

Energy actions ... River dreams ... Shark? ... Beach history ... Chumash

Pg 1 Pg 3 Pg 4 Pg 5

Pg 7

JOIN THE CLUB - ONLY \$15 - FREE BAG - SIERRACLUB.ORG

### Sup. Das Williams becomes **Community Choice Chair**

**By John Hankins** 

SB County Supervisor Das Williams has been elected as Chair of the Central Coast Community Energy (3CE) Policy Board of Directors and expects to lead the 20 or so directors to new renewable

"Each move we make is to reduce the carbon footprint," he told Condor Call.

"I am really excited about what we can do with energy, but it will take a lot of work to implement the goals that the state has and more ambitious goals of 3-CE. We now have 40% renewable energy, above the state, although some are not carbon free.'

3CE formed beginning in 2021 as the area's new, locally owned electricity provider. Its reach spans 30 cities and five counties, from Carpinteria to the Santa Cruz Mountains. With no investors or shareholders, the revenue generated by 3CE stays local, helps keep rates lower than SCE and PG&E (which remain the distributors), and provides millions for rebates and incentives that lower greenhouse gas

"For example, during a recent 3CE Board policy meeting, we adopted the FY 2022-23 Operating Budget that includes approximately \$16M for energy programs. During my time as Chair, I am looking forward to increasing awareness of the important work 3CE is doing," Williams said.

One exciting option for 3CE is to buy energy from a new experiment being constructed in Kern

County, which would be the first compressed air storage and first in the nation that is not petroleum based. It would contain 200Mw of storage and "we want to have one more in our area, and it doesn't rely on lithium," he noted. The idea is to excavate a cavern to store the compressed air then letting it out to generate electricity when needed.

"We are missing out to get all the local fleets to transition (to electricity). It's affordable for cities and counties to reduce their price as we offer help and funding for these fleets. We've bought over 70 EVs that only cost us \$31,000 per vehicle, mostly Bolts. SB County is now working on getting EV for our trucks," he noted, adding "It's something that Sierra Club activism can address."

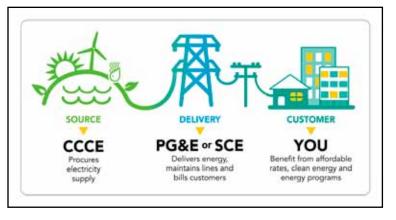
To learn more about how it works, go to:

https://tinyurl.com/3cenergyInfo

To the south, Ventura County joined a similar entity, the Clean Power Alliance (CPA), which includes Los Angeles County and about 40 cities. Like 3CE, there are rate options for customers: 100% Green Power (7-9% higher than SCE's default rate), 50% Clean Power using renewable energy about the same price and 36% Lean Power with the least amount of renewable energy 1-2% cheaper.

CPA also offers incentives for electric vehicles and other methods to kick petroleum energy. To learn how that works in Ventura County,

https://cleanpoweralliance.org/



### **Rachel's Network works**

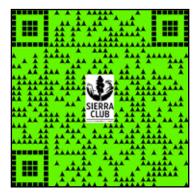
**By Emily Engle** 

Members of Rachel's Network gathered in Santa Barbara to learn more about the impressive eco-feminist work being done on the South Coast.

Over thirty women gathered at the Community Environmental Council's new environmental hub in downtown Santa Barbara on Sept. 7.

Katie Davis, Santa Barbara and Ventura Sierra Club Chapter Chair, moderated an inspiring and educational panel discussion that included Goleta City Councilmember Luz Reyes-Martin (Sierra Club), CEC's Climate Policy Associate and youth advocate Farah Stack, and CEC's Executive Director Sigrid Wright.

Issues surrounding climate justice dominated the discussion,



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.

while the panelists emphasized the urgency of leading the transition to Community Choice Energy and other renewable energy sources in order to combat climate change through local efforts.

"The last five years were transformative. . . our region is poised to showcase how we transform from oil being one of our primary industries to showcasing renewables. The key to unlock all of this is community choice energy." Wright emphasized. (See CCE story this page.

Rachel's Network is a community of women funders committed to a safer, healthier, and more just world for all named in honor of Rachel Carson.

This community has given over \$2.5 million collectively through the Rachel's Network Catalyst Award and co-funding projects. Members fund projects in sustainable agriculture, environmental justice, health, conservation and climate change, and more.

You can learn more about its exciting work here:

https://rachelsnetwork.org/about/

Also attending the event were the Network's ED Fern Shepherd and Board Chair Kef Kasdin, Haley Ehlers from CFROG and Linda Krop and Alex Katz from the SB Environmental Defense Center, among other.





Before about 110 oil workers and 40 environmentalists packed the Ventura County Supervisors' hearing room to hear views on a contentious lawsuit, a rally was held outside. It was organized by the Sierra Club and CFROG which included a dramatic tug of war between factions (see photo next page, both by Jasmine Vazin)

### **VENTURA SUPERVISORS**

# Rally reveals oil's grip

By Julie Henszey, Chair Ventura Sierra Club

Ventura County residents gathered for an anti-oil rally prior to a Sept. 12 meeting where a contentious county lawsuit settlement with oil companies over the 2040 General Plan was the focus of a

Under the legal settlement set

in motion by the board on a 4-1 vote, flaring will be allowed when oil companies demonstrate conducting operations without flaring is "infeasible." Trucking oil and

produced water will also be allowed if transport by pipeline is deemed "infeasible." Supervisor Vianey Lopez (Dist. 5) cast the lone dissenting vote.

Today, justice prevailed

The U.S. District Court on Sept. 27 upheld Santa Barbara County's denial of ExxonMobil's proposal to transport oil by tanker trucks to Maricopa along hazardous California highways, from Hwy 101 along the rural Route 166.

The plan would have helped the company restart three 1980s drilling platforms off the Santa Barbara coast, and its Las Flores Canyon processing facility, shut down since the disastrous Refugio oil spill eight years ago.

When it was operating, the processing facility was the largest emitter of greenhouse gases in the

Ironically, the 95 MW Strauss Wind Energy Project is due to be turned on soon, likely before the end of the year. It is located about 3.5 miles southwest of the city of Lompoc, abutting Vandenberg AFB. They will provide clean energy and a robust tax base for the county, replacing oil energy to a great extent.

"ExxonMobil's plan is reckless, dangerous, and totally unwelcome by this community," said Linda Krop, chief counsel of the Environmental Defense Center, which represents Get Oil Out!, Santa Barbara County Action Network, Surfrider Foundation, and Sierra Club.

"Recent oil tanker truck accidents and offshore oil spills show just how dangerous this plan is. Our research revealed that there have been eight serious accidents involving tanker trucks along the proposed route in the last several years, resulting in deaths, oil spills, injuries, fires, and road closures. Today's decision puts the safety of our communities, climate, and coastlines first," she added.

"Santa Barbara County courageously rejected Exxon's trucking plan and we're thrilled the judge concurred," said Sierra Club Santa Barbara-Ventura Chapter Director Jonathan Ullman. "Today, Justice prevailed."

California suffers hundreds of oil-truck incidents a year, and many result in oil spills. There were 258 trucking accidents along the planned route from 2015 to 2021; since 2007 eight oil tanker truck accidents have occurred that resulted in six deaths, multiple injuries, fires, road closures, and oil spills. In 2020, County planning staff recommended a prohibition on oil tanker trucks on Route 166 after a major accident spilled more than 4,500 gallons into the Cuyama

"It's incredible that this project would even be considered. Each tanker truck and its full load of oil is essentially a ticking time bomb that threatens the lives of those on the highways and our environment. An oil spill catastrophe has been prevented," said Michael Lyons, Board President of Get Oil Out!.

The next accident is a matter of 'when,' not 'if,' based on oil companies' terrible track record in Santa Barbara County.

