

Vol. 21, No. 4 of 6

August - September 2021

Condor Call

Journal of Los Padres Chapter Sierra Club
Serving Ventura & Santa Barbara Counties



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So Long Rigs ... Hello Heat ... Rescues ... Outings are Back!

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Condor Call

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August - September 2021

ENERGY RAP

Clean, green goals

By Katie Davis
Chapter Chair

Clean green goals

In 2017 Santa Barbara was the 30th city in the U.S. to set a goal of 100% renewable energy. Later that year Goleta was the 51st.

Now in 2021 over 180 cities, more than ten counties, and eight states across the U.S. have goals to power their communities with 100% clean, renewable energy. And perhaps most impactful, a clean electricity standard -- which would require utilities across the nation to slash emissions -- will be part of a broad \$3.5 trillion infrastructure deal Democrats hope to pass by budget reconciliation. California Senator Alex Padilla is on the U.S. Senate budget committee so let him know he should fight for this:

www.call4climate.com

Choosing the fast lane

While the US considers setting a clean energy goal and California regulators plot the gradual transition, locally we are accelerating clean energy through local programs.

Community Choice energy programs can buy and sell electricity for local jurisdictions and are responsive to community needs, while SCE and PG&E continue to operate the grid. SB County is joining Central Coast Community Energy (3cenergy.org) which plans to procure 100% renewable energy for us by 2030. The City of SB is going through California Choice Energy

Authority, and Ventura County joined Los Angeles County in the Clean Power Alliance in 2019 -- where they started procuring 100% renewable energy immediately.



Fossil Villains

Exxon seeks to restart three aging offshore oil platforms in Santa Barbara Channel shut down since the Refugio disaster with up to 70 roundtrip oil tanker trucks per day on Coastal Highway 101 and Route 166.

Online hearings set for Sept. 29 and Oct. 1. Email comments to Santa Barbara County planners now via this link:

<https://tinyurl.com/Xexxontruck>

Meanwhile, ExxonMobil lobbyist Keith McCoy admitted to an undercover reporter how the company aims to drastically weaken Biden's climate plans and used shadow groups to 'aggressively' fight climate science.

Interestingly, Shell Oil recently announced plans to divest from AERA Energy, an ExxonMobil joint venture. This

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They're going...going...

By John Hankins

The beginning of the end of at least eight California offshore oil platforms came on Friday, July 23 when a notice of intent was filed in the Federal Register.

The Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) posted the notice to 'decommission' the platforms and their infrastructure. The eight platforms are in federal waters (outside the 3-mile limit) near Point Conception and in the Santa Barbara Channel and were built between the 1960s and '90s.

There are 15 other platforms off the California coast that are not part of the notice.

"We are celebrating the decommissioning of so many offshore oil platforms. Our beaches were the site of the first offshore oil wells in the world, some of which are still being cleaned up today, and site of some of the worst oil spills in the nation. So, it is appropriate that the Santa Barbara Channel is now leading the way toward the phase out of risky offshore oil," said Katie Davis, Chair of the Los Padres Chapter, Sierra Club.

None of the eight platforms



Environment Defense Center (EDC), the Sierra Club and many others have long fought the oil industry. Now, there's movement to get it done as eight platforms off our shores are no longer operating. The platforms shown here are A, B, C, Hillhouse, Henry, Houchin and Hogan. Find a primer on decommissioning at the website: www.environmentaldefensecenter.org. ©Photo by Linda Krop, EDC.

are producing and their leases have expired. A Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) will be prepared with at least three options: completely removing platforms and facilities, a partial removal or no action.

The Sierra Club and many others have fought offshore oil for generations, so the news is a positive step at a time when renewable energy sources are coming to the fore, including a wind energy project on land around Lompoc, a

newly opened large electric energy storage Oxnard and more to come along the South Coast, and an ordinance to allow large solar arrays in the Cuyama Valley. Also, wind energy off the Morro Bay coastal area is also being considered while Gov. Gavin Newsom's executive order would phase out gasoline cars by 2035.

(See Katie Davis' Energy Update column for more renewable information on this page)

"This is the first step toward a robust and efficient review of anticipated applications for decommissioning oil and gas infrastructure off the California coast," said Mike Mitchell, acting director of BSEE's Pacific region.

Our long history of opposing oil and gas was started in earnest after the notorious 1969 Platform 'A' blowout in the SB Channel, which spawned the Community Environmental Council, Environmental Defense Center and Get Oil Out! Given that background many are sure to want to comment. Here's how.

Comments may be submitted online through by searching Docket No. BOEM-2021-0043 and clicking on the 'Comment Now' link from:

www.regulations.gov

Your remarks may also be delivered by hand or by mail, enclosed in an envelope labeled,

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Wildlife action team welcomes Jim Hines

National Sierra Club staff has appointed Los Padres Chapter Conservation Chair Jim Hines to be one of 12 Sierra Club wildlife activists from around the nation to be on the new Sierra Club Wildlife and Endangered Species Action Team (WESACT).

It is designed to be a rapid response team to work on and lobby for various Sierra Club wildlife protection campaigns around the United States.

The core team members are focused on educating Sierra Club members, the public, legislators, regulators and the media about the importance of threatened and endangered species and wildlife.

Of special concern is on the impact of climate change on wildlife and habitats internationally, continent-wide, regionally and in specific locations.

Jim is a team leader of the Sierra Club California/Nevada Wildlife Team and the Mountain Lions FOREVER! campaign, a Sierra Club action to protect the



largest wild cats in California. He is the only individual claimant in Sierra Club litigation to force the federal government to relist wolves in the U.S. as endangered species.

He has also served as the Los Padres Chapter Chair and is currently the vice-Chair. Jim's articles and columns appear in every issue of Condor Call, including "Greetings, Friends," the "Hines Chronicles" about his lobbying efforts and many others.

His activity on all fronts gained the notice of Sierra Club's national staff.

COVER PHOTO

A perfect sendoff by our marine mammal friends hoping the oil platforms will be gone sooner than later. So do we. © Mike Eliason/@EliasonPhotos

His stunning images are out in a new book, Santa Barbara and Beyond, available here: www.ShorelinePublishing.com

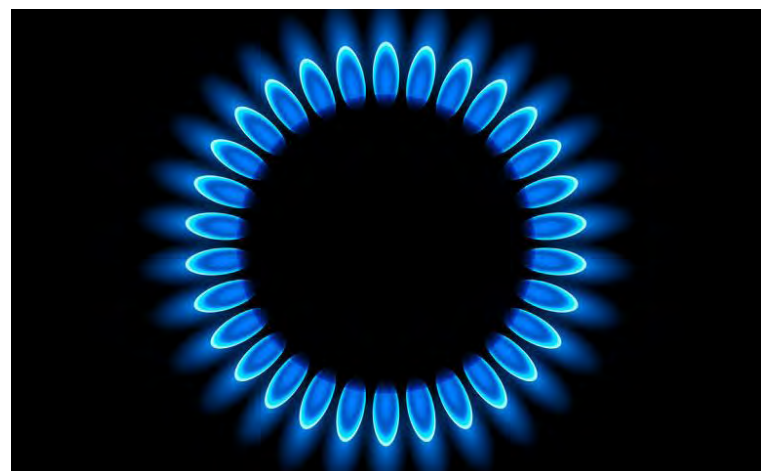


Photo by Ilya Rummyantsev/iStock

In the summer of 2019, Berkeley became the first city in the nation to ban gas hookups in new buildings and in the process drew attention to an often-underestimated health risk and driver of climate change.

