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# SANTA LUCIAN



**SIERRA  
CLUB**  
Santa Lucia  
Chapter

Feb. 2017  
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The official newsletter of the Santa Lucia Chapter of the Sierra Club ~ San Luis Obispo County, California

## Coastal Commission Litigation Proceeds

### Coastal Commissioners start vanishing

In the year since the February 2016 firing of California Coastal Commission Executive Director Charles Lester, the need for reform of Commission practices that allow for undue influence by development interests has not been met by legislative or electoral means. All meaningful reform bills were defeated in the state legislature. Governor Brown failed to remove his appointees despite a statewide outcry after they made coastal developers' dreams come true by sacking the Executive Director in a direct assault on the independence of the Commission.

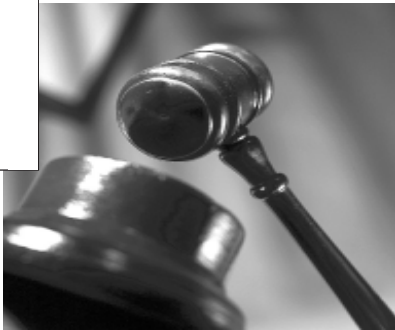
That leaves the avenue of judicial remedies, which appear to be making headway.

The lawsuit *Spotlight on Coastal Corruption v. Kinsey* alleges that Coastal Commissioners Steve Kinsey, Erik Howell, Martha McClure, Wendy Mitchell and Mark Vargas violated several proscriptions on ex parte communications, defined in state law as "any oral or written communication between a member of the commission and an interested person, about a matter within the commission's jurisdiction, which does not occur in a public hearing, workshop, or other official proceeding, or on the official record of the proceeding on the matter."

The complaint seeks civil fines against the defendant commissioners per violation, as follows:

Kinsey: \$5,250,000.00  
Howell: \$3,600,000.00  
McClure: \$3,150,000.00  
Mitchell: \$4,500,000.00  
Vargas: \$5,625,000.00

LITIGATION continued on page 6



## Sierra Club Intervenes in Phillips 66 Oil Train Terminal Lawsuit

Sierra Club, Communities for a Better Environment, Environmental Defense Center, Center for Biological Diversity, Surfrider Foundation, and Stand.earth were granted permission on January 12 to intervene in a lawsuit brought by Phillips 66, challenging the San Luis Obispo County Planning Commission's denial of the company's proposal to construct a crude oil train terminal in Nipomo.

The terminal would have allowed the company to import and unload crude oil at the refinery via up to three trains per week. Each train would be approximately 5,190 feet long, consisting of up to 85 cars transporting a total of approximately 2,190,000 gallons of crude oil. The likely source would be the tar sands oil fields of Alberta, Canada, some of the dirtiest oil on Earth.

### Phillips' proposed project threatens some of California's most treasured ecosystems.

- Devorah Ancel, Sierra Club attorney

The Planning Commission denied the project in October, following nearly a year of hearings in which communities throughout the state raised concerns about public safety and environmental harm. Our intervention will give voice to the more than 20,000 Californians who opposed the project.

Phillips 66's lawsuit challenges the Planning Commission's determination that the site for the proposed oil train terminal contains rare and valuable habitat that is

protected under the California Coastal Act and the County's local policies and ordinances. State law requires that such decisions be challenged through the agency appeals process before an applicant can go to court. In this case, Phillips did appeal the Planning Commission decision to the Board of Supervisors (whose decision may be appealed to the California Coastal Commission), but also inexplicably filed a lawsuit at the same time.

In our application to intervene, we expressed concern not only about the potential environmental risks, but also the integrity of the public review process.

In granting the motion to intervene, the court ruled that our groups have an interest in protecting the environment as well as an interest in participating in further hearings on the

allowed to participate in the court proceedings as well," said Linda Krop, Chief Counsel for the Environmental Defense Center (EDC). "Phillips 66's attempt to reverse the Planning Commission's decision to protect environmentally sensitive habitats should be handled through the normal agency appeal process, not the courts."

"Phillips 66's premature lawsuit against the County threatened to silence not only the local community, but also the several rail-line communities, environmental, environmental justice, public and worker health and safety and academic groups, and elected officials that have so far expressed concern with this tar sands crude by rail project," said Roger Lin, Staff Attorney with Communities for a Better Environment. "We are pleased with the Court's decision to allow our groups to represent those interests in this proceeding and stop Phillips 66 from short-cutting an essential public process."

"Phillips' proposed crude by rail project and its challenge to the County's protection of sensitive species and habitat threatens some of California's most treasured coastal and riparian ecosystems as well as drinking water sources and air quality for communities across the state," stated Devorah Ancel, attorney for Sierra Club. "As a party to this litigation and any appeal of the County's decision, Sierra Club and its allies can continue to advocate for the protection of these critical resources against the threat of millions of gallons of dirty,

volatile crude rail shipments."

If built, the Phillips 66 oil train terminal would allow more than seven million gallons of crude oil to be shipped via rail through our coastal communities 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 that have been known to explode in derailment incidents, which have become increasingly frequent in recent years and threaten millions of Californians who live in the blast zone — the one mile evacuation area in the event of an oil train derailment or explosion. Trains servicing the Phillips 66 project would travel from the north and south through hundreds of major California cities and smaller communities, including Santa Barbara, Ventura, Los Angeles, Sac-

ramento, Davis, Berkeley, Oakland, and San Jose. The trains would jeopardize numerous ecologically sensitive areas including the San Francisco Bay and California's central coast.

The environmental groups plan to file a motion asking the court to dismiss the case as premature. The hearing on that motion is scheduled for February 16.

Meanwhile, the County Board of Supervisors will hold a special public hearing beginning on Monday, March 13, at 9 a.m. to consider appeals of the County Planning Commission's decision to deny a permit application for the Phillips 66 project. Due to "significant public interest on this topic," County officials expect the hearing to last more than one day.

"If the previous hearings are any indication, we would not be surprised if the hearing lasts several days," said County Administrator Dan Buckshi. "However, anyone interested in providing public testimony will want to attend on March 13 at 9 a.m."

## California's New Coastal Monuments

By the California Resources Agency

On January 12, President Barack Obama expanded the California Coastal National Monument.

The original monument protects unappropriated or unreserved islands, rocks, exposed reefs, and pinnacles within twelve nautical miles of the California shoreline. The expansion adds six new areas totaling approximately 6,230 acres in Humboldt County (Trinidad Head, Waluph-Lighthouse Ranch, Lost Coast Headlands), Santa Cruz County (Cotoni-Coast Dairies), San Luis Obispo County (Piedras Blancas) and Orange County (Orange County Rocks and Islands).

### What is the effect of the President's proclamation?

The President's proclamation expands California Coastal National Monument by adding six new areas, comprised entirely of existing federal lands. The designation directs the Bureau of Land Management to manage these areas for the care and management of objects of scientific and historic interest identified by the proclamation. The areas generally may not be disposed of by the United States and are closed to new extractive uses such as mining and oil and gas development, and subject to valid existing rights. The designation preserves current uses of the land, including tribal access, hunting or fishing where allowed, and grazing.

### Will there be an opportunity for local input in the management planning process?

The BLM's planning process for the expansion areas will include opportunities for public input, consistent with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act and the BLM's planning regulations and policies. The BLM will coordinate with state, local, and tribal governments as part of the planning process.

### What kind of public process took place before this expansion?

In 2015, former Senator Barbara Boxer (D-CA), former Representative Lois Capps (D-24-CA), and Representatives Anna Eshoo (D-18-CA) and Jared Huffman (D-2-

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### Save the date



## DANCING FOR DEMOCRACY WITH THE SIERRA CLUB

Oddfellows Hall, 520 Dana Street, SLO  
Saturday, May 6  
7-11 p.m.

