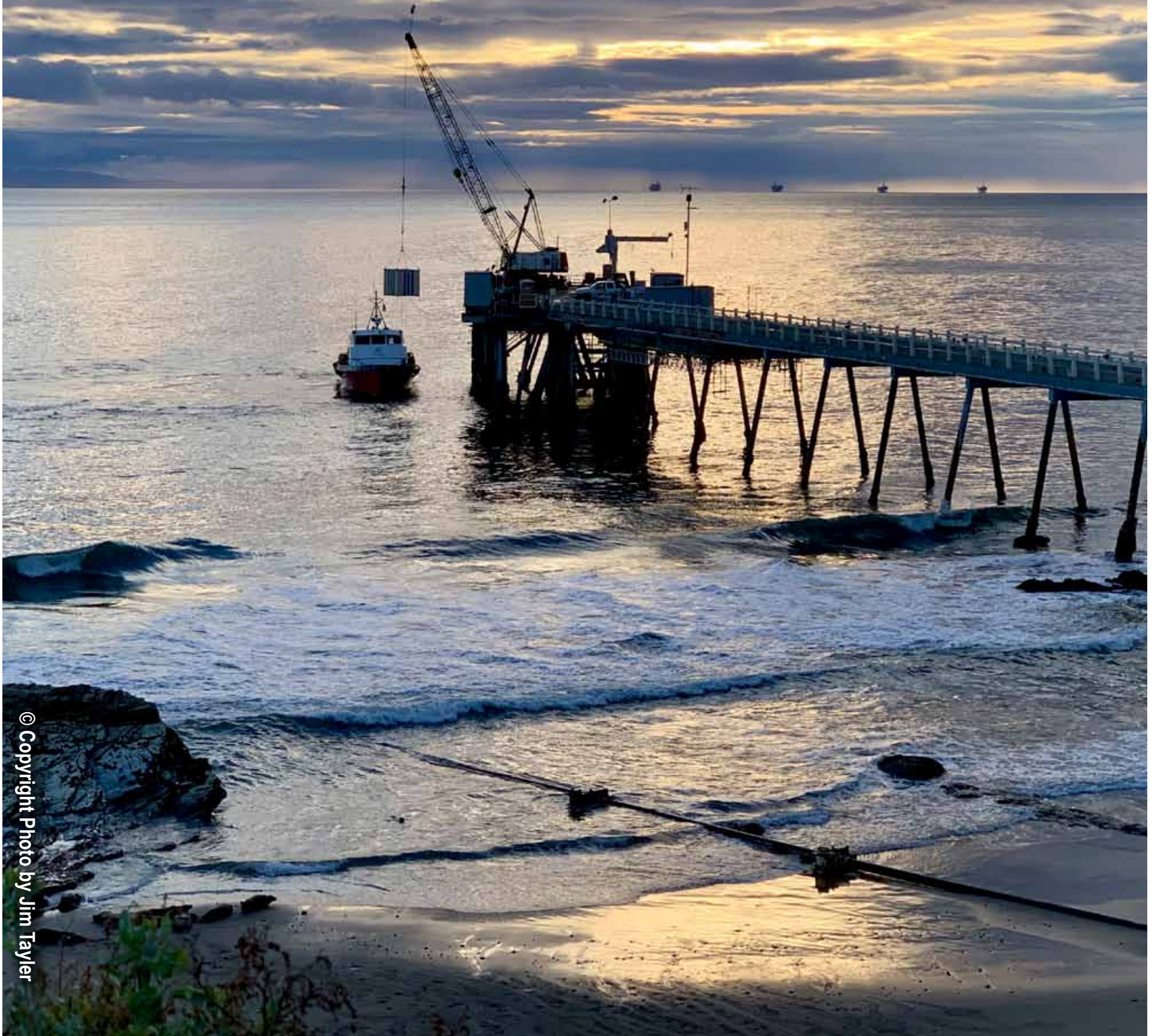


Vol. 22, No. 5 of 6

October - November 2022

Condor Call

*Journal of the Sierra Club's
Santa Barbara - Ventura Chapter*



© Copyright Photo by Jim Tayler

Fading Oil ... E-homes ... Pesticides ... Oh! Mariano ... WBC

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\$230 MILLION

Lawsuit doesn't stop application

The summer was hot around here but not nearly as hot on the oil industry.

Two major events happened: a federal judge approved a \$230 million lawsuit against Plains Pipeline for spilling more than 140,000 gallons of crude oil into the ocean off the Gaviota Coast in 2015, and Los Padres ForestWatch announced a legal agreement stopping oil/gas development on public lands of the Central Coast.

~ **Pipeline Puncture:**

In the first case, a class-action suit blamed All American Pipeline, L.P. and Plains Pipeline, L.P. for the May 2015 spill of about 142,800 gallons.

It was the worst California coastal oil spill since the infamous blowout at Platform A in 1969. The pipeline spill closed popular beaches for miles, killing or fouling hundreds of seabirds, seals and other wildlife and hurting

tourism and fishing.

"Due to failed maintenance and extensive pipeline corrosion, the pipeline ruptured and spilled," said a press statement from the law firms that filed the suit.

For those who believe some of the money should accrue to them, a deadline of Oct. 31 has been set.

On a side note, a podcast featuring UCSB students who share their stories of defeating the ExxonMobil oil trucking project—because of the Plains pipeline spill and shutdown—is on Spotify's "How to Save a Planet" series.

Meanwhile, Plains has applied to build a new pipeline.

~ **No Oil Zones:**

Oil development on the land case brought by ForestWatch and signed by CA state and U.S. Bureau of Land Management, "suspends all new federal oil and gas leasing in Santa Barbara, Ventura, San Luis Obispo, and Kern counties and beyond, safeguarding some of our region's most cherished open spaces and our communities."

ForestWatch said: "Further afield, the agreement protects segments of the world-renowned Pacific Crest Trail, as well as gateways to Yosemite and Sequoia national parks. For fun, check

out our interactive map to see all the areas that are protected with today's announcement here:"

<https://tinyurl.com/NoOilZones>

The map will also show some areas still open for oil leases from the Bureau of Land Management.

While it's good news, ForestWatch Executive Director Jeff Kuyper said, "we are also mindful that our victory—like so many—is not permanent. The agreement requires the Bureau to essentially go back to the drawing board and do a better job of reviewing the environmental impacts of drilling and fracking."

~ Compiled by John Hankins

EAVESDROPS

"The climate is changing. Why aren't we?"

~ Popular placard on site during the world-wide "climate strike" in September, primarily held by youths of the Fridays for Future movement.

Help lead our club

Two at-large seats on the Santa Barbara-Ventura Chapter Executive Committee are available for 2023-2024 (2-year term). As a member, you are at the center of the one of the most effective environmental groups upholding the National Club's motto of "explore, enjoy, and protect the planet."

The ExCom governs the SB-Ventura Chapter and consists of five at-large elected seats, and an appointed representative from each regional Group. You must be a member of the Sierra Club and be able to attend monthly meetings of the ExCom, which are currently held online.

Selection by the ExCom is done at the January 2023 meeting. If you are interested, please contact any member of the Nominating Committee listed below.

- Gerry Ching - gching@cox.net
- David Gold - davidgold4@aol.com
- Martha Sadler - marthasadler@yahoo.com



In a welcome to Sierra Club California activists at our Chapter Chair Katie Davis's house, participants learned about what SCC does, which is lobbying for the environment and helping chapters. SCC Executive Director Brandon Dawson said, "what you do trickles up to the state." Shown here at the event (from left) State Senator Monique Limon, SCC lobbyist Daniel Barad, Davis and Marlene Esquivel, SCC board member. (Photo by Condor John)

Sacramento welcomed

A very successful in-person fundraising event featured Santa Barbara and Ventura Sierra Club members, Environmental Defense Center personnel and representatives from the Sierra Club California which monitors politics statewide.

Event was held at Chapter Chair Katie Davis's house in Goleta Sept. 15. Davis and Albert Oaten, along with Laura Frances and Emily Engel, hosted over seventy people who enjoyed fresh food, local beer, and Santa Ynez Valley wines as the sun set on a beautiful late summer day. It was a fun, beautiful, and energizing event.

Davis kicked off the event and introduced Brandon Dawson, director of Sierra Club California (SCC). State Senator Monique Limón shared her experiences working on our behalf as our

representative in Sacramento, highlighting her ongoing commitment to protecting our local environment and taking highly impactful climate action at the state level.

Local environmental advocate and philanthropist Geoff Green ended the program with a dynamic call to action among the crowd which raised over \$100,000 for SCC.

SCC works tirelessly with communities across the state to advocate for climate and energy justice, and to preserve California's environment for future generations.

Dawson and his team advocate for just, ambitious, and achievable climate action; support and elect climate and environmental champions; educate, inspire, and support local and frontline activists; fight to reduce and regulate plastics and toxics use; protect and enjoy California lands and waters—all on a budget of just \$1.5 million annually.

Thank you to all who made this event such a success.

If you are interested in contributing to support the Sierra Club California's work in Sacramento, go here for a tax-deductible donation:

https://sierra.secure.force.com/donate/rc_connect_campaign_desiginform?id=70131000001hQCE#!form=00P3100000SYNTvEAP

Or contact Brandon Dawson at brandon.dawson@sierraclub.org



Brandon Dawson called SC-CA "a small but mighty team."

