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

# SANTA LUCIAN



**SIERRA CLUB**  
Santa Lucia Chapter

Jul/Aug 2016  
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The official newsletter of the Santa Lucia Chapter of the Sierra Club ~ San Luis Obispo County, California



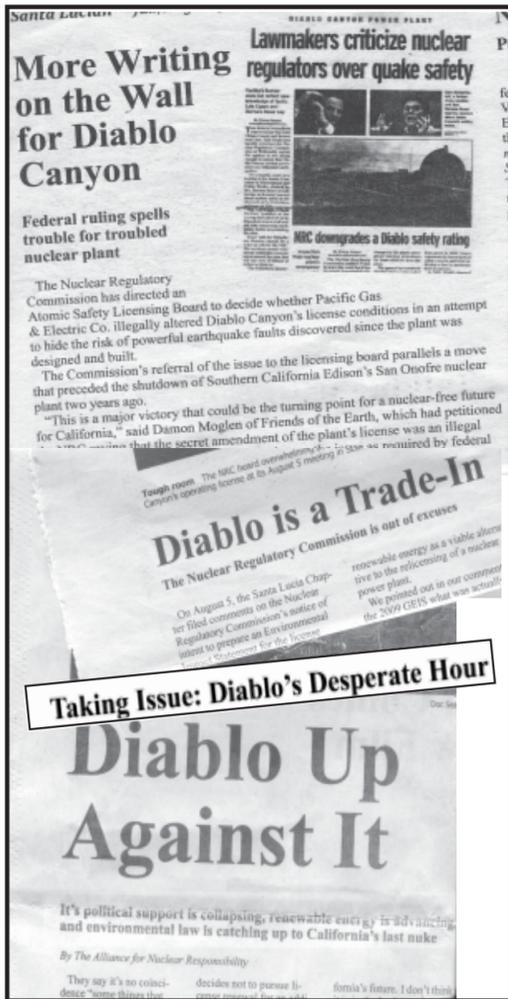
**History makers** The Alliance for Nuclear Responsibility's Rochelle Becker (left) and Linda Seeley of the SLO Mothers for Peace -- co-chairs of the Santa Lucia Chapter's Nuclear Power Task Force -- flank former Sierra Club President David Brower.

## Oaks or No Oaks?

A billionaire's Paso Robles oak tree massacre has finally brought SLO County to the valley of decision



## Diablo's Departure



In 2009, the Santa Lucia Chapter of the Sierra Club submitted comments on the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's Generic Environmental Impact Statement for License Renewal of Nuclear Plants.

We wrote that proposing to grant a nuclear plant an additional twenty years of life was absurd in the absence of an alternatives analysis that "should evaluate the viability of nuclear power plants over a 20-year period that will be marked by increasing costs of plant maintenance and repair, simultaneously with smart grid and renewable energy storage technologies coming on line as the price of solar and wind power continues to drop, all pointing toward the potential commercial obsolescence of nuclear power within the relicensed period."

We said that again to the NRC in August 2015, when they were preparing to review renewal of the licenses of Diablo Canyon's reactors in 2024 and 2025.

On June 21, the Pacific Gas & Electric Company essentially agreed with us, announcing that it will retire the Diablo Nuclear Power Plant by 2025 and that energy efficiency and renewable energy can supply the needs of Californians currently supplied by Diablo -- thereby contradicting years of nuclear industry p.r., essentially throwing in the towel in the industry's attack on renewable energy.

The joint agreement with Friends of the Earth, NRDC, the Alliance for Nuclear Responsibility and several labor unions is more proof of how serious Californians are about cutting dependence on energy sources and fuel that damage the health of people, our economy and our planet. Sierra Club is committed to working with the regulators and partner organizations to ensure the

Unless it takes serious action quickly, San Luis Obispo County is soon going to be known for the famous oak woodlands that once carpeted the rolling hills of its Old California landscape; the trees we used to have before they were all bulldozed in the name of profit.

That was the realization that sank in when the news broke on June 9 that Justin Vineyards had created the landscape above out of what was once 360 acres of oak woodlands -- a project halted because of grading violations, not because the company had just rendered up to 8,000 oaks into kindling, which, in and of itself, was perfectly legal.

In response to the public outcry, winery managers pointed out that their company will plant 5,000 oaks as mitigation for the company's act of arboricide. (Note to all chambers of commerce: be sure to place pictures of these seed-

lings on your brochures and invite tourists to come admire them -- or more specifically, the ones that actually survive to maturity, in about fifty years.)

The oaks of San Luis Obispo have been falling for a while. But it took a pair of Beverly Hills billionaires intruding on the process of death-by-a-thousand cuts that has been decimating our oaks for decades to clarify the ultimate fate that awaits us: the county relieved of all its profit-impeding oak woodlands. Let us thank the Wonderful Company, aka Stewart and Lynda Resnick -- the lords of Central Valley agri-business -- for shoving the pedal to the metal and providing a demonstration of the heedless destruction of habitat on an industrial scale.

For twenty years, attempts to pass an oak protection ordinance in this county have failed. The reason for that failure has

not been a mystery: The county's largest economic sector has made it clear that -- surprise -- they don't wish to be thus regulated, and our elected officials have bowed low to those wishes.

For a full week in June, the front page of *The Tribune* covered the story of what happens when a county prostrates itself to the interests of Big Ag at the expense of its natural resources and open space: Eventually representatives of the Biggest Ag there is will take you to the end result of years of least-resistance policy decisions.

We've had decades of sworn dedication to the conservation of our resources and protection of our natural landscapes and everything else that every candidate for the board of supervisors always says during every election season. Those aerial photos

OAKS cont. on page 6

**We called it** Readers of the *Santa Lucian* over the past year had a pretty good idea of what was about to happen to Diablo Canyon.

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Please recycle

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

DIABLO cont. on page 5

**Don't Miss:**  
SATURDAY, JULY 9  
**March & Rally to stop the Phillips 66 oil trains project**

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### Committee Purpose

1. Quantify (as best we can) oak resources in the unincorporated county.
2. Evaluate current policies and procedures that apply to oak protection, preservation and mitigation.
3. Evaluate current policies and procedures to enforce oak mitigation measures and track their effectiveness.
4. Assess the effectiveness of voluntary protection, preservation and enhancement programs including education and outreach.

**What not to do** The last attempt to stop oaks from disappearing from agricultural land in the county came in 2006, when the County Grand Jury issued the report "Oak Tree Preservation in San Luis Obispo County" and the Board of Supervisors responded by appointing an Oak Resources Committee, stacked with agricultural interests, to resolve the problem. The committee, after much thrashing about, came up with a Voluntary Oak Woodlands Management Program and a directive "to establish a mechanism for the Planning Department to track all native oak tree removals."

The committee's minority report recommended that the Board "develop a countywide oak protection ordinance." It didn't.

## Soul &amp; Oak

Create More,  
Consume  
LessDIY 3-Ingredient Natural  
Coconut Mint Toothpaste

By Jennifer de Tréglodé

I'm excited to contribute to the Santa Lucian a regular DIY column with great ideas and recipes for implementing more creativity into your life. Not just any type of creativity, creativity that helps you to live a more sustainable life: financially, environmentally, physically, and mindfully.

I own a business called Soul & Oak where my main mission is to empower people to live more happy and connected lives, connected to community, nature, people, purpose, and creativity. I create products that I sell and host creative workshops throughout the community and in people's homes in an effort to spread the idea behind creating more and consuming less. As a student of the benefits creating can have in our lives, I am constantly exploring ways that we can create more and consume less.

I will be teaming up with Sierra Club for a very exciting event in the Fall, an event I have produced a few times many years ago called the Swap-O-Rama-Rama. We will be holding the event as a fundraiser on November 12, 2016, with proceeds going to help fund the Sierra Club's local efforts. The mission behind the Swap-O-Rama-Rama is to encourage people to look beyond fast fashion and learn to see the beauty in trash, pulling from the waste stream and learning to think creatively to take something old and make it new again. Everything we do with Swap-O-Rama-Rama aligns perfectly with the create more, consume less philosophy behind my business of Soul & Oak and creates a perfect opportunity for local residents and Sierra Club members to be a part of an event that gives each individual the power and creativity to make a differ-

Join the  
Chapter  
ExCom  
Recruiting  
Team!

In November, members of the Santa Lucia Chapter will elect four new leaders of our executive committee. The ExCom oversees the operations of the chapter, including its finances, environmental positions, outings program, and publications. The nominating committee is looking for candidates to fill these positions.

ExCom term lengths vary because some open seats result from resignations, but the standard term is three years. The executive committee meets monthly and sometimes for special meetings.

Please submit your suggestions for nominees, including yourself, to Cal French: [cal.french@gmail.com](mailto:cal.french@gmail.com), (805) 239-7338.

## Sierra Club General Meeting

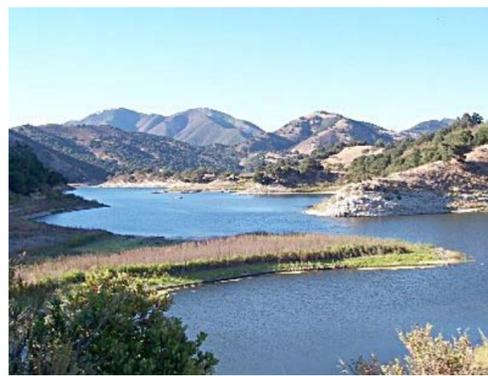
The Lakes of SLO County

7-9 p.m., Wednesday, July 27th

Join us tonight for a rare inside look at the ecology and conservation of Laguna Lake, Lopez Lake, and Santa Margarita Lake. Presented by the folks who know them best: Bob Hill, City of SLO Natural Resources Manager, and Chuck Woodard, SLO County Ranger.

