

Vol. 21, No. 6 of 6

December 2021 - January 2022

# Condor Call

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



© Photo by Judy Spaar

Energy & Ocean ... Sightings ... Regenerate Climate ... Wild Life

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# Your choice of energy is now serving our area

By Katie Davis

## Community Energy

Sierra Club and our allies have long advocated for community choice energy programs to accelerate procurement of renewable energy and invest dollars locally in greater resilience and faster progress toward climate goals.

This year we have finally achieved coverage across our entire Chapter region! In October Santa Barbara Clean Energy ([www.sbcleanenergy.com](http://www.sbcleanenergy.com)) launched for residential customers in the City of Santa Barbara. And Central Coast Community Energy ([www.3CEnergy.org](http://www.3CEnergy.org)) launched in Goleta, Carpinteria and unincorporated areas of Santa Barbara County.

Also, more jurisdictions are opting for 100% renewable energy default plans in Ventura and LA Counties through CPA ([www.CleanPowerAlliance.org](http://www.CleanPowerAlliance.org)) with remarkable results. For example, Thousand Oaks' greenhouse gas emissions from the energy sector dropped 80% between 2018 and 2020.

## Battery Energy

Battery projects continue to roll out in our region. These provide more reliable power with zero emissions and let us retire old polluting gas-powered peaker plants by reducing peak demand.

On Oct. 25, the Goleta Planning Commission approved a 60-megawatt battery storage facility on Cortona Drive. It will utilize Tesla batteries to provide 87,600 megawatt-hours annually, which is equivalent to supplying annual energy demands to 13,257 homes.

## Wind Energy

Local wind energy is now a reality as well.

In November, the first wind turbine was completed

in the Lompoc wind project, which will eventually provide enough energy for 45,000 homes. Offshore proposals are slowly advancing as comments are due Jan. 11 on the latest proposed area for offshore wind, which is located approximately 20 miles offshore the central California coastline and contains approximately 240,898 acres (376 square miles). Comment at the Wind Energy Virtual Meeting Room here: <https://tinyurl.com/OceanWindSite>

## Comment Time

California is finally issuing health and safety rules around oil production statewide, but there is a big loophole we're trying to remove – the exception for existing infrastructure.

If you'd like to do one good thing today, send an email by Dec. 21 to:

[calgemregulations@conservation.ca.gov](mailto:calgemregulations@conservation.ca.gov)

Tell them to support new state regulations to protect public health from oil drilling by requiring a 3200-foot oil well setback from homes and schools, which is recommended by its own Science Advisory Panel to apply the rule to existing operations, not just brand-new development.

## Decision Time

In a major victory, the SB Planning Commission has recommended denial of ExxonMobil's plan to restart its offshore oil platforms off the Gaviota coast and truck the oil on the 101.

The platforms have been shut down since the 2015 Refugio oil spill from a ruptured pipeline. Since the pipeline remains too badly corroded to use, ExxonMobil proposes to truck the oil via 24,800 tanker truck trips per year on Highway

*continued on page 2*



# 'Refreshing' moves to remove derogatory names

*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, starting the first week of October. Jim is our chapter vice-chair and conservation director who belongs to many wildlife groups.*

Oct 4: Forest Service news release

## EAVESDROPS

"This is the greenest proposal ever seen."

~ Our local Rep. Salud Carbajal, on the passage of the Democrats' Infrastructure bill, adding, "This is going to be big for the country and the Central Coast, most significantly in the money it brings and jobs, jobs, jobs."

approving logging project of 800 acres in Pine Mtn/Reyes Peak area. Several outdoor groups oppose the project, notably:

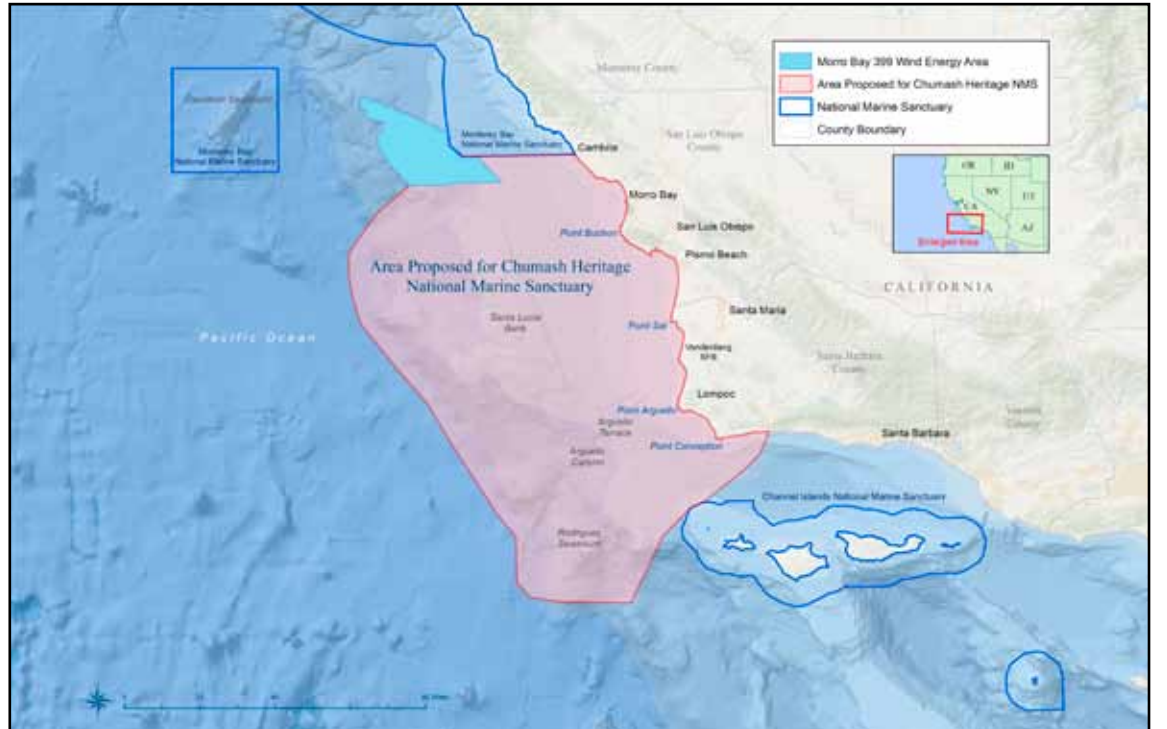
<https://lpfw.org/>

See Forest Service's Project Proposal on why:

<https://tinyurl.com/ReyesPeak>

Oct 13: As we move into a new age with a major Sierra Club focus on diversity and inclusiveness, we are seeing one more step in that effort here in Ventura County. Junipero Serra's image could be removed in the county's seal update. Last year our Chapter supported the removal of the Padre Serra statue in front of Ventura city hall.

Oct 16: The judge in my lawsuit to get the Biden Administration to relist wolves as endangered has set a trial start date of Nov. 12 when oral arguments will begin. So far we have been able to get over 5000 public comments into the Fish and



## CHUMASH SANCTUARY

# Surf's up for ocean proposal

By John Hankins

After forty years of region-wide advocacy, the federal government will advance the proposed Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary to the 'designation' phase, making it the first tribally nominated sanctuary in the nation.

It would cover a 7,000 square mile area along 176 miles of the central California coast, adjacent to San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara counties, tying in between the Monterey Bay and the Channel Islands marine sanctuaries.

The boundaries are adjusted to exclude a 400 square mile area for wind energy development, contributing towards the Biden Administration's goal to deploy 30 gigawatts of offshore wind by 2030. That will also be part of public comments (see links above). A diverse assembly of leaders and the public rushed to applaud the action. It will now enter the 'scoping' phase, which includes input from the public and is the first phase in a four-step process (see box for virtual meetings).

"I am thrilled the Biden

## Comment on Chumash Marine Sanctuary

Virtual public meetings will be held in December and January to gather input on the scope and significance of issues to be addressed in the environmental impact statement that are related to designating this area as a national marine sanctuary. Deadline is Jan. 10, 2022. More details here:

<http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/Chumash-heritage>

Dec 8, 6 – 9pm – Registration:

<https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/5934702389309680399>

Dec 13, 1 – 4pm - Registration:

<https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/1642653198337341710>

Jan 6 (2022) -- 4 – 7pm

<https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/2954174857204428046>

administration has taken this step to protect our coastal areas from further oil and gas drilling and strengthen our state's \$1.9 trillion coastal economy, which is propped up by tourism and commercial fishing," said Rep. Salud Carbajal. "Bringing the proposed sanctuary into the designation phase is the result of years of public engagement ... I am also thankful for the steadfast leadership of the late Fred Collins, Chair of the Northern Chumash Tribal Council,

whose legacy of advocacy was instrumental in moving this project forward."

"(This) will protect ocean life, sacred Chumash sites, strengthen Indigenous communities and serve as a model of environmental justice," said Violet Sage Walker, Fred Collins' daughter and the current Tribal Chair. "Today my father would be proud. This is one of the things he wanted to see the most," she added.