COVER PHOTO
Sunset for Oil? Our man in Carpinteria, Jim Taylor, writes about the shuttered Carpinteria Chevron facility and what should happen to the land and pier. See page 2.



The annual world-wide Coastal Clean-up was enthusiastically embraced along the Santa Clara River by our Ventura Sierra Club leader Nina Danza, gathering 1,081 pounds of trash removed by 45 volunteers. But she and others do clean-ups there year-round. See story on page 7 of our e-version of Condor Call here: www.sierraclub.org/santa-barbara-ventura

Our success precedes us, want to help with future?

The holidays are fast approaching, and we know many of you are thinking about your year-end giving options.

Don't forget to consider contributing to the Santa Barbara - Ventura Chapter to ensure our work in 2023 and beyond is more powerful than ever.



If you have a printed Condor Call in your hand, you can tap into this QR code to get a full color version that has hot links! Try it.

In our communities, real actions and solutions to protect our environment are already being implemented thanks to your generosity. However, our fight for a better environment is far from over.

~ Lobbyists from the oil and gas industry will try to get local approval for plans that expedite the permitting process for fossil fuels that cause pollution and harm endangered and threatened species in our region.

~ Our opponents will try to stop local city and county planners from implementing and expanding Active Transportation Plans that improve infrastructure for bikes and pedestrians.

~ Even the US Forest Service is proposing logging and vegetation removal across 235,000 acres of the Los Padres National Forest—a project that would use damaging

heavy equipment to log vast amounts of timber and chaparral from the summit of Mount Pinos to Figueroa Mountain without site-specific environmental analysis.

Our Sierra Club Santa Barbara and Ventura counties Chapter will continue to show up every single day to protect our region's future. Working together, we will:

~ Finally turn the corner and drive down carbon emissions across our region by electrifying transportation and buildings, increasing their efficiency, and expanding local renewable energy and storage to meet demand and ensure reliability.

~ Stop the expansion of dangerous fossil fuel infrastructure, such as a proposed 123-mile Plains oil pipeline which would traverse three counties, streams, creeks, rivers, wildlands and wildlife

reserves, and the proposed \$400+ million Ventura gas compressor station expansion. Put people to work plugging thousands of idle oil and gas wells that contaminate our air and water and are loosely regulated if at all.

~ Protect the Los Padres National Forest from logging and clearing; protect our ocean by establishing the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary; protect wildlife with safe freeway crossings and land conservation; protect people with bike and pedestrian improvements, safe drinking water and cleaner air.

Together, we made a massive impact. And together, we'll continue to fight for our communities. Together, we'll explore the places we love. And together, we'll come together to speak truth to power. We are

deeply proud of how our donors and volunteers are responding to this unprecedented moment.

We need your help this holiday season. Contribute today at:

<https://tinyurl.com/SB-VtaDonate>

EAVESDROPS

"Americans are getting significantly more return on investment from offshore wind energy lease sales than they are from oil and gas lease sales per acre."

~ Michael Freeman, from Center for American Progress, a nonpartisan policy research institute. Average bid for offshore oil leases was \$47 per acre (last three years), but average bid for a wind lease sale was \$5,900 per acre, which could go higher.

Chevron Carpinteria facility fading away

By Jim Taylor

The Carpinteria Oil and Gas Facility at one time processed up to 20,000 barrels of oil and 20 million cubic feet of natural gas per day, all harvested from platforms in the Santa Barbara Channel. Now it has to be cleaned up. Long before the oil operations began in 1959, it was a Chumash midden, hunting camp and cemetery.

Under the terms of the sale of the from Chevron to Venoco in 1998, Chevron regained ownership and responsibility for the facility in case Venoco failed, which indeed occurred.

Chevron prefers to shut down the facility rather than re-start operations, no doubt due to the declining production of the existing platforms and the strong headwinds the company would face trying to restart the harvesting of oil in the Santa Barbara Channel.

Thankfully, the days of Big Oil in Santa Barbara are rapidly drawing to a close.

Ultimately Chevron likely intends to sell the 64-acre property, which occupies a prized location on the bluffs between City Hall and 35 to 50 feet above a stretch of idyllic Pacific beach, featuring a beloved harbor seal rookery.

EAVESDROPS

"Fossil fuels make enough money to corrupt politicians, cause wars and bend public opinion through the brute force of a firehose of propaganda."

~ Hamilton Nolan, writing in the Guardian UK, noting how the oil industry is driven by astounding record profits: "In the last quarter, ExxonMobil made \$18 billion, Shell and Chevron each about \$12 billion."

Permitting under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) is required for the decommissioning/cleanup project, and the City, as Lead Agency, has recently completed an Initial Study under the act, and concluded that a full Environmental Impact Report is required before work can begin.

This is going to take some time, but a careful study is called for – this is a large project that could have a significant effects on the environment. Areas of concern identified in the Initial Study include the release of hazardous materials, adverse effects on habitats of plants and animals (seals), and cultural/archaeological impacts (artifacts & human remains). And who knows what they will find under all that equipment, and the giant oil tank that dominates the property?

Additionally, several old, abandoned oil wells on the property are not addressed by this project, and may involve CalGEM directed remediation.

All of the oil and gas processing equipment including underwater pipelines will be removed and the soil will be cleaned to residential standards, the highest level of clean-up available. Chevron estimates a three-year project, once the EIR process results in a green light.

A re-zoning of the property is also underway as part of the City's General Plan Update. Most of the Carpinteria Bluffs are zoned to allow residential, commercial and other uses, but the future zoning designation of the Chevron property will be determined over the course of many public hearings in the coming years.



Rendering of a new bike connection in the planning stage. Located along Hwy 101 near the Rincon to Carpinteria and connecting with Santa Claus Lane. See more here: <https://www.trailink.com/trail/rincon-bike-trail/>

SIGHTINGS

More megawatts and more...

By John Hankins

You may notice a lot of success for the environment and climate change in the last two months since our last issue. Check out the stories and links.

Please join our activities and activism; see Group News box on page 3 for contacts and links where you can get involved and find free hikes. We encourage all to go outside on your own or by MeetUp. And check out our FREE outings on pages 6&7.

If you'd like to donate (it helps a lot and the money stays here at home), go directly to: www.sierraclub.org/donate/1000

Sept 29: **More Megawatts** are coming to the Ventura County Government complex via 5.8-MgW solar array by ForeFront Power. Officials say it will save \$10.8 million over the 20-year agreement, and includes more EV chargers. Learn more here: <https://sustain.ventura.org/>

Sept 27: **Groundbreaking** for a demonstration section of the hoped-for Refugio Trail. It happened by the Santa Ynez Valley High school and is expected to extend north to Samantha Dr. Trail plan would include space for bikes and walkers and a separate "informal" wood chip path for equestrians.

Supervisor Joan Hartmann wrote it will connect citizens of the valley. "This reliance on cars and absence of trails deprives children

of a significant rite of passage and the opportunity to be more active and self-sufficient," she wrote in *Noozhawk*. "A coalition led by local community members is bent on changing this," to make it a more the sense of community cohesion. More details at: <https://sbco.mysocialpinpoint.com/refugiotrail/>

Sept 26: **Fate of Fracking** from oil platforms fell on the side of the Environmental Defense Center when the Dept. of Justice's request for a rehearing was blocked. EDC and environmental groups (like us) want full environmental reviews for any fracking proposals, which are now in a moratorium status.

Sept 22: **Environmental Defense Center** (Santa Barbara) and the City of Lompoc have reached a settlement alleging that the wastewater treatment facility improperly released contaminated water into a pair of waterways. The city had discharged contaminated water for 5-20 years into the San Miguelito Creek and the Santa Ynez River.

Sept 17: **Coastal Clean-up Day** along the Santa Clara River, a 10-year effort by Nina Danza of the Ventura Sierra Club. However, this was her last year as captain, and we are looking for others to participate. "It's been a great run and significant benefit for our local environment," Nina said. Contact her at: prettycheapjewelry@gmail.com

Sept 16: **New Bike Path** and pedestrian pathway connecting Santa Claus Lane and Carpinteria announced to start this month, closing a critical gap in the California Coastal Trail by creating a 14-foot-wide multi-use path on the coastal side of Highway 101.

Sept 15: **Venturans Unite!** A call to action by our Executive Director Jon Ullman on social media to oppose SoCalGas's effort to double capacity of its gas compressor station close to the Boys Club and Foster Elementary School. The CA PUC was meeting on the issue and Jon provided phone numbers to call them in English and Spanish.

Sept 11: **Bike Clean** and Fix-it Day "solving climate change one bike at a time!" Ventura Sierra Club continues its work with the Ventura Bike Hub helping to clean and repair bikes which are given to needy kids at the Christmas Give-away.

Sept 10: **Celebration Anniversary**, the 45th to the SB Environmental Defense Center, often acting as our Chapter's attorney for numerous environmental matters. "Together with our nonprofit clients and partners, and amazing support of our donors, EDC has won incredible victories that have made a difference on the south-central coast."

Sept 6: **Unanimous Vote** in the city of Goleta to pass one of the most comprehensive plastic pollution

continued on page 3

Condor Call

SierraClub.org/SantaBarbara-Ventura ~ All phone numbers 1-805 area code

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Photos, news, tips always welcome!

