

SANTA LUCIAN



Santa Lucia Chapter

**Jan./Feb. 2019
Volume 56 No.1**

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

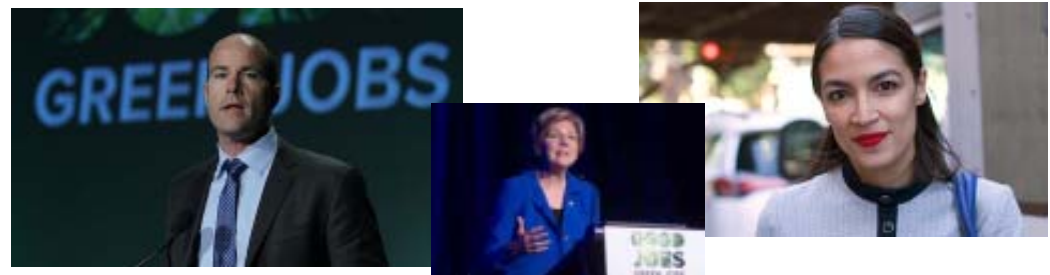
What's a Green New Deal?

Right after last November's Blue Wave election, youth activists affiliated with the Sunrise Movement and supported by Representative-elect Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez urged members of Congress nationwide to back a Green New Deal, and the Sierra Club reaffirmed its call for this platform.

The Sierra Club has been working with allies to develop a framework for a Green New Deal for the past year.

"As we witness record-breaking superstorms and devastating wildfires, it's more clear than ever that bold action to fight climate change is urgently needed," said Sierra Club Executive Director Michael Brune. "Acting is also an opportunity to tackle social inequality, create good jobs, and move toward a better world for everyone."

That is why the Sierra Club continues to strongly support a Green New Deal platform that includes significant action



Then and now Left to right: Sierra Club Executive Director Michael Brune and Senator Elizabeth Warren at the 2014 and 2015 national Good Jobs/Green Jobs conferences; Green New Deal congressional champion, Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez.

to protect every community from the climate crisis.

"A Green New Deal can create millions of family-sustaining union jobs upgrading our infrastructure, making our communities more resilient to the climate crisis, retro-

fitting and weatherizing our buildings, restoring our ecosystems, and moving our country to a 100% clean, renewable energy economy. And it would benefit those who have borne the brunt of both inequality and climate

See page 6 for legislative actions supported by the Sierra Club in a Green New Deal platform

Sierra Club Redoubles Support for an Equitable Clean Energy Economy

A Green New Deal is a big, bold transformation of the economy to tackle the twin crises of inequality and climate change. It would mobilize vast public resources to help us transition from an economy built on exploitation and fossil fuels to one driven by dignified work and clean energy.

The status quo economy leaves millions behind. While padding the pockets of corporate polluters and billionaires, it exposes working class families, communities of color, and others to stagnant wages, toxic pollution, and dead-end jobs.

The climate crisis only magnifies these systemic injustices, as hard-hit communities are hit even harder by storms, droughts, and flooding. Entrenched inequality, meanwhile, exacerbates the climate crisis by depriving frontline communities of the resources needed to adapt and cope.

Climate change and inequality are inextricably linked. We cannot tackle one without addressing the other. A Green New Deal would take on both.

change while doing it at a scale and pace that protects this generation and generations to come from the worst of the climate crisis.

"The Sierra Club applauds the youth activists and new members of Congress who are standing up for a Green New Deal. Those speaking out have made clear that continued inaction is unacceptable, and we urge every decision maker in Congress to listen. Investing time and energy to develop bold Green New Deal legislation is vitally needed in order to have solutions ready to be enacted when those who are on the wrong side of history are voted out of office. Now it's time to move forward together toward these solutions."

Inside

Sierra Club sues SLO County	2
Exxon, Be Gone!	4
Saving Community Choice	8
Classifieds	10
Outings	12

NEW DEAL continued on page 6

Sierra Club Sues County to Uphold Land Use Law

In 2017, The Fesler Family Trust applied for unconditional certificates of compliance that would create twelve land parcels on the Fesler Ranch in rural Arroyo Grande, based on an antiquated subdivision map from 1905.

County Planning replied:

“[T]here were no laws in effect at that time that regulated design and improvement.... Therefore, we are required to deny your application for issuance of twelve unconditional certificates of compliance for these lots.”

Fesler appealed the denial to the County Board of Supervisors. On October 2, 2018, the majority of the Board, Peschong (D1), Compton (D4), and Arnold (D5), voted to approve an antiquated subdivision in violation of state law. (See “Antique Land Use Planning at Its Finest,” Sept./Oct.)

In so doing, they overrode their Planning Department’s denial of the application and ignored the advice of their own legal counsel, who clearly articulated current law supporting the County Planning Department’s original conclusion that the lots in question are “not separate legal parcels recognized under today’s Subdivision Map Act.”

With 4th District Supervisor Lynn Compton leading the charge, the Board majority upheld the appeal and took a big step toward tossing out the rules on local land use and inviting an unregulated stampede of development.

Antiquated subdivisions inevitably compromise future livability.