For more info: karen@karenmerriam.com

MONUMENT continued on page 6



## Supervisors Embrace Alternative Facts, Oppose Marine Sanctuary

By Andrew Christie, Chapter Director

On January 22, Trump adviser Kellyanne Conway claimed that White House press secretary Sean Spicer had not lied to reporters about the size of the crowd for the Trump inaugural; rather, he had presented “alternative facts.”

Two days later in San Luis Obispo, after a five-hour public hearing on the proposed Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary and the receipt of some 15,000 petition signatures in support of the sanctuary, Supervisors Lynn Compton, Debbie Arnold and John Peschong directed staff to prepare a resolution opposing the sanctuary and made it clear they were basing their vote on their own set of alternative facts, rather than the simple facts of what national marine sanctuaries actually do.

The two coastal supervisors, Bruce Gibson and Adam Hill, noted the pro forma nature of the pre-ordained vote – i.e. their three colleagues had clearly made up their minds before going through a charade of public testimony. That resolution will now head back to the Board for another pro forma vote. The Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary has provided another demonstration of the degree to which the ultra-conservative, anti-environmental board majority is out of step with the majority of our citizens and the County’s own General Plan, which expressly calls for marine sanctuary protections.

But as Supervisor Arnold put it, the fishing industry asked her to do it so she did.

At the hearing, alternative facts were on parade. Opponents:

- said a marine sanctuary would “greatly restrict” activities on the ocean and regulate discharges of water from ag operations. (It would do neither.)
- routinely confused national marine sanctuaries with California state ma-

rine protected areas. (MPA’s regulate fishing. Marine sanctuaries don’t.)

- said the sanctuary proposal is a plot to control salt water “so we’ll have to pay [the Chumash] to do desal.”

- said the sanctuary proposal is part of “Agenda 30” which states the “the whole Earth should be run by bureaucrats.” (Agenda 30, one may assume, is almost 50% worse than longtime conspiracy fave Agenda 21.)

- and repeated perhaps their biggest and most cherished canard: A national marine sanctuary will cause us to lose “local control.”

Supervisors Gibson and Hill pointed out that the County has no “local control” over the state and federal waters that would be within the proposed sanctuary, and invited their board colleagues to define exactly what “local control” we would lose in the event of designation of a sanctuary. No answer was forthcoming. Opponents continued to repeat their second-favorite alternative fact-based mantra (after “we’ll lose local control”): We have plenty of local, state and federal regulations that protect everything already so we don’t need a marine sanctuary. The Sierra Club submitted a 1981 report and findings of the U.S. General Accounting Office helpfully entitled “Marine Sanctuaries Program Offers Environmental Protection and Benefits Other Laws Do Not.” The 50-page report was prepared by the GAO at the request of the Congressional Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries to determine “whether the [sanctuary] program is providing, or has the potential to provide, marine environmental protection over and above that which is or can be provided under other Federal statutory authorities.” They found that it does. In 2008, the intervening 27 years had not altered this conclusion when the Inspector General of the



I wanna be like her! Supervisors Peschong, Arnold and Compton in the ideological flow chart from the new alternate reality.

Department of Commerce reaffirmed the finding by the GAO that the national marine sanctuary program “effectively complements other federal, state, and local resource protection efforts by offering benefits other laws or regulations do not.”

These facts sailed past sanctuary opponents at the hearing, who continued to repeat the “everything’s protected” mantra, nor did they disturb the alternative fact-filled universe of Supervisors Compton, Arnold and Peschong, who continued to cite that talking point while holding the GAO document in their hands.

All three were likewise impervious to suggestions by Hill and Gibson that they simply accompany their proposed resolution with a statement of continued opposition to offshore drilling, or amend the resolution to state that they will oppose the sanctuary if it regulates fishing. This curious reluctance strongly suggested that their opposition was actually based on marine sanctuary prohibitions against new offshore oil and gas development; a suggestion not dispelled when Board Chairman Peschong ensured that a pair of fossil fuel cheerleaders batted clean-up, giving them the final two speaking slots of the hearing. Featured most prominently in this gambit was his old corporate consultancy stablemate, Amber Johnson — who, at this point, may have logged even more time working on behalf of oil company interests than Peschong has. (See “Anti-Marine Sanctuary Mystery Solved,” June 2015.)

The SLO board troika is trying to head off the designation process for the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary, which will serve to initiate an extended dialog in which all stakeholders and members of the public will be able to give their input and have any concerns fully addressed. Their “oppose” resolution means that they’d rather not let the people know the facts, and they’d rather not let the people decide.



## National Club Election Coming This Spring

The annual election for the Club’s Board of Directors is now underway. Those eligible to vote in the national Sierra Club election will receive in the mail (or by Internet if you chose

the electronic delivery option) your national Sierra Club ballot. This will include information on the candidates and where you can find additional information on the Club’s website.

The Sierra Club is a democratically structured organization at all levels. The Club requires the regular flow of views on policy and priorities from its grassroots membership in order to function well. Yearly participation in elections at all Club levels is a major membership obligation. Your Board of Directors is required to stand for election by the membership. This Board sets Club policy and budgets at the national level and works closely with the Executive Director and staff to operate the Club. Voting for candidates who express your views on how the Club should grow and change is both a privilege and responsibility of membership.

Members frequently state that they don’t know the candidates and find it difficult to vote without learning more. You can learn more by asking questions of your group and chapter leadership and other experienced members you know. Visit the Club’s election website: <http://www.sierraclub.org/board/election>

This site provides links to additional information about candidates, and their views on a variety of issues facing the Club and the environment.

You should use your own judgment by taking several minutes to read the ballot statement of each candidate. Then make your choice and cast your vote. Even if you receive your election materials in the mail, please go to the user-friendly Internet voting site to save time and postage. If necessary, you will find the ballot is quite straightforward and easy to mark and mail.

## Ontario Ridge Redux

When Robert and Judy McCarthy of Bakersfield applied to build a home overlooking Pirate’s Cove, they challenged the right of the public to hike the trail up to the ridge on the property and proceeded to erect signs and fences to keep them out. The County Planning Department somehow lost track of the public recreational easement that gave the public the right to access the land, and then misinterpreted the County’s Local Coastal Plan as green-lighting the fence construction. The Sierra Club, the public and the California Coastal Commission had to step in to enforce access rights, take down the fences and reopen the trail, which finally happened when the Coastal Commission made it clear the McCarthy’s would be facing daily fines for knowing and intentional violations of the California Coastal Act. (See “No Fence,” Nov. 2014.)

The McCarthy’s now propose to relocate and privately maintain the trail, and install another fence blocking views on Ontario Ridge. The proposal first went to the Board of Supervisors on March 8, 2016, seeking consent to apply for a permit to relocate the trail.

The County told the McCarthy’s they must meet three conditions prior to submitting an application:

1. The proposed trail shall provide viable separate utility and connectivity to public access and points of interest;
2. The proposed trail shall have a funding source identified for ongoing maintenance that is not dependent on County Parks’ funds;
3. The proposed trail shall be constructed in a sustainable manner that meets trail design standards.

On January 26, the McCarthy’s went to the Planning Commission to request a permit without meeting two of those three requirements, a fact that trail advocates succeeded in putting front and center for planning commissioners.

The sound of square pegs attempting to slam into round holes was evident at the January 26 hearing. The staff report revealed that there will not be connectivity between the new trail and the Sycamore Canyon trail or the trail to Pismo Beach. (“Connection to Sycamore as well as the Pismo trail would be ideal, however



You gotta fight for your right to hike On January 22, 2014, Anita Bylsma tried and failed to hike from Pirates Cove to the Ontario Ridge thanks to Rob McCarthy’s fences, blocking trail access for the first time in sixty years. The Coastal Commission ordered the fences taken down. A proposal to return six-foot view-blocking fences and sever the trail’s connections to the local trail network went to the Planning Commission on January 26.

### Santa Lucian

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COUNCIL OF CLUB LEADERS

The **Executive Committee** meets the second Monday of every month at 2:00 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.

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**Membership/Development**  
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# Get Ready, Get Set...

Community Choice Energy is set to change the way we produce and consume electricity on the Central Coast. Is SLO ready?