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Typography and production by Dan Fuller



The Sierra Club has partnered with SunPower to bring you a great deal on solar panels, the future of energy. Editor Condor John did it five years ago and recommends it highly, especially in 2022 with a 26% tax rebate that will drop to 22% in January. Check out this fantastic deal with a simple online appointment here: <https://tinyurl.com/RunSonRun>

All electric homes good for our health

By Katie Davis

A new book called *The Big Fix: 7 Practical Steps to Save Our Planet* by Hal Harvey and Justin Gillis argues that we all need to become “green citizens,” focusing on a “relatively small number of public policies that can, over time, bring about sweeping change.”

A big one they point to is local building codes as buildings are a huge source of carbon emissions.

Santa Barbara and Ventura counties will both be voting on

building electrification ordinances in October, as will Goleta and Carpinteria, which are collaborating with the county. The cities of Santa Barbara and Ojai have already phased out gas in new construction.

It’s easy. Write to Santa Barbara or Ventura County supervisors and tell them you favor all-electric new construction and to vote YES on a building reach code or ordinance.

sbcob@countyofsb.org
clerkoftheboard@ventura.org

If you live in Goleta or Carpinteria, also reach out to your city council members. We will not be alone. Right now, 60 cities and counties in California have implemented reach codes to shift to all-electric new construction and many more are in consideration.

All-electric homes are better for our health. The combustion of gas inside our homes produces harmful indoor air pollution, specifically nitrogen dioxide, carbon monoxide, nitric oxide, formaldehyde, acetaldehyde, and ultrafine particles. These odorless and undetectable gas combustion pollutants can cause respiratory diseases.

Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory found that air pollution levels in the majority of homes with gas stoves exceed EPA’s definition of clean air, and another study found that gas stoves may be responsible for up to 12 percent of childhood asthma cases.

It also lowers the cost of new construction and supports affordable housing.

Ensuring all new construction

Aug 6: **Battery Energy storage** facility plan was approved by the Santa Maria Planning Commission on a 3-0-1 vote, Tom Lopez abstaining and Tim Siefert absent. It’s planned for a vacant 1-acre site at 2916 Industrial Parkway in the Skyway and be built by Renewable Properties. The 10-megawatt project would store up to four hours of power that would be provided to Central Coast Community Energy, which serves parts of Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo counties.

July 27: **City of Goleta** celebrated the unveiling and completion of Monarch 1, the City’s first solar array, at a green ribbon-cutting at Goleta City Hall. It will power nearly 100% of City Hall’s energy usage with clean, renewable energy produced on-site and pre-wiring for six EV charging stations later. Savings calculated at \$270,000 over its 25-year or so life. KEYT video here: <https://youtu.be/ydSy9Hkra2k>

Cruise Gaviota Coast

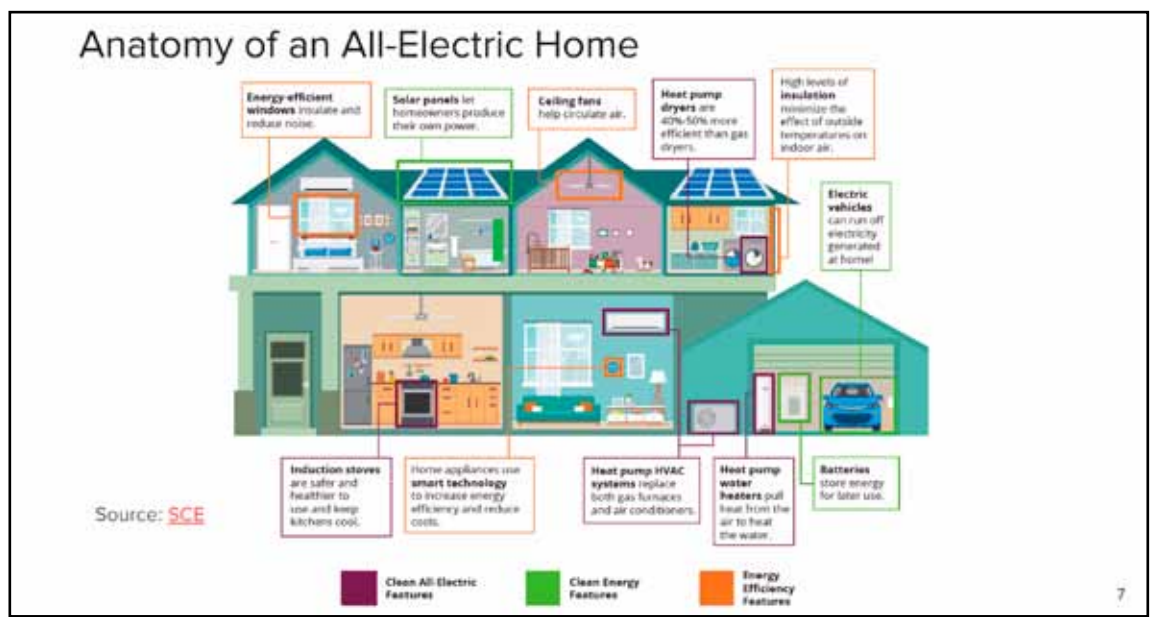
Acknowledging the history of Chumash Stewardship on the Gaviota Coast, the non-profit Gaviota Coast Conservancy and local Chumash guests are hosting a cruise aboard the Condor Express on Sunday, Oct. 23.

View the lands that Chumash First People inhabited and the places GCC works to protect in its rural character.

Boarding at Santa Barbara Landing by the harbor boat ramp; arrive at 9:30am to check in and board at 10am; returning about 2pm.

Witness unspoiled views of the Gaviota Coast from a unique vantage point. Your ticket price goes to support the Gaviota Coast Conservancy.

Experience the joy and expression of Chumash song and company. Possibly cross paths with humpback whales and other marine inhabitants. Learn about protected Gaviota Coast lands and those still



Walt Disney was right about electricity with displays at Tomorrowland since the 50s, chock full of not only fully electric homes and appliances but also via this penny arcade! (Photo from Walt Disney archives) Above is today’s schematic of a fully-electric modern home.

is built without gas hookups will help developers build more quickly and affordably as there will be no need for new costly gas infrastructure — an advantage in the ongoing housing crisis. An analysis found that building all-electric reduced construction costs on average \$5,000 for single-family homes and over \$2,000 per unit in a multi-family building.

In addition, the California Public Utilities Commission just announced it is removing subsidies for gas hookups, while subsidies under the Inflation Reduction ACT will further lower costs.

Building all-electric will also save costs in the long-term as we transition to a carbon-neutral economy. Gas distribution pipeline extensions to new homes are expected to become stranded assets well before the end of their useful life as more buildings electrify over the coming years. Stopping investments in new gas infrastructure is a fiscally prudent strategy.

It will also make homes and businesses safer and more resilient in the face of climate change. California is experiencing an increasing occurrence of extreme heat waves, with practically each summer breaking previously held record temperatures. Many of us in Santa Barbara and Ventura counties, particularly low-income families, do not have air conditioning and are not prepared to adapt to these heat waves, posing new health and safety risks. Air conditioning is an important bonus from replacing gas furnaces with electric heat pump space heaters, as the heat pumps can operate in reverse and provide high efficiency cooling when needed.

Lastly, gas pipelines are vulnerable to methane leakage, over-

pressurization, earthquakes and fires. In our region, gas infrastructure is in particularly dangerous, populated areas that pose an on-going risk to area residents.

For instance, the Ventura Compressor Station that sends gas to Santa Barbara County is in a populated area next to an elementary school and the La Goleta gas storage field (similar to the Aliso Canyon gas storage facility which had a major failure and massive gas release in 2015) is located on rapidly retreating bluffs and under UCSB with 26,000 students and Goleta Beach with 1.5 million visitors a year.

Communities with gas pipelines face increased risks of fires as gas pipeline leaks are highly flammable. Aging pipelines and associated equipment, and inflexible pipeline materials are vulnerable to shifts in the earth and buildings that put additional stress on pipelines, causing cracks and methane leaks.

Electricity in our region is rapidly getting cleaner and more reliable, with Central Coast Community Energy on track to meet its goal of 100% renewable energy by 2030, and



renewable energy for most of its Ventura customers.

The deployment of battery backup has helped us avert outages even during extreme heat events, and new electric homes will be built with solar panels and new, efficient appliances. As a result, shifting to electric power in our buildings dramatically lowers greenhouse gas emissions across our region.

Upgrading our building codes is true climate leadership and green citizenry in action.

Fun event at beach

Always an event to enjoy every year in the fall, the Potluck Breakfast sponsored by the Sierra Club, Santa Barbara – Ventura Chapter, is on Saturday, Oct. 19 at 9am, Shoreline Park in Santa Barbara.

Members and guests should bring a breakfast item to share; coffee will be available.

A walker’s dream, Shoreline Park is a 14.6-acre coastal bluff park adjacent to Leadbetter Beach. It’s a long grassy stretch with paved walking paths offering spectacular city, mountain, and ocean views. It also has playground equipment for children.

The Political Committee will invite a candidate or two to address the group, and Robert will be leading an optional beach hike afterwards.

Questions? Contact Jim at: jim@carpedata.com

Sightings...

continued from page 2

reduction policies in the country, based on science and best practices in waste reduction. It aims at single use plastics and has a grace period for businesses. To note the details, go to:

<https://tinyurl.com/GoletaPlasticOrd>

Sept 4: **Sara Wan**, a Malibu resident who served longer on the California Coastal Commission than anyone and was an environmental crusader for four decades, died Sept 4 after complications from recent surgery. She was 83. “We just lost a giant,” said Jack Ainsworth, executive director of the Commission.