Over the next two years, the gas ban trend spread rapidly, lately to Santa Barbara. At least 46 other California cities and a handful of major metropolitan areas—including Denver, Seattle, and New York—either passed or proposed their own "electrification codes." It seemed, at least for a while, that one of the pillars of the fossil fuel industry was crumbling.

Then the gas industry launched a counteroffensive.

~ Excerpt from Sierra Magazine, by James Steinbauer

We've seen great success happen in our area

Can you support the Los Padres Chapter this summer? Here's why:

Look out your back door and you'll see the impact Sierra Club members in Santa Barbara and Ventura counties are making right here at home. We're defending your forests, public parks, wilderness areas and wild animals, protecting our air and water, and standing up for local communities hit hardest by industrial polluters and climate change.

None of this would be possible without you and other members like you. You've worked hard to protect

the people and planet that we love. You've fought to make sure that everyone has fresh air to breathe, clean water to drink, safe homes and healthy communities—no matter their race, age, identity, income, or zip code.

With your help, we will:

~ Propel the momentum of the 30x30 Conservation Plan that is sweeping through the Los Padres Chapter region – thank you to all who have participated so far – together we are making it a reality in Santa Barbara and Ventura counties.

~ Advocate for wilderness

land designations and protection of Channel Islands National Park, Rim of the Valley Corridor, Gaviota Coast, and the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary, among others. Because protecting wildlife and wild places in the western United States is our critical work.

~ Do everything possible to protect Gray Wolves by restoring endangered species act protections, whales and other marine mammals by stopping the use of deadly nylon longline commercial fishing nets in the waters of the Santa Barbara Channel,

and Mountain Lions with special state protections for our region.

We are also advocating for safe wildlife corridors under the 101 Freeway along the Gaviota Coast and supporting the wildlife overpass at Agoura Hills, slated to break ground this year.

Meanwhile, for the public, we are overjoyed to be able to announce that our volunteer-led outings programs are finally restarting for local enthusiasts across Santa Barbara and Ventura counties – see you out on the trail soon!

And don't forget that 100% of your gift to the Los Padres Chapter stays here to make life better for communities here at home. Thank you for helping us protect wild places, our air, water, and climate.

Help us here

Please boost the impact of our local work by donating today. Your contribution directly supports our conservation efforts of which we've made great strides. Click on 'donate' at our website: www.SierraClub.org/los-padres

Clean, green goals...

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begs the question: If an oil venture is too dirty for an international oil company, maybe it's too dirty for California too?

Breaking ground

All this planning is resulting in real, live, honest-to-goodness, clean energy projects.

A 100-megawatt battery storage system was unveiled in Oxnard on June 29. It's one of the largest energy storage facilities in the United States and is expected to generate millions in tax revenue for both the city and the county.

An even larger battery facility is proposed in Morro Bay. At 600 megawatts, it would be the largest such facility in the world.

The Lompoc wind project is under construction, and public comment is about to begin on

offshore wind leasing areas off the coast of Morro Bay.

On July 13, the SB County Board of Supervisors set directions for a utility scale solar ordinance that will permit large solar installations on both agricultural lands and unused industrial sites, expanding solar options beyond the Cuyama Valley.

On July 16, SB County unveiled the Tajiguas Landfill recycling and methane-energy plant. By converting 200,000 tons of trash into recyclables, compost, methane, and energy every year, it will be the single greatest reduction of greenhouse gases in the county. To see trash in action, email us to join a tour: santabarbara.group@sierraclub.org

Using clean energy

On July 20 the City of Santa Barbara voted to phase out gas appliances in new homes and

buildings in favor of clean electric alternatives that can run on 100% renewable energy. Santa Barbara is the 47th California City in just two years to require all-electric construction – a move that cuts climate pollution, improves air quality and lowers building costs.

The Council moved forward despite a SoCal Gas affiliated group (Californians for Balanced Energy Solutions) that launched a spam text campaign last December targeting thousands of Santa Barbara residents with misleading and false information in an attempt to derail the ordinance.

That same day, the City of Goleta adopted a street lighting program that cuts energy use in half, is 'dark sky' compliant, uses the lowest temperature LED available (2700k), and incorporates shields to reduce light trespass especially in our creeks and open spaces. Nice!

Ditch the Car

To break free from ExxonMobil's oily grip, lots of work is going into making electric cars the default option, with lots of places to charge up. But better yet, ditch the car entirely.

Santa Barbara County is asking for suggestions on how it can improve biking and walking in the county. Add your ideas to the map here:

<https://tinyurl.com/LessCarIdeas>



A social media post was sent out to gather a large crowd to protest SoCal Gas plans to expand a gas compressor across the street from the Ventura Boys and Girls Club and an elementary school.



The Salicoy battery energy storage system by Arevon uses 142 Megapacks from Tesla to generate 100mw. This replaces a gas-fired peaker plant initially advocated by SoCal Edison but stopped by activists who wanted cleaner energy. (Arevon Asset Management.)

Going...

continued from page 1

"Pacific Decommissioning" and addressed to Richard Yarde, Regional Supervisor, Office of Environment, BOEM Pacific Region, 760 Paseo Camarillo, Suite 102, Camarillo, CA, 93010. He may also be reached at (805) 384-6379 or:

richard.yarde@boem.gov

Supplemental information to assist the public in providing scoping comments is available at:

www.boem.gov/Pacific-decomm-PEIS

This supplemental information includes maps of the relevant geographic area, a description of the environmental setting, and further details about existing oil and gas infrastructure.

richard.yarde@boem.gov

All comments must be received by Sept. 7, 2021. The draft PEIS is tentatively scheduled for publication in Feb. 2022, followed by a 45-day public comment period.

HINES CHRONICLES

Dead ends and live beginnings happening

Editor's note: By popular demand, we continue with the Jim Hines Chronicles, which reflects the emails by our premier lobbyist on the ins and outs of environmental activism and is chock-full of information. This

covers the last two months. Jim is our chapter vice-chair and conservation director who belongs to many wildlife groups.

By Jim Hines.

June 3: I am surprised that the southern Los Padres NF did NOT receive any Public Lands Legacy Restoration Fund Money in President Biden's FY 22 budget. What did we do wrong? Not lobby hard enough for LPNF?

June 4: Our Mountain Lion FOREVER! campaign to protect the largest wild cats in our region is now roaming the west. I am now receiving requests from various groups around the west on how our campaign can help them. What happens in the Los Padres Chapter does not stay in the Los Padres Chapter!

June 4: I am growing increasingly concerned that various land protection legislation supported by the Sierra Club has hit a dead end in the U.S. Senate. Two local bills, Central Coast Heritage and Rim of the Valley Corridor Protection Acts, have all passed the House of Representatives and are waiting, waiting for hearings in the Senate.

Speaking with staff of Senate Minority Leader McConnell you will find a lot of resistance to getting anything productive done, with the hope that the 2022 midterm elections will give Republicans House and Senate control.

June 7: We may soon have major new support for the creation of the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary because President Biden has nominated renowned ocean scientist Dr Rick Spinrad to be the Administrator of NOAA.