With the federal government now openly hostile to renewable energy and the need to cut carbon emissions, the role of state and regional clean energy efforts now looms larger than ever.

That's why, for residents of SLO County, making sure the County remains part of the effort to create a regional Community Choice Energy program (CCE) is the most important thing those of us seeking a fossil fuel-free future can do.

That effort is being spearheaded by Central Coast Power, the consortium of 27 local governments in Ventura, Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo Counties that has formed to explore the feasibility of a CCE program to empower local communities with the choice of how and where

our electricity is created and enhance the sustainability and economic vitality of the tri-county region.

That feasibility study is scheduled to be completed and released for public review by late spring or early summer. Although we don't know the details or alternative scenarios it will include, all Community Choice programs have several things in common that would be expected to be included in any feasibility study for a CCE program:

- Historically, communities have no choice as to their provider of electrical power and the sources of that energy. Community Choice creates competition and spurs the development of local energy resources
- A CCE program is accountable to local citizens, not distant utility shareholders, and can reinvest ratepayer funds in local renewable energy and efficiency
- CCE funds invested in local renewable energy generation mean a significant boost to the local economy



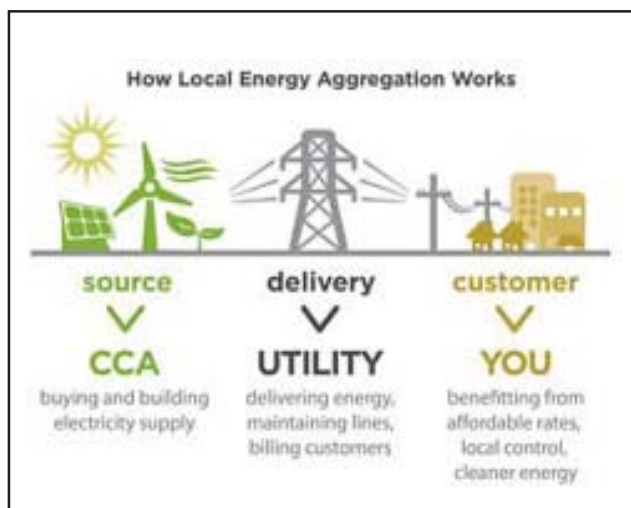
Here's the good news Jennifer Cregar, Project Supervisor for Santa Barbara County's Energy and Sustainability Initiatives, fields a question at a January 19 update meeting on the regional Community Choice Energy feasibility study.

erational statewide. The success of Marin Clean Energy, Sonoma Clean Power, Lancaster Choice, Peninsula Clean Energy and Clean Power SF is hard to argue with. Most offer customers 50% renewable energy, in line with California's Renewable Portfolio Standard, or the option of 100% renewables for a slight premium.

There's no question that Community Choice Energy is the wave of the future for energy production in California. There is a very real question as to whether SLO County will catch that wave or make a political choice to drift with the fossilized status quo. The difference will depend on what our citizens demand.

Go to **CAcommunityenergy.org**

and job creation. Eight CCE programs are scheduled to launch this year, and five are now op-



### TAKE ACTION

Ask your city council to agendaize a presentation on Community Choice Energy.

The SLO County Planning Department is offering public information sessions on Community Choice to any city that requests them. Go to your next city council meeting and ask the City to contact Chris Read, County Planning Dept. EnergyWise Program Coordinator, at 781-1172, cread@co.slo.ca.us.



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

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Enclose check and mail to: **F94Q W 2500 1**  
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# The First Polluters

by Vicki León

"Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it."  
 - George Santayana



## The Greeks said it first

Americans often assume that awareness of environmental damage and the interconnectedness of life on our planet is a 21st century discovery. We also take it for granted that the vocabulary we use, from "pollution" to "ecology," was coined in our modern era. Wrong, and wrong again.

More than 2,500 years ago, the Greeks had a word for almost everything, thanks to their loquacious crop of philosophers and early scientists. "Pollution," for instance, which they defined as a major crime against the gods. They were firm believers in balance. In their minds, trifling with Mother Nature would enrage one or more deities.

For instance, when the Greeks of Cnidus began digging a canal through land connecting them to Asia Minor (Turkey today), the workers were plagued with serious injuries. The crew sent an urgent message to the famed oracle at Delphi, asking for advice. The oracle promptly replied: "Do not dig! Zeus would have made an island, had he willed it."

Pollution, called "miasma" in Greek, conveyed a sense of wrongdoing, a moral bloodstain. Miasma often referred to a careless act that physically defiled or degraded something. Greek temples, for example, invariably had sacred groves. If someone chopped down those trees, they were soon punished. Defiling rivers and streams with human sewage had similar penalties.

In addition, miasma had an eerie physical manifestation. Greeks were convinced that the night air contained countless polluting particles, causing illness. They were terrified of it, especially the fumes from wetlands and the stench of rotting materials. To combat miasma, the Greeks even invented a miasma-fighting goddess called Hygeia—who later became our word "hygiene."

The Greeks weren't that far off the mark. In fact, their sporadic efforts to drain swamps and haul away manure did rid them of malaria-carrying mosquitoes and germ-laden fecal matter—but only temporarily.

In general, their sunny Mediterranean climate and daily bathing habits promoted health. The Greek preference for living in small communities was likewise helpful. Being intensely attached to their birthplaces, Greeks considered themselves Athenian or Spartan or Ionian—and so on—and got quite huffy when referred to as



Do not dig When the Oracle spoke, Greeks listened.

"Pythia at Delphi," John Collier

## Change of Address?

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Visit us on the Web

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search: "Santa Lucia" and become our friend!

Outings, events, and more!

## Make Paso Robles and Atascadero Foam Free

By SLO Foam Free

SLO FOAM FREE is a grassroots effort working on getting each city in SLO County to have an ordinance to eliminate "Styrofoam."

Four cities have passed a Polystyrene Ordinance. We are still waiting on Grover Beach, Paso Robles and Atascadero. The Board of Supervisors wants the support of the incorporated cities support before they will consider making it countywide.

We addressed Grover Beach on Jan. 9, 2017; so now onto Paso Robles & Atascadero. If you live in Paso Robles or Atascadero and would be willing to speak to your city council for 2 or 3 minutes at their February meeting about why you are interested in this ordinance, please contact Janine Rands at 704-0148 or jrands@gmail.com (please like our Facebook: SLO Foam Free). Janine will help you with a speech and any questions.

NOTE: this is a repeat effort to both city councils from Nov. 2015. We need to blitz the councils and let them know we are serious.

Feb 21 6:30p.m. @ Paso Robles City Council  
 Feb 28 6:30p.m. @ Atascadero City Council



# Resist Him

When we work together, our voices can add up - and they'll have no choice but to listen. Let's get started.

## sierraclub.org/resist



*The American people did not vote to pollute our drinking water, cloud our air with toxins, or defile our environment. We still have allies in the Senate and the House. These friends need your support right now to fight back, resist, and defend our environment and our health.*

- Michael Brune, Executive Director, Sierra Club

### Fight Trump's Revival of the Keystone and Dakota Access Pipelines

Donald Trump is already proving to be the dangerous threat to our climate we feared he would be. But these pipelines are far from being a certainty. From the plains of Nebraska and North Dakota to the streets of New York to the halls of Congress, millions of Americans and hundreds of Tribes have stood up to block these dirty pipelines and their voices will not be silenced. We will continue to fight these dangerous projects.

The Keystone XL pipeline was rejected because it was not in the country's interest, and the environmental review of the Dakota Access Pipeline was ordered because of the threats it poses to the Standing Rock Sioux.

Nothing has changed. These pipelines were a bad idea then and they're a bad idea now.

The country's environmental programs are being handed over to people who would frack their grandmother's old gray head if they thought there was a buck to be made in doing it. They need a front man who is both unintelligent enough not to get in the way, and enough of a freak show to distract the public from what they're really up to.