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Wildlife Service to relist wolves ... comment period closes on Dec. 17; here's the link to comment:

<https://tinyurl.com/WolfPeril>

Nov 18: Interior Secretary has now created a committee to remove derogatory names from all national public lands units.

I talked to the office to include the Los Padres National Forest name on the list of federal lands to be renamed. They told me to wait a "couple more weeks" until the committee is fully up and operating.

I focused on a large land unit where I live: the Los Padres National Forest. I advocated removing 'Los

Padres' (which means *The Fathers*, a name used to honor early Spanish missionaries who abused native Chumash in the region).

I advocate replacing it with "Central Coast National Forest, where the national forest is located. *Editor's note: Jim has made it clear this is his choice, the suggested name change is not an official designation by our local Sierra*

*continued on page 2*



Gary Wolf OR93 found in Ventura County after an epic odyssey from Oregon over 900 miles away. But he was killed around Nov. 24 by a motorist off Interstate 5. (Courtesy CDFW)

## COVER PHOTO

"Majestic Offering! On my way to the eagles nest this morning, I was hoping that the moon and eagle (named *Majestic*) would offer this blessing. I was grateful how Divine Light shined upon us," said Judy Spaar, a photographer at Lake Casitas. See more of her excellent photography at [@LakeCasitasEaglesOjai](http://www.Facebook.com/OjaiValleyWildlife)



## Surf's up...

*continued from page 1*

Thank local Democrat legislators, all of whom have been endorsed by the Sierra Club which strongly supported the sanctuary. They include Carbajal, and Senators Feinstein and then-Senator Harris. They succeeded in gaining a five-year extension from 2015, avoiding the Trump Administration's likely rejection. In August, Carbajal led the charge to get it into the 'designation' phase.

The waters off the Central Coast are some of the most biologically diverse and ecologically productive regions in the world. The marine resources include feeding grounds for whales and dolphins, sea otters, kelp forests, and is home to vital commercial and recreational fisheries.

These resources are essential to California's \$1.9 trillion coastal economy and supports \$731 billion in wages, according to NOAA.

"It's impossible to fully calculate all the benefits the Central Coast will receive as a result of the ecosystem-based management that a national marine sanctuary brings," noted Andrew Christie, director of the Santa Lucia Sierra Club.

"This proposal demonstrates

the Biden-Harris administration's commitment to lifting up community-led efforts to conserve our lands and waters and strengthen our economy," said Deb Haaland, Secretary of the Interior. "Local voices, Indigenous knowledge, and collaborative stewardship will be integral to our efforts to bolster community resilience, protect our natural resources, and build a clean energy economy."

Remarking on the recent oil pipeline break near Huntington Beach, no less than Brenda Mallory, Chair of the White House Council on Environmental Quality, said, "it's a costly and harmful reminder that we need to do more to protect our coastal communities from the threats that our ocean is facing. The Chumash Heritage sanctuary proposal and the Morro Bay wind energy area provide an opportunity for communities to help shape how we both protect the region's extraordinary marine and cultural resources and harness the ocean's clean energy potential."

Now it's the public's turn to weigh in, and as our Chapter vice-chair Jim Hines said, "So let's get comments in, supporting the sanctuary's creation!"

The public can comment on the proposed sanctuary designation until January 10, 2022, through the Federal eRulemaking Portal at:

[www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov)

The docket number is NOAA-NOS-2021-0080. It will also host virtual public meetings on Dec. 8, 13, and January 6 (2022) during which members of the public can offer oral comments.

A detailed description of the proposed sanctuary, as well as additional information about opportunities to provide comment, can be found at:

<http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/Chumash-heritage>



## Your choice...

*continued from page 1*

101. The Commission rightly concluded that the risk of spills and accidents from such a plan outweigh any possible benefit.

In February or early March, the Board of Supervisors will make a final decision on this egregious project. If you live in the county, let your Supervisor know that you expect him/her to vote to deny the trucking project.

### Decommission Time

Work to plug and abandon the 30 oil wells on Platform Holly off the coast of Goleta has resumed but it will take more than a year to complete.

CA State Lands plans to have a town hall about it on Dec. 8. Further offshore in federal waters, similar work is being done on Platforms Gail and Grace off of Carpinteria and Hidalgo, Harvest and Hermosa off the Gaviota coast. Meanwhile, another old well on Summerland beach, one called Duquesne #910, is slated to be properly abandoned this month.

### Protect Sespe

ForestWatch is challenging the county of Ventura's extension of an oil drilling permit in the Sespe Oil Field adjacent to the Los Padres National Forest and Sespe Creek. It's the first



The Strauss wind turbine shines in bright lights as the first now in operation in the Lompoc area (Photo BayWa). Residents have had to put up with slow traffic when the giant blades must be realigned under power poles and difficult street turns. Resident Sally Hankins, who took the photo, said a lot of residents don't seem to know much about this game-changing new energy source.

extension of an oil drilling permit in the Sespe Oil Field in 25 years, yet the County is trying to approve the permit by shortcutting the environmental study process. The appeal will be heard at the Ventura Planning Commission in early 2022. Find out more here:

<https://tinyurl.com/NoSespeOil>

### Looking Forward

The Build Back Better Act was passed by Congress on Nov. 19 and could make it to a Senate vote in December. Among its many social and environmental benefits, it would permanently ban future offshore oil and gas

leasing off the coast of California and invest \$555 billion in clean energy and climate initiatives, the most significant effort to combat climate change in American history.

## EAVESDROPS

**"We Are Living in a Climate Emergency, and We're Going to Say So."**

~ Headline for Mark Fischetti's article in *Scientific American*, noting "it's time to use a term that more than 13,000 scientists agree is needed." Read it here:

<https://tinyurl.com/SayItsSo>

## EAVESDROPS

*"These platforms were built 40 years ago, and they've been in the wind and the harsh conditions out at sea - they're time bombs waiting to go off, for an oil spill like this to occur."*

~ Miyoko Sakashita, of Center for Biological Diversity about the offshore Orange County spill from a pipeline leak on Oct 2. There are 200 miles of pipelines serving 23 offshore platforms, 11 no longer producing, five in the early stages of decommissioning.

## Condor Call

[www.sierraclub.org/lospadres](http://www.sierraclub.org/lospadres) ~ All phone numbers 1-805 area code

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**Photos, news, tips always welcome!**

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Typography and production by Dan Fuller

## Refreshing moves...

*continued from page 1*

Club chapter, although it has been discussed with numerous other suggestions, such as *Condor Chapter et al.*)

It is refreshing to see the Interior Secretary committed to righting the wrongs of the past and give us great national public land names which honor the land.

Nov 19: **Monarchs & Pollinators** are beneficiaries of a bill mentioned in this link:

<https://tinyurl.com/PromotePollinators>

It's part of the Build Back Better bill passed by the House of Representative today. Thank

## EAVESDROPS

*"We began that restorative accountability process to understand and examine where we failed our people so we can do better as an organization, as an employer, as an advocacy group and progressive partner We have made a commitment to follow through on these changes."*

~ Ramón Cruz, the Sierra Club board president, in an interview with the *Intercept* following a report focusing on internal reckoning over race, gender, and abusive cultures. Read the full story by @AlleenBrown here:

<https://interc.pt/3CZWofT>

you, Representative Carbajal!

Nov 20: **Wilderness Basics Course** board members and volunteer staff would like our Chapter to fund a bench to be placed in a local wild area as our thanks to Teresa Norris for her many years of service to WBC, both as founder and chair. Our chapter ExCom unanimously approved of the idea.

Teresa knows about this project and would like the bench to be in Sisar Canyon in Upper Ojai, one of her favorite hiking spots in the National Forest locally. Not sure we can do that, but WBC people are looking into that and if not, a possible alternative site.

Nov 22: **Sierra Club policy** allows us to support removing offensive and outdated symbols from the official seal of the County of Ventura.

The current seal includes an oil rig, Padre Serra and San Buenaventura Mission (religious symbols which should not be a part of our county seal), nuclear testing symbol (this is no longer happening in Ventura County).

In their place might go agricultural fields with farm workers who pick our food, Channel Islands National Park, a California Condor, our beautiful mountains and beaches.

We have come a long way since our county was officially formed in

1873, 30 years after my ancestors first arrived in this area and settled on land in the western part of the Ojai Valley. My ancestors were part of old Ventura County, and I am glad to be part of a new Ventura County.

Nov 22: **Secretarial order** immediately bans the use of the word "squaw" on federal land names. I have notified the Interior Secretary's office that the word 'squaw' is used in the Los Padres National Forest: Squaw Flats and Squaw Spring located north of Fillmore, and I've asked to have those names removed from maps and publications.