June 7: Our local activists are hard at work around the Ventura Sierra Club region:

Our Ojai activist team is working to get an Ojai Earth Friendly Management Plan adopted by the Ojai City Council to ban the use of pesticides, herbicides and rodenticides. They also rallied at county planning to get strong environmental protections placed on the north fork of Matilija Creek. And they are moving ahead with the first-of-its-kind in the world, the Ojai Climate Change Park.

Camarillo activists in Camarillo are opposing any expansion of Camarillo Regional Airport, and member Merrill Berge said a new group has formed. Check it out here: <https://vc-air.com>

June 10: Some good news... though it's all about posturing. The federal judge in my Sierra Club lawsuit to have wolves in the lower 48 listed as endangered species has decided that I am harmed by wolves not being allowed to roam free in wild ecosystems in our nation.

Als, the Biden Administration has started the process to reimpose federal endangered species act rules which were removed by the Trump Administration, though not specifically mentioned, wolves are part of this.

I have been working on behalf of the Sierra Club California Wildlife Team with several other conservation organizations to put together a wildlife protection ordinance for the City of Los Angeles.

June 14: Bears Ears National Monument, Grand Staircase-Escalante NM both in southern Utah and South East Canyons National Monument off the coast of Maine are recommended by Interior Secretary Haaland to be re-established to original boundaries set by President Obama.

Let's honor honorees

"Empowering People for Climate Action" reads the headline for Sierra Club California's Political Action Committee.

How that happens is not only through grassroots action by our members and friends, but via our elected officials standing up for us via legislation and budget actions they create and/or vote on. This year's event will again be online, due to Covid restrictions.

So, it's now our turn to honor the 2021 Political Leadership Awardees, who have honored us with their work. Hosted by our neighbor, the Angeles Chapter, honorees are: Congressional Reps Maxine Waters, Katie Porter, Mike Levin, State Senator Josh Newman, State Assembly

member Kevin Mullin and the Godinez High School Environmental Club.

A motion to contribute \$250 to help underwrite the costs of the PAC fundraiser was approved unanimously by our Los Padres Chapter. If you'd also like to contribute as an individual, go here:

<https://tinyurl.com/PACfunding>

This is the one Sierra Club PAC that gives funds to our local candidates and state legislators, and its fundraiser occurs only once per year. While we can't give chapter money to the PAC, we are allowed to help underwrite the costs of the event, which we have done for many years. The Chapter will get three tickets to attend the online event for our underwriting donation.

June 17: Historic support for Black reparations and making Juneteenth a holiday was announced by the National Sierra Club.

June 21: White Sage (*Salvia apiana*) found growing within our region is being overharvested and destroyed by development. This native plant is sacred to the Chumash nation, used in numerous purification ceremonies. I have been "blessed" with White Sage on several occasions at Chumash ceremonies.

I am working closely with Chumash elder Rose Ramirez (sister of VC Supervisor Carmen Ramirez) on gaining Sierra Club and public support for California administrative action to protect the plant.

EAVESDROPS

"Saying no to a gas peaker plant and yes to battery-stored energy has provided our community with a nonpolluting power plant, increased our tax base, and created good jobs and ultimately better health for the people."

~ Ventura County Supervisor Carmen Ramirez

June 28: First African American to head the U.S. Forest Service's regional office was appointed by President Biden. "Randy Moore has been a conservation leader on the forefront of climate change, most notably leading the region's response to the dramatic increase in catastrophic wildfires in California over the last decade," said Tom Vilsack, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

July 1: Our two local national parks are in the top ten of national parks with abandoned or orphaned oil wells in or close to the parks. They are the *continued next page*

Condor Call

www.sierraclub.org/lospadres ~ All phone numbers 1-805 area code

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Photos, news, tips always welcome!

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Surprises from Covid and Climate

By Jon Ullman
Chapter ED

In my last column, I concluded despite 4 million deaths in a year and a half, Climate Change was a monster far more dangerous and harder to defeat than Covid-19.

It seemed then we were in the last throws of the pandemic, and it was time to refocus on the challenge of our lifetime – a warming world.

But then came Delta.

Many of us are back to masks, back to fear, back to frustration. Even though two-shot vaccinations do a great job at protecting us from the worst, the virus continues to be more transmissible and is exploiting any weakness in our defenses it can.

Climate change is surprising us too. We are seeing so many effects we didn't think would come so soon. The roller coaster jet stream is producing all-time high temperatures in Canada, bursting the British Columbian town recorded it into oblivion. The West's wildfires eastbound smoke plumes are affecting Maine and North Carolina, while our skies are ironically clear. We know this is just the prelude. And the floods, I can't keep track of them. They pour through my Twitter feed, Asia, Europe, South America, Arizona. I put the phone away.

I used to think that if I just talked about the upcoming disasters loud enough, people would wake up. I walked around in a polar bear outfit in Miami Beach for Sierra Club when sunny-day flooding shut down an intersection. I trained to be an Al Gore slide show presenter –



Our Chapter Executive Director Jon Ullman will do anything to convince people about climate change. Here he is at a bus stop in Miami dressed as a polar bear. Most recently he was seen as himself protesting SoCal Gas expansion project in Ventura. (Photo contributed)

scrolling through global disasters, uploaded each month. I took a job in a part of the country that knew climate effects firsthand – through the Thomas fire and a deadly mudslide and deeper droughts and heat records each year. Surely with all this evidence in hand, the world would wake up.

But now, I'm not so sure that warnings and disasters are enough.

If you can see 611,000 of your fellow countrymen fall to COVID and not take a vaccine to save your life, what will you do to stop climate change if your leaders say it's a hoax? We are hopelessly divided into teams. Stuck. Unable to fix the sinking ship.

But maybe, they will change if we lead by example.

In our Chapter's two counties, we are working hard to sharply reduce the supply and demand for

oil and gas. The Sierra Club has joined in the fight against SoCalGas' dangerous and unjustified capacity increases in Westside Ventura with a broad coalition including CAUSE, CFROG, Food and Water Watch and Patagonia. We are coordinating with allies against rollbacks of recent oil reforms in the Ventura.

In Santa Barbara County, we are fighting the restart of three offshore oil and gas platforms this fall at Refugio Beach via 70 tanker trucks and/or a with a destructive pipeline to Kern County, with Center for Biological Diversity and a coalition of health, safety and wildlife defenders. We just won an all-electric ordinance on new buildings in the City of Santa Barbara partnering with Community Environmental Council, the American Institute of

Architects, clean energy and health and safety advocates, and we are ready for more victories.

We are pushing hard to expand solar and wind energy stored by batteries to run electric cars and buildings, more efficient appliances and just consume LESS. We are paving the way for reliable clean power, like the recent battery storage facility named the Saticoy Project near Oxnard.

Our outings, public lands and wildlife leaders are now taking you out to beautiful places in the Los Padres Forest that were saved and helping to save more.

We cannot give up this fight locally or globally. The rise of Delta and the pandemic that lingers of our own making is telling us how we must unify to fight climate change. This is our warning. This is our lesson. This is our hope.



Join us on the bluffs

It seems like only yesteryear when the pandemic stopped the Santa Barbara Group's annual picnic at Shoreline Park in Santa Barbara, but now it's back, slated for Saturday, Sept. 20 from 9:30am to 1pm.