Environmental news will begin the meeting.

Steynberg Gallery, 1531 Monterey St., SLO.  
Info.: Joe Morris, 549-0355.



Alice Kinzie

The Best of  
Big Blue  
Live

by Judith Bernstein

"The Best of Big Blue Live," a one-hour documentary about Monterey Bay's marine life, will be shown at the SLO Unitarian Universalist Fellowship on Saturday, August 6, at 3 p.m. Following the film, there will be a panel discussion about the proposed Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary. The event is free.

BIG BLUE cont. on page 7

ence in the sustainability of our planet through their fashion choices, all while helping to fund a great cause. To learn more about Swap-O-Rama-Rama and my business Soul & Oak, you can check out the following websites:  
[www.swaporamarama.com](http://www.swaporamarama.com)  
[www.soulandoak.com](http://www.soulandoak.com)

In the meantime, I hope you will enjoy this column, where I will share with you some of my favorite DIY recipes for household and beauty products.

The benefits of making products, such as the toothpaste from this month's recipe, are numerous. The amount of packaging that we can reduce in making our own products is significant. Plus some toothpaste tubes have a 500-year decomposition time. When you make your own toothpaste, it is easy to use reusable jars and containers and keep plastic tubes out of the landfill. Also, most toothpaste you buy at the store is full of toxic ingredients that are not healthy for your body, like carrageenan, sodium lauryl sulfate, triclosan, hydrated silica, FD&C dyes and sodium fluoride. You can Google these to find out that they are not good news — for our bodies or the water systems these flow into from our bathroom sinks. For

example, triclosan is toxic to fish and is not often eliminated in wastewater treatment plans before entering our waterways.

The good news is there is

a simple recipe for natural toothpaste that can reduce the havoc wrought on the environment by store-bought toothpaste. Try it out here:

## Easy 3-Ingredient Natural Coconut Mint Toothpaste

What you need:

- \* 3 Tablespoons Coconut Oil
- \* 3 Tablespoons Baking Soda
- \* 10 – 15 drops Peppermint Essential Oil

Instructions:

1. Warm the coconut oil if solid.
2. Stir in the baking soda & essential oil in with the coconut oil.
3. Store in a sealed container (I like a small mason jar).
4. If you do not like the taste, try adding a bit of stevia.



## Now a Word from Nan

By Nancy Cole Borges

Greetings Santa Lucian Sierra Clubbers! I'm Nan, an independent contractor brought on to help develop membership engagement and fundraising.

Back in 2007 when I first became involved with the Chapter, I was one of a number of Cal Poly students who worked on a variety of projects related to energy, water and conservation issues.

Fast-forward almost a decade later, and you will find several of those same people, once Sierra Club student interns, working on similar issues around this County.

The Sierra Club provided the opportunity for young professionals to become familiar with the region's natural splendor and work on stewarding that brilliance long after they graduated from college.

This partnership between students—eager to involve themselves in local matters—and the environmental pioneers who populate the Chapter enabled a kind of mentorship that remains invaluable to the County's environmental efforts.

Continuing in its role in the community as a center for leadership and development to spur the next generation of environmental advocates, our Chapter is looking for students and young professionals to work on:

- Coordinating volunteers for a number of activities: lead workshops, coordinate events, conduct trail maintenance,



Teamwork! Nan with her beloved dog, Mei.

nance, etc.

- Articulating the Sierra Club's activities to members and the community via multiple communication channels.
- Promoting membership engagement and outreach through planning and coordinating campaigns and public events.

In addition to fostering the development of future leaders in SLO County and beyond, the Chapter would like to build a diverse range of activities and events that appeal to a wide range of audiences. We would like to offer family-friendly hikes, short hikes, upcycling workshops, travel exhibitions and more. And of course, our Chapter will continue its efforts on local campaigns, such as the Chumash Heritage National

Marine Sanctuary and halting the expansion of oil extraction and transportation through the County.

You can give to our Chapter in a number of ways:

Become a monthly sustainer, by donating \$20 or more monthly, or make a one-time donation. The face of environmental involvement is changing all the time. Students and young professionals can infuse the Chapter with their creativity and strong capacity for networking.

I wanted to return to this Chapter because it has never lost its laser-like focus on its purpose. It works to preserve and protect all the attributes of this County that make it thrive.

You are invited to contact me with ideas or comments at [nansantalucia@gmail.com](mailto:nansantalucia@gmail.com).

## Santa Lucian

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## Santa Lucia Chapter

## 2016 Executive Committee

Karen Merriam (12/18)  
CHAIR  
Lindi Doud (12/17)  
TREASURER  
Sue Harvey (12/16)  
MEMBER  
Cal French (12/16)  
MEMBER  
Patrick McGibney (12/17)  
MEMBER

Lindi Doud  
COUNCIL OF CLUB LEADERS

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

## Committee Chairs

Political  
David Bouquin  
Development  
open  
Conservation  
Sue Harvey  
Water Subcommittee  
Keith Wimer  
Energy Task Force  
Karen Merriam  
Intergenerational Task Force  
Victoria Carranza

## Nuclear Power Task Force

Rochelle Becker  
Linda Seeley

## Climate Change Task Force

Heidi Harmon

## CNRCC Delegates

Lindi Doud, Patrick McGibney  
John Burdett

## Calendar Sales

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Gary Felsman

## Chapter Director

Andrew Christie

## Coordinator

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Street, San Luis Obispo

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# A Deep Ecology Collaboratory

National environmental leaders are converging on SLO this fall

*I come to realize that mind is no  
Other than mountains and rivers  
And the great wide earth, the  
Sun and the moon and the stars.*  
-Do'gen

By EcoLogistics

If you are concerned about the health of Earth's biosphere and the threats to biodiversity, and want to take action to move things in a better direction, consider attending The Deep Ecology Collaboratory, a three-day environmental event sponsored by Ecologistics, Inc.

Some of the greatest voices in the conservation movement will be on hand to address the most intractable threats to biodiversity on Earth: Climate Change, Extinction, Habitat Loss, Human Population Over-

shoot, and Globalization. The event is scheduled for October 21-23, 2016, at Rancho El Chorro Retreat Center, a 250-acre natural preserve in the hills above San Luis Obispo.

We know that a fundamental shift of consciousness is essential in confronting our environmental woes, and this knowledge is implicit in our yearning for a radical redefinition of values required to turn our ubiquitous, market-centered, earth-pillaging corporate exploitation model, on its head. Fortunately, we have better models that reverence the Earth and all her creatures.

George Sessions, former Philosophy professor at Sierra College, points to one such philosophic shift

that has been growing for some time within the environmental community: "The Long-range Deep Ecology movement emerged more or less spontaneously and informally as a philosophical and scientific social/political movement during the so-called Ecological Revolution of the 1960s. Its main concern has been to bring about a major paradigm shift—a shift in perception, values, and lifestyles — as a basis for redirecting the ecologically destructive path of modern industrial growth societies. Since the 1960s, the long-range Deep Ecology movement has been characterized philosophically by a move from anthropocentrism to ecocentrism, and by environmental activism."

It is education, action, and creating an atmosphere of conviviality that is the main inspiration for this gathering; all three are equally

important. So plan on enjoying organic meals, micro-brews, and live music between the talks and strategizing workshops. Our

program begins Friday afternoon, Oct. 21, with Kelly Sorenson from the Ventura

ECOLOGISTICS cont. on page 7



## Attention Coastal Shutter Bugs

Enter the 18th Annual California Ocean & Coastal Amateur Photography Contest.

This year's contest is sponsored by the California Coastal Commission, with thanks to Ocean Campaign, and Fairmont Hotels & Resorts of California.

The deadline to enter is July 18th; deadline to vote for a viewer's choice award is July 29th. Visit [mycoastalphoto.com](http://mycoastalphoto.com) for details.

And watch "Art for a Sea Change." In honor of World Oceans Day, this compl-

ing new four-minute YouTube video showcases nearly 20 years of aerial art formations created by more than 100,000 elementary school children as part of Kids' Ocean Day. Narrated by Wendie Malick, the video demonstrates the power of students coming together to promote ocean conservation and send messages to the world.

The Coastal Commission's Public Education Program protects and restores California's coast and ocean by teaching, inspiring, and empowering the public to take environmentally positive action.



# Sanctuary Celebrated

Our Evening with Jean-Michel Cousteau rocks the house in Santa Barbara

The Santa Lucia Chapter hosted "An Evening with Jean-Michel Cousteau," at the Santa Barbara Library's Faulkner Gallery on June 20, along with co-sponsors Surftrider, La Isla Fashion Group, the Ocean Futures Society, and the Northern

Chumash Tribal Council. The free event was the hottest ticket in town, with all seats taken within a day of our announcement. The packed house heard from the legendary oceanographer, an impassioned diplomat for the environment who has produced over 80 films and screened clips from his PBS special "America's Underwater Treasures," in which Cousteau's dive team explored all 13 national marine sanctuaries.

