

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

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

SANTA LUCIAN



**SIERRA
CLUB**
Santa Lucia
Chapter

March 2017
Volume 54 No.3

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

Oil Trains Steaming Toward Supervisors

As we go to press, the lawsuit filed against the County by Phillips 66 over the denial of its permit to build an oil train terminal next to its refinery on the Nipomo Mesa is heading for a final decision.

Phillips' motion to delay the hearing of its appeal to the County Board of Supervisors will be heard by the judge on March 2, which means the Sierra Club and other environmental groups that have intervening in the suit to side with the County in arguing against Phillips' claims may know on March 2 — and you probably know as you read this — whether the Board of Supervisors hearing process will begin on March 13.

The judge has ruled that "Phillips 66 has not yet exhausted its administrative remedies" pursuant to the rest of Phillips' lawsuit, which has centered on the Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Area (ESHA) on which Phillips wants to build the terminal. In a tentative ruling issued on February 16, the judge dismissed Phillips' request that the court overrule County Planning on the issue, writing "the Court cannot compel the [Planning] Department to perform an act which according to Petitioner it has no authority to do."

At the February 16 hearing, Phillips continued to argue its one allegation left standing, a challenge to the legality of the County's coastal land use zoning ordinance. After extensive oral argument, the judge agreed to give Phillips an opportunity to submit an additional brief on a point of administrative procedure. The County's supplemental brief is due March 2. The response of the Sierra Club and co-intervenor is due March 16.

SLO CLEAN ENERGY CROSSROADS MARCH & RALLY



MARCH 13 | 12PM
1055 Monterey St, SLO

**Phillips 66 Oil Trains
Fracking in Price Canyon
Offshore Drilling** **NO**

YES **Clean Energy Economy
National Marine Sanctuary
Community Choice Energy**

PROTECTSLO.ORG

Now You *Really* Need to Stay Informed

Welcome to interesting times. Be an activist with your Chapter, get notified about meetings, town halls, rallies, and all upcoming actions as we enter the time of resistance to save all we hold dear. Now is the time to stand up and speak out!

Stay informed and active! Send your e-mail address to sierraclub8@gmail.com and ask to be put on our e-alert list for upcoming actions and events.

Inside

Thanks for nothing, supervisors	2
Oroville's lesson	3
Slow down, SLO	4
Cambria CSD: A history of violations	5
Classifieds	7
Outings	8

www.sierraclub.org/santa-lucia



Please recycle

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

Save the date



DANCING FOR DEMOCRACY WITH THE SIERRA CLUB

Odd Fellows Hall, 520 Dana Street, SLO
Saturday, May 6
7 -11 p.m.
For more info:
karen@karenmerriam.com

"We dance, boss."

- Zorba the Greek

This event is designed to encourage maximum participation by community members, musicians, dancers, drummers, etc. to bring their cultural heritage to the dance hall to share with all.

No one will be paid; this won't be "performance"-based. The hope is to showcase the diversity of cultural heritages represented in SLO County and to have folks join together in celebration of our common humanity.

Bring your dancing shoes and move to the beats that reflect the cultural diversity of our community.

Bring a dance or instruments or finger foods from your heritage to share.

Try out new rhythms.

DJ's and live music provided.

Beer and wine for sale.

\$10.00 at the door.

Supervisors Thanked for Nothing

by Andrew Christie, Chapter Director

Opposition to the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary has been a case study in the evolution of bad arguments.

Opponents' greatest hits were on display in "Thanks for opposing the Chumash marine sanctuary" in the Feb. 16 issue of the *Tribune*, giving the majority on our dysfunctional Board of Supervisors a pat on the back for passing a pointless resolution at their Feb. 7 meeting opposing the designation of the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary.

By turns ill-informed, speculative and anecdotal — and always including an attempt by economic special interests to label public interest groups as special interests — these arguments have been put forward for years, and their variations don't disguise their identity as retreats.

Anyone who wants to see a real discussion of what national marine sanctuaries are and how they work, with opponents laying their fears and concerns at the feet of sanctuary managers and taking their best shots, must watch the video of the Jan. 6, 2016, Morro Bay town hall meeting on national marine sanctuaries (www.sierraclub.org/santa-lucia). It's a virtual documentary on the clash of fact vs. fiction, truth vs. obfuscation, reality vs. unreality.

Those two hours in Morro Bay really were the end of the debate over the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary as a factual issue. As a political issue, of course, it's a different story, one likely to go on for as long as opponents can arrange to present their wares in venues where they don't face immediate rebuttal by sanctuary personnel. The recirculation of the opposing arguments that were definitively refuted that night, and the subsequent pulling of strings to get three friendly supervisors to pass a symbolic resolution of opposition — contravening a goal of the County's General Plan — was an ideological exercise.

In signing on to the opposition Viewpoint, former Pismo Beach Mayor Shelly Higginbotham is also in opposition to former colleagues on the Pismo Beach City Council who support designation of the sanctuary. Other supporters include our former and current Congressional Representatives Lois Capps and Salud Carbajal, former State Senator Fran Pavley, State Senator Hannah-Beth



Jackson, Santa Barbara County Supervisors Das Williams and Janet Wolf, the dean of the UCSB Bren School of Environmental Science and Management, 140 Cal Poly students, the City of San Luis Obispo, The Cambria Fishing Club, Patagonia, Pacific Wildlife Care, and some 7,000 members of the yak tit'u tit'u yak tilhini Northern Chumash Tribe, the Coastal Band of the Chumash Nation, Northern Chumash Tribal Council and Bakersfield Chumash Tribal Council.

You'd never guess from the zoomed and cropped photo that appeared with the online version of opponents' Viewpoint that they were outnumbered three to one by sanctuary supporters at that board hearing. They are outnumbered by about 15,000 vs. 300 signatures on public petitions in support and opposition, respectively.

Which brings us to the center of this issue: Democracy.

While we don't think much of their arguments, opponents are entitled to make them, and could do so at a time and place that won't constitute a day-long waste of time when the majority of our board of supervisors is supposed to be doing the public's business, not scoring political points with their base. That would be the designation process for the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary, a multi-year process of public hearings and town halls, with every comment, question, and answer captured as part of the administrative record, along with all written comments, and a decision at the end of it based on all input received from a broad spectrum of stakeholders, not just the narrow economic special interests represented by opponents and their lobbyists.

In that venue, we'd be happy to introduce multiple

peer-reviewed socioeconomic studies on the impact of national marine sanctuaries on local coastal economies. Opponents can trot out their anecdotes from chamber of commerce members.

They can claim that a national marine sanctuary will mean loss of "local control." We will ask them how much "local control" was lost when President Obama expanded the California Coastal National Monument in January to include the Piedras Blancas Light Station and five other areas in three counties.

They can bring "four Monterey-area harbor officials" to bemoan "problems" with the disposal of dredge spoils caused by the Monterey Bay sanctuary. We'll be happy to ask them if the Monterey sanctuary has ever once denied permission for the disposal of dredge spoils (answer: no), and if the "problems" those officials assert might better be described as feeling put out because they were simply directed to dispose of those spoils at sites where disposal wouldn't compromise coral reefs, kelp forests or other sensitive marine habitat, thereby ensuring the health of offshore waters and fisheries.

Before the Viewpoint authors asserted that "new sanctuaries must honor existing oil and mineral leases, which are already in existence in the proposed sanctuary boundaries," they should have asked the Channel Islands Sanctuary what happened to the offshore oil leases in the area when the sanctuary was created. (Answer: They were abandoned).

Opponents can claim that we're safe from offshore drilling because we have a county ordinance. We'll point out that the citizens of Marin, Sonoma and Mendocino Counties overwhelmingly opted to double the size and extend the protections of their existing marine sanctuaries in 2015 because they knew nothing else would save them when — not if — Big Oil decides to put their coast in the crosshairs.

Before the Trib Viewpoint's authors blithely asserted that "sanctuary status does not offer permanent protection from oil development," they should have checked in with Richard Charter. The difference between Mr. Charter and the authors of the Viewpoint is the difference between someone who speaks from deep personal knowledge of a subject and someone reciting talking points drafted by a public relations consultant. A Senior Fellow at the Ocean Foundation, Charter was involved in maintaining the 27-year Congressional moratorium on offshore oil and gas leasing that once served to prevent new drilling off our coast. He also coordinated the local government support that helped bring about the creation of the Gulf of the Farallones, Cordell Bank, Channel Islands and Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuaries.