- Charles B. Pierce, *Esquire*, Jan. 26, 2017



### Tell Your Senators to Oppose Scott Pruitt's Nomination to Head the EPA

The fossil fuel industry has few better allies than Scott Pruitt, the Attorney General of Oklahoma, whose own bio describes him as "a leading advocate against the EPA's activist agenda." He's spent his time in office working to allow big polluters to do whatever they want, rather than protecting the health, clean air and water of his constituents.

Americans count on the Environmental Protection Agency to ensure our air is safe to breathe and our water is safe to drink, but Scott Pruitt is an extremist who will put those safeguards at risk. As Attorney General of Oklahoma, Pruitt was a key architect of unrelenting attacks on our bedrock, lifesaving clean air and clean water protections. He has also led the fight against climate action and the Clean Power Plan, doing the bidding of the fossil fuel industry.

Make no mistake, nothing less than our children's health is at stake right now. An EPA run by Scott Pruitt means more pollution, more asthma attacks, more premature deaths, and more mercury poisoning. And if Trump is able to confirm Pruitt for EPA and ExxonMobil (a Private Enterprise Council Member of ALEC) CEO Rex Tillerson for Secretary of State, the result would not only put our local air and water at risk, but would also cripple U.S. climate leadership and put the stability of our planet in danger.

### Lift Trump's Gag Orders on Federal Agencies

Mere days in to Donald Trump's presidency, multiple agencies were banned from speaking to the press, public officials and the public. Ask Congressman Carabajal to do everything he can to get these anti-democratic gag orders reversed and to hold the administration accountable.

Show Trump that we will not back down, we will stand with our allies and fight him every step of the way. — send the Tweeter-in-Chief a Tweet now at #NoKXL, #NoDAPL, then send a message directly to the White House:

[tinyurl.com/trumpoil](http://tinyurl.com/trumpoil)

TAKE ACTION

TAKE ACTION

Ask Senators Feinstein and Harris to stand up for California, people and the planet by strongly opposing Scott Pruitt's nomination to head the EPA.

[tinyurl.com/trumpEPA](http://tinyurl.com/trumpEPA)

## Update: Protecting Price Canyon

By Ash Lauth, Center for Biological Diversity

February is a big month for our work together to protect SLO's water.

I'll start with the bad news. Last month, we got notice that DOGGR will be blowing through its February 15 deadline to shut down wells illegally injecting into protected California aquifers, essentially stating that they're not going to make the deadline and don't really have a good plan to replace it with. This is infuriating, and beyond the pale.

If that wasn't enough, the shutdown deadlines are getting challenged by Big Oil. They're demanding all deadlines and shutdowns be cancelled. Bogus!

But here's the good news: Protect Price Canyon is

growing - gaining steam with over 250 new members signed up at the January 21 Women's March and with new moves to get other organizations on board.

February is a great opportunity for us to make big waves because it's the 1-year anniversary since the aquifer exemption application was submitted to the EPA, and it's still the deadline that state regulators and Big Oil were supposed to meet to protect our water.

At our last meeting, folks decided that we should mark this event with an action or event. A lot of possible ideas came up, including a rally, march or petition delivery. Folks also felt jazzed about coordinating with other

communities across the state facing exemptions just like this one. There are many people joining you across California, and now's the time to build our

collective power.

This is really big. So I invite you to come to the next Protect Price Canyon Meeting on **Monday, February 6, in the Commu-**

**nity Room at Whole Foods SLO** (the east end of the store, nearest Los Osos Valley Road.)

**PROTECT PRICE CANYON**

**NEXT MEETING: MONDAY FEB 6TH, 2017 6:30-7:30 PM**

**Whole Foods Market community room, 1531 Froom Ranch Way, SLO**

**NEWCOMERS!: SEE OUR WEBSITE FOR A TIMELINE RECAP OF THE HISTORY AND EVENTS OF OUR CAMPAIGN.**

**Join us if you live in our community and don't want to let a giant multi-national corporation destroy our valley's aquifers and water supply for profit of a few!**

- Update on our meeting with Congressman Carabajal
- Next Action! State Senator Monning
- Discussion of our collaboration with Standing SLO
- Update: Women's March Outreach

**More information: [www.protectpricecanyon.org](http://www.protectpricecanyon.org)** Facebook Group: Protect Price Canyon

TAKE ACTION

Sign the petition: [tinyurl.com/trumpgag](http://tinyurl.com/trumpgag)



# Women Unite! A March on Washington Goes Global

By Annika Kristiansen, *The Planet*, Jan. 27, 2017



**At the SLO March** Santa Lucia Sierra Club activists and Chumash National Marine Sanctuary proponents shared space and shelter from the pouring rain at the Jan. 21 SLO Women's March in Mitchell Park.

On January 21, the day after Donald Trump's inauguration, over five million women and their supporters worldwide—including more than 400,000 who came to D.C. for the Women's March on Washington—joined forces and marched, carried signs, sang songs, and spoke out against the racism, fraud, conflicts of interest, homophobia, transphobia, white supremacy, misogyny, and ignorance that are coursing through the new president's agenda.

The Sierra Club was represented at more than 60 marches across the country, with hundreds of Sierrans joining the D.C. march. Club staff and volunteers carried signs reading Women's Rights = Human Rights, Sierra Club for Gender Equity, Resist Trump's Hate, and We Support Immigrants' Rights.

In an article that he wrote for *The Huffington Post*, Sierra Club Executive Director Michael Brune quoted Barack Obama: "Our Constitution is a remarkable, beautiful gift. But it's really just a piece of parchment. It has no power on its own. We, the people, give it power—with our participation, and the choices we make, whether

or not we stand up for our freedoms."

Brune then writes, "Donald Trump's ability to wield power will depend on us and, as President Obama put it, how we choose to participate." He asks, "Will we stand up to a president who denies the reality of climate change and openly attacks women, people of color, immigrants, Muslims, people with disabilities, LGBTQ people, workers, and so many more? Or will we grimace and look the other way until it's too late?"

With an estimated 616 marches in 70 countries, it appears that people are not planning to "look the other way" and are prepared to take responsibility as global citizens, international watchdogs, and if necessary, human barriers to prevent Trump from carrying out his detestable agenda.

In an article for *Ms. Magazine's* blog, A. Tianna Scozzaro, director of the Sierra Club's Gender, Equity and Environment Program, shares her reasons for marching. "I am marching as an environmentalist, seeing that climate change and natural disasters hit women first and worst." She cites the example of post-Katrina New Orleans, revealing that

80 percent of people left behind in the Lower Ninth Ward were women.

The Sierra Club's march slogan, Women's Rights = Human Rights, hits home with women across the planet who recognize that all people should be granted the right to clean air, clean water, and a stable, safe climate. For many, marching on January 21 represented a call for the gender justice and equality that are prerequisites for climate justice to flourish.

For many others, marching was an opportunity to feel a sense of community and support in an uncertain, fearful time. The Women's March provided a chance to confirm the solidarity, harmony, and strength that will be needed in the potentially harrowing days to come.

For one mother and daughter, Noelle and Melanie Shahin from San Jose, California, marching on Washington was a chance to show unity with immigrants and concern for the environment. They were also present in memory of their mother and grandmother, who was sent to a Japanese-American internment camp during World War II. "I look at

the faces of my children—they are of Japanese and Iraqi descent," Noelle said. "How can I not march?"

One outcome of the day's protests was the image of a wide range of progressive issues, beliefs, and motivations coming together in support of one underlying commonality: women's rights. In her speech to protesters in D.C., NRDC president Rhea Suh emphasized that "today is just the beginning of what needs to be a sustained collective effort to counter the Trump administration's destructive

agenda and to advance economic, social, and environmental justice."

Feminist icon Gloria

Steinem said of the diverse crowds gathering as one, in front of her and around the world: "This is the upside of the downside."

Aerial images and on-the-ground footage reveals defiant and festive crowds, energized by the feeling of power that unity provides. Colorful signs read *I'm With Her*, with arrows radiating outward in all directions. Others read, *Love America? Save the EPA!*, *Make America Think Again*, *My Body My Choice*, *Women for Climate Justice*, and much more.

