Seeds of change are growing
By Katie Davis
One of my favorite things to do at the end of the year is reflect on the work and success of Sierra Club and our environmental allies. Of course, it takes a lot of work by volunteers, and donations are always welcome. The money stays here at home doing good work. Please donate:
www.sierraclub.org/donate?gclid=Cj0KCQjw_7yABhD9ARIsA2O9wQcKwKAlc7yYwwtkbZS1S0M6w4Bp2k64D5q1crvxQ-5n6d0lFT4-8aAmwEALw_wcB

This year we successfully:
- Defeated ExxonMobil multiple times in their efforts to keep their dangerous offshore oil operations from restarting that have been shut down for eight years since the 2015 Refugio oil spill.
- Represented by the SB Environmental Defense Center, environmental groups intervened in Exxon’s lawsuit against Santa Barbara County for blocking the company’s onshore drilling project. We won! Plus, in October Exxon withdrew their “Line 901.960 Pipeline Replacement Project.”
- Held off new onshore oil projects in Santa Barbara County. The Carpinteria aquifer exemption that would allow drilling through the Santa Maria drinking water aquifer has been successfully delayed to study pathways of contamination.
- Made progress in getting abandoned oil infrastructure cleaned up, and in April California allocated $34 million to plug 171 abandoned wells in Cat Canyon.
- The 30 oil wells on Platform Holly are plugged and in Ellwood Onshore Facility was safely shut down. UCSB started a project to demolish and remove the oil storage tanks on the Ellwood Flatts.
- Two more of the ancient and leaking wells (Treadwell) in the ocean off Summerland Beach were abandoned for a total of 10 wells.
- Formed the local version of Sierra Club California’s Agricultural Committee, which notably aims to go beyond chemical pesticides. Even better, it is headed locally by the Rincon Villa “Bug Farm” in Ventura. To join, email: phillips@sierraclub.org.
- Joined lots of fun events this year: a “paddle out” off Santa Barbara to urge Gov. Newsom to “End Dependence on Fossil Fuels.” We joined “chalk-tivists” for Climate Justice in Ventura. We del Electric, Car Shows, Earth Day events, World Ocean Day and more.
- Inside, we showed up at meetings and hearings to call for climate action. Our premier lobby, Jim Hines, has a national network of elected officials and staff that he calls (see his link to “This is just the tip of the iceberg.”)
- In June we succeeded when SB County upheld a goal of 50% GHG reduction by 2030 in its Climate Action Plan. We also asked them to include emissions from oil and gas production. We submitted comments on the city of Ventura’s Climate Action and Resilience Plan.
- Saw progress in our campaign to move away from methane gas. Goleta and Carpinteria passed Bans on Natural Gas for New Construction. SB County voted to draft a bill as well, Alaska.
- 3CEnergy launched a program called “Electric Your Home” to replace natural gas with electric, installing heating pumps for water and space heating. See a list of programs and cities at www.3c-ener.com.
- We supported the Ventura Westside Clean Air Coalition’s demands for environmental review of a natural gas compressor station expansion located near a school. After succeeding in getting the CPUC to pull the Ventura Compressor out of the General Rate Case, SoCalGas applied for an application in August. We continue to make the case that we can decrease gas demand rather than build out more gas infrastructure.
- Advocated for renewable energy and saw new projects come online, notably the Strauss Wind Energy Project next to Lompoc was finally continued on page 2.

COVER PHOTO
Happy Sierra volunteers helped build the White Heritage Site designation off the Ventura – Santa Barbara coast. We did good work, we bring you the awesome sight of two Blue whales breaching offshore Santa Barbara’s marine mile, while traveling our “Whale Superhighway.” It was a great catch by wildlife photographer Adam Emelius who’s been filming marine wildlife here and elsewhere, helping to add information for the designation application. Visit his website www.adamemeliuslife.com

See full story on page 6.

Green Republicans do exist
By Jim Ulman
On a hot July day in Miami in 2007, Florida Republican Governor Charlie Crist announced that the Sunshine State would adopt California Clean Air standards. This meant Floridian’s car would go farther on a gallon of gas than most of the nation. Crist and California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger celebrated the announcement by holding up paintings of melting polar ice caps. The great-grandaddy ofTeddy Roosevelt was there too, representing Republicans’ green legacy.”We have proven that Republicans can, in fact, protect the environment,” said a beaming Schwarzenegger.
I want to talk about to support the rule change for Sierra Club. Anti-environment powerhouses, the Florida Chamber of Commerce and Associated Industries of Florida were mum. This could not happen this year.
Then, Toyota, maker of the newly released Prius hatchback – the car that would save the world from climate change – objected. Within days, it was dead.

