



May 2012  
Volume 49 No. 5

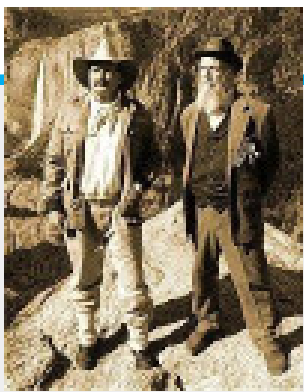
## Inside

Mocking the monster	2
June 5 election endorsements	4
Kids v. global warming	6
Morro Bay v. sanctuary	9
Big dog throws down	10
Classifieds	11
Outings	12

### Don't Miss

**May 11:  
The Tramp & the  
Roughrider**

- see page 3



Please recycle

This newsletter printed on  
100% post-consumer recycled paper with  
soy-based inks

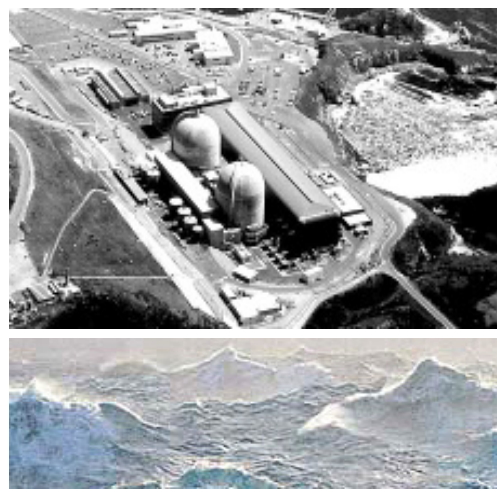
# SANTA LUCIAN

Protecting and Preserving the Central Coast



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

## Between Diablo and the Deep Blue Sea



from the catastrophe of an earthquake cutting off Diablo's power or cracking the containment dome — or compromising the cement casks and spent fuel pools that constitute the plant's on-site nuclear waste dump, with no way of knowing whether the ground below them is likely to remain

sufficiently stable for 250 years — there's the matter of the daily catastrophe that has been ongoing from the day the plant began operation. Its cooling system, per the state and federal EPA, is the cause of a reduction in sea life in the area of up to 90 percent, including the decimation of the black and red abalone. The surrounding waters have lost 97 percent of their kelp due to Diablo's hot-water discharge into the cove. This triggered a cease & desist order from the Department of Fish and Game and the Water Quality Control Board twelve years ago. PG&E's lawyers beat it down with threats to out-spend and tie up state regulators in court indefinitely.

**2. PG&E's history of deception on marine impacts.** In 1982, PG&E claimed its cooling system had little or no effect on the marine environment. That lie, and the suppression of data by PG&E that enabled the lie, was exposed by the Department of Fish and Game and cost the utility a \$14 million settlement with the state of California.

### You Want How Much to Do What?

By the Alliance for Nuclear Responsibility

"The Commission will be in order." With those words uttered by CPUC Administrative Law Judge Barnett on April 18, so began the latest round of action by the Alliance for Nuclear Responsibility (A4NR) in the hearing room of the California Public Utilities Commission.

The need for updated seismic studies to assess the long-term prospects of relying on Diablo Canyon for the remainder of its current—or possibly extended—license had begun with the passage of then-assembly member Sam Blakeslee's AB 1632 back in 2006. In 2010, the CPUC granted PG&E \$16.7 million to update the seismology. The utility came back the following year requesting \$47 million more for a total of \$64 million—nearly quadruple the original request.

HOW MUCH? continued on page 8

DIABLO continued on page 4

Talk about tough calls. Would you rather have a project that promises to do significant damage to marine wildlife, playing havoc with the coastal environment, or hand a nuclear power plant a license for another twenty years of operation while flying blind as to the full magnitude of the potential seismic danger that lurks beneath it?

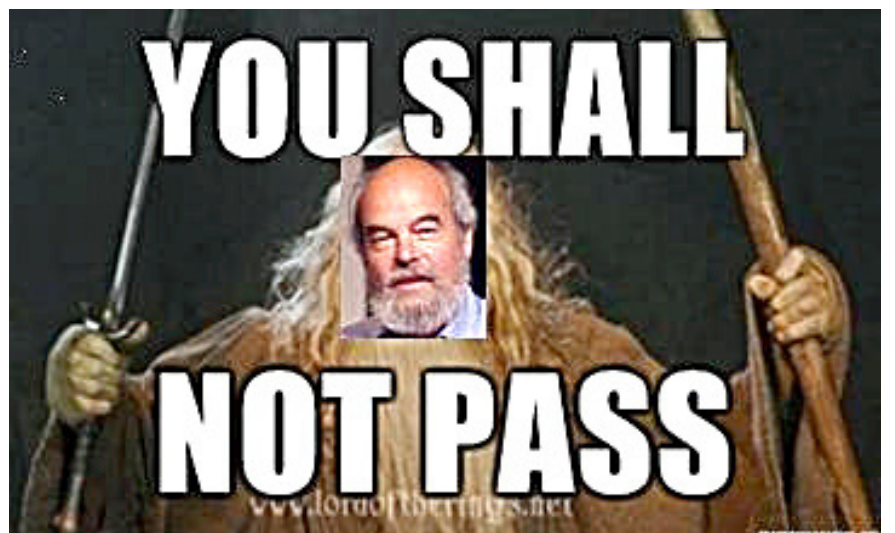
Sophie's choice comes to mind when contemplating the options for PG&E's offshore seismic survey, proposed to determine the magnitude of an earthquake that could be generated by the faults around Diablo Canyon. If the survey's impacts are deemed too great to permit, then PG&E will simply renew its license on the basis of its existing incomplete seismic data, via the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's ever ready rubber stamp, and down the road an earthquake larger than what the plant was designed to withstand could render a large part of California unlivable and turn that marine environment -- spared the ordeal of a seismic survey -- radioactive for centuries.

In short, this project drips with irony. Let us count the ways:  
**1. Once-through cooling.** Aside

### No Seismic Testing in the National Marine Sanctuary

PG&E's original seismic survey plan extended north of Cambria, beyond the southern boundary of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. It has now been revised and reduced, with no testing proposed inside the Sanctuary's borders.

Plausible reasons have been advanced for this change (enough is known about the seismic profiles of faults north of Cambria, etc.), but we have to wonder: what would this project look like if we had won Sanctuary designation here years ago?



Peter Douglas remembered > page 4

NONPROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT NO. 84  
SAN LUIS OBISPO  
CA 93401

Santa Lucian  
Santa Lucia Chapter of the Sierra Club  
P. O. Box 15755  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93406



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

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

**Join today and receive a FREE Sierra Club Weekender Bag!**



My Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_  
State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone # \_\_\_\_\_  
email \_\_\_\_\_

Check enclosed, made payable to Sierra Club  
Please charge my  MasterCard  Visa  AMEX

Exp. Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_  
Cardholder Name \_\_\_\_\_

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Categories **INDIVIDUAL** **JOINT**

**INTRODUCTORY**  \$25

**REGULAR**  \$39  \$47

Contributions, gifts and dues to the Sierra Club are not tax deductible; they support our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$7.50 for a subscription to *Sierra* magazine and \$1.00 for your Chapter newsletter.

Enclose check and mail to: **F94Q W 2500 1**  
Sierra Club, PO Box 421041, Palm Coast, FL 32142-1041



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

# Agenda 21 Meets Godzilla

There's a new brew in town.

Imported from exotic Glenn Beckistan, filtered through several million copies of *Atlas Shrugged*, fermented in casks of ancient conspiracy theory, it has recently become available around these parts for the discriminating political paranoid palate. Decanted at several local venues, it has been attracting notice from connoisseurs of crazy.

It's the Agenda 21/ICLEI plot for world domination.

Here's the deal:

Agenda 21 is an action plan endorsed at the 1992 UN Conference on Environment and Development held in Rio de Janeiro. Primarily a blueprint for curbing ocean pollution and energy inefficiency, it is widely considered inadequate to the challenges it purported to face. It proposed no limits on greenhouse gas emissions, deforestation or the loss of species, and did not achieve sufficient financial commitments from member nations to advance its menu of nice ideas for sustainable development.

Here's a sample from its accompanying document, the Rio Declaration:

"States have, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of international law, the sovereign right to exploit their own resources pursuant to their own environmental and developmental policies, and the responsibility to ensure that activities within their jurisdiction or control do not cause damage to the environment of other States or of areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction."

The International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) is a technical consulting organization for municipalities. ICLEI's founding premise is "that locally designed and driven initiatives can provide an effective and cost-efficient way to achieve local, national, and global sustainability objectives." And this can be done (smoking gun coming up) by advocating "participatory, long-term, strategic planning processes that address local sustainability while protecting global common goods. This approach links local action and solutions to the global challenges we are facing, and therefore links local action to global goals and targets such as...Agenda 21."

SLO County contracted with ICLEI to help develop an inventory of local greenhouse gas emissions, the necessary first step in creating a Climate Action Plan.

Last November, as the battle to prevent the County from creating a meaningful Climate Action Plan unfolded at the Board of Supervisors, a number of folks popped up to warn of a dire conspiracy. The San Luis Obispo branch of the Coalition for Labor, Agriculture and Business (COLAB), testifying before the board and writing in their newsletter, maintained that ICLEI is part of a plot to implement one-world government



and wreck our economy, and the foundational document of that plot is Agenda 21.

On March 13, when the Atascadero City Council was deliberating on whether to accept funds from the Air Pollution Control District to assist in the creation of their own Climate Action Plan, the Agenda 21/ICLEI conspiracy folks came forth again, in greater numbers.

And on April 22 at the Earth Day event at Rancho El Chorro, a young man and woman, video camera and microphone in hand, roamed the exhibitor tables interrogating the tree-huggers, demanding to know if they knew about Agenda 21 and ICLEI and the imminent collapse of the global economy should a reduction in carbon emissions be attempted by industrial societies.