All Sierra Club members for this year's harvest picnic are invited and feel free to bring friends along.

Mark your calendars and tap your phones! Look for the Sierra Club banner, just west of the stairs down to the beach, and it is opposite Santa Rosa Place. It's a potluck, so bring enough to share if you like. Coffee provided.

An optional beach walk following brunch will occur, as usual.

Free stoves

Gordon Clint of Newbury Park is graciously offering his used camp stoves for free. If you want any of them, call him at (805) 498-9401. And thanks so much for recycling these fine camp stoves.

~ Primus 71 backpack stove – brass with windshield/cook kit (\$85+ on Ebay).

~ Coleman Dual Fuel 2 burner camp stove # 424 (\$170 new at Walmart).

~ Coleman 2 burner camp stove # 425F (\$55 + shipping on Ebay).

~ Coleman Fuel cans with unleaded gasoline.

EAVESDROPS

"These were the first recorded instances (2006 and 2010) of so-called "pizzly" or "grolar" bears. But over the last decade researchers have noted an increase in sightings of the hybrid creatures and believe the climate crisis is behind the rise."

~ Harry Cockburn writing in *The Independent* about how global warming results in grizzlies moving north where the disparate bears "engage in opportunistic mating."

Remembering Carol Marsh

We honor Carol Marsh, a long-time member and activist with the Sierra Club and Oxnard's Good Club, who passed away on June 2.

Born on July 4, 1943, Carol finished her graduate work in American History at Stanford and worked for both the California State Archives and the US Naval Archives at Port Hueneme for over 30 years.

Carol was a big part of the Los Padres Chapter for decades prompting *Condor Call* editor John Hankins to remark, "We're losing

the historical memories of long-time advocates. RIP Carol, you did your part to make our corner of the world a bit more livable."

And Ventura Sierra Club chair Liz Lamar said, "She was a unique spirit."

Carol also served as parliamentarian and led scholarship positions for the Greater Oxnard Democrats.



Irene Rauschenberger used to carpool to Sierra Club meetings with Carol, who she said, "was a sharp gal ... who loved her community and work."

Lara Godbille, director of Seabee Museum, noted that Carol worked as an historian at the U.S Navy Seabee Museum from the late 1970s until 2007. She was responsible for compiling the annual history of the Naval Facilities Engineering Command and was the lead docent for tours of the Bard Mansion. "In addition to history, Carol loved cats and to go on hikes with the Sierra Club," Godbille said.

Those who wish to contribute to her memory may donate to the Good Club scholarships for Oxnard College students, which are matched by the College Foundation.

Hines Chronicles...

continued from page 2

Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area and Channel Islands National Park.

July 2: The Governor's 2021-2022 state budget has an allocation of \$7.5 million for the Liberty Canyon Wildlife Overpass over the 101 freeway in Agoura Hills. Another \$5 million is in the Biden infrastructure bill. It still needs \$25 million but groundbreaking will happen this Fall.

July 9: Here is a great news article on the commitment California has made

to funding wildlife overpasses and underpasses to protect wildlife on our state's highways and freeways.

<https://tinyurl.com/WildlifeCrossing>

July 16: California Wildlife Team which I lead is supporting a proposal by the CA Dept of Fish and Wildlife to declare steelhead trout in southern California as endangered. It would protect steelhead trout and their aquatic habitats from San Luis Obispo County to the border with Mexico.

~ Edited by Condor John



Randy Moore is the first African American to head the U.S. Forest Service's regional office, appointed by President Biden.



See catch currents at:

www.sierraclub.org/lospadres

Most meetings continue online for now

Group News

www.SBSierraClub.org

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/LosPadres

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 sign up at

ConejoGroup@gmail.com

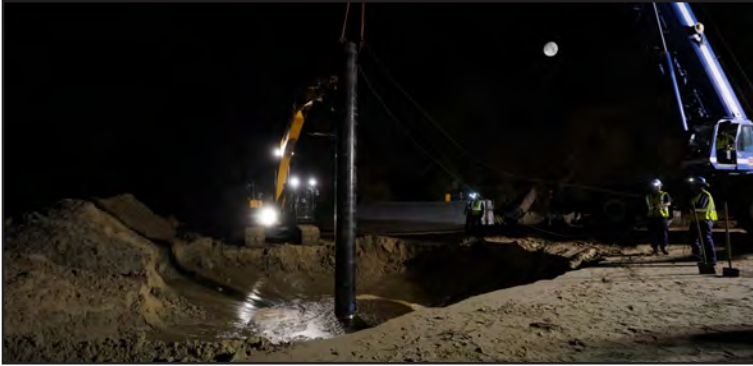
Otherwise, get all information on this eastern Ventura County Group from Hugh Warren, 341-6295 mail@hkwarren.net

www.sierraclub.org/los-padres/conejo

www.sierraclub.org/los-padres/conejo/outings



Summerland oil leaks are chronic, but they are being abated, thanks to Heal the Ocean and Harry Rabin and team; see link for video in the story. Above is a barge capping the Treadwell leak, and below working at night (note the moon) onshore, called the Ohlsson 805 wellhead. More info at www.HealTheOcean.org All photos ©Harry Rabin



Healing the ocean from abandoned oil

The Sierra Club commends Heal the Ocean for its continuing work capping old, historic oil wells leaking off the coast of Summerland.

It has never been easy nor cheap, yet with the persistence of Executive Director Hillary Hauser and many others, it is happening.

Oil companies simply abandoned many of the wells and some sprouted leaks that trashed South Coast beaches. It was left to taxpayers to pay for remediation and “the gracious, generous help from Nora McNeely Hurley’s Manitou Fund,” according to HTO’s website.

For decades, oil has been leaking from the wellheads of some of the first offshore oil rigs in the world, over 400 of them in Santa Barbara County. The beaches in Summerland were a major source of oil pollution, which spread as far southeast as Carpinteria and northwest along the coast to Miramar, Hammonds, and East Beach.

Finding the exact locations of these leaks and making the determination that they were indeed old wellheads vs. natural seeps took years of research both above and below the ocean. Good observations, sophisticated technology -- from drones and ROVs to multibeam sonar -- and determination, all would be needed to pinpoint the exact location of each well.

Much of the sophisticated gear was brought in by Harry Rabin, Field Advisor to Heal the Ocean, who is known for his work topside and

underwater with such equipment.

Now you can experience the difficult task via a webinar which was held on June 17, sponsored by the Santa Barbara Maritime Museum. Watch this fascinating story with a panel of experts on the museum’s website:

<https://sbmm.org/santa-barbara-lectures/?gallery=gg-2-210>

The webinar was produced and moderated by Harry Rabin, also a documentary filmmaker and CEO-founder of On the Wave Productions. He worked alongside the State Lands Commission’s contracted engineers and divers in the Summerland oil well field.

The event featured panelists who were involved in this environmental success, including: Hillary Hauser, InterAct contractor’s head engineer Mike Giuliani, State Lands Commission’s attorney Joe Fabel, Dr. David Valentine of UC-Santa Barbara and Hannah-Beth Jackson, our former State Senator who authored SB 44 which secured \$2 million annually for the Summerland work.

But they are not done.

The work pictured above happened this year, another is coming up in December. Rabin and the team are now identifying a notorious leaker and some others need more investigation.

