

SANTA LUCIAN



Santa Lucia Chapter

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

What Can We Learn from Waterman Village?

by Anne Wyatt

Smart Share Housing Solutions is a non-profit organization serving San Luis Obispo County residents with improved access to affordable housing. Smart Share recognizes that affordability and sustainability can go hand in hand, and is pleased to share current efforts toward this end.

Waterman Village, a tiny home walkable micro-village infill project of 20 permanent small homes centered around the historic Rosa Butron de Canet Adobe at 466 Dana Street in San Luis Obispo, is now in design. This is a prime downtown location for car-free sustainable living, and the high efficiency small

homes contain less embedded energy than larger homes and take less energy to operate over time. The long-empty historic adobe will transform into a thriving community center. Many of the mature trees on site are being saved, maintaining the shaded appealing nature of the site. Residents will have easy access to public transportation or will be able to walk or bike to get what they need. A 55-year lease with the City of San Luis Obispo will ensure the 100% affordable homes stay

available for low-income residents. Onsite management will provide project oversight and field neighborhood concerts.

HomeShareSLO, set to celebrate its 100th homeshare match soon, facilitates homeshare matches between people with extra rooms and people seeking homes.



Learn more about whether the program can be right for you or someone you may know, here: www.smartsharehousingolutions.org/homeshareslo-program/.

Smart Share continues to show off its Demo Cottage,

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Counting the Days to the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary

It's almost here



Ashlie Pak

The draft environmental review and management plan have been issued, public comments have been received (hope yours was one of them), and the final draft and establishment of the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary now rests in the hands of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

This feels like a good time to review and get some perspective on the scope of what is about to happen. Herewith, a necessarily abridged timeline of events:

1972: One hundred years after the creation of the first national park, Congress realized it had overlooked something and passed the National Marine Sanctuaries Act.

1977: NOAA's National Marine Sanctuary program created the list of areas that could

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Sierra Club General Meeting

7p.m. Wed., Nov. 8

Aligning Your Investments with Your Values

On Nov. 8, we will hear from Sierra Smith, financial advisor at Blue Marble Investments (BMI), on what it means to align your investments with your values and how to make your money a force for good.

Driven by the shift to renewable energy, diversity-focused policies, and divestment from industries that profit off fossil fuels and deforestation, this integrated way of investing

Chapter Chair Chat

Stepping Down, Moving Forward

By Carole Mintzer,
Chapter Chair

This December, I will be stepping down as Chapter Chair, so this is my final Chapter Chair Chat. It's been an honor to serve in this capacity for over three years, and I want to share a few thoughts for the next Chair that I hope they will take to heart.

Delegate – As a retired person, I took on more tasks and responsibilities than are required of a Chapter Chair. You don't need to follow this model. Yes, there are some tasks that must be done by the Chair, but many can be

known as ESG (environmental, social, governance) is rapidly gaining momentum.

Click here to register for the meeting and receive the Zoom link:

<https://tinyurl.com/nogeneralmtg>



Andrew Christie
EDITOR

Carole Mintzer, Carolyn Miller
EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

Denny Mynatt
PRINT MEDIA COORDINATOR

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Santa Lucia Chapter

2023 Executive Committee

Carole Mintzer (12/23) CHAIR
Mila Vujovich-LaBarre (12/25) VICE CHAIR
Gianna Patchen (12/25) MEMBER
John-Paul Leonardo (12/24) MEMBER
Stephanie Carlotti (12/23) MEMBER
Janine Rands (12/24) MEMBER
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Political
Alex Mintzer
Fundraising/Development
Stephanie Carlotti

Conservation
Sue Harvey
Nuclear Power Task Force
Rochelle Becker
Linda Seeley

Zero Waste Task Force
Janine Rands
CA Conservation Committee delegates
Sue Harvey, Alex Mintzer

Council of Club Leaders delegate
Carole Mintzer
Facebook Administrator
Kim Ramos



The **Executive Committee** meets the fourth Monday of each month at 5:30 p.m. via Zoom. All members are welcome to attend.

Volunteer Coordinator
John-Paul Leonardo

Public Lands Task Force
Holly Stetteland

Outings
Lisa Ludovici, Charles Tribbey

Webmasters
Stephanie Carlotti, Alex Mintzer

Chapter Director
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delegated. Share the workload and it will be more manageable for everyone. Check in with volunteers from time to time, but if a delegated job isn't getting done, find another volunteer or consider whether it needs to be done at all.

Keep an open mind –

Opinions can be strongly held and often there are differing strongly-held opinions on a specific topic. As Chair, your goal should be to let everyone be heard. Practice active listening by asking questions and repeating back what you've heard to make sure you've understood correctly. Seek additional opinions from trusted colleagues. Communicate final decisions so they are understood.