By now you know what happened to Florida. The moderate Republicans took power. And things went crazy.
But what must be said is that Florida was a place where green Republicans existed. They were an indispensable part of a coalition of Democrats and Independents that protected the Everglades and made offshore oil drilling non-existent. It even passed a constitutional amendment in 2018 that banned off-shore drilling in Florida’s state waters.
They believed in nature. They believed in climate change. They were 21st-century Sierra Club members. Today, many think they are an endangered species.
California too has felt the hard-right shift.
In Ventura County, a Republican pro-oil majority now controls the governor. Santa Barbara County will join in this shift if a swing-vote incumbent loses this March.
Don’t expect Democrats alone to save the environment either. In the California legislature, except for the environmental votes of the quartet of Carl DeSaulnier, Monica Limon and Steve Beneke, the majority of Democrats vote for oil and gas. They set off goals, but fail to take real carbon-cutting action.

Often seen as the foil to the climate denying Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, Gov. Gavin Newsom received a C-grade from Sierra Club California while his appointees at the Public Utilities Commission effectively kneecapped rooftop solar. Inexplicably, DeSantis vetoed anti-rollover legislation.
A few weeks ago, the so-called “moderate” presidential candidate, former Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper accused DeSantis of being an environmentalist, a now top-three candidate in Republican-land. He immediately denied it. Again, he’s not the only one, but it’s something that environmentalists want that happened to align with things they want.

The point of all this is to say, the Republican party has successfully branded itself as anti-environmental even though a good chunk of Republican voters care about the environment. Remember those Florida green Republicans I talked about? They didn’t go anywhere. They’ve just been compartmentalized by the polarization of party politics. They still support clean air and water for humans, plants and critters. That desire has been repressed, internalized, defused.

We can bring them back! In fact, we must bring them back. As long as there are two parties, there MUST be Republican environmental supporters. We cannot win with Democrat support alone, but we also can’t do with Republican voters care about the environment. Remember those Florida green Republicans I talked about? They didn’t go anywhere. They’ve just been compartmentalized by the polarization of party politics. They still support clean air and water for humans, plants and critters. That desire has been repressed, internalized, defused.

We can bring them back! In fact, we must bring them back. As long as there are two parties, there MUST be Republican environmental supporters. We cannot win with Democrat support alone, but we also can’t do with Republican support either. We need to find common ground, or else democracy will be diminished by partisan politics. We need to find common ground.

We should tap into the love of the environment – a value Americans share. This value didn’t go away but has been overshadowed by partisan politics. We need to find common ground in the past. In 20 percent of Sierra Club members were Republicans. It was a minority, but an important one. We can’t win without them.

Help lead our chapter
You must be a member of the Sierra Club and be able to attend monthly meetings of the ExCom, which are currently held online.

Selection by the ExCom for the at-large seats is done at the January 2025 meeting. If you are interested, please contact any member of the Nominating Committee listed below.

Gerry Chang • gchang@icn.net
David Gold • David_Gold@vcoa.com
Katie Davis • kdkv426@gmail.com

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.

If you're new to the Sierra Club and would like to attend our regular General Meetings, please email condorcall@sierraclub.org.
In June the state completed removal of oil piers 421 on Haskell’s beach in Goleta which were the last remaining wells on any beach in the state. (Photo by Katie Davis)

Condor Call
Sierra Club
Post Office Box 1241, Santa Barbara, CA 93109-1241
The Condor is published monthly. Contents © 2023 by Sierra Club.
Editor: Condor” John Hanksin, 452-2885
Sister publication: Santa Barbara-Ventura
For advertising, contact: Editor, above. ADVERTISING: Contact Editor (above)
SUBSCRIPTIONS: Free to members
SierraClub.org/santabarbara-ventura
DEADLINES FOR ALL ISSUES:
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October: 11
November: 11
December: 11
CHANGE OF ADDRESS: address.changes@sierraclub.org
Niki Stokois (Conejo Group Rep): ConejoGroupHiking@gmail.com
Jim Hines (Vice-Chair): 340-9266, jim@carpedata.com
Jim Taylor (Vice-Chair): 340-9266, jim@carpedata.com
Angie Casillas (Conejo Group Rep): angie@casillas.com
Niki Stokois (Vice-Chair): ConejoGroupHiking@gmail.com
Jonathan.Ullman@SierraClub.org
Treasurer: 805-617-3106
WASHINGTON LEGISLATIVE OFFICE: (202) 547-1141
Post Office Box 31241, Santa Barbara, Ca 93130-1241
50 F Street, NWW, 8
Sierra Club has also endorsed cav’s bill 1414 on the Liberty Canyon Wildlife Corridor and encompass more than 5,600 acres of land and homes and schools that will be on the ballot in 2024.