On many signs and t-shirts the mantra "nasty woman" was incorporated as women proudly reclaimed the term after Donald Trump used it to describe Hillary Clinton near the end of the final presidential debate. In her recitation of 19-year-old Nina Donovan's poem, Ashley Judd fired up a sea of pink hats as she said, "I am a nasty woman, a loud vulgar, proud woman. I'm not nasty like the combo of Trump and Pence being served up to me in my voting booth. I'm nasty like the battles my grandmothers fought to get me into that voting booth."

In the days to come, the Sierra Club and its partners in the People's Climate Movement are organizing hundreds of actions that will take place around the country in the first 100 days of Trump's presidency. Plans are in motion to rally in Washington on April 29 for what is envisioned as the biggest U.S. climate march ever.

As Brune writes, "We are joining to build a movement that is bigger than any single issue—a movement united behind principles of equity, justice, and human rights. If we want to defeat not just Trump but also his allies and would-be successors, this is what we need to do: Take a stand together, march together, and win together."

The consensus of vast numbers of people around the globe seems to be this: As a result of this election, we will never be the same. A challenge has been presented to us: a president that neither hears us nor sees us. This reality is bringing us together in unimaginable ways. We are marching and we are not going home. We are standing together and, at last, making change.

## Greeks

*continued from page 3*

"Greek." When the philosopher Diogenes impishly referred to himself as "cosmopolitan," meaning a citizen of the world, it scandalized everyone.

Despite mild climate and other advantages, the Greeks of long ago were regularly felled by the germs of long ago: not just killers like tetanus and typhoid, but also by minor wounds, war injuries, and infections. Likewise by malaria, which persisted because no one recognized the mosquito as the vector.

It's understandable. Early scientists had no microscopes, no first-hand knowledge of the internal workings of the body to help them understand the world they lived in, which swarmed with as many bio-hazards and unpleasant microorganisms as our world today.

Nevertheless, early Greek thinkers had insights about the universe that sound astonishingly contemporary.

Take Empedocles of Sicily. To him, the world recycled endlessly. As he put it, "There is no birth in mortal things, and no end in ruinous death. There is only mingling and interchange of parts, and it is this we call 'nature.'"

On the other side of the Mediterranean, a prickly 6th century B.C. philosopher named

Heraclitus came to a similar conclusion, saying, "Everything flows, nothing abides."

Students of early science tend to swoon over Aristotle, but he was far from the only pioneer to study the natural world and its living creatures. Hardly anyone gushes over Theophrastus, a bright young guy who studied with Aristotle, doing fieldwork that went far beyond his mentor's efforts. His insightful writings detailed the animal and plant kingdoms and their relationships to each other. Theo not only defined habitats, he described plant competition and organized plants into the first ecosystem prototype.

The hearing was continued to March 23. Speaking of words that



William Holman Hunt

## Scapegoat

begin with eco: ecology also had a homey, homely side to its origin. The word "oikos" (pronounced ee-kos) meant "house" and the maintenance and well-being thereof. Given that Greek women clothed and fed their households and were in charge of the oikos (although pretty much confined to it), they became history's first economists, so to speak. The ecosystem of the oikos was duly appreciated by Greek males, including Theophrastus, who saw its parallels in the natural world.

Today, when speaking of climate change and environmental pros and cons, we tend to fling the words "scapegoat" and "hubris" around with abandon. Millennia ago, however, these words conveyed very different meanings.

The Greeks of old were mad about things we might find inexplicable today—one being a serious attachment to goats. Not just to provide milk, meat, and lawn-mower service, either.

Their word "tragos," meaning goat, somehow inspired them to create Greek tragedy, which literally means "goat song."

Perhaps after a century or two of witnessing the environmental degradation the average goat is notorious for, the Greeks then dreamed up (or borrowed from early Jewish tribes) the concept of a "scapegoat."

The Greek version of scapegoat had much crueler repercussions than it does today. It could mean exile for an individual who had committed pollution or another crime. Often, however, it meant a ritual death carried out to expiate the community.

Numerous places, such as Leucadia and Chareonea,

carried out yearly rituals of scapegoating, to cleanse their community of sins committed that year or to cover future transgressions. The appointed scapegoats were ritually flogged with plants thought to have magical powers.

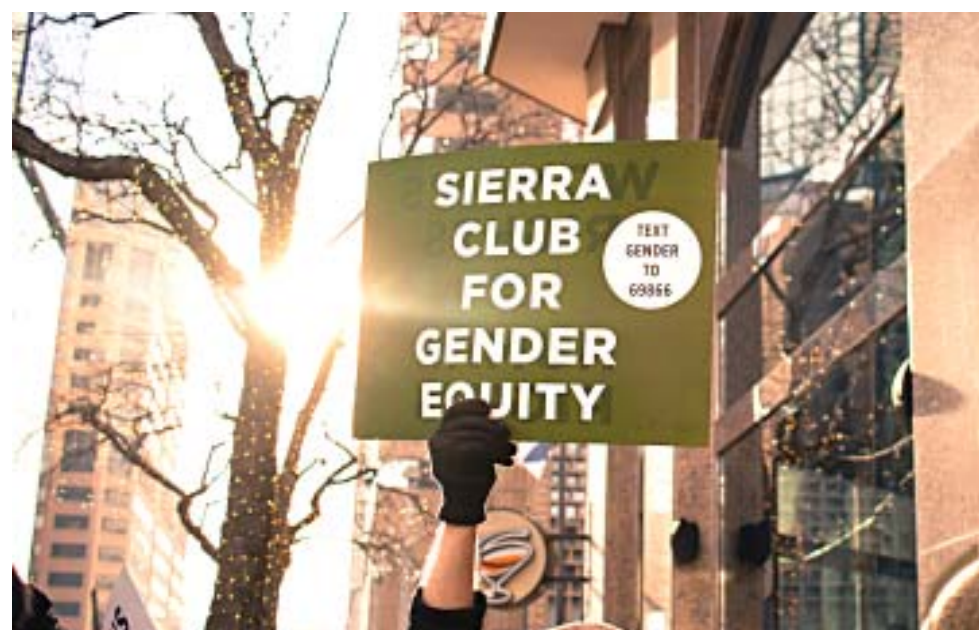
Athens took a tougher line with its scapegoats. The city maintained at public expense a handful of individuals (some criminal, some not) declared useless and/or degraded. When famine or another major calamity hit, the city officials sacrificed two as scapegoats by stoning them to death. Athens was by no means the only Greek city-state or colony to do this, either. Various communities around the Med shed scapegoats' blood at annual festivals, such as the Thargelia, as sources like Frazer's *Golden Bough* attest.

Way back when, "hubris" wasn't just a plot device for Greek tragedy, either. To the ancient Greeks, hubris was not merely excessive pride—it was mean-spirited revenge. Aristotle had a good one-liner about hubris: "As for the pleasure in hubris, its cause is this: naïve men think that by ill-treating others they make their own superiority the greater."

According to Athenian law, verbal hubris was considered a much more serious crime than physical abuse. (Is there a message here for the verbally abusive 21st century? Could be.)

We haven't even tackled the pollution of ancient civilizations in our modern sense: contamination of waters, poisonous air, slag from mining, and the surprising history of greenhouse gases. Never fear, you'll be getting a gimlet-eyed look at them in future columns.

Until then, here's to more joy and less CO-2 in our lives.



## Ontario

*continued from page 2*

the property owner does not own nor have access to these properties. This is beyond the scope of the project.") So the condition set forth by the Board of Supervisors regarding connectivity to other trails has not been met, and, per the Planning Department, it can't be—hence, presumably, the struggle to turn a requirement into an "ideal."

Trail advocates also pointed out that McCarthy's promise to maintain the trail

is not the same thing as the creation of a designated fund to pay for those promises. County Parks and Recreation Director Nick Franco made it clear that County Parks will not accept the new trail without connectivity and an established fund for maintenance.

