 300 people to the SLO Vets

Hall throughout the day to hear and speak with 32 energy and sustainability experts in eight panel discussions and a keynote address. To implement the ideas and directions set by the Summit, the planning group will continue its work with a new name: The Strategic Energy Alliance for Change (SEA Change). See page 3.

**In November...**

Nine of fourteen Chapter-endorsed candidates — Lois Capps (23rd Congressional District), Bruce Gibson (County Board of Supervisors), Allen Settle (SLO City Council), Tony Ferrara (Mayor, Arroyo Grande), Betty Winholtz (Morro Bay City Council), Ellen Beraud and Mike Brennler (Atascadero City Council), and Joe Costello and Chuck Fellows (Arroyo Grande City Council) — won their races.

At the November 14 meeting of the County Board of Supervisors, the Chapter joined the community voices urging the Board to pass the Parks and Recreation Element as drafted in a years-long process of consensus and compromise. We asked the Board not to cave in to 11th-hour demands by the Farm Bureau to slash proposed future trail rights-of-way. The Bureau's list of last-minute changes, renegeing on the consensus previously reached by all parties, was turned aside.

At our general meeting, Steve Shimek, Executive Director of the Otter Project, gave a brief history of the California sea otter and alerted us to the critical final phase of the state Fish and Game Commission's multi-year process establishing a historic network of Marine Protected Areas off the Central Coast.

**In December...**

The Farm Bureau tried one last time to scare people and the Board of Supervisors into gutting the Parks & Rec Element, and failed to prevail against those of us who believe that trails are important for the future of our community. "The result was overwhelmingly in favor of trails and we have every reason to be pleased with the result," said Adam Fukushima of the SLO Bicycle Coalition. Amen.



## RPD

continued from page 4

state and county agencies, conservation and public interest organizations, and the advisory councils pointed out the serious problems and potential legal actions this ordinance would cause our county if adopted.

The proposed RPD ordinance was first heard by the Board of Supervisors in June 2005. Planning staff recommended the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) due to the thirty-eight Class I potentially significant environmental impacts that would result from adoption of the RPD. For water resources and biological resources, the impacts were identified as potentially irreversible.

Rather than stopping the processing of the RPD ordinance, the Board of Supervisors directed Planning staff to take the ordinance on the road. All of the inland advisory councils were asked to review the RPD ordinance and provide their recommendations. North County Watch, formerly PasoWatch, funded the creation of binders of information that were circulated to the advisory bodies reviewing the RPD.

"Stop processing the RPD" was the response from the majority of the advisory groups. The evidence showed that this ordinance was not in the best interest of our county and should not be adopted. Public comment raised the issue of the RPD's inconsistency with the county's General Plan.

### The Way Forward

Supervisors voted to refer the problem of underlying lots to the newly formed TDC Blue Ribbon Committee. One of the reasons the TDC program was established was to help solve the underlying lot problem.

The problem of underlying lots is serious and will not go away. Creative solutions are needed. The TDC Blue Ribbon Committee is reviewing various approaches to deal with these underlying lots and move development from rural areas into more urban areas.

Sierra Club is represented on the TDC Blue Ribbon Committee by Susan Harvey. Meetings of the Committee are

open to the public. Your input and ideas are welcome. Contact Karen Nall ([knall@co.slo.ca.us](mailto:knall@co.slo.ca.us)).



### Welcome to '07

continued from page 1

Nipomo and Five Cities, consider serving on one of our important committees: Political, Membership, Conservation, Outings, and Legal. All of these committees of the Chapter need YOUR valuable perspectives and contribution of ideas. And remember, all regular meetings of the Executive Committee are open to Chapter members. The meetings will take place on the fourth Friday of each month at 4:30 p.m. at the Chapter office in the Environmental Center of San Luis Obispo at Marsh & Nipomo, followed by the General Meeting at 7:00 p.m. at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, just a block from the Chapter office.