We urge anyone worried about the health of our local ocean to support Heal the Ocean and its commonsense projects. Go to: www.HealTheOcean.org

Sedgwick Reserves reopen

In March 2020, Sedgwick Reserve had to pause all public programs due to COVID-19, but it is now officially able to resume in-person public programs. Some modifications will be in place.

The popular Walking Ecology Series (second Saturday of every month) is back with a September 23 lecture by UC-Santa Barbara Geoscientist Marc Mayes who’s been using drones to study prescribed

burning and coastal sage scrub ecosystems.” Another, in October, will be a Full Moon Hike.

The reserve is one of seven in the University of California Natura Reserve System. It is about 9 square miles located in the Santa Ynez Valley, 3566 Brinkerhoff Rd. Reservations are required to visit or sign up for it programs. More information at:

<https://sedgwick.nrs.ucsb.edu>



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Climate Watch

Physics says we’re in hot water

By Emily Williams

It’s a simple rule of physics--so simple it is easy to hear it and forget it. Now, during the hottest decade on record and in the wake and presence of climate disasters, it cannot be ignored. It goes like this:

Hotter air holds more water vapor than colder air. For every 1 degree Celsius of warming (how much we’ve warmed the earth so far on average), the atmosphere can hold about 7% more moisture.

This simple physical relationship manifests in some of the most complex, destructive, and

EAVESDROPS

“They’re the ones that did not want the natural gas power plant. They wanted clean energy ...”

~ Will Mitchell of Strata Solar which developed the newly built 100 Megawatt Saticoy Energy Storage Site at 294 Beedy St. He referred to the community’s opposition to NRG’s proposal to build a gas-fired plant replacing the Mandalay Generating Station on an Oxnard beach. Sierra Club was part of the opposition. (Arevon Energy Co. will operate the site.)



Adina Merenlender

Climate stewards

The culmination of more than two years of work and nearly 100 interviews has now been published as “Climate Stewardship: Taking Collective Action to Protect California,” by Adina Merenlender with Brendan Buhler.

Of particular interest is that our busy members, Jim and Nina Danza of the Ventura Sierra Club, were interviewed and are in it. Their work if often centered around the Santa Clara River. Published by University of California Press, a prelease discount is available. Check it out here:

<https://tinyurl.com/ClimateStewards>

Merenlender is an internationally recognized conservation biologist. Merenlender explores how communities are addressing wildfires, drier deserts, wetland restoration, climate-wise farming, climate justice, urban heat islands, and ocean temperature rise to make natural, working, and urban landscapes more resilient.

She is also a co-author of the only comprehensive book on wildlife corridor planning, “Corridor Ecology: The science and practice of linking landscapes for biodiversity conservation,” a subject that is at the forefront for our Los Padres Chapter with corridors in the works or planned along the 101 freeway. She has also co-authored “The California Naturalist Handbook” from her work as a founder of the program which has certified thousands of California Naturalists.

heartbreaking disasters. Over the past two weeks, cities across the Western US have broken temperature records and wildfires surpassed acres burned from this time last year. The Western US is also deep into an exceptional drought, which both provides ample fuel for blazes and can act to further increase temperatures with the lack of cooling from evaporation.

At the same time, historic and disastrous flooding has hit multiple European countries, killing more than 120 people.

This is climate change. A detection-and-attribution study (which detects whether an extreme event was ‘abnormal’, and attributes how much climate change made it worse) found that the extreme heatwave that plagued the Pacific Northwest -- and preceded the blazes -- was made 150 times more likely by climate change. Another has found that the Southwest is deep into a climate-fueled megadrought, in part due to higher temperatures. And while no formal study has yet been conducted for the flooding, scientists are making the links with climate change.

There are complex meteorological dynamics at play -- such as the weakening and increasing waviness of the jet stream -- that bring about these events. But, less blatant, yet ever present just beneath these dynamics, we can turn back to that physical principle.

If temperatures increase,

warming the air, that air will act like a sponge and soak up any available moisture. In semi-arid areas of the Western US where moisture is limited, that ‘thirsty’ draws from the precious few water resources -- in turn, desiccating plants, evaporating rivers and lakes, and drying the soil.

In wetter places, likely at least part of what happened in Europe, the air will soak up all that extra moisture, and that heavily laden, warm air will eventually precipitate out and rain.

This physical principle is one of the things that makes climate change so dangerous. And as we continue to emit greenhouse gases, we’ll continue giving the atmosphere that much more capacity to hold water vapor--which can translate to more intense droughts and more severe floods.

The solution is about as simple as the physics of the problem. When your house is on fire, you get yourself somewhere safe and you turn off the gas. We cannot keep extracting and burning fossil fuels without leading to more warming.

This begins at home -- elected officials here in California have a choice of whether to approve new oil permits and keep relying on gas. We will keep having to cope with climate-change fueled heatwaves, fires, droughts, and floods, but moving away from fossil fuels will avoid a whole new scale of climate-fueled disasters.

CLIMATE CHANGE INCREASES DROUGHT RISK IN THE WESTERN US BY

REDUCING WATER AVAILABILITY

Higher temperatures melt snowpack and evaporate water from rivers and lakes

DRYING OUT SOIL

Higher temperatures evaporate water from soil in arid environments

CHANGING PRECIPITATION PATTERNS

There is limited evidence that climate change is creating high pressure ridges off the CA coast which ‘blocks’ rain from reaching the Southwest

CLIMATE SIGNALS

Less range anxiety

An ambitious launch to place electric vehicle charging stations throughout the tri-counties area was announced in July, intended to rapidly expand the infrastructure. It is funded through grants and local partners as incentives for businesses and nonprofit groups to install the chargers.

“These funding opportunities are going to put this region on the map of EV friendly communities,” said Kent Bullard, our chapter’s Transportation Chair who is also active the EV Advocates groups and is a county advisor. “There are many opportunities and lots of work coming our way, and we’ll get involved in making sure the charging infrastructure benefits the right communities across the board.”

Called the California Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Project (CALEVIP), a working relationship is occurring between air pollution control districts, Electric Drive 805 coalition, Community Environmental Council and agencies from each county. At least \$12 million is available over the next two years for businesses, nonprofit groups and others to accomplish the task.

“CALEVIP is an exciting opportunity to bring more EV infrastructure to the region and help

Ventura County meet California’s statewide goal of 5 million ZEVs on the roads by 2030,” said County Supervisor Matt LaVere, Chair of the VCREA Board of Directors. “We are excited to work with our regional partners to make EVs accessible to all communities.”

Ventura County is slated to receive \$4.7 million, San Luis Obispo will receive \$2.3 million, and Santa Barbara will receive \$4.5 million. There’s even more money beyond that, Bullard noted, such as another \$4 million to implement the EV Readiness Program and more from other programs.

The program offers rebates for the purchase and installation of both Level 2 and DC fast chargers with increased funding for multi-unit dwellings, disadvantaged communities, and low-income communities. Funds are available on a first come, first-served basis.

“This is sorely needed,” said Ventura resident John Hankins who owns an electric car. While he can easily find chargers within the city of Ventura, a vacation to the Morro Bay area was not friendly to EVs, so he and his wife drove their hybrid instead.