Anemic ‘Least Sales’

Reacting America’s rapid and accelerating shift to clean energy, Interior Department Announced the first offshore oil and gas lease sales in its history in proposed final program for 2024–2029. Call it “Least Sales”!

The proposal includes zero oil and gas lease sales in the Atlantic, Pacific and Alaskan waters and an end to oil lease sales in the Gulf of Mexico, which will enable offshore wind programs to grow rapidly.

The reduction to a maximum of 3% of all giving2.

The Sierra Club focus on improving connections in Summerland and Monte
carlo. By supporting such local organizations we can further reduce the impact of oil regulations and setbacks in the coastal sector at 3% of all giving2.

Among community members. Local organizations are doing outstanding work in the areas they serve, fostering a sense of connection and shared responsibility among community members.

The donations have a direct and immediate impact on the quality of life for residents. VLT and the Sierra Club focus on improving public access to open spaces, enhance recreational opportunities, promote resilience to local educations and real-world improvements, such as a cleaner more natural walled, reduced pollution, nurtur

An environmental group that fights to protect and preserve the natural beauty of our communities.

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Are zero emissions possible?

By Steve Colomé

In early November fifty activists, policymakers and influencers gathered at the bight of Olga Remart to hear Earthjustice attorney Adrian Martinez address the question: ‘Are Zero Emissions Possible?’

The meeting was an introduction to the current legal and policy efforts of Earthjustice, and of their programs and plans under the ‘Right to Zero’ campaign.

The campaign not only targets important mitigation programs against the climate crisis—it is about reducing exposure to harmful air pollution. When we eliminate the combustion of fossil fuels, we also eliminate the principal sources of harmful air pollutants that cause acute and chronic health problems. The path to zero is through the elimination of fossil fuel production and consumption, to be replaced with clean renewable energy sources in transportation, the power and industrial sectors, and buildings.

Unlike carbon control programs such as Cap and Trade, that allow polluters to pay to pollute to keep fossil fuels burning, the Right to Zero campaign aims to reduce fossil fuel emissions where they occur. The reason this is so important is that many of the climate change mitigation sources are centered in disadvantaged communities and continue to release harmful pollution to these neighborhoods.

Clean air combined with climate mitigation, that is the Earthjustice Right to Zero campaign.

A major focus of the Earthjustice program in California has been to transform the state’s heavily polluted transit fleets by 2030. Each bus converted from using methane or diesel reduces 170,000 pounds of carbon pollution annually.

The organization was also central to lobbying to override Postmaster General Louis DeJoy’s minimal commitment to electric vehicles for the USPS fleet. By 2030, the USPS has committed to an all-electric delivery fleet.

A unique feature of Earthjustice is that its 500+ clients are representatives of change. There are over 200 lawyers in the organization’s 15 offices across the US engaged in 600 lawsuits and more than 400 deep pocket interests. The organization lives by the motto: ‘We’re here because the earth needs a good lawyer.’

The origins of Earthjustice will be of interest to Sierra Club history buffs. Started in 1971 as the Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund, the organization has a long string of significant legal and policy victories in its 50+ year history.

The organization was founded by powerful San Francisco attorney and Sierra Club leader Phil Savage who served for over thirty years on the Sierra Club Board and twice as President. His first term as President was during the turbulent and environmentally significant period from 1969-1971.

I had the honor of knowing Phil Berry during the late 1970’s while serving as the Club’s representative for the New England Chapter (chapter boundaries were larger then). The name change occurred in 1997 to reflect the broader representation of environmental clients beyond the Sierra Club.

As Club members we can take pride in this organization that is bringing legal strength to courts, Capitol Hill, and statehouses across our country in the fight.