"McCarthy must provide a source of funding for the county to use for maintenance," said Taren Collins, proprietor of the Save Ontario Ridge Trail Facebook page and former Santa Lucia Chapter Chair. "There

is no way to enforce the maintenance as it is currently proposed. The public will suffer if this trail replaces our current trail, because it will be subject to closure."

At the January 26 hearing, Planning Commissioners expressed concerns about the proposed fencing and conveyed the wish to staff that the new trail be designed in such a way that County Parks would be able to accept it.

The hearing was continued to March 23.



## Litigation

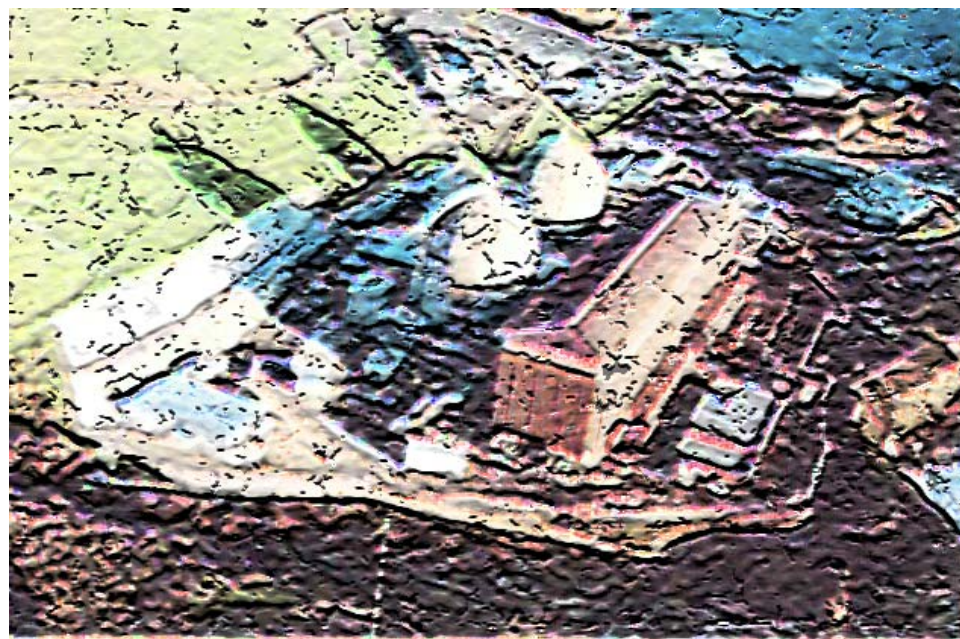
continued from page 1

Kinsey has since stepped down. McClure was ousted by the voters of Del Norte County in November. In a highly unusual move, Commissioner Wendy Mitchell, widely identified as the ringleader in the firing of Lester, attended the first court hearing in the case in December. She resigned from the Commission immediately thereafter.

At that hearing, the lawyer from the Attorney General's office attempted to get the lawsuit dismissed by arguing that the citizens who brought suit did not have legal standing to sue. The judge responded to this argument by asking how enforcement was going to happen if the public didn't bring suit, then spent about 20 minutes ripping into the Attorney General's office for not itself bringing suit against the named Coastal Commissioners for the alleged violations.

The judge allowed the lawsuit to proceed. The Attorney General is attempting to negotiate a settlement.

# Diablo's Fate



On June 21, 2016, PG&E announced it had reached an agreement with Friends of the Earth, Natural Resource Defense Council, IBEW Local 1245, Coalition of California Utility Employees, Environment California and the Alliance for Nuclear Responsibility to cease operation of the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant by 2024-25 and start the lengthy decommissioning process. That Joint Proposal has been submitted to the State Public Utilities Commission for approval and implementation. More than fifty organizations, NGOs, and local agencies, including the Sierra Club, Alliance for Nuclear Responsibility, Mothers for Peace, the County of San Luis Obispo, San Luis Coastal United School District and several local municipalities have filed to intervene in the PUC proceedings.

The Sierra Club's role in the complex PUC negotiations has been to advocate that the plant's closure not result in a spike of carbon emissions; the power from Diablo Canyon is replaced with renewable energy, conservation and energy efficiency; and the coastal lands around the plant are protected from development.

Our land use concern centers on the potential development of the 9,000 acres of coastal land around the plant owned by PG&E, most particularly Wild Cherry Canyon, already in the cross-hairs of a massive proposed residential development project. PG&E had made several vague and elusive verbal public statements about its good intentions regarding this land after announcing the shutdown agreement. When dealing with a utility that has six felony convictions on its rap sheet, it's always a good idea to get a promise in writing. After we laid out the concerns in our filing, forcing PG&E to make more explicit statements in response, the PUC Administrative Law Judge ruled "PG&E has committed to take no action with any of the lands and facilities, whether owned by the utility or a subsidiary, before completion of a future process including a public stakeholder process.... PG&E is directed to abide by that commitment."

On the issue of energy replacement, we are focused on closing loopholes in the agreement and making sure commitments are actually additional -- i.e. ensuring that renewable energy and efficiency measures claimed by PG&E would not have happened anyway under state policy, with or without Diablo Canyon's closure.

The first hearing will be held in April and a decision could be forthcoming in June.

## CEQA trial set for July 11

Meanwhile, another approach is unfolding in court. The California State Lands Commission leases the tidelands, upon which the infrastructure for Diablo Canyon's once-through cooling system (OTC) is built, to PG&E. The lease was due to expire in 2018, and Lands Commission staff had been emphatic in its opinion that a California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) compliant study should have to be performed on the effects of once-through cooling on the environment before a new lease could be signed. Once-through cooling at Diablo Canyon accounts for almost 80% of the loss of sea life along the California coastline and at least six endangered species live in the near vicinity of the outfall. An environmental assessment of the effects of OTC has never been done.

On June 28, the State Lands Commission met in Morro Bay and voted to grant PG&E a new outfall lease extended to 2025. The Commission, appearing to bow to political pressure, granted the new lease without any environmental review or compliance and a tortured interpretation of its public trust responsibilities.

The Santa Barbara-based World Business Academy and the Immaculate Heart Community of Los Angeles, both "down-winders" from the plant, filed a petition in the Los Angeles Superior Court on August 2. The suit alleges that the State Lands Commission failed in its duty to the people of California by allowing another nine years of operation before a nuclear plant built on at least thirteen earthquake faults finally shuts down, without fulfilling its obligation under CEQA.

An approximately 17,000-page administrative record that will form the basis for the hearing of the case was filed with the clerk of the court on December 20, 2016. The petitioners' opening briefs are due on February 27. Opposition briefs are due on April 24. Petitioners' replies to the State Lands Commission's opposition must be filed by May 22. The trial date is set for July 11 in Los Angeles.

The Petition asks that the Court order the State Lands Commission to set aside its decision of June 28, 2016; terminate the new lease; require the Commission to proceed with environmental compliance under CEQA; bring the project into full compliance with the Public Trust Doctrine; and enjoin operations under the existing lease unless and until the Project complies with CEQA and the Public Trust Doctrine.

Shandon-based Biodiversity First! has entered a motion to join the petition filed by World Business Academy and the Immaculate Heart Community, with emphasis on protecting the biodiversity and habitats of plants and wildlife on the State Lands leased by PG&E, many of which are endangered or threatened, rendering the Commission's attempt to exempt the project from environmental compliance ineffective and illegal.

## Sorry, Nuke Fans: Even New Ones Are a Bad Bet

Among all the responses to PG&E's announcement of the closure of Diablo Canyon by 2025, perhaps the saddest and strangest was the effort by nuclear power advocates to browbeat the utility into keeping it running for another twenty years, and/or beseech the governor and the state legislature to force PG&E to continue operating a plant it had deemed no longer financially viable. The "green nuke" contingent bemoaned the loss of a low-carbon power source and again tried to depict nuclear power plants as key to the need to cut greenhouse gas emissions.