They:

- disregard the general plan and applicable specific plans
- do not conform with land use ordinances
- fail to coordinate planning with the established local

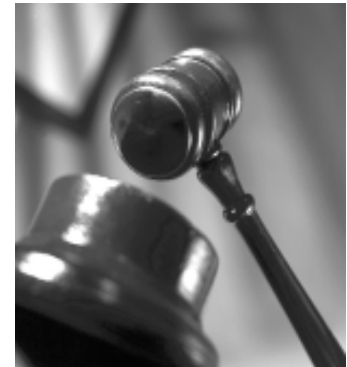
pattern and assure proper improvements are made

- cause incompatible land uses
- are detrimental to regional economies
- lack adequate infrastructure to support development
- fail to consider ancillary services needed for development (schools, parks, fire, police).

Help support livable communities

The board’s decision has opened the door to a terrible precedent. If you live in any rural or semi-rural area of San Luis Obispo County, the odds are there is an antiquated subdivision near you. If the County’s approval stands, the precedent will be set and the

LAWSUIT continued next page



Santa Lucian

Andrew Christie
EDITOR

Lindi Doud
EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

Denny Mynatt
PRINT MEDIA COORDINATOR



The Santa Lucian is published six 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**, Sierra Club, P.O. Box 15755, San Luis Obispo, CA 93406. sierraclub8@gmail.com

Santa Lucia Chapter

2019 Executive Committee

Sue Harvey (12/19) CHAIR
Carmen Bouquin (12/21) MEMBER
Chuck Tribbey (12/19) MEMBER
Heather Howell (12/20) MEMBER
Violet Cavanaugh (12/20) MEMBER
Nancy Cole (12/20) MEMBER
Jennifer Bauer (12/21) VICE-CHAIR

Chuck Tribbey COUNCIL OF CLUB LEADERS
Kevin O’Gorman TREASURER

The **Executive Committee** meets the third Wednesday of each month at 4:15 p.m. in the chapter office, located at 974 Santa Rosa St., San Luis Obispo. All members are welcome to attend.

Committees

Political
Violet Cavanaugh
Jennifer Bauer

Membership/Development
Open

Conservation
Sue Harvey

Nuclear Power Task Force
Rochelle Becker
Linda Seeley

CA Conservation Committee delegates
Jennifer Bauer, Violet Cavanaugh

Calendar Sales
Open

Outings

Facebook Administrator
Kim Ramos

Bookkeeper
Sandra Cirilo

Outings

Bill Waycott

Webmaster

Monica Tarzier

Trail Guide

Gary Felsman

Chapter Director

Andrew Christie sierraclub8@gmail.com

Santa Lucia Chapter

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

**Office hours Monday-Friday,
1:30 p.m. - 7 p.m.**

**974 Santa Rosa Street
San Luis Obispo**

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

Lawsuit

continued from page 2

problems listed here are likely to start appearing in your back yard.

The Santa Lucia Chapter of the Sierra Club is defending your quality of life by legally challenging this irresponsible action in court.

“That’s going to open up a door for more than just Mr. Fesler.”

- Assistant County Counsel Tim McNulty on the Board majority’s decision to create land parcels in violation of state law

We must send a clear message to the board of supervisors. If the county’s action stands, the many owners of antiquated subdivisions created before the advent of modern land use policies will demand that their maps be declared valid, providing an end run around the requirements of the county’s General Plan to the great detriment of rural lands. We are seeking to head off that outcome and to check the arrogantly unlawful actions of the SLO County Board majority.

Want to support our public interest litigation, conservation campaigns and outreach? It’s tax-deductible

Because the Sierra Club engages in political advocacy, donations to the Sierra Club are usually not tax-deductible. But you can help fund the charitable part of our chapter’s work, including public interest litigation, conservation campaigns, and public education, and make your donation tax-deductible by making out your check to **The Sierra Club Foundation** and sending to **Sierra Club, P.O. Box 15755, San Luis Obispo, CA 93406**. (Write “Santa Lucia Chapter” in the Memo section.)

For a tax-deductible credit card donation, you can just send us a note with the name on the card, amount to be donated, your credit card number, expiration date, and signature. (Write “Foundation Deposit” at the top.)

We look forward to partnering with you in 2019 to protect the SLO Coast we know and love.

The Next 50 Years

On October 27, the SLO Botanical Garden hosted “A Garden of Earthly Delights,” the 50th anniversary celebration of the Santa Lucia Chapter of the Sierra Club.

A good time was emphatically had by all, whether checking out the silent auction items and loading up on goodies provided by Something’s Cooking Catering, participating in the live auction, or rocking out to the Back Pages Band.



Welcome, guest Chapter Chair Chuck Tribbey (left) chats with California Secretary of Resources John Laird, who spoke with event set-up volunteers from the Cal Poly Environmental Council during their pizza break.



Organizers Jennifer Von Der Lohe, Wanda McDonald and Dawn Annoni did a fantastic job, donated auction items were spectacular, and the food, beer, wine, music and magic made it a great day!

With thanks to our sponsors:



and: Christine Mulholland
Carla Saunders
Deborah Cash
Kurt Kupper
Susan & Richard Harvey
David & Naomi Blakely
Paul Meagher on behalf of SunWork



It's Time to Say:

Exxon, Be Gone

If we defeat these proposals, we have a chance of keeping this oil in the ground and marking the beginning of the end of offshore oil in California.

Plains All-American Pipeline caused the Refugio Oil Spill of 2015, California's worst coastal oil spill in 25 years. Now it wants another chance to spill again.