Judge Dolly M. Gee's decision comes on the heels of a disturbing new report from international scientists on climate change's intense and mounting damages. It follows the disastrous oil spill off Huntington Beach in 2021, another offshore oil leak from DCOR Pipeline 0919, an oil tanker truck accident and fire in Santa Maria, and the Alisal Fire that threatened the ExxonMobil's Las Flores Canyon oil-processing facility, where tanker trucks would load crude.

Watch the video produced by @vacationland for @environmentaldefensecenter.

Directed by @offline.media.account and @nicholas\_weissman.

The rally was held in the courtyard of the Ventura County Government Center. Organized by CFROG and the Ventura arm of the Santa Barbara-Ventura Sierra Club chapter, the permitted, twenty-minute event drew individuals upset with the decision by the County to settle the lawsuit.

It culminated with a mock tugof-war over a ten-foot wooden oil derrick between "concerned residents" and "oil interests." The latter group were portrayed by individuals introduced as 'Aera Energy',' Carbon California', 'Cal-NRG', and the 'County of Ventura'. A person portraying Western States Petroleum Association cheered for the oil interests while brandishing cash

### COVER PHOTO

continued on page 2

The beauty and ecology of our region is well represented in Marie Lakin's sunset photo atop Grant Park in Ventura with native plants in the foreground. Besides photography, her skills also include the arts and political activism.

### **Energy webinar**

Tri-County Regional Energy Network (aka 3C-REN) has launched a new Incentive Finder to help residents explore tailored incentives and rebates. Results are based on home address and utility providers and include robust 3C-REN incentives as well as other regional, state and federal incentives and rebates that can often be stacked to increase savings.

3C-REN is a partnership between the Counties of San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara and Ventura established to deliver energy-saving programs and industry trainings that help reduce energy use, strengthen local job markets, and support efforts to achieve climate goals. It is investing \$155 million in the tri-counties area over the next eight years.

For households, 3C-REN offers direct energy saving opportunities, with an emphasis on hard-toreach and underserved communities. Find your incentives here: https://www.3c-ren.org/

### Rally against...

continued from page 1

in his raised hand.

The derrick toppled on the third attempt, sparking applause from the audience

As Chair of the Ventura Sierra Club, I kicked off the rally, stating that our Sierra Club Chapter was an intervener in the lawsuit.

Haley Ehlers, Director of CFROG (Climate First: Replacing Oil and Gas) provided a three-year timeline of the lawsuit, saying "2020 was a precedent-setting [year] in terms of protecting our public health



Julie Henszey

#### **EAVESDROPS**

'I'm not paid by anyone to be here . . . I think all of us in this room are family, and we should care about each other. If that is true, we would not want anyone to be harmed by the oil industry. And if the oil industry is now harming the planet — don't be 'good,' be great. Great men care about society at large . . . We're talking about rearranging chairs on the Titanic . . . I care about your jobs, but not as much as I care about the planet."

~ Comment made at the Sept. 21 VC Planning Commission by Sierra Club Ventura Chair Julie Henszey. The majority favored the oil industry and the issue of limiting oil permits and charging them more now goes to the Board of Supervisors.

[and] our climate," with the policy language in the 2040 General Plan. "In the spring of this year, after the new Board of Supervisors were seated, they began ... to discuss how to negotiate and weaken these policies" to prioritize "business as usual and oil profits" over community

The County adopted the General Plan in the Fall of 2020 in a 3-2 vote, with then-Supervisors Steve Bennett, Linda Parks and John Zaragoza approving adoption and Supervisors Kelly Long and Bob Huber against the adoption. Later in the year, eleven lawsuits were filed, and the board responded by allocating \$1 million to fight them.

However, with the election of Jeff Gorell to replace Parks in 2023, a majority of the board became "oil friendly" and now sides with oil companies in decisions before the board. Their decisions exacerbate the causes of climate chaos and perpetuate environmental injustice in frontline communities throughout the county.

The fact that oil companies poured large dollar amounts into the campaigns for Supervisors Long and Gorell was a key concern for rally participants. Tomás Morales Rebecchi, of Food and Water Watch, targeted Gorell specifically, stating that Gorell accepted donations from oil interests during his campaign and that donors "knew what they were getting when they paid for you."

Locking his gaze on Gorell, Rebecchi prognosticated, "Spare us your words, this community and future generations will remember you as this: a cheap pawn of the oil industry."

#### **EAVESDROPS**

The truth is that electric utilities could profit from the clean energy revolution — if they would only get out of their own way..."

~ SoCal Edison's hypocrisy, a column in the LA Times by Leah Stokes, an associate professor of environmental politics at UC Santa Barbara, and the author of "Short Circuiting Policy."



Rally participants engage in a theatrical tug of war to pull down an oil derrick prop with four individuals wearing masks to represent Aera Energy, Carbon California, CalNRG, and the County of Ventura. (Photo by Jasmine Vazin)

### **HINES CHRONICLES**

### Keeping sane in a hectic world

Editor's note: We resume with the Jim Hines Chronicles, which reflect the emails by our premier lobbyist on the ins and outs of environmental activism and its opponents. This covers the last two months (Aug-Sept). Jim is vice-chair of our Chapter and Ventura Network. He is a conservation leader who belongs to many wildlife groups and is active with the Ventura Land Trust's Advisory Council. He is available as a speaker (see Sept. 21 notice).

#### By Jim Hines

Sept 21: My passion for gardening keeps me sane in the hectic world I work in to protect wildlife and wild places. You can follow me on my social media sites and see pics of my gardens/yard along with my daily positive living philosophy. On Facebook: James Hines and

on Instagram: jhcasitas

Sept 14: Anti-environmental movement will be at various events throughout Ventura County with national news coverage to see starting Sept. 22-26. It's sparked by the 7 candidates for the Republican nomination for President and they will fan out across our county for 5 days prior to attending the Republican Presidential Debate at the Reagan Library. The American voter will decide on Nov. 6, 2024, to bring positive light or send our nation into a dark time.

Sept 11: Minutemen militia were present and ready to do battle against government tyranny, but the targets were not the British Army but liberal politicians and climate activists of today. No, I was not transported back to the American Revolution, but to the CA Central Valley where I attended and anti-30X30 event, hoax of climate change, etc. We cannot ignore these people and organizations, we too must gather, we too have to plan and take

Sept 5: Derogatory names have plagued our national public lands and now finally positive change is in the air. It might help change the of the Los Padres National Forest (due to 17th century missionary treatment of the Chumash) to perhaps have a geographical name instead: such as Central Coast National Forest. In Ohio, the Service will be changing the name of Wayne NF (named after an army general who plundered native Americans).

Sept 2: Wildlife Wins: Yesterday turned out well as the Club's Wildlife Team's work is bearing fruit. It helped pass out of committee a ban on rodenticides (AB 1322); the Regional Forester told us the Forest Service will not impede the movement of endangered wolves and at a beaver management meeting we asked for a re-entry program to be at Sespe Creek.

Aug 29: A weird feeling to go to sleep each night and know that people are sitting in offices around the world planning how to drill and mine for natural resources in and off the central coast region where we all live. For instance, moves are being made in congress to allow more ocean mining off our coast.

Aug 29: Red Rock Act: Local Rep. Salud Carbajal (D-Santa Barbara) has joined the growing list of co-sponsors of America's Red Rock Wilderness Act (HR 3031). This bill would protect vast sections of YOUR national public lands in Utah. (Ask Jim for the fact

Aug 25: Marine Sanctuary opposition (see story on page 7)

Aug 14: Good news about a pack of 5 wolves (a female and her 4 pups) who have moved south from Lassen County to Tulare County among the giant Sequoia groves, the furthest south wolves have ever roamed in over 100 years. Our Sierra Club California Wildlife Team, which I chair, has learned that a number of anti-wolf people (hunting groups, cattle grazing and oil drilling companies) are putting pressure on House Speaker Kevin McCarthy (R-CA) to have the wolves killed or removed. Wolves are inconvenient and just in the way in their view.

Ironically, the wolf pack is now in McCarthy's region. Wolves are currently protected in CA, but some officials are wanting to delist them on federal lands.