*Editor's note, quoting Wikipedia: "The English word 'squaw' is an ethnic and sexual slur; historically used for Indigenous North American women. Contemporary use of the term, especially by non-Natives, is considered offensive, derogatory, misogynist, and racist. The word is not used among Native American, First Nations, Inuit, or Métis peoples."*

Nov 24: **Our beloved gray wolf** OR-93 who had journeyed from southern Oregon to the backcountry of Ventura County has been found dead near Lebec, CA (next to the 5 freeway).

Fish and Wildlife reported that OR-93 was struck by an automobile. So sad, OR-93 was my inspiration and I know an inspiration to many of you. We mourn his death, and we will keep up on our work to protect wolves (wildlife overpasses) and their habitat.

~ Edited by John Hankins





**Robert Bernstein**

Building a sustainable world means supporting good projects, not just opposing bad projects. My vision:

A community that is more walkable, bikeable and transit friendly. For social justice as well as for environmental reasons. A community that produces much of our own food and renewable energy. A community where we can access nature in a way that enriches us yet minimizes damage to our natural ecosystems.

The Climate Crisis is the result of human policies and activities and we urgently need change.

I was first elected to the Executive Committee in 1998. I was a founding Board member of COAST (Coalition for Sustainable Transportation) and past president of the Bicycle Coalition. I have used my decades of transportation experience as Transportation Chair on the Executive Committee. I have also been Group Chair in the past.

I am a hike leader and a photographer and writer for the *Condor Call* newspaper. I am grateful to write for local regional news services which gives our message a wider audience.

Our current Executive Committee is a powerhouse team that works well together. I would be honored to serve with this team for another term!

[robert@robert.name](mailto:robert@robert.name)

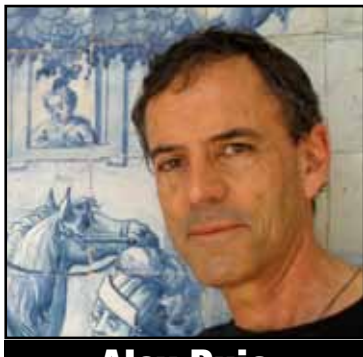


**Katie Davis**

"Blaa, blaa, blaa," said Greta Thunberg at the latest UN climate conference, contrasting leaders' fine words with the scientific truth that CO2 emissions are still rising and we need more action, more quickly.

As current Chair of the SB Group, I enjoy working to secure concrete victories, including getting Santa Barbara to set a goal of 100% renewable energy by 2030 and implementing a Community Choice Energy program to achieve it.

Also, defeating 750+ proposed oil wells and requiring that new buildings and MTD buses be pollution-free and all electric. I also serve on Sierra Club California's board, the CA Climate and Energy Committee, and Sierra Club's National Marine Team. I am also a trained presenter of Al Gore's "Climate Reality Project" and work in coalition with lots of other organizations because we are stronger together.



**Alex Pujo**

I was born and raised in Argentina and came to Santa Barbara in 1974. My wife and I own a small architecture and planning firm:

[www.pujo.net](http://www.pujo.net)

Since 1992 we have been involved in local and regional transportation planning because we believe that auto-mobility is one of the greatest environmental threats facing us.

We live in an area that exports its impacts to surrounding communities and places little value on environmental justice. Our older neighborhoods are convincing proof that life is better for all living organisms when we live close to town, drive less and walk more.

Newer transportation policies are increasing access for everyone, but antiquated planning practices encourage sprawl and create a false choice between quality of life and housing supply.

I am a founding member of the Coalition for Sustainable Transportation (COAST) and a member of the Bicycle Coalition since 1994. I currently serve on the executive committees of the Santa Barbara Group and the Los Padres Chapter; I co-chair the Political Committee that reviews local political races and recommends endorsements.

Thank you for your support.

[alex@pujo.net](mailto:alex@pujo.net)



**Luz Reyes-Martin**

I'm honored to serve as the Vice-Chair on the Executive Committee for the Sierra Club Santa Barbara Chapter.

As a member of the Executive Committee, I work alongside other members to continue our advocacy work, work in coalition with other community groups, and continue to grow a strong member base. I've been proud to work alongside activists with the Sierra Club chapter in leading the work needed in our communities.

Preservation, protection, education, and environmental justice are areas that the Sierra Club will continue to fight for and that I am committed to focusing on. The effects of climate change, the threat of oil expansion, and other environmental hazards disproportionately affect underrepresented communities across the Central Coast.

I'd be honored to have your support to remain on the Executive Committee. I live in Goleta with my family, I currently serve on the Goleta School Board, and am employed by Planned Parenthood California Central Coast.

"Do work that matters. Vale la pena" - Gloria Anzaldúa

**SANTA BARBARA GROUP MEMBERS ONLY VOTE**

**Santa Barbara Group Executive Committee Ballot**

See candidate statements this page

NOTE: Only members of the SANTA BARBARA GROUP can vote for the candidates below. A second column is provided for households with dual memberships who get only one *Condor Call*. You may photocopy or cut this ballot from the *Condor Call*.

Mail ballot before Dec. 31 to:

Santa Barbara Group, Sierra Club, P.O. Box 31241, Santa Barbara, CA 93130

Vote for NO MORE THAN 4 (FOUR) people including the write-in option if you wish.

In alphabetical order: 1<sup>st</sup> member 2<sup>nd</sup> member

<b>Robert Bernstein</b>	_____	_____
<b>Katie Davis</b>	_____	_____
<b>Alex Pujo</b>	_____	_____
<b>Luz Reyes-Martin</b>	_____	_____

Write in candidate if desired: \_\_\_\_\_

Please provide your Sierra Club member ID # (from your *Condor Call* mailing label or your membership card)

(Number is only to ensure a valid confidential vote. It will not be tied to your name)

**Reopening wastewater plant in SP eyed**

The wastewater plant in Santa Paula, closed by an explosion in 2014, has sat dormant for the last seven years but that could soon change if the County of Ventura approves an application to reopen the facility.

If so, opponents are ready to object strongly when public hearings open up in early 2022.

Placed near schools, farms, the Santa Clara River, and on sacred Chumash land, the plant's reopening would put culturally and environmentally sensitive habit at substantial risk, yet the Planning Division has not required a full Environmental Impact Report of the proposed project.

If the facility is permitted to reopen, it would be expanded and operate nonstop, creating pollution from the tanker trucks hauling hazardous waste. The plant is at 815 Mission Rock Road and the company asking to reopen is Ri-Nu Services LLC.

The plant would accept trucked-in domestic waste from portable toilets, septic tanks, and industrial wastes, including those from oilfields. It would be permitted to operate around the clock with up to 500 truck deliveries a week. County officials found the operation's effect on farming could be minimized with a vegetative screen, dust control and proper communication.

However, a hearing held on Nov. 8 turned contentious. Some residents told the Ventura County Planning Director and the applicant "we won't take what others don't want." Planning director Dave Ward, who sat at the same table with Ri-Nu CEO Tim Koziol, defended his staff's claim that there really wasn't much to worry about due to 'mitigation'.

Former Santa Paula mayor Marianne Krause, Santa Paula Latino Town Forum, CFROG and other groups are organizing opposition, and the Ventura Sierra Club is keeping a close eye on it.

Representatives said the county planners ignored studying the worst-case scenario when in fact the worst case already happened when crimes were committed on the property that led to injuries to many and disabilities to firefighters in the explosion seven years ago. The 2014 explosion occurred when a chemical used in the processing

of waste products was loaded into a human waste truck, causing a chemical reaction and explosion as well as spontaneous combustion. Ri-Nu testified it would modify its methods.

Public comment ended Nov. 30, but if the planners go ahead to approve the proposal without a full EIR, opponents are ready to appeal. Public hearings will likely start early 2022. For up-to-date details, go to:

<https://tinyurl.com/WastewaterRi-Nu>

**EVENTS**

Dec 8: **Powered by People** to discuss what comes next for the Build Back Better Act and beyond, featuring Acting ED of Sierra Club Dan Chu for a virtual event. Sign up here: <https://tinyurl.com/BBBjoin>

Dec 15: **Bee & Butterfly** plant planting at Ventura Community Park, 9am to restore the habitat and populate the species. Details go to: [www.MeetUp.com/SierraClubVentura](http://www.MeetUp.com/SierraClubVentura)

Dec 16: **Renewable Trends** sponsored by Sierra Club, a virtual event to learn how we can most effectively steer decision-makers toward practical and equitable solutions. Register here: <https://tinyurl.com/ActSCLub>

Jan 5: **Supper Club**, our first at 4pm at The Good Plow in Carpinteria and discuss the real cost of cheap food! (See story pg ?) Join the Meetup which is the best way to host nutritionist Gerri French to track RSVPs. There is a \$10 fee for the Supper Club with \$5 refunded that can be used to support The Good Plow with food and beverage purchases. Go here: <https://www.meetup.com/Santa-Barbara-Food-and-Farm-Adventures/events/282193938/edit/>

**EAVESDROPS**

"Enough of treating nature like a toilet."