Santa Barbara County is processing Plains' application to build another coastal oil pipeline that would restart drilling from six decrepit offshore oil platforms in the Santa Barbara Channel.

Houston-based Plains was criminally negligent in allowing its previous coastal oil pipeline to become corroded and fail, coating Santa Barbara area beaches in crude and killing hundreds of birds and marine mammals. It doesn't deserve another opportunity to kill threatened wildlife, poison our communities and wreck the climate.

Plains All American Pipeline is proposing to build more than 123 miles of new oil pipeline through Santa Barbara (73 miles), San Luis Obispo (37 miles) and Kern counties (14 miles), transporting heavy crude pumped from offshore drilling platforms to onshore processing facilities. Plains also proposes to abandon in place about 123 miles of its old failed oil pipelines.

The new pipeline will mostly follow the same route as the old broken pipeline – which was built based on environmental studies done in the late '80s – in a rapidly changing coastal zone that is now being affected by coastal erosion, sea level rise and other impacts from climate change.

A history of violations

Investigators responding to a massive coastal oil spill near Refugio State Beach in 2015 found the source, Plains Pipeline 901, to be severely corroded and poorly maintained. In September 2018, a Santa Barbara jury found Plains guilty of a felony for

failing to properly maintain its pipeline and eight misdemeanor charges for a delay in reporting the spill and for its deadly impact on protected wildlife. The jury concluded the company knew or should have known that its pipeline was corroded and about to fail.

Plains All American Pipeline had a bad safety record even before the Refugio spill. Federal records show the company had 175 incidents from 2006-2015, most of them oil spills, including 11 in California. Federal enforcement actions were launched against the company 20 times during that period, many for corrosion control and maintenance problems on its pipelines.

Federal data show oil pipelines are dangerous and prone to failure, particularly

when they're either old or brand new, the latter often because of faulty welds. From 1986-2015, there were nearly 8,000 serious pipeline breaks in the U.S., causing more than 2,300 injuries and nearly \$7 billion in property damage. More than a third of those were from corrosion or other spontaneous failures.

Six offshore drilling platforms – ExxonMobil's Platforms Harmony, Heritage and Hondo; and Freeport McMoRan's Platforms Harvest, Hermosa and Hidalgo – were all idled by Plains' 2015 pipeline failure. The new pipeline could restart oil production, prolong the lifespan of aging offshore infrastructure, and serve new offshore drilling planned by the Trump administration. The Trump administration is proposing to offer the first

new fossil fuel leases in federal waters off California in more than 30 years. Hundreds of new offshore wells could be drilled in coming years.

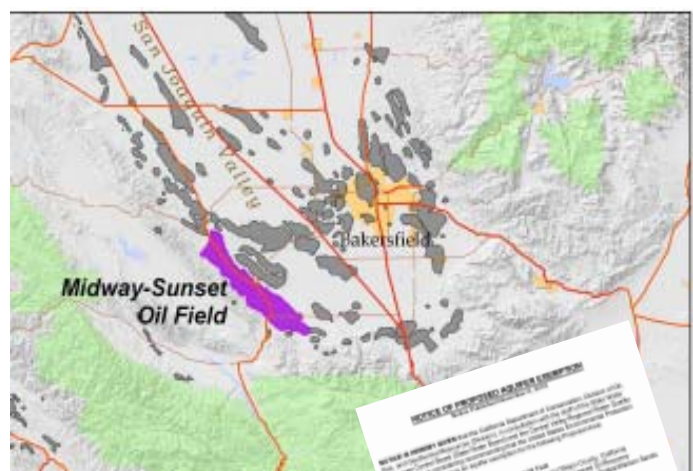
The 2015 Plains Pipeline oil spill blackened Santa Barbara area beaches for miles and killed hundreds of birds and marine mammals, including at least 74 California sea lions. Even larger spills are possible once the project reactivates long-dormant offshore platforms and pipelines.

Allowing drilling in federal waters off Southern California to resume and expand would likely result in hundreds of oil spills that would harm California sea otters, blue whales and other animals vulnerable to Pacific drilling. Resuming offshore fracking would further dirty our oceans and harm marine life.

How Far Should You Trust an Oil Company?

As far as you can toss a tanker

At 11:59 a.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 6, as SLO County voters were going to the polls to vote on Measure G, the ballot initiative designed to protect the county's aquifers from expanded oil field operations and keep fracking and other "enhanced" oil extraction methods out of the county, the California Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources let it be known that it was "considering a proposal to exempt the Midway-Sunset Oil Field, located in Kern County and San Luis Obispo County, CA. Subject to approval by the United States Environmental Protection Agency, the proposed aquifer exemption would allow the State, in compliance with the federal Safe Drinking Water Act, to



Antandrus

Trust

continued from page 4

approve Class II injection into the identified area, either for enhanced oil recovery or for injection disposal of fluids associated with oil and gas production.”

The principal operator of Midway-Sunset, the largest oil field in California, is Chevron, which had just contributed the lion’s share of \$8 million to a campaign to convince SLO County

voters that oil companies had no plans to bring to SLO County the “enhanced” oil recovery methods that Measure G would have prohibited.

Later that night, with most votes counted, that campaign proved successful. Voters who had been persuaded to vote “no” on Measure G could then look to the east to see the outlines of a giant, upraised, oil-soaked middle finger, now visible to all.