Stay calm – When those strong opinions are voiced loudly and heatedly, don't take it personally. Rather, take a deep breath, or two or three. Walk away if you have to so you can summon up your inner peace before going back to the conversation. Put a "Stay Calm" sticker on your computer. Remember that not every email requires an immediate response. Sometimes it's better to wait to formulate a reasoned reply. Meanwhile, you can write an email with no one in the "To" line. Address it only when you're comfortable with the message.

Maintain connections to the National Sierra Club

– The Santa Lucia Chapter is a small chapter in a very large nationwide organization. As the national organ-

ization evolves, which it is doing right now, stay abreast of changes that affect chapters. Encourage all members of the Executive Committee to take advantage of trainings as they become available.

Keep the thank-yous coming –

As a volunteer-driven organization, it is vitally important to thank volunteers for the work they put in – even if it was a small task. Everyone wants to be appreciated!

Celebrate success – No matter how large or small, take time to celebrate successes. It might be providing more in-person gatherings, a profitable fundraiser, or designation of a marine sanctuary. Just be sure to recognize and toast success in whatever way you enjoy.

While I am stepping down as Chapter Chair, I am not walking away as a volunteer. I plan to continue working with our Communications Team to make sure our members and supporters are kept informed and get opportunities to make their voices heard. And who knows, I may write an occasional newsletter article; it just won't be called the Chapter Chair Chat.

Cheers,

Carole



How Many Particles Can Dance on the Head of a Pin?

On September 27, the off-road lobby finally exerted enough pressure on the SLO Air Pollution Control District board to bring Dr. Lynn Russell of the Scripps Institution of Oceanography to a meeting to tell them they were all wrong about the Oceano Dunes being a significant source of dust pollution.

PM 10 – particles up to 10 micrometers in diameter – is universally agreed to be the major pollutant landing on residents downwind of the dunes in the form of mineral dust. As PM 10 refers to size, not type, there are multiple potential sources for that particulate matter.

According to Dr. Russell, only 14% of the particulate pollution landing on those downwind residents is coming from the dunes.

She came to this conclusion more than a decade after the APCD enacted the Dust Rule for the Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area (SVRA), which was followed by the development and implementation of mitigation measures that have proven to be effective at reducing particulate matter pollution from the dunes and improving air quality. That's a good indicator that the independent groups of scientists who spent years on the phase 1 and 2 dust studies were correct in their peer-reviewed conclusions identifying the off-road area of the dunes and the devastation inflicted by off-road



Cause and effect APCD Air Pollution Control Officer Gary Willey: "We see the causal effect of what we're doing."

vehicles as the problem.

In short, Dr. Russell's dissenting opinion had been pre-empted by the intervening decade's confirmation of cause and effect.

It's not hard to imagine what the off-roaders thought they were going to achieve: The triumphant refutation of years of peer-reviewed science by Dr. Russell would result in the repeal of the SLOAPCD Dust Rule for the Oceano Dunes and the removal of the dust mitigation measures, ripping out the revegetated areas and allowing for the full resumption of their hobby.

Again, that would be the removal of the measures that have proven to be effective at reducing particulate matter pollution and improving air quality over a period of years, and a revocation "the major findings resulting from detailed analysis of the diverse and comprehensive data sets generated during the Phase 1 and Phase 2 South County Particulate Matter Studies [which] clearly lead to a definitive conclusion: OHV activity in the SVRA is a major contributing factor to the high PM concentrations observed on the Nipomo Mesa."

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Vote **It's time to select your Sierra Club Chapter's Executive Committee for 2024**



It's time to vote for the next members of the Santa Lucia Chapter's Executive Committee, the policy-making body of your Sierra Club chapter. You may vote for up to three candidates. Each position has a three-year term. All current members of the Sierra Club's Santa Lucia Chapter are eligible to vote. You are encouraged to vote online by going to sc.org/santaluciaelection, or you can vote by mail following instructions on your ballot below.

Porter



Robert Garfield

For 23 years, I was a leading advocate for addressing food, environmental, trade and other proposals resulting from the promulgation of rules by Federal agencies and international bodies.

Additionally, I took a leadership role in numerous

Stephanie Carlotti

As Chair of Development for the Sierra Club Santa Lucia Chapter and a member of the Executive Committee, I help lead fundraising and outreach efforts for the Chapter's environmental causes. I leverage my years of experience working in the

Ranel Porter

My husband and I embarked on a new chapter of our lives when we relocated from the East Bay area of San Francisco to Atascadero in 2018. The move ignited a desire to connect with like-minded individuals who share a passion for the great

Garfield



Carlotti



GARFIELD continued on next page

CARLOTTI continued on next page

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2024 Santa Lucia Chapter Executive Committee Ballot

To vote online or by mail, you will need your 6 to 8-digit member ID number. It should be on the address label of this newsletter, or on the label of any issue of *Sierra* magazine. If you need help finding your Member ID, contact the Sierra Club membership office at member.care@sierraclub.org or (415) 977-5653.