In a Feb. 2 letter to the SLO Board of Supervisors, he wrote:

"The creation of a new national marine sanctuary has never in any way interfered with local control nor has it ever been demonstrated to interfere with fishing, since fishing continues, as always, to be regulated by the appropriate regional fishery management council and by California's Department of Fish and Wildlife. It is, however, critical to realize that national marine sanctuaries can provide the only available mechanism that will permanently protect

federal waters off of San Luis Obispo County from expanded offshore drilling, a protection from which your coast does not now benefit."

Opponents could also check with former President George H.W. Bush, whose 1992 announcement of the designation of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary proudly noted that it would protect "an expanding population of sea otters and a wide variety of whales, porpoises, seals, fish, and sea birds, includ-

ing many endangered and threatened species" and provided "a permanent ban on oil and gas development for the area, which includes a wide variety of pristine habitats."

It was true there and true then. It's true here and true now, all attempted arguments to the contrary notwithstanding.

We will continue to look forward to the democratic designation process for the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary and to that discussion.

Santa Lucian

EDITOR
Andrew Christie

Lindi Doud
Sandy Simon
EDITORIAL COMMITTEE
Denny Mynatt
PRINT MEDIA COORDINATOR

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

send to:

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

Santa Lucia Chapter

2016 Executive Committee

Karen Merriam (12/18)
CHAIR
Chuck Tribbey (12/19)
VICE-CHAIR
Lindi Doud (12/17)
TREASURER
Stephanie Gong (12/17)
SECRETARY
Christine Mulholland (12/18)
MEMBER
Sue Harvey (12/17)
MEMBER
Marcia Alter (12/19)
MEMBER

Karen Merriam
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.

Committees
Political
David Bouquin
Membership/Development
Marcia Alter
Stephanie Gong
Nancy J. Cole
Conservation
Sue Harvey

Nuclear Power Task Force
Rochelle Becker
Linda Seeley

Volunteer Coordinator
Karen Merriam karen@karenmerriam.com

CNRC Delegates
Lindi Doud, Patrick McGibney
John Burdett

Wildlands Stewardship Group

Open
Calendar Sales
Bonnie Walters 805-543-7051

Outings
Joe Morris dj1942@earthlink.net

Webmaster
Monica Tarzier monica@tarzier.org

CHNMS campaign coordinator
Nancy J. Cole cole.nancy.j@gmail.com

Trail Guide
Gary Felsman

Chapter Director
Andrew Christie

Facebook Admin.
Kim Ramos kimramos@yahoo.com

Santa Lucia Chapter
P.O. Box 15755
San Luis Obispo, CA 93406
805-543-8717

Office hours Monday-Friday,
1 p.m. - 7 p.m., 974 Santa Rosa
Street, San Luis Obispo

Printed by University Graphic Systems Cal
Poly, San Luis Obispo. Mailing services
courtesy of the Silver Streaks.

March 20 is California Wildlife Day



public education efforts about native plants and animals."

California Wildlife Day will be recognized every year on the Spring Equinox, which this year falls on March 20, 2017.

A National Wildlife Day was established in 2005 in memory of conservationist Steve Irwin and to bring awareness of endangered animals nationally and worldwide.

Many Happy Returns!

We received a donation from Daryl and Priscilla Herzog in honor of their friends Susan and John Armstrong, who are celebrating their 70th birthdays this year and both love to hike.

Thank you Priscilla, and happy birthday/happy hiking, Susan and John!



Senator Bill Monning (D-Carmel) has introduced Senate Concurrent Resolution (SCR) 23 to establish California Wildlife Day and recognize the state's diverse and unique ecosystem.

"This resolution is designed to recognize one of our state's greatest resources — its environment," Senator Monning said. "The geography of the State of California is unique and diverse, with deserts, snow-capped mountains, forests, and coastlines...all of which host an extraordinary abundance of wildlife. Many Californians feel an obligation to protect our environment for future generations, and California Wildlife Day will help advance this through

Lessons California should learn from Oroville Dam debacle

By Kathryn Phillips, director of Sierra Club California, and Ron Stork, senior policy advocate, Friends of the River

Special to the Sacramento Bee, Feb. 15, 2017

The Oroville Dam debacle is a wake-up call to California.

If we heed the call, we may be able to avoid what could certainly be other disasters and wrong turns in the state water system as we head into an age typified by extreme weather events associated with climate change.

In 2005, our organizations, the Sierra Club and Friends of the River, warned the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, the agency responsible for relicensing hydroelectricity dams, that the earthen emergency spillway on the dam was too dangerous. We said it needed a concrete lining and that FERC should require the dam's operator, the California Department of Water Resources, to build that lining.

The Yuba County Water Agency noted in a technical report on the dam in 2002 that using the emergency spillway could create severe erosion over 50 to 70 acres, sending dirt, rocks and other debris shooting into the waterway below at a rate and scale that could disrupt operations of the huge Oroville-Thermalito Dam complex.

More than eleven years ago, DWR rejected our concerns. This week, we've watched a frightening scene unfold as the emergency spillway began to flood and erode, requiring nearly 200,000 Californians to be evacuated from their homes and businesses.

It's worth noting that we filed our concerns about the spillway a year before the Legislature passed landmark legislation setting targets for reducing climate-change pollution generally.

State leaders and agencies weren't entirely ignorant about climate change in California. Nor was the public, according to polling at the time. Scientists were predicting a range of changes in rain and snowfall patterns because of climate change, and the agencies and leaders knew that.

Even so, a major state agency responsible for managing dams dismissed a chance to adopt measures that would make Oroville Dam safer as we entered a new climate-affected era.

California rivers bear more than 1,300 dams. Most people agree that the cost-effective places to build dams in the state have been taken.

Yet most of those dams, like Oroville Dam, are decades old. Some are seismically unsafe and can't hold the amount of water they were meant to hold. Others haven't had silt removed rou-



Kathryn Phillips



Let a Thousand Flowers Bloom!

Full Day Focused on Community Choice Energy, Massive Attendance at CPUC "En Banc" Demonstrates Community Power and Interest

by Woody Hastings, Clean Power Exchange

On February 1, I attended the all-day California Public Utility Commission's (CPUC's) En Banc hearing in San Francisco on Community Choice Aggregation. This was a big deal. En Bancs are rare, and single out important issues for the CPUC, at the Commissioners' request. This was the first one focused exclusively on Community Choice. The auditorium was packed, another hearing room held the overflow crowd, and early in the meeting Commissioner Peterman noted that about 600 additional people were participating online or by phone.

In her introductory remarks, Commissioner Peterman noted that one of the most controversial topics among Community Choice stakeholders, the Power Charge Indifference Adjustment, or PCIA, is being discussed in a working group process that is scheduled to report to the Commission on April 5, so the PCIA was not a central topic of the conversation on this day. Info on the PCIA can be found at cleanpowerexchange.org.

A long line of elected officials spoke in support of Community Choice at the end of the morning session. Elected representatives from city and county members of Peninsula Clean Energy, Silicon Valley Clean Energy, Placer County, and elsewhere spoke. Jeff Sparks, an aide to State Senator Scott Wiener of San Francisco, spoke strongly of the need for the CPUC to support Community Choice and address the shortcomings of the IOUs. "CCAs are the key to the future of energy in California," he said.

In the afternoon another half dozen or so elected officials spoke, followed by about 20 other speakers, nearly all in full-throated support of Community Choice. They represented clean energy advocates, business community, IBEW union and other labor representatives, and other constituencies.

Chief Executive Officers Dawn Weisz of MCE Clean Energy, Geof Syphers of Sonoma Clean Power, and Barbara Hale of CleanPowerSF did an excellent job of articulating the benefits of Community Choice and clarifying the sometimes inaccurate statements by fellow panelists.

DAMS continued on page 4

CCA continued on page 6



photo/Kevin Walsh

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

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

Join today and receive a FREE Sierra Club Weekender Bag!



My Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____
 State _____ Zip _____
 Phone # _____
 email _____

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

Exp. Date ____/____/____
 Cardholder Name _____
 Card Number _____

Membership Categories: INDIVIDUAL JOINT
INTRODUCTORY \$25
 REGULAR \$39 \$47

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

Enclose check and mail to: **F94Q W 2500**
 Sierra Club, P.O. Box 52968, Boulder, CO 80322-2968



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

The First Polluters

by Vicki León

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

Timber Wars & Copper Conflicts

Sometimes we assume that conflict over natural resources is a modern development, the economic downside of this crowded world of ours.

Far from it! Long-ago cultures from the Mesopotamians to the Greeks squared off against their neighbors with astounding frequency.