TAKE ACTION

Protest 50 Years of Offshore Drilling and Spilling

Deliver a Resolution to Your City Council: Oppose the Exxon Oil Trucking and Pipeline Plans

Attention Sierra Club members: You and two or three friends showing up during the public comment session of your next city council meeting can help make Exxon be gone!

For talking points, a sample resolution, or to get hooked up with a team that has already volunteered to approach your council, contact sierraclub8@gmail.com or call (805) 543-8717.

More than 80 West Coast communities have voiced their opposition to offshore drilling, and more than 1 million Americans have submitted comments demanding we keep offshore oil in the ground. Yet the Trump administration continues to prioritize the profits of the fossil fuel industry over the interests of our communities and the health of our oceans.

Join the Center for Biological Diversity and friends on the 50th anniversary of the ‘69 Santa Barbara oil spill to protest the Trump administration’s plan to drill and frack our oceans. We’ll gather outside of the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management Pacific office in Camarillo to tell Trump that offshore drilling and the oil spills, leaky pipelines and climate chaos that come with it are not welcome off our coast.

Monday, January 28, 10 a.m. – 11 a.m.
760 Paseo Camarillo, Camarillo

RSVP on Facebook: “Protest 50 Years of Offshore Drilling and Spilling”



New Deal

continued from page 1

To tackle the climate crisis at the speed that justice and science demand, a Green New Deal would upgrade our infrastructure, revitalize our energy system, retrofit our buildings, and restore our ecosystems. In so doing, a Green New Deal would cut climate pollution while creating millions of family-sustaining jobs, expanding access to clean air and water, raising wages, and building climate resilience. To counteract inequality, those benefits would go first and foremost to the working class families and communities of color that have endured the brunt of the fossil fuel economy.

What would a Green New Deal achieve?

- *Millions of family-sustaining jobs:* Whether replacing lead pipes, weatherizing homes, expanding railways, or manufacturing wind turbines, millions of workers will lead the transition to a new economy. The jobs created must be high-road, union jobs with family-sustaining wages and benefits, safe working conditions, and training and advancement opportunities.
- *Climate sanity:* A Green New Deal would help us swiftly transition to a clean energy economy. By investing in smart grids for renewable energy distribution, encouraging energy-efficient manufacturing, and expanding low-emissions public transit, a Green New Deal would significantly reduce climate pollution.
- *Clean air and water:* A Green New Deal would clean up hazardous waste sites and reduce toxic air and water pollution from oil, gas, and coal. Those benefiting the most would be the communities of color and low-income families who today endure disproportionate exposure to toxins.
- *Lower costs:* A Green New Deal would help working class families slash their

energy bills and reduce their transit costs by offering more energy-efficient homes, access to affordable wind and solar power, and more reliable options for affordable public transportation.

- *Community resilience:* Communities need greater resources to ensure safety and growth amid rising climate risks. A Green New Deal would help climate-exposed communities build bridges



How about it, Rep. Hoyer? Activists filled Steny Hoyer's D.C. office on Dec. 10 to urge him to support the establishment of a Select Committee for a Green New Deal. Go to jdems.us/gnd.

that can withstand floods, restore wetlands that buffer hurricanes, and shield coastlines from sea level rise.

- *Greater racial and economic equity:* The disproportionate benefits of a Green New Deal would go to the working-class families and communities of color that have endured disproportionate economic and environmental hazards for decades. A Green New Deal must counteract systemic racism and economic exploitation by giving hard-hit communities priority access to new job opportunities, cost savings, pollution cleanup projects, and climate resilience initiatives.

What policies are part of a Green New Deal?

A Green New Deal is not a single law, but a suite of economic policies to deliver

better job opportunities, less climate pollution, cleaner air and water, and more resilient communities. Here are three examples.

- *Infrastructure Renewal:* We have a major, job-creating opportunity to repair, upgrade, and expand our country's neglected roads, bridges, energy grid, and water systems. This is not only a matter of fixing what's broken – it's a chance to build a cleaner, more affordable, and more resilient infrastructure system that supports workers and frontline communities for coming generations. Specific projects in a Green New Deal infrastructure overhaul would include: expanding access to light rail and low-emissions public transit, replacing lead pipes, building a smart grid for increased wind and solar power, replacing stormwater

systems to prevent flooding and toxic runoff, and restoring wetlands and other natural buffers that protect communities. Each project must fulfill high-road standards:

- Create family-sustaining jobs. Each project should be required to pay workers prevailing wages, hire locally, offer training opportunities, and sign project labor agreements with unions.
- Tackle pollution and climate change. Priority should be given to projects that build resilience or reduce climate and local pollution, and the materials used should be climate-resilient, energy efficient, and produced via clean manufacturing.
- Level the playing field. Priority should be given to projects that benefit low-

We need a massive public investment to transition from an economy built on exploitation and fossil fuels to one driven by dignified work and clean energy. We need to upgrade our infrastructure, overhaul our energy system, retrofit our buildings, and restore our ecosystems. We need to create family-sustaining jobs, guarantee clean air and water, raise wages, and build climate resilience – with priority access for frontline communities. We need a Green New Deal.