For more information, go to: <https://calevip.org>

Ojai Search & Rescue has your back

By John Hankins

It's a great day when you're out in the backcountry, until it isn't. That's when the Upper Ojai Search and Rescue team springs into action, rescuing people for 70 years, starting out "when we had four or five guys and we all rode horseback," said the legendary Carl Hofmeister during a news interview a few years ago. Carl's first search was with his father as a 13-year-old in 1934 and he retired at age 76. Today, Ojai SAR has three mountain rescue teams, plus underwater, mounted, medical, K-9 and administrative support units. Similar units ply the land in other parts of our Los Padres Chapter, Ventura and Santa Barbara counties.

"You call, we haul," quipped Team Captain Bill Slaughter whose been 'hauling' with the team since 1988 and being an attorney in between. Of course, it's serious business, and SAR has a list (as does the Sierra Club) on bringing the Ten Essentials on every hike (see page 6), even an afternoon saunter because, well, shit happens. "People don't bring common sense," Slaughter emphasized, and that's the most important aspect. By the way, you aren't billed for a rescue, a common misunderstanding. Most rescues locally are at Santa Paula Canyon where you could find people hiking with nonsensical flip-flops, shorts and a T-shirt.



Sometimes it takes a lot of equipment and people to rescue in rocky terrain (above) and helicopters are most helpful in rugged terrain or for quick action. (Photos courtesy Ojai SAR)



SAR climbers are always honing skills on the rocks (above) and, yes, in the snow. (Photos courtesy Ojai SAR)



HELP! SAR

It's our turn to help Ojai Search and Rescue during its annual fundraiser held on Oct. 3 from 4-7pm at Boccali's outdoor restaurant in Ojai featuring dinner, live music, a raffle and a silent auction. Meet the heroes and applaud their work in person. You can donate an item or service here: info@ojaisar.org

Heat exhaustion, freezing, injuries from a fall, heart attack, being out-of-shape, drinking alcohol and getting just plain lost. Scour our local news and you'll find such rescues are common; in fact, Ojai SAR responds to hundreds of calls every year. In June and July, heat exhaustion rescues happened and one year it rescued campers stranded in the snow and sleet from a surprise storm.

"Most don't have an appreciation of what it takes to be on the team," said Mary Looby, a Patagonia employee whose company lets her loose any time she's needed. Currently, she's working on what they hope will be the first-ever permanent base, the old Fire Station #20 at 12727 Highway 150, available when a more modern station is finished about a half-mile away.

"We've never had a base before," Slaughter said, "it was all over the place."

While the Sheriff's Department provides some essential equipment, additional gear and tools are funded through donations.

SAR is a singular squad with unique skills, honed by hours of training. About 29 volunteers are in Ojai SAR, averaging about 4,000 hours per year on searches, rescues and public events. It's not just the backcountry, Slaughter noted, they also do urban search and rescue and look for evidence at crime scenes. "Recently we had nine people out sifting through dirt on human remains."

SARs were particularly handy during the Thomas Fire in 2017, being dispatched on Dec. 4 to begin evacuations in Santa Paula and Upper Ojai and later helping in Santa Barbara. And yes, several of their members lost homes during that disaster, and SAR lost equipment from a storage place at the base of Sulfur Mountain.

So, you want to be a SAR volunteer after all this? Sure, anyone can apply but they are extremely picky. You not only have to be in great physical shape, but you must also have basic skills, have the time to be called at any time and, spoiler alert, a unanimous vote-in by all team members.

Why do this? Listen to Carl Hofmeister: "If somebody needs help, I've always felt that I've got to help them," he said in a 1997 VC Star article. He was severely burned while on his bulldozer helping to put out a fire in 1979, and despite burn pain for years afterward he would still go out.

"It gets in your blood," he said.

It hooked Bill Slaughter, who



said the toughest memories come from body recoveries, notably a teenager dead in the water in a local river.

While all of us don't have to give blood, sweat and tears, we can help them out by donating. Go to the website and Facebook to keep up: www.OjaiSAR.org

EAVESDROPS

"The transportation industry has seen the future, and the future is 1895."

~ Roy Furchgott in the NY Times noting that year was the first patent for an electric bicycle. The new love affair with e-bikes was shown in a statistic that bicycle sales were up 67% during the pandemic, but e-bikes were up 158%.

EVENTS

Sept 7: **Wildfire Preparation** virtual speaker series, focusing on home hardening and preparation, sponsored by Ventura County's Resource Conservation District at 6pm with question session. Zoom link: <https://tinyurl.com/WildfireZoom>

Sept. 16: **Trail Talks**, hot and cold backcountry springs, a virtual event by local outdoor writer James Wapotich for an overview of the fall backpacking opportunities and where one can find year-round water - hot and cold - in the Santa Barbara and Ojai backcountry. Starts at 5:30pm and sponsored by the SB Library. Free, register here: <https://tinyurl.com/TrailTalkWater>

Sept. 20: **Potluck Picnic** is back! All Sierra Club members for this harvest potluck picnic are invited, and feel free to bring friends along. It happens from 9:30am to 1pm, coffee provided and optional beach hike included, sponsored by the SB Group.

Sept 25-27: **Public Lands Day** nationally, usually free entry.

Wild film festival returns!

The public is in for an overdue treat as the Ventura Land Trust will again be presenting its 12th annual Wild & Scenic Film Festival on Tour Saturday, Aug. 28.

The popular festival went virtual last year due to the pandemic and attendees watched these unique short films from the comfort of their homes, but it couldn't compare to the joy of seeing them on the big screen, outdoors on the grassy campus of the Ventura County Credit Union headquarters, 2575 Vista Del Mar Dr. from 5 to 10pm.

One of the largest environmental film festivals in North America, it shares an urgent call to action, encouraging festival-goers to learn more about what they can do to save our threatened planet.

"For Ventura Land Trust, the festival fosters a deeper understanding of the connection we share with the planet and our role as stewards to keep it healthy," said Leslie Velez, VLT's Development Director who noted sponsorships are still available. All details including tickets are at: www.VenturaLandTrust.org/wsf2021

"Protecting and preserving our open spaces is more important than ever," says VLT's Executive Director Melissa Baffa. "We saw how important they were to our wellbeing during the past year's pandemic shutdowns. Places like Harmon Canyon and Big Rock Preserves have become part of the fabric of Ventura, and they are part of our story of resilience."

The festival is an opportunity to see how VLT fits into the work individuals and organizations around the world are doing to protect the earth. Visitors to the Trust's preserves can explore and learn on 4,000 acres of permanently conserved land. Preserves are open to the public daily, for free.

The festival is the Trust's signature fundraising event to support its mission "to permanently protect the land, water, wildlife and scenic beauty of the Ventura region for current and future generations."

The festival features two hours of films, food from local food trucks, and a raffle. Beer from Topa Topa, Rincon and Leashless brewing companies are available for sale, and wine from Riboli Family Wines.

Live music will be played by the band Nautical Thrust. In the Ventura Vibe VIP Lounge, small bites from Himalaya Cuisine, Peirano's, Aloha Steakhouse, and others will be complemented by a custom cocktail by Ventura Spirits.

A general admission film festival ticket is \$35, with children's tickets available for \$5. VIP tickets, which include special gift items and admission to the Ventura Vibe VIP Lounge, are \$125.