When not quarreling over mineral rights, the ancient Greeks went to war over trees—and literally fought it with trees. In 480 b.c., for example, to stop the Persians at Salamis, the Athenians and their allies built a fleet of 350 ships, devouring miles of forest to do so. Not Greek forests, however. Theirs would no longer suffice, so timber had to be imported from southern Italy and regions north of Athens.

The decades-long Peloponnesian War between Athens and Sparta was again a vicious slugfest over timber. The Spartans had conquered wooded regions of the Macedonian coast, which the Athenians needed for shipbuilding.

We remember Thucydides as a historian, but careerwise, he was a military leader first whose mission it was to win back those valuable timber-filled lands. He failed. Sent into exile, he sat out the war by writing the sole eyewitness account of it.

In 415 b.c., egged on by a handsome demagogue named Alkibiades, Athens in desperation launched a military expedition to the richly wooded island of Sicily. Not only did the Athenians destroy sorely needed acres of their native trees to build a new fleet, they lost all 200 vessels and 34,000 men in that debacle.

Some years after that disaster, a now popular philosopher named Plato was invited to guest-philosophize in Sicily. Upon his arrival at that large island, famous for

its glorious woodlands and rich soil, he was horrified to see rampant erosion amid vast forests of tree stumps. Failing to profit from Athenian mistakes, the Sicilian Greeks had chopped down their own woods to pursue their own hapless military adventures.

We've never thought of Plato as an early climate scientist—but in a sense he was. "Plato," meaning "broad," was a nickname, probably a nod to his husky build. As a young man, he won kudos for his wrestling prowess. Plato proved to be broad-minded as well. He gravitated toward scholarship, becoming the most celebrated egghead in Athens, capital of the 700-square-mile peninsula called the city-state of Attica.

Like most Greek philosophers, the man wrote copiously, fanatically. Unlike most, the 250 books he wrote survived into modern times. Luckily for us, besides his lengthy essays on philosophy and things metaphysical, he kept his eyes open. Around 400 b.c., he wrote this poignant observation about his native land: "Originally the mountains of Attica were heavily forested. The region is a mere relic of the original country...what remains is like the skeleton of a body emaciated by disease. All the rich soil has melted away, leaving a country of skin and bone."

Remember, he had also seen a similar eco-catastrophe on Sicily and other islands he visited.

Plato was not the only one to sound an alarm. From 350 b.c. on, a roving biologist named Theophrastus made longterm field

studies on various Greek islands, including Crete. During his 80-some years, Theo witnessed the slash-and-burn destruction of most of the forests on mountain-studded Crete. In addition to radically changing the face of the landscape, it deeply affected the fate of local farmers. Without the protection of woodlands, winds howled so fiercely that much of the island's topsoil blew away. In his writings on plants and ecology (some of them still extant), Theophrastus noted the dire effects that deforestation and excess drainage had on regional climate.

Precisely as has happened in our times, the warnings of Plato and Theophrastus sadly went unheeded.

It wasn't just the Greeks who managed to clear-cut a staggering majority of their forests. Most of the natural wilderness around the Med basin was stripped away in the hunger for wood: by other cultures from North Africa to the Arabian peninsula, from Asia Minor to the lands around the Black Sea.

So, you ask, what did the Greeks do with all those logs, besides building ships? Thanks to films and glossy travel books, we're used to thinking of Greece in terms of stone or marble temples. Because that's what's left to see of the Greece of antiquity.

Truth is, people back then utilized much of that wood for fuel: to heat and light homes and baths, and to run businesses from pottery making to carpentry. We have to rethink those gleaming marble temples, too. They also had wooden ceilings, inner walls, and floors. Temples stayed open 24/7; they were lit and heated with open-flame braziers, burning wood. Despite their permanent appearance, on occasion even the grandest temples could and did burn down.

Huge quantities of lumber went into construction, from roof beams to boat piers. Industrial uses chewed up vast amounts as well.

But the most ravenous consumer of wood began its ravages centuries prior to the blooming of ancient Greek civilization.

History books sometimes put the main blame for long-ago wilderness loss on



Ramming speed! The Greeks couldn't cut down trees fast enough to build their fleet.

POLLUTERS continued on page 6

Change of Address?

Mail changes to:

Sierra Club
 85 Second St., 2nd Floor
 San Francisco, CA 94105-3441

or e-mail:

address.changes@sierraclub.org

Visit us on the Web

www.sierraclub.org/santa-lucia

SIERRA CLUB Now on Facebook
 SANTA LUCIA CHAPTER

search: "Santa Lucia" and become our friend!

Outings, events, and more!

This is the Most Dangerous EPA Administrator in History



We'll see him in court

By Michael Brune, Sierra Club Executive Director

On February 17, the U.S. Senate voted to approve Donald Trump's nomination of Oklahoma Attorney General Scott Pruitt as head of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Pruitt is now set to be the most dangerous EPA Administrator in the history of our country. Pruitt has taken millions of dollars from corporate polluters, and has protected their interests at every turn -- yet, he is now in charge of protecting our children from the dirty air and toxic water created by these very same polluters. Pruitt has a long record of ignoring science, assaulting public health safeguards, and holding the agency he now leads in contempt. His confirmation is an environmental and public health disaster.

We are deeply disappointed in the Senators who backed Pruitt. They are elected to represent their constituents' best interests, but instead voted to protect corporate greed. This is a vote that should not even have happened, given the unanswered questions about Pruitt's e-mails with fossil fuel companies that a judge had ordered to be released the following week.

During his confirmation hearing, Pruitt misled, failed to answer, and stonewalled Congress about his political fundraising practices and refused to disclose just how cozy he is with the oil and gas industry. When asked during his confirmation hearing whether he had ever solicited funds from fossil fuel companies, Pruitt claimed he was unable to remember. Sure enough, though, plenty of correspondence proves that he did exactly that.

And that's before we even get to the issue of his emails. For years, some Republicans were obsessed with emails. They couldn't investigate emails enough. They based an entire presidential campaign on uncovering emails. After the election, this obsession with emails disappeared faster than a Snapchat message.

After Pruitt failed to disclose emails during his confirmation hearing, the Center for Media and Democracy filed a lawsuit to force him to release the thousands of messages between his office and the



fossil fuel companies that have wreaked havoc on Oklahoma for years, including the ongoing earthquake epidemic. After the watchdog group filed suit, Pruitt responded by releasing just 411 of the more than 3,000 documents requested. An Oklahoma county judge forced him to turn over the rest. Surprise: It turns out Pruitt let Big Oil tell him what to say, as they literally drafted anti-clean air talking points and letters for his office.

That refusal, alone, was more than enough reason to hold off on a confirmation vote. Yet the Republican leadership went ahead anyway and every Republican senator except Maine's Susan Collins voted to install a man who could be the most dangerous of all President Trump's appointees.

Sierra Club is preparing to file suit. Our 2.7 million members and supporters will continue to mobilize and resist this corrupt administration's attacks on public health, clean air, and clean water every step of the way.

Slow Down, SLO

By Jamie Lopes

The SLO City Council speaks in favor of "housing" and "sustainability" as a mission, but they are uninformed and mis-educated on the subject.

The role that former mayor Ken Schwartz played many times on the Council as the voice of design wisdom is not present. The driving agenda for this pro-growth council is in the documents the council members cite: the Economic Strategies, the LUCE, and the Zoning Ordinance. Policies have been implanted which reflect the desires of the Chamber of Commerce and the Home Builders Association.

The big picture is that no amount of mixed use housing will quell the appetite for SLO real estate investment, which our City is stoking in its promotions of our city and region. As our City leaders cry about the lack of affordable housing, they continue to fund and extend economic development in a rampant, "wild west" fashion. This promotion has been going long enough that job creation has overwhelmed the supply of housing here and throughout the Highway 101 corridor.

We are in a net deficit that is deep and steep; most workers will never be able to afford most of the housing being built. It's mostly going to wealthy retired folks from elsewhere (bless their lucky stars), because that is what the homebuilders and realtors like to build and sell. Mixed-use projects at high density - the Downtown Concept Plan is talking four to five stories now! - could provide small, affordable units for most employees, but these projects can also be built at two and three stories.

All of these projects could be designed in context and scale with the neighbors and their streets, and still earn a profit, provide housing and economic growth. They would be shorter, with reduced edges, have enough parking, and probably be only two to three stories tall. Unless a developer provides a parking garage, that is the scale which the parking ordinance will necessitate. If exceptions are granted, there goes the building, the neighborhood, and the street parking.