Aug 11: Election season has arrived. I

received an invite to attend a fundraiser event for Supervisor Kelly Long, and this week a young man canvassed in my neighborhood seeking public support of the pro-oil initiative on next year's ballot. He is a paid canvasser and was from Los Angeles.

Aug 7: Uranium here? Tomorrow President Biden will answer the request of tribal nations and organizations like the Sierra Club and designate a large national monument on the North Rim of the Grand Canyon to prevent uranium mining in that region of great natural beauty.

But the downside for our region is now that this vast area in northern Arizona will be off limits to uranium mining, pressure will now be put on the smaller and lessor known sites in the west such as Superior Ridge in the Los Padres National Forest in the Lake Casitas Watershed.

Aug 7: The BIG Wild. A group of hikers are making their way east from the Ventura Land Trust's Big Rock Preserve along the Ventura river, taking them across the Ventura Hillsides Preserves to reach the Upper Ojai region and into the Los Padres National Forest. What a hike . . . but there is one BIG parcel of open space land missing to make this hike a reality: The vast Rancho Canada Larga property between Ventura and Ojai.

The property is for sale. Rancho Canada Larga is a top priority for protection in the Sierra Club's Ventura county 30 x 30 conservation plan and our team will be fanning out speaking with state legislators and members of Gov. Newsom's staff.

Aug 4: Our adversaries at the Western Oil and Gas Association others are out meeting with each of the five members of the Ventura county Board of Supervisors during the August recess regarding adding the court approved pro-oil language to the county general plan. The Planning staff is recommending (3-2 vote) to reject the staff's tougher regulations. The judge in the case granted our Sierra Club chapter intervenor status but we were never asked to take part in any discussions between the county and the oil industry.

~ Edited by John Hankins

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

EDITOR: 'Condor' John Hankins, 452-2885 260 Pacos St. Ventura CA 93001 • John@gnusman.com ADVERTISING: Contact Editor (above) DEADLINES FOR ALL ISSUES:

Copy Deadline: 20th — Advertising Deadline: 22nd of month preceding publication.

PUBLICATION SCHEDULE: February/March, April/May, June/July, Aug/Sept, Oct/Nov, Dec/Jan SUBSCRIPTIONS: Free to members Non-members, \$15 per year. Contact Editor John Hankins

Photos, news, tips always welcome!

### Sierra Club

Post Office Box 31241, Santa Barbara, Ca 93130-1241 Santa Barbara 617-3106 • Ventura 988-0339 Change of Address: address.changes@sierraclub.org or (415) 977-5653

NATIONAL OFFICE & MEMBER SERVICES: (415) 977-5500 2101 Webster St. Suite 1300, Oakland CA 94612 WASHINGTON LEGISLATIVE OFFICE: (202) 547-1141 50 F Street, NWW, 8th Floor Washington, D.C., 20001

#### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Jonathan.Ullman@SierraClub.orgEXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Katie Davis (Chair): 451-4574, kdavis2468@gmail.com Jim Hines (Vice- Chair): 340-9266, jhcasitas@gmail.com Gerry Ching (Secretary): 964-5411, <a href="mailto:gching@cox.net">gching@cox.net</a> Treasurer: 805-617-3106 Alex Pujo (at large): 962-3578, <u>alex@pujo.net</u>

David Gold (at-large): 642-7748 x6, davidgold4@aol.com Rebecca August (Arguello Group Rep): 350-0629, rebeccaaugust@mac Niki Stokois (Conejo Group Rep): ConejoGroupHiking@gmail.com Jim Taylor (Santa Barbara Group Rep): (408) 666-7356, jim@carpedata.com

• GROUP CHAIRS •

Arguello: Rebecca August 350-0629, rebeccaaugust@mac.com Conejo: Niki Stokois, Conejo oupHiking@gmail.com Santa Barbara: Jim Taylor, jim@carpedata.com

Ventura Network: Julie Henszey 805-657-2793: juliehenszey@gmail.com • CLUB SERVICES • Forest issues: Jim Hines, 340-9266, jhcasitas@gmail.com

Air Quality: Michael Stubblefield, 216-2630, motodata@roadrunner.com Conservation SB: Kate Mullin, <a href="mullin@shelter-vet.com">mullin@shelter-vet.com</a>
Conservation Vta: Jim Hines, 340-9266, <a href="mailto:jhcasitas@gmail.com">jhcasitas@gmail.com</a> @shelter-vet.com Legal: David Gold, 642-7748 x6, davidgold4@aol.com Outings: Maureen Hernandez, Moenandez@gmail.com Political SB: Alex Pujo, 962-3578, alex@pujo.net
Political Vta: David Gold, 642-7748 x6, davidgold4@aol.com Transportation: Kent Bullard, 218-6945, KentBullard@yahoo.com

Typography and production by Dan Fuller



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.

🔊 SIERRA CLUB

## A great natural resource in our own backyard

The Santa Clara River has very little public access, but a big 1,500-acre area between Ventura and Santa Paula has been set aside for conservation and public access.

The property, known as the Hanson site, is managed by The Nature Conservancy and is soon to be open for walking tours.

Our Sierra Club Chapter, notably Nina Danza on the Ventura Sierra Club board, has been supporting this endeavor all along, indeed pushing for it. The Santa Clara River is truly a great natural resource in our backyard.

For years, Danza has acquired permission to enter and lead hikes and take school classes onto the property. Visitors are amazed at how quickly it feels like being in wilderness surrounded by sounds and sights of native plants and animals.

Public amenities coming to the Hanson location include an outdoor classroom style amphitheater, trails, interpretive signs, and more, all of which are under construction and scheduled to open by Jan 2024.

State Coastal Conservancy (SCC) bought lands along the Santa Clara River over the last 20 years with the intent of creating a 'parkway'. Though a continuous parkway proved not possible, several large 'nodes' have been obtained (see map). SCC enlisted The Nature Conservancy in a land management capacity, and they have been doing a good deal of removing Arundo donax and restoration to a natural state.

Ventura Sierra Club raised

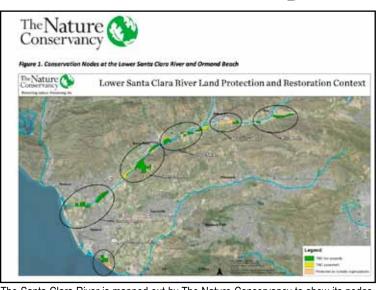
funds over the years specifically to make donations toward equipping the Hanson visitor center, and that day is finally here. Watch for our logo on some part of the new site!

You can visit the site by getting on a The Nature Conservancy list or checking a calendar put out by them in the future.

Meanwhile, TNC is now taking applications for people to help run the site (volunteers). If you want to be in on the ground floor, sign up and go through the online training and background check. For more information or to sign up, go

https://tinyurl.com/HelpSCRiver

#### **GREETINGS FRIENDS**



The Santa Clara River is mapped out by The Nature Conservancy to show its nodes, which are areas identified for land protection and restoration context. The Sierra Club has for years pushed for the Hanson node to become a public entry to the river.

### 'Small' nature often overlooked

By Jim Hines

Greetings Friends:

It's the small things in nature.

I spent so much time in my growing up years on our family ranch north of Lake Casitas studying and learning about the wildlife and plants I saw evervday....deer, bobcats, mountain lions and black bears, giant oak trees, sycamore trees, huge rock formations and huge mountains rising above us.

But I was also fascinated by the smallness of nature around me. I would turn over rocks to see snake eggs, small insects and larvae, hummingbird nests and their tiny eggs . . . the smallest in nature is a teeming of life in a miniature scale.

Don't overlook that which is small among us. I still delight in turning over rocks and fallen branches to see insects, lizards, frogs and salamanders underneath.

I marvel at life's small mysteries, for they are big in my mind and that tiny world is not just about middle earth and hobbits but about the lichens, moss and fungi which grow beneath, this is their world too.