Also, note the similarity of the name "Agenda 21" to "Area 51," that secret base in Nevada where the government is hiding the UFOs. See how *it's all coming together?*

The astute reader will perceive that we are according disrespectful treatment to these beliefs. And this is grist to the Agenda 21 conspiracy mill, as mockery and ridicule coming from the precincts of eco-socialist bunny-huggers — who are, of course, part of the conspiracy — constitutes persecution, which binds the true believers more tightly in their resolve to guard the flame of their faith.

But that's okay. In another time, a collective rolling of the eyes and silent dismissal instead might have been an appropriate response in this situation. But this is not another time. It is a dangerous assumption in increasingly dangerous times to believe that all men and women of good will and a K-12 education will behold the fumes from the smoldering fringe and simply turn away. Millions of people in their twenties and younger are looking for a simpler, less scary world than the one in which they find themselves. When offered a world view that provides them with a flaming sword with which to banish environmental and labor laws, the social safety net, income tax, the concept of the common good, the public interest, and the vast, all-consuming, all-explaining conspiracy whence they all spring, well... that can look pretty attractive.

That's why we should all take a cue from the remarkable kids of the

## SANTA LUCIAN

**Andrew Christie**  
EDITOR sierraclub8@gmail.com

**Greg McMillan**  
**Lindi Doud**  
**Linda Seeley**  
**Thomas A. Cyr**  
EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

**Denny Mynatt**  
PRINT MEDIA COORDINATOR

*The Santa Lucian is published 10 times a year. Articles, environmental information and letters to the editor are welcome. The deadline for each issue is the 13th of the prior month.*

send to:

**Editor, Santa Lucian**  
c/o Santa Lucia Chapter, Sierra Club  
P.O. Box 15755  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93406.  
sierraclub8@gmail.com

### Santa Lucia Chapter

#### 2012 Executive Committee

Greg McMillan  
CHAIR

Pat Veasart  
VICE CHAIR

Linda Seeley  
SECRETARY

Patrick McGibney  
MEMBER

Lindi Doud  
MEMBER

Jono Kinkade  
MEMBER

Vacant  
MEMBER

Cal French  
COUNCIL OF CLUB LEADERS  
Steven Marx, Lindi Doud, Patrick McGibney  
TREASURERS

The Executive Committee meets the third Monday of every month at 5:30 p.m. at the chapter office, located at 974 Santa Rosa St., San Luis Obispo. All members are welcome to attend.

#### Committee Chairs

##### Political

Chuck Tribbey

##### Conservation

Sue Harvey

##### Membership

Cal French

##### Litigation

Andy Greensfelder

##### Nuclear Power Task Force

Rochelle Becker beckers@thegrid.net

#### Other Leaders

##### Calendar Sales

Bonnie Walters 805-543-7051

##### Outings

Joe Morris dpj1942@earthlink.net

##### Canoe/Kayak

open

##### Webmaster

Monica Tarzier monica@tarzier.org

##### Trail Guide

Gary Felsman

#### Chapter Director

Andrew Christie  
805-543-8717  
sierraclub8@gmail.com

#### Coordinator

Kim Ramos, Admin and Development  
kimramos@yahoo.com

#### Assistant Coordinator

Yvonne Yip - events & social networking

#### Santa Lucia Chapter

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

**Office hours Monday-Friday,  
12 p.m. - 6 p.m., 974 Santa Rosa  
Street, San Luis Obispo**

Printed by University Graphic Systems

## Change of Address?

### Mail changes to:

Sierra Club National Headquarters  
85 Second Street, 2nd Floor  
San Francisco, CA 94105-3441

### or e-mail:

address.changes@sierraclub.org

## Visit us on the Web!

[www.santalucia.sierraclub.org](http://www.santalucia.sierraclub.org)

*Outings, events, and more!*

## The Tramp and the Roughrider Dramatizes Muir/Roosevelt Encounter

Two-man show coming to SLO May 11

In May of 1903, President Theodore Roosevelt, planning a tour of the western forests, invited the naturalist John Muir on a four-day camping trip in the Yosemite wilderness. "The Tramp & the Roughrider" illuminates this extraordinary encounter, with the action unfolding at sunset on Glacier Point, overlooking the magnificent Yosemite Valley.

At the time of this historic meeting, many millions of acres of our western forest, with little or no governmental supervision, were being exploited and abused by hunting, lumber, livestock and mining interests. The federal government had established only five national parks (and had no Park Service). The Yosemite Valley, though surrounded by a national park, was controlled by the state of California, and was in a state of neglect.

Both Muir and Roosevelt were feisty, opinionated characters, with sharp disagreements on issues like hunting, animal rights, and forest management. Muir's poetic and evangelistic temperament, clashing with Roosevelt's political enthusiasms, spawned both tension and humor. Both skillful storytellers, it seems natural that both would seek to top one another by relating some of their many adventures in the wilderness of early America — Roosevelt bringing a ruffian to justice on the frontier; Muir telling of his hair-raising "interview" with a Yosemite bear. But around the campfire, in sifting through their histories and their hopes, each of these very different men surely discovered how the other had been shaped by unique experiences in the wilderness they loved, opening up some rich possibilities of "doing some forest good."

By the end of Roosevelt's presidency, America could boast an additional 200 million acres of forest wilderness, five more national parks, several new monuments (including the Grand Canyon) and 65 wildlife preserves. Bully!

The Sierra Club is sponsoring one performance of "The Tramp & the Roughrider" in San Luis Obispo at the SLO City Library, 965 Palm Street, at 7 p.m. on Friday, May 11. Tickets are \$12 in advance, \$15 at the door. Seats can be reserved by going to [santalucia.sierraclub.org](http://santalucia.sierraclub.org), clicking the "donate" button and selecting the desired number of tickets, or e-mailing [sierraclub8@gmail.com](mailto:sierraclub8@gmail.com); or calling 543-8717.



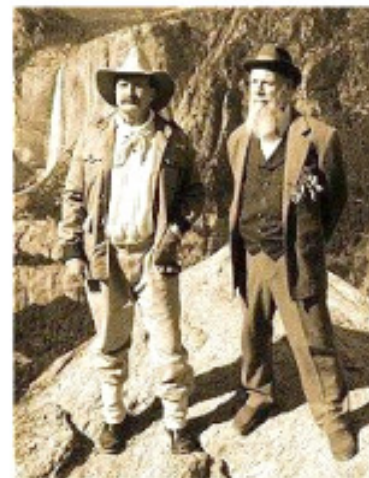
SIERRA CLUB  
SANTA LUCIA CHAPTER

PRESENTS A UNIQUE THEATRICAL EXPERIENCE

TEDDY ROOSEVELT & JOHN MUIR

## THE TRAMP & THE ROUGHRIDER

Two men went camping, and America got 200 million acres of forest wilderness, five national parks, several national monuments and 65 wildlife preserves. Bully!



with

ALAN SUTTERFIELD, OF THE CENTRAL COAST SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL, AS PRESIDENT THEODORE ROOSEVELT

LEE STETSON, AS HEARD IN THE PBS FEATURE OUR NATIONAL PARKS - AMERICA'S BEST IDEA, AS JOHN MUIR

7:00 P.M., FRIDAY, MAY 11  
SLO CITY/COUNTY LIBRARY  
995 PALM STREET, SAN LUIS OBISPO

\$12 IN ADVANCE  
\$15 AT THE DOOR

RESERVE YOUR SEAT: CALL 543-8717

OR EMAIL [SIERRACLUB8@GMAIL.COM](mailto:SIERRACLUB8@GMAIL.COM)

OR GO TO [SANTALUCIA.SIERRACLUB.ORG](http://SANTALUCIA.SIERRACLUB.ORG) AND CLICK ON THE "DONATE" BUTTON

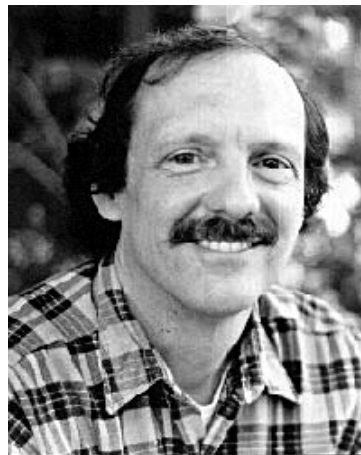
# June 5 is Election Day

The Sierra Club is pleased to endorse:



**U.S. Congress, 24th District:  
Lois Capps**

The Central Coast needs to retain its tireless coastal champion in D.C. She is responsible for land protection initiatives at Morro Bay Dunes and Piedras Blancas, and we need her voice of reason in this wild and wooly Congress, reminding all that we can't drill our way out of shrinking oil reserves, and that National Marine Sanctuaries and sustainable fishing practices are good things. Go to [lois@cappsforcongress.com](mailto:lois@cappsforcongress.com).



**Morro Bay City Council:  
Noah Smukler**

The (only) bright light on the City Council, Smukler has been a champion of green building, bike lanes, and transparency in government, and continues to advocate for a Morro Bay/Cayucos sewer upgrade that makes sense and conforms with the California Coastal Act while his council colleagues continue to push a fatally flawed plan. Needless to say, he needs another term. Go to [www.Vote4Noah.com/](http://www.Vote4Noah.com/).

environment, consumers' rights and labor — like that of his comrades in Congress — is atrocious. He also has signed the Grover Norquist no-tax pledge, a fiscal solution that can only benefit the rich."

Manata put his degree in Political Science to good use staffing Tom Hayden's state senate and congressional campaigns in the 70s. He is now semi-retired. Let's un-retire him. Go to [manataforassembly.org/](http://manataforassembly.org/).

**State Senate, 17th District:  
Bill Monning**

If his stint with the state Coastal Conservancy and four years as Executive Director of the Nobel Peace Prize winning International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War don't tell you enough, Assemblymember Monning authored legislation for sustainable seafood and spearheaded the strategy for development of the Coastal Trail in Big Sur while he was representing the people of Monterey, Santa Cruz and Santa Clara. We need the kind of thing he's been doing up there down here. Go to [billmonning.org/](http://billmonning.org/).