To vote online: Go to sc.org/santaluciaelection any time before 5 p.m. on December 6, 2023, and follow the instructions there.

To vote by mail:

- Make an X or checkmark in the box for up to three candidates of your choice. You may write in up to three names. Each write-in name is considered a vote. Ballots with more than three votes will not be counted. Write your 6- to 8-digit member ID in the space provided.
- Your mailing label should indicate whether you have a JOINT or SINGLE membership. Joint members please use both check boxes to vote.
- Sign and date the flap of the envelope. Do not write your name on the ballot. Mail to: **Elections Committee, Santa Lucia Chapter, P.O. Box 15755, San Luis Obispo, CA 93406** with sufficient time to arrive by the deadline.
- Ballots must be received by **5 p.m., December 6, 2023**, at the chapter office. Mail only; no drop-offs. If both a mailed and online ballot are received with the same Member ID, only the final online ballot will be counted.

Ranel Porter

Stephanie Carlotti

Robert Garfield

Write-In _____

member ID



Garfield

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Washington, DC, coalitions and committees. My concern for the impact of food operations on the environment led me to organize and chair the Food Industry Environmental Council (FIEC). FIEC was a coalition of food industry representatives who collaborated with regulatory officials and the food industry to understand the impact of and compliance with regulations such as the Clean Water Act (CWA), and the resulting National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES), Clean Air Act (CAA), etc.

Before that I spent ten years in the food industry as a plant and production manager. My responsibilities included assurance that operations were in full compliance with all environmental regulations, and employees understood the importance of protecting the environment.

I received a Master of Science, Agriculture, from the California State University, Fresno, specializing in food science and enology.

All through my career I sought to understand the impact of the food industry on the environment. It was and continues to be crucial to discuss those impacts with manufacturers and explain the impact of their operations and resulting requirements to the industry. In retirement, and as we face the potentially disastrous consequences of Global Warming, I hope to couple my experience to help bridge the gap between industry and environmental protection.”

Carlotti

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profit and nonprofit arenas to promote awareness and action on mental health and human rights issues. It is a privilege and a pleasure for me to serve as an executive committee member of the Sierra Club Santa Lucia chapter. I am now seeking to be re-elected to serve another term as an executive committee member.

I’ve served as Assistant Director of Children’s Television Workshop, the producers of Sesame Street, and as a member of the Board of Fight Back of Harlem. I co-founded and served on the board of Single Parent Project of New York from 2010 until 2015 when I relocated to San Luis Obispo.

As a Behavioral Health Navigator at Transitions-Mental Health Association, I provide support and guidance to individuals with mental health challenges and help them access resources and services. I also serve as Human Relations Commissioner for the City of San Luis Obispo, where I advocate for diversity, equity, and inclusion in the city’s policies and programs. I am passionate about empowering communities of color and advancing racial and social justice.

I am committed to using my years of experience to make a positive impact on the lives of others and the planet. I am a mother of two humans and a grandmother. I studied at Cornell University, and the University of California Hastings College of Law.

Porter

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outdoors and the preservation of our natural world. It didn’t take long for me to discover the Santa Lucia Chapter of the Sierra Club, a community that has since become an integral part of my life.

Within the Chapter, I assumed the role of Membership Chair. This has allowed me to channel my enthusiasm for bringing people together through various events and hikes, fostering camaraderie among our members while nurturing a deeper connection to the environment we cherish.

Professionally, I work for The Marine Mammal Center’s development department, a nonprofit organization devoted to advancing global ocean conservation through marine mammal rescue, rehabilitation, scientific research, and education.

As a secondary math and science teacher, I dedicated years to educating young minds on the importance of environmental stewardship.

I am passionately dedicated to the Sierra Club’s mission of environmental conservation and justice. My focus encompasses water conservation, nuclear energy, alternative energy sources, climate change mitigation, responsible land development, and the critical preservation of our land and water resources.

With your support, we can continue to advocate for a more sustainable and equitable future, where the health of our environment and all its inhabitants is safeguarded.

Death By Carbon

By Carolyn Handler Miller

By now, we are all well-acquainted with the destructive consequences of climate change: massive wildfires, floods, storms, heatwaves, melting sea ice and drought. But often these disasters seem like abstractions, events that are impersonal concepts. However, there is a deadly, tangible aspect to such events that can sometimes be overlooked: these cataclysmic events actually kill people. As climate change increasingly causes havoc, more people will die. But how many? What are the human costs – the lives lost – that will result from these disasters? Though the economic costs of climate change have been calculated in various studies, we have not had the ability to measure the human costs of our rapidly changing planet. How do we calculate the potential death toll?

