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**SIERRA
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Santa Lucia
Chapter

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

Oil Trains Hit The Wall

SLO County Planning Commission's denial carries big implications for Big Oil



We did it The coalition work of national, state and local activist groups, cities, counties, school districts and unions handed Phillips 66 a defeat at the SLO County Planning Commission. (Santa Barbara County Supervisor Salud Carbajal is at lower left in this February 4 rally outside the SLO Courthouse during the Planning Commission's first of eight hearings on the project).

On October 5, the SLO County Planning Commission voted to reject Phillips 66's proposed oil train facility in Nipomo. The decision comes after a nearly three-year review process, with more than 20,000 Californians opposing the project, and more than 45 cities, counties, and school boards sending letters urging the planning commission to deny it.

This decision comes on the heels of the Benicia City Council's rejection Tuesday night of a similar project proposed for Valero's Benicia refinery. The Benicia denial came only hours after the federal Surface Transportation Board issued an order upholding the city's authority to deny Valero's project. The Board's ruling rejecting the claim that local govern-

ments are preempted by federal law and lack the authority to deny hazardous projects slated for their communities also applies to San Luis Obispo County, where Phillips 66 has made similar arguments.

If built, the Phillips 66 oil trains terminal would allow more than 7 million gallons of crude oil to be shipped via rail to its local refinery each week. The project would make it possible for Phillips 66 to refine volatile and carbon-intensive tar sands crude from Canada and elsewhere in the United States. Tar sands crude, when prepared for transport, is thinned with an unstable blend of chemicals have been known to explode in derailment incidents, which have become increasingly frequent in recent years.

As evidenced by the ten oil train explosions in the United States over the past two years, and the tragic explosion that killed 47 in Lac-Mégantic, Canada, similar trains in California would place communities' health, safety, and environment at serious risk. Trains servicing the Phillips 66 project would have traveled from the north and south through hundreds of major California cities and smaller communities, including Los Angeles, Sacramento, Davis, Berkeley, Oakland, and San Jose, and jeopardized numerous ecologically sensitive areas includ-

This vote was a great victory for the people of San Luis Obispo and California, as well as for the planet. This victory demonstrates the people power of communities all around the state who organized and participated in the public process to defeat this ill-conceived and dangerous project. Kudos also to the local residents who refused to be intimidated by a huge and politically powerful corporation that wanted to put profits before community safety.

**-Andrés Soto, Organizer
Communities for a Better Environment**

ing the San Francisco Bay and California's iconic central coast.

"This project, wisely rejected by the planning commission, is another example of how Big Oil wants the

American people to shoulder the risk for crude oil transport — whether an exploding train or a leaking pipeline — while the polluters rake in the profits," said Andrew Christie, Di-

rector of the Sierra Club's Santa Lucia Chapter. "Ultimately, the best way to safeguard our air and water, our communities, and our families is to speed up the transition to clean energy prosperity and keep dirty, dangerous fuels like tar sands crude in the ground."

"The people of California owe eternal thanks to the San Luis Obispo Department of Planning and the County Planning Commission," said Ethan Buckner, Extreme Oil Campaigner for Stand.earth. "If Phillips 66 chooses to appeal this decision, millions will be watching the board of supervisors to see if they will choose to uphold state environmental law and the county's general plan, or disregard the judgment of their own commissioners, the advice of county planners and the overwhelming will of the people."

"This was the right decision and the only possible decision if the goal is to keep our communities and environment safe," said Linda Krop, Chief Counsel for the Environmental Defense Center, legal representative for the Sierra Club, Stand, Center for Biological Diversity and the San Luis Obispo Chapter of the Surfrider Foundation.

On October 19, Phillips 66 appealed the Planning Commission's denial to the Board of Supervisors.

Commissioner Meyer Makes a Motion

by Eric Meyer, Themovement.org

At the end of the eighth meeting of the SLO County Planning Commission deliberating on the Phillips 66 oil train terminal project, Commissioner Eric Meyer called for the motion to deny the project. The following is the text of his closing argument. While Commissioner Meyer needs to learn the difference between special interest groups and groups representing the public interest, we can't argue with his logic or the outcome.

Energy is the power realized from the utilization of a physical resource. Carbon based organisms have existed on earth for Billions of years.

The "Fossils" in Fossil Fuels took 2.5 billions years to accumulate. They were primarily microscopic organisms that decayed and sank to the bottom of the oceans over millennia and their ensuing sediments were cooked by the pressures and temperatures within the planet until they became the hydrocarbons they are today.

We humans, over the course of the last couple of hundred years, have taken the billions of years of stored carbon energy from deep in the planet... and used it to power our indus-

trial and technological revolutions. This has been really great. I love driving my car. I love my computer etc.

The successful use of stored hydrocarbons, along with the invention of farming allowed humans to transition from a primarily hunter gatherer society, to an agrarian society, to an industrial society, to a technological society.

Each of these transitions has meant greater and greater efficiencies in the utilization of energy. Each of these efficiencies has meant we humans could utilize smaller and smaller land areas to support larger and larger populations.

The density of humans per acre on the planet has increased exponentially

over the last few hundred years in particular. The density of new ideas has also increased proportionally to the increase in new humans.

This acceleration of knowledge and ideas can be seen in the rapid move from an agrarian, to an industrial, and to a technologically based society. The evolution of mankind has been turbocharged by oil.

No one doubts that the burning of fossil fuels has allowed mankind to radically increase his knowledge and intellect. The vast majority of us here in this room would not be able to live here without oil.

However, the burning of fossil fuels used to create

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Sierra Club General Meeting

"Love Thy Nature"

7-9 p.m., Wednesday, Nov. 16



"Bolstered by citations from the work of Descartes and quotes from philosopher Rudolf Steiner, Nature tackles questions of our role on Earth, our part in its care and destruction (as well as our own health), and how we might refrain from destroying it." - "Lush Environmental Doc Dares to Offer Some Hope," *Village Voice*, 4/15/16



Join us for a screening of the recently released environmental documentary, "Love Thy Nature," winner of over 25 film festival awards. Narrated by Liam Neeson, the film is a cinematic immersion into our relationship with the natural world, interspersed with commentary by leading ecologists about our need for a renewed connection with nature.

Following the film, our chapter director and chair will discuss the chapter's exciting initiatives for 2017. Questions and comments welcome.

Meets at **Steynberg Gallery, 1531 Monterey St., SLO.**

Info.: Joe Morris, 549-0355.

Big Doings on the Web



Get ready Webmasters Monica Tarzier (left) and Nancy Cole-Borges are laying out the next generation of the Santa Lucia Chapter's website: more streamlined, user-friendly and integrated with all our social networking platforms. Watch for it!

Tell the White House:
Designate the Chumash Heritage
National Marine Sanctuary! Go to:
tinyurl/CHNMSPetition

Santa Lucian

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TREASURER
Sue Harvey (12/16)
MEMBER
Cal French (12/16)
MEMBER
Patrick McGibney (12/17)
MEMBER

Open
COUNCIL OF CLUB LEADERS

The **Executive Committee** meets the second Monday of every month at 5:30 p.m. The **Conservation Committee** meets the second Friday at 1p.m. at the chapter office, located at 974 Santa Rosa St., San Luis Obispo. All members are welcome to attend.

Committee Chairs

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Development
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Conservation
Sue Harvey
Water Subcommittee
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Energy Task Force
Karen Merriam
Intergenerational Task Force
Victoria Carranza
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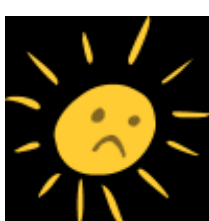
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There's No App for That

by Judith Bernstein

It's heartbreaking, the man says, surveying
His town that drowned in Louisiana.
From the comfort of my couch
I agree. Heartbreaking.
But guess what?
We brought this on ourselves.