On January 11, Leonard Hyman, an economist and financial analyst specializing in the energy sector and utility equity research, posted the story "Toshiba Loses Billions On U.S. Nuclear Write-Offs" at Oilprice.com. It detailed huge cost overruns at two nuclear construction sites, V.C. Sumner and Vogtle in Georgia. Toshiba, the owner of Westinghouse, designers of Diablo's reactors, had to tell shareholders in December that it had lost several billion dollars, ten times its principal investment, on an asset that it bought for \$220 million. Westinghouse informed its corporate parent that the cost to complete the projects "will far surpass the original estimates." The plant was supposed to cost \$14 billion. It will actually cost \$21 billion.

Hyman concluded:

"If a firm of this size and expertise is surprised by the cost of nuclear construction, that is not a good sign. But from a financial perspective, if a firm of Toshiba's size, and one of the premier nuclear engineering firms in the world, is in financial straits due to nuclear overruns, just how big and how accurate in project costing does a firm need to be to take on the risks of nuclear construction? Due to the size of the projects, no small firm can ever take them on. But will the point come when not even large firms execute a nuclear project unless an even larger entity, such as the federal government or the ratepayers over a wide area, guarantees payment of all cost overruns?"

"Toshiba's difficulties may reverberate beyond Tokyo's financial district. They call into question the ability of the most expert of firms to evaluate the risks of what has become bespoke nuclear construction."

Those difficulties also underline the point that nuclear power is too expensive to ever be part of an "all of the above" energy policy, or an effective way to combat climate change.

## Monument

continued from page 1

CA) introduced the California Coastal National Monument Expansion Act (S. 1971 and H.R. 3565 in the 114th Congress), which would have expanded the monument to include the same six new areas. In September 2016, BLM Director Neil Kornze joined Representative Capps and state officials in attending a public meeting on the expansion proposal in Cambria, CA. In front of a standing room-only crowd at the public meeting, speakers from area tribes, local government, the conservation and recreation communities, and local residents spoke almost entirely in support of the proposed expansion.

## Where are the expansion areas?

- \* Trinidad Head, a promontory in Trinidad Harbor, contains 13 acres managed by the BLM.
- \* Waluph-Lighthouse Ranch, twelve miles south of Eureka, contains 8 acres managed by the BLM.
- \* The Lost Coast Headlands, thirteen miles further south, contains about 400 acres managed by the BLM.
- \* Cotoni-Coast Dairies, contains 5,785 acres outside Davenport managed by the BLM
- \* Piedras Blancas Light Station Outstanding Natural Area, contains 25 acres managed by the BLM and was designated by Congress in 2008.
- \* Rocks and islands off the coast of Orange County, managed by the BLM and reserved by Congress in the 1930s for park, scenic, and public purposes as well as the possibility of future light-houses.

## Who supports the expansion?

Beyond support from the California Congressional delegation, many diverse voices have spoken out in favor of permanent protection of these areas. Local governments supporting the monument expansion include the City of Trinidad, City of Capitola, City of Scotts Valley, City of Watsonville, and the San Luis Obispo Board of Supervisors. Governor Jerry Brown is also a supporter. Local tribes including the Wiyot Tribe, Cher-Ae

Heights Indian Community of the Trinidad Rancheria, Northern Chumash Tribal Council, Northern Valley Yokut/Ohlone/Bay Miwuk Tribe, and Amah Mutsun Tribal Band have all endorsed the expansion. More than 90 local businesses have written in support of the expansion, along with twelve local chambers of commerce, more than eight business alliances and tourism boards, and 20 outdoor recreation businesses based in California. Numerous national, state, and local conservation groups have endorsed the expansion.

## How does the expansion impact public access?

The expansion allows for public access, such as for hunting or fishing where allowed, which continue to be managed by the State of California. It also ensures that tribes will continue to be able to access sacred sites and cultural sites for traditional cultural and customary uses. Visitors may use motorized vehicles on designated roads and non-motorized mechanized vehicles (e.g. mountain bikes) on designated roads and trails, consistent with the care and management of monument objects. Currently the Cotoni-Coast Dairies unit is largely closed to public access, and the proclamation provides that it will be opened to the public upon completion of a management plan, consistent with the care and management of monument objects.

## How does the expansion impact grazing?

Authorized grazing within these monument additions, including grazing as a management tool, will continue to be governed by the same laws, regulations, and policies as are generally applicable on other lands administered by the BLM, consistent with the protection of the objects identified in the proclamation.



## How Long, Coastal Commission?

The California Coastal Commission met in San Luis Obispo on January 12. On the agenda that day: A review of the Coastal Development Permit for the Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Areas, and the compliance of the Department of Parks and Recreation with that permit, or lack thereof.

It was a follow-up to a January 2015 meeting of the Commission in Pismo Beach, where the Commission took no action on three decades of violations and non-compliance, instead directing staff to converse with the Department of Parks.

At this year's meeting, Santa Lucia Chapter Director Andrew Christie delivered "an abridged version of what we said at the 2015 permit review. I have added 2 years to all the cited chronologies to bring them up to date:

"A program of more study, evaluation, and guidance of State Parks at the ODSVRA has produced the following results:

"Thirty-five years out of compliance with their Coastal Development Permit, which required designation of a permanent entrance and staging area within 18 months of receiving their permit in 1982.

"Twenty-nine years of nonconformity with the Local Coastal Program, which requires designation of the La Grande Tract as a buffer between the riding area and the Dunes Preserve.

"Sixteen years since "interim" vehicle limits were set and never adjusted— part and parcel of the failure to conduct a carrying capacity study to determine how many vehicles the dunes ecosystem can withstand without long-term damage.

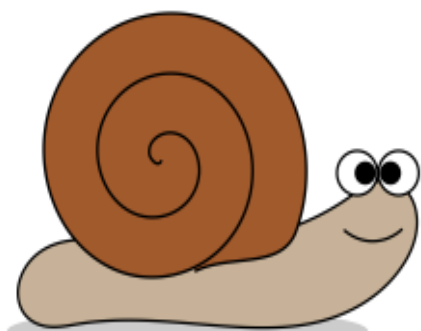
"Seventeen years of promises to create a Habitat Conservation Plan to protect the listed species on site – which Parks has assured your staff is almost ready for release, which is what they told us when we signed a consent decree with them thirteen years ago.

"Fourteen years of refusals to heed the advice of scientists to study a year-round closure of the snowy plover nesting area to vehicle traffic.

"And six years of failure to reduce the dust plumes triggered by off-road vehicles, particulates that blow off the dunes and settle in the lungs of the residents of the Nipomo Mesa, victims of the worst air quality in the county.

"The suggestion in the staff report to remove vehicle limits in favor of self-monitoring and reporting is a cause for concern. We appreciate the six-month deadline staff is proposing for the study of a permanent entrance and staging area. Based on history, we suggest it would be worthwhile to add a provision spelling out exactly what will happen in the event that Parks does not meet that deadline."

Staff has resumed discussion with State Parks and is expected to come back to the Commission with suggested actions to take at the ODSVRA at their September meeting.





# Classifieds

Next issue deadline is **February 16**. 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](mailto:sierraclub8@gmail.com)

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**Jennifer de Tréglodé**  
Owner, Artist & Teacher

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# 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.

**Sun., Feb. 5th, 2 p.m. Historic Walk: Victorian-Age San Luis Obispo.** Guided stroll past 21 stately century-old homes and churches in the Old Town Historic District, concluding with a brief inside tour of St. Stephen's. See residences of past mayors, newspaper editor, and Cal Poly founder. Eavesdrop on the lives of the newly rich who dominated SLO in the horse-and-buggy days. Duration about 1 1/2 hrs. Meet in front of the Jack House, 536 Marsh St., Leader: Joe Morris, 549-0355.