This is the challenge that Daniel Bressler set out to address, in his landmark study *The Mortality Cost of Carbon*, published in the journal *Nature Communications* in July 2021. Bressler is a fifth year PhD Student in Sustainable Development at Columbia University. Though still in the process of earning his PhD, he served in the Biden Administration as the Climate Staff Economist at the Council of Economic Advisers from 2021-22. His study is having a major impact on the ways in

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which climate change is evaluated. The numbers Bressler calculated are staggering. It projects 83 million cumulative excess deaths by 2100 caused by climate change.

It is important to note that Bressler's study only estimates deaths caused by excess heat. It does not attempt to measure the mortality caused by such factors as wildfires, flooding, drought, infectious disease, or agricultural failures that cause food shortages and starvation. Nor does it include the extremely difficult number to calculate: deaths from military conflicts caused by fighting over limited resources. Bressler told Vox reporter Sigal Samuel that he couldn't factor them in due to a lack of rigorous data. Nevertheless, the number of deaths caused by excess heat alone is horrific.

Bressler made his calculations using an economic model called the "Dynamic Integrated Climate-Economy," or DICE. DICE is one of the climate impact models used by the Environmental Protection Agency for estimating the social cost of carbon (SCC). Professor William Nordhaus of Yale won the Nobel Prize for designing the DICE model. Bressler asserts that the SCC is arguably the single most important concept in the economics of climate change. He explains that SCC, "according to standard economic theory, ...represents the price that should be put on carbon dioxide to reduce emissions to socially optimal levels



On the rise A heat wave in 2015 killed more than 700 people in Pakistan.

along the optimal emissions trajectory."

Bressler, in making his calculations, did not change any of the DICE parameters, but extended the DICE model to factor in what he termed "the mortality cost of carbon," or MCC. This metric estimates the number of deaths caused by the emissions of one additional metric ton of carbon dioxide, CO₂.

Though it is difficult to grapple with the magnitude of 83 million deaths, Bressler believes that if we are able to fully decarbonize by 2050, we could reduce the projected 83 million deaths to 9 million, potentially saving 74 million lives.

The social cost of carbon is a key metric in determining how we look at the costs of climate change. According to the Sabin Center for Climate Change Law, a division of Columbia University Law School: "The social cost of carbon will determine the way that climate impacts are

accounted for in federal decision-making and could make it more difficult to justify approving fossil fuel infrastructure and other projects that contribute to climate change." Conversely, the social cost of carbon can also be used as a metric to quantify the benefit from the carbon emissions avoided when a clean energy project replaces power produced by fossil fuel plants.

The DICE model calculated the social cost of carbon at \$37 per metric ton. The Obama administration raised the figure to \$43 a ton. Predictably, the Trump administration slashed the SCC, to as low as \$1 a ton. Biden reversed the Trump calculation, up to around \$51 a ton. Bressler's work, which includes the deaths caused by climate change, calculates the SCC as significantly higher than any of the other estimates, at \$258 per metric ton. As a result of Bressler's work on MCC, the EPA proposed a nearly fourfold increase

to \$190 in November of 2022.

In its coverage of the Bressler study, *Scientific American* noted: "Factoring in those deaths... [the numbers projected in the study] increased the social cost of carbon... effectively making it much more economically advantageous to reduce emissions now. It also makes rapidly reducing emissions and fully decarbonizing by 2050 more cost-effective, in comparison with the more tapered approach that Nordhaus's model originally recommended."

Bressler told the publication that the result is "quite a big difference in terms of what the suggested climate policy is."

The SCC, the social cost of carbon, is already an important measurement in setting climate change policy. It is used by the Biden administration as an essential metric in the battle against global warming. As to be expected, Republican states in the South are opposed to the SCC because it is used to regulate fossil fuel industries. They have sued the administration over its use, and a federal judge in Louisiana actually blocked the SCC from being used. However, on May 26 of this year, the Supreme Court ruled that the Biden administration could continue to employ it.

Bressler is not alone in emphasizing the dangers of carbon on human lives.

The World Health Organization (WHO), in its paper *Climate Change and Health*, stated: "Climate change is the single biggest health threat facing humanity, and health

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Chumash

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be considered for national marine sanctuaries. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service proposed Morro Bay and surrounding waters.

1983: NOAA assembled an expert panel to assess areas around the U.S. The Morro Bay proposal was suggested again and accepted by NOAA as a NMS candidate site on the Site Evaluation List.

1990: Request by SLO County to expand the 1983 proposal to include the County’s offshore waters and northern Santa Barbara. Supporters included the Cities of Morro Bay, Grover City, San Luis Obispo, Atascadero, Pismo Beach, Paso Robles; Counties of San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara, Pacific Fishery Management Council, Audubon Society, Sierra Club, and Friends of Morro Bay.