The Council needs to hear that Carlyn Christianson was not right on January 3, when she inveighed, "If the ordinance says 45 feet, it's 45 feet!" No, that is the height limit, not a mandatory minimum. The city's zoning authority (under the rather compelling constitutional term "police power") is broad and discretionary to have interpretive standards, which may lead to shorter buildings than the height limit. No, the Council's role is not to screen for just



the most "egregious" projects, but to apply its authority to deny an unsuitable project.

The Council needs to hear that the Density Bonus Law allows an increase just in the gross residential density, and does not set the size or number of bedrooms. The City may require through its review of use permits and design that units be small and therefore require less parking spaces, building area and footprint.

The Council needs to hear that the Affordable Housing Law compels adherence to "design standards" (back to those). And, our Community Design Guidelines (CDG) therefore need to become "standards" in our Zoning Ordinance. This should be the first priority in the "Scoping" of the Zoning Ordinance amendments that staff will set before the Council in March.

Yes, the Zoning Ordinance can have interpretive, discretionary design standards, subject to a public hearing and vote by decision makers. Watch out, though: if these Guidelines become the subject of a zoning amendment, they will suffer through a concerted effort to dismantle them by the Chamber of Commerce, developers, architects and the Home Builders Association, unless the CDG is safeguarded by limiting the scope to just changing its authority.

Jamie Lopes spent 25 years in the SLO County Planning Dept., where he developed policies for future land uses and prepared building design plans with standards for commercial and residential development in Templeton, Cambria, Santa Margarita and Nipomo.

Dams

continued from page 3

tinely and have shrunken capacity. Still others need structural updating.

In short, there are a lot of troubled dams that need attention in California. But against this backdrop, the conversation within the administration of Governor Jerry Brown and at DWR has focused on building new dams and tunnels. In 2014, voters passed a broad water bond. To get the two-thirds vote needed to get the bond through the Legislature onto the ballot, the governor insisted on including \$2.7 billion in that bond for water storage.

Storage was defined in a way to allow proponents of several dam projects that environmentalists have long opposed to have a shot at some funding.

Now it's time to reject the new-build proponents and focus on ways to use that bond money to make sure existing dams are safe and provide the storage they

promised. It's time to use that money for south-of-Delta groundwater storage that will create many times the value and regional resilience of new dams.

California's policymakers -- and the agencies like DWR that are supposed to put those policies to work -- need to bring their water-system thinking up to date.

The last few years of drought, followed by a year of unusually heavy storms, show that the days of predictable weather patterns are gone. Climate change has taken hold.

Oroville shows that sloppy attention to public safety and the environment won't do.



Moving Air

State and feds cranking up for offshore wind

On February 14 at the Ludwick Community Center in SLO, the Sierra Club hosted a meeting of officials from the California Energy Commission and federal Bureau of Ocean Energy Management with representatives from the Natural Resources Defense Council, Nature Conservancy, Morro Coast Audubon, Morro Bay National Estuary Program, SLO Clean Energy, ECO-SLO, Environmental Defense Center, Ocean Protection Council and California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

On the agenda: Offshore wind projects off the Central Coast.

The regulatory agencies are engaged in an outreach program spurred by the competing interest of two offshore wind developers

for projects in a lease area just north of Morro Bay. The meeting was held so environmental and community groups could gain a better understanding of the federal leasing process, the state process and opportunities to shape those processes. The state and federal partners are part of the BOEM/California Intergovernmental Renewable Energy Task Force, seeking to identify suitable -- and unsuitable -- areas for renewable energy development in federal waters offshore California.

The interest in the ocean thirty miles off Morro Bay has been

sparked by relatively constant wind conditions and the proximity of PG&E's power lines directly behind the defunct power plant.

Any proposed project is likely to take seven to ten years going through the planning and permitting process before it could be built. At that time, in order to pencil out, an offshore wind project would have to

compete with both onshore wind energy and photovoltaic solar power plus storage. Offshore wind has significantly better energy capacity, but both of its competitors currently produce energy at significantly less cost than offshore wind turbines.

Planning for offshore development is unlike terrestrial project planning

because the ocean is a fluid environment (no pun intended), with migratory routes that are in flux to a degree never before seen, fishing grounds that change every year, and cumulative impacts of multiple stressors on wildlife -- including shipping traffic, noise transmission, and acidification -- that are poorly understood. Regional monitoring must

correctly describe these shifting baselines in order to provide a context for site-specific environmental reviews for offshore renewable energy projects.

The Sierra Club advocates for renewable energy as a means of countering climate change, and we would be likely to support projects that can be shown to have minimal adverse environmental impacts. As protection of the environment remains our overarching goal, we will oppose projects with major unavoidable, adverse impacts and work to direct resources to better alternatives.

Starting this spring, BOEM and CEC will host local workshops and outreach meetings featuring "Databasin," the program they are using to gather all known information on California's offshore environment, with a special emphasis on the area between the Channel Islands and Morro Bay.

For more information, go to Boem.gov/California.



Hashing it out State and federal agency reps chewed over the prospect of offshore wind farms with environmental organizations in SLO on Feb. 14.

Chronic Violator

How many ways can the Cambria CSD try to chill dissent and antagonize regulators?

Five months ago, state and federal resource agencies told the Cambria Community Services District that the Environmental Impact Report it prepared for its desal plant was totally inadequate and needs to be redone (see “Cambria CSD Brings Home and F on its EIR,” Jan.)

Additionally, the Coastal Commission told the CCSD to stop insisting that its desal plant is a “groundwater replenishment project” and not a desalination facility – because it is, in fact, a groundwater withdrawal project and a desalination facility.

Now it’s the Regional Water Quality Control Board’s turn to tell the CCSD that the monitoring and reporting requirements in their permit really are required, and the deadlines that go with them are likewise non-optional. After two years and failure to file more than two dozen mandatory reports, a fed-up water board cited the district on February 9 for “egregious violations of water quality regulations and orders,” carrying a potential penalty of \$600,000.

Let’s review:

In August 2014, the CCSD board ignored urgent warnings from Coastal Commission staff about the folly of “locking into a long-term project and its associated liabilities” before getting the answers to big environmental questions, including the cost of “likely long-term harm to sensitive habitat” that they would have to pay to mitigate, putting itself and its ratepayers on the hook for a \$13 million facility loan, despite having no permit for a permanent facility.

In November 2014, the emergency Coastal Development Permit (CDP) issued by the County expired, kicking off a series of extensions, the only purpose of which has appeared to be to allow Cambria to avoid for as long as possible the full environmental review that must accompany the application for a permanent Coastal Development Permit. The CCSD began operation of the plant without filing a completed application for a CDP.

In February 2015, the Water Board cited the district for a chlorine spill into Van Gordon Creek, waste pond reservoir discharges, sprayed waste water blowing onto San Simeon Creek Road, and into surrounding habitat, and noise levels so high that wildlife fled the area and a horse was injured and had to be euthanized.

On March 5, 2015, CSD General Manager Jerry Gruber penned an op ed in *The Cambrian* waving away the Water Board’s investigation, complaining “The Cambrian describes everything it could find that is going wrong with the Emergency Water Supply Project,” saying he could only “count three confirmed issues” (just before the Water Board issued a notice of eleven separate violations of the Water Code, including failure to inspect, monitor and report), and offering assurances that “the CCSD is committed to... complying with permit requirements and regulations in every detail,” and all the issues “are in the process of being corrected or have already been corrected.”

In March 2016, the CCSD “rebranded” its emergency water supply project as a permanent water supply facility – still without a permanent Coastal Development Permit.

In May 2016 the Coastal Commission warned the County against issuing another extension of the CCSD’s twice-renewed emergency Coastal Development Permit, noting that the facility was now out of compliance with its emergency permit, was being operated for non-emergency purposes, required modifications for continued operation that were not authorized by the emergency CDP, and the CCSD had never submitted monitoring reports on well levels and pumping data as required by their emergency permit.

Last month, the Water Board threatened to bring a \$600,000 hammer down, two years after its first notice of violations.

A few excerpts from the Feb. 9 notice of violations, sent to General Manager Gruber by Regional Water Board Assistant Executive

Director Michael Thomas, indicate that Gruber’s “Come-to-Jesus meeting” with the Water Board (see “Mr. Gruber...,” below) did not go as planned:

- “CCSD must immediately come into compliance with their Orders as they are currently facing a maximum penalty of almost \$600,000 for late reporting alone.
- “Water Board staff considers the chronic failure to submit timely reports and non-compliance with the requirements of water quality regulations and the Orders to be serious violations. Failure to come into compliance subjects CCSD to enforcement actions, including the imposition of increasing monetary penalties and a potential issuance of a Cease and Desist Order.”
- “A violation of a California Water Code section



Ya lousy snitch! Cambria watchdog Tina Dickason took this photo of unreported flooding of the Cambria CSD’s desal brine pond and sent it to the Water Board, enraging the CSD’s general manager.