I am amazed at the tiny, at the small, and at the richness of the little. Just sit and watch the frond of a fern

The water is filled with the small as well: tadpoles, little fish, crustaceans and water plants, need to be appreciated and protected just as much as the giants of nature.

The smallest among us, honey bees allow us to have food to eat and other small species such as moths, dragonflies and butterflies also make sure that plants are pollinated.

Tiny grains sustain our world, the wheat field may be big but it is the tiny grain of wheat which gives us nutri-



Speaking of 'small' nature, our Sierra Club folks noticed this bee species at Kimball Park. (Photo by Marie Martin)

Enjoy great hawks and eagles fly through the sky, but you will also enjoy small bats which will delight you in the night sky. Bird watch in the daytime and bat watch at night.

Our natural world is not all about huge mountains, giant redwood trees or large mammals but it is inclusive of a world which is great and small, just get down and look.

### Read our blog





### See SB Garden at night **EAVESDROPS**

SIERRA CLUB

Your donation supports

our powerful and effective

protect vulnerable communities

and defend the natural world.

sierraclub.org/santa-barbara-

The future bike path along the Santa Clara River next to Cabrillo Village, is visited by (from left) Nina Danza and Julie Henszey n On behalf of our club, Nina has arranged

for signage that will eventually show our logo. (Photo by Michael Henszey)

"The era of global warming has ended; the era of global boiling has arrived."

(805) 617-3106

nathan.ullman@sierraclub.org

~ UN secretary general, António Guterres.



### Walk Vta river

A Walk in the Watershed of the Ventura River is open to the public on Oct. 14 to learn why it's so important to protect the watershed and to enjoy a pleasant walk.

'We'd love to have as many VC residents attend as possible. This is such a beautiful part of our county yet so many people know hardly anything about it," said Glenn Shephard, Director of the county's Watershed Protection division. Your host will be VC Supervisor Matt LaVere along with county water staff. This is the second Walk by the county, the first being along the Santa Clara River.

The outdoor event is in line with Supervisor LaVere's key priority to protect the County and ensure a sustainable future.

Meet on Saturday, Oct. 14 at 9am at the Ventura River Preserve's Old Baldwin Trailhead; 671 Old Baldwin Rd., Ojai. The walk will be about two miles. To register, go

https://tinyurl.com/WalkVtaRiver

What happens in the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden after hours?

This Fall, families are invited for a series of special evening events as they explore, create and engage in nighttime activities. Space is limited so register early. All Hallows Evening

Friday, Oct. 20, 5-7pm: Come for an evening of festive fun as we create nature masks, weave craft webs and make Halloween ornaments. Receive a nature-themed trinket while you Trick or Treat in the Backcountry and wrap up the night with a costume parade. Cost: \$8 adult \$5 child (age 3-12) for Garden members, \$10 adult and \$7 child (age 3-12). Tickets https://tinyurl.com/SBBGoct20

Nature Night

Friday, Nov. 10th, 5-7pm: Experience the Garden as it transforms after dark.

Discover what insects fly about at our black-light station or create nature luminaries to help illuminate the dark. Immerse yourself under the cover of night as you enjoy a guided stroll and enjoy an evening of storytelling.

The event takes place almost entirely in the dark; flashlights are highly recommended.

Cost is same as above. Tick-

https://tinyurl.com/SBBGnov10



What fun to see how the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden looks and feels like in the evening and night. There are two events planned.

(Photo courtesy Santa Barbara Botanic Garden)

### 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:

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

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

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

### **SIGHTINGS**

### Sharks, hurri-quake, ocean wine

By John Hankins

Welcome Fall and Winter after a hot summer. Politics are still hot, but we've also had some very cool news in our fight to Explore, Enjoy and Protect the planet (Sierra Club's motto). Check out the stories and links below.

Please join our activities and

Donations help a lot, and the money stays here at home doing

activism; see Group News box on page 3 for contacts and links where you can get involved or enjoy free hikes on page 6-7. We encourage all to go outside on your own or via our free hikes with leaders via MeetUp and internet lists.

vailed" declared Jon Ullman to the news that a district court rejected Exxon's plan to truck oil on Highways 101, 166 and others leading to Maricopa. Jon is our chapter's Executive Director. (See story page 1) Sept 23: Public Lands Day is the

largest single-day volunteer event for public land with the theme "30 Years of Care and Community." Locally, volunteers helped clean-up and or plant in the Ojai and Mount Pinos ranger districts.

good stuff. Donate here:

www.sierraclub.org/donate/1000

Sept 27: "Today, Justice Pre-

Sept 22: Electric Bus celebration for the city of Guadalupe along with Central Coast Community En-

Sept 20: Rally at the Rock, to celebrate the opening of a public comment period for the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary, which the Sierra club enthusiastically supports. Held at Morro Rock Jetty Beach. To learn more go to: https://chumashsanctuary.org

Sept 19: Oil Odor: "A rose by any other name would smell as sweet." according to Shakespeare, but a contentious oil pipeline name/ owner change would still stink, according to the Sierra Club and other eco-opponents. But SB Supervisors decided 4-0 that the name change was okay and has no environmental impact. So, the Las Flores Pipeline system will now be called Pacific Pipeline, a subsidiary of Exxon.

Sept 16: Third Large-Scale trail restoration has involved hundreds of volunteers, on this day for the Hot Springs, Tunnel and San Ysidro trails. Sponsored by SB



A Remembrance Gathering of Carmin Ramirez' life was held at Heritage Square in Oxnard Aug. 12, on the one-year anniversary of her accidental death when a truck hit her while walking. Ramirez, then a county supervisor and an attorney, was known as a fighter for environmental justice and renewable energy. Her husband Roy Prince, spoke to the gathering that included Sierra Club members. (Photo by John Hankins)

Parks and Recreation Department, the first two held in April and June, restored about seven miles after heavy winter storms caused severe damage, dangerous conditions and extra plant growth.

Sept 17: Large protest (17K) against fossil fuels occurred in New York as a prelude to the United Nations summit on Sept. 20. Asked why attend, an 8-year old girl said: "I really want the Earth to feel bet-

Sept 16: Grab a shovel and help plant 100 trees at Goleta's Stow Grove Park. About 90 people heeded the call. Over 15 years of drought, the coast redwoods have declined and planting 75 coastal redwoods and 25 cedar saplings will help bring the grove back, originally planted by Edgar Stow in the 1930s.

Sept 12: Petroleum Protest at the Ventura County Board of Supervisors. Our Ventura Sierra Club was there in force railing against the pro-oil members allowing the oil industry to get away with sloughing off modern and reasonable environmental regulations.

Sept. 12: Wildlife setbacks were approved by the Ventura Board of Supervisors. While there are still 27 exemptions, the new ordinance protects 14 wildlife crossings in the northern part of Ventura near Hwy. 33 and Lockwood Valley Road.

Sept 11: 30 X 30 goal (SB 337) passed the CA Assembly by a huge margin (51-4), ensuring that this goal will exist beyond the Newsom Administration. The Power in Nature Coalition thanks the author State Sen. Dave Min. Gov. Newsom is expected to sign it.

Sept 10: Monthly kids bike fix & clean days are the perfect way to fight climate change one bike at a time. Ventura Bike HUB, 490 N. Ventura Ave. Join the MeetUp for future events:

www.meetup.com/sierraclubven-

Aug 27: Shark washes up at Hendry's Beach, blood on its belly. According to a surfer commenting on Edhat, it appears to be this: <a href="https://">https://</a> marinespecies.wildlife.ca.gov/ broadnose-sevengill-shark/false/

Aug 26: Health Alert due to the Excessive Heat Warning posted by the National Weather Service for parts of Santa Barbara County for Aug. 28-29.