1990: Rep. Leon Panetta introduced HR 5973 in Congress to designate the waters of the central coast of California as a national marine sanctuary.

2000: Review of the management plan for Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary. Many public comments received asking NOAA to expand the sanctuary to the north.

2001: Management review of Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. Many public comments asked NOAA to expand the sanctuary to the south.

2003: The Marine Interest Group was founded as a forum to promote understanding of the marine resources off San Luis Obispo County and the needs and interests of stakeholders. Nine potential actions were considered by members. Between them, “Propose extension of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (MBNMS) to the remainder of San Luis Obispo County” and “Propose creation of a new National Marine Sanctuary for the San Luis Obispo County Coast” received more first-place votes than any other action.

2006: The SLO County Conservation and Open Space Element included Implementation Strategy BR 7.2.1 Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary: “Work with federal officials and agencies to study the possibility of expansion of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary.”

2010: The SLO County General Plan Update included Policy BR7.2 “Make every effort to secure permanent protection and management of the County’s ecologically and economically significant marine resources using the National Marine Sanctuary, National Estuary, or other programs and legislation as vehicles for protection and management.”

2012: NOAA revived the moribund evaluation process for the selection of potential national marine sanctuaries, this time allowing for nominations by local residents of coastal areas.

And that’s when the real work began. Needless to say, the Santa Lucia Chapter had a hand in much of the early efforts and in all of what followed for the next ten years, starting with some folks getting together in David and Carol Georgi’s living room in Shell Beach every month,

including Surf-rider, Sierra Club, Karl Kempton, P.J. Webb, a rotating cast of interested parties, and always at the head of the table: Fred Collins, chair of the Northern Chumash Tribal Council, presiding. From that came the nomination document for the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary. For ten years, hundreds of people put in thousands of hours on the the tabling, petitions, mailings, fundraisers, film screenings, town halls, presentations to city councils, community service districts, Elks Clubs, Lions Clubs and the Board of Supervisors; writing letters of support, articles, op eds, letters to the editor, and an economic study.

Opposition had to be overcome by determined advocates for ocean health and the cultural heritage of the Chumash. But the best response to that opposition had been made in advance by President George H.W. Bush in 1992, in announcing the designation of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary and proudly noting that it would protect “an expanding population of sea otters and a wide variety of whales, porpoises, seals, fish, and sea birds, including many endangered and threatened species,” and provide for “a permanent ban on oil and gas development for the area, which includes a wide variety of pristine habitats.”

True there, true then; true here, true now.

Last Call for the Nov. 5 Sierra Club fundraiser!

If you haven’t got your ticket yet for our annual fundraiser, “Environmental Justice and Diversity Outdoors,” at Cal Poly’s chumash auditorium, go to www.sierraclub.org/santa-lucia to RSVP.

Articles

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Five months before Dr. Russell made her appearance at the APCD board meeting, the study “Quantifying the Source Attribution of PM10 Measured Downwind of the Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area,” conducted by the Division of Atmospheric Sciences, Desert Research Institute and the San Luis Obispo County Air Pollution Control District, had already refuted Dr. Russell’s 14% thesis. After noting that Dr. Russell’s testing method “did not

comply with the EPA-designated Federal Reference Method (FRM) or Federal Equivalent Method (FEM),” the researchers crunched the latest numbers (May-October 2021) and concluded:

“Based on the results presented... mineral dust was the largest contributor to the PM10 on days that exceeded the state standard for PM10 during the observation period, and controlling dust emission is the only viable strategy, as the other sources...cannot be controlled through an intervention strategy.”

Good to know.

Carbon

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professionals worldwide are already responding to the health harms caused by this unfolding crisis.”

WHO projected that we will see approximately 250,000 additional deaths every year from 2020 to 2050, and these climate change related deaths will be caused by heat stress, malaria, malnutrition and diarrhea. While noting that the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has concluded that if we could manage to limit the increase in global temperature to 1.5 degrees Celsius we could prevent much of the cataclysmic results of climate change, WHO does not feel this target is sufficient, warning that “Global heating of even 1.5°C is not considered safe... [and] every additional tenth of a degree of warming will take a serious toll on people’s lives and health.”

WHO goes on to make a dire prediction: “The climate crisis threatens to undo the last fifty years of progress in development, global health, and poverty reduction, and to further widen existing health inequalities between and within populations.”

The steady and frightening ticking of the “Climate Clock” presents us with the future in a stark set of numbers that cannot be ignored. The actual clock, 62 feet long, hangs over Union Square in New York City and is also displayed online. It shows the number of years and days, hours, minutes and seconds that we have left to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius. Right now, the

clock shows we only have 5 years and a few hundred days to achieve this goal, which the World Health Organization considers inadequate. The figures used to create the clock were based on verified research by the IPCC.