The Oui Rava event was hosted by Cayrn Bosson, with co-hosts Rain Perry, Dulanie Ellis-Bure, Michelle Ellison, Steven Co-lomé and

Earthjustice attorney Adrian Martinez is describing legal battles and policy accomplishments of the group in front of about 50 attendees curious about the question: ‘Are Zero Emissions Possible?’ Below, he joined the panel for a Q&A. They are (from left) landscape architect Kathy Nolan, Martinez and our own Ventura ExCom member Mike Coloma. (Photos by Erin Taylor)
Food for thought

By Deborah Williams and
By John Hankins

Editor's note: There's a banana in the bowl is not used very often (once you empty it of perishable items!). Also, before you leave your house for extended periods of time such as a vacation it makes sense to unplug all of the six electronic devices listed above (whether you're using them at the moment or not).

Another cost-free strategy is to change the computer power settings. Computers allow you to determine how long the monitor(s) and the computer stays active after you stop using it. You can set the monitor(s) to turn off and the computer to go into the power saving “sleep” mode. A good next step is to install basic on/off power switches or use a simple power strip that can be turned on/off with one switch. This is a good option for TVs, speaker bar systems and other TV accessories.

Alternatively, install smart power switches. This type of low-cost power strip can remotely turn off all items associated with a TV, computer or a game console (monitors & controls).

There's more! Consider opting for a cloud-based DVR service. All the TVs in your house can access this system, and some households can get rid of multiple DVR boxes, which is big energy savers. While all these strategies might not be practical for you and your family, we are all able to adopt at least a few, which will reduce our carbon footprint and save money.

Finally, we know that vampires do not like the sun, so you can avoid energy vampires altogether by using solar powered lights and cameras outside. Reasonably priced, solar powered lights and cameras last for years and do not add any additional costs to your electricity bills. Solar powered outdoor holiday lights are another way to save money on your electricity bill. For a deeper dive, the California Energy Commission has issued a detailed report that highlighted two excellent tools to help you reduce energy vampires. The first is the Dr. Power App, which is available on the web and on your smartphone. This provides you with the exact amount of electricity being drained by energy vampires.

You will likely be very surprised by how much energy is being consumed this way.

The second tool is the information portal, AskDrPower.com, which provides additional information on how to save energy, and allows you to pose questions to energy experts.

The bottom line is this: staying energy vampires can be fun and rewarding for our pocketbooks and the planet.

By Deborah Williams and
By John Hankins

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The bottom line is this: staying energy vampires can be fun and rewarding for our pocketbooks and the planet.
By Jim Hines
Nov 27: For the new year, we are renewed, recharged and ready to go! Our new campaign is to protect all that is wild!
Examples include tackling the hard cases in Ventura County: VAFB, Point Mugu, Santa Barbara Channel, Gaviota Wetlands Wildlife Preserve - just a few. We are suing the state of California, the federal government and the local officials to protect our natural environment.
By John Hankins
New: We're a whale Heritage Site!
By Gregor Gorda, Executive Direc-
tor, SB Maritime Museum, which acted as the email’s fiscal agent for the effort.
“Hinoka has a crucial role in this history. Since the 1970s, she and her husband Robert have been key players here. They started the first whale watching operation here. He went to New Zealand to build the first whale watching boat. Hinoka put a special boat to be around marine wildlife as it has no propeller. They finally dignified this incredible animals for the ecological role they play in enhancing ocean productivity. The more whales, the healthier the ocean is,” she told an audience at a prior celebration at the Bacara Nov. 11, especially honoring Cousteau with a Lifetime Achievement Award.
Holly too has a history; starting in 1992 at UCSB investigating the number of whales being killed or injured here and elsewhere. Speaking of which, National Geographic found that “the stark population declines from hunt- ing, severe fishing losses, and large whale populations in the South Atlantic,” the channel on either side of the islands. The whales swim thousands of miles, from the North Pacific down to Baja, Mexico, passing along our shores and eating krill along the way.
“Santa Barbara Channel has unique topography and the winds and currents are perfect for breeding southward, said Adam Ernest, a filmmaker-photographer special- izing in whales and marine life.
“Nowhere has inspired me more than the Santa Barbara Channel,” he wrote in a statement.