Aug. 27: **Rock Bench** for Teresa Norris, who was not only the prime mover of creating the chapter’s Wilderness Basics Course but the rock that inspired so many others to help make it successful. The ‘rock’ is a bench with an inscription to her, located at the Wheeler Gorge Visitors Center, 17017 Maricopa Hwy in Ojai.

Aug 15: **Marine rescue** organization is reporting an influx of sick sea lions along the Central Coast. Channel Islands Marine & Wildlife Institute (CIMWI) stated on Instagram they have been “inundated” with reports of sea lions in distress, estimating 50-100 calls a day with multiple reports on individual animals. “It appears Domoic Acid poisoning is the cause . . . it’s a potent neurotoxin naturally produced in phytoplankton . . .” CIMWI stated. If you spot a distressed marine mammal, call the institute hotline 805- 567-1505.

Aug 12: **Santa Lucia Chapter**, our sister in SLO County, sent us a notice to ensure our members tell Gov. Newson that the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant needs to close as scheduled.

Aug 11: **CARP**, the Climate Action and Resilience Plan for Ventura County was aired via a virtual workshop. To see the plan and get updates, go to: www.planventura.com

Most meetings continue online for now

Group News

The public is welcome to our programs

CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

~ Meets 4th Thursday 7pm of every month, via internet for now. Email Secretary Gerry Ching for the agenda: gching@cox.net

~ Chapter website and blog at: www.SierraClub.org/SantaBarbara-Ventura

SANTA BARBARA GROUP

~ We meet 1st Tuesdays, noon to 1:30pm of each month. For details and to follow the South Coast area, contact:

<http://www.sbsierraclub.org>
<https://www.FACEBOOK.com/SBSierraclub>
<https://TWITTER.com/SBSierraClub>
<https://www.INSTAGRAM.com/SierraClubSantaBarbara>
<https://www.MEETUP.com/SierraClub-SantaBarbara>
<https://tinyurl.com/SBGroupBlog>

ARGUELLO GROUP

Our North County Group will keep you informed on our Facebook page:

www.facebook.com/SierraClubArguelloGroup ~Volunteers needed; your talents could make a difference. Call 350-0629 or: RebeccaAugust@mac.com

VENTURA NETWORK

~ For board meeting dates, times and location email: sierraclubventura@gmail.com
~ Get latest info about the western Ventura County group via Facebook and a blog:

<http://tinyurl.com/VenturaSierraClubFB>
<https://tinyurl.com/VenturaSierraClubBlog>
~New MEETUP site for hikes, outings etc:

www.meetup.com/SierraClubVentura

CONEJO GROUP

~ Events, outings and meetings will be sent to you if you send an email request to:

ConejoGroupHiking@gmail.com.
Or view the Conejo Group website:
www.sierraclub.org/SantaBarbara-Ventura
www.sierraclub.org/SantaBarbara-Ventura/outings

Club offers adventures

Summer may be over, but here at Sierra Club Outings, there’s still so much to look forward to.

And we’ve got loads more on the way. Take your pick of 150+ experiences from service to snow and lodge-based samplers, as well as our latest 2023 international and winter domestic trips, all of which are online and ready for reservations.

And be sure to mark your calendar for Friday, October 7th, when we launch our brand-new offerings, including Alaska, Hawaii, American Caribbean, and spring domestic trips. Don’t miss these iconic experiences. <https://tinyurl.com/TripsSierraClub>



How to combat pesticides

Editor's note: While it's increasingly clear that the need for climate action is urgent, it can be hard for an individual to know where to start. We continue this Climate Watch series featuring specific actions you can take, authored by UCSB lecturer in environmental studies, Deborah Williams.

Two effective strategies for cutting pesticide use are eating organic and not using pesticides at home. Reducing herbicides, rodenticides, and insecticides is critically important for our environment and health.

Organic agriculture practices help reduce greenhouse gas emissions. A detailed analysis by the Rodale Institute shows that "we could sequester more than 100% of current annual CO2 emissions with a switch to widely available and inexpensive organic management practices."

It results in healthier soil, including more biological activity and biomass, increased soil stability, and greater diversity. There are other benefits, such as protection of wildlife, pollinator health, watersheds and drinking water.

Eating organic is also healthier for us. According to noted expert, Dr. Charles Benbrook, "when you compare organic versus conventional food, it is absolutely inarguable that organic food reduces dietary exposure to pesticides by 98 percent." A study involving over 68,000 adults found that "a significant reduction in the risk of cancer was observed among high consumers of organic food."

Farmworkers and neighboring communities are particularly exposed to harmful pesticides from conventional farming. They have higher rates of certain cancers, including prostate cancer. As for the neighbors, an article in *Scientific American* notes: "Children are especially vulnerable to these airborne pesticides, given that their young bodies are still growing and developing."

Buying organic enables us vote with our mouths and dollars. Easy and local ways to eat organically include shopping at our local farmers market or signing up for CSA services like Farm Cart Organics. More organic demand means more investments in

and conversion to organic farming. Costco alone exceeded \$4 billion in annual organic produce sales, spurring increased organic production.

A second strategy focuses on our homes. If you have rat or mice, carefully avoid rodenticides. These products, especially second-generation anticoagulant rodenticides, are super-toxic and cause poisoned animals to bleed uncontrollably, dying a slow, agonizing death. Other animals (raptors, foxes, mountain lions and even family pets) who consume these poisoned rodents can die too. In the US alone, 44% of dead birds, mammals and reptiles were found to be killed by these super-toxic rodenticides.

Fortunately, there are effective non-rodenticide actions that can be taken. The initial strategies, as recommended by the National Park Service, consist of reducing food sources for rodents, and diminishing their hiding places and shelter. Next, using rat traps – traditional, electronic or live capture – really works. Here's practical advice on how to set a traditional rat trap:

www.trap-anything.com/how-to-set-a-rat-trap.html

Also, a family of owls consume several thousand rodents per year, so promote owl habitat, if possible.

Are you struggling with insects in your garden or inside your house? Before reaching for insecticides, remember insecticides are responsible for the largest number of pesticide poisonings in the United States.

Alternatives include products you can purchase or make yourself. Search for "8 Natural & Homemade Insecticides," "Homemade Insecticidal Oil Recipes," "Homemade Organic Insecticides," "7 Natural Insecticides," "The Best (Nontoxic) Pesticides and Insecticides According to Gardeners. Or try boiling water.

For combatting yellow jackets, mosquitoes and flies, bug zapper rackets work well.

To combat weeds, there are much better alternatives than commercial herbicides. The most used herbicide in the US and the world is glyphosate (Roundup). The Court of Appeal of the State of California has ruled that there is "abundant" evidence that glyphosate, together with the other ingredients in Roundup products, causes cancer in humans.

A potent endocrine disrupter and carcinogen, Atrazine is the second most used herbicide in the US and is the most detected pesticide in US drinking water. Almost all European countries have banned both glyphosate and atrazine use, but not the US.

Instead, try hand weeding, mulches and weed barriers. If weeds are out of control, there are earth-friendly choices. Clove oil is a good, natural herbicide and you can make your own along with instructions for use. Corn meal and boiling water are other options. Vinegar can also be used as a natural herbicide.

Search for: "Six Homemade Herbicides to Kill Weeds Naturally," and "The Best Organic Weed Killer for Your Garden & Lawn."

Finally, if you currently have pesticides in your home or garage, Santa Barbara and Ventura counties have hazardous waste collection facilities.

For the sake of our environment, our community, wildlife and our families, let's live as much as possible pesticide-free.



Who said California has no color in the summer? Well, here you are at the Ventura River Valley with plenty of color and a place to ponder and amaze, as Jim says in his column below. This beautiful photo was taken by Zoe Murdock, a writer, runner, and photographer. Find her books and photographs here: <https://www.facebook.com/zoemurdockauthor>

Mother Nature mends

GREETING FRIENDS

Editor's note: Find free nature hikes throughout our region on page 6. Otherwise, Sierra Club offers environmentally friendly adventure travel, including "Adventures with a Cause." Go here to find your next nature adventure:

<https://tinyurl.com/SclubTravel>

By Jim Hines
Greetings Friends:

Nature can help cure our national anxiety, nature can help cure our national anger, yes nature helps cure much of what negatively impacts our society. Something bothers you, then spend some quiet serene time out in nature and you will feel better and have a renewed sense of the goodness of life.



Confused about something, then nature can help clear your mind and help you focus on the positive in our world.

Whether you are just taking a short walk along your favorite nature trail or spending a weeklong backpack trip in the wilds, you will return to society refreshed, recharged and renewed.

You can easily reconnect with yourself, your feelings by the time you

spend out among our natural world. Nature gives us emotional and physical strength.

Sit on your favorite spirit rock and meditate, sit by a flowing stream and allow the positive vibes from the water's flow fill your spirit with goodness.

Seek the ocean shore and see how peaceful our world can be, watch wildlife and be soothed by their beauty.

Many times when I am feeling down or discouraged after a lobby effort to protect wildlife and wild places in the U.S., I seek solitude in nature, the wild places I seek to protect give me strength, the wildlife I seek to protect give me hope, when I am out in the natural world a strong feeling of hope at what we all need to work to protect comes over me and gives me the encouragement to carry on, the natural world is my world, my spirit. I was born into the natural world; I grew up among wildlife and wild places and I still seek the wild today.