We only need to recall recent events to grasp the realities of climate that the planet is already experiencing. As some would put it, it is the news ripped from the headlines.

This summer, Phoenix suffered from a massive heat wave, its hottest three months since 1895, when heat records were first kept. Temperatures topped 110 degrees Fahrenheit for 31 straight days. The total number of confirmed deaths reached 202, up from 175 the previous year, with 356 deaths still being investigated. The Medical Examiner’s office had to bring in ten refrigerated containers for an expected overflow of bodies.

In Europe, the record-breaking heat killed an estimated 70,000 people, up from 61,772 people the previous summer. A study published in the journal *Nature Medicine* calculated the death toll country by country for fatalities specifically caused by heat. Italy and Spain were the hardest hit in 2022. “It’s a very big number,” Joan Ballester, a lead author of the study, told CNN.

Hicham Achebak, a co-author of the study, made a worrisome pronouncement about the death toll. “The fact that more than 61,600 people in Europe died of heat stress in 2022, even though, unlike 2003 [when over 20,000 people died of excessive heat], many countries already had active

prevention plans in place, suggests that adaptation strategies currently available may still be insufficient.” He went on to say: “The acceleration of warming observed over the last 10 years underlines the urgent need to reassess and substantially strengthen prevention plans.”

While the Bressler study focuses squarely on deaths caused by excessive heat, we cannot overlook other disasters caused by climate change, as recent events have demonstrated. For example, on August 8 of this year, fires broke out in Maui, effectively wiping out the historic town of Lahaina and killing 97 people, as of this writing. Before the August fires, much of Maui’s once lush vegetation had died off because of drought, replaced by invasive grasses. These highly flammable grasses were originally introduced as pasture for cattle, and they flourished during Hawaii’s drought years, providing ample fuel for the wildfires. The unusually high winds created by Hurricane Dora made the fires spread rapidly.

Floods have also been responsible for tremendous loss of life. Higher than average rainfall caused flooding in Pakistan in 2022, killing 1,739 people. The monsoon rains that year were as much as 500% above average. The abnormal monsoons were considered to be caused by the rise in temperature of the Indian Ocean.

The floods left one-third of Pakistan underwater. An alarming article in the *Washington Post* reported that the aftermath of the flood, including record-

breaking heat, polluted waters and hunger, caused even more deaths. The article quoted one villager who said: “I had no idea what miseries this flood would bring for us.”

Much closer to home, the storms experienced on the Central Coast this past winter are often cited as an example of climate change, which is especially responsible for cycles of extreme precipitation and drought. San Luis Obispo County was pounded by heavy rainfall and winds, with the storms killing 22 people.

Unfortunately, the denial of scientific fact is not something new in this country. Writer David Lipsky, in his new book, *The Parrot and the Igloo*, with great wit and elegance, traces climate change denial back to the tobacco industry’s systematic endeavor to refute the health risks of cigarettes. Some of the climate deniers came from within corporations with investments in energy, while others practiced climate denial as a type of retirement hobby or as a steppingstone to fame and fortune. He illustrates his book with examples of the moral depravity of people and corporations attacking climate scientists for their own ends.

Lipsky gives examples of self-employed climate deniers who did so of their own volition, unlike others who were employed by the PR offices of fossil fuel corporations. Unfortunately, these free-lance deniers were deadly effective. They set back clean energy initiatives by decades and ruined the careers of many good client scientists.

Waterman

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a 176 square-foot tiny house on wheels (THOW). Come take a peek into the cute all-electric home at an upcoming workshop. These homes are now allowed in residential backyards in the cities of San Luis Obispo, Arroyo Grande and Grover Beach. We hope affordable, efficient homes such as these will be allowed in all County jurisdictions soon.

ADU workshop

Smart Share is continuing its workshop series on Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) and tiny homes at our Demo Cottage behind the Guild Hall in San Luis Obispo (2880 Broad St. at Mutsuhito). The workshops, in partnership with the City of San Luis Obispo, 3C-REN, SLO Guild Hall and In Balance Green Consulting, address questions about ADUs and tiny homes, such as the types of homes, permitting, energy efficiency, code compliance, living off-grid, and the needs of older adults.

The Living Tiny Off Grid workshop will highlight opportunities for high efficiency off-grid living available in conjunction with small homes, ADUs and tiny homes on wheels. Use less resources and live well. Creating smaller and off grid housing is getting easier with new codes and new technology. Join us to learn more about solar energy production, battery storage and waterless waste options for smaller footprint living, Wed. Nov 8, 10:30-noon.