~ U.N. Secretary-General António Guterres during the Glasgow climate summit, urging world leaders to do more to address the climate emergency.

Then U.S. President Joe Biden noted, "It's destroying people's lives and livelihoods."

But to Greta Thunberg it was all a lot of "blah, blah, blah."



See catch currents at: [www.sierraclub.org/lospadres](http://www.sierraclub.org/lospadres)

**Most meetings continue online for now**

*Group News*

[www.SBSierraClub.org](http://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](mailto:gching@cox.net)  
~ Chapter website and blog at: [www.SierraClub.org/LosPadres](http://www.SierraClub.org/LosPadres)

**SANTA BARBARA GROUP**

~ We meet 1<sup>st</sup> 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](http://www.facebook.com/SierraClubArguelloGroup) ~Volunteers needed; your talents could make a difference. Call 350-0629 or: [RebeccaAugust@mac.com](mailto:RebeccaAugust@mac.com)

**VENTURA NETWORK**

~ For board meeting dates, times and location email: [sierraclubventura@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://www.meetup.com/SierraClubVentura)

**CONEJO GROUP**

~ Events, outings and meetings will be sent to you if you sign up at [ConejoGroup@gmail.com](mailto:ConejoGroup@gmail.com)  
Otherwise, get all information on this eastern Ventura County Group from Hugh Warren, 341-6295 [mail@hkwarren.net](mailto:mail@hkwarren.net)  
[www.sierraclub.org/los-padres/conejo](http://www.sierraclub.org/los-padres/conejo)  
[www.sierraclub.org/los-padres/conejo/outings](http://www.sierraclub.org/los-padres/conejo/outings)





# SIGHTINGS

## We act from the ground up

By John Hankins

The last two months have provided some good success, but of course being a champion for our local slice of the planet is a steady job. Check it out, lots of good info and links.

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. And check out our free outings on pages 6&7.

If you'd like to donate (it helps a lot and the money stays here at home), go to: [www.sierraclub.org/donate/1000](http://www.sierraclub.org/donate/1000)

Dec 4: **Holiday Party** (virtual online) for our whole chapter in Ventura and Santa Barbara counties. Guest speakers, awards and celebrating our 'wins' in 2021.

Nov 22: **Redistricting** for SB County was on tap for public comment by the Independent Commission and our chapter weighed in, with the notorious 3-2 Board of Supervisors' makeup at stake. Tendency was to support map 818 as a balanced approach, and each district would

have some coastline.

Nov 20: **We did it!** Sierra Club, as well as our coalition partners, urged CalGEM to consider a minimum 2500-ft buffer zone between extraction sites and sensitive areas (homes, schools, public places). We may get more, a 3200-foot buffer! On this date the club hosted a leadership meeting to ensure it gets done with the public comment period ending Dec. 31 and a final rule in 2022. Send comments to: [CalGEMRegulations@conservation.ca.gov](mailto:CalGEMRegulations@conservation.ca.gov)

Nov 18: **Hollister Ranch** coastal access program workshop conducted for education and activism on this long-running issue with our chapter advocating for more public access. Lots of info here: [www.Coastal.Ca.gov/hollister-ranch](http://www.Coastal.Ca.gov/hollister-ranch)

Nov 18: **Bee & Butterfly** native plant installations at Ventura Community (Kimball) Park by volunteers sponsored by Ventura Sierra Club and Ventura Tree Alliance.

Nov. 15: **Bike Spot** building at Parking Lot #3 in Santa Barbara should be restored to its original use as

a secure bike parking for commuters using a combo of bike and bus. That was the word via a letter to SB Mayor and Council by Katie Davis, our Chapter Chair and Heather Deutsch of SBBike+COAST and Michael Chiacos of the Community Environmental Council. We'll see if they 'do the right thing'.

Nov 4: **Flood Awakening:** Nina Danza (Ventura Sierra Club) tipped us to a campaign to change FEMA regs to disconnect the "build-flood-damage-rebuild cycle" that has destroyed riverine ecology in the U.S. A To-Do session was sponsored by Anthropocene Alliance. We have printed information on this issue before, thanks to Nina and friends, to convince Ventura flood control to use natural materials as berms instead of concrete. Watch this Space!

Nov 3: **Trucks Stop** at the SB Planning Commission as staff recommends **not** to allow Exxon to use trucks to transport its offshore oil. The staff advice was to justify the planners' 3-2 denial during a meeting of Sept. 29, and now it's on to the Board of Supervisors. Staff notes that highways are not properly designed to carry the load of up to 70 trucks per day, among other findings.

Nov 1: **Serge Trotsky**, a former longtime hiker and member of the Conejo Group, died in his sleep. He was a retired LAPD officer and is survived by his wife Gloria and son David.

Oct 28: **Oak Tree planting** at Ventura's Community Park, a collaboration with the Ventura Sierra Club, Ventura Tree Alliance and East Ventura Community Council.

Oct 27: **Ion Energy!** The news that Goleta approved a new 60-Megawatt energy storage Megapack that also ties into Isla Vista prompted this reply from our Chapter Chair Katie Davis, quoted in *Noozhawk*: "It really is reducing fossil fuel use. The alternative to building these battery storage facilities was to build another power plant in Oxnard. I am confident this will help us retire Ellwood, which is a very old and polluting power plant."

Oct 27: **Working for US.** Congratulations to our local CA representatives with 100% scores, noted our chapter Chair Katie Davis when Sierra Club California released its latest report card today.



Chapter Chair Katie Davis (above) checks out the SCAPE artists show Oct. 23-24 (<https://SCAPE.wildapricot.org>) It was a fundraiser for Sierra Club and Community Environmental Council with Climate Change as the theme (Photo by Condor John, who bought "The Last Tree" painting and he intends to will it to the Joni Mitchell "Tree Museum") Below, the club gave artist Kevin Gleason our own reward, separate from SCAPE. It's entitled "Creek Flow Tunnel Trail" and next to it is Natalie Wilson, Exhibit Chair. (Photo by Katie Davis)

They are Assembly member Steve Bennett (D-37), and State Senators Monique Limón (D-19) and Henry Stern (D-27). SCC singled out notable bills like Limón's SB-47 which gives up to \$5 million a year to plug abandoned oil wells.

Oct 26: **Great News!** Senators Feinstein and Padilla sent a letter asking the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to withdraw the proposed General Conservation Plan for oil and gas activities in SB County. We greatly appreciate the support from Rep. Carabajal on this important issue, based on potential harm to endangered species.

Oct 23-24: **Art show** fundraiser for our Sierra Club Los Padres Chapter and Community Environment Council by SCAPE (SoCal Artists Painting for the Environment) and the Climate Reality Project. Also included speakers on climate change. Condor John bought "The Last Tree" painting and intends to will it to Joni Mitchell's Tree Museum.

Oct 20: **Racism and Climate** crisis connections were noted by the Sierra Club via an online panel discussion by Hop Hopkins, the club's director of Organizational Transformation. Members from the Los Padres chapter attended, and the panel was recorded.

Oct 17: **River Run** and Trout Trot by Friends of the Santa Clara River with help from the Ventura Sierra Club members, followed by a clean-up.

Oct 15: **Dismantle Exxon** hardware on the Gaviota Coast, a blog by our Executive Director Jon Ullman lists why it's past time, noting the Huntington Beach oil spill, Santa Maria tanker truck accident starting a fire, and the Alisal wildfire threatening the Exxon processing



plant (luckily shut down), Read it here: <https://tinyurl.com/DismantleExxon>

Oct 15: **Cancel leases** currently open for offshore oil in the Santa Barbara Channel. That message was sent by our Chapter to the Center for Biological Diversity group that intends to deliver an emergency petition to the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management to cancel those leases.

Oct 14: **Westside Coalition** coalesced outside the Museum of Ventura County to tell SoCal Gas it needs to do an Environmental Impact Report for its proposed compressor expansion project across Olive Street from the Boys and Girls club and an elementary school. Some of the protesters were not allowed in and many dropped to the ground in protest.

Oct 13: **New board members** for our Wilderness Basics Course announced. They are Sean Cole, Patty Peinado, and Scott Nelson. They join the other members of the board: Condor John Hankins, Alisse Fisher, Marc Hertz, Teresa Norris, Cara Peden, and Jim Hines. Also, Heather D'Anna has accepted the position of WBC Outings Chair. Discussions continue whether WBC will be revived in 2022.

Oct 13: **SB Group signed** on to urge the Biden Administration "to immediately initiate the designation of the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary."

Oct 12: **Suz Montgomery**, a Sierra Club member and wife to *Condor Call* editor, John Hankins, lost her long-time battle with cancer, which she believed was from environmental pollution. Her influence ranged locally and statewide and her expertise covered a wide range as an interviewer on issues via her own TV show, long-time advocate for seniors, diversity and racial justice to name a few. Also known as a chef and gardener, those who wish may donate to the Ventura Sierra Club: [www.sierraclub.org/los-padres/ventura](http://www.sierraclub.org/los-padres/ventura)

Oct 11: **Alisal Fire starts**, affecting the Gaviota Coast, closing Hwy 101 and the railroad for four days, and burning over 17,000 thousand acres, hampered by strong winds that sometimes grounded fire planes. Full containment wasn't until Oct. 20. No word on the cause.



