

Vol. 23, No. 5 of 6

October - November 2023

Condor Call

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



© Photo by Marie Lakin

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

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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 ideas.

“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 emissions.

“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.

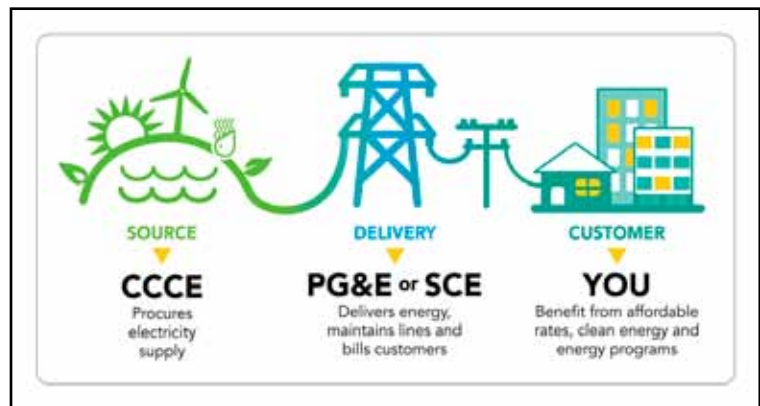
“We are missing out to get all the local fleets to transition (to electricity). It’s affordable for cities and counties to reduce their price as we offer help and funding for these fleets. We’ve bought over 70 EVs that only cost us \$31,000 per vehicle, mostly Bolts. SB County is now working on getting 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, go to:

<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,

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.)

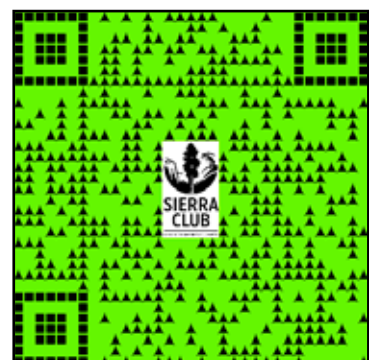
Rachel’s Network is a community of women funders committed to a safer, healthier, and more just world for all named in honor of Rachel Carson.

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, Halley Ehlers from CFROG and Linda Krop and Alex Katz from the SB Environmental Defense Center, among other.



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.



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 hearing.

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 County.

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

concluded,” 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 River.

“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 tug-of-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

continued on page 2

COVER PHOTO

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-to-reach and underserved communities. Find your incentives here:

<https://www.3c-ren.org/>

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 to:

<https://tinyurl.com/HelpSCRiver>

GREETINGS FRIENDS

'Small' nature often overlooked

By Jim Hines

Greetings Friends:

It's the small things in nature.

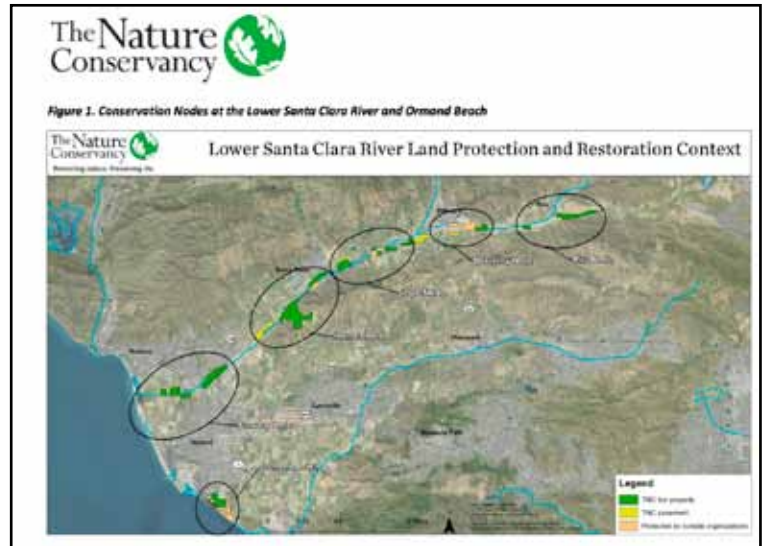
I spent so much time in my growing up years on our family ranch north of Lake Casitas studying and learning about the wildlife and plants I saw everyday....deer, bobcats, mountain lions and black bears, giant oak trees, sycamore trees, huge rock formations and huge mountains rising above us.

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 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.



The future bike path along the Santa Clara River next to Cabrillo Village, is visited by (from left) Nina Danza and Julie Henszey on behalf of our club. Nina has arranged for signage that will eventually show our logo. (Photo by Michael Henszey)

Let's defend wild places.
Your donation supports our powerful and effective grassroots movement to protect vulnerable communities and defend the natural world. Give now:
sierraclub.org/santa-barbara-ventura
(805) 617-3106
jonathan.ulman@sierraclub.org
SIERRA CLUB SANTA BARBARA-VENTURA CHAPTER

EAVESDROPS

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

~ 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 here:

<https://tinyurl.com/WalkVtaRiver>

See SB Garden at night

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

at: <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. Tickets at: <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)

unfurl.

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)

ents.

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



Condor Call CURRENTS banner featuring a condor illustration and the Sierra Club logo.

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

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

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.

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

good stuff. Donate here:

www.sierraclub.org/donate/1000

Sept 27: **"Today, Justice Prevailed"** declared Jon Ullman in 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.

Sept 22: **Electric Bus** celebration for the city of Guadalupe along with Central Coast Community Energy.

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 better."

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. New-

som 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/sierraclubventura/

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: <https://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 more.

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 JDietrick9@gmail.com Even more information by experts has been loaded to YouTube. Here's the link: <https://www.youtube.com/@VenturaFoodCoop>



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 clothes.

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 the dryer.

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 [864 pounds](#) of emissions per year by washing four out of five loads in cold water.

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

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 Clotheslines](#).

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. 23.

It comes at an opportune time, as 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 (long-time volunteer who lives at the en-

trance) 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 Ormond Beach's work.

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 said.

"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



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," she said.

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!

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/SierraClubVentura/

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 south-

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)



Documentarians are (from left): Janet Bridgers, Shelly Carney and Toby Younis. (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 year.

"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 biologist.

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 seeds.

"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 bird-friendly landscaping tips visit: www.audubon.org/native-plants

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



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](http://proposed.ChumashHeritageNationalMarineSanctuary.gov).



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 www.WildlingMuseum.org

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 <https://herb-walks.com/>

~ 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

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: <https://tinyurl.com/VLT20thRSVP>

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

EV".

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: <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 nationwide 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)

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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-barbara-ventura

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

Fall to Spring adventures

With fall in the air and a 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-

periences ranging from back-country 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 trips.

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.

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



Rachel Carson and the Ban on DDT
 Sierra Club member Rachel Carson's 1962 book *Silent Spring* contributed to shaping the modern environmental movement in the US. It was fundamental to the creation of a national pesticide policy, supported by a 1972 Sierra Club lawsuit that led to the ban of the domestic use of DDT.

1960s

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, you 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 more.

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