**State Assembly, 35th District  
Gerald Manata**

Here's your chance to send a genuine citizen politician to the statehouse. Paso Robles resident Gerry Manata looked around, saw "what a mess this state is in," and made his case to Democrats that "we should run

somebody this year." He soon found myself in the role of the somebody. As the candidate tells it: "The Republican leadership has become blatant about its party being about money and power and concentrating it in as few hands as possible (the 1%). Mr. Achadjian's voting record on the



## You Did It!

The initiative to label genetically engineered food will be on the state ballot in November! A small army of SLO County volunteers were an integral part of the push to gather more than 800,000 signatures statewide, ensuring ballot qualification.

The Santa Lucia Chapter was pleased to coordinate distribution and submission of petitions in the county. Now let's get this passed and let Monsanto know we are not guinea pigs for their science experiment. Go to [labelgmos.org/](http://labelgmos.org/).



# Peter Douglas 1942-2012

Peter Douglas, long-time Executive Director of the California Coastal Commission, passed away on April 1, at his sister's home in La Quinta. He was surrounded by his family and friends and at peace after a seven-year battle with cancer.

Peter's name will forever be synonymous with coastal protection in California. The arc of his commitment is long and like no other. Although he could be a master of principled compromise when necessary, for more than forty years, he was Tolkien's Gandalf to the Balrog of rapacious developers, standing resolute on tenuous footing while declaring *You shall not pass!* (Peter dearly loved *Lord of the Rings* and made it a point to watch all the movies once a year.)

Peter dedicated his life to coastal protection through activism, education, litigation, political advocacy and public service. He advanced the idea of a citizen initiative to create a coastal protection law after several unsuccessful attempts to pass a bill through the Legislature in the early 1970s. He co-wrote the Coastal Initiative (Prop. 20) that created the Coastal Commission in 1972, helped organize the winning campaign for its overwhelming passage, then wrote and staffed the Coastal Act which Governor Brown signed into law in 1976. He was the Commission's Executive Director for 26 years.

The Coastal Commission's accomplishments under Peter's leadership are too numerous to count. They range from high-profile battles, like the epic struggles to save the Hearst Ranch, the Del Monte Forest and Trestles Beach, to obscure legal victories over Coastal Act policies that have saved countless thousands of acres. He advanced the cause of public access by taking on the likes of Southern Pacific Railroad and the Disney Company, and fought to end private beach clubs' racial and gender discrimination policies all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court.

In 2003, the Santa Lucia Chapter nominated Peter for the Sierra Club's Distinguished Service Award, which he received at the Sierra Club's annual awards banquet in San Francisco that September. Later that year, he came to San Luis Obispo and addressed attendees at the ECOSLO EcoSummit, saying "There is no substitute for getting involved and making a difference. There is no excuse not to. Activism is simply something you cannot *not* do, as



**Our favorite guest** Peter Douglas at the old Marsh Street offices of the Santa Lucia Chapter in downtown SLO.

trying and demanding as it might be. Nothing is more important to our environmental and social future. The Coastal Act is the people's law, and every time it's threatened, it can be weakened. We can't do our work without your support and input."

His passion for coastal protection was fueled and nurtured by a deep and unique spiritual philosophy that centered on compassion, integrity, and respect for all life. His love for the land, his knowledge of the law, and his aptitude for political battle, for fights that needed to be fought, was the rarest of combinations. He not only loved the land, he understood what needed to be done to save it; and he not only understood it, he fought for it. Every citizen of California should be grateful for that love, that knowledge, and that passion for the fight, with each of those qualities always at flood tide, all existing in the same person.

The next time you drive up highway 1 or pull off at a scenic overlook to get a better look at the things that take your breath away, lighten your spirit and make you happy to be alive, you should give a thought to the fact that what you are seeing is there, to a large and literal degree, due to the efforts of Peter Douglas. He made

sure that it would still be there for you to see.

In keeping with his wishes, a fellowship fund to help train the next generation of coastal defenders has been established in Peter's honor. Contributions to the Peter Douglas Coastal Intern Fellowship can be made to:

**Monterey Bay Sanctuary Foundation**  
299 Foam Street, Suite D  
Monterey, CA 93940-1499  
On line at: [www.mbnmsf.org](http://www.mbnmsf.org)  
or call: 831-647-4209.

The Wildlands Conservancy has created the Peter Douglas Coastal Project Fund, to honor Peter's commitment to protecting coastal landscapes and enhancing public access. These funds will be used toward the purchase of a critical coastal property and/or a public access improvement that will be dedicated in his memory and open to all. Contributions to the Wildlands Coastal Project can be sent to:

**The Wildlands Conservancy**  
**Coastal Project Fund**  
39611 Oak Glen Rd. #12  
Oak Glen, CA 92399  
or call: 909-797-8507.

We recommend to all this interview with Peter Douglas, conducted a few months ago in his office with a documentary film maker working on a "Heroes of the Coast" movie. Enjoy:  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DbCa82Jy9hA>

*I will soon once again be at one with green growing things, with coyote, raven, snake, spider, ocean, stream, mountain, desert, rock, clouds, stars in the night sky. Look for me there. I will be gone but not gone, as is the way of the Wheel. One thing for sure, when I return to sing on moonlit nights as coyote, I will never know it. I am comforted knowing I lived a purposeful, meaningful, empathetic life with compassion, kindness and love in my heart. I lived my bliss realizing many dreams, guided by a moral/ethical compass I tried always to keep well calibrated. I have been a resolute, even ornery survivor and Earth warrior. In recognition of gifts given, I happily dedicated my life to public service. I labored in love to make a difference and am humbled knowing I did some good for Mother Earth and the life She supports.*

- Peter Douglas  
August 2011

## Diablo

*continued from page 1*

**3. PG&E's history of deception on seismic impacts.** In 1967, when the Hosgri fault was discovered 500 feet from the site of the proposed nuclear power plant, PG&E told the Atomic Energy Commission it would not study the fault further because doing so could "possibly delay the project" and "would only complicate a contested hearing." The story stayed buried for 14 years.

**4. The Sierra Club's karmic debt.** In the late 60's, the Sierra Club signed

off on a deal with PG&E agreeing that Diablo Canyon was a swell spot to put a nuclear power plant – an agreement entered into, we stress, over the emphatic protest of the local Sierra Club group in SLO (see "Forty Years After," Feb. 2008). Sierra Club executive director and environmental legend David Brower resigned over the decision by the Club's board of directors not to challenge the nuclear plant. The Sierra Club has a debt to pay at Diablo Canyon.

This project's proposed mitigation and monitoring are inadequate. The EIR needs to back up its assertion

that the effects of seismic testing on species of prey fish is temporary and a less than significant impact.

The EIR mentions squid multiple times, but only as prey for multiple species within the survey area. There appears to be no evaluation of the survey's impacts on squid, a particularly glaring omission for a species on which so many others depend.

A post by Chris Zaker on the message board "Fish Reports for Port San Luis /Morro Bay" is telling:

"In the latest meeting I've had with PG&E to try and hammer out fair mitigation for commercial fishermen,

PG&E took the position that there will be 'no long term damage to marine life.' As such they said they have no intention of monitoring the effects of the high energy survey after they leave."

That's not acceptable. Not for fishermen, not for environmentalists, and not for the waters of the Central Coast. PG&E, put your money where your mouth is: If you claim there will be no long term damage, put the long-term monitoring program in place to prove it, and guarantee funding for species and habitat restoration if it turns out you're wrong.

# Environmental Politics on Uncommon Ground

By Peter Douglas

address to the Planning and Conservation League, Sacramento, CA, February 2, 2002

After more than three decades of engagement in environmental activism and advocacy I have discovered a priceless treasure: perspective – a perspective tempered by listening mindfully to plaintive voices in the silence of the land and the cry of life everywhere; a perspective inspired by an incurable and enduring sense of optimism and hope, and the conviction that each of us can make a difference.

Looking at the dynamics of environmental politics today, the forces shaping outcomes have changed dramatically since 1971 and not, unfortunately, for the better. On the contrary.

Some realities that have not changed in California, and elsewhere in the country I suspect, include the following:

- Species, habitat and natural landscapes are still being lost at an appalling rate;
- Pollution of water, land and air continues to attack life around the globe;
- Population growth and economic development pressures continue to escalate inexorably;
- Profit and greed remain as primary drivers of environmental destruction;
- Mindless materialism and consumerism, secular religions of our culture, override reverence for life and Nature;
- Self-interest, as a motivator of individual action, still trumps commitment to community and the common good;
- Money is still the mother's milk of politics;
- And environmental advocates in Sacramento are still getting out-gunned by amoral corporate and private business interests.

What has changed during the past three decades include other stark realities - many depressing, others bearing the markings of hope:

- There are now nearly 35 million people in California and counting;
- There have been major demographic shifts in the state;
- There is greater public awareness of the threats from pollution and support for environmental protection;
- We have witnessed a slowing of the rate of change and environmental degradation in a few special places like the coast, San Francisco Bay, and Lake Tahoe;
- The deleterious effects of term-limits on public policy;
- The obscene costs of elections;
- The never-ending scramble for money by candidates driving them into the arms of development interests and to the right on environmental issues;
- The absence of meaningful campaign finance controls;
- More subtle, sophisticated and effective manipulation of public opinion and attitudes by p.r. specialists and advertisers;
- The emergence of an organized and well-financed opposition to the environmental movement of the '60s and '70's;
- The diminished capacity of government to protect the environment resulting from a premeditated scheme hatched during the Reagan presidency to expand private property rights at the expense of public rights and community interests;
- The increased sophistication of

developers and other anti-regulation forces;

- The brilliance of corporate strategists who have outmaneuvered and often co-opted mainstream enviros who mistakenly think they are shaping the environmental debate;
- The increasing reliance on convocations of "stakeholders" for consensus decision-making and the tyranny of the minority;
- The absence of vision in the public policy and governance arena;
- The dearth of progressive, inspirational public leadership;
- Governance by reaction to crises.