'No more gophers' is the rallying cry for volunteers protecting newly planted trees and other plants at the Kellogg (aka Ventura Community) Park. (Photo by Nina Danza) Volunteers are welcome, if interested, go here: [www.MeetUp.com/SierraClubVentura](http://www.MeetUp.com/SierraClubVentura)

## Group plans to plant

About 15 Sierra Club volunteers came out to Kimball Park (officially Ventura Community Park) to plant native species as part of a new restoration project on Nov. 18.

Originally proposed by East Ventura Community Council which wanted to put in oaks and butterfly/bee plants, the project has resulted in a partnership with Ventura Tree Alliance and Ventura Sierra Club. So far 20 oaks and 20 native plants have been put in.

The project attracted a new local native plant expert, Martin Schenker, who provided the plants as well as protective gopher cages, flags and soil testing. Other valuable

participants came from CA State University - Channel Islands environmental science class, and an old timer from Kern County Sierra Club (now residing in east Ventura).

"Everyone got a sense of purpose and achievement that morning. It was definitely a bonding experience," said Nina Danza, one of the organizers with the club.

See lots of pictures on Instagram [@venturasierraclub](https://www.instagram.com/venturasierraclub).

More dates are to come for weeding, watering and planting dates over the next 6-8 months. If interested, go here: [www.MeetUp.com/SierraClubVentura](http://www.MeetUp.com/SierraClubVentura)



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 Kevin Young: 805 637 2048 | DRE #00834214



Suz Montgomery, a long-time member of the Sierra Club, passed away on Oct. 12 from cancer, which she was convinced was by environmental pollution. A major activist for seniors, justice, diversity, the environment and lifelong learning, her refuge was the backyard garden. In July she visited the SB Museum of Natural History's butterfly exhibit. (Photo by Melissa Baffa)



# No fair trade-offs

By Jon Ullman  
ED Los Padres Chapter

For many years, we thought about it – giving nothing at all.

We knew the Holiday frenzy of travel, food and gifts was an Earth-wrecker. According to the EPA, we produce 25% more waste between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day. A 2015 study shows production and use of household goods accounts for 60% of greenhouse gasses. We didn't know the stats, but we ignored our gut instincts.

Maybe it's because we couldn't look into our loved one's faces and say, "Sorry, nothing for you. Don't take it personally."

We searched for alternatives. People said, "Shop Local." After Black Friday was Shop Local Saturday. I bought a cutting board from a local craftsman. But local craftspeople couldn't make the Bluetooth speakers.

People said, "Buy Fair Trade." I bought earrings from India that had a Fair-Trade logo. But there was no "Fair Trade" version of the portable Nintendo DS.

We had to find a Grinch-less way to save the planet. Was there a middle path?

We tried giving services, "experiences," hand-made gifts, re-gifts, socks.

We tried wrapping gifts in newspaper and presenting them unwrapped. No idea was off the table in those days.

After Coronavirus, holiday parties were either cancelled, or we would not attend for safety. That meant less giving in person. That would surely cut back on overconsumption we thought.

But there was one particular company. I don't

recall it being local or fair, but I do remember free shipping. It was so easy and fast, we used them again and again. They said they had electric trucks on TV, but only gas ones came down our street. We saw warehouses pop up in farm fields, diesel trucks belching poison in low-income neighborhoods. Online shopping was so popular, cargo ships fanned out off the Port of Long Beach - one's anchor dragged an undersea oil pipeline until it broke.

It's Holiday Season 2021. Despite supply chain issues, inflation and the pandemic, people want normal. Trees will be chopped. People will gather. Presents dispersed live.

As Black Friday creeps into Cyber Monday, as easily as Delta shifts to the Omicron, as seamless as the last days of climate action draw towards upheaval, we again ask that question, "Shall we hold off on gifts this year?" But we're not kidding ourselves.

People want gifts. We want to give them and receive them. New trends are great. Special days are great. But when it comes to gift giving in a carbon-exceeding world, we must establish a new, commonly held ethic to just cut back, not to feel better, but to make an actual dent in the problem.

We need a world in which no single conservation idea is dismissed, but no single trend a pass.

Meanwhile, we're still trying all ways. This year I'm exploring used gifts on-line. I hear they are increasingly acceptable to the receiver, but sadly there is no "Used Gift Cyber Tuesday" quite yet.



# Life depends on regeneration

~ Editor's note: Irene Cook is part of The Society of Fearless Grandmothers group working with all ages to combat Climate Change. [www.fearlessgrandmotherssb.org](http://www.fearlessgrandmotherssb.org)

By Irene Cooke

Our collective choices and actions are creating the planet we will gift to future generations. Do we want those future generations to say, "What were they thinking?!"

Instead, let us give our descendants reasons to say: "Thank goodness they came to their senses and brought Earth back to life!" Coming to our senses means embracing the awareness that we are part of Earth's living system of interdependence, that our survival depends on *Regeneration*, a rapid shift from our growth-obsessed economy to a life-sustaining society.

If this shift seems daunting, listen to the sage Joanna Macy who says, "Action is the antidote to Despair."

**Our Vision:** The planet we want to gift future generations is one that, within its ecological limits, can meet the needs of all living beings, so that social systems and ecosystems can thrive together: a world where

the dominant purpose is to build togetherness to regenerate and maintain all life on Earth.

This planet will meet the needs of all its people: food, water, energy, health, housing, education, income and work, justice, political voice, and social equity, without "disposable people" or "sacrifice zones." The good news is that we already have the means to heal the planet and address the climate crisis, with solutions that will improve both ecosystems and social systems.

What do Regenerative Agriculture, Solar Farms, Education of Girls, Indigenous Land Management, Marine Protected Areas, Wetlands, Kelp Forests, and Wind Turbines have in common?

They are some of the data-based solutions for reversing global warming, documented with research published in the book, "Drawdown" and its sequel, "Regeneration." These visionary works describe inspiring projects that have already been implemented and are ready to be applied on a larger scale to improve our farms, oceans, cities, food, forests, energy systems, and quality of life.

**Our Role:** Regenerative solutions need to be put into action rapidly and at scale. And there is much more work to be done to rein in our destructive, business-as-usual, extractive economy.

In the aftermath of the COP26 travesty, it is critical for everyone to ramp up our activism. As Paul Hawken says in "Regeneration" "Hundreds of millions of people need to realize that they have agency, that they can take action, and that collectively it is possible to prevent runaway global warming." Collectively!

We are all in this together, friends. What talents can you contribute? What is your passion? Where are you investing your time and financial resources? There is a role for everyone in the Regeneration movement. T

The climate crisis presents an exciting opportunity to regenerate our planet and create a just and livable world, a gift we will be proud to give future generations. Are you in?

Hawken asks, "If putting the future of life at the heart of everything we do is not central to our purpose and destiny, why are we here?"



Images from the Glasgow Climate Change Summit: Climate activists gather in front of JPMorgan Chase bank due to its financing of fossil fuels and (right) the Ocean Rebellion demonstrated the impacts on marine life an oil refinery in Grangemouth (Photos courtesy of Extinction Rebellion)

# Drive for 'safe passage' around Mission's arteries

The Old Mission and its surrounding neighborhood constitute the heart of Santa Barbara's history. Its precious legacies of the 19th Century include: the Moorish Fountain, Mission Aqueduct, the sandstone walls bordering the cemetery and the picturesque bridge over Mission Creek.

Over the years, the development of the Riviera and increased traffic generated worries about safety around the Mission. In 1930 the bridge was widened from 19 to 34 feet, and stone walls were moved to accommodate that change. Since then, however, further efforts to address safety have faltered.

The bridge remains the weak

link in a crucial evacuation route in the event of fires and floods. Pedestrians are forced to navigate between road shoulders, dirt paths, steps, a wooden footbridge, and cross a busy road to get from the Mission to the Natural History Museum.

Consensus on how to address these deficiencies is hard to achieve because of the presence of so many historical elements, and that this area is under both city and county jurisdiction.

In 2011 a group of local citizens came together to address long-standing traffic safety issues and to create a community vision for the Mission Canyon corridor. This group evolved into the Mission Heritage Trail Association

and their goal became known as "Safe Passage" (see link last paragraph).

This vision came closer to fruition in 2020 when the City of Santa Barbara hired consultants to prepare preliminary plans to address the critical pinch point at the historic bridge. Their work was presented to the Historic Landmarks Commission (HLC) in June 2021 with a menu of design approaches, including a road realignment and a wider bridge with sidewalks. However, a group of residents opposed to any changes to the area mounted a strong letter-writing campaign against any work on the bridge.

