

INSIDE:

SACOG Scorecard, Chix in the Stix, CSWP Update, Conservation Notes, and more...

On the move in 2013

The MLC office will be moving in 2013 to a new location. It will still be in downtown Sacramento and be sub-leased space from Sierra Club California. More information and "address change" will be announced in 2013.

Save the date!

Mark your 2013 calendars NOW! The always-fun MLC Annual Awards Banquet will be held on Saturday, May 4, 2013, in Sacramento again at the wonderful Lions Gate at McClellan. This fun-filled annual has become highly successful in attendance, enjoyment, fundraising, inspiration, and re-uniting with like-minded souls.

If you can donate a fine item for the Silent Auction (trips, lodging, wine, objets d'art, jewelry, etc.) and/or a raffle item, it contributes to the excitement of the evening and supports our MLC.

Questions? Contact Barbara Williams, barb.williams@sierraclub.org or Terry Davis, terry.davis@sierraclub.org

Raffle & silent auction items needed

Help make MLC's 2013 banquet another fundraising success! As one of our major and most important fundraising activities, the MLC Annual Award and fundraising event sets new records each year.

You can help us keep that momentum going by donating to the raffle or silent auction—a vacation stay, a prized item, a gift basket, or that priceless work of art. Your valuable donation adds to the fun and provides most important funding for the chapter.

To make donation arrangements please contact Terry at terry.davis@sierraclub.org or (916) 557-1100, ext 108, or Marilyn at marilyn.jasper@mlc.sierraclub.org or (916) 652-7005.

SC Volunteers Help Elect Pro-Environment Candidates

Several of the important races in the November 6, 2012 general election were in the Mother Lode Chapter, including four of the congressional races that were the focus of the Sierra Club's Victory Corps Campaign. Sierra Club volunteers turned out in support of the Sierra Club's endorsed candidates, and we made a difference. In Ami Bera's campaign to unseat Dan Lungren in the 7th congressional district, a massive volunteer effort produced what appears to have been a victory, although the final outcome depends on the final outcome may not be decided until the results are certified on December 14.

Overall, Sierra Club endorsed candidates were successful in the race for president, and four out of five statewide ballot measures. Sierra Club endorsed candidates won or are leading in four out of five races for House of Representatives, six out of six races for California Legislature, and one of two local offices in the Mother Lode Chapter. In addition, the Sierra Club endorsed local ballot measure in the City of Sacramento was successful.

The detailed results follow. If the margin of victory is less than 2%, the result is reported as a race where the candidate leads or trails, instead of won or lost, because of the potential that the outcome may be affected by late absentee or provisional ballots.

Statewide ballot measures. Proposition 30 (Temporary Taxes) supported by the Sierra Club, was approved, with 54.9% voting yes. Proposition 31, State Budget (State and Local Government Initiative Constitutional Amendment and Statute) opposed by the Sierra Club, was defeated, with 60.6% voting no. Proposition 32 (Prohibits Political Contributions by Payroll Deduction) opposed by the Sierra Club, was defeated, with 56.4% voting no. Proposition 37 (Genetically Engineered Foods. Mandatory Labeling Initiative Statute) supported by the Sierra Club, was unsuccessful, with 47.9 % voting yes. Proposition 39 (Tax Treatment for Multistate Businesses, Clean Energy and Energy Efficiency Funding Initiative Statute) supported by the Sierra Club, was approved, with 60.8% voting yes.

Endorsed Candidates for Federal Office. President: Barack Obama won, getting 59.1% of the vote in California. Congress: District 3, John Garamendi won, getting 54.7% of the vote; District 6, Doris Matsui won, getting 74.8% of the vote; District 7, Ami Bera won getting 51.3% of the vote; District 9, Jerry McNerney won, getting 54.8% of the vote; District 10, José Hernández lost, getting 46.5% of the vote.

Endorsements for California Legislature. Assembly District 4, Mariko Yamada won, getting 62.4% of the vote; Assembly District 7, Roger Dickinson won, getting 69.6% of the vote; Assembly District 8, Ken Cooley won, getting



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SACOG, Sustainable Communities Strategy Equity Scorecard

By Rick Bettis

The Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG) is the regional transportation-planning agency for the six counties of El Dorado, Placer, Sutter, Sacramento, Yolo, and Yuba. SACOG has recently adopted its five-year update of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) for the region.

For the first time, the MTP includes a Sustainable Communities Strategy as required by SB 375, the sustainable communities and climate Protection Act of 2008. The purpose of the SCS is to guide development in such a way that communities will be environmentally and economically sustainable and will be transit oriented as well as bicycling and walking friendly. The SACOG planning process included several working groups such as one focused on social equity and environmental justice in which this writer participated. Associated with this effort is the Sacramento Coalition of Regional Equity (CORE) a diverse group convened by the Sacramento Housing Alliance.