Along with UCSB marine

biologist Douglas McCauley, Northern Chumash Tribal Council Administrator Fred Collins and Santa Lucia Chapter Direc-

tor Andrew Christie, Cousteau spoke to the importance of designating new national marine sanctuaries, including the Chu-

mash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary, and took questions from the audience.



A good evening Left to right: Fred Collins, Douglas McCauley, Jean-Michel Cousteau, and Andrew Christie took questions from the audience after the presentation.

## THANK YOU...

to all our friends and volunteers who helped to make our June 11th FUNraiser at Tiber Canyon a great success:

Hosts: Chris Anderson & Will Carlton - Tiber Canyon Ranch.

Parking: Ryan Dostalek & Nick Overby - Boy Scout Troop 308; Lamar Amalle Cordes Mendibles & Reo Cordes.

Set up and displays: Diane Dostalek & Amy Overby.

Wine: Greg McMillan. Singer / songwriter extraordinaire: Sonnie Brown.

Food: Mama Ganache, Tom & Eve Neuhaus, Tiber Canyon Olive Oil.

Serving: Jan Secord & Marcia Alter.

Art curator and display: Evy Justesen.

Artists: Leslie Hannon, Barbara & "Rosey" Rosenthal, Evy Justesen, Anne Kellogg, Rachel Winn Yon, Liz Maruska, Pam Wendel.

Crafts: Colleen Leigh, Jennifer de Tréglodé, Nancy Cole, Lisha Perini, Chris Anderson.

Jewelry: Mike Hannon, Tracy Kinderknecht, Lisha Perini.

Books: Don Maruska, Steven Marx, Jeanie Greensfelder, Karen Merriam.

CDs: Nancy Koren.



Thank you, scouts of Troop 308!

## Two Roads: Climate Chaos or Creative Resilience?

An Open Call for Artists

*"We stand now where two roads diverge. But unlike the roads in Robert Frost's familiar poem, they are not equally fair. The road we have long been traveling is deceptively easy, a smooth superhighway on which we progress with great speed, but at its end lies disaster. The other fork of the road — the one less traveled by — offers our last, our only chance to reach a destination that assures the preservation of the earth."*

- Rachel Carson

**Project Description:** *Two Roads* is a creative arts project inspired by the above Rachel Carson quote, sponsored by the environmental nonprofit [Stand](http://Stand.org) (formerly ForestEthics) and the Stop Oil Trains Campaign. Visual artists are invited to each design two travel posters for San Luis Obispo: one that depicts a grim future of fossil fuel exploitation and climate chaos, and the other depicting a vision for solutions that build a healthy, vibrant, resilient community. Mediums can include paint, photography, stencil, drawing, digital design, or any combination of the aforementioned.

**Exhibition Dates:** September 1 - September 30, 2016

**Exhibition Location:** [Steynberg Gallery](http://SteynbergGallery.com) | 1531 Monterey St, SLO

**Opening Event:** September 2, 2016 | 6pm - 9pm

We will open the exhibit with a community event during Art After Dark that will feature screen-printing, artist talk-backs, live music from local performing artists, local food, and participation from a wide range of community groups. The screen printing will be accompanied by a community poster day, where volunteers will plaster these posters all over downtown San Luis Obispo.

**Compensation & Rights:** Artists will be compensated \$200 for their works. Artists will own the originals and can sell them throughout the duration of the exhibition, so long as the works stay on display through September 30. Stand and the Stop Oil Trains Campaign will retain the right to screen print, scan, and physically and digitally distribute the images to advance campaigns to stop dangerous oil trains and other fossil fuel projects in the community.

**To Apply:** Email Heidi Harmon at [sacredheart9395@yahoo.com](mailto:sacredheart9395@yahoo.com) with the following:

- Contact info: Name, email, phone, address
- Brief description of proposed project: what's your vision?
- Any relevant background and/or portfolio

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!



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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

## 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](mailto:address.changes@sierraclub.org)

## Visit us on the Web

[www.sierraclub.org/santa-lucia](http://www.sierraclub.org/santa-lucia)



Now on Facebook

search: "Santa Lucia" and become our friend!

Outings, events, and more!

# July 9: Stop Oil Trains



Columbia Riverkeeper

The fire this time Mosier, Oregon, June 3, 2016.

## Take Oil Trains Off the Tracks

By Lena Moffitt, Director, Sierra Club Beyond Dirty Fuels Campaign

On June 3, a train carrying volatile crude oil derailed and exploded near Mosier, Oregon, in the scenic Columbia River Gorge.

Children had to be evacuated from a nearby elementary school only a stone's throw from the blast zone. Emergency firefighting efforts completely drained Mosier's municipal water system, and oil leaked into the local wastewater treatment plant, shutting down the town's sewer system. An unknown amount of oil also spilled into the Columbia River.

The jarring images of wrecked and flaming oil tank cars were eerily too familiar — we've seen this before in Lac-Mégantic, Quebec; Watertown, Wisconsin; Culbertson, Mon-

tana; and countless other places all across the country. The derailment along the precious Columbia River has sent a chill through the Pacific Northwest, an area in the crosshairs of Big Oil's quest to export oil.

That's why Oregon Governor Kate Brown, Senators Wyden and Merkley, and Representatives Blumenauer and Bonamici have all called for a temporary ban on oil train traffic through the Columbia River Gorge pending a full investigation.

That's the right thing to do — but the ban on dangerous oil trains should be permanent, and given that an estimated 25 million Americans live within the blast zone of oil trains like these, we must protect all

communities across the country that are at risk.

Make no mistake: the safest place for fossil fuels is in the ground, where they can't harm our climate or threaten the safety of our communities. Together we'll keep working towards that goal.

### TAKE ACTION

If Big Oil can't transport oil safely, it shouldn't be transporting it at all. Take action today to get these dangerous oil trains off the tracks and away from our communities before the next disaster strikes.

Go to [tinyurl.com/nobombtrains](http://tinyurl.com/nobombtrains)

## They Had to Let it Burn

by Eddie Scher, STAND

On Friday, June 3, an oil train derailed and caught fire in Mosier, Oregon, a town 65 miles east of Portland on the Columbia River. Residents and a nearby elementary school inside the one-mile blast zone one were evacuated. There were no reported injuries. But firefighters were notably absent from the scene, which was broadcast for hours from news helicopters. The fire burned until sometime early Saturday morning.

On May 23, 2016, Stand extreme oil campaign director Matt Krogh published a blog on oil train disaster plans and the "burning need for the truth about oil train fires." The oil and rail industry has launched a public relations effort to deflect public concern over the threat from crude oil trains carrying millions of gallons of toxic, explosive crude oil. Oil and rail companies highlight training activities and images of firefighters

dousing the flames of burning oil train tank cars.

However, concludes Krogh: "Don't believe the hype: The scene of a crude oil derailment and fire is an uncontrollable fire. All firefighters can do is evacuate the area and wait for the fire to burn itself out."

And that is exactly what happened in Mosier over the weekend of June 4. In fact, the accident in Mosier was highly similar to what Krogh describes as a typical oil train derailment incident, based on previous incidents in the US and Canada:

"When an oil train derailed at any speed over the puncture velocity of roughly 10 miles an hour (for a common CPC-1232 tank car) a dozen or so cars typically come off the tracks, decouple and are thrown from their wheels. If tank cars are punctured, possibly by something on the ground or the couplers on the ends of the cars, the crude (either Bakken or diluted tar sands, both highly volatile) can easily self-ignite or find an

ignition source."

"Emergency response to oil train incidents is left to local fire departments. But few fire departments have the manpower, training, or equipment to respond to more than a single burning 10,000-gallon tank truck of crude. An oil train tank car carries triple that, and most oil train disasters involve more than a single tank car."

In Mosier, 14 cars reportedly derailed and four tank cars caught fire. Punctured oil tank cars can leak 30,000 gallons of volatile crude, which flows downhill filling nearby streams and sewers. In Mosier, residents were warned not to use water or flush toilets.

The burning spilled crude oil forms pool fires, which can heat tank cars and cause thermal tank shell failures, potentially dangerous fireballs that can occur hours after the initial derailment.

Existing safety standards are inadequate, industry has resisted updating rail cars to improve safety, and upcoming federal rules remain years away.

Stand is calling for a ban on all crude oil trains. However, government and industry should take immediate steps to protect the safety of the 25 million Americans who live in the oil train blast zone.

Krogh concludes: "Federal emergency response guidance and fire chiefs have long recognized that there is no effective emergency response to a crude oil derailment fire event. If even one tank car of crude oil is involved in a fire, federal guidelines are clear that firefighters should pull back half a mile and let it burn. And that is another good reason that oil trains are too dangerous for the rails."

### Rally Against the Phillips 66 Oil Train Terminal

Mitchell Park, SLO  
Saturday, July 9th @ 12:30PM

March to train station: @ 1PM

Join your fellow concerned citizens in SLO County and in solidarity across North America as part of the Stop Oil Trains Week of Action!



PROTECTSLO.ORG

## Dear President Obama: Please Ban Oil Trains

This letter, signed by dozens of civil society organizations, will be delivered to the White House on July 6, the third anniversary of the oil train tragedy in Lac Mégantic, Quebec, and the first day of the national Stop Oil Trains Week of Action.

Dear President Obama,

The most recent disaster in Mosier, Oregon, demonstrates again that crude oil is simply too dangerous for the rails. Every day the oil industry sends millions of gallons of highly flammable crude through US cities and towns, over critical waterways, and dangerously close to the homes of 25 million Americans. We ask that you ban oil trains and protect American families and students from the inevitable fires and air pollution.