13267 requirement may subject the CCSD to civil liability of up to \$1,000 per day for each day in which the violation occurs. If the Water Board elects to refer the matter to the Attorney General, the superior court may impose civil liability for up to \$5,000 per day for each violation.”

- “The CCSD has repeatedly failed to submit timely and complete reports, and has failed to properly communicate significant issues associated with the surface impoundment to Water Board staff.”
- “Potential enforcement actions include issuing a Cease and Desist Order

(CDO), recommending Administrative Civil Liability, or recommending rescission of the WDR. A CDO would prevent the CCSD from discharging brine to the surface impoundment and would require removal of any existing brine until the CCSD could demonstrate compliance with Water Board requirements. Rescission of the WDR would require the CCSD to cease the discharge of brine to the surface impoundment permanently and would require removal of all waste from the surface impoundment.”

In language that nearly burned through the page, and which we can’t recall ever seeing a resources agency forced to use, Thomas took Gruber to task for mischaracterizing the Water Board’s position on members of the public reporting environmental violations to Water Board staff (left). General Manager Gruber replied to the notice of violations, as he had two years previously, by again telling the Water Board that the CSD is “strongly committed to resolving the issue before us” and “I can promise you, things will get better.” The same man delivered the soliloquy at left.

Twelve years ago, the Cambria CSD threatened local citizens with subpoenas and depositions for speaking publicly against a plan to decimate one of the world’s rarest stands of native Monterey pines with a poorly designed water tank expansion project. CSD board members compared their threat of legal action against members of the public to investigating terrorists. Then they denied they had intended to issue subpoenas. Then future SLO mayor Jan Marx confronted them with their legal counsel’s statement to the Attorney General’s Office affirming the intent of the CCSD to issue subpoenas to local citizens. (See “A Chill Grows in Cambria,” Oct. 2005.)

No matter how many times the Cambria CSD changes the name of its Emergency Water Supply Project, Advanced Water Treatment Plant or Sustainable Water Facility, it seems unable to change its spots.

Mr. Gruber...Mr. Gruber...Mr. Gruber

At the Cambria CSD’s Jan. 19 meeting, in an exchange delicately described by *The Cambrian* as “testy,” CCSD Board President Amanda Rice (right) repeatedly and unsuccessfully tried to rein in General Manager Jerry Gruber (left) as he castigated local resident Tina Dickason (below) for reporting CCSD violations to the Water Board. Three weeks later, the Water Board weighed in.

GRUBER: I was not going to say anything, but I will, because that’s who I am. Frankly, I just think it gets really old when Ms. Dickason continues to take pictures, send them to Regional Water Quality Control Board, and takes up their staff time. She can do whatever she wants; she’s a private citizen, but I gotta tell ya it wastes a lot of our time, it wastes a tremendous amount of Regional Water Quality Control Board’s staff time; they have better things to do... it borders harassment. And she knows it. And I got a call again today from Regional Water Quality Control Board. They have better things to do than be Tina Dickason’s servant. And that’s how they feel. It also discredits the district.... I’m gonna have to have a sit-down come-to-Jesus meeting with [the Regional Water Board] and let them know that when we’re responding to an emergency situation all over this community and we didn’t immediately pick up the phone... we work very closely with the regulatory agencies. It makes it difficult if almost not impossible to continue to have a good healthy relationship with them when we have certain individuals within the community doing everything they can to disparage the reputation of this district.... Mrs.



Dickason is the reason Justin Smith left this district. This is...

RICE: Can we please not...

GRUBER: No...

RICE: Mr. Gruber...

GRUBER: No, I’m gonna...

RICE: Mr. Gruber, this a board meeting; can we please not run into the attacking people. It is not...

GRUBER: She sends pictures to the Regional Board, she harasses our staff...

RICE Mr. Gruber...

GRUBER: I’m not...

RICE: Mr. Gruber...

GRUBER: She caused our water professional to leave...

RICE: Mr. Gruber, this is not professional, Mr. Gruber.

GRUBER: Okay, but I’m...

RICE: I understand the frustration, sir.

GRUBER: It’s not frustration, it’s idiocy. It’s harassment.

“I listened to portions of the January 19, 2017, Cambria Community Services District’s Board meeting on-line and thereby became aware of statements you made regarding Cambria citizen Tina Dickason contacting Water Board staff. We do not agree with your representation of our position regarding information we receive from Ms. Dickason or other members of the public.

We value the information and reports we get from citizens, and we request that you retract your statements. Please do not characterize Water Board staff’s position in this manner or speak for Water Board staff in the future.”

- Michael J. Thomas, RWQCB Assistant Executive Officer, Letter to Jerry Gruber, 2/9/17.

Cambria’s current regulatory woes began in 2014 when the CSD hatched the scheme to get a desal facility built in an environmentally sensitive habitat area while avoiding environmental review. But fighting regulators tasked with protecting the environment goes way back and seems to be baked into the District’s DNA. Here’s a rundown as chronicled in the *Santa Lucian*:

- Jan. 2005: “Tanks!”
- Aug. 2005: “Cambria CSD Grimly Slogs on”
- Oct. 2005: “A Chill grows in Cambria”
- Oct. 2007: “Cambria’s Lesson”
- Nov. 2007: “A Bunch of Schmucks”
- Jan. 2008: “Where is the Water? Los Osos, Cambria and Nipomo”
- Feb. 2008: “Water that Works: Los Osos, Cambria and Nipomo”



- May 2008: “Cambria’s Forest Failure”
- Jun. 2008: “Cambria’s Water Plan is all Wet”
- Feb. 2010: “Cambria Activists & Mercury Put Desal Plan in Retrograde”
- Apr. 2010: “Water We Thinking?”
- Nov. 2011: “Coastal Commission to Army Corps: Shape Up or Ship Out”
- Apr. 2012: “Cambria on the Desal Divide”
- Sep. 2014: “Cambria CSD Still Crazy After All These Years”
- Jan. 2015: “Cambria’s Shock Doctrine”
- Apr. 2015: “Cambria Reaps First Installment on the Whirlwind”
- May 2015: “A Regulatory Reality Check”
- Jun. 2016: “Backwards Still Runs Cambria’s Water Scheme”
- Jan. 2017: “Cambria CSD Brings Home an F on Its EIR.”

Go to: www.sierraclub.org/santa-lucia/santa-lucian

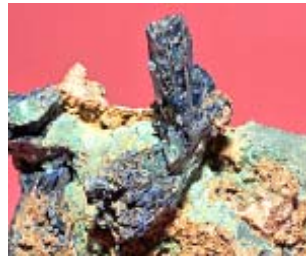
Polluters

continued from page 3

vegetation-chomping goats and other domestic critters. Animal damage was minor, compared to human activity. The worst longterm problem that animal grazing created around the Med? The close-cropping of vegetation prevented the regeneration of forests already lost.

silver ore occurred about the same time, with equally disastrous results. Oaks and conifers disappeared as the deforestation of mainland Greece and the islands rolled on inexorably.

At the ancient Laurion mines near Athens, archaeologists have calculated that



Azurite

tons of slag from ancient mining.

Deforestation arrived with an evil friend called erosion, which did a number on Mediterranean topography. Rather than one environmental disaster, the Greeks and other cultures faced a slow-motion cascade of events: Growing losses in agriculture as good soil was lost to runoff; changes in microclimate, due to the disappearance of trees and vegetation, and a final blow: more wetlands, widening the spread of malaria-carrying mosquitoes.

The Greeks of long ago didn't have the science to cope with this inexorable calamity. Although most of them thought of nature as sacred, they might not have had the political will to work together on a solution.

We, however, can learn from their clear-cut tragedy. But will we?

Here's to more joyous Women's Marches and less CO₂ in our lives.



Mining activities: that's what doomed the forests primeval of the Mediterranean. That, and the human penchant for warfare. What we call the Bronze Age came about because some bright guy discovered that copper could be heated and combined with tin or arsenic to make bronze—ideal for making armor, swords, and other aggressive gear.

Naturally, bronze proved useful for a variety of non-lethal objects as well, from works of art to kettles to durable currency.