Aug 22: "Good news! We won the Exxon hearing today," reports our Chair Katie Davis. Deadlocked 2-2 with one abstention (Joan Hartmann abstained because the pipeline runs adjacent to her property). Since the Board of Supervisors took no action, it leaves the Planning Commission's DENIAL in place. The issue was related to refitting Plains Pipeline which might lead to restarting offshore platforms. Note: Two of our Sierra Club leaders, Davis and Julie Henszey, were quoted in the SB Independent.

Aug 22: Noise Pollution: In response to growing complaints, SB Airport has embarked on a comprehensive noise study and will form a working group in collaboration with the cities of Goleta and Santa Barbara. Study may take a year or

continued next page



Jan Dietrick (right) welcomes questions from a person who stopped by the newly formed Sierra Club California's Agricultural Committee to discuss going beyond chemical pesticides. The booth was at the Ventura County Fair from Aug. 2-13. Jan is a partner with Ron Whitehurst of the Rincon-Vitova 'Bugfarm' in Ventura. (Photo by Jimmy Young)

To join the Ag Committee, send her an email at <a href="mailto:JDietrick9@gmail.com">JDietrick9@gmail.com</a> Even more information by experts has been loaded to YouTube. Here's the link: https://www.youtube.com/@VenturaFoodCoop

# Climate Watch

Editor's note: We continue to feature specific climate action ideas authored by UCSB lecturer in environmental studies, Deborah Williams. This report is on air-drying laundry to save money and extend the life of

There are so many ways we can reduce our carbon footprint and save money; one often overlooked area is our laundry.

Dryers have a significant carbon footprint, and are usually one of the top three energy-hungry appliances (after refrigerators and washing machines) in our homes. An average household can reduce its carbon footprint by 2,400 pounds per year by air drying clothes. Because clothes dryers represent around 5.8% of residential electricity use, we can also save money by energy-free air drying.

Dryer usage is hard on most fabrics due to friction and heat. Air-drying is better for fabrics, helping to keep their color, shape and texture intact longer. According to Cosette Joyner Martinez, an associate professor at Oklahoma State University, "The lifespan extension that you get with [air drying] is pretty incredible." The material in our dryer lint filter is evidence that our clothes are breaking down in

Inside air drying can also increase our home's humidity which is especially positive in the winter months.

Washing clothes in cold water most of the time will also save money and reduce emissions because up to 90% of the energy use goes toward



Our climate change scribe, Deborah Williams, practices the information she conveys. In this case, she took a photo of her own clothes hanging up to dry in her garage, saving money and energy.

heating the water. You can save up to <u>864 pounds</u> of emissions per year by washing four out of five loads in cold

There are several straightforward steps to achieving a more earth friendly and money-saving way to do

First, identify where in your house and potentially outside you can set up a system to hang wet clothes. If you don't have a dedicated laundry room, identify another part of your home such as a bathroom, bedroom or even the garage to set up some portable or retractable clothes drying racks/ hangers. We use the garage.

Most of the year, there is also the potential to hang clothes outside to dry, which has additional benefits. Drying outside makes clothes smell fresher, increases daily steps/exercise, reduces hard-to-remove smells, and helps to whiten and disinfect laundry.

Next, determine what type of drying implements will work in your situation. The Eco Hub provides lots of suggestions about what is available and how to hang up wet clothes for the best drying results. Other sites that list drying implement options include: Best Clotheslines for Air Drying Clothes of 2023 and Urban Clothes-

Finally, today's detergents are formulated to clean clothes in all temperatures and using cold saves the energy (and money).

Like other carbon reduction strategies discussed in this bi-monthly column, carbon footprint reduction strategies for laundry, are win-win.

### **Condor wine** flying fine

Los Padres ForestWatch and Solminer Wine Co. have teamed up to create a limited-edition blend as a tribute "to the breathtaking beauty of the Los Padres National Forest, the ancestral lands of the Chumash people, and the remarkable California condor that soars above it all," according to the winery.

It's called Condor Red, and only 260 bottles were produced. The entire purchase price goes directly to support ForestWatch's efforts protecting endangered California condors and their habitat.

"Condor Red is a balanced, medium bodied wine with bright fruit and subtle smoke on the nose," noted the winery. "On the palate, the Syrah (84%) plays well with the Grenache (16%), notes of fresh black cherries and raspberries accompanied by dried herbs and cranberry jam. Pairs well with everything!"

The wine is only available through the Solminer store, or in person at their tasting room at 2890 Grand Avenue in Los Olivos.



Limited edition (only 260 bottles) of Condor Red wine

## **Earth Alert filming Ormond Beach history**

Earth Alert has launched a project about the history of Ormond Beach, and anyone who has been involved in protecting, cleaning up and lobbying for reserve status is welcome to submit photos or videos for the documentary.

Interviews began during Coastal Cleanup Day on Saturday, Sept.

It comes at an opportune time, the Ormond Beach wetland is now under consideration by US Fish and Wildlife to be named a wildlife reserve, certainly supported by our Sierra Club.

The project was announced by Janet Bridgers, a co-founder (with her husband Patrick Wall, now deceased) of the 39-year-old Earth Alert. "We will gather interviews from activists who have either worked or are currently working to protect the Ventura County wetland," Bridgers said, adding that organized efforts to protect the area have been going on since 1988. Interviews were video-taped and photos were taken by photographer Toby Younis of Earth Alert.

Some of the interviewees were Assembly member Steve Bennett, Russ Baggerly, Alisse Fisher (Sierra Club), Robert O'Reilly (Carmen Ramirez's staffer), Shelly Carny, Brian Foster and Walter Fuller (longtime volunteer who lives at the en-

### Sharks, 'hurri-quake'... continued from page 4

Aug 21: Grand Granada Garage will soon be the home to a 426 kW solar and battery storage system coming on-line next year that is part of SB City's Strategic Energy Plan that includes micro-grids that provide energy during outages. It follows the city's first micro-grid at Fire Station #1 on W. Carrillo St., which would serve the station and Office of Emergency Services.

Aug 20: 'Hurri-quake', rainbows and rain came to our area but left no serious damage. The quake (5.1 magnitude) was centered about four miles east of Ojai and felt in Ventura and beyond. "We seem to have disasters coming in waves these days," noted Sean Anderson, professor of environmental science at CA State U-Channel Islands.

Aug 15: Vote for Pollution redux: State Water Resources Control Board went along with the CA Energy Commission to allow three gas power plants to operate past their closure deadline of 2023 (see item Aug 9). GenOn Energy Inc., which owns the Ormond Beach plant in Oxnard, said it intends only to fire it up during "extreme emergency conditions."

Aug 13: Bike fix-it day is back after a summer hiatus at the Bike Hub, 490 N Ventura Ave. This monthly event helps spiff up kids bikes that are earmarked to give away to needy local families. For the monthly events, sign on to the Sierra Club's MeetUp here: www.meetup.com/SierraClubVen-

Aug 9: Superior Court of SB County stopped a proposal to subdivide the 4,000-acre historic Rancho La Laguna into 13 parcels, which could allow for building of high-end residential estates in that area of Santa Ynez Valley. "This was an important win in the effort to preserve the agricultural economy and spirit of the Santa Ynez Valley," said Attorney Alicia Roessler of the SB Environmental Defense Center.

Aug 9: Vote for Pollution, which is exactly what the California Energy Commission did when it allowed three more years to keep three gas power plants along the state's southtrance) among others.

The Ventura Sierra Club was quite active in protecting Ormond Beach for years, paying Al Sanders to monitor the area and protect the snowy plovers and least terns. He left the area about ten years ago, and while the club has not paid anyone else it has always been a supporter of the Friends of Ormand Beach's

Bridgers said that research and additional interviews for the documentary will later be conducted regarding the area's ancient and modern history with indigenous peoples, development of the Oxnard plan and the adjacent Ventura County coastal areas during the 20th century.

'Our research will require an unknown length of time, and consequently, no completion date for the project is estimated at this time," she

"The goal of the project is to show how Ormond's startling biodiversity has empowered a wide variety of people to come to its defense over a significant number of years," she said. "The point to be made is that credit for its preservation cannot be given to any one person or organization. It must be shared with many."