Of particular interest and concern to me are the changes I have seen affecting the practice of politics by non-governmental environmental organizations. These include:

- The graying of the movement;
- The cost and source of funding needed to sustain environmental organizations;
- The corporate and business character of many mainstream environmental NGOs;
- Manifestations of a political mindset seeking to minimize or avoid conflict;
- The politics of accommodation and "making nice;"
- Preoccupation with deal-making and "the deal" (some see this as the institutionalization of compromise - see Mark Dowie, *Losing Ground*);
- The fear of losing, of being left out or of being "marginalized;"
- Unholy alliances with natural antagonists;
- Conflicts on issues and positions taken by mainstream NGOs and newer, lean and hungry activist movements;
- The gap between mainstream and community based groups;
- The role of land trusts in regulatory policy-making; and
- The damping of passion and idealism.

Before I focus on environmental advocacy in Sacramento, I want to offer a context for my observations. The meaning of life to me is quite simple. I don't ask what life brings to me, but what I bring to life. Meaning is found in how we as individuals treat each other and the Earth. It is derived from our love for family and friends, our reverence for all life, our life's work, and our understanding and appreciation of joy, suffering and sorrow. It resides in the good will and passion we carry into the sunlight every day.

The meaning of life, in my mind, is inextricably linked to good works in defense of Gaia and the life she supports.

In our work of environmental stewardship, it is vital every now and again to step back and take stock of our roots, where we stand today and where we are going — to remind ourselves why and how we do what we do and to make sure our moral and ethical compass is intact and in good working order. We do the work we do not because it is a source of livelihood but because we believe in it. We are not hired guns ready to sell out to the highest bidder. We will not be bought.

Every environmental advocate here today harbors a profound environmental ethic in his or her being. Remaining true to this ethic requires periodic verification that our conduct is aligned with our philosophical values that stoke the fire at the core

of our commitment. It is important to remember our work is at once vocation and avocation, noble and ennobling. It is meaningful and a labor of love that is never finished. For us there is always work to do. That is why we can never give up.

When I think about how we, as environmental stewards, do our work protecting Mother Earth I see the essential value of vision, hope, optimism, dedication, integrity, Honor, moral courage, resoluteness, persistence and passion. As environmental guardians we have a responsibility to honor the trust placed in our care by standing steadfast and tall against the forces of exploitation and material consumption eroding quality of life everywhere. It is also incumbent on us to guard against cynicism and complacency, corruption and despair that lead to resignation, compromise, accommodation and capitulation at the expense of wild Nature, human health, environmental quality, and environmental justice.

My roots are grounded in grassroots organizing and activism. I try never to forget where I came from. I know it is not easy on the spirit or psyche to be constantly pummeled by controversy and ground down in the crucible of conflict. But controversy and conflict come with the territory. If we cannot embrace and engage them effectively in pursuit of our mission, it is time to get out and move on. We betray our trust if the avoidance of conflict, whether done consciously or not, becomes a goal in our work.

Conciliation has value, but not if achieved at the expense of ethical and environmental integrity.

Pragmatism, consensus decision-making and the politics of accommodation must not trump effectively expressed idealism and progressive positions on important environmental protection issues. We do not serve our mission well by buying into the cult of making-nice or being seduced by "feel-good" politics.

As defenders of environmental values, our challenge is to make a compelling case for stronger protec-

tions. It is our task to explain clearly and accurately the causes and threats to human and environmental health and quality. We must do the homework required to understand the issues in order to come at them from a position of strength armed with knowledge. We must mobilize resources and develop and implement effective strategies. And we must be resolute and relentless in our advocacy for or against policies that affect the well-being of the natural and human environment even if that means defeat. There will be another tomorrow.

Effective environmental advocacy requires vision and a clear sense of purpose. Vision in my view is a horizon of hope of a better environmental future for all life on Earth — a horizon just beyond grasp but one we are always striving to reach. This vision is refined and defined by our own particular focus - mine encompasses primarily coasts and oceans. Achievement of our vision requires a clear, strong and abiding sense of mission and purpose joined with an unshakeable resolve to maintain the course. And we should remember to respect the environmental vision of others though different from our own.

I have the distinct impression that environmental advocacy in Sacramento is losing ground, individual and collective fire-in-the-belly, and important perspective. Indeed, I see this advocacy as often not even sharing common ground. I say this not as a critic of any individual or organization, but as a concerned observer of a continuing trend I strongly believe must be reversed. I see an increasing gulf in terms of perspective and resolve between capitol advocates representing mainstream NGOs and grassroots activists embattled on the ground in local communities. I see an increasing propensity to compromise by organizations that have forged private sector alliances or that depend on funding from business and large donors. It is

DOUGLAS continued next page 8



Linda Locklin

**For Peter** A bouquet and a bumper sticker for the 1972 ballot proposition Peter Douglas wrote that created the California Coastal Commission appeared in the Santa Cruz offices of the Coastal Commission on April 2, 2012.

## Update

# Calle Joaquin Agricultural Reserve

by Elizabeth Johnson

“This approximately 180-acre area of prime farm land bounded by Madonna Road, Highway 101, Central Coast Plaza, and Prefumo Creek is in three ownerships. The City intends to preserve at least one-half of this signature working agricultural landscape at the southern gateway to San Luis Obispo as it existed in 1994.”

- *City of San Luis Obispo General Plan, Land Use Element, Policy 8.8*

The Calle Joaquin Agricultural Reserve, nestled in the southwest corner of the City of San Luis Obispo, continues to move forward as a city-owned organic farm. This is an appropriate moment to pause and revisit how it came to be while all the parties involved finalize details prior to signing on sometime in this budget cycle.

Creating public policy is usually a long process involving many people. When visionary policy succeeds, it is due to a partnership between all stakeholders -- public citizens, politicians, and planning staff -- who build a structure into the General Plan that allows for an idea like a City Farm to form and materialize.

Vision is usually the first player at the political table to be ejected from the game, but vision showed up during discussions in the early 1990s and focused on preservation of prime farmland and open space. Economic and environmental task forces both contributed to the resulting Land Use Element report. The City Council passed the 1994 General Plan that mentioned the southern gateway to San Luis Obispo, visible from Highway 101, as an ideal site for something uniquely local. Slightly further off 101 and still visible from the highway, we now have a string of car lots, salesrooms and big box stores, all of which typically dominate every urban landscape in America and beyond.

Most of the potential open space at the edge of the city had already been developed by 1994, so the city was looking at the last three agricultural parcels totaling about 180 acres. Instead of continuing to pave over our treasure of prime agricultural land, the city chose to preserve about 90 acres of prime ag land with a riparian corridor as a symbol of its identity.

In 2006, San Luis Obispo annexed the 26-acre McBride property. In accordance with the General Plan, 13 of those acres (50%) were designated for farming and the Calle Joaquin Agricultural Reserve was born.

In 2008, with organic certification in mind, the city began crop rotations to bring the soil quality up to the organic standard, a level it reached this year. Advocacy for an organic farm on this site has been strong throughout the planning process.

In 2009, once again the City Council called together a group that included citizens to develop an Agricultural Master Plan consistent with the city's General Plan policy. Specific plans for the agricultural reserve were listed and concept designs were drawn to include possible buildings intended for light food processing, public education, and parking. The Agricultural Master Plan for the city stipulates that the agricultural areas of the Reserve shall be managed by a “qualified non-profit



entity contracted by the city.” Negotiations with possible managers are underway.

The city farm is in line with a May 2011 survey analysis by Karen Klonsky of the UC Davis Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics, clearly showing that “California leads all other states in several categories of organic farming with 19% of farms and 36% of the sales.” The same survey revealed that “California produces more than 90% of all U.S. organic sales for 14 different commodities, including 99% of the organic walnuts, lemons, figs, and artichokes, and 100% of organic almonds and dates. California is also the top producer of organic livestock and products, with broiler chickens and milk from cows the most important livestock commodities.” All of us who shop at the local Farmers’ Markets know that many of those fruits and vegetables are already produced in our county.

An organic City Farm like the Calle Joaquin Agricultural Reserve addresses the age-old friction between urban and rural interests. It will -- literally -- bring everyone to the table. Accessible to the public, it will show how farmers farm without chemical pesticides. It will show residents and visitors the pride that San Luis Obispo takes in its agricultural past, present, and future.

In the words of former SLO Ag Commissioner Richard Greek:

“A productive discussion about land use issues between the urban and farming community cannot even begin to take place until we can see the need to look beyond our differences and acknowledge that we do have many shared values -- values that will ultimately bring us together to develop workable solutions to land use challenges facing both the farming and urban communities.”

*SLO Department of Agriculture  
1997 Report*

## Godzilla

*continued from page 2*

iMatter movement who are taking on global warming in a D.C. courtroom this month (see facing page) and have adopted as their battle cry the words of Frederick Douglass: “At a time like this, scorching irony, not convincing argument, is needed.”

We all need to keep that in mind if we expect to tamp down the eventual number of recruits to the belief that global warming is a hoax created on orders from George Soros, Maurice Strong and Saul Alinsky to destroy the corporate paradise promised by Ayn Rand and Exxon/Mobil. The Agenda 21+ICLEI conspiracy, rest assured, is being rehearsed in many locations beyond the confines of Atascadero City Hall and SLO County Government Center. We can hope that it is everywhere met with the mockery of reality into the hot house and keeps what’s growing there from putting down deeper roots and spreading.

Otherwise, the fringe will succeed in gradually infiltrating mainstream public discourse in ways both blatant and subtle. One recent likely example: a confused *Tribune* editorial (see “Taking Issue,” page 10) on a new greenhouse gas emissions rule. The editorial appeared three days after a sky-is-falling COLAB rant on the same subject appeared in *New Times*, assuring readers that Armageddon is nigh for the local economy due to the Air Pollution Control District’s requirement that a small fraction of the largest future development projects in the county measure and possibly reduce their greenhouse gas emissions. The editorial is a portrait in befuddlement; *The Tribune*’s editorialist trying to accommodate the vocal allegations that the rule will supposedly inflict devastating impacts, but tacitly admitting that actually there will be none to speak of.