Our rail system was never built for this hazardous cargo. Jim Hall, former National Transportation Safety Board Chair, wrote in the Oregonian on June 9 that, "Carrying crude oil by rail is just not a good idea... We need to phase out rail shipments of crude oil." Most oil traveling by train is either diluted tar sands bitumen from Canada or fracked shale oil from the Bakken formation — both are more toxic, more explosive, and more carbon-intensive than conventional crude.

This dirty crude is a massive source of carbon pollution, the heavy trains spew diesel exhaust, and the tank cars vent poisonous gases into communities along the tracks and near refineries. Across the US the oil industry is planning new infrastructure to increase oil train traffic. But communities are blocked from stopping these trains from running near their homes, and emergency responders are denied critical information on where and when they run.

Emergency response cannot protect the public from a burning oil train. Municipal fire departments are on the hook when an oil train derailed and catches fire. The experience of 14 major oil train fires in the US and Canada in the past three years proves that there is no way to douse the burning crude from an oil train. The Washington State Council of Fire Fighters delivered a letter to Washington Governor Inslee on June 8 demanding an immediate halt to crude rail movement and citing that "...these fires are exceedingly difficult to extinguish, even under unusually ideal circumstances." Fire fighting foam vaporizes at such high heats. Mosier Fire Chief Jim Appleton noted that the accident could have incinerated a nearby school. Only luck and an unusually windless day prevented the derailment on June 3, 2016, from turning tragic.

Federal safety standards are inadequate — nothing can ensure the safety of a mile-long train carrying up to three million gallons of flammable crude. In Mosier, the tracks were inspected just days before the derailment, Union Pacific Railroad claims the Bakken crude was stabilized, and the four tank cars that ruptured and burned were state-of-the-art jacketed 1232 cars — tank cars that will remain in hazardous crude service until May 2025 under the federal government's new safety standards (49 CFR 173).

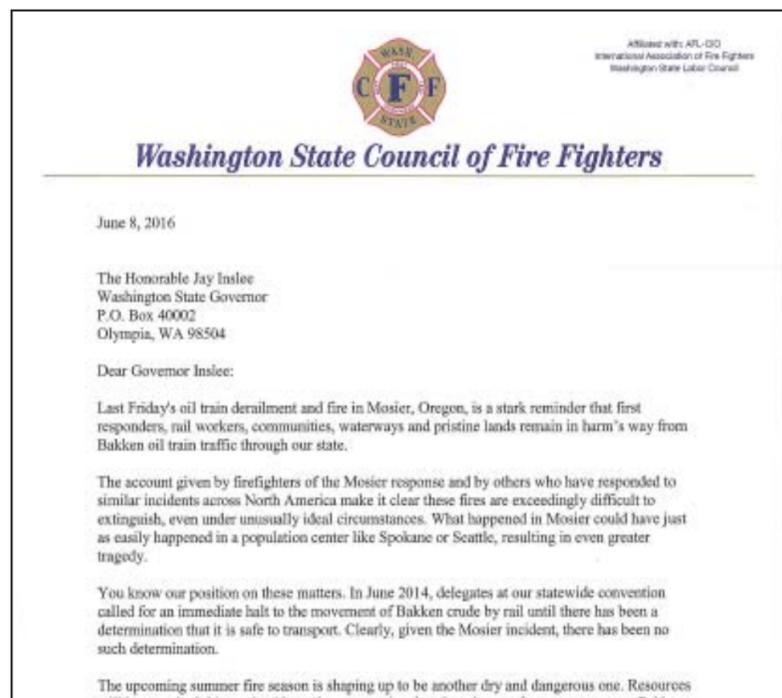
This extreme oil cannot be moved safely by train, and we don't need any of it. According to information from the US Energy Information Administration, in any given month the US exports five to seven times more oil products than crude transported by train. So the oil moving by train doesn't contribute to our energy supply. Indeed, exports will continue to rise under the recent lifting of the crude export ban, only further burdening our nation's communities. If we stopped all oil trains tomorrow Americans would never notice the difference — except to our health and safety.

There are three steps to solve this problem:

- 1) Ban oil trains: There is no safe way to transport crude oil by rail. To protect the health and safety of millions of American families, use your authority to place an immediate ban on dangerous trains transporting oil through our communities unless the National Transportation Safety Board verifies that the transport of crude by rail can be conducted safely.
- 2) Deny all federal permits and permissions for oil train infrastructure: Stop the oil industry from expanding oil train traffic carrying the dirtiest, most dangerous crude oil.
- 3) Protect the authority of local governments: Uphold the authority of our cities and towns to make decisions that protect the public safety, health and welfare of citizens and to ensure first responders and communities have the necessary information and resources to respond to disasters.

**"I hope that this becomes death knell for this mode of shipping this cargo. I think it's insane. I've been very hesitant to take a side up to now, but with this incident, and with all due respect to the wonderful people that I've met at Union Pacific, shareholder value doesn't outweigh the lives and happiness of our community."**

**- Mosier, Oregon, fire chief  
Jim Appleton,  
June 4, 2016**



This isn't working Washington fire fighters wrote to Governor Jay Inslee asking him to "reject plans for oil terminals now under review" in the wake of the Mosier, Oregon, oil train fire.

## Whistleblower: EPA Official Covered Up Methane Leakage Problems in the Natural Gas Industry



Flare-up Was the EPA snookered on excess methane?

On June 8, A North Carolina watchdog group charged that a high-ranking federal official connected to the fossil fuel industry committed scientific fraud and possibly criminal misconduct in a case with sweeping ramifications for global climate change and the safety of workers and neighbors of natural gas sites across much of the United States.

NC WARN called for an expedited investigation due to the urgent climate and safety implications of the EPA's failure to curb widespread methane emissions. The 28-year-old energy justice nonprofit filed a 68-page complaint with the Inspector General of the Environmental Protection Agency based on evidence provided by the engineer who invented the primary technology used to measure leakage and deliberate venting of natural gas.

The complaint states the device's severe underreporting of emissions during two high-profile studies has ramifications for releases of methane at hundreds of thousands of tanks, drilling sites and other gas equipment around the world.

The complaint alleges that Dr. David Allen, then head of EPA's Science Advisory Board, has led an ongoing, three-year effort to cover up underreporting of the primary device, the Bacharach Hi-Flow Sampler, and a second device used to measure gas releases from equipment across the natural gas industry. Allen is also on the faculty of the University of Texas at Austin, where he has been funded by the oil and gas industries for years.

The studies were pub-

lished in 2013 and 2014 by the Environmental Defense Fund as concerns were rising about the climate impacts of methane emissions from hundreds of thousands of gas wells being drilled as the fracking gas boom raged in a number of US states. While many other studies during the period increasingly showed alarming levels of methane emissions, the 2013 EDF study, led by Allen, showed far lower emissions, and it has been used by the gas industry to argue that methane leakage is low and that EPA should back off efforts to begin reducing methane emissions.

Methane is 100 times stronger than carbon dioxide at trapping heat over the first ten years, and because methane levels in the atmosphere over the US have risen sharply since the fracking boom began, according to researchers from Harvard, Stanford and elsewhere. NC WARN director Jim Warren said "The EPA's failure to order feasible reductions of methane leaks and venting has robbed humanity of crucial years to slow the climate crisis. The cover-up by Allen's team has allowed the industry to dig in for years of delay in cutting emissions - at the worst possible time."

The underreporting flaw with the Bacharach device is well-documented and its manufacturer now admits to the flaw, although the devices are still being used in gas-producing countries. It was engineer Touché Howard, the inventor of the technology, who proved the flaw existed and showed that emissions could be underreported in the Allen studies by up to 100-fold. In its complaint, NC WARN says that despite

METHANE cont. in column 6

## The continuing coastal crisis

# McClure Leaving Coastal Commission

## Pro-development official ousted from 20-year supervisor seat

by Maha Calderon, Carlsbad Free Press

On June 7, a few weeks after raining down a torrent of obscenities on an *L.A. Times* reporter for daring to ask questions about her close relations with and campaign donations from lobbyists for coastal development projects (if you haven't read "Cover your ears: Coastal Commissioner Martha McClure's on the phone," it's worth a trip to the *Times*' website), Martha McClure lost her seat on the Del Norte County Board of Supervisors, which she had held for twenty years.

As a result, she will leave the Coastal Commission at the end of the year.

McClure, a Democrat with the endorsement of the local Democratic committee, lost to a moderate Republican former school board member named Lori Cowan. McClure received and spent more money than her opponent or any other candidate in the county's supervisor races.

McClure's district is approximately 50-50 Democratic and Republican, and Del Norte Democrats went for Bernie Sanders by 57%. But the voters voted for Cowan over McClure by 64% to 35% — a mandate and a repudiation. In the course of losing her seat, McClure lost her base.

It's not hard to guess why.

The Del Norte County supervisor contest was the first election to involve one of the Coastal Commissioners who voted to fire former Coastal Commission Executive Director Charles Lester on a trumped-up pretext since McClure and six of her colleagues did the deed in

Morro Bay last February. It was widely perceived for what it was: a direct attack on and undermining of the independence of the Commission, designed to bring joy to the hearts of coastal developers. (Two of McClure's fellow underminers who voted to fire Lester, Commissioners Wendy Mitchell and Mark Vargas, tried to help McClure keep her seat with contributions of \$750 and \$999, respectively.)