Electoral Repair

By Andrew Christie, Chapter Director

In 2010, Jeff Denham (R-Fresno) was elected to the House of Representatives as part of the midterm Republican takeover of Congress two years after Barack Obama was elected president. Below is a partial reprint of an article that appeared in the March 2011 issue of the Santa Lucian that accompanied my report on that year's Good Jobs, Green Jobs National Conference in Washington. It now serves as an illustration of the twin necessities of electing the right kind of representatives to make a Green New Deal possible, and removing the wrong kind. *The Blue Wave of 2018 swept Rep. Denham out of Congress.*

Congressman Denham, Call Your Office

Thursday, February 10, the day after the Good Jobs, Green Jobs conference, was "advocacy day" on Capitol Hill for conference attendees. In the course of visiting with Members of Congress and their staff, my group dropped by the office of Republican freshman Representative Jeff Dehnam, where we met with the Congressman's aide, Ryan Hanretty.

Since his arrival in Congress, Rep. Denham has voted with his party 100 percent of the time.

I mentioned that the GOP's promise to slash funding for the Environmental Protection Agency was a bad idea. Hanretty

replied that this was being contemplated as part of across-the-board cuts that would require the same level of belt-tightening at all federal agencies to ensure fairness.

I replied that cuts at the EPA were not like cuts to other federal agencies, as the reduction or elimination of EPA programs would mean an increase in polluted air, water, and toxic waste sites awaiting clean up, and that decreased ability to protect public health would mean a corresponding increase in the rates of cancer, asthma, and other diseases caused by environmental factors.

Hanretty countered that the same argument could be made regarding budget cuts at the IRS, because the more funds that agency has, the greater its ability to recover unpaid taxes through enforcement efforts.

T.J. Michaels, a labor organizer with Change to Win, affably inquired if Hanretty thought that the parents of children sickened or killed by polluted air and water as a result of EPA



The gentleman yields Former Rep. Denham's ideas about environmental protection have left the building.

REPAIR continued on page 9

New Deal

continued from previous page

income families and communities of color, with community benefit agreements used to ensure support for community-defined priorities.

- Help communities, not corporations. This infrastructure transformation should be large in scale, driven by public funds, and spent on public infrastructure, so that tax dollars support the resilience of communities, not the profit margins of CEOs.

● *Weatherize America:* Each time that a homeowner, business, or local government decides to weatherize a building, it supports jobs, slashes energy bills, and cuts climate pollution. A nationwide Green New Deal plan to weatherize buildings from coast to coast would create hundreds of thousands of retrofitting jobs, save families billions of dollars, and move us closer to climate sanity. We could achieve these goals with new national energy efficiency standards for public and private buildings,

We now have a something that has been sorely missing: a concrete plan on the table, complete with a science-based timeline, that is not only coming from social movements on the outside of government, but which also has a sizable (and growing) bloc of committed champions inside the House of Representatives.

- Naomi Klein, *The Intercept*, November 28, 2018

with public investments to help energy utilities implement the standards. The building weatherization projects enabled by this funding should be required to pay prevailing wages and focus training opportunities in working class communities. New national standards for more energy-efficient appliances and industrial processes would create even more high-road jobs in manufacturing and engineering, while further cutting energy costs, toxic emissions, and climate pollution.

● *Buy Clean:* Each year the federal government spends billions of our tax dollars to

buy goods, from steel for bridges to paper for offices. As part of a Green New Deal, a new "Buy Clean" law would ensure that these government purchases help fuel the transition to a clean energy economy and the creation of good jobs for those who need them most. Buy Clean standards would require that tax dollars be spent on goods manufactured with clean and efficient practices that protect our air, water, and climate. These standards also would require that government contractors pay family-sustaining wages, hire and train local workers, and locate job opportunities in working class communities.

Isn't a Green New Deal pretty hypothetical?

None of this is hypothetical. It's already happening. From coast to coast, broad local coalitions are leading the way in pushing state-level Green New Deal policies that create good jobs, cut climate and local pollution, and counteract racial and economic inequity.

As Donald Trump desperately tries to divide us, unions, environmental groups and racial justice organizations are joining forces to chart the path for a Green New Deal. Their local successes offer a model for a nation-wide mobilization under a new administration.

TAKE ACTION

Show your support at tinyurl.com/agreennewdeal



Love That Dirty Water?

Neither do we. Go to #DirtyWaterRule, #ProtectCleanWater, or #NoDirtyWater to fight the Trump administration's wipeout of the Clean Water Act.

A Day of Service at Fiscalini Ranch

Fiscalini Ranch Preserve Project Manager Holly Sletteland hosted 15 Sierra Club members from Florida, Texas, Idaho, etc. who joined Friends of the Fiscalini Ranch Preserve in Cambria for a day of service on December 15.

Volunteers energetically removed invasive ice plant along the ocean bluffs.

"It went very well and they worked incredibly hard – a full six hours," said Holly. "Charley, the leader, indicated he wanted to make sure that the ranch was part of all future trips to the central coast and I said I'd love that, so hopefully it will happen."

Sierra Club Outings runs about 90 service trips each year nationwide, donating roughly 27,000 work hours to state and federal land agencies. Service trips range from helping with research projects at whale calving grounds in Maui to assisting



Community Choice Energy on the Central Coast is finally a reality!