**Sat., Feb. 11th, 8:30 a.m. Rinconada to Big Falls Hike.** Visit an especially scenic area in the Santa Lucia Wilderness above and below upper Big Falls. Past rains will make this strenuous 12-mile, 1400 ft. gain, hike even more beautiful and productive of early wildflowers. Bring

lunch, water, and sturdy hiking shoes. Some poison oak and two minor creek crossings on the trail. Meet in front of Pacific Beverage Co., Santa Margarita. Rain postpones hike to another day. For more info, call Leader: Carlos Diaz-Saavedra, 546-0317.

**Fri-Mon., Feb. 24th-27th, Death Valley National Park Car Camp.** Car camp tour of Death Valley with primitive camping and easy to moderate hikes. Meet Friday noon at primitive campsite near Shoshone and hike Amargosa Canyon in afternoon. Saturday tour of Badwater, Natural Bridge, and Golden Canyon in Park and camping at Furnace Creek. Sunday tour other stops and camp in north part of park. Monday a.m. hike of Mesquite Sand Dunes and then home. For signup and more details, contact Leader: Carol Wiley, earthlingwiley2000@yahoo.com or 760-245-

8734. Mojave Group/CNRCC Desert Committee.

**Sat., Feb. 25th, 10 a.m. Eagle Rock Trekking-Pole Nature Trail Hike.** Learn and see modeled use of trekking poles on this 2.2 mile, 720 ft. gain hike at El Chorro Regional Park, with great views of morros. From SLO, take Hwy 1 to first of two right turn signals to the Park (across from Cuesta College), and follow signs to Day Use Area. Pass ball fields and Botanical Gardens until you reach a locked gate and park there. Rain cancels. Contact Leader: David Georgi at 458-5575 or hikingpoles@gmail.com.

**Sun., Feb. 26th, 9 a.m. Plant ID Dune Hike at Montana De Oro State Park.** Botanist-led, 2.5-mile walk through coastal scrub and maritime chaparral habitats and dunes to identify trailside species, picking out species that

interest you. Duration 2.5 hrs. Bring water and snacks. Sturdy shoes, sun-screen, hat, and jacket recommended. Also paper and pencil for notes and camera, if wished. If a preprinted copy of plant list desired, contact leader at least 24 hrs. in advance. Meet at Sand Spit Rd. parking lot, at end of Sand Spit Rd. in MDO Park. More information, contact Leader: Bill Waycott, 459-2103 or bill.waycott@gmail.com. Rain cancels.

**Sun., Feb. 26th, 1-3 p.m. Stadium Park Scenic Hike in Atascadero.** Join us on an easy two-mile, 200 ft. gain hike, starting with a botanical garden and looping through a pine and oak forest. Please no dogs. From Hwy 101 in Atascadero, head east on Hwy 41, then turning left on Capistrano Ave. and driving 0.1 mile to park and parking area at end of road. Leader: Debbie Roller, 610-0458.

## 2017 National Outings

Sierra Club's full 2017 international trip roster—featuring over 300 itineraries spanning the states and across the globe—is now complete and ready for reservations. Whether you're seeking soft adventure, rugged journeys, or something in between, you can be sure we've got the unique outdoor experience that's right for you.

This year we have again planned some special trips for younger adventurers. Some are designed specifically for younger people, while others will appeal to a wider audience. Scholarships are available, but funding is limited, so don't delay!

Read on for a list of featured trips or head straight to [content.sierraclub.org/outings/trip-search](http://content.sierraclub.org/outings/trip-search) for the full lineup by activity, destination, date, or price. You can place your reservation online or by calling 415-977-5522.

**Public Park Service in Philadelphia, the Birthplace of Independence, Pennsylvania**  
May 14–20, 2017

**Lake Michigan Bike and Hike, Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore, Michigan**  
Jun 4–10, 2017

**Western Brooks Range Ramble, Noatak National Preserve, Alaska**  
Jun 12–23, 2017

**Natural and Geologic Wonders of the Eastern Sierra, California**  
Jul 2–8, 2017

**Mountain Medley, Tahoe National Forest, California**  
Jul 9–15, 2017

**An Active Adventure in Quebec City: History, Culture, and More, Quebec**  
Jul 9–14, 2017

**Green River Family Rafting Through Desolation and Gray Canyons, Utah**  
Jul 10–15, 2017

**Audubon Acres: Bird Rescue and Service in Chattanooga, Tennessee**  
Aug 20–27, 2017

**Beginner Backpack on North Manitou Island, Michigan**  
Aug 21–25, 2017

**Hut-to-Hut Traverse of the Presidential Range, New Hampshire**  
Sep 10–15, 2017

**A Gold Medal Adventure in Whistler, British Columbia, Canada**  
Sep 10–15, 2017

**Waterfalls in the Fall: Kayaking and Hiking the South Carolina Upcountry**  
Oct 8–14, 2017

*Thanks to Carolyn Ash for her donation in celebration of the birthday of Chapter Outings Chair Joe Morris. (Happy birthday, Joe!)*

## Island Hopping in Channel Islands National Park 2017

April 2-4 May 7-9 June 11-13 July 16-18  
August 20-22 September 24-26 October 22-24

Join us for a 3-day, 3-island, live-aboard cruise to California's Channel Islands! Hike wild, wind-swept trails bordered with blazing wildflowers. Kayak rugged coastlines. Snorkel in pristine waters teeming with colorful fish. Swim with frolicking seals and sea lions. Look for unusual sea and land birds. Watch for the highly endangered island fox. Or....just relax at sea! All cruises depart from Santa Barbara. The cost, \$650, includes an assigned bunk, all meals, snacks and beverages plus the services

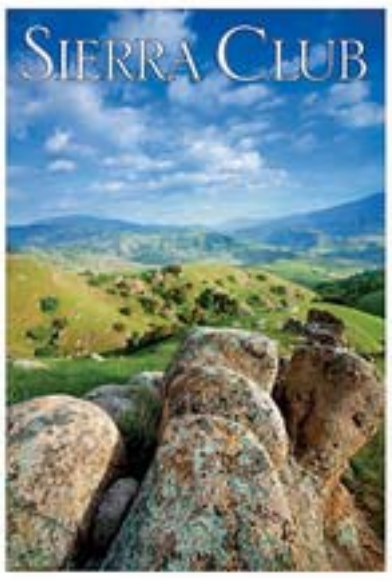


of a naturalist-docent assigned by the national park to help lead hikes, point out items of interest and give evening program. For more information contact leader: Joan Jones

Holtz; 626-443-0706; jholtzhl@aol.com. To make a reservation send a \$100 check, written to Sierra Club, to leader, 11826 The Wye St., El Monte, CA 91732.

*Last chance to get the*

## 2017 Sierra Club Calendar



ENGAGEMENT CALENDAR 2017

Accept no substitutes. Your desk will thank you. Your wall will thank you. Your friends and family will thank you. And when you buy direct from the Chapter, you support the Sierra Club's conservation work in San Luis Obispo County. We thank you.

**10% off!**

wall calendar: \$13.50  
desk calendar: \$14.50  
5 or more: 15% off!

**To order, call:  
805-543-7051**

Please come join us for the 3rd annual

## Avila Beach Bird Sanctuary & Wildlife Day 2017

at the Avila Beach Community Center Healing Garden  
291 San Miguel Street, Avila Beach

**Saturday, February 18  
10:00 am to 12:00 noon**



**SPECIAL FOR KIDS:**  
Play after presentation trivia...  
Win free swim passes to the Avila Hot Springs and passes to the Central Coast Aquarium! Wow!

Opening Words: Mona Olivas-Tucker/Northern Chumash Tribe.  
Meet "Morro" the Brown Pelican - Willow Tree Wildlife.  
Meet "Pip" the American Kestrel - Pacific Wildlife Care.  
Plus meet a surprise Wildlife Ambassador - Pacific Wildlife Care.  
Bonus! After show "Bird Walk" led by Virginia Flaherty.  
All ages. Free and open to the public.

Sponsored by:














Celebrating February Coastal Discoveries Stewardship Traveler's Month



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.




**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](mailto:dj1942@earthlink.net)



John Muir, founder of the Sierra Club, in Yosemite