It was a search for a muddled middle, while COLAB extremists pulled on the far end like Silly Putty. It’s not hard to foresee the outcome of that process, repeated ad infinitum.

So give thanks for those smiling, hip kids in D.C. sporting their “I Heart Famine” and “Syentists R Dum” signs and sending thank-you cards to corporate polluters (“Your commitment to profits and political power over our future warms our hearts”), but also take note of the hot-eyed, unsmiling twentysomething skinhead stalking Rancho El Chorro on Earth Day -- an Andrew Breitbart-wannabe, reporting on California Conservation Corps members as “brownshirts” engaged in “environmental spying,” seeking validation for his ideology, and signing on to the effort to save corporations from people who know man-made climate change is real. Twenty years from now, all those kids will be CEOs, middle managers, editors, reporters, movement leaders, elected officials, precinct captains, etc. How many would you like to see from each of these two contingents?

That’s why, when the public discourse is poisoned, the antidote is 2 parts reality and 1 part mockery. If we don’t keep the roots trimmed back in that hot house, we can expect to see increasingly befuddled editorials in *The Tribune* as the “moderate” center stretches ever rightward, and, twenty years hence, a Congress that will make the current crop of be-nighted Tea Partiers look like the offspring of Oliver Wendell Holmes and Rachel Carson.

It is important to know what Agenda 21 really is, and what ICLEI really does, and part of the reason why it’s important is the stark contrast between the simple reality and the baroque, fevered conspiracy that the facts don’t support. When that cold front meets that hot air, let the mockery and ridicule rain down, with thunder and lightning and scorching irony.

# Kids v. Global Warming

Corporate lobbyists fighting for more profit intervene against teens fighting for a livable planet for their generation



At a time like this, scorching irony, not convincing argument, is needed. -Frederick Douglass

By Victoria, Alec, Valerie, Lucy, Russell, Akilah and the iMatter team  
<http://imatter-movement.org>

Last May, iMatter youth filed lawsuits against the U.S. government to compel them to protect the atmosphere for future generations. The Federal case hearing is coming up soon. But first! On April 4, the National Association of Manufacturers, a true Climate Changer Champion, intervened in the case to fight for their right to pollute.

Hmm. Let's see.... The most powerful lobbying group in the country, with a board filled with heavy hitter corporations like Exxon and Koch Brothers, joining up with the U.S. Government against a few teenagers fighting for their generation's future. We're either going to be obliterated in seconds...or we rally together to be so loud we will be impossible to ignore.

**"Industry has a legally protected cognizable interest to freely emit CO2."**

- Fossil Fuel Industry Intervenor in the Kids vs Global Warming lawsuit against the U.S. Government to protect the atmosphere as a public trust  
 April 2, 2012

This is what one of the attorneys for the National Association for Manufacturers said when they were allowed to join the U.S. Government in District Court in Washington, D.C., to defend their so-called right to continue emitting as much CO2 as they please. Based on that "right," they have filed a motion to dismiss the suit. The motion will be heard on May 11. Alec Looz and the other youth plaintiffs (<http://www.imattermarch.org/#lawsuit>), are challenging that right with their own right, one they share with their entire generation, to survive on this planet.

The judge and all attorneys agree on one thing: this is a case of national significance. We are facing a historic moment. This lawsuit is a critical and unprecedented opportunity to break the impasse in Congress and force federal emission reduction plans.

A courageous and just decision to stand with the youth plaintiffs would mean that the EPA must create a comprehensive climate recovery plan reducing carbon emissions by 6% per year. This would begin the transition to a sustainable economy that climate activists and climate conscious representatives have been trying valiantly to change for decades. It would also mean the end of the corporate fossil fuel industry dictating our future.

Together we could help to create the Future We Want.

**What future do you choose?**

This is more than a David vs. Goliath moment. This is an opportunity for us to unite around the single most impor-

tant decision of our time.

The youngest generation holds the moral authority on the climate crisis issue. Their lives are at stake. But we have the science *and* the law on our side as well. The public trust doctrine states that certain natural resources, like the atmosphere, must be preserved for reasonable use by all citizens. Even future citizens. When those uses collide - one for profit and one for sustainable life - it is up to a judge to decide which "interest" is allowable under the public trust.

Your voice, your support, your investment is urgently needed.

● **CONTRIBUTE RESOURCES.**

(<http://kids-vs-global-warming.com/Donate.html>) We need to mobilize a thousand people in DC and connect with other organizations and media. Can you please help us raise \$10,000 over the next couple days to help us battle for our future.

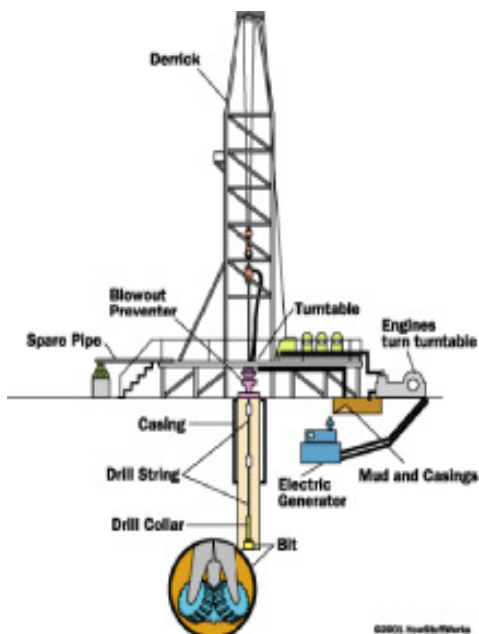
Help us awaken our nation to the reality that Our Future Matters...more than their profits.

Thank you for standing with us!

P.S. Learn more from two of the youth plaintiffs, Garrett and Grant Serrels, who were in the courtroom to represent not just Kids vs Global Warming, but every member of our generation. Watch this six minutes of inspiration: Here is a rough video of a short speech (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hXcf5kromgk&feature=relmfu>) they gave at an OccupyEPA event in DC.

Here is a great seven-minute video from a Navajo youth and more info about the lawsuit: <http://ourchildrenstrust.org/>

P.S.S. Check out Ben Jervey's April 4 article about the lawsuit on [desmogblog](http://www.desmogblog.com/): <http://www.desmogblog.com/>



## Douglas

continued from page 5

as though a corporate mentality has taken over and ground down the sharp ideological edge on issues and positions taken by mainstream organizations that have forgotten their roots.

I am not suggesting any NGO has sold out. I think it is a matter of a subtle shift in perspective relating to perceptions of success for the organization. This is what I mean by the graying of the environmental movement. Success today seems to be measured more by status and credibility with power brokers, being players at the table or on the inside, being drivers of the deal and fundraising ability. Success appears no longer to be so much about having a clear, progressive environmental vision and sense of mission and purpose. It is less about staking out the high ethical ground on policy issues, drawing a clear line in the sand and then standing firm. Caution and pragmatism appear to have displaced ideology, bold action, and, to some extent in my view, principle.

I spent 32 years living and working inside and outside Capitol City. I have seen the effects of insular thinking and narrowing perspective that comes from walling oneself off in the capitol. Much like the "beltway" mentality in Washington, there is a tendency to think of "reality" as exclusively what happens in the halls and chambers of the capitol. In fact, the real politics of our issues play out in both Sacramento and on the front lines of environmental defense and justice drawn in local communities and neighborhoods across the land. Capitol hall advocates would be well served to look in the mirror to see who and what is not there and find ways to reconnect with the missing - grassroots activism and idealism.

Another recent dynamic of concern to me is the confusion of roles among environmental organizations in the business of buying, managing and restoring land and those whose purpose is advocacy for strong regulation and enforcement to protect habitat and species. Land trusts, by their nature, must earn the confidence of landowners with whom they work on a cooperative basis. Regulatory advocacy groups push for controls over how land is used in opposition to developers, extractive industries, and private property rights and landowner groups. While both share general conservation goals and both want standing in the landowner community, the manner in which each seeks to achieve their respective goals differ markedly.

The long-term lifeline of land trusts is tied to funding derived from land purchase transactions and management agreements. The work of land trusts is commendable and has become increasingly important in environmental stewardship. However, their role is not and should not be seen as being in the vanguard of

## Controversy and conflict come with the territory. If we cannot embrace and engage them effectively in pursuit of our mission, it is time to get out and move on. We betray our trust if the avoidance of conflict, whether done consciously or not, becomes a goal in our work. Conciliation has value, but not if achieved at the expense of ethical and environmental integrity.

environmental protection. That responsibility remains with NGOs advocating tougher habitat, species, air and water quality protections, stronger land use planning laws and controls, better enforcement of existing rules, and opposition to the weakening of laws currently on the books.

Land acquisition and regulation are both important for environmental protection. However, NGOs promoting one or the other agenda necessarily rely on different approaches, strategies and alliances to achieve their respective objectives. Conflicts occur when land trusts become involved in regulatory policy making in the Legislature and bring their particular influence, special interests and perspectives to the table and are assumed to speak for the enviros. They in fact cannot because the two groups often have competing and mutually exclusive interests.

Land trusts should not, in my view, be involved in advocacy affecting regulatory policy-making in the guise of an environmental NGO. They are landowners, managers and developers of restoration projects. Certainly they can and should inform the process and weigh in on issues affecting their stewardship of the land. But that is a fundamentally different role than that of enviros seeking tougher regulatory controls.

Finally on this point and relative to the land acquisition agenda, the fact is, there will never be enough money available to buy and manage all habitat and landscapes needing protection.

More troubling however, is the subtle and insidious message associated with the acquisition agenda that suggests environmental protection must be bought and paid for with

public money. This is the mantra of the "wise use" movement and private property rights advocates. In their view, government action that results in diminution in value or restrictions on private property rights, including interests in the use of public lands, must be compensated. Strong government regulation, in perpetuity, is absolutely essential to safeguard quality of life on the planet. Pushing a public acquisition agenda at the expense of strong, effective regulation does the environment, the public and future generations a great disservice.