It's heat-breaking they say, hottest
July on record. I can attest to that,
Fires raging up and down drought
Plagued California. I spot them
As I drive down the freeway.
I smell the smoke from Big Sur
(Please, oh God of Flame, Spare the home of Henry
Miller),
See the blazes from the erratic Chimney Fire,
swollen to twenty+ thousand acres,
Even the castle of the rich and famous
Might not be spared.

But you know what?
We brought this on ourselves,
So maybe the Fire God isn't interested.

Could there be an app to dry out Louisiana,
To restore the waterlogged homes,
Revive the dead, bring back drowned towns?
An app to extinguish the flames,
And one to revive the 4000 exhausted fighters?
What about an app to rebuild the charred houses,
One to heal the heartbroken, comfort the mourners?
And of course, an app to expunge the damage
We have done to ourselves and the planet.

But alas, there's no app for all that.
So we humans have to do it ourselves.
There's no app but self-help books abound.
Time to get them down from the shelves
And start helping.

Nov. 1: Save Price Canyon

By Ash Lauth, California
Clean Energy Campaign,
Center for Biological
Diversity

On October 13, an important rally and hearing on the fate of San Luis Obispo County's underground water supply happened at San Luis Obispo Superior Court.

Right now, over 70 aquifers in California could become trash dumps for the oil industry. State oil regulators are considering asking the EPA to exempt these aquifers from the federal Safe Drinking Water Act so that Big Oil can inject toxic waste into them.

The Arroyo Grande Oil Field has the first exemption application on deck. There are at least 100 water supply wells for drinking and crop irrigation within a mile of the adjacent aquifer. If the EPA approves the application, the precedent will be set that California's underground water resources are suitable garbage dumps for the oil industry, and oil giant Freeport McMoRan could move forward with plans to drill hundreds of new wells.

The Center filed a lawsuit against state oil regulators (DOGGR) for "rubber-stamping" an application to the EPA to use the A.G. aquifer as a garbage dump for toxic oil waste.

Big Oil's response was to bully the Center and local allies in Protect Price Canyon by demanding the court dismiss the suit. They failed.

We overcame big oil's bullying this time, but now the real work starts. We need you to help make sure that when the industry comes back, we're able to defeat them again. This is a very exciting time to be a part of this work, because there's a real chance of victory.

That's why we'd like you to join your fellow residents and come to the next Protect Price Canyon meeting on Tuesday, November 1, to build the momentum and talk next steps. We'll be taking action on several fronts -- including outreach to Rep. Lois Capps before she leaves office; to businesses, friends, family and neighbors; to the local papers and the EPA -- that need leadership from folks like you.

Can we count you on board to join us and make this campaign to protect our water powerful?

WHAT: Protect Price Canyon Community Meeting
WHEN: Tuesday, November 1 at 6:30 p.m.
WHERE: Trinity Hall, 6565 Edna Road, San Luis Obispo.

RSVP with Natalie at natalie@protectpricecanyon.org.



Save Edna

On October 14, the County Planning Department bowed to objections from the Sierra Club and Edna Valley community and pulled the Greengate Farms request for an events permit from the consent calendar -- reserved for items so non-controversial they are considered approved without discussion or alteration -- and took public comment.

Santa Lucia Chapter Chair Karen Merriam pointed out that the scope of the Greengate project

warrants a larger, more widespread noticing than the customary 300 feet from the project site.

Further:
As noted in the court ruling of June 23, 2016, in favor of the Save Adelaida appeal of an Event Center on Vineyard Drive in north county (see "Adelaida's Significant Impact," Sept.), cumulative impacts need to be addressed in the consideration of Event Centers "incidental to" ag operations. The Greengate project should not be considered separately

from the context of the event venues currently in operation proximate to the property, including Loma Grande Ranch (access directly across from new access drive of Greengate Ranch), Claiborne and Churchill Winery (weddings, music events, wine tastings, guest house), Trinity Hall (all types of events, meetings, parties) and Holland Ranch (weddings, vacation rental).

She argued that the cumulative impact of these events include noise, traffic,

and air quality. If each of these event venues holds an event on a summer day, which is likely, the potential for a large-scale traffic impact with all of its attendant negative impacts to air quality, safety, etc. will be significant.

Events have been held at Greengate Farms regularly throughout the summer. The music played at the event of July 23 held at Greengate permeated the Edna Valley from Ormonde Rd. to Tif-

EDNA cont. on page 5

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ODSVRA, Are You Kidding?

On September 30, we submitted the following comments on the Draft Program Environmental Impact Report for the Oceano Dunes SVRA Dust Control Program.

State Parks was required to prepare the report in order to assess what environmental impacts dust control measures might have on the dunes and mitigate those impacts. We restricted our comments on the Draft EIR to its fatal flaw: a misreading of a single clause in the CEQA Guidelines which resulted in an attempt to stand CEQA on its head and produced a Draft EIR that impermissibly shifts and narrows its focus, primarily identifying the project's impacts on OHV recreational opportunities instead of potential impacts on the environment, then attempting to elevate alleged recreational impacts to the level



of "significant and unavoidable."

The DEIR frequently veers from a discussion of impacts under CEQA to alleged conflicts with the Oceano Dunes SVRA General Development Plan and Resource Management Plan and attempts to create a new CEQA category of "significant conflict," the fact that the project does not "perpetuate and enhance recreational use of OHVs in the SVRA" is a violation of CEQA.

What CEQA says

The Draft EIR's theory of significant impacts to recreational op-

portunities resulting from the dust control program rests on two sentences found in the Environmental Checklist in Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines – in which all items are listed under the notation "The sample questions in this form are intended to encourage thoughtful assessment of impacts, and do not necessarily represent thresholds of significance."

The two sentences read, in their entirety:

XV. RECREATION.

a. *Would the project in-*

crease the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?

b. *Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?*

- CEQA Guidelines, Appendix G, Environmental Checklist Form

It is clear from these sample checklist questions and the context of other questions in this section that the intent was to ensure analysis of potential impacts arising from increased use of surrounding parks as a result of project that

would attract additional residents or visitors, thereby increasing traffic and the use of surrounding facilities due to spill-over impacts.

The project, as the DEIR repeatedly notes, will have no such impact. The type of "recreational impact" asserted by the DEIR – the reduction of the acreage available for recreational vehicle use within an existing recreational area – is not contemplated in CEQA.

The project does not conflict with the California Coastal Act

The DEIR also attempts to base claims of impacts on a vague statement that vegetating the dunes would not "maximize coastal recreation opportunities, as generally required by the Coastal Act" without refer-

ence to the fact that the Coastal Act also requires the protection of coastal resources.

And when it comes to the Oceano Dunes, the agency administering the Coastal Act has shown much greater interest in that second, omitted priority; not so much the loss of square footage of riding area. When the Coastal Commission announced its Feb. 11, 2015, review of the SVRA's Coastal Development Permit, the most recent occasion on which the Commission has weighed in on issues at the SVRA, it was announced as a meeting to "assess the overall effectiveness of methods being used to manage vehicle impacts in relation to

ODSVRA continued on page 5

You Have One More Ballot to Fill Out



It's time to select your Sierra Club chapter's Executive Committee for 2016. Five candidates are running for four seats.

All current members of the Sierra Club's Santa Lucia Chapter are eligible to vote. If there is more than one Sierra Club member in your household, you may photocopy the printed ballot and mail both in the same envelope. After the election, the ExCom will convene a brief meeting to elect board officers and set the monthly date for ExCom meetings for 2017.