If you arrive home from a hard day's work and feel stressed, just take a walk on a local urban nature trail or along the beach and immediately you will feel relaxed and calm, we need nature.

Nature offers us hope, nature heals us and nature gives us strength
For the wild . . . Jim



Yvon Chouinard at his happy place at the iconic Tin Shack in Ventura. Now we are happy about his move to ensure Patagonia stays earth-bound and not beholden to typical corporate structures. (Photo by Tim Davis)

Patagonia 'on belay'

Yvon Chouinard has scaled new heights around the world from his announcement of Patagonia's new ownership to a trust and a collective which will fight climate change. He stays on the Board, perhaps belying this experiment.

Those of us in Ventura and Santa Barbara counties know him, his heart and the company well via the original Tin Shack where Yvon crafted new 'clean-climbing' aids and the main office next to the shack, Great Pacific Iron Works store in Ventura.

The Sept. 15 announcement became the most talked-about subject among business leaders, the media and social media.

"Locals welcomed the announcement though they weren't surprised. Patagonia has bucked tradition throughout its history and championed environmental causes in Ventura and beyond," wrote the Ventura County Star, then quoting Assemblyman Steve Bennett D-Ventura).

"Their consistency in using their entrepreneur skills to improve the planet is and has inspired so many people that the ripple effect will go on for many generations," Bennett said. "From the beginning, they've had this vision that it's about more than making money. It's about what are you making money for? It's to protect this natural world we have that we're all dependent on."

"A cheer went up in the car," she was driving with colleagues, said Melissa Baffa, Executive Director of the Ventura Land Trust, which has accepted grants from Patagonia and

other professional opportunities. "We just are definitely excited, thrilled. Patagonia has always been such a great model for doing well and doing good. We all looked at that as a really positive move by them and wish that other companies would follow suit."

Melinda and Yvon Chouinard and family transferred all ownership to two new entities: Patagonia Purpose Trust and the Holdfast Collective. Most significantly, every dollar that is not reinvested back into Patagonia will be distributed as dividends to protect the planet

Here's what Yvon said: "It's been a half-century since we began our experiment in responsible business. If we have any hope of a thriving planet 50 years from now, it demands all of us doing all we can with the resources we have.

"As the business leader I never wanted to be, I am doing my part. Instead of extracting value from nature and transforming it into wealth, we are using the wealth Patagonia creates to protect the source. We're making Earth our only shareholder. I am dead serious about saving this planet."

Ryan Gellert, CEO of Patagonia said: "Two years ago, the Chouinard family challenged a few of us to develop a new structure with two central goals. They wanted us to both protect the purpose of the business and immediately and perpetually release more funding to fight the environmental crisis. We believe this new structure delivers on both and we hope it will inspire a new way of doing business that puts people and planet first."

3CE's Pathway to 100% Clean and Renewable by 2030
Supporting Affordable Rates, Increasing Renewable Resources, and Accelerating Greenhouse Gas Reduction

3CE's new energy supply strategy will provide the following benefits:

- 3CE's goal is to reach 60% clean and renewable energy by 2025 (15 years ahead of CA's goal) and 100% by 2030 (18 years ahead of CA's goal)
- Financially beneficial to customers and 3CE through reduced operating costs of \$8-13 million/year allowing for more affordable and stable rates while supporting economic development

Learn more at: 3ceenergy.org/understanding-clean-energy/



Goleta solar array is a first for the city trying to make it to 100% renewable energy; above is Central Coast Community Energy's "Pathway" to 100% energy. (Photo by Katie Davis)



A new place to be, free and forever

By John Hankins

High atop the hills overlooking Ventura -- and the coast east to west -- is a 1645-acre plot of land that was a development war zone until now. Truly a game-changer for the area as citizens rejected those large development plans in favor of open space forever.

Once inhabited by the Chumash, it has come full circle to be the people's land again, "a place where we belong rather than dominate" via private property, noted Russell Galipeau, a trustee of Ventura Land Trust and former superintendent of the Channel Islands National Park.

The land, called Mariano Rancho, was purchased by the Trust recently, and an event celebrating that -- along with a \$7.2 million grant -- drew notable

people responsible to the press event on Sept. 21.

Assemblymember Steve Bennett and State Senator Monique Limón were on hand to present the check that they acquired via state funding to VLT Executive Director Melissa Baffa, trustees and staff.

"How special this place is . . . it's a gift to the community and is nothing short of a game-changer for Ventura County," Baffa said.

"I am genuinely moved," Bennett added, "you can see everything that connects us together . . . it links the low-income people on the Avenue and links all the communities (of Ventura) together."

Limón homed in on how special it is as "we don't have this in all communities," lauding all who made it happen for "a future

that understands conservation . . . I am honored (to help) and excited that one day it will be open to all." She also noted citizens have been breaking the law by trespassing all these years, but when it opens to the public, it would be 'decriminalized'!

VLT expects it will open to the public by 2025 as it must find and develop public access, parking lot, portable potties, evaluate and build trails and more, as there is virtually no parking on the crowded steep streets leading up to the property. Location is defined as from the iconic Two Trees to the West Side (Botanic Gardens).

For now, VLT's Harmon Canyon on the east side of Ventura is humming with hikers and bikers with miles of trails that are expanding every year. That 2,100-acre preserve was opened to the public officially in June 2020; it is open dawn to dusk, located at 7511 Foothill Road.

Sierra Club has been quick to offer hikes at Harmon and will surely do the same at Mariano. Volunteers anyone?

Other speakers included Matthew Vestuto, Vice President of the Barbareño/Ventureño Band of Mission Indians; Ventura City Mayor Sofia Rubalcava, VLT Board president Mark Watkins, Marlyss Auster of Visit Ventura and Dianne Underhill of the Ventura Citizens for Hillside Preservation (VCHP).

Underhill gave a quick rendering of what was one of the most hard-fought campaigns ever. "It takes years of toil by hundreds of supporters" and VLT's bold decision to buy the property when it still owed millions for Harmon. "It was a risk for us," Watkins said, but he and the trustees were confident the public would step up. In summing up, Underhill quoted Margaret Mead: "*Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.*"

A very special guest was Derek Poultny (and his dog Buddy) who was VLT's Executive Director when the properties came up for sale. "Derek kept the hope to keep this alive," Bennett noted.

Last year Derek decided to leave VLT to head up the CREW from Ojai, and after a search VLT hired Baffa who has been the right person to carry on the mission, partly due to her work with the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History and her robust background in ecology, biology and critters on land and sea.

Shuttle transportation for press and guests up a narrow road was provided by Kirby Subaru.

"We stand on the grounds of the Chumash people," Baffa noted, "it's a call to be better stewards of the land."

Not only that, by reviving Mariano with native plants and professional stewardship, it will provide a firebreak, a cleaner watershed, more recreation and a welcome home to animals.

Editor's note: The author is a VLT trustee and Condor Call editor.



"Enjoy this special moment," said Assembly member Steve Bennett as he, State Senator Monique Limón and Ventura Land Trust Executive Director Melissa Baffa take it all in together atop the Mariano Rancho land overlooking the city of Ventura, the coast and the islands. It will be open to the public by 2025. (Photo by Condor John) The panorama above is Courtesy of Assembly Democratic Caucus



Marlyss Auster, CEO of the Ventura Visitor and Convention Bureau said when Mariano opens it will help draw tourists, but more than that, free recreation for residents, a fire break and cleaner watershed. (Photo by Condor John)

Two watershed hikes

Friends of the Santa Clara River will join Sierra Club for a two-part hike series on Sunday Oct. 9 and Saturday, Oct 22.

The hikes will take you to the highest peaks in the Santa Clara River Watershed covering three peaks in two counties. Jim Danza, Chair of Friends of the Santa Clara River, will be a guest educator providing fascinating natural history of the watershed and why it matters.

The hikes and greater details are on the MeetUp sites of the Ventura Sierra Club and the Friends of the Santa Clara River:

<https://www.meetup.com/friends-of-the-santa-clara-river-events-restore-recreation/>

<https://www.meetup.com/sierraclubventura/events/288717432/>

RSVP on either MeetUp site, but just one to avoid a duplicate. Pay attention to the details on what to bring and what to expect.

Part I on Oct. 9 starts at 8:30am for Mt. Pinos to Sawmill, a 5-6-mile moderate trek of 600-foot gain. To carpool meet at Starbucks, 650 W. Ventura St. in Fillmore. This is hosted by Victoria Vohland.

Part II on Oct. 22 goes to Pacifico Mt., the highest Peak in LA County. The Loop Trail is an 11.8-mile, 2378 elevation gain located near Acton, rated as strenuous for distance and moderate elevation gain. Carpool is at the Fillmore Starbucks (see above) at 8:30am.

EAVESDROPS

"The Sierra Club Santa Barbara - Ventura Chapter operates on Chumash land, the First Peoples of the central coast for over 13,000 years."

~ This is the invocation whenever the Executive Committee meets to show respect to those who were here first.

EVENTS

Oct 6: **EV Webinar**, everything you need to know to drive electric, happens noon to 1:15pm, by the SB Community Environmental Council. All subjects covered. Register below and the webinar will be available on the site afterward: www.CECsb.org

Oct 15: **Potluck Breakfast**, an annual event sponsored by the Sierra Club, Santa Barbara - Ventura Chapter, at 9am, Shoreline Park in Santa Barbara. Members should bring a breakfast item to share; there will be speakers and an optional beach hike afterward.