Golden Shovels... continued from page 4 campaign, held at the Ojai Retreat. Features an AJ attorney and Ojai- based experts. Learn more about it at:

New: 3rd Annual Golden Shovels…
continued from page 4 campaign, held at the Ojai Retreat. Features an AJ attorney and Ojai-based experts. Learn more about it at:

Nov 5: Carmen Ramirez Progress Awards event, hosted by the Ventura County Land Trust, honoring the late woman who was an inspiration and activist during her work as a Ventura County Environmental Services inspector and activist. Her focus is to overturn the current 3-2 environment majority of the county Supervisors, which “failed to stop the Napa St挨门挨户 line as I had near the foot of my house” and I arrived at the property line by truck and did not recover.
Nov 4: Farm Day in Ventura Coun-
ty, which also occurred earlier in Santa Barbara County. A visit to a farm in the Thornville, a proud farmer’s daughter, is the founder and CEO of Students for E-Education and Agriculture (SEEAG). The charity that puts on Farm Day. Its mission is to educate students about the farm origins of their food from field-to-table while connecting them to the farmland in their community.

Nov 7: Forest carbon cap-
ture has been approved for national forest lands in Western U.S. This is a new proposal by the Biden Administration as part of its effort to tackle climate change and build back better for our Los Padres National Forest.
I am still learning about car-
bon and the importance of its impact upon the land environment.
Nov 2: Where have all the envi-
ronmentalists gone in Ventura County?
I spoke to Moms for Liberty Ventura County Chapter, and I ob-
served that there were more people than I have ever seen at any local environmental meeting.

Nov 14: I want to truly thank
each of you this Harvest season, a season of thanks for all your efforts and support. It has been a challenging year so far. We danced with wolves, engaged our adversaries, protected national public lands and challenged those who opposed our work to save Mother Earth and her wild creatures.

Our successes could not have been done without your passion, emotional strength and commit-
mements.
Nov 7: Paid killers were hired by the Idaho Board of Wild-
life to hunt down and shoot wolves from helicopters in the state. I will now join with several other wolf groups and account for the Idaho Administration to resettle wolves as protected under the federal endangered species act.

By John Hankins
Nov 2: a year of victories for the environment in the state legislature, according to Sierra Club California in releasing its annual legislative analysis. Out of the 51 bills SCCC supported this year, only one managed to reach the Governor’s desk, “a testament to the lack of leadership in Sacramento.” Also, 46 legislators received perfect scores (voting in line with SCCC’s position) and 46 received perfect scores (voting in line with SCCC’s position).

Nov 10: Solar State! Utilities are working to block rooftop solar for California residents, schools, and farmers. Gov. Newsom’s latest move, which is denying schools, small businesses, apartment buildings and farms the ability to use the solar energy they have installed and acting to limit them to buy their own solar back from the utility at full retail prices, was a statement from the California Solar & Storage Association.

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Some trails still closed

Highway 33, which is the primary road used to access the Ventura backcountry, has been closed since January due to storm damage. It’s used to many special places including Pine Mountain, Matilija, Rose Valley, Piedra Blanca and large portions of the Sespe Wilderness. The latest update from Cal Trans is that Hwy 33 is expected to reopen sometime around the end of the year—that will be great, we can’t wait.

Unfortunately, so many of the trails accessed from Hwy 33 remain in very bad shape. Not only are there trail-gobbling landslides, washouts and sinkholes resulting from the winter rains, but the plants have also been growing like crazy, exploding with regrowth over the trails. Most of them need a lot of work clearing, brushing back the scrub oak and helping to once again define where the trail should go.

Volunteers are sorely needed to help the Los Padres Forest Assn. and Forest Service to reopen these trails. Many opportunities exist to volunteer and/or to donate essential funds to hire professionals and equipment. Go to: https://lpsf.org.

Other priorities include continuing work on the Matilija Trail, clearing Lion Canyon again, working the trail up towards Pine Mountain Lodge and hacking away at both Potrero John and lower Chorro.

Your support today goes a long way to helping repair the trails across the Ventura backcountry.

From our Mountains to the Sea: Where to go?

“Our trails are closed!” It’s a beautiful word and originated away back in the Middle Ages. People used to go on pilgrimages to holy places including Pine Mountain, Matilija, Rose Valley, Piedra Blanca and large portions of the Sespe Wilderness. The latest update from Cal Trans is that Hwy 33 is expected to reopen sometime around the end of the year—that will be great, we can’t wait.

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From our Mountains to the Sea: Where to go?

“Our trails are closed!” It’s a beautiful word and originated away back in the Middle Ages. People used to go on pilgrimages to holy places including Pine Mountain, Matilija, Rose Valley, Piedra Blanca and large portions of the Sespe Wilderness. The latest update from Cal Trans is that Hwy 33 is expected to reopen sometime around the end of the year—that will be great, we can’t wait.