- Make an X or checkmark in the box for the candidate of your choice. Vote for no more than four candidates.
- Ballots must be received by **5 p.m., December 2, 2016**, at the Chapter office.
- Sign and date the flap of the envelope. Do not write your name on the ballot.
- Mail your ballot to **Elections Committee, Santa Lucia Chapter P.O. Box 15755, San Luis Obispo, CA 93406** with sufficient time to arrive by the dead line, or drop it off via the door mail slot at the Chapter office at 974 Santa Rosa Street, SLO.

Marcia Alter I moved here from Ann Arbor, Michigan in 1998. Soon after arriving she worked on the SOAR initiative and in the process, I met folks who are now long term friends. Over the years I participated in fundraising on behalf of ECOSLO and Sierra Club and supported the Measure J effort to prevent the Dalidio project. For fun I teach a monthly Solar Cooking class. A former tri-athlete, I enjoy hiking, biking, exploring the scenic beauty near and far and leading Laughter Wellness groups. I play and volunteer with a broad range of folks in our county and have a knack for connecting them with one another. I believe in collaborating with others, bringing all voices to the table for resolving issues and to having a good time along the way!



Marcia Alter

Stephanie Gong. I am a third year undergraduate majoring in biology at Cal Poly. Every summer with my family, we go on "road trips" to explore new and old favorite National Parks and Monuments. My favorite National Park is Banff/Jasper NP in Canada. I enjoy visiting national parks because every time I am in awe of how special and diverse this planet is. I currently research with the Water and Energy Sustainability Team (WEST) on campus, which focuses on sustainable water treatment practices. I was a docent at The Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes Center, and taught elementary school children about botany. I hope to do research related to wildlife ecology or conservation.



Stephanie Gong

Sue Harvey. I have been a member of the Chapter's Conservation Committee for over a decade and currently serve as Chair. I'm a member of Sierra Club California Water Committee and have been an active advocate for preserving our local natural resources since 1999. In 2000, I co-founded Paso Watch, now North County Watch. I served on the SLO County Water Resources Advisory Committee, the Paso Basin Advisory Committee, and the County's TDC Blue Ribbon Committee. The Santa Lucia Chapter is the primary countywide advocate for environmental protection of our precious dwindling natural resources.



Sue Harvey

Christine Mulholland. I have lived in San Luis Obispo nearly 30 years and have been a volunteer in our schools and a community activist involved with various efforts to maintain a healthy city. I served as chair of ECOSLO and am currently a member of the County Water Resources Advisory Committee. I was twice elected to the SLO City Council, fought several developments in my neighborhood, and filed the first CEQA suit in the County to make it to court. Sierra Club contributed to the funds we raised for a lawyer, and we won. I am a Lifetime member of the Sierra Club and unabashed conservationist.



Christine Mulholland

Charles (Chuck) Tribbey. When not checking someone's eyes at the Primary Eyecare Center in Atascadero and San Luis Obispo, I am hiking the trails of San Luis Obispo County and beyond. As an optometrist, I have been on seven eye care missions to Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, and Peru with I Care International. I am a Sierra Club Lifetime member along with my wife Kathryn, and have previously served on the Santa Lucia Chapter excom and political committee. I'm presently an Outings leader. I have served on boards for ECOSLO and Friends of Fiscalini Ranch Preserve in Cambria, and was a member of the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Committee in Cambria.



Chuck Tribbey

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



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.

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Outings, events, and more!

Meyer*continued from page 1*

the industrial revolution has placed massive additional amounts of carbon into the atmosphere in a short period of time.

Simultaneous to that deforestation around the world over the last few hundred years has dramatically lowered the planet's ability to re-absorb carbon from the atmosphere.

So we are in a situation where we are putting a lot more carbon into the atmosphere than the planet is used to... and we are also reducing its ability to remove it.

And we as a species have created a population that is addicted to the success that the burning of all that carbon has created.

We are also beginning to realize that the usage of all this oil to turbocharge our success as a species has had side effects.

One of the great new ideas created by all these great new human minds was the concept of renewable energy, which is the natural evolution of efficiency in the way we use energy. It is simply of greater benefit to humanity to utilize sustainable renewable energy than it is to continue to utilize fossil fuels. There is no argument over this. Sustainable renewable energy will wipe out the use of fossil fuels.

The disagreement is only really over how and when to nurse ourselves off the fossil fuel addiction that we have become so enamored of and convert our technologies to the next level... to renewables.

I understand that it seems hypocritical to those who don't see the hurry to make the switch for others to say

we should end the addiction to oil right this second. They see that the current addiction has had many positive benefits to society. They are not wrong.

To others, the side effects of the oil addiction are growing more and more important and that they cannot be ignored. They believe that the current usage levels will lead to massive planetary changes. They are not wrong.

We are at a crossroads of sorts. There are alternatives coming on line. Some people are ready to cross and some are not. This is the way of the world.

Almost every decision I have made as a planning commissioner involves two parties that each believe they are in the right position and that the other side really has no idea what they are talking about. And almost always, neither side is entirely wrong.

Every one of us has levels of risk we are willing to tolerate. Each of us has things we do that annoy others. The challenge of being in this Planning Commissioner seat involves understanding a given project in detail, and then with total knowledge of the subject of that project, trying to understand the risks and benefits to society as a whole. Interpreting the public's opinion of those risk and benefits is a big part of the equation.

Sometimes "public" is a special interest group with



other projects I have ever considered added together, by far.

I have read each and every one of the more than 21,000 comments submitted to this commission. And after tossing out the special interest group form letters and the nimbys, what remains is the bal-

ance of the citizens of this county who are not special interests or nimbys. They, and the people of the counties and cities represented by the letters we received from city councils and supervisors all up and down the Union Pacific line. Of those last letters, the vast majority, I'd say at least 96%, including all of the letters from city councils and supervisors, asked us to vote against this project.

I cannot see how any commissioner from this county, who's district may cover approximately one fifth of this county, so approximately 50,000 people, I don't see how that com-

missioner can sit here and say that the opinion of that small constituency he says he represents is more important than the wishes of the representatives of the 10 million people up and down the tracks. If these commissioners represent so many people who are for this project, *where are those people?* why are they not here in great droves? How can you ignore the actual pleas our neighboring representatives, who represent over 10 million neighbors, asking us to not endanger their citizens? How can you say that the profit of one multinational corporation and the supposed creation of twelve jobs outweighs the possibility of just one death, one burn victim, one person who loses their spouse or child?

This project will not change the trajectory of oil in this nation. Whether or not this refinery gets oil by train or not will have zero effect on the supply of gasoline in this nation. So why do you vote against all of your neighboring cities and

counties? We have been told that the likelihood of a wreck does exist, albeit small, and you have decided that, for you, this is an acceptable risk. You are willing to accept the possibility of 1 death or 20 or 100.

Yet the representatives of every county and city around you have said it is not okay. You are basically saying that the taxpayers and property owners of this state should accept the risk to their pocketbooks and to their property so that this oil company can achieve a higher margin and that that margin is more important.

You are saying that the taxpayers and property owners represented by the supervisors and city councils of every jurisdiction up and down the track are wrong and that your opinion is correct.

I strongly disagree.

I live by a simple rule in my life: Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.

I vote against this project.

an agenda. Sometimes the "public" is a group of neighbors. Sometimes the "public" is just that. The public.

I try and understand whether a given speaker is a neighbor, or a special interest group, or just a general concerned citizen so that I might better understand where they are coming from in their testimony.

We have heard from neighbors, who have their concerns. We heard from special interest groups on both sides. And in this case we have heard from an amazing number of concerned citizens statewide. The concerned citizens in my opinion are the most powerful in this case. In this case we have the supervisors of seven neighboring counties, representing over 10 million people, all telling us to *not* approve this project. We have the city councils of dozens of cities. Along with this we have teachers unions, student bodies, health professional associations, etc., etc... all asking us to vote no. Not one of these entities asked us to vote yes.

These are not nimbys. These are not special interest groups. These are our fellow Californians.