Bridgers invites suggestions for additional future interviews. "And we very much welcome both still

ern coast through 2026; includes Ormond Beach Generating Station. A shutoff deadline for all three was set for the end of 2023. Rationale was the fear of blackouts and extreme weather. "We need to move faster in incorporating renewable energy . . . battery storage . . . chargers," commissioner Patricia Monahan said. "We're working with all the energy institutions to do that, but we are not there yet."

Aug 9: Stow Grove Park Master Plan environmental review was up for public comment until Aug. 31. It describes the City of Goleta's plans to improve the park with renovations and additions over 15 years.

Aug 8: Wine 'aged' in the Santa Barbara Channel -- often sold for hundreds of dollars per bottle -- was pulled up from the ocean floor and poured into the city of SB's wastewater treatment plant. The 2,000+ bottles were recycled. The firm using our ocean as a wine cellar, Ocean Fathoms, was never able to get a permit, so the illegal wine became wastewater under an agreement with the District Attorney.

Aug 8: New Monument to preserve over 1,500 square miles around Grand Canyon National Park and limit it from mining was announced by the White House. Local tribes want it called Baaj Nwaavjo ("where the tribes roam").

Aug 7: Chumash Tribal Chair of the Northern Council, Violet Sage Walker, was appointed to the federal Ocean Research Advisory Panel where she will be a major proponent for the proposed Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary off the coast of Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo counties.

Aug 3: Over 40 eco-groups locally (including us) and statewide are asking the state to reject allowing the Ormond Beach, AES Alamitos, and Huntington Beach gas plants to use fossil fuels for another three years. Requested by CA Dept. of Water Resources, a portion of the letter reads: "We do not support using \$1.2 billion of the Strategic Reliability Reserve to upgrade the three OTC gas plants. Our climate and communities cannot wait any longer. Reject the plan." (See item Aug 9)



The Earth Alert's documentary team worked both inside and outside. In the studio interview (left) Janet Bridgers is interviewing a willing subject with her colleague Shelly Carney. (Photo by Tony Younis) Filming outside (right) videographer Toby Younis is filming Brian Foster and Janet Bridgers at Ormond Beach (courtesy photo by Earth Alert).

photos and footage to tell the story,"

For more information, please contact Janet Bridgers via phone or text at 505/254-7995 or at: info@earthalert.org.

Earth Alert's other documentaries—all related to California coastal issues—are linked at its home page: www.earthalert.org



Anna's hummingbird on **Hummingbird Sage** 



Allen's hummingbird on Lemonade Berry



Black-headed grosbeak on Western Redbud



Cedar waxwing on Toyon



White crowned sparrow on Ceanothus

Editor's note: 'Condor' John on Coffee has highest praise and thanks to Elisa Taylor-Godwin for sharing her copyright photos. She not only knows her birds but the plants besides!



(Photo by 'A Friendly Stranger')

### **Backyard birds: where** conservation begins

Ventura Audubon is launching a fall campaign, aiming to raise awareness about how everyone can directly contribute to bird conservation.

Nearly 3 billion birds have vanished from North America's skies in the past 50 years. Ever-expanding cities and suburbs have played a significant role in this loss. However, people who live in cities can give birds back some of what they've lost by trimming trees, bushes, and ground cover in the fall instead of spring, when they are nesting and raising their young.

This campaign highlights the critical role that urban and suburban environments play in the survival of birds, which are an integral part of our ecosystem. At least 175 bird species procreate in Ventura County, many of which build nests in trees, bushes and even on the ground.

Birds that nest in shrubs and trees in cities include a diverse mix from the very small, such as hummingbirds, to the very large like the great horned owl and other birds of prey. Numerous songbirds also nest at various heights in shrubs and trees, including the yellow warbler, lesser goldfinch American goldfinch house finch, lazuli bunting, and many others, enriching neighborhoods with their color and song.

The campaign comprises the following components:

~ Annual October Birdathon Fundraiser. Donations may be made through the PayPal link on the website or mailed to P.O. Box 24198 Ventura, California 93002.

While any donation is welcome, Audubon also encourages people to participate actively by birding and donating based on the number of species seen during the month. The top winners will be selected and will receive prizes.

Details of the Birdathon competition are available on our website: www.VenturaAudubon.org

~ On Oct. 10 at 7pm, Ventura Audubon is hosting Benny Isaac Jacobs-Schwartz (owner Birds by BIJS), to enlighten attendees about a selection of backyard birds, exploring the life history and nesting behaviors, fostering a deeper appreciation and how to protect them during nesting season. It will be at the Poinsettia Pavilion.

~ Urban/Suburban Bird-friendly Landscaping Awareness.

Many species breed between March 1 and August 31, but some, including hummingbirds, owls, and hawks, could nest at any time of the

"By simply scheduling truly needed vegetation trimming in the fall and early winter (between Sept. 1 to Jan. 1) . . . can help protect and create important nesting bird habitat," said David Wappler, a wildlife

Audubon recommends removing only as much as necessary and no more than 25% of the tree crown, providing more places for birds to nest, rest, hide from predators, and forage for insects, flowers, and

"It also advances our commitment to biodiversity," emphasized Ventura Audubon President, Rachel Ameche.

Because not all birds nest in trees, groundcover should be managed carefully as well. In our region that includes the dark-eyed junco, song sparrow, California towhee, orange-crowned warbler, and others. Their nests are often in hidden, hard-to-spot locations.

To protect ground-nesting birds, trim ground cover, such as ivy, in the same months as above. To provide greater nesting habitat, consider not trimming and letting the ground cover grow to offer more nesting and foraging opportunities.

"Routine thinning does not necessarily improve the health of a tree or shrub and destroys their natural form and grace," said Wappler. "Letting them grow also provides more cooling shade and privacy for people."

~ Fall and winter are ideal seasons for establishing California native plants, favored by many bird species for food, shelter, and nesting. For more information on birdfriendly landscaping tips visit: www.audubon.org/native-plants



### 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.

See updated listing of all outings via the QR code (above) or: https://www.sierraclub.org/santabarbara-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.



### **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 646-4348 Ojai-Ventura Santa Barbara 967-3481 925-9538 Santa Lucia **Other Areas** 

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

### **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



Sierra Club's free hikes bring you to places you might not know and connect you with other like-minded people while enjoying nature. Here, a group is heading for the Gaviota Caves, led by Robert Bernstein, who also took the photo. Join our free outings below.

### 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

All links are now live!

We used to print our Sierra Club Outings here covering a two-month period. But we find 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:

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

https://visitventuraca.com/bikinghiking/

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)

https://www.hikelospadres.com

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

http://www.ovlc.org/trailfinder/

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

https://tinyurl.com/NearUsLA

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.

### Some trails still closed

Many of the areas that were closed for public health and safety following powerful winter storms that caused significant damage have reopened.

A new Forest order is now in place that keeps severely compromised roads, trails, campgrounds, and day-use sites closed needing more work as funding becomes available. Some examples of continuing closures include Red Rock Day Use Area and Trailhead, Romero Camuesa Road to the Upper Santa Ynez Recreation Area/Pendola/hot springs area and Upper Oso Campground Loop is closed. A more complete and up to date list is here:

https://tinyurl.com/ForestUpdates2023

Also go (and report problems) to the Los Padres Forest Association group here:

https://lpforest.org/trails Harmon Canvon

For an account of a very popular local trail in Ventura Land Trust's Harmon Canyon, read Stewardship Director Dan Hulst's account:

Nearly 35" of rain fell at Harmon Canyon Preserve, leading to widespread impacts across public access infrastructure. The eight miles of utility road spanning the preserve and forming the backbone of the trail system eroded and became impassable. This resulted in a partial closure that carries on to this day.

Open is the lower portion with many popular trails, the closure on the upper portion is where the fire road splits and forbids dogs whether or not it becomes open

Many folks have asked Ventura Land Trust (VLT) why we have not re-opened the upper canyon in the months since those powerful storms.