Environmental advocacy is tough duty. To do it well requires idealism, passion, integrity, dedication, sacrifice, smarts and staying power. It requires a willingness to embrace conflict and to stand strong against forces of exploitation and greed. It means striving to ensure that environmental well-being is not sacrificed on the altar of expediency and pragmatism.

Effective environmental advocacy requires vision and a clear sense of purpose. It means listening to and staying in touch with frontline community activists. It requires earning and maintaining public support and respect. It means working more effectively with the media and forming strategic alliances with each other. And it requires resisting the sirens of power.

When seemingly irresistible and inexorable forces of environmental destruction push us to the edge of despair, we must think of the life that follows in our wake and reach for another measure of strength within us to never give up. Notwithstanding many defeats and few victories, in the end we will have prevailed because we tried.

Thank you for hearing me.

## How much?

continued from page 1

What was PG&E looking for and what would it really cost?

The answers to those questions, or lack of same, were troubling:

- PG&E hadn't been fully updating or responding to inquiries from the Independent Peer Review Panel (which includes SLO County Supervisor Bruce Gibson) assigned to monitor the design of the studies.
- The CPUC, as revealed by A4NR during a similar hearing for seismic study funding at the San Onofre nuclear plant, has no seismologist on staff, nor any seismic consultants. How would they know what PG&E was looking for?
- Without either thorough independent review or seismic expertise, how were ratepayers to know just what PG&E was up to?

Given this complexity, A4NR was grateful when attorney John Geesman agreed to take the lead on our behalf. Mr. Geesman, a former California Energy Commissioner, was that agency's original executive director and is well remembered for spearheading opposition to PG&E's failed anti-choice initiative, Proposition 16.

First on the agenda was A4NR's testimony in the case, which included the 75-page expert opinion of Dr. Douglas Hamilton. Dr. Hamilton had been a PG&E geoscientist in the original licensing of Diablo Canyon, and has since believed that the greatest threats to the plant were from the Diablo Cove and "Inferred Offshore Fault," which had been long ignored by PG&E. A4NR's second testimony was provided by Senator Blakeslee, who highlighted PG&E's lack of transparency and cooperation during the process. Both documents can be read at <http://a4nr.org/?p=1928>.

In response, PG&E's attorney stated that Dr. Hamilton's testimony was "...challenging the entirety of the geosciences program and the seismic hazard that has been adopted for Diablo Canyon and approved by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission." And yet, despite this dramatic claim, PG&E chose not to cross-examine Dr. Hamilton. His testimony entered the official record unchallenged. Likewise, PG&E chose not to cross-examine Senator Blakeslee.

PG&E's witnesses were not so lucky. On April 18, A4NR attorney Geesman hammered them on many issues, including PG&E's assumption that NRC pre-emption made the Alliance's claims moot, and got their witness to admit that, yes, some of PG&E's earlier assertions about the possible effects of the new Shoreline Fault had not been accepted by the NRC. The dramatic confrontations can be read in the transcripts at <http://a4nr.org/?p=2144>.

This is only the latest round in A4NR's seven-year fight to make sure ratepayers know whether Diablo Canyon sits on a foundation stable enough to provide reliable or economic electricity—areas of concern where jurisdiction rests exclusively with the state of California.

The CPUC process will stretch on through the summer. We must hold the utility's and regulators' feet to the fire: Both Pacific Gas & Electric and the California Public Utilities Commission are culpable for the negligence that led to an explosive tragedy at San Bruno. That is not a fate San Luis Obispo or California can afford at Diablo. Please support and follow the work of A4NR at [www.a4nr.org](http://www.a4nr.org).



Now on Facebook


/santalucia

SIERRA CLUB

SANTA LUCIA CHAPTER

## Letters

send to: [sierraclub8@gmail.com](mailto:sierraclub8@gmail.com), or Sierra Club, P.O. Box 15755, San Luis Obispo, CA 93406. Letters may be edited for space.

Contraception has been in the news a lot of late. The Pope continues promoting contraception as "wrong." Italy is a country where women have such a low birth rate they are not even replacing themselves and the government will give a \$2,000 bonus to any women that will have a second baby. The Pope must catch up with the times. He should be encouraging the use of IUDs, the Pill, vasectomies, Plan B, condoms etc. — as well as abstinence.

In the past 85 years the number of people inhabiting our planet has increased by five billion (5,000,000,000)—a population explosion. In nature all population explosions are followed by a population collapse—we are ripe.

People are living longer—twice as long as a century ago. Medicine has improved so very much—it is a great time to be alive. We have a choice of decreasing the births or increasing the deaths—I prefer the former, unless bearded ole gizzers are exempt from the death increase.

Bill Denneen, Nipomo

## Losing Sleep and Waking Up Worried?

For confidential professional help, call

**Jill Denton, LMFT**

Experienced Trauma & Anxiety Therapist

805-534-1101

[www.accesspt.com](http://www.accesspt.com)

Serving our community since 1978



# Home Defense

Where charity begins

by Ralph Bishop, Nipomo Creek Dogs

After reading, “Solar Done Wrong” (April), this Nipomo Creek Dog’s hackles are standing on end, and my ivory is gleaming in the Santa Lucian sun.

We Lucians have been taken by national thought police to the industrial re-education camp like King George’s dungeons. *Obey Lucians! Kangaroo rats, elk, and pronghorn are expendable to “save the world.”* Whether you are an originalist or believe that the Constitution is a living document, free speech is its foundation, and the industrial complex and their gang-greenous politicians will have to pry the pen from this old dog’s cold dead hands.

Tyrannical imposition, no matter who employs it, is a despicable molestation of lady liberty. It is an inconvenient truth that no party or organization is immune to the one percenters’ root of all evil: the golden calf of power. Change?

Per the *L.A. Times* (“Environmentalists feeling burned by rush to build solar projects,” April 6), consider the “kingmaker” who National Sierra Club paid and the energy industry coincidentally paid as well, and his plan to “give money to co-opt Big Green” and create a “green halo” for the imperial industrial complex. The kingmaker “in a memo singled out two organizations — the Sierra Club and the NRDC — for grants.” When a Sierra Club senior staffer was asked “if the big players had been outmaneuvered by solar developers,” she replied “That’s always possible.”

I heard in those words the tears of innocence lost. Where will once sweet Sierra find refuge in the dark, sleepless hours of ethical torment when the spirits of the tortoise and kit fox come to her asking “we thought you loved us, you took a faithful oath to protect us. We are the life of the world. How could you betray us for a yellow stone?”

My Grandfather used to say trust in God, the rest pay cash, and charity begins at home. In 2008, I became incensed that Supervisor Katcho Achadjian locally and George W. nationally were undercutting our family values. So every time the RNC sent me a request for money, I sent money to the Santa Lucia Chapter, saying “why waste hard-earned dollars on the black hole of National Committees whose obscene carbon footprint is an offense to nature and all but a penny

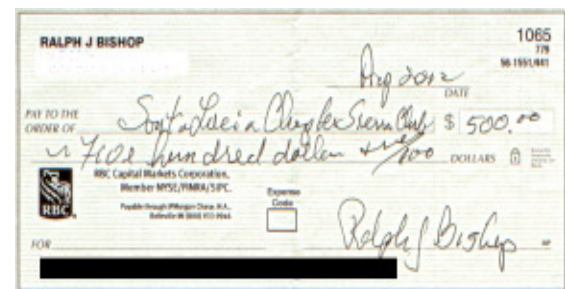
disappears as gaseous extrusions? I urge my fellow members to financially support local activism” (“We Approve This Message,” May 2010).

Here is proof local support gives us all a real bang for our buck: After plastic ag tubing in our creeks cost Nipomo millions of dollars in damage and wrecked our creek during flooding, we went to Katcho with our honest concern about the town he claimed to have adopted as his own. He erected every firewall possible to obscure the truth, including having the sheriff chase us around. We were at the end of our rope when we met the Sierra Club’s Santa Lucia chapter director. With Lucian help, we were able to prevail and stop the rampant plastic pollution. We would have failed had it not been for Lucian support.

In our last battle, Conoco tried to skirt their legal liability to clean up a massive oil spill under Nipomo Creek. Again we prevailed, but it would have been impossible without the Santa Lucia Chapter. Nipomo Creek became an example of Big Oil’s out-of-sight, out-of-mind unethical maneuver to suppress the truth. Thanks to the Lucians, the water board has put all Big Oil on notice to identify and remediate leaks from abandoned transfer lines, region-wide.

I again call on all who care about free speech and ethical responsibilities to support local activism. I have written a check for \$500 as a challenge — by arguably the Santa Lucia Chapter’s most conservative supporter — to meet or beat, or otherwise do what you can do to support the Chapter.

The truth has no agenda. My challenge embodies a primal territorial imperative: Charity begins at home.



We think he’s serious Thanks, Dog!

## Can Morro Bay Get Out of the Way?

Terry Lilley



On April 19 in Salinas, the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council voted to support the revival of the federal site evaluation list for marine sanctuaries.

We had written to the Sanctuary Advisory Council: “As site evaluation would involve public discussion and stakeholder input, this would be the process by which local stakeholders may air their concerns and ideas. For that reason, we would urge those who wish to make arguments against sanctuary evaluation or expansion to advocate for the initiation of this process, rather than attempting to shut down that discussion before it can begin.”

The week before, in anticipation of that vote — and seeking to shut down that discussion — the Morro Bay City Council took a trip down memory lane to shake the dust off a 2003 resolution opposing national marine sanctuary status for the Central Coast, either as an extension of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary or as a separate entity. The council re-voted and reaffirmed the old resolution so as to publicly re-state their opposition to sanctuary status for the waters of the Central Coast.

Specifically, in the mistaken belief that national marine sanctuaries regulate fishing, they rejected the conservation of ecological integrity and cultural legacy, resource protection and research funding that national marine sanctuary status brings.

Had they moseyed a little farther down memory lane, the councilmembers might have stumbled across a 1990 city council resolution endorsing national marine sanctuary status for the Central Coast. That resolution was vastly superior in judgment and vision to the 2003 resolution, which, by contrast, is heavy on misstatements of fact.