In my nine years as a planning commissioner, the people who commented on this project outnumber all

Task Force on Offshore Energy Convenes

Focus on proposed Central Coast wind energy projects

In response to mounting interest by energy developers in siting wind and wave energy projects off the Central Coast, the federal Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) has partnered with the California Energy Commission (CEC) in creating an Inter-governmental Renewable Energy Task Force. BOEM opened a large lease area

between San Simeon and Morro Bay to competitive bids for wind energy projects in September.

The task force held its first meeting on October 13 in Sacramento, with representatives from Sierra Club, Natural Resources Defense Council, Audubon California, Defenders of Wildlife, California tribes and coastal advocates present in the

room or on the phone. BOEM and CEC outlined their objectives for the Task Force, with a primary focus on offshore wind development and the Central Coast because commercial wind development off our coast is considered closest to commercialization via projects proposed

OFFSHORE continued next page

West Coast Deals Major Blows to Big Oil

By Todd Paglia, *Stand.earth* Executive Director

Fighting oil companies and the railroads is no easy thing, but in the last few weeks there was a win, then another, and another and the rout of the previously untouchable fossil fuel sector shows no sign of slowing down.

From southern California to northern Washington, communities along the West Coast have dealt four massive blows to the fossil fuel industry over the past two months.

Taken separately, each of these announcements represents years of work and tens of thousands of people refusing to put the health and safety of their families, communities and our climate at risk. Collectively, these decisions, which came in rapid succession, represent a shift in the acceptability of expanding fossil fuel infrastructure along our coast. Put simply, people are no longer willing to let the oil industry decide their future, to pollute their communities, to poison their bodies, and to irreparably harm our climate, by building new fossil fuel infrastructure.

How did this transformation in the acceptability of fossil fuel infrastructure come about? For one, the dramatic and rightfully terrifying specter of fiery oil train derailments - and the oil industry's blatant disregard for community health and safety - has ignited a broader revocation of the oil industry's social license along the West Coast. Communities will not be sacrifice zones for oil industry profit.

And behind the revocation of the industry's social license is a big and beautiful movement that looks like America: a movement representing a tremendous diversity of identities and interests. In the past three years, we've seen firefighters, indigenous tribes, nurses, teachers, climate justice advocates, physicians, realtors, college students, developers, school boards and local elected officials across the political spectrum take a bold stance opposing oil trains. Communities recognize that extreme oil infrastructure is unnecessary, and they see the tangible transition to a clean energy economy on the horizon.

What does this mean for the future of the oil industry along the West Coast? Well, if Shell's announcement yesterday that it would be withdrawing its request to build a new oil train facility in Anacortes, Washington, is any indication, the writing is on the wall.

To fully understand the tectonic shift that has just occurred in the fight to protect communities and our climate against new fossil fuel infrastructure, it helps to have a sense of what exactly has gone down in the past two months;

- On August 9, the Whatcom County Council dealt a stunning blow to big oil by starting the process to suspend all new fossil fuel proposals for two months, an immediate moratorium that was extended for six months on September 27th. Why is this a big deal? Whatcom County has found itself at the center of a national debate around fossil fuel infrastructure since it could become a gateway for exporting everything from coal to gas to oil to the growing Asia Pacific market. The county council members' August decision is likely a prelude to a permanent moratorium. The impact of this cannot be overstated - it prevents the growth of the coal industry across the west with no new markets to send it to.

- Oil giant Kinder Morgan is working to push through a

pipeline full of controversial tar sands oil to the Port of Vancouver, BC, and if that doesn't work, they may try to deliver the toxic oil to a terminal in Whatcom County on the critical waters of the Salish Sea. Like the recently rejected coal export terminal, an oil export facility would bring the risks of spills and climate damage, with just a few jobs - a very bad deal for anyone but Kinder Morgan. Which is another reason the Whatcom County ordinance is such a big deal.

- On September 20, after a 3½ year fight, a city council in the small Bay Area town of Benicia denied a proposal for a new oil train terminal at the Valero refinery. This stunning decision was, according to Benicia Mayor Elizabeth

Patterson, the first time the city has voted against the refinery - a business that currently provides 20-25% of the city's tax base. The city's decision was made possible by tenacious organizing by local activists who garnered powerful opposition both in Benicia and in communities along the rail route stretching to Davis, Sacramento, and beyond.

- The Benicia City Council's decision came on the heels of a ruling by the Surface Transportation Board (STB), a little-known federal agency that primarily handles disputes between railroads. The STB settled a dispute over whether or not, as Big Oil argued, federal regulation of railroads

BIG OIL continued on next page

3 VICTORIES!
Protecting communities from dangerous oil trains

More than **180,000 barrels of oil per day STOPPED**

Benicia / San Luis Obispo / Anacortes

SIERRA CLUB

The Los Padres Is Not For Sale

Want to take a hike in the Los Padres National Forest? Pay up.

The Santa Lucia Chapter joined with nine other conservation groups in sending the following letter to the Forest Service outlining our concerns with its recent proposal to transfer management of 52 recreation sites throughout the Los Padres National Forest to a private concessionaire. The fee structure will significantly change at each of these sites, with no increase in amenities.

October 17, 2016

Jeff Bensen
Assistant Forest Recreation Officer, Los Padres National Forest
6750 Navigator Way
Ste 150 Goleta CA 93117

RE: Special Use Permit to Concessionaire for Management of Forest Recreation Sites

Dear Mr. Bensen:

Thank you for this opportunity to submit comments on

the Forest Service's proposal to issue a Special Use Permit ("SUP") to oversee the operation and maintenance of campgrounds and other recreation facilities throughout the Los Padres National Forest. The SUP will be issued for 52 recreation sites located in the Santa Barbara, Ojai, Mt. Pinos, Santa Lucia, and Monterey ranger districts. Last week, the Forest Service announced that it would issue the SUP to Parks Management Company, and anticipates issuing a formal decision on this matter on October 17.

Our organizations represent thousands of residents from throughout the Central Coast and beyond who visit the Los Padres National Forest for camping, hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding, and enjoying the great outdoors. We share the Forest Service's goal of finding innovative ways to improve recreation sites throughout the forest, particularly in the face of de-

clining funding from Congress and limited staffing resources.

We also share a grave concern with the wholesale transferring of one of the most fundamental roles of the Forest Service – recreation management – to a private, for-profit corporation. Fees could increase significantly at many of the privatized sites, and the Adventure Pass will no longer be honored at them, meaning that the public will once again need to pay to simply access and enjoy these public lands, even if they are not using any amenities like restrooms or picnic tables. The terms and conditions of the SUP have not been publicly disclosed, prompting many questions about seasonal closures and other details that are paramount to a reasoned analysis of this proposal. And we are concerned with the lack of public notice regarding this proposal, the lack of any review of the potential

impacts to recreation opportunities or an evaluation of alternative approaches, and inconsistency with the Land Management Plan. These concerns are spelled out in more detail below.

Fees Will Increase at Many Sites

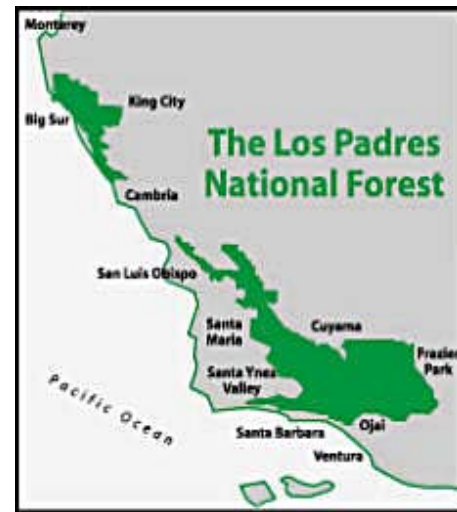
Our organizations share an interest in ensuring that our public lands remain an affordable option for outdoor recreation. National Forest lands provide an excellent opportunity for residents and visitors of all financial and socioeconomic means to picnic, hike, bike, ride, and explore wide open spaces, at little or no cost.