Success at extracting

silver mining wiped out 2.5 million acres of native forest and used over one million tons of charcoal.

These are terrifying statistics about the ancient Greeks and their contemporaries. Today's populations are paying the price for those centuries of excess and waste. Cyprus, the island named after copper, mined its reddish-gold wealth for millennia. Instead of its original forests, its arid and largely treeless lands now sit on four million



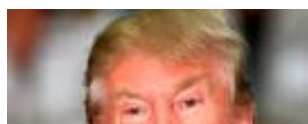
Cyprus and slag.

Trump's Love Affair with Federalist Society Judges is a Clear and Present Danger to Planet Earth

By Pat Gallagher, Director, Sierra Club Environmental Law Program, *The Planet*, Feb. 23, 2017

Why is no one questioning the outsize role of the Federalist Society in the nomination of Judge Neil Gorsuch to the Supreme Court? For those who care about the fate of the Earth, the backstory is very troubling. Donald Trump relied on the group to vet his Supreme Court pick, and Judge Gorsuch is listed as an "expert" on the group's website. Let there be no doubt: this bodes ill for the future of environmental law. The Federalist Society is

a network of lawyers and law students who have set out to reshape the American legal system in a conservative mold. In "Ideas with Consequences: The Federalist Society and the Conservative Counterrevolution," political scientist Amanda Hollis-Brusky chronicles the ascendancy of the group as an incubator of extremely conservative ideologies, including regressive doctrines on gun control and campaign finance.



The Federalist Society's anti-environmental agenda finds root in an anti-federal, anti-regulatory ideology promoted by the group's founders. One of the group's founding donors was the Olin Foundation, an offshoot of the Olin Corporation, a DDT manufacturer. Olin had numerous environmental problems, including a heap of trouble for contaminating the town of Saltville, Virginia, with

JUDGES continued on next page

Check the Coast at Tax Time

Protect California's coast and ocean and invest in its future by donating to the Protect Our Coast and Oceans Fund (POCO) on the "Voluntary Contributions" section on your state tax form (last page of your California tax return).

For TurboTax® users; a page appears that asks "Do you want to donate to a California Special Fund?" After you click "Yes," scroll down to find POCO and donate any amount in whole dollars.

Your contribution will be felt across California communities in the form of grants helping to provide kids with opportunities to experience the coast for themselves, many for the first time. Your dollars will also help clean shorelines, restore habitats, and promote beach access.



Let's Win One for the Oaks

Oak tree and ag pond ordinances head to board of supervisors March 21

On February 23, the County Planning Commission reviewed the draft ordinances protecting oak woodlands and regulating the creation of large agricultural storage ponds.

Both ordinances were drafted due to widespread public outrage in the wake of the clear-cutting of 8,000 oak trees on 360 acres by Justin Vineyards last June. (See "Oaks or No Oaks?," Jul. 2016), a graphic demonstration of the ineffectiveness of the County's voluntary protective measures.

The Planning Commission required discretionary approval for the removal of any oaks of 48 inches or more within 500 feet of a woodland. Thinning for the health of a woodland shall not exceed 5% of the canopy. No clear cutting will be permitted on 30% slopes. There are 200,000 acres of oaks in the county in this category.

The ordinances now go to the Board of Supervisors. Getting real protection for oaks in SLO County has been a 20-year fight. **Sierra Club members must show up and speak out at the March 21 Board of Supervisors hearing if we want oak trees to be here for our children and grandchildren.**



CCA

continued from page 3

But the moment that stood out for me was when Matthew Freedman of The Utility Reform Network, after making a long string of questionable statements about Community Choice, stated that "the Commission needs to make a choice; is it going to let a thousand flowers bloom and permit a customer choice driven market... or does the State want to engage in centralized long-term resource planning?"

Mr. Freedman's comments conjured up the classic 1984 Apple Computer ad where the dank sepia-toned world of the state-controlled proletariat worker, blooms into the new full color world of the freed-up creative individual. Based on the public comment that followed, people want a thousand flowers to bloom.

The rapid expansion of Community Choice has created many questions about how we generate and deliver electrical power in California. Judging by commissioners' comments and questions, the En Banc was a good start, and that more education about Community Choice, particularly on the part of regulatory decision-makers, is needed.

The En Banc agenda, background paper, staff presentation, and the video of the entire day can be found at www.adminmonitor.com/ca/cpuc/en_banc/20170201.

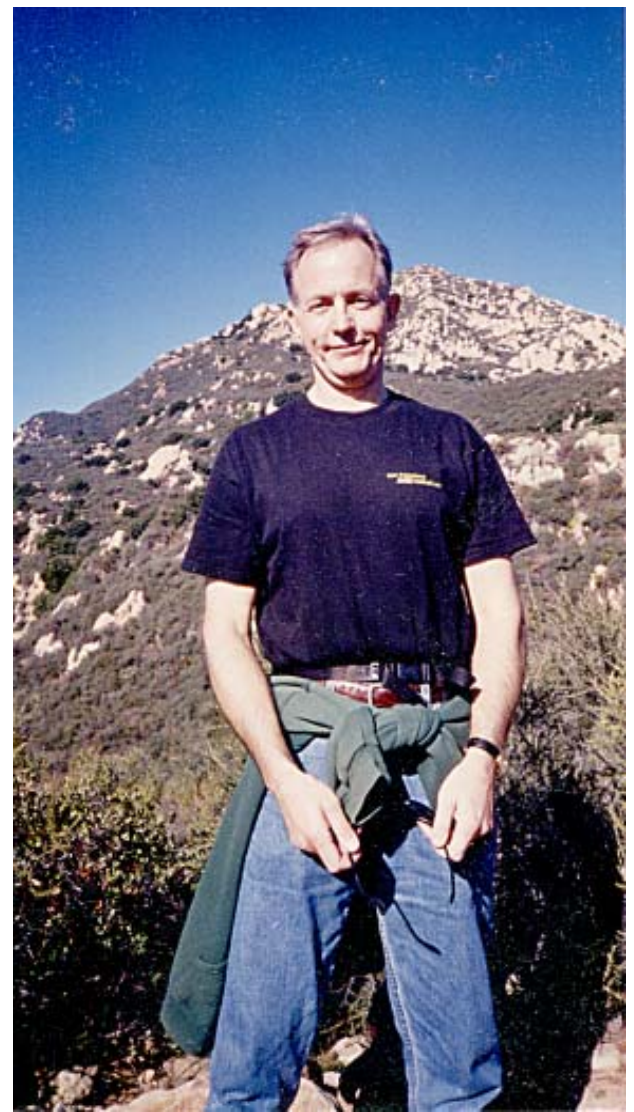
In Memoriam

Dennis Wilson

The Chapter recently received a generous donation in memory of Dennis Wilson, a long-time Sierra Club member who passed away on Oct. 10, 2016.

Eliane Guillot, Dennis's wife and former chapter Executive Committee member and current conservation committee member for transportation, reminded us of Dennis's love of hiking. In coordination with Eliane, the Chapter is planning to offer regular hikes and outings that are designed to be enjoyable to seniors and to those in our community who have experienced conditions that limit their ability to go on strenuous, fast-paced hikes.

This might include folks who have had hip or knee replacements, chemotherapy, or other sensitive conditions. (Of course a person would want to consult with their physician before expanding their normal routine of exercise.) These hikes will be offered by a chapter outings leader trained in physical fitness and rehabilitation, and will offer tips for preparing for hikes, enjoying them to the fullest of one's abilities, and after-hike recovery. You will find the date for the first hike in this special offering in the next *Santa Lucian*. If this type of outing would be of particular interest to you, please email the chapter at sierraclub8@gmail.com so we can put you on a special notice list.

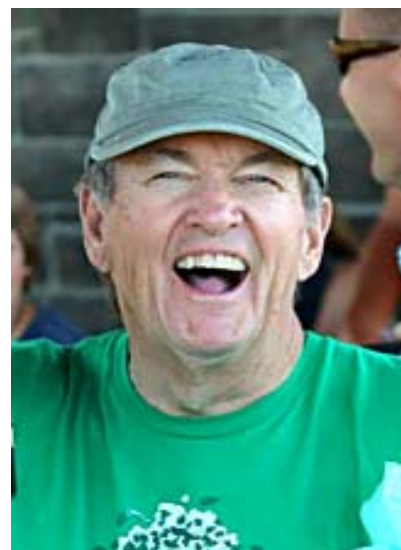


Jim Cole

Our friend Jim Cole passed away last month. For the Santa Lucia Chapter, as for so many in our community, Jim was a mentor, a leader and a champion of sustainability. He encouraged developing regenerative communities, renewable energy and energy efficiency, as well as organic and permaculture gardening and gleaning. In all these endeavors, Jim sought to Awaken the Dreamer within all of us. He supported the best in us.