It is because the utility roads in Harmon Canyon Preserve are part of a public utility easement held by Southern California Edison (SCE). This easement contains maintenance clauses, meaning that if VLT performs road maintenance that is deemed faulty. VLT could be held liable. In short, the road maintenance at Harmon Canyon must be carried out by SCE as the easement holder.

As the extent of the road damage became clear, so did the crucial need to approach repairs in a collaborative manner with SCE. Given that VLT and SCE have different goals, priorities, and timeframes, collaboration between the two organizations has relied heavily on compromise.

While neither organization may be getting exactly what they want, both parties are able to ensure that their priorities are incorporated into the work being performed. And ultimately, through partnership, the public will get what they want: restored access to the upper canyon.

Road work continues in upper Harmon Canyon and is expected to be completed later this year.

By Dan Hulst, Stewardship Director

California received a historic amount of rainfall in the 2022-23 wet season.

### **EVENTS**

Oct 7: Garden Party for the 30th anniversary of the Friends of Santa Clara River. Will be held at 3-6pm at the historic Dudley House, 197 N Ashwood Ave · Ventura. For more details and to RSVP (required) go to:

www.FSCR.org

Oct 6-8: Nature Track Film Festival, now in its 5th year, featuring Wild Waters documentary about a female kayaker and much more. Venues include Fairview Theater and an opening night affair Oct. 6 at the Bacara. All details are here: https://naturetrackfilmfestival.org

Oct 14: Ventura River Walk: Learn about our watershed hosted by District 1 Supervisor Matt La-Vere and Ventura County Public Works Agency Watershed Protection. Meet at Ventura River Preserve Trailhead, 671 Old Baldwin Road, at 9am. Sign up here: https://tinyurl.com/WalkVtaRiver

Oct 17: Life and Death on a Scorched Planet is the title of Jeff Goodell's talk at UCSB's Campbell Hall at 7:30pm about understanding how temperature rise will have on our lives and planet. He is the author of "The Heat Will Kill You First." Free to UCSB students, otherwise \$20 per ticket.

Oct 26: Explore Ecology is having a celebration of local food, community and environmental education under the title Sustainable Table. It's from 5:30pm followed by a Farm to Table Feast, held by the beach at Cabrillo Pavilion, 1118 E. Cabrillo Blvd, Santa Barbara. More details on the fundraiser at:

https://tinyurl.com/Sustainable-

Nov 5: Carmen Ramirez Progress Awards, 11:30-2pm at Courtyard by Marriott. 600 E. Esplanade Dr, Oxnard. Sponsored by Ventura County Democrats.

Nov 5: **Baron Ranch** sunset herb walk, 4-6pm with local herbalist Nicole Iaquinto. Learn about the medicinal and edible herbs of Santa Barbara, at the Coal Oil Point Reserve, hosted by the Gaviota Coast Conservancy. More info and registration here:

https://tinyurl.com/RanchHerb-

#### **EAVESDROPS**

" Public lands need our support now. Submit a public comment today and help put conservation back in the conversation ..."

~ Pitch by Patagonia Action Works (and supported by Sierra Club) asserting, "For nearly 40 years, the Bureau of Land Management has prioritized resource extraction over conservation, recreation and wildlife." GOP is fighting the change, so send comments

https://tinyurl.com/BLMbattle



Ventura Land Trust's upper trails are still closed (beyond the 'Y') and weather isn't the only reason. Further opening may happen later on in October. (Photo by Dan Hulst, conservation director)



Wildling Museum of Art and Nature is showcasing California's nine national parks now through Feb. 19, 2014, with the title, *California National Parks: Stories of Water.* It features 37 artists and 39 selected artworks. Shown is Michael Miner's Water Study from Redwood National Park, a fiber-based silver gelatin print struck from a film negative, (Photo courtesy the Artist and George Rose) More detail at <a href="https://www.WildlingMuseum.org">www.WildlingMuseum.org</a>

### Fun talks and walks

Ojai author-naturalist Lanny Kaufer has several fun and informative talks and walks in October. More detail and sign-ups are at <a href="https://herb-walks.com/">https://herb-walks.com/</a>

~ Oct. 22, from 10am – noon, a walk along the Carpinteria Salt Marsh Nature Park, also known as El Estero, a rare salt wetland in Southern California. Nearly destroyed by development, the remaining estuary was restored in the late 1990s by a group of concerned citizens along with the City of Carpinteria, UCSB, and the Land Trust for Santa Barbara County.

Completed in 1997, the 8-acre portion of the marsh owned by the City of Carpinteria was renamed the Carpinteria Salt Marsh Nature Park.

It is home to hundreds of migrating birds and other wildlife, including exotic sharks, rays and native fish when conditions are right. There is a great variety of edible and medicinal plants to see and learn from.

~ Oct. 28, 10am to noon, an OAKtober Natural History Walk at Taft Nature Preserve, a world class destination for botanists, plant enthusiasts and nature lovers in Ojai. Register here:

https://tinyurl.com/TaftGardens

~ Oct. 28, 5 - 7:30pm, see the full moon rise and the sun set along an Ojai trail viewpoint and learn about edible and natural health plants along the way. Optional After-Party at Ojai Valley Brewery.

~Nov 11-12, Ojai Herbal Symposium. In person at Krotona Hall in Ojai or livestreamed on Zoom. CEUs are available for California acupuncturists. Details at:

www.OjaiHerbal.org

### **Not all favor Chumash sanctuary**

**By Jim Hines** 

For over ten years native Americans, Sierra Club and many other conservation activists have been working through two Presidential Administrations (Trump and Biden) to have the vast and biologically rich ocean waters off the northern coast of Santa Barbara county and San Luis Obispo counties protected as a national marine sanctuary.

Finally, yes finally we have the official proposal by the Biden administration to designate the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary and you can help advance this forward, hopefully with the official designation in 2024.

But we have major opposition, in meeting this week with environmental advisors to the President, my team learned that the administration has already met with representatives of the commercial fishing industry, most of whom do not want to see offshore rules which would limit commercial fishing. They will soon meet with the offshore oil and mining industries who want NO restrictions in the new sanctuary.

I also met with Rep. Bruce Westerman's staff (Arkansas) who is leading congressional opposition to the new sanctuary designation. I can tell you that the political opposition is very real and the U.S. House, which controls the purse strings, could very well block the sanctuary's creation or at least provide no funding.

You may help advance the marine sanctuary designation by providing your input and support during the public comment period which goes until Oct. 25 (see box on how).

And that's not all, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has reduced the scope of the proposed sanctuary, according to the *Guardian* 

The tribe has been tirelessly campaigning for the central coast to be designated as a marine sanctuary – a fight Violet Sage Walker's father, Fred Collins, started more than five decades ago – and was confident the sanctuary would go ahead after a successful public comment period last year drew 10,000 supporting signatures.

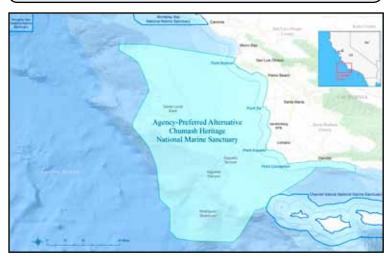
But then, last month, NOAA released a draft management plan for the sanctuary that left the tribe reeling. The stretch of coast they had advocated for – from Cambria to Morro Bay – had been left out. Instead, NOAA's proposed sanctuary would start just south of Morro

PUBLIC COMMENT

**How to Comment** 

To submit your comment on the proposed Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary, follow these steps:

- 1) Go to: www.regulations.gov
- 2) In the search window, type: NOAA-NOS-2021-0080
- 3) Paste your comment in the text box or upload your letter into the "Attach Files" box.
- 4) Complete the remaining form by adding your email, selecting "an individual" from the options, and filling out the Name, Address, and Contact fields.
- 5) Click the blue SUBMIT COMMENT button at the bottom of the page.