However, the concessionaire SUP would implement a fee structure at all 52 recreation sites in the Los Padres National Forest. While it is reasonable to charge a fee for camping at a developed recreation site, these fees could apply not just to those who enter the sites for camping, but also for those who wish to simply spend

an afternoon on the trail or in the woods. For example, visitors wanting to park at Upper Oso to hike to Nineteen Oaks or Little Pine Mountain will need to pay an entrance fee simply for parking in the lot and hiking or riding on the trail.

Likewise, visitors to NIRA Campground who wish to park and hike into the San Rafael Wilderness may need to pay an entrance fee. The same concerns arise to a host of other facilities with trailheads that are a part of the expanded concessionaire SUP.

Compounding this concern is the fact that these sites will no longer accept the Adventure Pass. The Forest Service's press release states, "The Adven-



ture Pass will no longer be valid at these sites." Therefore, the public will need to purchase an Adventure Pass for certain areas, and a separate pass directly from the concessionaire for other areas, creating confusion and placing an additional financial burden on those who simply want to hike or ride on public lands.

In addition, the fee structure under the concessionaire SUP has not been pub-

LOS PADRES continued on page 6

Edna

continued from page 2

fany Ranch Rd. The same level of noise and lights were noted on September 17 and 24 and at least one occasion subsequently.

Mitigations are only as useful as the Applicant's willingness to abide by them. Throughout the project's Mitigated Negative Declaration, there are unrealistic expectations that the mitigations will be put in place and/or enforced.

Please see p. 68 of MND, BIO-5 and 8, which would effectively preclude operations involving music or night-time lighting from February 1-Sept. 15 and from November 1-April 30. That would leave January and October as the only months where operations could be conducted without having adverse impacts on biological resources, particularly birds.

BIO-11 states that renovation of structures in event area D will be avoided during April – August, an area which has been observed to be under constant renovation during July and August. With regard to noise, the past performance of Greengate Farms indicates that the mitigations stated in the MND have not been respected to date.

In the section of the MND related to water quality/hydrology one finds the

statement: "The project will not involve the construction of impervious surfaces." However, regarding Air Quality related to the Equestrian Facility, the following statement is found: "All access roads and parking areas associated with the facility shall be paved."

The MND found the project to be consistent with

surrounding land uses. This is a finding that could be contested, especially in relation to the "plus" categories of events in which up to a thousand people could accumulate on the site for multiple events at one time. This is not the description of an event center that is incidental to the ag uses of the property.

It is rather the tail wagging the dog. The event center(s) on the property have the ability to become the major income generator for the Farm.

Greengate Farms' application for a Minor Use Permit for a large-scale event center is just another example of the widespread, increasing conversion of agricul-

tural lands and historic buildings in the Edna Valley to become profit centers that offer events and accommodations for tourists and others, placing increasing strain on traffic, safety, noise, air quality, water, and other biological resources. Already the valley water basin is in severity level 3. The Greengate Farms

project is taking to an extreme what others have already begun in the change of character of the Edna Valley from rural agriculture and residential to public accommodations and venues. This project should have been scaled down further and a complete EIR required.

Someday, the supervisors will have to come to grips with the patchwork of case-by-case permits for the upward spiral of events in rural areas that are turning that land from ag land into event centers.

While that day has not yet come, the Sierra Club did manage to help stop an item that was about to be approved on a consent agenda before we and the neighbors intervened. As a result of our comments, the conditions of approval were tightened, loopholes eliminated, and all events on the property will be subject to the same restrictions. A requirement was added to ensure the permit's mitigations are enforced, and a monitor will ensure that the project's 60 conditions of approval are implemented.

The Greengate Farms project is taking to an extreme what others have already begun in the change of character of the Edna Valley from rural agriculture and residential to public accommodations and venues.



Remember it when The Edna Valley, for now.

Offshore

continued from previous page

by Trident and Magellan Wind that plan to make use of the shuttered Morro Bay power plant.

The CEC announced it will launch a portal called the Gateway in November,

an important opportunity for the public to submit studies with a focus on the Central Coast

The Sierra Club would be likely to support offshore renewable energy projects that can be shown to have minimal adverse environmental impacts. We would likely oppose projects with major, unavoidable adverse impacts and work to direct resources to better alternatives. (See "Do We Want a Wind Farm?," Jan.) So it was a matter of concern that the overall theme of the October 13 meeting was about the expeditious development of inevitable

OFFSHORE continued on page 8



ODSVRA

continued from page 5

coastal resources at ODSVRA." Commissioners at that meeting told DPR representatives: "Using our beaches as a highway is not okay. Crossing creeks like that, which have two kinds of listed species in them, is not okay," and told the APCD "The idea of continuing to put more and more hay bales into our dunes, and then they get covered up, and then we have to put in more.... I just hope you will continue to work with something which is more environmentally sensitive to the dunes."

Per the arbiters of the California Coastal Act, the DEIR appears to distort the purpose and intent of the Coastal Act in order to make its desired argument that limiting and reducing an environmental impact would somehow result in conflict with the Coastal Act.

The DEIR's dismissal of an Alternate Dust Control Program is not compelling. The SLO County Air Pollution Control Officer has made clear what the most efficient measure would be for the reduction of dust

emissions from the SVRA: "Reestablishing vegetated foredunes in the areas where they have been destroyed by vehicle activity would appear to be the most effective strategy, followed by establishing additional vegetation islands in the inland riding areas. Studies performed by [Desert Research Institute] as described in their Oceano Dunes Pilot Projects report show vegetated areas to be nearly 100% effective in reducing sand movement and would provide year-round, permanent reductions; wind fencing is less than half as effective at best, and provides only a temporary solution." (APCD Letter to California Coastal Commission, Jan. 27, 2015.) Sand fencing and soil binders, he wrote, "are not adequate without significant revegetation."

In attempting to dismiss the Alternate Dust Control Program, the DEIR floats the notion that "the emphasis on planting vegetation in the near-shore areas would likely modify, to some degree, USFWS-designated critical habitat for the western snowy plover" and "the vegetation planting may change the dune ecosystem in a manner that adversely

affects the environment for two breeding listed species, which is inconsistent with the OHMVR Division's need to manage and protect these natural resources."

Rather than engage in vague speculation in order to allege impacts, if the DEIR wishes to raise this as an issue it should first analyze the modification of habitat that occurred when recreational vehicle use stripped the foredunes of their original vegetation.

The Draft EIR is in need of revision and recirculation.

Even if it should go forward with its unique and unsupported concept of "recreational impacts" intact, the overriding considerations that allow certification of the EIR and a permit for the project despite those fanciful "impacts" are obvious: Long-term exposure to PM10 pollution can cause decreased lung function, chronic bronchitis, pulmonary disorders, and premature death in people with heart or lung disease, and increase the risk of cancer by 50 percent. There are no recreational benefits that override these facts and the need for an effective dust control program.

Big Oil

continued from previous page

extends so far as to deny local governments land use permitting discretion over oil companies' proposed oil train projects. Ultimately, the decision affirmed Benicia's right to deny Valero's project - a ruling that has already reverberated across the country and buttressed the City of Albany, NY's challenge to an oil train facility there.

● The following week, on October 5, the San Luis Obispo County Planning Commission stunned oil giant Phillips 66 when it denied their permit to build a new oil train facility. The decision came after a nearly three-year review process, with tens of thousands of Californians opposing the project and more than 45 cities, counties, and school boards sending letters urging the planning commission to deny it.