By the SLO Climate Coalition

After ten years of community leadership, our brand new, local Community Choice Energy program was approved by the SLO City Council on September 18 and by the Morro Bay City Council on September 25, both by unanimous 5-0 votes.

born. We are fighting back! Thankfully, we had a Plan B.

On November 7th, the first and last "Central Coast Community Choice Energy" board meeting took place. With this new information, the board members dissolved

- Lower cost to customers
- Investment in our local community.

MBCP's default power portfolio, MBchoice, is carbon-free, sourced from renewable sources such as solar, wind, and carbon free sources such as hydroelectric generation. Cost savings will come from a minimum 3% rebate for all customers. Buildup of local energy sources is gearing up, which will result in increases in employment opportunities and sustainability.

In 2019 we will prepare for SLO and Morro Bay to begin service January 1, 2020, just one year from now! We will work to increase awareness of the benefits of CCE and expand MBCP into a larger Central Coast Community Energy program by adding other communities in San Luis Obispo and northern Santa Barbara Counties that will deliver on our vision of local benefits and deep decarbonization.

For more information, go to carbonfreeslo.org.



Paperwork was submitted to the state.

Unfortunately, on October 11, the California Public Utility Commission (CPUC) put a huge wrinkle in our plans by unfairly transferring the costs of their poor planning onto community choice energy programs, dramatically increasing the "exit fees" all CCE customers must pay to utilities, effectively killing the visionary program we'd fought so hard to create just as it was being

their fledgling program and recommended its members join an existing program with similar goals instead.

In response, the cities of San Luis Obispo and Morro Bay quickly rallied to hold another vote and unanimously agreed to join an existing CCE: Monterey Bay Community Power, just north of us! Monterey Bay Community Power (MBCP) offers three key benefits:

- Reduction in greenhouse gas emissions

with archaeological site restoration in New Mexico.

Service trip participants may team up with forest service rangers or park service personnel to restore wilderness areas, maintain trails, clean up trash and campsites, and remove non-native plants. Go to Sierraclub.org/outings and click on Activities, Service/Volunteer.



Repair

continued from page 7

budget cuts might have a problem with a Congressman who considered this to be equivalent to the effects of cutting the budget of the IRS.

Hanretty demurred that “We would tell the EPA it needs to cut a certain amount from its budget, and it would be up to them where to make the cuts,” hence avoiding cuts to vital programs.

Well, no. The following day, the GOP’s attack on the EPA’s Clean Air Act authority became official with the rollout of HR 1, House Republicans’ 2011 budget proposal. Sierra Club Executive Director Michael Brune commented that “the House bill includes the largest percentage cut to the Environmental Protection Agency’s budget in 30 years, an agency whose primary responsibility is to protect the health and safety of Americans. For example, the bill would prevent the EPA from enforcing Clean Water Act protections against oil spills and waste dumping into drinking water sources of more than 117 million Americans.” An additional rider would prohibit EPA from carrying out its mandate to regulate greenhouse gas pollution.



How They Lost

“One, the environment matters to voters. As a party, we have somehow forgotten that conservatism should apply to more than just financial resources. Being conservative should entail being conservative with natural resources, too. I’ve always believed this — so much so that the Sierra Club endorsed me in my race for re-election as governor.”

- “A Wake-Up Call for the G.O.P.: My South Carolina district hadn’t voted for a Democrat in 40 years. What happened?”
by Mark Sanford, *New York Times*, Nov. 13, 2018.

Welcome New Members!

Whether new to the Sierra Club or new to San Luis Obispo, welcome all to the Santa Lucia Chapter. We’re very happy to have you aboard!

Vance Weber
Annelie Heinemann
Shea Petty
Paul Greiling
Bruce Falkenhagen
Chris Anderson
Paige Chamberlain
Michael Vedrin
Katherine Corson
Nancy Kolliner
Colin Smith
Christine Ferguson
Madeline Feigles
Kori Harvey
Kathleen Fisher
Kaylin O’Gorman
Maureen Rose
John Huetter
Suzanne Schoffstoll
Patricia Dowd
Melinda Van Horn
Art Wells

Margaret Webb
Stephanie Burchiel
Stanley Cooper
Margaret Korisheli
Tina Levitan
James Howell
Linda Vasquez
Robert Stubler
Else Drengler
Lorraine Rowland
Elexia Estrada
Geraldine Baker

Transfers

Eugenia Haynie
Dale Sutliff
Ellen Ayres
Shirley Ritter
Doug & Riekie Dorman
Paul Volker
Elenie Antonsen



2019 Sierra Club Calendars

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

10% off! *free shipping!*
wall calendar: \$13.50
desk calendar: \$14.50 **5 left**
5 or more: 15% off!

Send your check to: Sierra Club
P.O. Box 15755
San Luis Obispo, CA 93406



WILDERNESS CALENDAR | 2019

Dunes and Defensiveness

SLO County, the Air Pollution Control District, and the California Coastal Commission have pinned many hopes on the notion that the California Department of Parks and Recreation has lately turned over a new leaf in the decades-long struggle to bring the Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area into compliance with state coastal law and local air quality regulations.

New management at State Parks and new pledges of cooperation, the theory goes, means a new day is dawning and a resolution of the

intractable problems at the dunes is at hand through reasoned negotiation and voluntary measures. But:



Say what now? Let's all ponder what the Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division may mean by "defensive planning."

strengthen DPR's commitment to recreation... providing a unified statewide approach to acquisitions, land use planning and defensive planning."