CORE is developing an Equity Scorecard to rate the implementation of the MTP and SCS by local governments to illustrate their success in relative to environmental justice and equity. We will be rating performance of the communities based on approximately 30 indicators, which are included in the areas of:

1. Transportation with emphasis on transit and walking and biking.
2. Housing with an emphasis on affordability for all income levels.
3. Amenities with emphases on access to parks and open space, community centers, schools, food, social services for all income levels, races and ethnicities.
4. Health and Safety with emphasis on air quality, accident incidences, housing code violations, access to clean water and reliable sanitation facilities and other related indicators.
5. Social and Demographic Indicators including income levels, age, race, and ethnic diversity, and community stability.

We hope to be able to point toward success stories that will serve as models for future sustainable community planning and development. Such development will be more compact and transit oriented and will lessen the pressure for “greenfield development” or environmentally damaging sprawl.

If you have any questions or need additional information please contact Rick Bettis at rckbettis40@gmail.com

WANT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE? Join the Chapter Alerts email list which gives you breaking news about environmental issues so that you can write that letter, make that phone call or send that email or fax to let your representatives and public agencies know your concerns. This email list is low-volume and your email will never be shared with anyone. To be added go to <http://lists.sierraclub.org/archives/motherlode-alerts.html> or email a request to info@mlc.sierraclub.org.

Chix in the Stix at Clair Tappaan Lodge

by Olivia Diaz

Hiking, making crafts, hearing an inspirational life story, and sharing our own experiences were all part of the Chix in the Stix program the first weekend in November at Clair Tappaan Lodge. The Lodge's location at Donner Summit in the town of Soda Springs in the high Sierra made it a crisp fall-in-the-mountains experience for the nine women in attendance.

“I'm always sad to leave this place!” sighed Barbara Berg, one of the participants on Sunday, as she packed her belongings down the path to her car.

Trudy Boardman, the organizer of the new annual event, said, “Next year we will explore the rich experiences of the participants to create activities that provide alternatives to hiking.” In this way, women who for some reason don't want to fill their weekend with hikes can find a compatible yet engaging alternative activity while they enjoy the fellowship of other women.

The cost of the weekend, including all materials, lodging and three meals a day for the weekend, was \$150. Fall at Clair Tappaan Lodge, a rustic and historic lodge is quiet, peaceful and cool. Many people assume the Lodge is a snow lodge, which it is in the winter, but it is lovely in the fall as well. Immediately outside the building there is a meadow where many activities can be held. This year there was a foot and a half of snow and provided opportunities for snow shoeing. However, a group drove to a slightly lower elevation and hiked without snow.

Trudy intends to hold this special weekend for women again in the fall of 2013. If it sounds like something you might want to do, keep an eye on the Activities Page of the Clair Tappaan Lodge at <http://motherlode.sierraclub.org/sierranevada/activities.htm> or check out our Facebook Page at Clair Tappaan Lodge.



Environmental Candidates... continued from page 1

53.8% of the vote; Assembly District 9, Dr. Richard Pan won getting 58.4% of the vote; Assembly District 13, Susan Eggman won getting 64.6% of the vote; Senate District 3, Lois Wolk won, getting 66.2% of the vote; Loomis Town Council (two seats), Gary Liss, for whom the Sierra Club approved activities in support without endorsement, lost, coming in third with 23.6% of the vote; Placer County Water Agency, District 5, Otis Wollan for whom the Sierra Club approved activities in support without endorsement, lost, coming in third with 16.7% of the vote. Sacramento City Council: District 2, Rob Kerth leads, getting 50.2% of the vote; District 4, Joe Yee trails, getting 49.8% of the vote. City of Sacramento Measure T, supported by the Sierra Club, won, getting 51.1% of the vote.

The Bonanza is the official news publication of the Sierra Club, Mother Lode Chapter and is published four times a year by volunteers. The deadline for submissions are: February 7 (Spring), May 7 (Summer), August 7 (Fall) and November 7 (Winter).