The next election to involve one of the Commissioners who sacked Lester will be Pismo Beach City Councilman Erik Howell in November.

Howell has several other things in common with McClure: both were appointed to the Commission by Governor Jerry Brown and both are under investigation by the Fair Political Practices Commission, and for the same reason: both took campaign cash from the life partner and business manager of the biggest coastal development lobbyist in the business, then happily voted on multiple projects she represented before the Commission.

The other thing Howell and McClure have in common is a failing grade on the Coastal Commission Conservation Voting Chart -- a ranking of Commissioners' pro-development and pro-coastal votes on key development proposals compiled by the Surfrider Foundation, WildCoast, and Environment California.

In last year's chart, Howell and McClure were both underwater, their anti-conservation votes significantly outnumbering pro-conservation votes. Howell



Rising tide Del Norte County voters swept Commissioner McClure out to sea. Commissioner Howell's fate is up to the citizens of Pismo Beach.

managed a score of 42%. McClure racked up 32%.

As we go to press, the one thing Howell does not have in common with McClure is a political opponent.

### TAKE ACTION

Erik Howell's actions have made him perhaps the most politically vulnerable office holder in the state (now that Martha McClure is out of the running for that title).

All Pismo Beach residents who would like to run for city council are encouraged to contact the City Clerk's Office ASAP for information about the required paperwork.

The Pismo Beach City Clerk's Office is at 760 Mattie Road, open Mon.-Fri., 8 a.m.-5 p.m.). Phone (805) 773-4657. Fax (805) 773-7006. Email City Clerk Erica Inderlied: [einderlied@pismo-beach.org](mailto:einderlied@pismo-beach.org)

The deadline to file papers with the city clerk is 5 p.m., August 12.

By becoming a candidate, a civic-minded resident would give Pismo Beach voters the opportunity to do what Del Norte County voters just did, and what Governor Brown has refused to do, despite the urging of thousands of Californians: Take a significant step toward cleaning up the Coastal Commission by removing the Commissioners who have disgraced it.

## Methane

continued from column 1

Howard's warning and years of experience as a leading expert and consultant on measuring methane emissions for study teams, Allen moved ahead with promotion of the studies that used the flawed data. He also refused to discuss the problems with Howard while telling EDF, EPA and others that all was okay.

Leakage and routine emissions at well sites and other gas facilities could be damaging local community health while creating explosion risks for workers.

Howard said, "We simply don't understand the level of emissions across this industry. It's almost certainly higher than studies have shown, and EPA's reliance on inaccurate information has created a disincentive to take feasible steps that could greatly reduce the emissions."

Cornell University's Dr. Robert Howarth, a leading researcher of methane emissions, argues that cutting gas-industry methane emissions is essential to slowing global warming quickly enough to avoid the tipping point for runaway climate change.



## Diablo

continued from page 1

nuclear plant is replaced with 100% clean energy and that these resources are online by the time the plant is shuttered.

"The Sierra Club has wanted to see this nuclear plant shut down and replaced with clean energy for decades, and we are relieved to know that there is an official end date in sight," said Executive Director Michael Brune. "Diablo Canyon is another example that nuclear power is too dangerous and too expensive for our communities and our country. For years, nuclear energy and the Diablo Canyon Plant have been mischaracterized by some as clean energy. It isn't.

"Californian's want to cut ties with dirty fuels that hurt our health and our planet, which is why we are committed to working with others to ensure that additional wind, solar, efficiency, energy storage, and other carbon free resources are ready to replace Diablo by the time it shuts down."

The Diablo decision comes in the midst of a frantic attempt to prop up the fading fortunes of nuclear power across the country (see Mike Brune's response to an overly enthusiastic effort by the *Wall Street Journal*, right).

It also marks the occasion for a raising of the glass to former Sierra Club president and executive director David Brower, who knew that nuclear power plants

and the California coast don't mix, and fifty years ago led the fight against an entrenched old guard in the Club in a losing effort to keep Diablo Canyon from being built. Here's to all the activists who followed him and drove the policies and litigation that forced regulatory agencies to better protect coastal waters and habitat. Here's to the energy advocates who laid the groundwork for the rise of renewables and energy efficiency and pushed them to viability despite the attacks of a massively subsidized nuclear industry. Hundreds of hearings; dozens of lawsuits; thousands of books, articles, essays, investigative reports and voices of protest steadily shifted the political and economic landscape around the nuclear power plant, and it was that shift that shaped its end.

Likewise, the late '60s Diablo Canyon insurgency led by Brower and fellow environmental legend Martin Litton reshaped the Sierra Club, the minority voices they represented eventually coming to supplant a status-quo majority, raising the level of our activism and vastly expanding the Club's engagement across a range of issues.

From David Brower's Sierra Club to the Friends of the Earth to the Mothers for Peace and the Alliance for Nuclear Responsibility, Diablo Canyon has been the mother of us all. Finally ushering Diablo into the history books took — and will continue to take — a village.

# Who Opposes Reform of the Coastal Commission?

## Take a wild guess

A flurry of bills to reform the way California Coastal Commissioners do business was triggered by the public outcry that attended the February firing of former Executive Director Charles Lester on a 7-5 vote.

Of all the reform bills, none is more consequential than SB 1190. Authored by state Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson (D-Santa Barbara), it would prohibit so-called "ex-parte" communications related to pending decisions such as the approval of coastal development projects. The reaction to the bill is revealing.

"This bill will level the

playing field between big-moneyed interests and those without such financial resources," said Sen. Jackson. "It will remove the possibility of backroom decision-making or the perception that it's occurring and will help ensure that decisions are made more openly and transparently."

The bill passed the Senate on May 23 on a vote of 23 to 12 and is now before the Assembly.

Like most high-profile bills, it has a list of organizations attached that formally support or oppose it which is highly revealing. Here's that list:

**SUPPORT** (As of May 16): Audubon California California Coastal Commission California Coastal Protection Network Courage Campaign Endangered Habitats League Friends of Harbors, Beaches and Parks Malibu Coalition for Slow Growth Organization of Regional Coastal Activists Sierra Club California SoCal 350 Climate Action The Wildlands Conservancy Western Alliance for Nature 17 former California Coastal Commissioners

**OPPOSITION:** California Association of Realtors California Building Industry Association California Business Properties Association California Chamber of Commerce California Construction and Industrial Material Association California Cotton Ginners and Growers Association California Farm Bureau Federation Commercial Real Estate Development Association National Federation of Independent Business Western Agricultural Processors Association Western Plant Health Association

Also in opposition are the following currently serving Coastal Commissioners:

Mary Luevano  
Roberto Uranga\*  
Gregory Cox\*\*  
Mark Vargas\*  
Erik Howell\*

\*Voted to fire Executive Director Charles Lester  
\*\*Alternate voted to fire Charles Lester

## Still No Love for Nukes

### A Memo from Michael Brune

June 16, 2016

RE: "Environmental groups change tune on nuclear power: Focus on climate change has raised profile of reactors, now viewed as reliable, carbon-free source of energy," *Wall St. Journal*.

Dear Colleagues,

You may have seen this article today in the *Wall Street Journal* suggesting that environmental groups are softening their historic opposition to nuclear power. The article includes a gross mischaracterization of the Sierra Club's nuclear



policy indicating that we consider nuclear power a "bridge" to clean energy.

You can rest assured, the Sierra Club remains in firm opposition to nuclear power.

Our successful work to stop and retire coal, oil, and gas operations has never precluded our nuclear efforts, nor will it ever. Nuclear power is nothing

more than a dirty and dangerous energy source, and we will continue our efforts to retire existing plants and block new ones from being built.

Nuclear power, much like coal, oil, and gas, is a bridge to nowhere. Amer-

ica's energy future must be powered by 100% clean, renewable energy like wind and solar, and nuclear in no way meets this requirement.

Michael Brune  
Executive Director  
Sierra Club

# Burn This



For years, there has been an ongoing struggle in California to maintain a balance between eliminating the fuel for wildfires and the total destruction of habitat.

Environmentalists helped defeat the California Board of Forestry's habitat clearance plan a couple years ago. The latest version of a proposed Vegetation Treatment Program has now been released. It remains awful.

The current Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Report for the proposed program fails to meet the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). It also fails to address the most effective ways to protect lives and property from wildfire.

The DPEIR will likely exacerbate climate impacts, increase the loss of habitat, and fail to adequately accomplish its primary goal – protecting life and property from wildfire loss. Full details about the whole mess can be found at [californiachaparral.org/threatstochaparral/helpcalfireir.html](http://californiachaparral.org/threatstochaparral/helpcalfireir.html)

Sierra Club signed on to this letter to the Board of Forestry:

May 27, 2016

California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection  
Attn: Edith Hannigan, Board Analyst  
Email: [VegetationTreatment@bof.ca.gov](mailto:VegetationTreatment@bof.ca.gov)

Dear Ms. Hannigan and Members of the Board,

We, the undersigned, have found that the current Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Report (DPEIR) for the state's proposed Vegetation Treatment Program contains many of the same errors (some with the exact wording), contradictions, and failures to identify environmental impacts that were pointed out in previous versions.

Potential impacts are dismissed without support, mitigations of impacts are unenforceable and unmeasurable, the treatment of northern chaparral is justified by non sequitur reasoning, and the research of several scientists continues to be misrepresented (despite corrections being submitted). The lack of transparency remains a significant issue – using a local newspaper to inform the public about projects is no longer adequate.