Setting aside the fact that there is only one kind of recreation the OHMVR Division is interested in and that this makes the OHMVR Division's plan look a lot like a corporate culture takeover of State Parks, we were struck by the use of the phrase "defensive planning," a term we have never seen or heard in conjunction with land use issues or the work of planning departments. It does not seem to exist in that field.

However, the term does enjoy regular usage in other fields – mostly in one particular field – as a quick web search will disclose.

Here, for example, is a typical reference from the Special Tactics website (left), offering online course training in Close Quarters Battle, VIP Protection, Knife Defense, Infantry Rural Combat, etc.: "Defensive planning begins with conducting a threat assessment. Decision makers complete a prioritized threat list and disseminate that list down to subordinate units to form the basis for defensive planning.... The next step is to think through (or "war-game") specific contingencies of how each threat could play out in real life." And so on.


Memo to the APCD and Coastal Commission: This does not bode well for the spirit of cooperation with an agency that continues to make it clear that it considers off-road recreation to be a priority on the same level as, or higher than, the protection of human health, endangered species and their habitat.

In 2016, the Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division of State Parks claimed that the Environmental Impact Report for long-term dust reduction on the Oceano Dunes must consider "recreational impacts," an attempt to stand the California Environmental Quality Act on its head by pretending that CEQA requires them to analyze the impact of dust control measures on off-highway vehicle recreation, not the other way around. This accompanied an analysis that avoided the most potentially effective dust control measures and instead focused on preserving the maximum off-road riding area on the dunes. (See "On the Threshold of Insignificance," May 2017.)

Then, late last year, the OHMVR Division issued a Transition Implementation Plan that will "embed the SVRA's recreation focus throughout DPR and serve to



LA COSTA GRILL
 Happy Hour 4-6PM
Ta Corona
\$2.50 EACH
 TACO / CORONA
 168 Station Way, Arroyo Grande, CA 93420 | (805) 474-8797
 (next to Arroyo Grande Post Office) www.costagrill.com


Volumes of Pleasure Bookshoppe
 A General Bookstore Specifically for Thinkers
 Carroll Leslie & Barbara Strauss
 BOOKSELLERS
 1016 Los Osos Valley Rd. Suite 100
 Los Osos, California 93402 (805) 528-5565

Outings

continued from page 12

sign in. 6.6 miles roundtrip with a 300 ft. elevation change. Come prepared to talk about birds, plants, and discover the picturesque headlands (binoculars recommended). Bring water, snacks, and dress in layers. A hat and sturdy shoes advised. Contact Bill, 805-459-2103.

Saturday, Feb. 9th, 8:00 am, Fernandez Semi-loop Hike, Pozo. This hike is on a remote trail northeast of Pozo, in the La Panza mountain range, maintained by our friends in the Central Coast Concerned Mountain Bikers club. Strenuous, 11 miles, 1,600 feet of elevation gain. Part of our trek will go off the trail to follow Fernandez Creek and return to the trail making it more of a challenge with a steeper slope and some brush. If anyone wants to cut brush with hand clippers along the way,

it would be helpful. Some poison oak exposure. Meet in front of the Pacific Beverage Co. in Santa Margarita at 8:00 am. Dogs on leash are welcome. Rain postpones. Contact Carlos, 805-546-0317.


Saturday, Feb. 9th, 8:30 am, False Alan Peak, Montaña de Oro State Park. Hike is @ 12 miles roundtrip. 1,800 ft elevation gain and loss. We'll take the Oats Peak Trail to the summit, then continue on to False Alan. Time permitting, we'll return along Coon Creek, slowing to observe the unique plants in this riparian area. Meet at Valencia Peak Trailhead in Montaña de Oro State Park. Bring at least 2.5 liters of water per person, lunch and snacks. Lugsole boots (as opposed to sneakers) are recommended for the gravelly trails in MDO. Sorry, dogs are not allowed on any of the MDO trails.

Contact Lisa 310-864-4679. Rain cancels.


Saturday, Feb. 16th, 8:30 am, Eastern SLO County Exploration. Come explore one of my favorite places east of Pozo. We will use ranch roads, some cross country, possibly muddy areas, as we explore this wonderful area. 8-10

miles, 1,500 feet elevation gain. Bring lunch, water, sturdy shoes and dress for the weather. Meet at Pacific Beverage Company in Santa Margarita. No dogs except with explicit prior permission by the hike leader. If permitted, the dog must be leashed at all times, as we are on a private ranch with cattle roaming the area. Contact Gary 805-473-3694. Rain or threat of rain cancels.

Saturday, Feb. 16th and Sunday Feb. 24th, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, Red Cross Wilderness First Aid Course. Would you like to feel more confident in the wilderness knowing you can care for your family and friends? Are you a Sierra Club Outings Leader who would like to lead overnight backpacking trips? Then you will want to participate in this Red Cross Wilderness First Aid Training Course. The course is \$110.00 per person and will be held near San Luis




The Sierra Club Needs You!