As you will see from reading the recap of the work of the Chapter in 2006, this past year was extremely busy and productive. Once again I can say, with tremendous gratitude and pride, that our Chapter Director, Andrew Christie, has carried forward the mission and goals of the chapter with great skill, enormous hard work, and extraordinary grace. Andrew is meticulous in his research of policy and planning issues that concern the Chapter; he prepares written testimony to give to city, county, regional and state officials, deals with the media; answers myriad questions from callers and drop-in visitors; prepares all aspects of this newsletter as editor-in-chief; and keeps track of the work of all the Chapter's committees, task forces, and activists, lending support and assistance wherever needed.

His work was highly esteemed by the

[Editor's note: The Farm Bureau and Cattlemen's Association were silent at the RPD hearing. This is interesting since they were extremely vocal against the County Parks and Recreation Element, which would not impact land which remains in agriculture, whereas the proposed RPD

ordinance would have severely impacted active agriculture. In an attempt to keep the RPD alive, the Farm Bureau had lobbied prior to the RPD hearing that a new committee needed to be created to consider the issues in the proposed ordinance. It makes one wonder whether the Farm Bureau is representing potential developers rather than those who want to remain in agriculture.]

group of community leaders who made up the Smart Energy Solutions Summit planning group that brought forth the extraordinary event last October at the SLO Vets Hall. Our co-planners included Dave Garth, President of the SLO Chamber of Commerce; Jerry Bunin of the Home Builders Association and Margot McDonald of the Cal Poly Renewable Energy Institute. Andrew was dubbed "The Hub" - that is, the go-to guy to get the work done!

If I could summarize in one word what has been our greatest accomplishment this year, I would have to say "collaboration." Our Chapter has re-established strong working relationships with other community groups and individuals and forged new ones with businesses and organizations with whom we share important goals. Because of our Chapter Director's expertise, and the vision and leadership provided by your Executive Committee, the Chapter car-

ries on the long tradition of service to our community in its efforts to preserve, protect, and enjoy the environment on which we depend and which depends on us.

The priority goal for our Chapter in 2007, and for the foreseeable future, is to continue our collaborative efforts to help identify and implement Smart Energy Solutions that address our current crisis of global warming/climate change. To do this will require strong partnerships with public and private organizations and a wide range of community leaders. We encourage and welcome the participation of each of you, our Chapter members, as well as the general public, to help in this critical endeavor. There is no time to waste. Each of us has an important part to play in building a sustainable, renewable energy community for ourselves, our children, and our grandchildren.

## We Had Ourselves a Merry Little Paddle

By Joe Dickerson

Okay! It's a no-brainer, if you schedule a paddle in December it's going to rain and nobody will show up. But we tried it anyway. And, guess what. People did show up and the rain went away.

The second surprise was just how low Santa Margarita Lake gets before we get our winter rains. Although there were lots of clouds, many of which looked capable of producing a shower or two, our little group launched and headed toward Sapwi campground for a picnic lunch before exploring the Salinas River end of the lake.

As we meandered along the edge of the lake we were amazed to find that many of the places we have explored at high water levels were completely unreachable by boat. One large rock in particular that has a couple of small caves that we paddled into last spring was easily 10 feet above the lake level.

The clouds continued to pass overhead, it was in fact very cloudy with a few small patches of blue but not at all unpleasant. After a cordial lunch stop at Sapwi with the requisite story, joke and reminiscent swap we suddenly became aware that the wind was up and looked to be blowing directly from our launch site. Oops. A quick poll was taken and it was decided that the Salinas would have to wait until another trip.

We launched and immediately headed for the lee of the opposite shore. That got us out of the wind for a little bit but only for a little bit. We prepared for a real struggle getting back to the launch site when, another surprise, the wind veered 180 degrees and absolutely blew us home. Paddlers were holding paddles aloft, opening jackets, some were accused of flashing, generally doing anything they could think of to look like a spinnaker. We nearly flew back to the parking lot gig-

gling and whooping like a bunch of kids sledding the winter's first snowfall. I've got to buy a kite for this kind of stuff.

Hope you had a great Holiday Season and may I be one of the first to wish you and yours a Happy Hogmanay. We hope to see you on the water in 2007.



### '06 Election wrap-up

continued from page 3

used to protect land from being developed by preserving it as farmland, open space or wildlife habitat. A comprehensive and centralized list of the easement locations and other relevant information about them will help land use planners and the public to better protect these areas.