One of the most egregious examples of the DPEIR's failure is the continued use of outdated and inadequate spatial data that provides the foundation for the entire Program. Although updated data is available from Cal Fire itself, the DPEIR ignores this rich resource and depends instead on questionable information from decades ago.

As a consequence, the current DPEIR fails to meet the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

The DPEIR also reveals a significant number of inconsistencies as the document initially references current science to only qualify or ignore it later in order to support the Program's objectives. By using contradictory statements, undefined terms, and legally inadequate mitigation processes, the document is a testament in ambiguity. It appears to be a program in search of confirming data rather than one developed from examining the actual problem.

For example, although the DPEIR indicates fires are increasing in northern California, acknowledges chaparral is vulnerable to such fires, explains that climate change is changing fire regimes, and claims the Program is based on the future, it contradicts itself by maintaining northern chaparral is not threatened by such increased fire frequencies. It then misrepresents the research (Safford and Van de Water 2014) by leaping to the conclusion that fuel treatments in northern chaparral can be used for ecological purposes. (4-113) This is a non sequitur. There is no scientific evidence to support such action.

The most concerning issue, however, relates to the failure of the document to provide a key component of a programmatic EIR – providing a more exhaustive consideration of effects and cumulative impacts than could be accomplished at the project level (14 CCR § 15168).

Instead, volumes of repetitive text are punctuated with the unsupported claim that determining impacts is impossible, pushing it off to project managers to determine with a checklist and standard project requirements that depend on subjective judgments.

How does the DPEIR justify ignoring a thorough examination of impacts as required by CEQA? The document vacillates between claiming the Program is too large and complex to analyze, or the treatment areas are too small to have an impact.

As a consequence, the current DPEIR - fails to provide adequate support for concluding that the proposed program will not have a significant effect on the environment.

- fails to provide adequate guidance to prevent significant environmental harm.

- fails to adequately support Cal Fire's mission to protect life, property, and natural resources.

Briefly, the reasons for these failures include:

## 1. Circumventing CEQA

- impacts determined to be less than significant by the "Fallacy of Authority" (our conclusions are true because we say so – no evidence provided)

- lack of detail as required within a programmatic EIR

- passing on responsibility to project managers to determine potential impacts

- inadequate mitigation measures

- Significance Criteria to determine impact to biological resources dismissed without support.

## 2. Substandard Research

- misrepresenting cited scientific literature

- dependence on anecdotal evidence

- contradictory statements

- ignoring information in the record

- cited references missing, non sequiturs.

## 3. Inadequate Data

- outdated fire hazard analysis model/data unsuitable for project level planning

- utilizing coarse-scale maps that cannot provide sufficient detail for competent analysis

- WUI assessments based on 26-year-old information

- dependence on maps that no longer reflect current conditions.

## Failure to properly address climate change

With the impacts of human-caused climate change accumulating much faster than even the most severe predictions, it is imperative that every policy we implement from here on out must honestly and exhaustively examine how

such policy can facilitate the reduction of carbon in the atmosphere and the protection of what natural environment remains.

The current DPEIR fails to do so.

Regarding carbon emissions, the DPEIR uses the same response it does throughout to dodge examining significant impacts – it merely states there won't be any impacts because of unsupported assumptions.

The DPEIR assumes all the projects will work out properly, and treated plant communities will not type convert to low carbon sequestering grasslands because of the Program's project requirements. These requirements are legally inadequate and unenforceable.

The DPEIR fails to account for the loss of underground carbon storage with the concomitant loss of above ground shrub cover in shrublands, an important carbon sink (Jenerette and Chatterjee 2012, Luo 2007). The DPEIR also fails to address the research that has shown vegetation treatments often release more carbon than wildfires (Mitchell 2015, Law et al. 2013, Meigs et al. 2009). By using assumptions based on anecdotal evidence and focusing on the short term (such as how to reduce flame lengths, remove dead trees, or increase the number of clearance projects), the DPEIR will likely exacerbate climate impacts, increase the loss of habitat, and fail to adequately accomplish its primary goal – protecting life and property from wildfire loss.

## Suggested DPEIR Improvements

**Detail impacts.** Examine possible direct and cumulative impacts and develop legally adequate mitigations for those impacts as required by CEQA.

**Recognize all chaparral as potentially threatened.**

Chaparral in the northern part of the state will likely be threatened by higher fire frequencies as the climate continues to change. There is no ecological rationale for fuel treatments in shrub dominated ecosystems in northern or southern California.

**Define terms.** Define all terms utilized in the text needed to ensure consistency in use such as old growth chaparral, critical infrastructure, forest health, etc.

**Redefine WUI.** Establish a reasonable distance for the WUI by using science rather than anecdotal information.

**Use most current Calfire fire hazard data.** It is inadequate to utilize a fire hazard analysis done in 2000-2003 that uses a wildland urban interface (WUI) model based on the 1990 U.S. Census. The DPEIR needs to base the Program on current, scientifically verified information available from Cal Fire.

**Research support for conclusions.** Conclusions in a DPEIR need to be supported by research, not by employing the Fallacy of Authority. Sweeping generalizations like the one below have no place in a science-based document.

*"Landscape constraints, Standard Project Requirements, and Project Specific Requirements developed as a result of the Project Scale Analysis will, in the aggregate, reduce cumulative impacts to less than significant."*

**Maintain consistency and research quality.** Eliminate contradictions, errors in citations, and inconsistencies throughout the document.

**Consultation on chaparral treatments.** All projects involving chaparral should be developed in consultation and in agreement with the California Native Plant Society. Real alternatives. Create at least one new alternative that focuses on a program that emphasizes the reduction of fire risk by using "from the house out" approach – reducing home flammability, properly maintained defensible space, community fire safe retrofits, then strategic fuel treatments within 1,000 feet if needed.

**Proper account of carbon sequestration.** Recalculate the loss of carbon to account for the loss of below ground carbon sequestration in chaparral communities. Account for biodiversity in chaparral. Incorporate into the cumulative impact analysis how biodiversity may be impacted by the Program. See Halsey and Keeley (2016). Increase transparency. Develop a web-based public notification process for projects similar to the US Forest Service SOPA website. For example: [http://www.fs.fed.us/sopa/forest-level.php?110502\\_5](http://www.fs.fed.us/sopa/forest-level.php?110502_5)

**Plan for the future.** Base project need, selection, and treatment approach, on projected climate change scenarios, not past, anecdotal experiences.

We urge the Board of Forestry and Cal Fire to produce a document that starts by responding to the following question, "How do we protect lives and property from wildfire?" instead of "How do we manage fuel?" These are two different questions resulting in two different answers. Such a powerful approach will challenge everyone to leverage their own experiences, be willing to consider new paradigms, and honestly collaborate with others, especially with those who have different perspectives. Otherwise, we will continue practices that have brought us to this point – increased loss of homes, increased loss of habitat, and increasing levels of carbon in our atmosphere.

Therefore, we urge the Board to prepare a revised DPEIR by addressing and incorporating the suggested improvements above. We owe it to ourselves and future generations to get it right this time, especially because the changing climate will not be forgiving if we squander the opportunity.

Sincerely,

Richard W. Halsey  
Director, California  
Chaparral Institute

Xiuhtezcatl Martinez  
Youth Director

Joaquín Aganza  
President  
Friends of Hellhole Canyon

Earth Guardians

Michael J. Connor, Ph.D.  
California Director  
Western Watersheds Project

Joyce Burk  
Chair, Southern California  
Forests Committee  
Sierra Club

Dr. Sandra Ross  
President  
Health & Habitat, Inc.

Jeff Kuyper  
Executive Director  
Los Padres ForestWatch

Claire Schlotterbeck  
Hills for Everyone

Frank Landis, Ph.D. Conser-  
vation Chair, California  
Native Plant Society  
San Diego Chapter

Bob Schneider  
Senior Policy Director  
Tuleyome

## Oaks

continued from page 1

of the industrial moonscape at Justin Vineyards are what twenty years of lip service looks like.

There is another emotion we should all be feeling in addition to the dismay and outrage that accompanied the news of what Justin Vineyards' new owner hath wrought upon thousands of oaks on hillsides that nobody thought would ever be cleared and graded.

That emotion is embarrassment.

Santa Barbara has a native tree protection ordinance. Monterey has one. Ventura has one. Even Los Angeles has an oak protection ordinance. San Luis Obispo, of all places, does not. That

needs to change, right now.

On June 21, the County Supervisors voted unanimously to direct staff to bring back an emergency native tree protection ordinance for a special meeting on July 15 and begin work on a permanent ordinance. Until the County can come up with a better method of figuring out whether there is enough water to support them, the Board also wants options for prohibiting or regulating the creation of large storage ponds that corporate vineyards are using to store water extracted from the groundwater shared in common with all, held as their private property.

And this time, the Ag community was in favor. Progress is possible.



*Testimony of Holly Sletteland, Santa Lucia Chapter Conservation Committee, SLO Board of Supervisors, June 21, 2016.*

Its déjà vu all over again. Back in 1997, everyone was up in arms over the bulldozing of hundreds of oaks by Kendall Jackson winery in Santa Barbara. I served as an alternate on the development of a County Native Tree Protection Ordinance to make sure that it didn't happen here. Unfortunately, that ordinance was shot down in favor of voluntary tree management guidelines, and it *has* happened here.