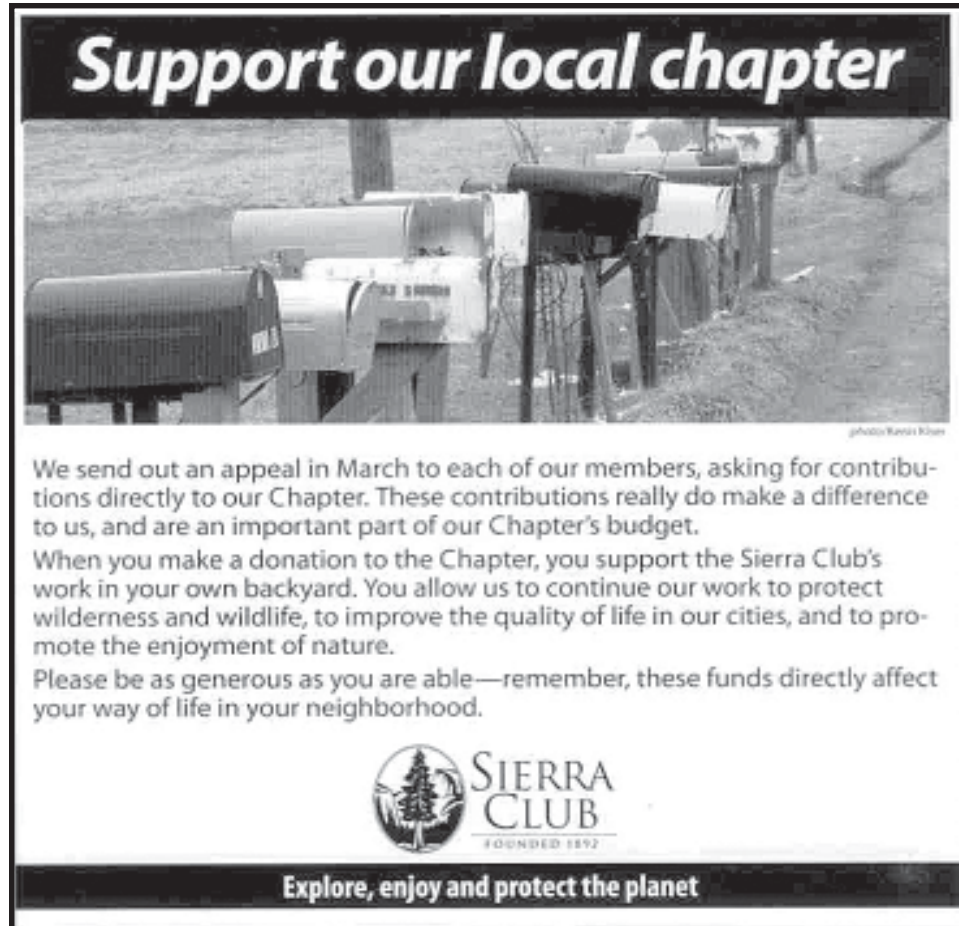
In the spring of 2008, Jim and his wife Norma participated in the Chapter's European Smart Energy Solutions European tour. The ten Cal Poly students who participated in that trip through northern Europe to learn about renewable energy were the beneficiaries of Jim's profound knowledge about the scientific and public policy challenges of transitioning to renewable energy.

Those same students are now leaders in our SLO community and across the state, practicing the important lessons Jim taught them. Jim always presented the facts, surrounded by the larger ethical, spiritual and practical challenges to the implementation of best practices, whether in understanding energy grids, creating a permaculture landscape, or building a resilient local community. His legacy of leadership and humility will continue to enrich us in the Sierra Club and in communities far beyond.



Classifieds

Next issue deadline is **March 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



Support our local chapter

We send out an appeal in March to each of our members, asking for contributions directly to our Chapter. These contributions really do make a difference to us, and are an important part of our Chapter's budget.

When you make a donation to the Chapter, you support the Sierra Club's work in your own backyard. You allow us to continue our work to protect wilderness and wildlife, to improve the quality of life in our cities, and to promote the enjoyment of nature.

Please be as generous as you are able—remember, these funds directly affect your way of life in your neighborhood.

SIERRA CLUB
FOUNDED 1892

Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

Judges

continued from previous page

toxic mercury pollution. In her book *Dark Money*, noted author Jane Mayer describes the role of the Olin family in early efforts to promote a conservative agenda in law schools across the U.S., beginning with an \$18 million donation to establish a "law and economics" program.

The group's relentless attack on environmental regulations continues today in full force. At the Federalist Society 2015 annual meeting, the agenda focused on ways to freeze or undo federal regulations. You know, those pesky rules which limit how much toxic pollution a corporation can dump into the air and water, or which protect drinking water and wildlife from fracking.

The Federalist Society would have us believe that environmental protection should be left to the states, with little to no interference from the EPA. They forget that the failure of states to protect their air and water was what led to federal environmental laws in the first place. Nor do they recognize that roughly half the states in the country have been downright hostile to environmental regula-

tions, (as evidenced by their non-stop litigation against most new EPA new rules), and would become environmental "sacrifice zones" in the absence of federal environmental law.

As John O'Grady, the head of the EPA union, told *E&E News* after Scott Pruitt's introductory speech: "Federalism is one that stuck out like a sore thumb. If we pushed environmental protection, environmental enforcement to the states, how are they going to get it done?"

But what is perhaps most telling are the environmental records of two Supreme Court Justices most identified with the Society — Clarence Thomas and Samuel Alito — both of which reveal that these justices invariably rule against environmental protection. Time after time, Justices Thomas and Alito have voted against laws designed to clean up our air and water and protect public health. In two of the biggest environmental cases to reach the Court in recent years, the two Federalist Society Justices voted against the EPA's authority to regulate greenhouse gas pollution and cross-state air pollution (luckily they were on the losing side both times). It's as if they never saw an environmental law

they liked.

Judge Gorsuch appears similarly inclined: his Federalist Society philosophy includes a dim view of public interest litigation. Gorsuch penned a 2005 *National Review* piece in which he concluded that "as Republicans win presidential and Senate elections and thus gain increasing control over the judicial appointment and confirmation process, the level of sympathy liberals pushing constitutional litigation can expect in the courts may wither over time, leaving the Left truly out in the cold."

Let there be no doubt that a Supreme Court packed with Federalist Society judges will roll back environmental laws and undo decades of progress in cleaning up our air and water and conserving wildlife. Hope and pray that this does not happen, as it is the last thing we need in the face of a climate catastrophe.

TAKE ACTION

Tell your senators to oppose the nomination of Neil Gorsuch to the Supreme Court. Go to tinyurl.com/nogorsuch



MM
MANZANITA MANOR
ORGANICS

• Organic for life • • Since 1992 •

2 HORSE
DESSERT WINE
An unforgettable luscious experience.

DRY FARMED
WALNUTS
Rich tasting with a mild, buttery flavor.

Wine distributor's wanted.
Contact info@mmorganics.com

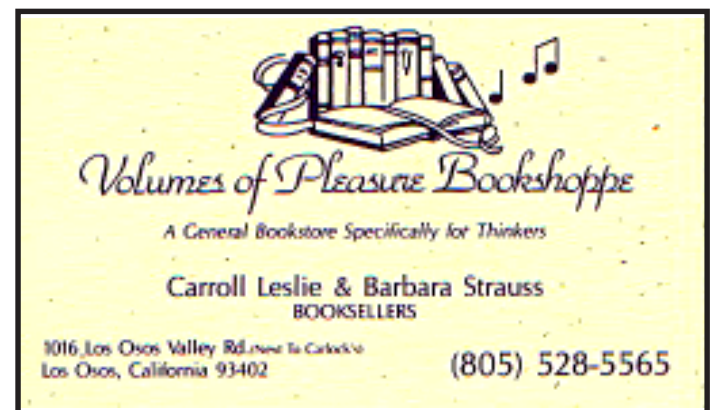
www.MMORGANICS.COM

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

CYNTHIA HAWLEY
ATTORNEY

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
LAND USE
CIVIL LITIGATION

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



Volumes of Pleasure Bookshoppe
A General Bookstore Specifically for Thinkers

Carroll Leslie & Barbara Strauss
BOOKSELLERS

1016 Los Osos Valley Rd. (near La Gracia)
Los Osos, California 93402 (805) 528-5565

LAW OFFICE OF TAREN COLLINS


WILLS & TRUSTS
ESTATE PLANNING

LAND USE & PLANNING
TRIALS CONTRACTS



TAREN COLLINS
Attorney at Law
(805) 773-0233
coastlaw@gmail.com
P.O. Box 3063
Shell Beach, CA 93448

LAW OFFICES OF BABAK NAFICY
Babak Naficy - Attorney at Law



1504 Marsh Street
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

ph: 805.593.0926 • fax: 805.593.0946
babaknaficy@sbcglobal.net

Losing Sleep and Waking Up Worried?