Join our mailing list to get event invites, updates and learn more on the website here:

www.smartsharehousing solutions.org/, or call with questions: 805-215-5474.

The vision Waterman Village will be a 100% affordable housing micro-village in SLO.



Exxon Loses Oil Trucking Appeal

Court upholds denial of plan to restart offshore drilling

On Sept. 22, the U.S. District Court upheld Santa Barbara County’s denial of ExxonMobil’s proposal to transport oil by tanker trucks along hazardous California highways.

ExxonMobil’s proposal would have allowed the company to truck vast quantities of oil on coastal Highway 101 and Route 166, traversing San Luis Obispo County through the Cuyama River Valley.

The plan to haul millions of gallons of oil per week would have been a step towards restarting the company’s offshore platforms and resuming operations at its Las Flores Canyon processing facility.

“ExxonMobil’s plan to restart its offshore platforms and truck millions of gallons per week through Santa Barbara County 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.

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.

In March 2022, the County rejected ExxonMobil’s proposal based on the project’s significant and unavoidable harms to biological, water, and cultural resources in the event of a spill, as well as the proposed trucking’s threats to public safety. ExxonMobil sued after the Board of Supervisors rejected its plan.

“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.

Carbon

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Climate denial is still rampant among Americans. Over one-quarter of us believe climate change is caused mostly by natural patterns, and a full 7% do not believe that the climate is changing at all. Only 49% of us believe climate change is mostly caused by human activity. (2023 Ipsos poll). On the other hand, 65% of Americans believe there is intelligent alien life on other planets. (2021 Axios poll). Unfortunately,

it is easier for Americans to believe in aliens than in climate change.

We can’t afford to be optimistic about climate change – we would do so at our own peril. Many significant actions and changes need to be undertaken if we can reduce carbon emissions to a point that carbon does not threaten life on our planet. We cannot ignore the relentless ticking of the climate clock.


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Create a legacy that protects and restores the natural world for future generations by naming Sierra Club's Santa Lucia Chapter in your will or trust. Or, name Sierra Club Foundation as the beneficiary of your retirement plan for the benefit of your local chapter and leave less highly taxed assets to your loved ones.

To learn more about the advantages of making a planned gift and to become a member of the Rachel Carson Society, please contact us.

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Thank You, Monthly Donors!

During this time of giving thanks, we want to make a special thank you to our monthly donors. Your ongoing support of the Santa Lucia Chapter provides a secure foundation for our advocacy to protect the Central Coast. As we monitor and call for action on local environmental issues, it's reassuring to know you are there to sustain our efforts.

Do you want to see your name here next year? Go to our website and sign up to be a monthly donor. It's an easy and much appreciated way to support the Chapter, and all your donations stay here in San Luis Obispo County.

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30x30 is the Law

On Oct. 10, Governor Gavin Newsom signed Senate Bill 337 establishing a statewide goal to conserve at least 30 percent of California's land and coastal waters by 2030.

The bill codified the Governor's 2020 Executive Order.

"The goal's deadline will extend long past this Governor's term," said SB 337 author Senator Dave Min. "Establishing the goal

in statute will ensure it remains a commitment for future administrations through 2030."



Get On Line with Your Sierra Club Chapter!

This issue is our only print edition of the year. Do you want to receive notification when our newsletter is posted online? Want to get e-alerts of upcoming Sierra Club meetings and urgent environmental issues?



Go to sc.org/SantaLuciaNews (case sensitive).



The Sierra Club Needs You!

Become an Outings Leader

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



John Muir, founder of the Sierra Club, in Yosemite

For further information contact:

Lisa Ludovici, Outings Chair
(310) 864-4679
l.ludovici@outlook.com

Outings

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Welcome, New Members

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

Cindy Benson
Leann Brooks
Darwin Bryan
Gordon Clark
Robert Collins
Mia Dabwan
Leland And Valerie Endres
Susan Evard
Janine Fallon
Gary Glenn
Stu Goldenberg
Beverly Hanson
Celeste Jordan
Charlotte Kelley
Keith Kuhlenschmidt
Donna Large
Larry Le Gras
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Xavier Moreau
Mary Moy
Shane Patrick
Kathy Persinger & Lyle Hayes
Stephen Plowman



William Rumbler
Judy Seidel
Gordon Severance
Robert Streeter
Lars Tomanek
Sandra N. Turner
Tina Venner
Jeri White
Ricardo Young

all the traditions of Thanksgiving. We'll do a fairly quick paced hike of Pismo Preserve "Discovery" trail. 5.2 mi. Start time 8:30 am. Meet at the picnic tables/bathrooms. If the parking lot is full you can park across the street from Ventana Grill. Well behaved dogs on leash are welcome. Contact leader with questions. Bonnie, 805-801-6148.