Unfortunately, so many of the trails accessed from Hwy 33 remain in very bad shape. Not only are there trail-gobbling landslides, washouts and sinkholes resulting from the winter rains, but the plants have also been growing like crazy, exploding with regrowth over the trails. Most of them need a lot of work clearing, brushing back the scrub oak and helping to once again define where the trail should go.

Volunteers are sorely needed to help the Los Padres Forest Assn. and Forest Service to reopen these trails. Many opportunities exist to volunteer and/or to donate essential funds to hire professionals and equipment. Go to: https://lpsf.org.

Other priorities include continuing work on the Matilija Trail, clearing Lion Canyon again, working the trail up towards Pine Mountain Lodge and hacking away at both Potrero John and lower Chorro.

Your support today goes a long way to helping repair the trails across the Ventura backcountry.
Oct 27: Marine mammal activists from my Sierra Club California Chapter have been able to get the CA Dept of Fish and Game to delay the opening of the commercial crab fishery season due to the high rate of whale entanglement.

Oct 9: To us this is a really important step in reconnecting with the community. Short said, “to help them better understand and appreciate our district that we help manage.”

Oct 11: Our Mountain Lions Forever Team has good news to report: CA Dept of Fish and Wildlife staff said that Ojai Mountain Lions, such as Latigo and Rose, are not a problem due to the large amount of open space and wildlands in the southern California. This will be recommended for state protection as critical habitat for endangered mountain lions.

Oct 12: Our Mountain Lions FOR-EVER Team has been busy this state this week. It includes meeting with Caltrans staff regarding our “Safe Passages for Lions” endeavor across the state. Locally, we are working on safe lion crossing protection under the 101 freeway in the Gaviota Coast region over two crossing projects on the 101 freeway in Ventura County and improving an existing safe crossing project under Highway 118 in Ventura County. - Edited by John Hanks

Ojai Ranger District reopens

Ojai Ranger District reopens

The rebuilding of the Ojai Ranger District is underway with the U.S. Forest Service’s hiring of four recreation staff and the reopening of the front desk at 1190 E. Ojai Ave. Since the pandemic, the district office had been closed to the public and staffed only by fire personnel, but incoming Ojai District Ranger Tim Short revealed plans to bring the office up to previous staffing levels.

Short has brought on Recreation Officer Steve Yamamoto, Assistant Recreation Officer Andrew Jilani, Recreation Forestry Technician Maria Rosario and Recreation Technician Rosemary Sepulveda. Their positions had been unfulfilled due to past funding reductions, Short said.

The pandemic and the untimely passing of front desk employee Mike Porter further limited the district’s ability to serve the public, but with the re-opening of the front desk desk Thursdays through Saturdays from 9am to 2pm Short hopes the ORD can re-engage with the community.

“We do this is a really important step in reconnecting with the community,” Short said, “to help them better understand and appreciate our district that we help manage.”

Assistant Recreation Officer Andrew Jilani replaces Diane Cross, who retired in 2021. Jilani came to Ojai from Cambodia, where he was working on an international program. He joined the ORD staff in May. “It’s a lovely place,” he said of his new home. “Every weekend I go hiking, getting to know the trails. Slowly getting to know the wildlife.”

For the past few months, Jilani has been helping with an inventory of the popular recreation facilities and getting trained on the National Environmental Policy Act. Rosario grew up camping, hiking and fishing in the National Forest. “For me, this is just a homecoming, because I grew up in the area, born and raised in Santa Barbara,” said Rosario, who gained plenty of experience working at large national parks, “where I helped manage some of the largest volunteer programs in the country.”

The reopening of the front desk has brought an enthusiastic response from the public. “It’s been a long time coming and it’s really great to be here and give back to our community,” said Rosario.

Another issue is Maricopa Highway through the Los Padres, much of which may remain closed into 2024, according to the CA Dept. of Transportation. “Depending on how that unfolds we’ll be prepared to reopen facilities as we’re able,” Short said. “Highway 33 access is a core part of the Ojai District and real popular recreation facilities.”

We lobby, we meet, we engage in these efforts for people and wild places but on my philosophy of positive living.

We have room, plant several sweet peas. For vegetable gardens, lendula, primroses, cyclamen and ful Iceland poppies, stately snap dragons, sunny color bulbs for colorful Ranunculus, plant all that says Autumn, such as Mountain Lions.