Become an Outings Leader

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



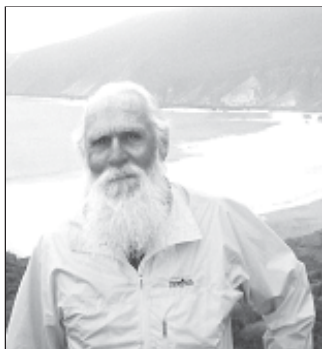
John Muir, founder of the Sierra Club, in Yosemite

For further information contact:

Bill Waycott, Outings Chair
 (805) 459-2103 or
bill.waycott@gmail.com

“He was truly an inspiration for all who love Mother Earth.”

The Santa Lucia Chapter thanks Vita Miller for her generous donation in memory of Bill Denneen.



Obispo in an outdoor setting, to simulate the wilderness experience. Class size is limited to 10 participants and will be reserved on a first come, first-served basis. Red Cross Adult CPR/AED/First Aid certification is a prerequisite. Wilderness First Aid Certification is valid for 3 years. Contact Lisa, 310-864-4679.

Monday to Thursday, Feb. 25th to 28th, 2019, Camping and Hiking in Death Valley National Park. On Monday, we will meet at noon at the Panamint Springs Campground (\$10 per

car) on Hwy. 190, just off Panamint Valley Road. In the afternoon we will hike to Darwin Falls. Tuesday, we will move to Mesquite Springs Campground and hike the rim of Ubehebe Crater. Wednesday, we will hike Titus Canyon and return to camp. Thursday, we will pack up and go to the Mesquite Dunes for a morning hike on the dunes before heading home. All hikes will be at a leisurely pace. For reservations contact Carol, 760-245-8734. Mojave Group/CNRCC Desert Committee.



A Will is a Way

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

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



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

Sierra Club

Santa Lucia Chapter
P. O. Box 15755
San Luis Obispo, CA 93406

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

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 Bill Waycott, (805) 459-2103. For information on a specific outing, please call the listed outing leader.



Tuesday, Jan. 1st, 9:30 am, New Year's Senior Saunter at Montana de Oro.

Sociable walk along dunes and ocean bluffs, 3 miles roundtrip. Meet at Montana de Oro State Park visitors center near Spooner's Cove. Contact Joe, 805-549-0355. Rain cancels.

Sunday, Jan. 6th, 9:00 am, Fiscalini Ranch Preserve, Cambria.

Join us for a look at the biology of this spectacular open space overlooking the Pacific Ocean. Our visit will include tidal effect

zones, seasonal freshwater marshes and wetlands, as well as the Monterey pine forest (one of three native stands in the world). Meet at the south end of Windsor Blvd in Cambria. Bring your wildflower guides, water, food, hat, sturdy shoes, and dress in layers. Contact Bill Waycott, 805-459-2103. Rain or the threat of rain cancels.

Saturday, Jan. 19th, 8:30 am, Rinconada to Big Falls Hike. Join us on this out and back trek to one of SLO County's more impres-

sive water falls. If we get some rain prior to this date, it will make the 12-mile excursion more worthwhile. This is a moderately strenuous hike with a 1,400 feet of elevation gain. Bring lunch, water and hiking shoes. There will probably be some poison oak and two minor creek crossings. Dogs on leash welcome. Meet in front of the Pacific Beverage Co. in Santa Margarita. Contact Carlos, 805-546-0317. Rain postpones.

Saturday, Feb. 2, 9:30 am, Senior

Saunter at Eagle Rock, El Chorro Reg. Park.

Sociable walk to hilltop overlooking five Morros, 2 miles roundtrip, 400 ft. gain. Meet at parking lot at end of Dairy Creek Rd in El Chorro Regional Park, across Hwy 1 from Cuesta College. Contact Joe, 805-549-0355. Rain cancels.

Saturday, Feb. 2nd, 9:00 am, Point Buchon Trail,

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.

Montaña de Oro State Park. Meet at the Coon Creek Trailhead parking lot at the south end of MDO. We will walk to the PG&E kiosk and

OUTINGS cont. on page 11

Village Creek Plaza

168 **La Costa Grill**
(805) 474-8797

170 **Cutting Edge Saion**
(805) 481-3126

172 **Bend Chiropractic**
(805) 474-4747

174 **House 2 Home Interiors**
(805) 489-5233

168 - 174 Station Way, Arroyo Grande, CA 93420

Along Arroyo Grande Creek next to AG Post Office

Island Hopping in Channel Islands National Park

April 7-9, May 5-7, June 9-11, July 14-16, August 18-20, September 22-24, October 20-22. Join us for a 3-day, 3-island, live-aboard tour of the Channel Islands. Hike wild, windswept trails bordered with blazing wildflowers. Kayak rugged coastlines, Marvel at pristine waters teeming with seals and sea lions. Train your binoculars on sea and land birds and an occasional whale. Watch for the endangered island fox. Look for reminders of the Chumash people who lived on these islands for thousands of years. Or just relax at sea. Departs from Santa Barbara. \$730, includes assigned bunk, all meals, snacks and beverages. Kayaking overseen by our concessionaire; all hikes will be on trails, class 1 terrain. This is a fundraiser to support the Sierra Club political program in California. To reserve space, send a \$200 check, written to California Sierra Club PAC, to Joan Jones Holtz, 11826 The Wye St., El Monte, CA 91732. For more information contact leaders Joan Jones Holtz: jholtzhl@aol.com, 626-443-0706 or Wayne Vollaire avollaire1@gmail.com, 909-327-6825.