Once again Sierra Club California was influential in stopping a number of bad bills from progressing. We also worked to get amendments to an array of legislation to make those bills acceptable. Our work in this regard generally will not show up in scorecards on the Legislature or Governor, nor make it to any media outlet, but is critical if we are to protect our existing set of environmental laws.

Sierra Club California put substantial effort into the 2006 election as well. Ballot measures were our main focus, and results were mixed. We won our biggest priority, defeating the takings initiative (Prop 90), while the parental notification initiative (Prop 85) that we opposed also was defeated. However, two important initiatives that we supported were not approved by the voters — clean energy (Prop 87) and clean elections (Prop 89). Voters rebelled against long and complicated initiatives that had fierce opposition. Bonds fared much better, though, as voters approved five infrastructure bonds, including 3 that we backed: water/parks/land conservation (Prop 84), affordable housing, which has some excellent smart growth/

infill provisions) (Prop 1C), and schools, which has green school buildings language (Prop 1D). We were neutral on the successful transportation and flood control bonds.

For the down-ticket statewide offices, 5 of our 6 candidates won, all Democrats running for open seats. Jerry Brown returns to Sacramento as Attorney General, with a promise to make the environment a priority. Bill Magavern appeared in a number of news stories slamming the horrendous record of Brown's opponent. John Garamendi defeated an arch-enemy of the environment, Tom McClintock, for the Lt. Governor slot. Another contested race was for State Controller, where John Chiang, who has a very good green record and platform, defeated Tony Strickland, who is a terrible vote on the environment.

Because of the bi-partisan gerrymandering that made virtually all legislative districts safe for either the Democratic or Republican party, not a single seat in the State Legislature will change parties, despite the term limits that will bring a record number of new legislators to the Capitol. Because of the primary results in the open seats, our Assembly will grow considerably greener than it has been, while the previously rock-solid Senate will get a bit more shaky.

Overall, 45 of our 53 endorsed candidates for Assembly, Senate, and statewide office were successful.

# Classifieds

February issue ad deadline is **January 16**. To acquire a rate sheet or submit your ad and payment, contact:  
Sierra Club - Santa Lucia Chapter  
p.o. Box 15755  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93406  
sierra8@charter.net

## Local Government Meetings

- City of SLO--1st & 3rd Tues., 7:00 p.m.; 781-7103
- Arroyo Grande--2nd and 4th Tues., 7:00 p.m.; 473-5404
- Atascadero--2nd & 4th Tues.; 466-8099
- Cambria CSD -- 4th Thurs.; 927-6223
- Grover Beach--1st & 3rd Mon., 6:30 p.m.; 473-4567  
Grover Beach Planning Commission-- 2nd Tues.
- Morro Bay--2nd & 4th Mon.
- Paso Robles--1st & 3rd Tues., 7:00 p.m.; 237-3888
- Pismo Beach--1st Tues., 5:30 p.m.; 773-4657
- Los Osos CSD board-- 1st Tues. & 2nd Mon., varies
- California Coastal Commission-- 3rd Tues., varies
- SLO County Board of Supervisors-- every Tues.; 781-5450
- SLO Council of Governments; 781-4219  
SLOCOG Citizens Advisory Committee--1st Wed. every other month, 6:00 p.m.  
SLOCOG Board--1st Wed. every other month, 8:30 a.m.

# HELP WANTED

**VOLUNTEER AND DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR**  
20 hours per week - work from home, or at the Chapter Office  
Reports to Chapter Director. No financial compensation available - yet. This experienced individual will be a self-starter, committed to creating a sustainable environment, willing to work as part of a dynamic team, and possessing positive people skills. Help the Chapter Director and Board to build the capacity of the Chapter in our community's efforts to achieve a sustainable, efficient, fossil-free energy future. Grant search and writing abilities a plus. Ability to organize events, and to care for and nurture volunteer efforts, is essential. For questions or application, please call Karen Merriam, Chapter Chair, 544-6628.