Bonanza Submissions

Marilyn Jasper
bonanza@mlc.sierraclub.org

Layout Editor

Christiane Raymond
40licksart@att.net

Bonanza Editorial Committee

Terry Davis
terry.davis@sierraclub.org
Marilyn Jasper
marilyn.jasper@mlc.sierraclub.org
Barbara Williams
barb.williams@mlc.sierraclub.org
Christiane Raymond
40licksart@att.net

Webmaster

Terry Davis
terry.davis@sierraclub.org

Outings Schedule Editor

Jerry Snodgrass
gsnodgrass@csuchico.edu

Change of Address

Send old and new addresses with mailing label (or member number) to
Sierra Club, P.O. Box 421041,
Palm Coast, FL 32142-6417

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**Mother Lode Chapter
Sierra Club**

801 K Street, Suite 2700
Sacramento, CA 95814
General information (916) 557-1100 x119
Fax (916) 557-9669
info@mlc.sierraclub.org

Meeting dates and contact information for chapter leaders are posted on the chapter website:
www.motherlode.sierraclub.org

Bonanza articles need to be submitted to the Editorial Committee by the deadlines, and should be 400 to 500 words (with photos if appropriate). Send to bonanza@mlc.sierraclub.org.

Committee for a Sustainable World Population (CSWP) Update

Virginia Phelps and Karen Gaia Pitts will be presenting the film, "Mother... Caring for 7 Billion", on March 7th or 8th, 2013 at the "This Way to Sustainability" conference at California State University, Chico. Afterwards, a 15-minute Q & A will occur. Over 1,400 participants will likely attend the conference. For more information, go to: <http://www.csuchico.edu/sustainablefuture/accomplishments.shtml>

CSWP endorsement of the film was sent to producer Tiroir A Film. CSWP members have shown this film over 12 times, and we would be happy to show it to your group. Contact Chuck Knutson at population@mlc.sierraclub.org. Elaine Gorman has been making population presentations to student groups at Columbia Junior College and California State University, Stanislaus, and plans to show the film at Columbia Junior College this fall.

Letters to the editor were sent to Sacramento News & Review on global resource overshoot, the myth of perpetual growth, and the delusion of "smart growth". Other letters were sent to Sierra Magazine in appreciation of its global population article and to the Sierra Club Board of Directors to urge restoration of funding for the Sierra Club's Global Population and Environment Program (GPEP). Fortunately, GPEP recently received a \$200,000 grant from the Bloomberg Foundation.



Milt Trieweiler and Evan Jones are providing new promos for CSWP tabling events, such as pens and bumper stickers with population messages. Recent tablings occurred at 11 Earth Day events with an estimate 15,000 message viewings. A table display was set up at the State Capitol for International Population Day on July 11th, with 2,000 - 3,000 message viewings. Also, tabling occurred at the Whole Earth Festival, UC Davis; Walk on the Wild Side, Stone Lakes NWR; PARC Confluence Festival, Auburn, and in Redding.

Karen Pitts was interviewed by the Huffington Post. Karen did a great job on the interview, considering the short notice, the time difference, and poor communications.

Karen Pitts and Virginia Phelps attended a June nationwide Sierra Club population training class.

CSWP members attended the Bay Area Chapter's Solano Stroll on September 9 to help with their booth using CSWP materials.

The message, "Overpopulation is sexually transmitted" will continue to run for another year in the UC Davis student paper, The California Aggie.

Milt Trieweiler has been participating in the Turlock City General Planning Process, emphasizing the importance of preserving valuable farmland around the city and pointing out "the myth of perpetual growth".

NEED A TAX BREAK?

A donation to our chapter foundation account is tax deductible and ensures that your contribution helps our local efforts. Please make your check out to "Sierra Club Foundation MLC" and send to Mother Lode Chapter Sierra Club, 801 K Street, Ste 2700, Sacramento, CA 95814. For more information call 916-557-1100 x 108.

Conservation Notes: Precious Water

By Grace Maria Marvin, Yahi Group Conservation Chair

As you likely know, the availability of enough safe water is one of the top crises facing California and the entire world, with climate change aggravating any normal dry cycles in the U.S.: this year's droughts have affected most of this country. Moreover, at least a billion people globally do not have access to safe water. To get a handle on all this, I strongly recommend that you see the documentary, *Last Call at the Oasis* (which is available via Netflix). In it Peter Glicek and other scientists lucidly explain why only 1% of the world's water is potentially drinkable and why removing salt (desalination) creates more environmental problems than it solves.

Some gripping stories in the book include the excessive use of water in luxury resorts such as Las Vegas, a city desperate for water that seeks to take water from a poor rural agricultural community more than one hundred miles away, home building throughout the country to accommodate ever growing populations in areas without enough water, and the threats to our water supply posed by corporate greed and ineffective scrutiny by the EPA. The film also chronicles how other nations are (or are not) dealing with their water issues and the need to see water as an ever more scarce commodity. We'd better get used to the idea of drinking recycled sewage ("Porcelain Springs").