The County also failed to act on a Grand Jury recommendation in 2006 to implement an ordinance to protect oak trees. Another committee was formed. More good ideas were put forward. And again, nothing happened to prevent oak trees from falling.

We can't let this happen again. Oaks are in even more trouble now than they were 20 years ago, what with increased land conversion, extreme drought, over-drafted water basins, higher temperatures and pests like Sudden Oak Death and the Spotted Oak Borer.

There is overwhelming public support for preserving our oaks. I urge you to impose an immediate moratorium on further clear cutting and direct staff to develop a permanent ordinance within a few months' time. The ordinance should prohibit removal of any oak species over a sensible threshold without a permit and include penalties severe enough to deter future violations. There must also be requirements for adequate replacement planting and enforced monitoring that will sustain the woodlands we have left, and recover some of what we have lost.



## TAKE ACTION

The devil's in the details. Join us at the July 15 meeting of the Board of Supervisors to support these suggested oak woodland protection ordinance requirements:

1. Protect all oak species - not just deciduous species as Santa Barbara's ordinance does.
2. Prohibit actions resulting in death of trees (e.g. cut, girdle, poison, bulldoze) over specified threshold per acre (e.g. 10% or 10 trees per 100 acres).
3. Trees that have died or been irretrievably damaged by natural causes (e.g. wind, fire, flooding), that pose an immediate threat to safety or that conflict with meeting Calfire defensible space requirements within 100 feet of an existing residential structure shall be exempt from permit requirements.
4. Notice of processing an oak tree removal permit shall be mailed to owners of the property, all adjacent owners and/or owners within 1000 feet of property boundaries AND one general newspaper at least 30 days prior to the hearing or action.
5. Replanting requirements:
  - a. Require propagation from local oak stands for replanting onsite/offsite to conserve the genetic integrity of local oak populations.
  - b. If replacement oaks are planted off-site, the receiver site should be close-by and/or adjoining existing oak woodlands.
  - c. Removed trees shall be mitigated at a 15:1 (30:1 for valley oaks) ratio by replacement planting, or protection of naturally occurring oak trees between six inches and six feet tall.
  - d. Replacement trees must be protected from animal browsing above and below ground by fencing or caging until the tree is a minimum of 8 feet in height.
  - e. Replacement trees must be nurtured for five years, without supplemental water for the last two years. At the end of this period, ten trees for every tree removed must be alive and capable of surviving without nurturing and protection.
6. Violation of the ordinance will result in fines relative to the type and quantity of oak removed.
7. In addition, any violator will be barred from applying for any land use permit for five years. (No amount of plausible fines would likely impede the Resnicks and their ilk, but this would.)
8. Evaluate the ordinance every five years and revise if goals are not being met.

**Ecologistics**

*continued from page 3*

Wildlife Society talking about conserving California Condors and their habitat. Dave Foreman, a leading figure in the conservation movement, Earth First co-founder, and Director of the Rewilding Institute will give a "fireside" talk on Friday evening.

Saturday, Oct. 22, will be a full day of talks, workshops, and music. The program begins with William Ryerson and Joe Bish from The Population Media Center discussing the impact of our global human population overshoot (see also Dave Foreman's recent book, *Manswarm*, on this subject.) Eileen Crist, noted writer (*Gaia in Turmoil: Climate Change, Bio-depletion, and Earth Ethics*) and professor at Virginia Tech will speak on Freedom, Entitlement, and the Fate of the Nonhuman World. Stephanie Mills, a longtime bioregionalist and NeoLuddite, contributor to scores of publications like Orion, Whole Earth Catalogue, and Resurgence, will speak on Bioregionalism: Keeping Faith with Nature and Place.

Saturday afternoon events

start with Bill McKibben, founder of 350.org and The Schumann Distinguished Scholar in Environmental Studies at Middlebury College, speaking (via Skype) on What Winning the Climate Change Battle Looks Like, followed by a workshop and discussion of the Citizens' Climate Lobby strategy to pass a revenue-neutral carbon tax and dividend and a report on local actions by 350SLO.

Ecologistics is holding a Protest Songwriting Competition as part of the Collaboratory and will be soon seeking submissions for a cash prize. A live performance by the winner of the Protest Song contest, among other musicians, will be the cap to Saturday's activities.

The last day of the Collaboratory, Sunday, Oct. 23, will start with a 9 a.m. walk through the Pennington Creek Biological Preserve led by noted author and CalPoly professor, Matt Ritter. Next, Jerry Mander, Founder and Director of the International Forum on Globalization and noted author, will speak on capitalist economics and the negative role (most) technological innovation continues to contrib-

ute to our environmental woes. Derrick Jensen, radical environmentalist, noted author and host of Resistance Radio, will speak on themes from his recent book *The Myth of Human Supremacy*.

Throughout the sessions we will be creating together a Deep Ecology Manifesto for Preserving our Planetary Commons. We plan to use Loomio, an easy to use online tool (a technological spin-off from the Occupy movement) to keep individuals and groups connected following the Collaboratory for continued work in implementing the strategies outlined in the Deep Ecology Manifesto.

This gathering offers a unique opportunity for community activists, state and local officials, students, and anyone seeking to empower themselves to find new ways to take action to heal the planet, have fun, and make some new friends. For ticketing information and volunteer opportunities, please visit the Ecologistics website: [ecologistics.org/index.html](http://ecologistics.org/index.html). We look forward to meeting you in October.

**Big Blue**

*continued from page 2*

The film is a summary version of a longer documentary produced by the BBC that aired on PBS stations earlier this year. It

confluence shown in the film. The documentary also describes the kind of protections a national marine sanctuary provides against such threats as overfishing, oil extraction, pollution and seismic surveys.

The panel participants are

fruition, and how people attending the program can help. Panel members are Fred Collins, an administrator for the Northern Chumash Tribal Council, Andrew Christie, Director of the Santa Lucia Chapter of the Sierra Club, and P.J. Webb, a member of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council.

The proposal submitted by the Northern Chumash Tribal Council, working with the Sierra Club and other environmental groups, was officially accepted last October and is now eligible for designation as part of the National Marine Sanctuary Program.

The proposed sanctuary stretches from Santa Rosa Creek in Cambria to Gaviota Creek in Santa Barbara, some 140 miles of coastline.

The value of a sanctuary in our region has been aptly put in a petition sent to the White House Council on Environmental Quality:

*Designating a National Marine Sanctuary is the only way to permanently protect this critical and unique marine ecosystem from oil extraction, seismic testing, polluted wastewater and other threats and to increase its resilience in the face of climate change and ocean acidification. The Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary will fill a critical gap between the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary and the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary, thereby providing a long-term legacy of ocean and wildlife protection for our children and grandchildren.*

The SLO Unitarian Universalist Fellowship is located at 2201 Lawton Avenue, SLO.



documents the extraordinary rejuvenation of the once endangered and now thriving ecosystem of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. Some of the world's most charismatic marine creatures -- humpback whales, blue whales, sea lions, dolphins, elephant seals, sea otters, great white sharks, shearwaters, and brown pelicans -- convene in a once-a-year

people who have been instrumental in creating and submitting the current Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary proposal. If sanctuary status is granted, it would be the first in the national system to focus on indigenous culture and history as a primary core value along with the protection of ocean habitat.

The panel will talk about the process of applying for the sanctuary designation, what comes next in order to bring the sanctuary to

**The SLO Unitarian Universalist Fellowship's Green Team extends a special invitation to Sierra Club members and hopes they will join us at the Fellowship on August 6th.**

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# Classifieds

Next issue deadline is **August 15**. 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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Seller of travel registration information: CST 2087766-40. Registration as a seller of travel does not constitute approval by the State of California.

All our hikes and activities are open to all Club members and the general public. Please bring drinking water to all outings and optionally a lunch. Sturdy footwear is recommended. All phone numbers listed are within area code 805 unless otherwise noted. Pets are generally not allowed. A parent or responsible adult must accompany children under the age of 18. If you have any suggestions for hikes or outdoor activities, questions about the Chapter's outing policies, or would like to be an outings leader, call Outings Chair Joe Morris, 549-0355. For information on a specific outing, please call the listed outing leader.

**Sat., July 2nd, 8:30 a.m. Oats Peak via Valencia Peak-Coon Creek Loop.** Moderately strenuous 10.5-mile, 2800-ft. gain hike in Montana de Oro State Park. Enjoy coastline views from Valencia Peak and explore backcountry on Coon Creek Trail, onward to cypress grove for lunch, then returning to cars along ocean bluffs. Possibility of trailside poison oak and ticks. Bring water, snacks, lunch, and dress for changing weather. Those not wishing to return along bluff can arrange a shuttle by leaving a car at the Coon Creek trailhead. Meet at the Valencia Pk trailhead just past park visitor center. There is a possibility for post-hike eats. Leader: Chuck Tribbey, 441-7597.

**Sun., July 10th, 2 p.m. Historic Walk of Morro Bay.** Join us on a guided

stroll of this charming beach town, past downtown buildings, murals, and the Embarcadero. Uncover the town's hidden history from 19th-century fishing village to World War II navy base to seaside resort. Meet in front of the Bay Theatre, 464 Morro Bay Blvd. Leader: Joe Morris, 549-0355.