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**SEARCHING FOR  
CONNECTION**  
*An Exploration of Trauma,  
Culture, and Hope*  
by Karen Merriam

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*"Searching for Connection offers hope, inspiration, and meaning to those who have been traumatized, to family and friends of those touched by trauma, and to those who have dedicated their lives to helping the victimized and traumatized. Most importantly, it illustrates that one can endure with dignity and survive with meaning, even in the face of terrible experiences."*

—Beverly Engel, M.F.T., psychotherapist  
and author of *Breaking the Cycle of Abuse*

## Survival at the Edge of Experience

Karen Merriam's *Searching for Connection: An Exploration of Trauma, Culture, and Hope* delves into the heart of traumatic experience, where important connections to safety, hope, and strength are severed. Even in the darkness of traumatic events, however, personal and collective resources can be discovered and brought to bear to help oneself and others endure. Through a series of personal stories and case studies, Merriam develops a paradigm of traumatic experience that reveals the common factors that allow individuals to survive and to overcome nightmare experiences. Amazingly, survivors often discover within themselves untapped resources they have never known before.

The ten chapters of *Searching for Connection* build with cumulative authority and power, shining a search beam ever deeper into the abyss of traumatic experience. Merriam's exploratory approach will be especially appealing to readers who prefer to reach their own conclusions based on their unique strengths and wisdom. This is a groundbreaking study addressing a subject of profound significance, which all readers will profit from contemplating.

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# Outings and Activities Calendar

All of our hikes and activities are open to all Club members and the general public. 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 Leader Gary Felsman (473-3694). For information on a specific outing, please contact the outing leader. Outings Leaders please get your outings or events in by the 1st for the next month's outings.

## Hiking Classifications:

**Distance:** 1 = 0-2 mi., 2 = 3-5 mi., 3 = 6-9 mi., 4 = 10-12 mi., 5 = 12 mi. or more.

**Elevation Gain:** A = 500', B = 1000', C = 1500', D = 2000', E = 2500', F = 3000' or more.

**Sat., Jan 13, Outlaw Mine - Joshua Tree National Park:** The Outlaw Mine is located in the southeastern area of the park. A cross-country walk leads to an Indian trail (pottery shards can be found along this very old path) which crosses the Pinto Mountains at a low saddle. Because this mine is way off the beaten path, much of the supporting timber and many artifacts remain. Bring your boots for this one and layerable clothing. Two quarts of water and a hardy lunch should take care of the rest. E-mail Ann and Al Murdy [aemurdy@eee.org](mailto:aemurdy@eee.org) or call directly (no messages please) at 760-366-2932. San Gorgonio Chapter/CNRCC Desert Com.

**SUN., JAN. 14, 0930, BLACK LAKE CANYON:** We meet at junction of Leguna Negra and Guad.Rd and go down closed Xenon Way, see euke-forest, oak-woodland, Hoy Canyon, and new Land Conservancy property. Call 929-3647 or [bdenneen@kcbx.net](mailto:bdenneen@kcbx.net) a few days before to confirm and for details.

**Sat., Jan. 20, 8:00 a.m., Cruikshank Trail to Alder Creek Camp;** Join the leader on this late fall hike in the Silver Peak Wilderness in southern Big Sur. This is a moderately strenuous hike of about 10-11 miles and approximately 2400 ft of elevation gain. We will start on the Cruikshank Trail and climb to Upper Cruikshank Camp. From there, we will drop down to Villa Camp on the Buckeye Trail and then ascend to Alder Creek Camp which is located on Willow Creek Road. You can expect great views, redwoods, and a creek crossing or two. There is a possibility of poison oak. Bring water, snacks, lunch, and dress for the weather. Meet at the Washburn Day Use area just north of Cambria. We probably have a refueling stop at the Main Street Grill in Cambria after the hike. Rain cancels. For info, call Chuck at 441-7597 (4D)

**Wed., JAN., 21, 0930, DANA-CORRIO ADOBE:** Meet at

the Adobe on So. Oak Glenn, tour the hillside and creek, talk about history and future. What happened to the Chumash? Land across from the Dana Adobe is proposed to be part of the historic structure. Call 929-3647 or [bdenneen@kcbx.net](mailto:bdenneen@kcbx.net) a few days before to confirm and for details.