Oct 15: **Celebration of Life** event for Supervisor Carmen Ramirez and creation of a Legacy Scholarship Fund. All are invited to attend to honor this District 5 Supervisor who was killed by a vehicle while walking. It takes place at 3pm at Pacifica High School's Outdoor Stadium, 600 E. Gonzales Road, Oxnard. See story pg ?

Oct 20: **Our Public Lands**, another in the series of *Trail Talks* at the Santa Barbara Public Library. This one, by outdoor author James Wapotich, is a 13,000 mile journey through California's Forgotten landscapes with Josh Jackson at 6:30pm, 40 E. Anapamu St.

Oct 20: **Ocean Adventures** is happening at the Santa Barbara Maritime Museum, an in-person event at 7pm by Christine Healy and Michael Sheehy, of Central Coast Ocean Adventures. Tales of the tall ship Mystic Whaler and its future will be reviewed. Register and more detail at: <https://sbmm.org/santa-barbara-event/>

MARIANO ACCESS

~PUBLIC EVENTS~

Before Mariano Rancho can be open to the public, a lot of evaluation is necessary, and the community is invited to provide input.

Three meetings, all on a Wednesday, will focus on Ventura Land Trust's plans for public access to the preserve and parking, trails and recreation, and conservation of the land. VLT staff will give a presentation, followed by an audience Q&A session.

~ **Public Access** Oct 12th at Poinsettia Pavilion, 7pm

~ **Trails & Recreation** Nov. 9 at De Anza Middle School, 6:30pm

~ **Conservation & Restoration** Dec. 7 at Ventura Missionary Church, 7pm

Each event will be recorded by CAPS Media and uploaded to VLT's YouTube channel. Spanish language translation services will be offered at the event. Free parking is available at each venue. RSVP here:

<https://tinyurl.com/MarianoRSVP>

EAVESDROPS

"Sara Wan was the driving force behind coastal activism as it currently exists in California today . . . we owe her a huge debt of gratitude for her many years of extraordinary leadership, perseverance and vision."

~ Susan Jordan of the California Coastal Protection Network based in Santa Barbara, on the death of Sara on Sept. 4.

Ensure your environmental legacy by naming the Sierra Club Santa Barbara-Ventura Chapter in your will or trust. These gifts cost you nothing now, yet enable a powerful movement and vibrant outings programs for years to come.

What will your legacy be?

(805) 617-3106
jonathan.ullman@sierraclub.org

SIERRA CLUB
SANTA BARBARA-VENTURA CHAPTER

Take a Hike!

SANTA BARBARA-VENTURA CHAPTER

UPDATES: www.sierraclub.org/santa-barbara-ventura

Panorama above Goleta by Robert Bernstein

WELCOME HIKERS

The public is welcome at all outings listed, unless otherwise specified. Please bring drinking water to all outings and optionally a lunch. Sturdy footwear is recommended. If you have any questions about a hike, please contact the leader listed. All phone numbers listed are within area code 805, unless otherwise noted.

A parent or responsible adult must accompany children under the age of 14.

A frequently updated on-line listing of all outings can be viewed at:

<https://www.sierraclub.org/santa-barbara-ventura> This website also contains links to Group web pages and other resources. Some regional Groups also list their outings on Meetup sites. See Group News on page 3 for links.

Fire Danger

Due to drought and heat, fire danger is extremely high so do not build any fires or smoke except in official campsites that have fire rings. For latest information on this and other aspects of the forest, go to:

www.fs.usda.gov/lpnf



HIKE LOS PADRES

CONDITIONS

Campgrounds trails and roads in Los Padres National Forest can be closed, have restrictions due to habitat protection, repair or weather. Before you go into the backcountry ensure you check conditions with rangers. Numbers to call (805 area unless noted) are:

Los Padres Forest Districts

Headquarters	865-0416
Ojai-Ventura	646-4348
Mt Pinos	(661) 245-3731
Santa Barbara	967-3481
Santa Lucia	925-9538

Other Areas

Santa Monica Mtns	370-2301
Conejo Park	381-2737
Simi Valley	584-4400
Montecito	969-3514

Forest Information

For updated info, maps, news releases, and other goodies:

<http://FS.USDA.gov/LPNF>

Regional Hike Info

Lots of local info on websites that give you varied info on outings, trail profiles, wildflower alerts, work opportunities and much more.

- www.sierraclub.org/santabarbara-ventura
- www.LPForest.org
- <https://LPFW.org>
- www.HikeLosPadres.com
- www.SBSierraClub.org
- www.SantaBarbaraTrailGuide.com
- www.SantaBarbaraHikes.com
- <https://SBTrails.org>
- www.VenturaCountyTrails.org
- <http://Hikes.VenturaCountyStar.com>



From our Mountains to the Sea where to go?

"Maybe they shouldn't be called hikes. Maybe that defeats the joy and the purpose. I don't like either the word [hike] or the thing. People ought to saunter in the mountains - not 'hike!'"

It's a beautiful word and originated away back in the Middle Ages. People used to go on pilgrimages to the Holy Land, and when people in the villages asked where they were going, they would reply, 'A la sainte terre' (To the Holy Land). And so they became known as 'sainte-terre-ers' or saunters.

Given that Sierra Club's co-founder John Muir was one of history's greatest saunters, we should not only allow him his grumpiness, but give it profound consideration. And there is no better place than the Ventura - Santa Barbara region to amble in the great outdoors and give anything consideration.

As a wise soul once said, "It's only in the great open spaces that we find ourselves."

(Editor's note: Taken from Visit Ventura website with light editing to include Santa Barbara! Photo: <https://www.facebook.com/SteveACattanach>)

Click to access all hikes

Most of the many free Sierra Club Outings are usually listed here for a two-month period. However, we have found that planning that far ahead may change due to weather, Covid restrictions, closures etc.

So, we ask that you now rely on the many Meetups and websites for the chapter and some others. For our chapter Meetups go to Group News box always on page 3, otherwise, here we go:

The chapter's website:

<https://www.sierraclub.org/santa-barbara-ventura>

A very special personal website run by Diane Soini which includes our chapter hikes, blogs, connections and a dragonfly on the screen:

www.SantaBarbaraHikes.com

Visit Ventura has a lot of information about hikes in the county and the Channel Islands. Go here:

<https://visitventuraca.com/biking-hiking/>

Los Padres National Forest is the turf for Los Padres Forest Association and it's the 'bible' for the forest as it shares amazing information gleaned from hikers and others outdoor sites.

Here's its hiking site (see QR code too) www.HikeLosPadres.com

Ojai Valley Land Conservancy has a handy Trailfinder for our phone. Go to:

www.ovlc.org/trailfinder

Going a bit more afield, the LA Times has published a trail guide for the SoCal region here:

<https://tinyurl.com/NearUsGuide>

Even more! UCSB's Deborah Williams created a new and expanded website as part of her "Public Lands and Waters" class. Here's the link: <https://50greatpubliclanddestinations.org/>

Wilderness course stands test of time

Editor's note: The chapter expects to offer a Wilderness Basics Course in 2023 after a 3-year hiatus due to Covid. It's an integral part of the Sierra Club's mission to guide people into the backcountry via our free hikes (see page 6) and a more intensive education in backpacking and camping through WBC. During the pause, Teresa Norris announced she would no longer chair the WBC after a decade and hike leader Maureen Hernandez led the charge to honor her, culminating in a rock bench now sitting at the Wheeler Gorge Visitors' Center, which Teresa refers to as the Pet Rock! At the unveiling event Aug. 27, Teresa spoke about the founding of WBC. Meanwhile, Maureen shared the story of the rock (see adjacent story).

By Teresa Norris

Many thanks to all of you for driving all the way up here today. I feel humbled and grateful for this recognition.

I have always enjoyed taking people on hikes. When we were children living on Stonehurst Avenue, I would lead my brother and sisters up "Slack's Hill" for views of the nearby San Fernando Valley.

My parents took us camping during our growing up years. Later, I went to UC San Diego and there I found the San Diego Wilderness Basics Course (WBC) and took it, along with 200 other students, and

joined the staff for the North County WBC. I started hiking the Pacific Crest Trail.

I restocked first aid kits and assisted on a few desert trips for the North County WBC, and somehow, I thought I was fully prepared to start a WBC myself, little did I know. Luckily, I didn't have to do it myself.

After many years of working as an engineer and a preschool teacher, I was about to get married to Tom Somers here. We had been hiking from our first date, which was a 10-mile hike. We got married and kept hiking.

We moved north to Ventura County, and I looked around and said "OK, I'd like to volunteer with WBC, where is it?"

But there was no WBC in Ventura County. I kept hoping my friends would start it, like Suzanne Tanaka, as she knew all the local trails and had taken WTC in Los Angeles. Finally, I decided to move forward and see what I could do.

I went to a Los Padres Sierra Club Executive Committee meeting in December 2007 and got approval to pursue the idea. So, I started putting meeting notices in the *Condor Call*, our beloved local Sierra Club newsletter. Finally, around November of 2008, we had a good group, maybe 4 or 5. Alisse Fisher and Suzanne Tanaka came, who have both played major roles, as

well as Kim Homan in the beginning from the West L.A. WTC group. Alisse adopted the syllabus, which she is still taking care of to this day.