Commissioners recognized the need for a pedestrian path, and

that earthquakes and major storm events could destroy the bridge; nevertheless, HLC saw no need to replace it unless absolutely necessary.

We disagree.

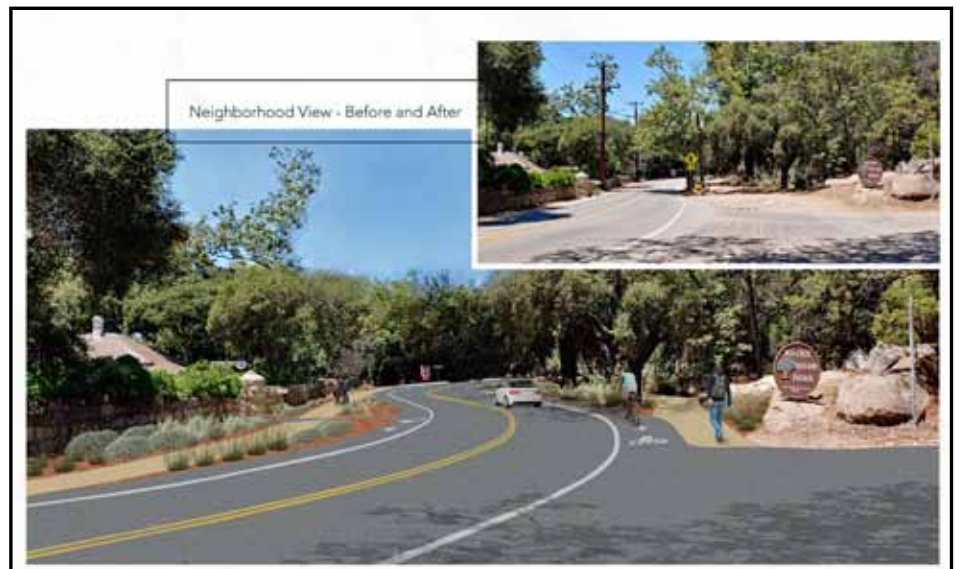
The character of the original bridge is vitally important, but it can be retained in a well-designed reconstruction as done with the Presidio Chapel and perimeter walls in the 1990s, or the Santa Barbara Mission --reconstructed twice after earthquake events. Santa Barbara has the expertise to do that, but the need for improvements will only grow with time.

The bridge came to City Council in August of 2021 with HLC and the public in favor of the status quo and the municipal

election underway. The vote to improve the bridge came up short, 3 to 4. The revised motion asked staff to come back with pedestrian and bicycle improvements, but without touching the bridge. As they say, "Make it work, but don't change anything!"

As a result, the Safe Passage proponents began a petition drive to keep Council to its word and provide pedestrian and bicycle access on both sides of Mission Canyon Bridge. Sierra Club and other transportation advocates, including SBBike+COAST, support this petition drive and ask for your support.

<https://missionheritagetrailassociation.org/petition>







# Take a Hike!

## LOS PADRES CHAPTER

UPDATES: <https://www.sierraclub.org/lospadres>

Panorama above Goleta by Robert Bernstein

### WELCOME HIKERS

The public is welcome at all outings listed, unless otherwise specified. Please bring drinking water to all outings and optionally a lunch. Sturdy footwear is recommended. If you have any questions about a hike, please contact the leader listed. All phone numbers listed are within area code 805, unless otherwise noted.

A parent or responsible adult must accompany children under the age of 14.

A frequently updated on-line listing of all outings can be viewed at:

<http://lospadres2.sierraclub.org>

This website also contains links to Group web pages and other resources. Some regional Groups also list their outings on Meetup sites. See Group News on page 3 for links.

#### Fire Danger

Due to drought and heat, fire danger is extremely high so do not build any fires or smoke except in official campsites that have fire rings. For latest information on this and other aspects of the forest, go to:

[www.fs.usda.gov/lpfn](http://www.fs.usda.gov/lpfn)

#### Shooting ban

A ban on discharging any kind

of firearm except in permitted gun ranges has been extended to Jan. 31, 2022.

### Covid Precautions

We will be observing any state/county rules effective at the time of the outing. Each participant should observe these rules and take any additional precautions that they deem necessary to protect their health. In addition, the following rules will be observed on Sierra Club outings.

\* If you feel sick, please do not attend the outing

\* Each participant will fill-out a sign-in sheet with clear contact information.

\* Masks will be required for any indoor activity such as carpooling.

\* Masks are optional outdoors.

\* Group size will be limited, depending on the type of outing.

Please note that in going on a Sierra Club outing you are potentially on a trip with individuals vaccinated and unvaccinated. It is your choice to attend the outing knowing this information.

### OUTINGS

December 6

**HILL CANYON:** Meet in the parking lot at the end of 10241 Hill Canyon Rd. Camarillo, at 8:45am. We'll do a 5.5-mile lollipop past Elliot Peak, across the fire road to Hawk Canyon and down to the water treatment plant. Elevation 600 ft and moderate. Led by MAUREEN. (VEN) Sign up or contact the leader at:

[www.meetup.com/sierraclubventura/](http://www.meetup.com/sierraclubventura/)

December 13

**HARMON CANYON:** Meet at 8:45am in the parking lot at the Harmon Canyon trailhead, 7511 Foothill Rd. Ventura. It's a small lot, so carpool if possible. We'll walk to the top where the bench is, turn and return to our cars on a parallel trail. Distance 7.3 miles with a 1000 ft elevation gain. Led by MAUREEN (VEN) Sign up or contact the leader at:

[www.meetup.com/sierraclubventura/](http://www.meetup.com/sierraclubventura/)

December 20

**SULPHUR MOUNTAIN RD:** Meet at 8:30am at Sulphur Mt. Rd. Ojai off of HWY 33. We'll hike 3 miles up the easement to the overlook, take a short break and return to our cars. Elevation gain about 600 ft. Led by MAUREEN. (VEN) Sign up or contact the leader at:

[www.meetup.com/sierraclubventura/](http://www.meetup.com/sierraclubventura/)

December 27

**LAKE CASITAS:** Meet at the entry gate, 11311 Santa Ana Rd, Ventura at 8:45am for a 7-mile hike around the south side of the lake. Bring binoculars if you want to see the eagle nest. Led by MAUREEN. (VEN) Sign up or contact the leader at:

[www.meetup.com/sierraclubventura/](http://www.meetup.com/sierraclubventura/)

January 3

**SIGNAL, SHELF, GRIDLEY Bike Path Loop:** Meet at the Rotary Community Park, Ojai at 8:45am. We'll walk the bike path to Soule Park, travel up Gridley to Shelf Rd, and return to the cars via Signal St.

## Catch up with ForestWatch

Our friends at Los Padres ForestWatch have a robust website with all kinds of backcountry information. The internet has also provided opportunities to hear interviews and webinars of interest to the public and Sierra Club members. Below is a sampling of offerings, and to get even more, to volunteer and/or donate go to:

<https://lpfw.org>

~ **Backcountry expert** Craig Carey is interviewed about



Balance Rock, an icon in the Santa Monica Mountains is outlined by an October moon along a popular trail. (Photo by Suzanne Tanaka with Pete Scifres)

Distance 6.5 miles with gradual elevation gain. FWI: donkeys like apples. Led by MAUREEN. (VEN) Sign up or contact the leader at:

[www.meetup.com/sierraclubventura/](http://www.meetup.com/sierraclubventura/)

January 8

**ARROYO BURRO TRAIL** to East Camino Cielo: Very strenuous long hike, 12-mile out and back 4000' total elevation gain. Bring lunch and adequate water. Rain or muddy conditions cancels hike. Meet at the Jesusita Trailhead on San Roque Rd, Santa Barbara. 8am-3:30pm. (SB) DALE 1-805-886-1674

January 10

**LOON POINT:** Low tide is at 11:14am so we'll end at the shore. Meet at 8:45am in the Loon Pt. parking lot in Summerland. This will be a 6-mile loop through equestrian trails with a 400 ft elevation gain ending at the beach. Led by MAUREEN. (VEN) Sign up or contact the leader at:

[www.meetup.com/sierraclubventura/](http://www.meetup.com/sierraclubventura/)

January 15

**MISSION RIDGE:** Hike from Tunnel Trail up to near the Rattlesnake Connector and then up a primitive trail to the top of a ridge. Return via Edison Road trail. Primitive trail, steep at times and some boulder hopping. Moderately strenuous 6 mrt. Bring lunch and plenty of water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. ROBERT (SB) 1-805-685-1283 / [event@swt.org](mailto:event@swt.org)

January 16

**OUTINGS DUE SOON:** A reminder to all Group outings leaders to start planning outings for the period of at least February-March plus 2 weeks into April. Send your outings to your Group Outings Chair.