**SUN., JAN 21 CANOE/ KAYAK MORRO BAY CHORRO CREEK,** Explore the Chorro Creek and the Los Osos Creek deltas on an incoming tide. We will check on the birds and harbor seals. Bring your boat and equipment, PFDs, picnic lunch and binoculars. We may need to eat lunch in our boats. HIGH TIDE 11:30 AM 4.9 LAUNCH AT MORRO BAY STATE PARK LOW TIDE 6:48 PM - .5 PUT IN 10:00 AM Joe Dickerson 693-9534

**JAN 28, 0930, Sun., COAST HIKE:** A 4 mile hike on coast to remote area of dunes. Call 929-3647 or [bdenneen@kcbx.net](mailto:bdenneen@kcbx.net) a few days before to confirm and for details.

**Sat.-Sun., Feb 3-4, Service and Hiking in the North Algodones Dunes Wilderness Area:** We will have two outstanding projects in this Imperial County wilderness area. On Saturday we will assist Erin Dreyfuss, natural resources specialist in the El Centro BLM office, perhaps doing a census of the (famous, or infamous) Pierson's Milkvetch, or else sifting seeds of native plants for future restoration efforts. Sunday will be a longer hike to find and inventory five small game guzzlers for the BLM office, data they need for wilderness management and cooperation with the California Dept of Fish and Game. Saturday evening will be a potluck, a campfire, and stories about our desert. Contact leader: Craig Deutsche, [deutsche@earthlink.net](mailto:deutsche@earthlink.net), (310-477-6670). CNRCC Desert Com

**Sat., Feb 3, Paymaster Mine - Joshua Tree National Park:** This is a textbook mine; all precautions were exercised in its construction which may be the reason it still stands much as it was left. We've only been to this mine once but found the remnants of the road in and the mine itself to be a delightful discovery. We're looking forward to doing it again. Could be cold. Bring the warm things and a couple quarts of water and lunch. E-mail Ann and Al Murdy [aemurdy@eee.org](mailto:aemurdy@eee.org) or call directly (no messages please) at 760-366-2932. San Gorgonio Chapter/CNRCC Desert Com.

**Sun., Feb. 4, 0930, TOUR de WOODLANDS** Meet at junction of Willow and Albert Way with bicycle & helmet, see the explosion of an "instant city". Very easy ride with many stops. Call 929-3647 or [bdenneen@kcbx.net](mailto:bdenneen@kcbx.net) a few days before to confirm and for details.

**SAT., FEB 10, BIRDING AT OSO FLACO** Oso Flaco is a small freshwater lake nestled in the Guadalupe Dunes. We expect to find many birds at this stopover on the birding flyway. Bring your boat and equipment, PFDs, picnic lunch and binoculars. LAUNCH AT OSO FLACO CAUSEWAY PUT IN 10:00 AM Joe Dickerson 693-9534

**Sun.-Mon., Feb 18-19, Amargosa Wild and Scenic River exploration:** We'll set up camp Saturday night near Tecopa and spend two days hiking along the stretches of the Amargosa River proposed for wild and scenic status under Congressman Buck McKeon's "Eastern Sierra Rural Heritage and Economic Enhancement Act". One day will be an easy one-way hike (with shuttle) along the "scenic" part, the other part a more strenuous out-and-back hike on the "wild" part. For more information, or to reserve a spot, contact John Wilkinson, [johnfw1@mac.com](mailto:johnfw1@mac.com), (408) 947-0858.