Local businesses are welcome to become sponsors, contact Leslie Velez at: leslie@venturalandtrust.org

Sept. 14 vote recall facts

The vote to recall Democratic Gov. Gavin Newsom is set for Tuesday, Sept. 14 and there's a long list of people who would like to replace him, 46 as of a July 21 count, mostly made up of Republicans.

Newsom retains the support of the Democratic Party in California.

The recall will cost \$267 million to administer.

You can vote from the comfort of your own home. All registered voters should receive a vote-by-mail ballot shortly after Aug. 16. Ballots postmarked by Sept. 14 will be counted.

If you are not registered, Aug. 30 is the last day to do so.

In Ventura County, voting locations will be open for four days, Sept. 11-14.

In Santa Barbara County, election offices will be open for voting from Aug. 16 - Sept. 14. A local measure for the city of Lompoc will also be on the ballot for that area.

WILD & SCENIC FILM FESTIVAL
where activism gets inspired
A LIVE FESTIVAL EXPERIENCE

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SIGHTINGS

Our days of action pan out

By John Hankins

Outings are open as of July 5! Our very popular free public outings are back after being closed for over a year. There are, however, some Covid rules that you can read about on page 6.

Also open is the club's Adventures with a Cause which provide environmentally friendly outdoor adventures—from Tahoe to Tibet—for people of all ages, abilities, and interests. Prices are great, with big discounts for 'working vacations' which combine conservation work with lots of free time to roam. Check out these trips at:

<https://tinyurl.com/SClubOutings>

Please join our activities and activism; see Group News box on page 3 for contacts and links where you can get involved. We encourage all to go outside on your own or by MeetUp.

If you'd like to donate (it helps a lot and the money stays here at home), do not pass go, but go directly to: www.sierraclub.org/donate/1000

Here's what we've been up to since our last issue:

July 21: Santa Clara River zoom meeting about the County Watershed District's plans to rebuild the levy, but Sierra Club and others have a better idea to make it a natural barrier with a bike path and amenities, thanks to our resident flood control engineer, Nina Danza. Check out our better plan on this page under "Lobby for river trail."

July 20: Gas Out! In its article about the SB City Council unanimously voting to ban natural gas hook-ups in any new construction, the SB Independent gave us a big plug: "Many speakers from Sierra Club and a host of organizations testified in favor of the proposal. They schooled councilmembers on the perils of natural gas . . ." (See notice 'Using clean energy' in Katie Davis' Energy Rap page 1)

July 17: March and Rally against SoCal Gas plans to expand a potentially dangerous SoCal Gas Co. compressor station across the street from the Boys & Girls Club and the nearby EP Foster Elementary School in Ventura. The club has joined many other groups and citizens in opposing the plan at that location.

July 13: Utility-scale solar hearing at SB Board of Supervisors to allow a solar overlay for the Cuyama Valley Rural Region, which we support.

July 7: Channel 4 news reported "city of Santa Barbara is attempting to transition to renewables and is voting on a gas ban on new build properties" (See July 20) and yet UC-Santa Barbara Dr. Leah Stokes investigated SoCalGas lobbying tactics clearly showing a front group sending out

Ventura survey

The city of Ventura wants your input on its Climate Action and Resilience Plan, "a roadmap for how the community will reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and prepare for climate change impacts, future natural hazards, and increase resiliency."

Take the survey by Aug. 30 here:

<https://tinyurl.com/VenturaClimateSurvey>

The City is in the process of developing the plan to prepare for the potential impacts of natural hazards and climate change on public health, infrastructure, ecosystems, and our economy.

Your answers are anonymous, and you can also skip any questions.

thousands of emails claiming how expensive it would get if the city favored electrification. Read the whole report here:

<https://tinyurl.com/BacklashByGas>

July 5: Get Out! Outings re-open after a year and a half closure due to Covid-19. The free hikes by our Sierra Club leaders have been sorely missed, although pods of friends have connected via MeetUp. See our listings on pages 6.

June 30: Day of Action for the effort to protect 30% of lands and waters by 2030. Also, see a new coalition-built website highlighting local conservation work here:

www.30x30groundwork.org

June 23: Ojai Oil Wells were allowed by Ventura County Supervisors to continue operating three wells for ten years on a 3-2 vote. Those voting 'ayes' were Matt Lavere, Kelly Long and Bob Huber. While Carbon California Co.'s plans would have allowed for 25 years operating, Lavere compromised it down to 10, asserting that "we have to follow rules even where we don't agree with the end result." Our chapter's Luz Reyes-Martin remarked, "Good to remember this disappointing vote."

June 17: Connect the Cap campaign by our Conservation Director Jim Hines would require plastic bottles to have caps that are attached, thus

Mountain hikes open

Sierra Club Outings have returned to the Santa Monica Mountains.

The more adventurous aspect of the Sierra Club is dusting itself off and stretching back into action. The Santa Monica Mountains Task Force itself sponsors two Sierra Club hikes every Tuesday: the Tuesday Moderate Hikers (TMH) and the Tuesday Conditioned Hikers (TCH). So, if you're free, join us!

Coming up on August Tuesdays:

Moderate Hikers

8/10: Santa Monica's Hidden Stairs

8/17: Sycamore/Serrano Canyons

8/24: Sullivan Canyon Ridge Trail
8/31: Mishe Mokwa to Sandstone Peak

Lobby for river trail

"Don't let the Santa Clara River be the only river without a trail system."

That's the word from the Friends of the Santa Clara River and the Ventura Sierra Club is fully on board with that.

The County should include and fund a project-length bike/walk trail, education features about the river, and vegetation cover, according to the two groups, among others, for rebuilding the levee from Hwy 101 upstream 2.8 miles near Riverpark in Oxnard.

This is a great opportunity for a multipurpose project for Watershed and Flood Zone Management to protect human health, the environment, and allow for community enhancements such as a bikeway, education features, and vegetation cover, the Friends note on its website and comments to the Ventura County Watershed Protection District.

The Ventura Sierra Club submitted its own comments (deadline was July 27). Our board member, Nina Danza, has been involved in this project since its inception and is a professional civil engineer with many

reducing plastic pollution.

June 17: National Sierra Club announces historic support for Black reparations on the eve of Juneteenth, via HR 40, which would establish a commission to study reparation proposals. Read the story here:

<https://tinyurl.com/ClubBacksHR40>

June 10: Restructuring the Sierra Club via a virtual nationwide Town Hall occurred with numerous local members attending. It was aimed at our valuable volunteers.

June 9: Collateral damage is a real threat from a plan by SoCal Gas to expand a compressor site across Olive Street from the Boys and Girls Club and an elementary school in Ventura (see last issue). Our Ventura Sierra Club Chair, Liz Lamar, was quoted in the VC Reporter: "... gas is dead. It's dead energy. The future is electric." Issue was to require a full environmental analysis and Food and Water Watch rep Tomás Rebecchi noted, "Even a botanical garden in our area had to do an EIR."

June 2: Power of grassroots action was evident when AB 1139 was defeated. The bill would have gutted 'net metering' hitting solar owners with new monthly fees and blocking rooftop solar in favor of investor-owned monopolies. Tens of thousands wrote and called their lawmakers to oppose it; Sierra Club members responded in droves.