January 17

**VENTURA MISSION TO THE PIER:** Meet at 8:45am in the Vons shopping center at 115 W. Ventura Ave. We'll hike up to Grant Park, through the Botanical Garden and

*continued next page*

### GREETINGS FRIENDS

## Earth friendly gardens

By Jim Hines

Be kind to the land and the land will be kind to you . . . an ethic for all of us to follow.

Organic gardening, long



### HIKE LOS PADRES

#### CONDITIONS

Campgrounds trails and roads in Los Padres National Forest can be closed, have restrictions due to habitat protection, repair or weather. Before you go into the backcountry ensure you check conditions with rangers. Numbers to call (805 area unless noted) are:

#### Los Padres Forest Districts

Headquarters	865-0416
Ojai-Ventura	646-4348
Mt Pinos	(661) 245-3731
Santa Barbara	967-3481
Santa Lucia	925-9538

#### Other Areas

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

#### Forest Information

For updated info, maps, news releases, and other goodies:

<http://FS.USDA.gov/LPNF>

#### Regional Hike Info

Lots of local info on websites that give you varied info on outings, trail profiles, wildflower alerts, work opportunities and much more.

<https://www.sierraclub.org/lospadres>

[www.LPFforest.org](http://www.LPFforest.org)

<https://LPFW.org>

[www.HikeLosPadres.com](http://www.HikeLosPadres.com)

[www.SBSierraClub.org](http://www.SBSierraClub.org)

[www.SantaBarbaraTrailGuide.com](http://www.SantaBarbaraTrailGuide.com)

[www.SantaBarbaraHikes.com](http://www.SantaBarbaraHikes.com)

<https://SBTrails.org>

[www.VenturaCountyTrails.org](http://www.VenturaCountyTrails.org)

<http://Hikes.VenturaCountyStar.com>

practiced before the modern world of dangerous chemicals came along, is now finding its rightful place in the nurturing of our land.

And organic gardening or earth friendly gardening is something we can all do in our own yards and gardens. I grew up on my family's organic farm in the western part of the Ojai Valley, we composted, nurtured the soil with the richness of that compost, practiced natural pest control and the earth fed us and allowed my parents a surplus bounty of fruits, vegetables and flowers which they sold to those who wanted chemical-free healthy goodness the earth had to offer. Everyone loves a healthy harvest.

Using organic mulches to enrich the soil when planting to develop strong plants and mulch on top of the soil to reduce water consumption is a very easy chore to do for home gardeners and it yields great results. Mulch heavy, water little.

I use natural plant-based fertilizers such as Cottonseed Meal, Alfalfa Meal and Kelp Meal on my garden plants and they produce amazing results. Plants grow strong and healthy and pest free.

Seeking out and purchasing natural organic products as a supplement for what we cannot grow not only supports small local organic farmers but also is so much healthier for us as we get to know the land and the people who work the land.

Community gardens are a great place for those who do not have their own plot of land to garden on, most communities in our region have at least one community garden.

Working in partnership with the land as if the earth were one of our family, a family member who we want to be healthy is good for all of us.

~ For earth friendly gardens,  
Jim



An old San Francisco Examiner illustration of the last California grizzly in captivity, known as Monarch, was caught in the Los Padres National Forest (which will be discussed in part 3 of this series).

his updated book” *Hiking & Backpacking Santa Barbara & Ventura: A Complete Guide to the Trails of the Southern Los Padres National Forest.*” Hear about his wilderness stories, tips about exploring the region’s landscape and more. See it here:

<https://lpfw.org/craigcareywebinar>

~ **Last Grizzlies of the Los Padres:** Check out the first of a three-part series we’re doing on the California grizzly. Learn about

the evolution of this magnificent creature that was once common across California before being hunted to extinction. A full understanding of the demise of the California grizzly offers lessons on how we can avoid losing other iconic and important species—and it may help spread a greater sense of urgency about the ongoing plight of megafauna in the modern era. See it here:

<https://tinyurl.com/LastGrizzlies>

~ **Watch the B.A.T.S.**(Bats Aren’t That Spooky) webinar recording. By wildlife biologist Miguel Ordeñana from the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County who provided a look into the fascinating world of bats in southern California. Here it is on YouTube:

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=xhZs36sUyO8](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xhZs36sUyO8)

~ **Santa Barbara Wild!** Recording of the 2021 7<sup>th</sup> annual fundraising event. The live-streamed event features messages from the ForestWatch staff, National Park Ranger Shelton Johnson and performance by Kenny Loggins and Zach Gill. Check it out here:

<https://tinyurl.com/ForestWatchWild>



# Living with coyotes

If you haven't seen them, you've heard them.

They're called the "song dog" and they're known for their unique yips, growls, whines and haunting cries. Coyotes are ubiquitous and part of the landscape in SoCal.

They're highly adaptive and, as their natural predators have been reduced, their range has grown. Their adaptability helps them thrive in a variety of environments, from rugged hills to suburbs and inner cities. But that coexistence can also bring conflict.

Recently a local gated community instituted a coyote trapping program. Any coyotes caught in the traps are killed, as it's illegal to relocate them.

The community is surrounded on three sides by miles of open space -- land that is shared and enjoyed by the entire Thousand Oaks/Ventura County area. Over 1,450 neighbors have already signed a petition protesting this policy, see: <https://chng.it/V9Ly8JSyX4>

Sadly, trapping is happening in other Southern California communities as well. Such measures are not only inhumane -- they're also ineffective.

When natural systems are in balance, only mature "top dogs" mate and have pups. Their litters tend to be small. But when the "alpha" coyotes are killed, younger coyotes breed and have larger litters to fill the vacuum.

"A heavily harvested coyote population can actually rebound within a year or two due to normal reproduction and dispersal," wrote Dr. Jonathan Way in his book 'Suburban Howls'.

Coyotes are naturally fearful of humans, and it's crucial to

understand why they're coming into a neighborhood. Are the coyotes being fed, either intentionally or unintentionally?

Coyotes are opportunistic omnivores and will eat everything from fallen fruit to pet food that's left outside. Bird feeders are a common coyote attractant. The feeders attract rats, and the rats attract coyotes. Knowing "why" coyotes are coming around is key to fixing the problem using safe alternatives.

Coyotes are vital to controlling the rodent population. They are some of our region's best rodent hunters, and both people and ecosystems benefit when they remain focused on their natural food sources. Populations of rats, gophers and rabbits can grow to uncontrollable levels when the food chain is compromised.

In turn, people often resort to the use of rodent poisons which are passed up the food chain; and predator species including coyotes, hawks, bobcats and owls become the unintended victims of these poisons. Thousands of children, pets, and wildlife are poisoned every year by rodent poisons.

For more tips on coexisting with coyotes, visit California Department of Fish and Wildlife's 'Keep Me Wild' website: <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Keep-Me-Wild/Coyote>

Or Project Coyote's resource webpage at: [www.projectcoyote.org/resources/](http://www.projectcoyote.org/resources/)

~ Article from the Sierra Club newsletter team

## Help solve conflicts

Sierra Club's national Wildlands and Wilderness Team recently created a Recreation Issues SubTeam, and now seeks interested individuals to join it.

The SubTeam's mission is to assist volunteers, build networks and help coordinate the Club's conservation efforts on recreation issues, primarily on public lands.

While all recreation activities certainly have some impact on the land and ecosystems, a major concern of the SubTeam is the way that land managers -- under the relentless advocacy of mechanized recreation -- are steadily converting non-motorized trails into mechanized-motorized trails. This use conflicts with potential future wilderness designations, among other problems.

Do one, two, three, or even more, of the issues below bother you? Interest you? Upset you?

~ Off-road vehicles (motorcycles, electric bicycles, ATVs, snowmobiles, jet-skis, etc.—whether creating noise, conflict with hikers, or impacts to ecosystems,

~ Park overflight noise impacts and drones,

~ Bicycles,

~ Trail conflicts and inappropriate uses,

~ Accessible recreation,

~ Recreation fees charged on public lands and,

~ Commercialization and privatization of recreation on public lands.

If you would like to help our campaign to get better public lands management and control of some of these issues, contact SubTeam Chair Karl Forsgaard:

[karlforsgaard@comcast.net](mailto:karlforsgaard@comcast.net)

~ Vicky Hoover, SubTeam member



The Harris Tunnel along the Red Reef Trail but the trail's 13 miles needs a little love after the Thomas fire, drought and deferred maintenance. Volunteers are needed! (Photo by Bryan Conant LPFA)

## Red Reef trail needs volunteers

The Los Padres Forest Association is inspired to be working on Red Reef Trail in southern Los Padres National Forest, thanks to funding from the Great American Outdoors Act.

The spectacular 13-mile trail needs a lot of love after the

Thomas Fire, weather and deferred maintenance, but thankfully volunteers and Trails Crew members are up for the challenge. They have already begun working from the southern trailhead in Upper Ojai Valley.