**Sat.-Sun., Mar 24-25, Pronghorn Antelope Protection in the Carrizo Plain:** (Carcamp/Nature Study/Work Party). With little rainfall and few water sources, the species that live here are both hardy and endangered. Particularly beautiful are the pronghorn antelope, which evolved in these wild, open spaces. Then cattle ranching left a legacy of endless fences - which are deadly to the pronghorn. Join us for a weekend in this remote area removing fencing for their benefit. Work hard on Satur-

**Sunday, Feb. 4: Otter Day at the Morro Bay Museum.** The premiere of a new DVD on the California Sea Otter by the Santa Lucia Chapter's own Cleve Nash, wildlife photographer extraordinaire, will be the highlight of a day filled with otter-related activities. The film will be shown in the Natural History Museum Auditorium at 2 p.m., where Cleve and his wife will be honored for their generous donation of time and expertise that has made this project possible. For more info, contact Norma Wrightman [nwrightman@charter.net](mailto:nwrightman@charter.net)

## Whales, Pinnipeds & Wildflowers: Island Hopping in Channel Islands National Park

**April 13-16 May 4-7 July 20-23**  
4-day, 4-island cruises visiting San Miguel, Santa Rosa, Santa Cruz & Anacapa Islands. \$775

**August 25-29 September 15-19**  
5-day, 5-island cruises visiting all five islands included in Channel Islands National Park: San Miguel, Santa Rosa, Santa Cruz, Anacapa, & tiny Santa Barbara Island. \$925

**All cruises depart from Santa Barbara.** Prices include assigned bunk, All meals, snacks, beverages, & services of a ranger/naturalist who will travel with us to help identify, seals & sea lions, birds & wildlife, plants & flowers, whales & other creatures of the sea. We'll also see remnants of the rich culture of the Chumash people who lived on these islands for thousands of years.

Each island is unique & offers its own special charm: **San Miguel** for its white, sandy beaches and huge congregation of elephant seals; **Santa Rosa** for its rare Torrey Pine forest; **Santa Cruz** for high mountains, deep valleys & the famous Painted Cave, **Anacapa** for the west coast brown pelican rookery, steep cliffs, a picturesque lighthouse and excellent snorkeling waters. **Santa Barbara Island** for pristine waters and a friendly colony of frolicking sea lions. All islands have rugged shorelines, dotted with sea caves, & inhabited by an abundance of wildlife. Activities include hiking, kayaking, snorkeling, beachcombing, or just relaxing at sea.

In spring the islands are ablaze with colorful wildflowers. In summer, the enticing, pristine waters of the Marine Sanctuary, churning with colorful fish and sea lions, will delight snorkelers and swimmers.

**These cruises are fundraisers to benefit Sierra Club political programs in California.** To make a reservation, send \$100 check payable to Sierra Club to leader Joan Jones Holtz, 11826 The Wye St., El Monte, 91732. (626-443-0706; [jholtz@sierraclub.org](mailto:jholtz@sierraclub.org)). Website: [www.truthaquatics.com/hiking.htm](http://www.truthaquatics.com/hiking.htm)

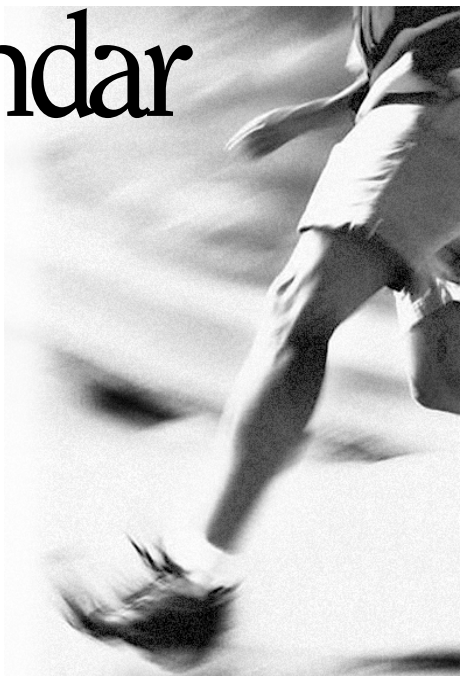


Photo by Joaquin Palting

day; take some time Sunday to enjoy the monument. Camp at Selby campground, bring food, water, heavy leather work-gloves, and camping gear for the weekend. Potluck Sat night. Alternate date in case of rain. Resource specialist: Alice Koch. For more information, contact Leaders: Cal and Letty French, 14140 Chimney Rock Road, Paso Robles, CA 93446, (805-239-7338). Prefer e-mail: [ccfrench@tcsn.net](mailto:ccfrench@tcsn.net)



**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.**