Suzanne and I figured out the outings. Marc ('Roadkill') Hertz from the L.A. group came, and he was able to lead the training for both hike and backpack leaders that we needed.

Our first class in 2009 had 25 students, and it grew from there. We've had about 400 students altogether, and many of them have joined the staff and even become hike and backpack leaders. Lora and Phil Clarke were among them.

And it's always been an example of teamwork. It's built into our WBC staff guidelines: We talk with the students whenever we can. We each know that we may be the reason WBC is memorable for one person.

As staff, we try to remember that we are all volunteers, just doing the best we can. The way we keep our team strong is to have on-going open communication.

Now we have a dedicated board of nine members, Sean Cole, Alisse Fisher, Marc Hertz, Scott Nelson, Cara Peden Cody, Condor John Hankins, Jim Hines, Patty Peinado and me. We've given up a lot of evenings to provide guidance to WBC.

Our registration committee

Used Gear Sale

Los Padres Forest Assn is hosting another Used Camping Gear Sale on October 29.

Check LPFA's website below for more details on timing and location.

If you have any gently used outdoor gear you would like to donate to the event, now is your chance. Send an email to:

info@lpforest.org

Check the website for more details (not available at press time) at:

<https://tinyurl.com/LPFAevents>

EAVESDROPS

"I'm profoundly concerned because if Yosemite National Park can start a large-scale commercial logging program, then this can happen in any national park in the country."

~ Ecologist Chad Hanson director of the John Muir Project, which is suing the National Park Service via its parent Earth Island Institute to stop the logging and require an environmental impact report. More information here:

<https://tinyurl.com/LoggingYosemite>



of Gina Cole, Laurie Crain, and Jennifer Tothpal help us collect the documents we need.

Many of the staff are hike and backpack leaders. Some who aren't mentioned elsewhere are Jim Duliakas, Murray Ruben, Skip Perry, Gabe Valdez, and Heather Nicksay.

Masters of Ceremony are Anna Szymkowiak-Chung and April Jacobsen, and refreshments are supervised and even baked by Kim Hocking, Jeanne Mohle, Alex Gabrielian and Laurie Crain.

Kristi KirkPatrick has been the Finance Chair for several years, doing very well. Now Scott Nelson is stepping in to help.

Publicity has been handled by Condor John Hankins, Heather D'Anna, Rachell Bequilla, Arturo Hernandez, Jane Montague and many others including Pete Chavez, Tim Grant, Tito Ontiveros and Tom Somers is my driver and faithful cheerleader.

None of us could have done this alone, but what I tell all the staff is that we are a treasure together when we treat each other respectfully and get along.

Thanks to all of you who are a part of WBC. Whether you were named or not, we really appreciate each one of you.

To keep up with WBC, go to the Facebook:

www.facebook.com/lospadresWBC

EV show the best!

By Jon Ullman

Kent Bullard directs me to the heavy water jugs that will guarantee the Sierra Club tent won't fly away and crash into any of the 87 electric cars at the Ventura Harbor Drive Electric Show.

Bullard, transportation chair of our Santa Barbara-Ventura Chapter, and fellow EV Advocate Brian Pletcher have lugged plenty of water jugs, tables and chairs during the annual September Drive Electric week and Earth Day EV show driving their own EVs. Their mission to drive as many people as possible to ditch their internal combustion engines.

Bullard, who lives in Ventura and Pletcher from Thousand Oaks also brought the booth equipment plus lights to an EV event at outdoor night market in Santa Maria last week.

Gasoline prices in California have surged to \$6.20 a gallon, the cheapest price Gas Buddy can find.

Meanwhile the Inflation Reduction Act all but guarantees there will be burst of electric cars, buses and charging stations next year. The law opens \$7,500 federal tax rebates for more vehicles and will spur a wellspring of fast chargers along highways with separate funding from the IRA.

Nonetheless, EV supply is tight so prices remain high. But that dam could burst any second. Until that

happens, the EV show carries on. Kent Bullard, Brian Pletcher and the Sierra Club securely fastened Sierra Club tent will be at the Thousand Oaks EV event on October 16.

Electric bus surge

Federal and state funds are also bringing a surge in all-electric municipal buses to our area. Two transit districts stand out: Santa Barbara Metropolitan Transit District (MTD) and Santa Maria Regional Transit (SMRT). Santa Barbara has 14 all-electric buses now with nine on order out of a 114-bus fleet, which has committed to be 100% electric by 2030.

But Santa Maria is moving like lightning. It has two all-electric buses, 17 more on order and expects its smaller bus fleet to be 100% electric in just a couple of years.

The Guadalupe Flyer bus, which connects its Surf liner-served Amtrak station to downtown Santa Maria has purchased its own 100% electric bus too.

Meanwhile, the Clean Air Express 75-mile commuter service from Santa Maria to Santa Barbara took possession of its first all-electric bus earlier this year, powered entirely from solar panels in Goleta.

The situation in Ventura County is different. The county's largest bus fleet, Gold Coast Transit -- which runs exclusively natural gas



<https://pluginamerica.org>

buses -- says it has no immediate plans to purchase electric-charged battery buses. It says it may switch to hydrogen in the future.

Both Santa Barbara and Ventura counties have more than a dozen other regional, municipal and private bus services, and we will give you system-by-system tally of their all-electric bus funding applications, those in hand and how many on order in the next issue.

ID chargers

Help identify sites for more electric vehicle charging stations by leaving a comment or dropping a pin on this interactive online map here: www.bit.ly/CCZEV

The goal is identify ideal locations for NEW public charging stations in six California coastal counties between Ventura, Santa Cruz, and San Benito counties.

More charging stations are needed to recharge vehicles, particularly in rural and traditionally underserved communities. Learn more at: www.centralcoastzevstrategy.com



Explore Ecology's booth for dozens of volunteers helping with the Coastal Clean-up Day on Sept. 17 in Santa Barbara. (Courtesy photo)

Kudos to coastal clean up

Tens of thousands of Californians turned out on Sept. 17 to take part in the 38th Annual California Coastal Cleanup Day, the state's largest annual volunteer event, organized by the California Coastal Commission.

For the past two years the event was limited to self-guided cleanups because of the pandemic, but this year's cleanup saw more than 600 in-person cleanup sites taking place. Final results from Ventura and Santa Barbara counties were not available at press time.

All the data collected about what people found goes to an international litter database that's used to track marine debris and support research and legislation to reduce plastic

VENTURACOUNTY

Volunteers hauled trash from more than 20 local sites for Ventura County Coastal Cleanup Day.

The annual event, which tidies both coastal and inland waterways, was part of a statewide effort organized by the California Coastal Commission that marked its 38th year over the weekend.

Participants showed up to a dozen coastal sites from the Rincon Parkway to the Ormond Wetlands

for the three-hour cleanup. Another nine inland sites focused efforts on waterways from Camarillo, Ventura and Fillmore to Thousand Oaks and Simi Valley.

Last year's cleanup in Ventura County brought out more than 2,100 volunteers who cleared more than 19,500 pounds of debris, organizers say. Statewide,

Ventura Sierra Club has overseen a Santa Clara River Coastal Clean Up day site for over 10 years. "We take out TONS (literally thousands of pounds) of trash that would be washed into the ocean. This year on Sept. 17 a half-ton of debris was collected," noted organizer Nina Danza.

A participant-voted "Most Unusual Thing Found Contest" resulted in 1st - flattened grill, 2nd - beer keg, 3rd - granite countertop. It also included a guided environmental science tour led by Oxnard College professor Jim Danza. There was 1,081 pounds of trash removed by 45 volunteers over a mile.

Volunteers met in 3 locations to tackle the trash at the Ormond Beach and lagoon areas. Port Hueneme council members Steven Gama and Laura Hernandez escorted 232 volunteers to the lagoon area. Within three hours, 6 dumpsters were filled with collected trash.

SANTA BARBARA

At least 1,305 volunteers showed up for Coastal Cleanup Day at 32 sites throughout the County. They picked up 5,811 pounds of trash and 746 pounds of recyclables for a total of 6,557 pounds or 3.28 tons of waste.

Altogether, they covered an estimated 65 miles at sites ranging from Rincon Beach Park to Guadalupe Dunes. Lydia Ballantine, Coastal Cleanup Day Coordinator for Explore Ecology says, "Keeping trash out of our oceans isn't only a once-a-year event. By 2040, the amount of trash entering our oceans is projected to be nearly triple."

Throughout the year, you can help out by reducing the amount of plastic you use, choosing reusable, durable options, voting for people who will support our oceans, and advocating for policies that can help reduce plastic pollution at its source.

"We had the most sites ever this year with 32 cleanup locations, and the most volunteers ever who collected more trash than we have in any other year organizing the cleanup, Ballantine said.

Last year's cleanup in Ventura County brought out more than 2,100 volunteers who cleared more than 19,500 pounds of debris, organizers say. Statewide, 74,000 Californians took part, handling more than 800,000 pounds of waste.

~ Compiled by John Hankins



Santa Maria is way ahead of many other local jurisdictions in ordering electric commuter buses. (Photo by Jon Ullman) and the Ventura Harbor EV show was considered the 'best ever' (Photo by Don Prince EV Advocates)

Story of the Rock of Teresa and Friends

Editor's note: The process to honor WBC's Teresa Norris was a long one, notably finding the right rock!