Bay, stretching down to Gaviota. The reason, NOAA told the *Guardian*, is because a marine sanctuary is not compatible with offshore wind – and Morro Bay is set to be the hub of the country's biggest offshore wind development project.

"We felt so betrayed," Walker told the *Guardian*. "We really thought we were going to get the marine sanctuary we had campaigned for, we thought we were going to get protection for the entire central Californian coastline."

If you too feel betrayed, then add it to your comments.

According to NOAA, "the proposed sanctuary management plan and regulations would guide community-based management and ecosystem-based management—including a framework for tribal and Indigenous collaborative management—to balance marine conservation efforts with other uses, includ-

ing renewable energy opportunities in nearby waters."

"The preferred boundary accommodates an area beyond the sanctuary where subsea electrical transmission cables from nearby development of offshore wind could be built and includes a permit pathway to support additional cables within the proposed sanctuary. NOAA will continue to closely coordinate with federal and state agencies to ensure that the sanctuary designation process aligns with the Biden-Harris Administration and State of California's efforts to advance responsible offshore wind deployment."

A detailed description of the proposed sanctuary, as well as additional information about opportunities to provide public comment, can be found on the website for the proposed Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary.



Celebrate VLT's 20th

Ventura Land Trust is creating a momentous celebration on its 20th Anniversary on Saturday, Oct. 14 6-10pm at the Hayden Preserve, 234 Canada Lara Rd. Ventura. VLT's Executive Director Melissa Baffa is shown accepting an honor from the Ventura City Council for its 20th year. More information and to RSVP, go to: <a href="https://tinyurl.com/VLT20thRSVP">https://tinyurl.com/VLT20thRSVP</a>

## Drive electric week, many powered by the sun

Electric vehicles (EVs) are a more economical choice for drivers, with lower fueling costs (charging at home overnight is equivalent to paying \$1.50 per gallon of gasoline!), lower vehicle maintenance costs (no more oil changes), and rebates and incentives that can make buying or leasing more affordable than traditional gas-powered cars.

Hundreds of people have shown up for several EV shows that were conducted via National Drive Electric Week which happens during the latter half of September. The



Kent Bullard's plug-in Volt (Photo by Condor John)

Sierra Club and its partner, EV Advocates, were quite active in events from Santa Maria (Sept. 22), Port of Hueneme (Sept. 30) and Oct. 1 at Ventura Harbor.

The Harbor show was quite popular with 75 cars comprising 37 different models, with 225 people who signed up to come, not including the public.

"The cars that signed up comprise over 3 million miles driven," said Kent Bullard, who is the Sierra Club's Transportation Chair and key organizer of the shows, sometimes partnering with the SB Community Environmental Council which has a robust EV and solar section of its website.

"It's pretty exciting," Bullard said, especially since he's been involved with EVs for years with his wife Cathy. One of his car's license plates is a hybrid, reading "Sort of

E**V"**.

About 838,000 EVs were on California roads in 2021, and under the state mandate, it's expected to surge to 12.5 million by 2035. Meanwhile, numerous new electric chargers are popping up like spring flowers, easy "range anxiety." Condor John is one who replaced his beloved Hyundai Ionic with 140 miles range to a Chevy Bolt with 250 miles of range.

To join the movement, there are plenty of resources available, the best being going to the EV shows and talking to the owners.

SB Community Environmental Council has a webinar and website dedicated to answer all your questions here:

 $\frac{https://cecsb.org/webinars/tag/}{EV+101}$ 

Also, the EV Advocates of Ventura County can be relied on for ad-

vice through Facebook and Google Groups. They often partner with our Sierra Club as one of its founders, Kent Bullard, is our Transportation Chair. A non-partisan group keeps you up to date with the latest nation-wide and a questionnaire can lead you to the EV most suited for you. www.PluginAmerica.org



Sierra Club staff during Ventura Harbor EV show 2023 (from right) Steve Colome, Julie Henszey and Holly Shalla (Photo by Julie's Camera)

### SIERRA CLUB

P.O. Box 31241 Santa Barbara, CA 93130-1241

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION U.S. Postage PAID Santa Barbara, CA Permit No. 9

## Our track record speaks for itself

By Jon Ullman

Led by visionaries and environmental activists like you, the Santa Barbara - Ventura Sierra Club Chapter has been at the forefront of local progress for decades. See below for what we've accomplished this year alone.

All the work we do together is vitally important, and your support makes it possible. Keep up to date with actions and information and you may also donate here:

www.sierraclub.org/santa-barbaraventura

With you by our side, our chapter works every day toward achieving a livable planet. We focus on protecting wildlife and wild places; building safe, healthy and equitable communities -- all to ensure that America's democracy works for everyone.

With the help of members, volunteers, and potential donors like you, we continue to prove that we're up to the challenge. Our local track record speaks for itself, and it comes from our unique ability to plug in volunteers from all walks of life into our people-centered campaigns.

We consistently beat back industries with far deeper pockets because we know how to organize and leverage our voices, and we work closely with other organizations.

Just look at what we all accomplished this year:

~ Defeated Exxon: Sierra Club and partners intervened to defend SB County from an Exxon lawsuit trying to revive its plan to restart the aging offshore oil platforms and truck oil on the 101 and attempts to re-start the corroded pipeline that caused a massive oil spill in 2015.

SB Supervisor Capps said that she had never received so many comment letters before.

~ Community Choice Energy: Sierra Club is on the forefront of advocating for strong local renewable energy goals and adoption of community choice to achieve them. Now 32 communities in Ventura and Los Angeles are part of the Clean Power Alliance; Santa Barbara is offering city residents 100% clean energy and solar discounts through their program; and Central Coast Community Energy, covering Santa Barbara and four other counties, gave out millions of dollars last year in electrification rebates and incentives.

### Fall to Spring adventures

new year right around the corner, there is so much to look forward to . . . such as spring!

Get started on your 2024 travel plans with the Sierra Club's international and winter domestic trips, which are live and ready for reservations.

Choose anywhere between Africa and Antarctica to states throughout the U.S.

Take your pick of 150+ ex-

With fall in the air and a periences ranging from backcountry ski adventures, service trips, and lodge-based samplers for youth to seniors and diversity. The newest offerings are now available, including Alaska, Hawaii, and spring domestic

You can <u>visit us online</u> to search for trips, call (415 977-5522), learn about our volunteer leaders, or request your free catalog.



The Sierra Club has been active for generations, by lobbying to create Yosemite National Park, suing the government against pesticides and helping to lead today's climate change. This example is part of a history storyboard you can see at the club's home in Yosemite, the Heritage House near Curry Village. Read about how her legacy lives on locally via Rachel's Network, on page 1. (Photo by 'Condor' John Hankins)

Beyond procuring wind and solar, CCCE is evaluating geothermal and storage technologies such as a compressed-air facility. Did you know the Santa Barbara Courthouse uses geothermal for energy use?

~ We showed up repeatedly, participating in statewide and national efforts to demand an end to dependence on fossil fuels. We led free hikes, and we showed up at Earth Day and Drive Electric events, at World Ocean Day, and City Council and Supervisor meetings.

As an environmental activist, vou understand the factual threat we face. Your support is urgently needed now (see link above).

~ What's next? In 2024, with your support, we have an opportunity to turn the tide on fossil fuels using intense pushback and making it a pivotal year to ensure our

region is the solution to the climate crisis – not the problem!

Advance 100% renewable energy: State incentives and the federal Inflation Reduction Act provide momentum as we advance all-electric building codes, low carbon materials, solar panels, water efficiency codes, electric vehicle adoption, making the Central Coast a leader in the clean energy economy.

Preserve and enjoy our region's stunning natural beauty and wilderness: Keep our trails open, accessible, and safe for all - from protecting access to Montecito's popular Hot Springs trail to working with partners to ensure the protection of Ormond Beach to designating new wilderness areas, the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary and

Your partnership is a cornerstone of our important work. Please support our work.