**Sat., July 16th, 8:30 a.m. Cruikshank to Soda Springs.** Strenuous nine-mile, 2,500 ft. gain hike with a mile section not well maintained. If fog not an issue, views from high elevations down the coast are stunning. Poison oak along trail. We will do a car shuttle between the trailheads. Meet at Washburn Day Use area in San Simeon State Park, about 1.7 miles north of traffic light at Main and Windsor in Cambria. Extreme heat will postpone

hike to a later date. Leader: Carlos Diaz-Saavedra, 546-0317.

**Mon., July 18th, 9 a.m. Los Osos Trail Maintenance.** Join us for 3 hours trimming shrubs and some poison oak in state park near Los Osos. Hedge shears, loppers, or square shovel and protective clothing on arms and legs required. Call one week in advance or email if you can help and for more instructions. Leader: Vicki Marchenko, 528-5567 or vmarchenko57@gmail.com.

**Wed., July 27th, 7-9 p.m. Bimonthly General Meeting: "The Lakes of SLO County."** Join us tonight for a rare inside look at the ecology and conservation of the county's lakes, centering on Laguna Lake, Lopez Lake and Santa Margarita Lake. Presented by the two men who would know best:

Bob Hill, City of SLO Natural Resources Manager, and Chuck Woodard, SLO County Ranger. Environmental news will begin the meeting. Meets at the Steynberg Gallery, 1531 Monterey St., SLO. Leader: Joe Morris, 549-0355.

**Sun., July 31st, 9 a.m. Johnson Ranch Open Space and Irish Hills Natural Reserve.** Six-mile hike, 700 ft. gain hike, 3 hours duration, to explore trail connecting Johnson Ranch and Irish Hills Reserve. Meet at Johnson Ranch Open Space trailhead at the turnout of intersection of S. Higuera St and Ontario Rd., adjacent to Hwy 101, south of San Luis Obispo. From there, we will shuttle in cars to the Irish Hills Reserve trailhead at the southern end of Madonna Rd in SLO—ten minutes drive. At hike's end, we will shuttle drivers back to cars at Irish Hills. Bring water, snacks, and dress in layers for changing weather. Hat and sturdy walking shoes recommended. The plants, animals, and geology of the area will be discussed. Leader: Bill Waycott, 459-2103 or bill.waycott@gmail.com.

**Sat., Aug. 6th, 10 a.m. Quarry Hill Trekking-Pole Hike.** Come on a two-mile, 400 ft. gain hike to demonstrate effective use of trekking poles. Polecats is a group dedicated to their practice and use. Meet at Quarry Hill trailhead. From Hwy 1 in Morro Bay, take Los Osos/Baywood Park exit, driving 1.4 miles south on South Bay Blvd. to trailhead parking lot on left. Leader: David Georgi, 458-5575 or hikingpoles@gmail.com.

**Sat., Aug. 13th, 9 a.m. Cruikshank Trail to Villa Creek Camp.** Moderate six-mile, out-and-back hike, 1600 ft gain, in Silver Peak wilderness—southern Big Sur. Enjoy great views of Big Sur coastline and redwood trees at our lunch stop in Villa Creek Camp. If interest, we may explore Upper Cruikshank camp old homestead. Ticks and poison oak are possible along trail. Bring lunch or snacks, water, and dress for changing weather. Meet at Washburn Day Use area of San Simeon State Park, about a

mile north of Cambria off Hwy 1. Eats are an option after hike. Leader: Chuck Tribbey, 441-7597.

**Fri-Sun., Aug. 19th-21st, Perseid Meteor Shower Weekend in Black Rock Desert.** Enjoy this spectacular shower in a remote, dark-sky area where meteors show up well. We will probably host about 100 campers in the widest part of the Black Rock Desert, about 100 miles north of Reno. A potluck, tours, and meteor watching are planned. Side trips to hot springs and the Emigrant Trail are likely. Leader: David Book, 775-843-6443 Great Basin Group/CNRCC Desert Committee.

**Sat., Aug. 20th, 8:30 a.m. Vicente Trail Hike to Nacimiento Summit.** Strenuous eleven-mile, 3100 ft. gain hike in northern county. Rather than there and back as in previous hikes, we will walk the entire trail and then follow

the road south to intersection with Nacimiento Rd. There will be a car shuttle. Poison oak along trail. Bring lunch and water and good hiking shoes. Leader will have a water purifier to replenish at Vicente Camp. Meet at Washburn Day Use Area, 1.7 miles north of traffic light at Main and Windsor in Cambria. Extreme heat will postpone hike to a later date. Leader: Carlos Diaz-Saavedra, 546-0317.

**Mon., Aug. 29th, 10 a.m. Badger Loop Trail in Montana de Oro State Park.** Join us for a 2 1/2 mile, 450 ft. gain hike with great vistas of mountains and coast, but without a steep climb near base of Valencia Pk. Meet at Valencia Pk. trailhead on Pecho Rd., 2.8 miles past park entrance and 500 ft. past Spooner Ranch House visitor center. Leader: Vicki Marchenko, 528-5567 or vmarchenko57@gmail.com.

## Island Hopping in Channel Islands National Park

**Jul. 17-19, Aug. 21-23, Sept. 25-27, Oct. 23-25.** Join us for a 3-day, 3-island, live-aboard cruise to the Channel Islands. Hike windswept 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 endangered island fox. Or just relax at sea! All cruises depart from Santa Barbara. \$650 cost 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 hold a reservation, mail a \$100 check to Sierra Club, and send to Joan Jones Holtz, 11826 The Wye St., El Monte, CA 91732.



## DESERT REPORT

NEWS OF THE DESERT FROM SIERRA CLUB CALIFORNIA & NEVADA DESERT COMMITTEE

JUNE 2016

The latest issue of Sierra Club California's Desert Report is now available at [desertreport.org/](http://desertreport.org/). Featured in this issue:

- Join The Re-vole-ution! Bringing a Tiny Mammal Back from the Brink
- Change Comes Slowly To The Desert
- EPA and Communities Tackle Childhood Asthma
- Desert Tortoise Conservation: Science And Politics Clash
- Anatomy Of A Successful Grass Roots Campaign: Communities Challenge a Flawed Travel Management Plan
- Lands With Wilderness Characteristics In The DRECP: A Continuing Inventory of Public Lands
- Blowing In The Wind: Airborne Dust And Valley Fever
- Sage-Grouse In Nevada: A Conservation Challenge
- Air We Can Not Breathe: The Ongoing Fight Against Environmental Injustice

Says Editor Craig Deutsche, "the first two stories in the issue are intended to be simply good reading -- the kind that will make you want to visit the desert again."



Vole-ay! Micro-mammal makes comeback.

The Desert Report is a publication of the California Nevada Regional Conservation Committee's Desert Committee. It is funded by Sierra Club California, contributions from readers, chapters, and a bequest.

### Activities sponsored by other organizations

SLO Speaks and Diablo Rising Tide present two events for direct action vs. climate change:

**Saturday, July 16, 6 p.m. Direct Action vs. Climate Change: A night of scheming & dreaming with Rising Tide.** SLO City/County Library Community Room, 995 Palm Street, SLO. Contact diabloringtide@riseup.net, 415-235-0596; SLOSpeaks@gmail.com, 805-317-6661.

**Sun., July 17, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Direct Action vs. Climate Change: Non-Violent Direct Action Workshop.** The Grange, 2880 Broad St, SLO. Contact diabloringtide@riseup.net, 415-235-0596; SLOSpeaks@gmail.com, 805-317-6661.

Diablo Rising Tide is the San Francisco Bay Area chapter of Rising Tide North America, a grassroots organizing network in Canada, the U.S., and Mexico who confronts the root causes of climate change with protests and events. California is being ravaged by fracking, industrial agriculture and drought. Oil spills have polluted our natural landscape. The oil lobby has continued to pour millions of dollars into state politics. Gov. Brown remains pro-fracking, pro-oil and pro-coal export terminal de-

## CONVENE – COLLABORATE – ACT

The 3-day **Deep Ecology Collaboratory** takes place October 21-23, 2016 at the Rancho El Chorro Conference and Retreat Center, which sits on a beautiful 250-acre nature reserve in the heart of San Luis Obispo County. With the guidance of our topic leaders you will take part in creating the **Deep Ecology Manifesto** to address the climate change and biodiversity crisis on a political, social and scientific level.

### Collaboratory Topic Leaders Include:

**Bill McKibben** – author, educator, and founder of 350.org (via Skype)

**Eileen Crist** – educator and co-editor of *Gaia in Turmoil* and *Life on the Brink*

**Jerry Mander** – Founder of the International Forum on Globalization and Program Director at the Foundation for Deep Ecology

**Dave Foreman** – co-founder of the Wildlands Project and author of *Man Swarm* and *Rewilding North America*

**Stephanie Mills** – lecturer, activist, and author of *Whatever Happened to Ecology?*

**William Ryerson** – founder and President of Population Media Center

**Joe Bish** – Director of Issue Advocacy at Population Media Center

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spite his assertions of "climate leadership."

At the UN climate talks in Paris, thousands told the world's leaders that they must act on climate and

keep fossil fuels in the ground. Kayaktivists have flooded into the waterways of Seattle and Portland to stop Shell's Arctic drilling. In May, thousands took

action to Break Free from Fossil Fuels in one of the largest global coordinated climate actions in history. Find out more at [www.diabloringtide.org](http://www.diabloringtide.org).



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.



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*For further information contact:*

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John Muir, founder of the Sierra Club, in Yosemite

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