Some good water news? This past September, Governor Jerry Brown signed a bill (AB685) declaring that access to safe water is a basic human right. But we had better become an active citizenry nonetheless. Why? To ensure that both the public and private sectors make this new policy a reality for ourselves as well as the state's poorer communities. For example: What about the tunnels that the Brown administration is planning to build to ship water south from the Delta? There is evidence that humans, wildlife, agriculture, and ecosystems in the north state (with less population and political influence) would be severely impacted. There are other clear examples of the powerful taking advantage of those with the least power. One example is Hinckley, California, where Erin Brockovich, made her fame. (Her ongoing activism is also featured in *Last Call of the Oasis*. People from all over the country are seeking her help, largely because federal, state, and local agencies are not doing their job.)

Last Call at the Oasis was shown in Chico (also in September), since it addresses America's water crisis, the theme of this academic year's *Book in Common* (bic), Peter Glennon's book, *Unquenchable*. (The calendar of related events are at <http://www.csuchico.edu/bic/calendar/index.shtml>. Sites concerning the author and the book are also easily googled on the internet.) Local environmental organizations that have been involved with water crises include Butte Environmental Council, Citizens Water Watch, our Yahi Group, and Aqualliance. We may not all agree on Glennon's solutions, but he makes us consider the facts of our water crisis. (By the way, those local organizations need more volunteers and funds to be more effective in addressing regional water crises.)

It was my privilege to learn about a variety of environmental issues, thanks to work by these local grassroots organizations as well as through the training in Sacramento in August under the leadership of Kathryn Phillips, Director of Sierra Club California, the lobbying wing of the Club. We volunteers were successful in only some of our lobbying efforts, however. That included support for our state parks and a solar permit fee bill. Kathryn wrote us that

"Unfortunately, (the Governor) signed AB 845 (Ma), the late-session bill that undermines a 1984 voter-passed initiative in Solano County to protect sensitive marshland from landfill expansion for imported garbage." Two of several other areas where we were unsuccessful included a Solar for All initiative and the banning of single use plastic bags. (Chico, however, is involved in fighting plastic bags; you may want to read the important "particulars" of that bill and write to the papers and local representatives in Chico or wherever you may live.)

Forests and Watersheds. As I reported last time, the Sierra Club offered me another privilege (available to you as well): learning about forest practices from Sierra Club staff persons, Juliette Beck and Sarah Matsumoto. Sarah helps direct the club's Sierra Nevada Resilient Habitats program. Its aim is to "protect the Sierra Nevada wild places, watersheds and wildlife from the worst effects of climate change." The good news is that she and other volunteers have been very successful in some places, e.g., in southern CA forests, but there are not enough forest activists in the Yahi region to fight the dreadful harm to our forests-- and their ecosystems-- all around us. Sierra Pacific Industries (SPI), the largest landowner in the state, is logging huge clear-cuts, so Sarah and other Sierra Club compatriots came up to our region to show us exactly how Collins Pine in Chester (near Lake Almanor) is involved in responsible and sustainable woodcutting, a sharp contrast to what SPI has been doing. While the club has activists working on forest fire related issues please get in touch with Sarah if you would like to get involved in helping to protect the Yahi region's forests. They are after all the major source of water retention for us and our ecosystems -- as well as a major source of our outdoor pleasure. To help email sarah.matsumoto@sierraclub.org.

MLC LEADERSHIP

Chair	Chapter Staff:
Dale Stocking	Director
dalehiker@gmail.com	Terry Davis
Vice Chair	terry.davis@sierraclub.org
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Barbara Rivenes	Bob Schneider
brivenes@sbcglobal.net	Eric Parfrey
Treasurer	Betsy Weiland
Lee Fennell	Barbara Rivenes
treasurer@mlc.sierraclub.org	Andy Sawyer
Compliance	Dale Stocking
Dan Sullivan	Barbara Williams
dansullivan63@earthlink.net	Marilyn Jasper
Conservation Chair	ExCom Group Representatives
Bob Schneider	Alan Pryor (Yolano)
verve2006@comcast.net	Grace Anderson (Tahoe)
Council of Club Leaders	Marilyn Jasper (Placer)
Barbara Williams	Anita Young (Yokuts)
barb.williams@mlc.sierraclub.org	Bob Johnson (Maidu)
Outings Committee	Michael Molamphy (Delta-Sierra)
Tony Loftin	Jon Sturtevant (Tuolumne)
hikingtony@earthlink.net	Grace Marvin (Yahi)
Outings Schedule Editor	Ernie Malamud (Sierra NV)
Jerry Snodgrass	Warren Harding (Sacramento)
gsnodgrass@csuchico.edu	Dianna Thrasher (Shasta)
Webmaster	
Terry Davis	
terry.davis@sierraclub.org	