After these three rejections, the recently released environmental report that identified serious adverse impacts that cannot be mitigated and massive public opposition throughout Washington State, the writing was indeed on the wall for Shell's Anacortes oil train proposal, and the company acted accordingly: it withdrew its application.

Moving forward, there are still active oil train infrastructure proposals and existing oil train traffic that must be stopped. The movement is only getting stronger, and we won't quit until every drop of extreme oil stays off the rails and is left in the ground where it belongs. We will keep doing this work, locked arm in arm with local communities, firefighters, teachers, doctors and more, a movement of people of all colors and creeds, united in a battle for our common future. It is a fight we cannot - and will not - lose.

Los Padres

continued from page 5

licly disclosed. The Forest Service's scoping notice is silent on the matter of fees, and the agency's press release simply states that "A new cost structure will be posted to the Los Padres National Forest website." A preliminary cost structure provided to us last week shows fees increasing at nearly every site, with some sites experiencing up to a 300% increase in overnight fees. This cost structure was not made part of the scoping notice, and as of today, is still not posted on the agency's website. The cost of entering these facilities is an integral part of this proposal, and should have been disclosed along with the scoping notice to all interested parties during the scoping process.

Seasonal Closures & Other Permit Terms

Any thoughtful analysis of this proposal must necessarily involve a review of the terms of the SUP that will be issued to Parks Management Company. However, the Forest Service has not publicly disclosed the permit language. For example, what obligations does the concessionaire assume under the permit, and what benefits accrue to them? How does the permit address seasonal closures that may apply to the campgrounds and day use areas under the new SUP? Will they be open year-round? Or what criteria will be used to determine when specific facilities can close for the season, and who makes that determination—the Forest Service or the concessionaire? Details like this are paramount for the public to fully understand the implications of the proposed concessionaire SUP.

Lack of Public Notice

Our organizations value opportunities for us, our members, and the general public to participate in decisions affecting the Los Padres National Forest. We regularly refer to the Forest Service's quarterly Schedule of Proposed Actions ("SOPA") to learn about proposals affecting forest lands, and we are disappointed that this concessionaire proposal was not once listed in a single SOPA.

The first time many of us learned about this proposal was on October 5, when the Forest Service issued a press release announcing your agency's intention to issue a SUP to Parks Management Company. None of our organizations received your letter dated September 2, announcing a public comment period, and there appears to have been no effort on the part of the Forest Service to send out press releases notifying the public about the proposal and the opportunity to submit comments. That comment period closed on September 29, 2016, a week before the Forest Service sent out press releases announcing the pending decision. We suspect that the Forest Service received few if any comments as a result.

The Forest Service is required to notify potentially interested parties about proposals as part of "scoping" which is defined as "an early and open process for determining the scope of issues to be addressed and for identifying the significant issues related to a proposed action." 40 CFR 1501.7 (emphasis added).

The process that the Forest Service undertook in this case— notifying very few people and organizations about the comment period (which took place one month before the decision) and not issuing press releases until a week before the decision—is neither "early" nor "open" as re-

quired by federal regulations.

Incorrect Categorical Exclusion

In the September 2 letter, the Forest Service claims that the project is exempt from the normal requirement to prepare an Environmental Assessment because it fits within the following categorical exclusion ("CE"): "repair and maintenance of roads, trails, and landline boundaries" and cites to 36 CFR 220.6(e)(15). This is problematic for two reasons. First, this project does not constitute the repair or maintenance of roads, nor trails, nor landline boundaries. As stated in the scoping letter, the stated purpose of this permit is as follows:

The special use permit will allow the concessionaire to provide public service in the operation and maintenance of government furnished recreation facilities as directed by the Forest Service. The context of the special use permit is operational and administrative and does not provide authorization for any ground disturbing activities, changes, or physical alterations to the recreation sites.

This project does not qualify for this CE, nor does it fall under any of the examples listed under this CE (i.e. authorizing a user to grade, resurface, and clean the culverts of an established NFS road; grading a road and clearing the roadside of brush without the use of herbicides; resurfacing a road to its original condition; pruning vegetation and cleaning culverts along a trail and grooming the surface of the trail; and surveying, painting, and posting landline boundaries).

Second, the letter contains a wrong citation to the appropriate CE, making it unclear which CE the Forest Service intends to invoke for this project. The "repair and maintenance of roads, trails, and landline boundaries" is found at 36 CFR 220.6(d)(4), not (e)(15) as cited in the letter. The (e)(15) CE applies to issuing a new SUP to replace an existing SUP "when the only changes are administrative, there are not changes to the authorized facilities or increases in the scope or intensity of authorized activities, and the applicant or holder is in full compliance with the terms and conditions of the special use authorization."

This CE clearly does not apply either. This proposal is more than just an "administrative" change to the existing permit and is exactly an "increase in the scope or intensity of authorized activities." While the footprints of these facilities might not be increasing, the authorized activity—managing campgrounds and other facilities using a concessionaire—is increasing both in scope and intensity. The new SUP will authorize concessionaire services at many more campgrounds and facilities that are covered under the existing concessionaire program.

The issuance of an SUP covering the vast majority of campgrounds in the Los Padres National Forest simply does not qualify for a CE. As such, the Forest Service must prepare an Environmental Assessment for this project. Conducting the proper level of environmental review will provide an opportunity for public input, a thorough analysis of alternatives, and a thorough evaluation of how this proposal might impact forest recreation and visitor services.

The Proposal is Inconsistent with the Forest Plan

The Forest Service's



scoping notice states that the concessionaire SUP is consistent with the Land Management Plan for the Los Padres National Forest, citing to Strategy REC 3: "Maintain partnerships with businesses who operate and maintain existing recreation facilities under the concession program to meet the needs of visitor demands." The letter provides no further analysis on how this proposal will achieve this strategy, and it is questionable as to whether it even applies. It refers to concessionaires who "operate and maintain existing recreation facilities" and in no way endorses expanding the number of facilities currently under permit.

Conclusion

Thank you for considering our concerns. Please add our organizations to your

notification list for this proposal, and provide us with a copy of any future public notices, environmental documents, and decision documents.

Our organizations would welcome an opportunity to work with the Forest Service to craft a reasonable program that accommodates outdoor recreation while respecting public input and acknowledging the Forest Service's budget constraints. The current process—minimizing public involvement, handing over the administration of all developed recreation sites to a private for-profit corporation, and avoiding any analysis of alternatives—shuts the public out of the process and will fundamentally change the way the public recreates in our national forest. We urge you to take a more inclu-

sive approach that incorporates early and open public involvement and honors the longstanding role that the Forest Service plays in encouraging and facilitating outdoor recreation on our nation's public lands.

Sincerely,

Rick Halsey, Executive Director
California Chaparral Institute
Escondido CA

Alasdair Coyne, Conservation Director
Keep the Sespe Wild, Ojai CA

Jeff Kuyper, Executive Director
Los Padres ForestWatch, Santa Barbara CA

Joel Robinson, Director/
Head Naturalist, Naturalist for You, Silverado CA

Susan Harvey, President,
North County Watch,
Templeton CA

Andrew Christie, Director,
Sierra Club Santa Lucia Chapter,
San Luis Obispo

Jim Hines, Chair, Sierra Club
Los Padres Chapter,
Ventura, CA

Rita Dalessio, Conservation Chair
Sierra Club Ventana Chapter,
Carmel CA

R.A. "Doc" Warner, President,
The Ventura County Boondockers

Scott Silver, Executive Director,
Wild Wilderness,
Bend, OR

cc: Rep. Lois Capps
Rep. Julia Brownley
Congressman Sam Farr

What is Central Coast Power?

Central Coast Power is a consortium of local governments in the tri-county region of San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and Ventura counties that has formed to 1) explore the feasibility of a Community Choice Energy program to empower our local community with the choice of how and where our electricity is created and 2) enhance the sustainability and economic vitality of the region.