By Maureen Hernandez

On November 2021 shortly after Teresa Norris retired from her position as the long-time Chair of our SB-Ventura chapter's Wilderness Basics Course (WBC), I felt a strong inclination to do something to honor and recognize

her. After all, she had started the WBC back in 2008 and put countless hours and energy to develop the program which instructed many leaders in leading backpacking and group outings.

She was and still is an inspiration to me and others. I thought that a rock bench with a plaque would be a way to honor her.

And so, the journey began. Suzanne Tanaka and I went to

Teresa's house to share the plan and get her approval. She was honored and delighted and helped me through the process from Day 1.

Location: Originally, it was felt the top of Sisar Canyon at the overlook would be a perfect spot for hikers to sit, enjoy the view of Ojai valley and reflect. Teresa suggested I contact the Los Padres National Forest and I met with Karina Medina the Ojai District Ranger. Karina reported that the bench would "require a special permit" which was a "lengthy process". Because of Teresa's health, I felt that wasn't a good option.

I thanked them and Diane Cross, the LPNF Assistant Recreation Officer, suggested I contact Bryan Conant, the Los Padres Forest Association's Executive Director. In turn he said to contact Gordie Hemphill, manager of the Wheeler Gorge Visitor Center to place the rock there, so it found a home. This was pleasing to Teresa, as the campgrounds across the street have been one of her favorites in the area.

Rock; Next was the search for a rock. To start, I went to the Botanic Gardens in Ventura and asked where they found their large rock and Joe told me they used San Ynez Marble and Granite.

So I shopped and found a couple of nice rocks, but they cost money and then more money to deliver them to Ojai. Gordie told me that the rocks he had placed in the parking lot were brought down by CalTrans. I reached Lennon Bedau and was overwhelmed by his willingness to help. His crew was up Hwy 33 with equipment near a rockslide and he found the perfect rock. He sent me a few pictures of it

and others, but I really wanted to meet the rock in person.

Suzanne and I went on a road trip up through Ojai, past Rose Valley looking for the 21.5-mile marker. Caltrans had already tagged it, so it was easy to find. Lennon's crew brought it down to the Visitor Center and left it on a hill. But the manager didn't want it there. He wanted it down closer to the visitor center.

The project came to a halt as I was stumped on how to move a 2-ton rock down a hill. On a whim I reached out to Gina and Sean Cole to see if they knew of anyone in WBC that may be able to help. To the rescue came a knight to save the day. Tim Grant agreed to move the rock. So, he took off work, drove a tractor up Hwy 33 with his V-10 pickup, and moved our 'Pet Rock' to its final resting place.

Plaque: Custom Awards and Engraving had the best pricing and the shortest turnaround time. Now I just had to choose a few words to say that reflected the intent of so many and add her favorite John Muir quote. Teresa and her husband Tom approved.

Party: Finally, we were almost ready to plan the unveiling. Teresa and her family offered to bring the cake, I'd get the balloons and send out invitations then get the party started, which happened on Aug. 27.

Finale: It's been a long journey for me, but I've encountered so many lovely people, and I can see and hear Teresa's joy and gratitude. This makes it all worthwhile and is something I will remember all my life. And for all eternity, people will visit Wheeler Gorge Visitors' Center and know that Teresa Norris made an impact and is appreciated.



The 'Rock of Teresa' -- or 'Pet Rock' as some call it -- was presented to Norris by an appreciative group of WBC volunteers and Sierra Club leaders at the Wheeler Gorge Visitors' Center. The inscription reads: "2022 - In appreciation to Teresa Norris, Sierra Club Outings Leader and founder of Wilderness Basics Course, for sharing her love and knowledge of the Outdoors." Underneath is John Muir's famed phrase: "Going to the mountains is going home." (Photo by Patricia Peinado)

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Ventura mourns Ventura Activist

A Celebration of Life event for Supervisor Carmen Ramirez will take place at 3pm. Oct. 15 at Pacifica High School's Outdoor Stadium, 600 E. Gonzales Road, Oxnard.

Community members are invited to attend to honor Supervisor Ramirez's life and legacy. Ramirez was killed in a traffic accident the evening of Aug. 12 as she crossed a downtown street in Oxnard, the Oxnard Police Department reports.

Ramirez was a tireless advocate for people and the environment and was always endorsed by the Sierra Club because of it.

A Legacy Scholarship Fund has been established. Direct inquiries about the Fund to the District 5 Office, 805-654-2613 or

District5@ventura.org

Donations can be made at: <https://bit.ly/Carmen-Ramirez-Legacy-Scholarship-Fund>

The Sierra Club Santa Barbara-Ventura Chapter mourns the tragic death of Carmen Ramirez, who left us at the apex of her life and career. She was widely beloved, as demonstrated by the hundreds of mourners who attended a memorial recently. She was an attorney, an activist and a leader for justice and the environment. Below are memories from some local Sierra Club leaders:

"This is an unbelievable tragedy for everyone who knew Carmen and for our entire region. I saw Carmen recently at Owen Bailey's memorial, another environmental champion we lost too soon. Carmen was radiant,

moving, full of leadership and passion. She spoke about all our environmental work in Oxnard.

"She reminded the crowd of our victories, such as when Owen was working for the Sierra Club in opposing a proposed liquified natural gas export terminal in Oxnard, and they overcame unbelievable odds to defeat it. She also mentioned the Puente gas-fired power plant. Her leadership was crucial in defeating that polluting power plant in favor of renewable energy and battery storage projects.

"Our coastline is cleaner, our air is healthier, our region a leader in climate action because of Carmen. To honor her legacy is to believe that change is possible and to redouble our efforts."

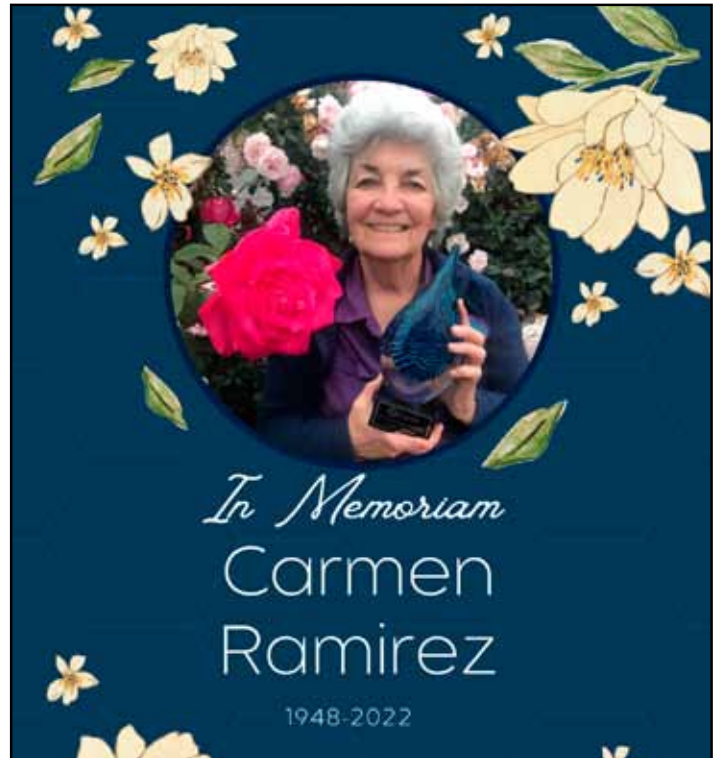
- Katie Davis, Santa Barbara-Ventura Chapter Chair

"I have been trying in vain all day to recall the first time I was introduced to Carmen Ramirez. What I can vividly remember is how much her reputation preceded her. A friend once told me that they'd follow Carmen's lead without hesitation. If ever I had a question about Oxnard, it was met with "Carmen will know."

"Truly she was a rarity; smart, kind, fervently devoted to the people and land she represented. That is why we chose Carmen as our 2014 Environmental Woman of the year.

"In the midst of the winter holidays, Carmen spearheaded a toxic tour of the Oxnard oil fields with another environmental champion, Lupe Anguiano.

"Although she was tough as nails on those who polluted her beloved city, Carmen was also tremendously compassionate. At a Presidential election night party in



2016, the room began to feel like the Titanic as the results rolled in all red. Carmen quietly said to me, "Come on. Let me get you a beer." It wasn't her words but rather her tone that was so reassuring. Her conviction that a better world is possible will always keep me motivated."

- Elisabeth Lamar, Ventura Group Chair

"I am devastated by the loss of Carmen Ramirez, both on a personal level because she was a valued friend and a truly remarkable person, and more broadly because of her extraordinary leadership.

"Carmen may well have been the most beloved leader in Ventura County. She was warm, engaging and real, while also being a committed advocate for her community and the environment. She combined her extraordinary

personal qualities with the expertise of a career legal aid lawyer and the political skills of a master strategist.

"As just one of many examples, her recent work with us in stopping yet another power plant from being inflicted upon the people of Oxnard was a master class in leadership. The Puente plant was basically a done deal, yet she deftly marshalled community support, managed a world-class legal effort, and expertly maneuvered politically and bureaucratically to undo that deal and protect our shores.

"We had looked forward to her leading the Board of Supervisors on the environment for the coming decade. Losing her is an immeasurable loss for Ventura County."

- David Gold, Santa Barbara-Ventura Chapter Political Chair