Thanks to councilman Noah Smukler, prior to the re-vote the council removed one of the clauses from the resolution that asserted with delusional confidence that opposition by the city, county and state would be sufficient to hold back any federal pressure for offshore oil exploration should Washington someday decree that our portion of the coast is to be sacrificed to Big Oil. That deletion was a quiet admission of reality: only national marine sanctuary status can permanently hold off the oil rigs.

But that deletion left plenty of other things for the city council to get wrong.

The newly re-affirmed resolution demanded “local control,” the city council’s long-time mantra for sanctuary opposition. Every time they say it, they put Morro Bay in a position equivalent to a city demanding control of a national park. It makes the city look silly. So does double-talk regarding the regulation of fishing, which the resolution attempts to equate with any regulation regulating anything else, concluding that marine sanctuaries therefore might regulate fishing (which — have we mentioned? — they don’t).

The resolution implied that the role of a local Sanctuary Advisory Council is essentially irrelevant, when, in fact, the Monterey Bay SAC is the means by which the sanctuary’s policies are set. On average, 90 percent of the Advisory Council’s recommendations are adopted as sanctuary management policy.

We urge Morro Bay residents to visit the website of the MBNMS ([montereybay.noaa.gov/](http://montereybay.noaa.gov/)) and search the term “Socioeconomics Factsheet” so they can see just how much commercial and recreational fisheries are (not) suffering as a result of allegedly draconian marine sanctuary regulations. It’s an eye-opening look at what sanctuary status has done for other communities, and what it could be doing for Morro Bay and for the central coast’s

economy at this moment, but for the fearful, fact-free opposition by the City of Morro Bay, allegedly acting in the name of its citizens. (This is the same city council that famously cancelled “Sea Otter Awareness Week” last year.)

More information from the fact-based community can be viewed at [www.santalucia.sierraclub.org](http://www.santalucia.sierraclub.org). Click on “SLO Coast National Marine Sanctuary panel.” This will serve to counter the misstatements of fact contained in a nine-year-old resolution resurrected by a grievously misinformed city council as an election-year ploy. The residents of Morro Bay deserve the real picture of just what their representatives are determined to withhold from them, and from everyone else on the Central Coast.

**Topaz Solar Farm construction is underway and will continue for the next three years.**

For Project Information:  
[www.topazsolar.com](http://www.topazsolar.com)

**Questions?**

Construction Liaison, Dawn Legg:  
**(480) 390-6256**

To register anonymous comments:  
Toll-free Hotline: **(877) 228-3331**

Bringing jobs,  
clean energy and  
opportunities to  
San Luis Obispo  
County



# Taking Issue

problematic environmental coverage & commentary in our local media

“Greenhouse-gas rules put chokehold on building,” *The Tribune*, April 15, 2012.

**Summary:** Local regulatory agencies like the Air Pollution Control District are finding simple ways to implement California’s greenhouse gas emission reduction requirements that will affect only a handful of the largest projects, and maybe not even then...unless you’re the person who writes the headlines for *The Tribune*.

Greenhouse-gas rules put chokehold on building -- State’s anti-pollution mandate has agencies in a painful bind

Neither of these statements is true, as the editorial goes on to illustrate in detail.

These two sentences constitute an argument and its opposite, cancelling each other out. If the regulations are superfluous and require standards that will be met regardless, via the requirements of the state code for energy efficiency -- i.e. the emissions rule will have no effect -- how can those regulations possibly “wind up dearly costing developers and builders,” who are going to be meeting the requirements anyway?

Opponents...say this is another unnecessary regulation that will wind of dearly costing developers and builders who already are struggling in the down economy. And, they point out that new construction is already following stringent state code for energy efficiency -- and that code is going to get even stricter in the near future.

So agencies are in a “painful bind”... with an alternative? And the painful bind would be where, exactly?



They’ve also noted that the state requirements are superfluous, given that local cities are in the process of developing state-mandated climate action plans that will set policies for reducing greenhouse-gas emissions. (San Luis Obispo County already has completed its plan.)

Climate Action Plans are a mixed bag. In SLO County’s case, the CAP consists of 39 voluntary measures, which the County may or may not implement. None are part of the County’s General Plan, and there’s not a rule or a regulation among them.

If agencies want to get serious about reducing greenhouse gases, they should do more to promote retrofits of older homes.

This was contemplated in an early draft of the County’s Climate Action

Plan, via a certified energy audit for homes built before 2000. Realtors screamed bloody murder, and it was removed.

And how about encouraging more residential units in existing downtowns, so that more people can walk to shops or to work? That’s far more likely to reduce car trips than adding one or two more bike lanes in suburban subdivisions, in the hope that it might lure residents into leaving their cars at home.

Does it need to be said? More downtown mixed use development and more bike lanes in existing suburban subdivisions are both good and useful things, and both should be and are being encouraged in planning at the state and local level, and are not competing with each other in an either/or scenario.

The state is requiring that the environmental review for all proposed developments -- no matter how small -- include an analysis of greenhouse-gas emissions and, if necessary, measures to reduce them. At its most extreme, that means a simple addition to a single-family home could necessitate a complicated review. That’s ridiculous. As an alternative, agencies can set thresholds that exempt small projects from the requirements.

**Upshot:** Does *The Tribune*’s editorial board see the headlines that get placed over their editorials before they go to press?

## May 12 is National Train Day

Head on down to the Amtrak station in San Luis Obispo (Santa Rosa and Railroad Avenue) on Saturday, May 12, for National Train Day. The event is from 1-4 PM; admission is free and so is the parking! With gas prices on the rise and the



**GET CLEAN<sup>®</sup>**  
by **Shaklee**  
Safe for you, your home, and your planet.

Non-Toxic  
Natural  
Biodegradable

Michelle Naficy 805-748-6688  
eco-healthyfamily.myshaklee.com

summer travel season ahead, now is a great time to find out about rail travel in California and across the country. Lighten your carbon footprint with “greener” travel and climb aboard a modern train (wi-fi!) for a pleasant journey. At National Train Day there will be model railroad displays for kids of all ages, a photo exhibit and light refreshments. Souvenirs and travel information for all! REAL trains will be in the station from 1:30-2p.m. and again from about 3-3:45 that afternoon. All aboard!!

**FLYING M FARM PRODUCTS**

**FROM THE RED HILLS**

**2011 Crop Grass Fed Beef**  
**Estate Grown Extra Virgin Olive Oil**  
Available Now-Delivery Available  
Please Get in Touch For More Information  
Greg and Linda McMillan  
805-238-4820 greg@flyingm.com

**USE IN AND FOR GOOD HEALTH**

# Classifieds

Next issue deadline is **May 14**. To get a rate sheet or submit your ad and payment, contact:  
 Sierra Club - Santa Lucia Chapter  
 P.O. Box 15755  
 San Luis Obispo, CA 93406  
[sierraclub8@gmail.com](mailto:sierraclub8@gmail.com)

**Les Kangas**  
 Solar Energy Consultant  
 REC Solar, Inc.  
 775 Fiero Lane, Suite 200  
 San Luis Obispo, CA 93401



Office: (805) 528-9705  
 Cell: (805) 305-7164  
 Toll Free: (888) OK-SOLAR (657-6527)  
 Fax: (805) 528-9701

**SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE INVESTING**



**NATURAL INVESTMENTS LLC**  
 Financial Advisor  
**SCOTT SECREST AAMS®**  
 (805) 235-3031

San Luis Obispo, California  
[www.naturalinvesting.com](http://www.naturalinvesting.com)

Fee-only Sustainable Investment Advice  
 Natural Investments, LLC  
 An investment adviser registered with the SEC

**slosolstice.com**  
 green directory



**Be smart... be green!**  
 CONTACT us... to be SEEN!  
 ph: 805-473-5064 or email: [Solstice222@aol.com](mailto:Solstice222@aol.com)

**Helmholz Consulting**  
**Business Computer Networks**

PHONE: (805) 547-0293  
 E-MAIL: [dave@helmholz.net](mailto:dave@helmholz.net)

Providing personalized computer service to businesses in San Luis Obispo county



**Mac VanDuzer**  
 Broker Associate  
 TOLL FREE: (800) 767-0095  
 OFFICE: (805) 927-1511  
 FAX: (805) 927-1599  
 CELL: (805) 909-7630  
[MacVanDuz@aol.com](mailto:MacVanDuz@aol.com)

**GREEN HOMES**  
 Pismo to San Simeon

A portion of any commission donated to the Sierra Club

555 Main Street  
 Cambria, CA 93428

**Sierra Club REALTY**

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

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

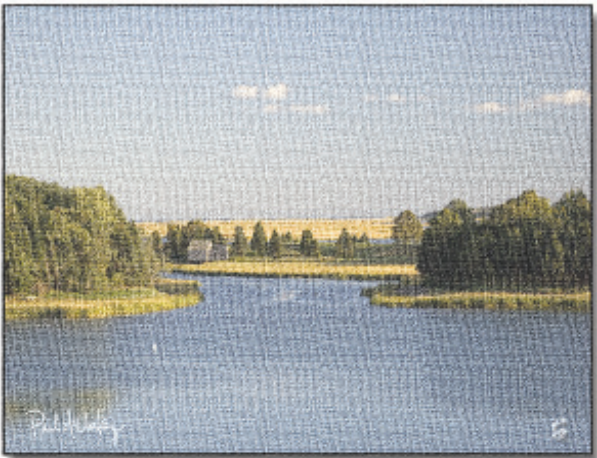
**SIERRA CLUB**  
 FOUNDED 1892

Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

**CYNTHIA HAWLEY**  
 ATTORNEY

**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**  
**LAND USE**  
**CIVIL LITIGATION**

**P.O. Box 29 Cambria California 93428**  
**Phone 805-927-5102 Fax 805-927-5220**



"Autumn Light - The Great Salt Marsh"  
 Cape Cod Nat'l Seashore, N.P.S.