Community Choice Energy offers participating communities a new choice for the type of electricity that powers their homes and businesses.

Assembly Bill 117 established CCE in 2002 to enable local governments to leverage the purchasing power of their residents, businesses, and public entities to purchase or generate power for their communities.

In other words, CCE is cooperative purchasing for electricity.

CCE introduces competition into the marketplace and provides a choice about the energy sources customers wish to support.

Community Choice Energy puts energy purchasing and pricing options in local hands.

CCE allows the community to determine what type of energy mix and programs serve its needs, while keeping electricity rates competitive.

Based on community preferences and priorities, local decision-makers choose the type of electricity—often times with more renewably sourced power than the existing utilities offer—and where that electricity comes from, potentially including local sources.

Renewable energy generation, energy efficiency incentives, and other clean energy programs can help reach local and state climate action goals.

Community Choice Energy is a new, but tested, model for providing electricity that can enhance the sustainability and economic vitality of the tri-county region.

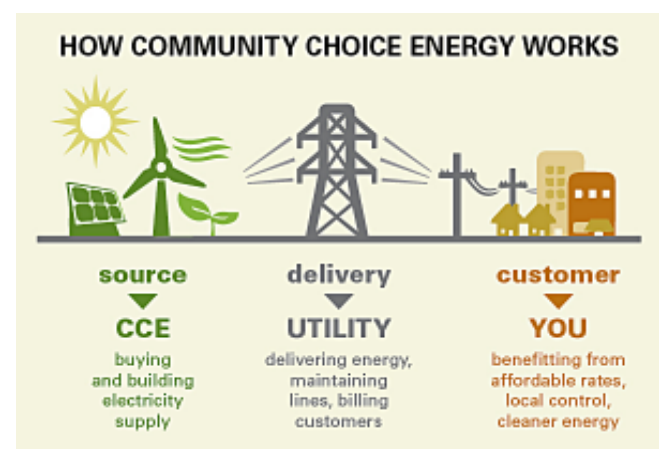
The first CCE program in California—Marin Clean Energy—has been successfully operating for more than 6 years.

The four operational CCE

programs in the Bay Area and Lancaster report more than 85 percent of eligible residents and businesses participate in their local CCE option.

The two longest-running CCE programs—in Marin and Sonoma—are financially sound, investing in local projects, maintaining stable rates, and building reserves that may be reinvested locally in renewable energy, energy efficiency, and jobs. San Francisco and Lancaster are also off to a solid start.

A Community Choice Energy program is typically run by a public agency, accountable to the community, not shareholders. A non-profit public agency may be formed through a joint powers authority made up of par-



ticipating local government officials.

There are no shareholder investors—all revenue is used to directly benefit local customers.

Elected officials on the Central Coast have the option to choose CCE for their communities based on the results of a forthcoming fea-

sibility study.

Electricity delivery will remain the same. If CCE is offered, the CCE program operator—Central Coast Power—would purchase the electricity flowing to area homes and businesses and set rates for that portion of customer bills.

PG&E or SCE would continue to deliver the electricity over its existing power lines, maintain those lines, send bills, and provide customer service.

Most customers would not notice any change other than the current utility's electric generation charge being replaced by a CCE electricity supply charge on their utility bill.

A feasibility study is underway to determine whether CCE can meet local policy goals while maintaining competitive electricity rates.

An Advisory Working Group, comprised of participating jurisdictions, is overseeing the development of the study that will present an unbiased look at the benefits and costs of CCE based on existing CCE programs' experiences and current and projected future market conditions.

The study includes an in-depth assessment of our region's expected future electricity needs and anticipated costs and impact on customer bills to set up a new public entity to meet those needs with options for 33%, 50%, or 100% renewable energy content.

The feasibility study will evaluate which scenarios best meet our policy goals, such as lowering greenhouse gas emissions and supporting the local economy, and minimize risk.

For more information, visit: centralcoastpower.org or email info@centralcoastpower.org.

New Report Shows Clean Energy Costs Have Fallen Up To 94 Percent Since 2008

By Jodie Van Horn, Director, Sierra Club's Ready for 100 campaign

Clean, renewable energy like wind and solar has expanded significantly across the United States, as the costs for clean energy technologies like wind, solar, and utility scale battery storage have fallen in recent years.

According to a new report by the Department of Energy, the cost of wind power is down 41 percent from 2008 and solar costs are down between 54 percent and 64 percent in that same period. Battery storage technology has also fallen 73 percent since 2008. As a result, clean energy is on the rise in states, cities, and communities across the country. Wind and solar accounted for two thirds of all new electricity generation in 2015. Wind power, for example, has nearly tripled since 2008, and electric vehicle sales have almost doubled since 2012. There are now nearly 90,000 jobs in fields ranging from manufacturing and construction to installation in wind energy, and solar employed about 220,000 people in the United States in 2015.

For communities and businesses throughout the United States, this report shows that clean energy is already providing affordable and reliable power, while creating good paying jobs. That's why 18 cities from the California coast to the heart of oil country in Texas have committed to 100 percent clean energy. Many businesses, including the nation's biggest auto company, have also pledged to transition to 100 percent clean energy.

With lowering energy costs and increasing investments, the transition to 100 percent clean energy is not only achievable, it's inevitable. Now, it's vital that we ensure that all people and communities throughout the United States have access to cleaner, more affordable forms of energy like wind and solar.

The Sierra Club's Ready for 100 campaign was launched in 2016, working to accelerate a just and equitable transition to 100 percent clean energy in the United States. Ready for 100 is campaigning to get 100 cities in the United States to move away from dirty, outdated fossil fuels and to commit to 100 percent clean energy.

Classifieds

Next issue deadline is **December 14**. To get a rate sheet or submit your ad and payment, contact: Sierra Club, P.O. Box 15755, San Luis Obispo, CA 93406 or sierraclub8@gmail.com

SLO Swap-O-Rama-Rama 2016
 November 12th,
 Guild Hall (Formerly Grange Hall)
 2880 Broad St, San Luis Obispo
 1:00-5:00pm

This internationally known event encourages community recycling of unwanted clothing through artistic reuse. The event will include various do-it-yourself workshops including: basic sewing, repurposing a T-shirt, a children's craft table and more. Each workshop will be taught by local artists. The event is sponsored by Soul & Oak, a business that offers home craft and tea parties for individuals and businesses. All proceeds will go to support the Santa Lucia Chapter of the Sierra Club.

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soulandoak@gmail.com

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, 549-0355. For information on a specific outing, please call the listed outing leader.

Sat., Nov 5th, 9a.m. Bishop Peak Oak Planting. Join us to help restore oaks ravaged by drought on Bishop Peak. Volunteers are needed to help plant coast live oak seedlings. Wear layers, close-toed shoes, hat & sunscreen. Bring shovel if you have one. Duration 2-3 hrs. Meet at Patricia entrance. Leader: Holly Sletteland. 239-3928.

Sat., Nov. 5th, 9:30 a.m. Guadalupe/Paradise Beach Hike. Moderate, six-mile hike along pristine Guadalupe Beach to Mussel Rock and beyond. Duration about 5-6 hrs. Bring water, lunch, windbreaker, hat, and dress in layers for varying weather. Eats afterward for those interested. From Hwy 101 in Santa Maria, take Main St./Hwy 166 to end at Guadalupe Beach. Meet near interpretive signs and picnic tables. Rain cancels. Leader: Andrea Ortiz, 264-4527 or kenya683@msn.com.