For confidential professional help, call

Jill Denton, LMFT
Experienced Trauma & Anxiety Therapist

805-534-1101
www.accesspt.com
Serving our community since 1978

slosolstice.com
green directory



Be smart... be green!
CONTACT us... to be SEEN!
ph: 805-473-5064 or email: Solstice222@aol.com

SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE INVESTING



NATURAL INVESTMENTS LLC

Financial Advisor
SCOTT SECREST AAMS®
(805) 235-3031

San Luis Obispo, California
www.naturalinvesting.com

Fee-only Sustainable Investment Advice

Natural Investments, LLC
An investment adviser registered with the SEC

Soul & Oak

Simple | Mindful | Handmade Living

Jennifer de Tréglodé
Owner, Artist & Teacher

San Luis Obispo, CA
(619) 807-7006

www.soulandoak.com
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.

Wed., Mar. 8th, 10 a.m. Quarry Hill Trekking-Pole Hike. Two-mile hike around morro to learn and practice use of trekking poles. Meet at the Quarry Hill trailhead, off South Bay Blvd. Take Los Osos/Baywood Park exit from Hwy 1 in Morro Bay, driving 1.4 miles south to trailhead parking lot on left. Leader: David Georgi, 458-5575.

Sat., Mar. 11th, 8:30 a.m., Avenales Ranch Exploration. Explore front country of ranch along roads, cow trails, rolling hills, and sometimes steep, uneven, and muddy terrain, then on to American Campground for lunch. Hike is an estimated 8 miles, 1500 ft. gain. Bring lunch, water, sturdy hiking shoes, and dress for weather. Meet at Pacific Beverage Co. in Santa Margarita. Note: Must RSVP to Leader: Gary Felsman at 473-3694 or email. This is not a beginner hike. Rain or its threat will cancel or move hike to Sunday.

Sat., Mar. 11th, 10:30 a.m. Black Hill Trail in Morro Bay State Park. Easy, 2 1/2 mile, 659 ft. gain hike past wildflowers, extra spectacular this year, and ascent to summit with panoramic views of Morro

Bay, several morros, and coast. Good for all skill levels and family-friendly. From Hwy 1 in Morro Bay, take the Los Osos/Baywood Park exit, going 0.7 mile south on South Bay Blvd. to State Park Rd and turn right. Bear right 0.1 mile ahead at a road fork, heading up Park View Drive for .3 mile to a parking pullout on left. Leader: Jan Secord, 602-0403. Asst.: David Georgi.

Sat., Mar. 18th, 7:30 a.m. McPherson Peak Hike. Strenuous, eleven-mile, 2300 ft. gain hike to top of McPherson Peak, at 5,749 ft, one of the higher ones in the Sierra Madre Range and with views of San Rafael Wilderness and Cuyama Valley. Starting early due to 85-mile distance of trailhead from SLO. Contact leader if prefer to meet at Halcyon exit commuter parking lot in Arroyo Grande on east side of highway at beginning of Rt. 166 east. Poison oak likely along trail. Bring sturdy hiking shoes, sufficient food and water, and appropriate clothes to go on an all-day excursion. Meet at Santa Rosa Park in SLO. Note: Need to call Leader: Carlos Diaz Saavedra, 546-0317, beforehand if you plan to go or arrange to meet enroute. Rain postpones to a future date.

Sun., Mar. 26th, 2 p.m. Historic Walk of Old Templeton. One of the prettiest and best preserved Old West towns in the state, Templeton charms visitors with its century-old storefronts, former saloons, Victorian houses and two churches built in the 1880s. Step into its past on a guided walk to learn the stories of the early pioneers. Duration about 1 1/2 hrs. Directions: from Hwy 101 north, take Main St. exit into town, going one mile to corner of Main and First. Leader: Joe Morris, 549-0355.

Wed., Mar. 29th, 10:30-noon. Jim Green Trail Hike in Atascadero. Join us on an easy 1.7 mile loop around Chalk Mountain golf course through oak forests and meadows. Directions: from Hwy 101, take Curbaril exit in Atascadero, then going east one mile to Cortez Ave. Turn rt. for 0.3 mile and meet at the Jim Green trailhead parking lot. No dogs please on this hike. Leader: Debbie Roller, 610-0458.


Sat., Apr. 1st, 8 a.m. Machesna Wilderness Hike. Join us on a strenuous, 12-15 mile hike, 2400 to 3000 ft gain, from the American Canyon Campground to the pond, then

over to Machesna Mountain cutoff and down the Coyote hole to descent. Bring lunch, plenty of water, snacks, and dress for changing weather. Meet at Pacific Beverage Co., Santa Margarita. Advance Reservation Required. This is not a beginner hike. Plan to be out all day. Contact Leader: Gary Felsman, 473-3694.

Fri., Apr. 7th—Sun, Apr. 9th Carrizo Plains Car Camping and Hiking. Don't miss out on a spectacular year for wildflowers, joining us for car camping or just making the long drive for a day. For camping, meet on Friday at 6 p.m. for tentative stay at KCL or Selby camps, with rest-rooms, picnic tables, and fire rings. These sites are first-come-first-serve, no reservations. Must bring your own food and water, as it may not be available. Since vehicles are not allowed right at campsite, a short walk from car will be necessary. For Saturday hike, meet at visitors center at 9 a.m. for a strenuous, twelve-mile, 600 ft. gain exploratory hike. Need to call leader beforehand for either day hike or camping: Carlos Saavedra, 546-0317 for further instructions and directions. Rain will postpone trip to a later weekend.



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
djp1942@earthlink.net



John Muir, founder of the Sierra Club, in Yosemite

WHAT WILL YOUR LEGACY BE?



Ensure your environmental legacy by naming Sierra Club or your favorite Sierra Club Chapter in your will or trust. These gifts cost you nothing now. You can hold on to your assets for as long as you need them and you can change your beneficiaries at any time.

If you have named Sierra Club or your Chapter as a beneficiary or would like to discuss doing so, please contact us today

LORI SULLIVAN
Director of Gift Planning
2101 Webster St, Suite 1300
Oakland, CA 94612

(800) 932-4270
gift.planning@sierraclub.org
sierraclubplanning.org



GIFT PLANNING

LA COSTA GRILL

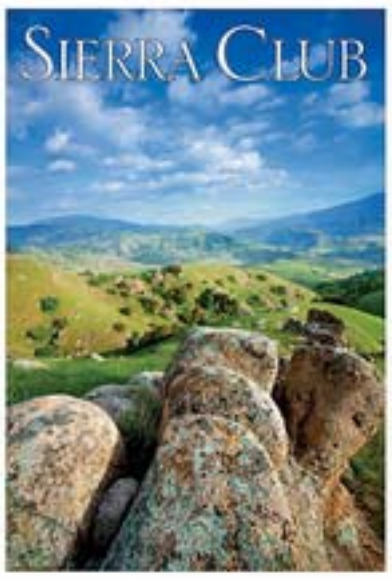
BEER, BURGERS & HOMEMADE MEXICAN FOOD

Bring this ad for 20% off your meal

168 Station Way, Arroyo Grande, CA 93420 | (805) 474-8797
(next to Arroyo Grande Post Office) www.costagrillag.com

Last chance close out!

2017 Sierra Club Calendar



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.

Over 50% off!

wall calendar: ~~\$13.50~~ \$6.00
desk calendar: ~~\$14.50~~ \$7.00

To order, call: 805-543-7051

When they go, they're gone.

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

On April 29, We March for Climate, Jobs and Justice



Join the People's Climate Movement on April 29 to stand up for our communities and climate. This is a local version of the historic march that will be happening in Washington, D.C., and across the country.

SLO People's Climate March is being organized in partnership with the Sierra Club Santa Lucia Chapter, SLO Surfrider, SLO Progressives, Northern Chumash Tribal Council and Others.

More information about this event coming soon. Go to <https://peoplesclimate.org>.