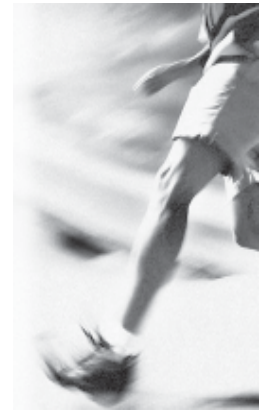
Sun. Dec. 17, 5-6:30 p.m. Sierra Club Victorian Christmas Historic Walk. Guided stroll past 15 holiday-lit Victorian houses in the SLO Historic District to learn of Christmas customs and events, of the 1890s. Flashlights recommended. Meet in front of St. Stephen's Church, corner of Nipomo and Pismo Sts. Leader: Joe Morris, 805-549-0355.

Sat. Dec. 23, 8:00 a.m. Semi-Annual Winter Solstice Hike on Blinn Ranch Trail. Moderate hike, approx. 9 miles, ele. gain and loss of 600 feet. Our popular semi-annual Winter Solstice Hike is back! We will meet in front of the Pacific Beverage Company in Santa Margarita at 8 am (22255 El Camino Real, Santa Margarita) and drive about 30 minutes to the trailhead at the end of River Road. This is an out and back hike from the Blinn Ranch Trailhead to Sapwi campground, located on the north lake shore. We will have lunch at the lake and then return the way we came. Along the way we'll enjoy views of the lake, gray pines and oak woodland studded with sandstone. Depending on hiking speed, we will likely return to the cars around 3:30-4pm. Parking: \$5 per car at the trailhead. Please sign up on Meetup. Call or text Lisa for more info, 310-864-4679.

Outings and Activities

All our hikes and activities are open to all Club members and the general public. Please bring drinking water to all outings and optionally a lunch. Sturdy footwear is recommended. All phone numbers listed are within area code 805 unless otherwise noted. Pets are generally not allowed. A parent or responsible adult must accompany children under the age of 18. If you have any suggestions for hikes or outdoor activities, questions about the Chapter's outing policies, or would like to be an outings leader, call Outings Chair Lisa Ludovici at 310-864-4679, l.ludovici@outlook.com. For information on a specific outing, please call the listed outing leader. Environmentally friendly outdoor adventures

farther afield are available to people of all ages and abilities, whether you're seeking lodge-based explorations or supported treks, backpack journeys or vacations nearly anywhere in the world. Go to sierraclub.org/outings, or call 415-977-5522, or contact national.outings@sierraclub.org.



We Are On Meetup!

You don't have to be a Sierra Club member to be part of our Meetup Group and see *all* our outings. Go on the Meetup website, or scan the QR code, download the app, or go to "San Luis Obispo Sierra Club," and request to join.

meetup.com/San-Luis-Obispo-Sierra-Club-Meetup-Group/



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168 - 174 Station Way, Arroyo Grande, CA 93420
(along Arroyo Grande creek next to AG Post Office)

Sat. Nov. 11th, 8:00 a.m. Alan Peak (the real one!) : approximately 11 miles and 2,480 ft. of elevation gain. Strenuous but moderately paced. The trail to real Alan Peak was recently cleared. We will bypass Valencia Peak, summit Oats Peak and go on to Alan. Then return the same way, utilizing the hiker's route. We'll be looking for the rare Dacite Manzanita and enjoying sweeping views of the coastline along the way. Bring at least 3 liters water, lunch and snacks. Dress in layers for the weather, it can be breezy and cool at the start of the trail but warm and exposed on the interior. Lugsole boots are recommended for the gravelly trails and potential rattlesnakes in MDO. Meet at the Valencia Peak Trailhead across from the Bluff Trail. Please sign-up on Meetup. Call or text leader with questions: Lisa, 310-864-4679.

Sat. Nov. 18, 9:00 a.m. Hike to Hazard Peak via the Barranca Trail. Join the leader on this moderately strenuous 9-mile hike in Montana de Oro State Park. There is about 1700 ft. of elevation gain. We will explore the back country of the park on this loop hike. There are great views of the coastline from Hazard Peak. Bring lunch, snacks, water and dress for the weather. Rain cancels. If you have doubts about the weather contact the leader. A reminder: dogs are not allowed on state park trails. Andrea, 805-934-2792.

Sun. Nov. 19th, 2-3:30 p.m. Historic Walk of San Luis Obispo: Post World-War II Rebirth. Downtown stroll to learn about SLO city life from the mid forties with its pool halls and soda fountains to its transformation in the seventies. Meet at the corner of Santa Rosa and Pacific Sts. Leader: Joe Morris, 805-549-0355.

Thursday Nov. 23, 8:30 a.m. Pismo Preserve Discovery Trail. Get in a little morning exercise before settling into