Sun., Nov. 6th, 8:30 a.m. Bishop Peak Plant Walk and ID. On botanist-led, four-mile hike, 850 ft. gain hike to Bishop Peak, learn common native plant species along trail, also picking out plants of your choice to identify. Bring paper and pencil and camera for record-keeping, if wished. No RSVP needed. Also bring water, snacks, sturdy shoes, sunscreen, hat, and jacket. If a pre-printed copy of plant list is desired, contact leader at least 24 hrs. in advance. Meet at Patricia Drive trailhead. Remember we change the time by one hour Saturday night. Leader: Bill Waycott, 459-2103 or bill.waycott@gmail.com. Rain cancels.

Sat., Nov. 12th, 8 a.m. Blinn Ranch/Falcon Loop Hike. Strenuous, 14-mile hike, 3,000 ft. gain, to quiet north side of Santa Margarita Lake, starting from parking area off River Rd. Option of going part-way and turning back early, if desired. Fee for parking at site. Meet in front of Pacific Beverage Co. in Santa Margarita. Leader: Carlos Diaz-Saavedra, 546-0317. Rain will postpone hike to a later date.

Sun. Nov. 13th, 2 p.m. SLO Historic Walk: San Luis Cemetery. Guided stroll past grave sites of famous pioneers like Angel, Murray, Sinsheimer, and Civil War vets, plus the "potters field" for indigents and the landmark pyramid. Learn the compelling stories of the 19th-century founders of San Luis Obispo. Duration about 1 1/2 hrs. Meet in south parking lot adjacent to the pyramid, 2890 South Higuera St. Leader: Joe Morris, 549-0355.

Wed., Nov. 16th, 7-9 p.m. Bimonthly General Meeting: "Love Thy Nature." Join us for a viewing of the recently released environmental movie, "Love Thy Nature," winner of over 25 awards. The film is a cinematic immersion into our relationship with the natural world, interspersed with comments by leading ecologists about our need for a renewed connection with nature. Following this, our chapter director and chair, Andrew Christie and Karen Merriam, will discuss the chapter's exciting initiatives for 2017. Attendees' questions and comments are heartily welcomed. Meets at Steynberg Gallery, 1531 Monterey St., SLO. Info.: Joe Morris, 549-0355.

Sat., Dec. 3rd, 8 a.m. Fernandez Semi-Loop Hike. Strenuous, 11-mile hike, 1,600 ft. gain, on remote trail northeast of Pozo in La Panza Mt. Range. Part of hike is off-trail to follow Fernandez Creek. Some poison oak trailside present. Bring sturdy hiking shoes, water, lunch. Meet in front of Pacific Beverage Co. in Santa Margarita. Leader: Carlos Diaz-Saavedra, 546-0317. Rain postpones hike to a later date.

Sun., Dec. 4th., 9 a.m. Coon Creek Native Plant Hike. On botanist-led, four-mile, 400 ft. gain hike in Montana de Oro State Park, learn native plant species along trail and pick out ones to identify that interest you. Duration about 4 hrs. Bring paper, pencil, and camera for recording, if desired. Also bring water, snacks, sturdy shoes, sunscreen, hat, and jacket. If pre-printed plant list wished, contact leader at least 24 hrs. in advance. Meet at Coon Creek trailhead in Montana de Oro SP, 1.2 miles past visitor center. Leader: Bill Waycott, 459-2103 or bill.waycott@gmail.com. Rain cancels.

Sat., Dec. 10th, 9 a.m. Cerro Alto Anniversary Hike. Late fall, 7-mile, 1700 ft. gain, loop hike in Los Padres Nat. Forest. From Cerro Alto campground we ascend through forest and up spur road to summit, then down through eucalyptus grove and along Boy Scout trail to campground and cars. Possibility of ticks and poison oak along trail. Bring water, lunch, snacks, and dress for weather. Meet at Cerro Alto campground on south side of Hwy 41, 8 miles east of


Morro Bay or 12 miles west of Atascadero. From highway, go another mile to campground. Possible day-use fee. Optional eats afterwards. Leader: Chuck Tribbey, 441-7597. Rain will postpone hike to later date.

Sat., Dec. 17th, 10 a.m. Islay Hill Trekking-Pole Hike. Come on a 2-mile, 400 ft. gain, hike to practice effective use of trekking poles around the most easterly of the morros of SLO County. To get to Islay Hill Open Space trailhead, take Broad St. south, going east on Tank Farm Rd., right on Wavertree, left on Spanish Oaks, and over right on Sweetbay to park near cul-de-sac. Leader: David Georgi, 458-5575 or hikingpoles@gmail.com. Rain cancels.

Sun., Dec. 18th, 5 p.m. Victorian Christmas Historic Walk in San Luis Obispo. Easy, guided stroll past 15 holiday-lit Victorian houses in Old Town district to learn of the festive Christmas customs, events, and locales of the 1890s. Duration about 1 1/2 hrs. Flashlight recommended. Meet in front of St. Stephen's Church, corner of Nipomo and Pismo Sts. Leader: Joe Morris, 549-0355.



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




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

For further information contact:

Joe Morris, Outings Chair
Sierra Club, Santa Lucia Chapter
(805) 549-0355
dj1942@earthlink.net



John Muir, founder of the Sierra Club, in Yosemite

Activities sponsored by other organizations

Nov. 5 "Songwriters of the San Joaquin," The Wildlands Conservancy. The Conservancy kicks off its new music series on November 5 at the Wind Wolves Preserve, with six-time Entertainment of the Year artist Dave Stamey, and local banjo chanteuse Erin English. All proceeds will go toward the preserve's Outdoor Education Program, which provides free nature programs for school children in San Luis Obispo and Kern Counties. Nearly 170,000 children have participated in Wind Wolves' award-winning outdoor education programs, which are offered free of charge so that children may know the wonder and joy of nature.

Dave Stamey has been dubbed "the Charley Russell of Western Music." He has been awarded the Will Rogers Award by the Academy of Western Artists, as well as Entertainer of the Year, Male Performer of the Year and Songwriter of the Year by the Western Music Association. His authentic, original music evokes the historic days of the Vaquero as well as the life of today's working cowboy.

Erin English is a Central Coast favorite, delighting young and old alike with her banjo-based story telling, reminiscent of the activist stylings of Peggy Seeger. In 2013, Erin toured the entire coast of California to celebrate Earth Month and promote her first solo album, "A Melody So Sweet."



Come enjoy both of these Central California treasures under the cottonwoods for an afternoon of inspired, place-based music. Tickets are \$50, including lunch, which will feature organic, grass-fed beef born and raised on the Preserve.

For tickets and information, go to: <http://wildlandsconservancy.org/>



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Offshore

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offshore projects, without a broader discussion about deliberative siting and how marine renewables would fit into California's renewable energy mix.

Among studies BOEM is now working on with, variously, the U.S. Geological Survey, UCSB and the Department of Energy are a seabird and marine mammal surveys, a study of kelp variability, a study to predict potential environmental impacts from offshore renewable energy projects, and a study determining the effect of subsea power cables on rock and Dungeness crab.

The studies are scheduled to be completed by August 2017. Starting next fall, BOEM and NOAA will conduct shipboard surveys of marine mammals, sea turtles and seabirds off California, and specific seabird and marine mammal surveys near potential renewable energy sites off Central and Southern California. The agencies plan to produce cetacean and seabird density maps by June 2018, and complete predictive modeling of seabird distribution in the area and an upgraded marine habitat model in 2019. BOEM has the discretion to suspend the leasing process if there were critical data gaps.

The studies are intended to gather baseline data for a

joint report under the National Environmental Policy Act and California Environmental Quality Act.

Throughout this process, we must ensure that offshore energy developers don't become unduly influential in driving the siting of leases, and ensure that BOEM uses adequate discretion in determining whether certain sites are appropriate for development.

Going forward, environmental groups will contribute relevant data and research via the CEC Gateway, develop process recommendations regarding BOEM's identification of Wind Energy Areas, and develop recommendations regarding research.