**"Painting With Light"**  
**Paul J. McCloskey • Photo-Paintings**  
 "Sacred Light - Sacred Lands"

P.O. Box 13013 • San Luis Obispo, CA 93406  
 805.235.3001  
 email: [paul@paintingwithlightstudio.com](mailto:paul@paintingwithlightstudio.com)  
[www.paintingwithlightstudio.com](http://www.paintingwithlightstudio.com)

© "Painting With Light" Studio - Paul J. McCloskey - All Rights Reserved

**Rainwater Management**



**Low Impact Development**


## Hold Your Water

"Slow it, sink it, spread it" is the mantra of enlightened water managers who know that water works best when it stays on the land where it falls.

Now that mantra can be yours, too, along with healthier soils, happier wildlife, and reductions in your water bill, thanks to the tips and techniques in **Rainwater Management for Low Impact Development**, a publication of the Appropriate Technology Coalition -- SLO Green Build, the Santa Lucia

Chapter of the Sierra Club and the Surfrider Foundation, available for \$10 postage paid, while supplies last. Mail your check to Sierra Club, P.O. Box 15755, SLO 93406.

**LAW OFFICES OF BABAK NAFICY**  
 Babak Naficy - Attorney at Law



1504 Marsh Street  
 San Luis Obispo, CA 93401  
 ph: 805.593.0926 - fax: 805.593.0946  
[babaknaficy@sbcglobal.net](mailto:babaknaficy@sbcglobal.net)

# Outings and Activities Calendar

Seller of travel registration information: CST 2087766-40. Registration as a seller of travel does not constitute approval by the State of California.

All our hikes and activities are open to all Club members and the general public. Please bring drinking water to all outings and optionally a lunch. Sturdy footwear is recommended. All phone numbers listed are within area code 805 unless otherwise noted. Pets are generally not allowed. A parent or responsible adult must accompany children under the age of 18. If you have any suggestions for hikes or outdoor activities, questions about the Chapter's outing policies, or would like to be an outings leader, call Outings Chair Joe Morris, 772-1875. For information on a specific outing, please call the listed outing leader.

**Sat., May 5, 7:30 a.m. Santa Lucia Trail to Pinkolam Peak** Strenuous hike to tallest peak in N. Los Padres Nat. Forest. Not for beginners. 12 miles roundtrip, 3800 ft. elevation gain, for an all-day outing. Hike begins in rocky meadow, then ascends through oak forest, chaparral, and pines to summit, where there is an abandoned fire lookout. Bring ample water, lunch, snacks, and dress for the weather. Ticks and poison oak may be encountered. Meet at Las Tablas rideshare parking lot in Templeton, west of #101 at Las Tablas exit. From there, we will carpool for 1 1/2 hrs. to trailhead. If you may possibly be a carpool driver, need to bring license, registration certificate, and proof of insurance since we will be crossing Ft. Hunter Liggett. Because of location and difficulty of hike, must confirm with leader at least 2 days before hike. Chuck, 441-7597.

**Fri-Sun, May 11-13 Tom Basin Burn Area Trip #4, Santa Rosa Wilderness** Join Graham Stafford and Brenna Archibald of the Nevada Outdoor School to reseed native plants in area north of Winnemucca.

Easy work and family-oriented. All meals except lunch are provided. Info.: Graham, 775-686-8478, graham@graham-stafford.com or Brenna, Zrenna.archibald@nevadaoutdoorschool.org Great Basin Group—Toiyabe Chapter.

**Sat., May 12, 9 a.m. Over the Top Hike, Cerro San Luis** Moderately-paced, 5-mile hike around and over Cerro San Luis via Rock Garden trail, about 2.5—3 hrs duration. Some steep hills and strenuous portions. Bring boots and water. Meet at parking lot/restroom area at Laguna Lake. Info.: Mike Sims, 459-1701 or msims@slonet.org Rain cancels.

**Sun., May 13, 9 a.m. Irish Hills Natural Reserve Hike** The Irish Hills stretch along southern side of Los Osos Valley from Hwy 101 to coast. This botanist-led hike, about 5 miles roundtrip and 700 ft. gain, explores the Natural Reserve there—700 acres of oak woodland, grasslands, chaparral, and superb views. Bring water, snacks, hat, sturdy shoes, and dress in layers for weather. Local plants,

animals, and geology will be discussed. About 3 hrs. duration. Meet at trailhead, southern end of Madonna Rd., SLO. Info.: Bill Waycott, 459-2103 or bill.waycott@gmail.com. Jointly sponsored with California Native Plant Society.

**Sat., May 19, 10 a.m. City Walk: Victorian-Age San Luis Obispo** Easy, guided stroll past 18 lovely century-old homes and churches in the Old Town Historic District, south of downtown SLO. See residences of past mayors, newspaper editor, and Cal Poly founder. Eavesdrop on the personal lives of the newly rich who transformed the city in the early 1900s. Duration about 1 1/2 hrs. Meet in front of Jack House, 536 Marsh St. Info.: Joe Morris, 549-0355.

**Fri-Mon, May 25-28 Black Rock Rendezvous: Restoration and Photography Workshop** A premier annual event at the Black Rock National Conservation Area, in which we will be taking the lead for restoration of the route, tamarisk removal, and general cleanup. Families wel-

## Sept. 23-30 Historical Virginia Trip

If you always wanted to see some of the most famous historical spots in and around the State of Virginia, this is the trip for you. We will fly into Washington Dulles Airport, then bus to the restored Revolutionary Era Town of

Williamsburg; Jamestown, the site of the first English settlement in America; and the Yorktown Battlefield. We will tour such historical sites as Appomattox Court House where Lee surrendered to

Grant; Monticello, home of Thomas Jefferson; the Shenandoah Valley, Skyline Drive and the Appalachian Trail, Harpers Ferry, Gettysburg Battlefield, and

finish up with Fort McHenry, the City of Annapolis, the U. S. Naval Academy and maybe even a cruise on the Chesapeake.

8 days, 7 nights. \$1250 for SC members (\$1350 for non-members). Includes all lodging costs, transportation to and from Dulles Airport and while on the trip, all admission fees to scheduled locations and all breakfasts. Lunches and dinners and airfare to and from Washington Dulles not included. \$500 will reserve your spot on the trip, with the remainder due July 1. For info, call (949-768-610; mikesapp@cox.net), or write Mike Sappingfield at 26352 Via Juanita, Mission Viejo, CA 92691.

## Guided City Walks: San Luis Obispo

Each walk lasts about 90 minutes, is easy-paced, and free to the public. Families welcome. No reservations. Check this space or our website for information about future scheduled city walks.

**Walk I: Mission-Era San Luis Obispo.** See the home of the city's first doctor, the location of the "hanging tree," where the stagecoach stopped, and other sights on a stroll past the Mission, adobes, and old Chinatown. Meet at NE corner of Monterey and Osos Streets.

**Walk II: Victorian-Age San Luis Obispo.** Easy stroll past 18 lovely century-old homes and churches in the Old Town Historic District. See the homes of mayors, the newspaper editor, and Cal Poly's founder, and learn about the lives of the newly wealthy who transformed the city in the late 19th and early 20th century. Meet in front of Jack House, 536 Marsh Street.

**Walk III: Mill Street Historic District.** A walk through a neighborhood of splendid century-old homes to discover SLO in the era of Hearst, coming of the railroad, WW I, and the twenties. Learn the stories of the rich or not-so-famous who shaped the city of today. Meet at corner of Monterey and Johnson Streets.

**Walk IV: Jazz-Age to Fifties SLO.** See the downtown hotel where Hearst entertained guests, former location of speakeasies, the original French hospital, and more. Learn of city life in the years of the Model T to Prohibition and WW II. Meet at building designed by Frank Lloyd Wright, NE corner of Santa Rosa and Pacific Streets.


**Walk V: Musical Walk: Historic San Luis Obispo.** A guided, tuneful stroll past ten historic landmarks in downtown San Luis Obispo, accompanied by recordings of thematic songs from Mission days to World War II. Meet at NW corner of Nipomo and Dana Streets.




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.

comed, with opportunities to meet members of partner groups. All meals except lunch are provided. Info.: Graham Stafford, 775-686-8478, graham@graham-stafford.com, or Pat Bruce, 775-815-5598 Great Basin Group—Toiyabe Chapter.

**Sat., May 26, 9:30 a.m. Guadalupe Beach Hike.** 4-mile walk, about 4 hrs. duration, down pristine beach and through historic dunes to Mussel Rock. Bring ample water, lunch, windbreaker, and hat. Optional lunch afterward in quaint, historic Guadalupe. Rain cancels. Info.: Andrea Ortiz, 934-2792.

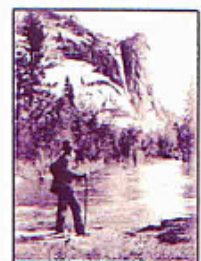


**The Sierra Club Needs You!**



### Become an Outings Leader

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



John Muir, founder of the Sierra Club, in Yosemite

**For further information contact:**

Joe Morris, Outings Chair  
Sierra Club, Santa Lucia Chapter  
(805) 549-0355  
dpj1942@earthlink.net



## Island Hopping in Channel Islands National Park

**May 6-8, July 8-10, September 9-11.**

Explore the wild, windswept islands of Channel Island National Park. Enjoy the frolicking seals and sea lions. Train your binoculars on rare sea and land birds. Hike trails bordered by blankets of wildflowers and plants found in no other place on earth. Kayak or snorkel the pristine waters—or just relax at sea. All tours depart from Santa Barbara aboard the 68' twin diesel Truth. \$590 fee includes an assigned bunk, all meals, snacks, beverages, and the services of a ranger/naturalist who will travel with us to lead hikes, call attention to items of interest and present evening programs. Proceeds will go to benefit Sierra Club California's political programs. To make a reservation, mail a \$100 check, payable to Sierra Club to leader Joan Jones Holtz, 11826 The Wye St., El Monte, CA 91732. Contact leader for more information, 626-443-0706; jholtzhl@aol.com.