LPFA is looking for more

volunteers and will lead a 5-day backpacking trail project working on Red Reef in the Sespe Wilderness between Jan. 6-10, and a working vacation between April 22-May 2. Volunteers, camp cooks, packers and mules are welcome and greatly appreciated in this collective effort to restore Red Reef Trail. Inquire or sign-up at:

[volunteer@lpforest.org](mailto:volunteer@lpforest.org)

Also, be sure to visit our knowledgeable forest friends at the Wheeler Gorge Visitor Center in Ojai, and the Big Sur Station in the Monterey District. For more information and to support with donations, visit:

[www.LPFA.org](http://www.LPFA.org)

## Protect Pine Mountain

The Forest Service in October issued final approval of a controversial project to cut trees and clear chaparral across 755 acres on Pine Mountain in the Ventura County backcountry.

The decision comes despite over 16,000 comments of opposition that forest officials received from tribal groups, elected officials, organizations, businesses, and the public.

Our Los Padres Chapter is one of dozens of organizations which have been working with Los Padres ForestWatch to stop the project. Others include CA Chaparral Institute and Native Plant Society, Wilderness Coalition, Keep the Sespe Wild, Latino Outdoors, SB and Ventura Audubon Society and Wishtoyo Chumash Foundation. A webinar and more information including supporters and a sign up for action is at:

[www.ProtectPineMountain.org](http://www.ProtectPineMountain.org)

The approval was issued using two loopholes that allow the Forest Service to bypass normal requirements to prepare an environmental assessment. Instead, officials only prepared a series of "specialist reports" that were not made available to the public until October and did not evaluate any alternatives or mitigation measures that would reduce or avoid damage caused by the de-vegetation project.

The loopholes also allow the agency to move forward without offering any formal public objection or appeal opportunity to address concerns.

The project allows the use of heavy equipment to log live and dead trees up to two feet in diameter and clear rare old-growth chaparral along six miles of the prominent ridge known as Pine Mountain stretching from Highway 33 to Reyes Peak. Trees larger than two feet in diameter can also be removed under vague stipulations. A commercial timber sale would be allowed as part of the logging activities.

Only an hour drive from Ojai, the area is a popular destination for campers, hikers, climbers, and others. The ridge is also home to some of the most diverse and unique habitats in the region; 400 species of native plants as well as mountain lions, black bears, bobcats, mule deer, and numerous birds and small mammals.

"Pine Mountain has been my favorite summer camping spot for 35 years. The wind in the pine trees, the giant sandstone boulders scattered

among the conifer forest. This is a rare and treasured environment, mostly unaltered by man, at the high rim of the Sespe Wilderness. Condors may soar and perch above. The night sky shines bright. This is not a place to be callously logged," said Alasdair Coyne, Conservation Director of Keep the Sespe Wild



Sierra Club held its traditional annual Breakfast Picnic along Shoreline Park in October and these are only about half the participants! While the food was not part of the Supper Club (see story below), the natural, homemade repast was most satisfying. Photo by Robert Bernstein who has shared other photos and commentary here: <https://swt.org/hikesierra/breakfast-2019-1013/>

## Supper club is cooking

Don't miss our first Supper Club Wednesday, Jan. 5 at 4pm at The Good Plow in Carpinteria where we will discuss the following short film: "True Cost Accounting" produced by PBS and enjoy delicious organic food and drinks.

<https://tinyurl.com/TrueFoodCosts>

Hosted by Gerry French, Registered Dietitian Nutritionist and creator of the Santa Barbara Food and Farm Adventures Meetup. Years ago, Gerri helped the Los Padres Chapter introduce a Sustainable Consumption committee.

She plans on organizing a supper club every month at various locations and sometimes share potluck meals. We can take turns choosing various

topics about sustainability, climate change, regenerative agriculture, real organic and food production. Gerri will create a survey to identify your specific interests.

Please take a few moments to join the Meetup which is the best way to track RSVPs. There is a \$10 fee for the Supper Club with \$5 refunded that can be used to support The Good Plow with food and beverage purchases. Go here:

<https://www.meetup.com/Santa-Barbara-Food-and-Farm-Adventures/events/282193938/edit/>

If you have any concerns or questions, either call (805) 705-8248, email and/or visit my website:

[GerriFrench17@gmail.com](mailto:GerriFrench17@gmail.com)  
[www.GerriFrench.net](http://www.GerriFrench.net)

## Outings...

continued from page 6

down to the pier. It's a big loop hike with about 500 ft of elevation gain. Led by MAUREEN. (VEN) Sign up or contact the leader at:

[www.meetup.com/sierraclubventura/](http://www.meetup.com/sierraclubventura/)

January 20

OUTINGS Due: A reminder to all Group outings chairs that all outings to be published in the *Condor Call* are due today. The planning period should include at least February-March plus 2 weeks into April. Send outings to Gerry Ching (gching@cox.net).

January 23

WEST FORK COLD SPRINGS to Tangerine Falls: Hike along the west fork trail then do some rock-hopping and class 3 rock climbing up the creek to the falls. Difficult 3 mrt. Some climbing and agility required. Bring lunch and plenty of water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. ALEJANDRO (SB) 1-805-451-1239

January 24

CALLEGAS CREEK Bike Path: Meet at Pleasant Valley Fields (100 Village at the Park Drive) at 8:45am. We'll walk a flat 6 miles along the probably dry creek to Upland Rd. and return to the cars via a park and break stop. Led by MAUREEN. (VEN) Sign up or contact the leader at:

[www.meetup.com/sierraclubventura/](http://www.meetup.com/sierraclubventura/)

January 31

FOSTER PARK to Ojai: Meet at the end of Foster Park, 37 Casitas Vista Rd, Ventura, near the restroom at 8:45am. We will walk the entire Ojai Bike Path to Rotary Community Park and Ride in Ojai. This is about an 8-mile walk so will return to our cars via bus. \$1.50 per rider, over 75yrs old free. Led by MAUREEN. (VEN) Sign up or contact the leader at:

[www.meetup.com/sierraclubventura/](http://www.meetup.com/sierraclubventura/)



## Become a Member

As a Ventura Land Trust member, you'll join a community of people who love nature and support VLT's efforts to conserve open space, restore habitat, and offer environmental education programs that inspire the next generation of land stewards. **Goodness is growing - join today!**

- **EXPLORE** Experience protected lands on members-only guided outings.
- **LEARN** Members receive the *Outlook* newsletter twice a year.
- **PROTECT** VLT preserves are protected forever and open daily at no charge because of support from members like you.

\$45 | \$100 | \$250

GIVE MONTHLY

JOIN TODAY AT  
[WWW.VENTURLANDTRUST.ORG](http://WWW.VENTURLANDTRUST.ORG)



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# What you get if we build back better

*Editor's note: Information is from the National Sierra Club*

After months of negotiations, the House of Representatives (finally!) passed the Build Back Better Act despite opposition from every single Republican member. Next up: on to the Senate and President Biden's desk -- more on that below.

It's hard to overstate the significance of this bill. If passed and implemented, it will be transformative. It represents the United States' biggest investment in climate action in history, and our biggest investment in social programs since the New Deal.

With over 130 different investments in climate and environmental justice on a scale never seen in Congress and a slew of social policies, Build Back Better will make life better



Firefighters' silhouettes wearily battling California wildfires this year and now we need to accomplish building back better (Courtesy USDA)

for people who are struggling to make ends meet by investing in childcare, education, healthcare, elder care and more. This bill is a testament to the intersectional social movements that joined

together to put forward this vision and fought to make it possible.

Here are just a few of the real-world benefits of Build Back Better:

~ Five million families will gain access to clean water by replacing toxic lead pipes, 800,000 people who live in public housing will benefit from upgraded living conditions, including lower energy costs and protections from extreme weather,

~ The Gwich'in people will win protection of the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge from oil and gas drilling -- a big victory in their fight to protect their way of life,

~ More than 60,000 buses worth of children will breathe cleaner air as we replace diesel school buses with clean electric vehicles,

~ The average homeowner will find it \$7,000 cheaper to install solar on their roof as wind and solar power expand into our communities at more than twice

the current speed,

~ 150,000 workers will get family-sustaining manufacturing jobs to produce wind, solar, and other clean energy goods, and 300,000 workers will get good jobs through a Civilian Climate Corps that helps communities clean up pollution and adapt to climate change,

~ And so much more. Check out the Sierra Club's full fact sheet on tangible benefits here:

<https://tinyurl.com/BBBbenefits>

## EAVESDROPS

*"Solar, our cheapest and fastest-growing source of clean energy, could produce enough electricity to power all of the homes in the U.S. by 2035 and employ as many as 1.5 million people in the process."*

~ Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm referring to the department's most recent study entitled the 'Solar Futures Study'.

**Help make all of this happen by demanding the Senate pass Build Back Better: [sc.org/PassBBB](https://sc.org/PassBBB)**

**Read more about what our movement has won: [sc.org/BlogBBB](https://sc.org/BlogBBB)**

SIERRA CLUB