Conditioned Hikers

8/10: Santa Ynez Canyon, Trippet Ranch, Musch Trail

8/17: Sycamore Canyon "Lower West Side" Hike

New events are regularly added, so bookmark the Activity Calendar to see all upcoming hikes sponsored by the Task Force here:

<https://tinyurl.com/SMMntsHikes>

About 10-20 people sign on to each hike, to enjoy the outdoors and be with like-minded people.

The moderate hikes are usually about 8 miles with close to 1,000 ft gain, and the conditioned hikes are usually about 12 miles with about 2,000 ft gain. Of course, that varies from week to week. The moderate hikes usually end in the early afternoon, the conditioned hikes somewhat later.

years' experience in the storm water sector. Highlights from the club's comments include:

~ The project contains no measures for storm water conservation.

~ The project utilizes failed outdated flood control technology. Impervious, channelized flood control technology destroys riparian habitat and contributes to degraded water quality.

~ Channelizing the riverside bank with cement for flood control fails to support absorption any of the larger future storm intensities nor stay functional during an earthquake. Nature-based measures are far less costly to build initially and are far more resilient in disaster events.

~ Rejection of community amenities is the most unacceptable, such as a bike path, better habitat, public access and education.

~ The Water District should be pursuing strong partnerships and collaborations between flood and ground water and water quality departments, which adds to the ability to attract grant money.



Breaking News indeed. This was a social media post when the SB City Council voted unanimously to phase out gas appliances in new homes.

Thanks for the vote

On July 20, Santa Barbara City Council and Mayor Cathy Murillo voted unanimously to enact a new building ordinance prohibiting natural gas infrastructure in newly constructed buildings, except for restaurants and applications where there isn't yet a viable electric alternative to gas.

With this vote, the city takes an important step toward reducing greenhouse gas emissions and meeting our 2035 carbon neutrality goal.

We thank the mayor, council, and city staff for pushing this item forward. We'd also like to extend a huge thank you to the many supporters who signed our petition, gave public comment, and engaged in the process along the way to ensure that this important measure passed.

Removing natural gas infrastructure from new construction reduces construction costs and avoids the dangerous impact of using fossil fuels indoors. Additionally, pairing all-electric buildings with 100% renewable energy from the upcoming Santa Barbara Community Choice Energy program is a huge step toward decarbonization.

There is more that we can do together! Let's keep this

momentum going.

Electrify your own home! This ordinance only applies to new construction, but most of the gas use comes from existing buildings. Community Environmental Council (CEC) will continue to work towards making it easier to replace gas appliances in your home and relying on renewable energy resources.

We will continue working to encourage other cities and counties to pass similar measures. If you are a resident of Ventura, Oxnard, or Goleta, reach out to your local council members and express your interest in passing an all-electric reach code.

You can also get involved to prevent the expansion of the natural gas compressor station in Ventura. Additional capacity for natural gas is not needed and the plant is already located in a community highly burdened by pollution. Read more about it here:

<https://tinyurl.com/GasOffVentura>

Together, we can reverse, repair, and protect against the impacts of climate change for our community.

~ Katie Davis, (CEC President's Council Member and Sierra Club Santa Barbara Group Chair and Executive Committee)

Hello to new ranger

Los Padres National Forest officials announced the selection of Daryl Hodges as the new Santa Barbara District Ranger and he's already here, having started on July 6.

His most recent assignment was at the Angeles National Forest as the Forest Fisheries Biologist.

Hodges replaced John "Pancho" Smith, who accepted the position of Disaster Recovery Coordinator for the U.S. Forest Service's Southern Region in Atlanta, Georgia.

During his 27-year career, Hodges has served in a variety of natural resource positions beginning in 1994 on the Gifford Pinchot National Forest in Washington as a stream surveyor. In 1999 he was assigned to Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument where he spent five years planning and administering stream habitat enhancement projects as the Monument Fish Biologist.

Hodges spent 10 years in the Southern Region on the Apalachicola and Chattahoochee-Oconee national forests in Florida and Georgia before accepting a position in the Pacific Southwest Region on the Plumas National Forest. He worked on the Plumas for four years before moving to the Angeles National Forest. He recently completed an Acting District Ranger assignment on the Lincoln National Forest's Guadalupe Ranger District.

Hodges is a native of Philadelphia and graduated from

University of Maryland Eastern Shore in 1997 with a degree in General Agriculture/Animal Science. He and his wife, Gwen, have four children.

"I am thrilled to join Los Padres, and I am excited to work with the Santa Barbara community and the many visitors who come each year to enjoy these amazing public lands," Hodges said.



Welcome to Daryl Hodges, our new Los Padres Forest Ranger. (Photo USFS)

EAVESDROPS

"We have always known that in order to access the most beautiful corners of the U.S., you must first pass through some of its most racist corners."

~ Amanda Machado, writing "Why People of Color Often Feel Unsafe in the Outdoors," Sierra Club magazine.

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Santa Barbara, CA
Permit No. 9

Climate + Art = Change

Save the dates, Oct. 23 and 24 for a very special event that is easy math: Climate + Art = Change for a Clean World.

It features the exhibition and sale of paintings by 125 well-known local Central Coast artists. This benefit is organized by SCAPE Art Organization with all proceeds going to the Sierra Club Los Padres Chapter and the Community Environmental Council.

SCAPE (Southern California Artists Painting for the Environment) has arranged the show to be both virtual and live, in accordance with current Covid attendance instructions. (Note: the online show will be set up by the Community Environmental Council and will be active on Oct. 12th, with the online show itself up for sale from October 16-22.)

"Although this is an open show, landscapes, figures, still life and abstracts will be accepted

for jurying, special emphasis will be placed on subject matter that relates to Climate Change," said Natalie Wilson, the Exhibit Chair.

The show is at the Community Arts Workshop (631 Garden Street in downtown Santa Barbara). Dynamic local artists will be on to talk about their work. Al Gore's Climate Reality Project will host speaker panels and an educational showcase. Explore Ecology will be providing children's activities as well.

The reception on Saturday will include wine and light refreshments, as well as an award presentation and live music.

Times are 1-8pm for Saturday Oct 23 with the opening reception from 5-8 and from 10am to 5pm on Sunday, Oct. 24.

If you would like to volunteer to help with the event or need more information, contact Emily Engel of the Sierra Club: emilyaengel@gmail.com



Nowhere to Run, a monotype, 8x10", by Anthony Galvan is part of the show. He said: "the wildfires in Australia coupled with our wildfires inspired me to work on a few pieces with that theme. Having seen herds in the Serengeti running from wildfires I created this monotype."

Check out SCAPE for more details and photos of artworks at: <https://scape.wildapricot.org>

"This is a perfect confluence of events and activism and having the proceeds go to the local Sierra Club chapter and CEC fits

in perfect with their missions. So, thanks in advance for your support and we look forward to seeing you at this exciting event," said 'Condor' John Hankins, editor of Condor Call who expects to purchase and/or donate.

Oil facilities swept from Rincon Island



Phase 1 of taking out all the oil paraphernalia on the iconic Rincon Island along the 101 freeway is complete. The State Lands and its contractors have abandoned all 27 wells and all 50 of the onshore wells as of June 30. Drilltek Inc. will continue to staff Rincon Island with a caretaker to provide site security and maintenance. Site presence will be augmented with roving security; no public access. A Phase 2 and 3 are planned and it is unknown what the future holds. Learn more at: <https://slc.ca.gov/oil-and-gas/rincon/>

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