Now you know why I always talk about the importance of spending quiet time outdoors or in my cottage garden surrounded by nature. The beauty of life heals us and recharges the strength within to carry on.

Success! The Ojai Ranger District is re-opened to the public.

Newsom to ask him to put a stop to the “safely kill wildlife.” There is no need for them to remain closed while repairs are being made to trails and recreation areas hampered by powerful winter storms. “That work continues as we try to get things back into the condition we need to have them to be,” Short said.

Another issue is Maricopa Highway through the Los Padres, much of which may remain closed into 2024, according to the CA Dept of Transportation. “Depending on how that unfolds we’ll be prepared to reopen facilities as we’re able,” Short said. “Highway 33 access is a core part of the Ojai District and real popular recreation facilities.”

A real dynamic team,” he said. “I’m excited about all the great work they’re getting done to help the local public.

If you’re interested in volunteer opportunities with the district, email Maria.Rosario@undoa.net.

Ojai Ranger District reopens

Editor’s note: Reprinted by permission from the Ojai Valley News (www.ojaivalleynews.com) which has recently expanded to include West Ventura News.

Perry Van Houten
perry@ojaivalleynews.com

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Short has brought on Recreation Officer Steve Yamamoto, Assistant Recreation Officer Andrew Jilani, Recreation Forestry Technician Maria Rosario and Recreation Technician Rosemary Sepulveda. (Courtesy Ojai Valley News photo by Perry Van Houten)
No more horses, we’ve got EV resources

By Katie Davis

The future is here. Around a quarter of all new cars sold in California are now electric. In some counties 40% of new cars are EVs. That’s an exponential increase, up from 5-10% just a few years ago.

There are many benefits to driving electric:

~ Kick the addiction to oil and help solve the climate crisis: An EV can be powered by renewable energy and they are quiet, fume-free, and accelerate quickly.

~ No more gas stations: Electric is much cheaper than gasoline, and charging at home or work is more convenient.

~ Lower maintenance costs: There’s no oil to change and fewer repairs are needed.

~ More options available: Used electric cars are now available, and new ones have longer range. More public chargers put up long-distance travel.

~ Carpool lane access: Clean cars can apply for an HOV deal for anytime access to the carpool lane.

New cars: There are now over 130 different EV options, whether your price range is $20,000 or $200,000. PG&E has a nice list showing costs and ranges for vehicles. Its site – https://ev.pge.com – also lets you compare vehicles and find incentives.

You can track the latest news on electric cars at Green Car Reports. Review sites are increasingly covering EVs as well, such as Edmunds, US News, Motor Trend, and Car and Driver.

Leased cars: Higher recent interest rates mean higher lease prices, but leasing is still a good option given the continuous improvement in EVs. This site lists specific lease offers at dealerships, many in the $200-$400 a month range. Electric Vehicle Lease Guide (electrek.co)

~ Utilities: SCE is offering $1000-$4000 for a used EV, as does PG&E. PG&E also offers free home chargers.

~ Carpool lane access: Clean cars can apply for an HOV deal for anytime access to the carpool lane.

~ Rebates: The drivezero pg website has a great incentive search tool. Here are some specific local programs:

~ City of Santa Barbara: Customers of SB Clean Energy can get discounts on home solar and batteries to power your EV as well as a 20% discount on electric bike share membership. See Programs.

~ Counties of Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo, Monterey, San Benito and Santa Cruz and cities including Goleta, Carpinteria, Santa Maria (see fall list here) who are customers of Central Coast Community Energy can get $1000-$4000 rebates on new or used EVs plus up to $700 for a EV charger and up to $4000 for EV Readiness intended to reimburse the majority of costs associated with electrical work. See Programs.

~ Utilities: SCE is offering $1000-$4000 for a used EV, as does PG&E. PG&E also offers free home chargers.

~ Note: If your old car is pre-1997, the Santa Barbara APCD or Ventura APCD will give you $1000 for it. Or, if your old car fails a smog check and needs to be retired, California’s “Clean Vehicle Assistance Program Vehicle Retirement program” will give you $1000-$1500 to retire it.

~ Public Charging: Download the plugshare app on your phone to find places to charge when you’re on the road, and plan your trip. PG&E also has a nice route planning that shows you charging stations along your route. You can also check out Electrify America, ChargePoint, Black and EVgo, which are some of the most common charging networks.

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