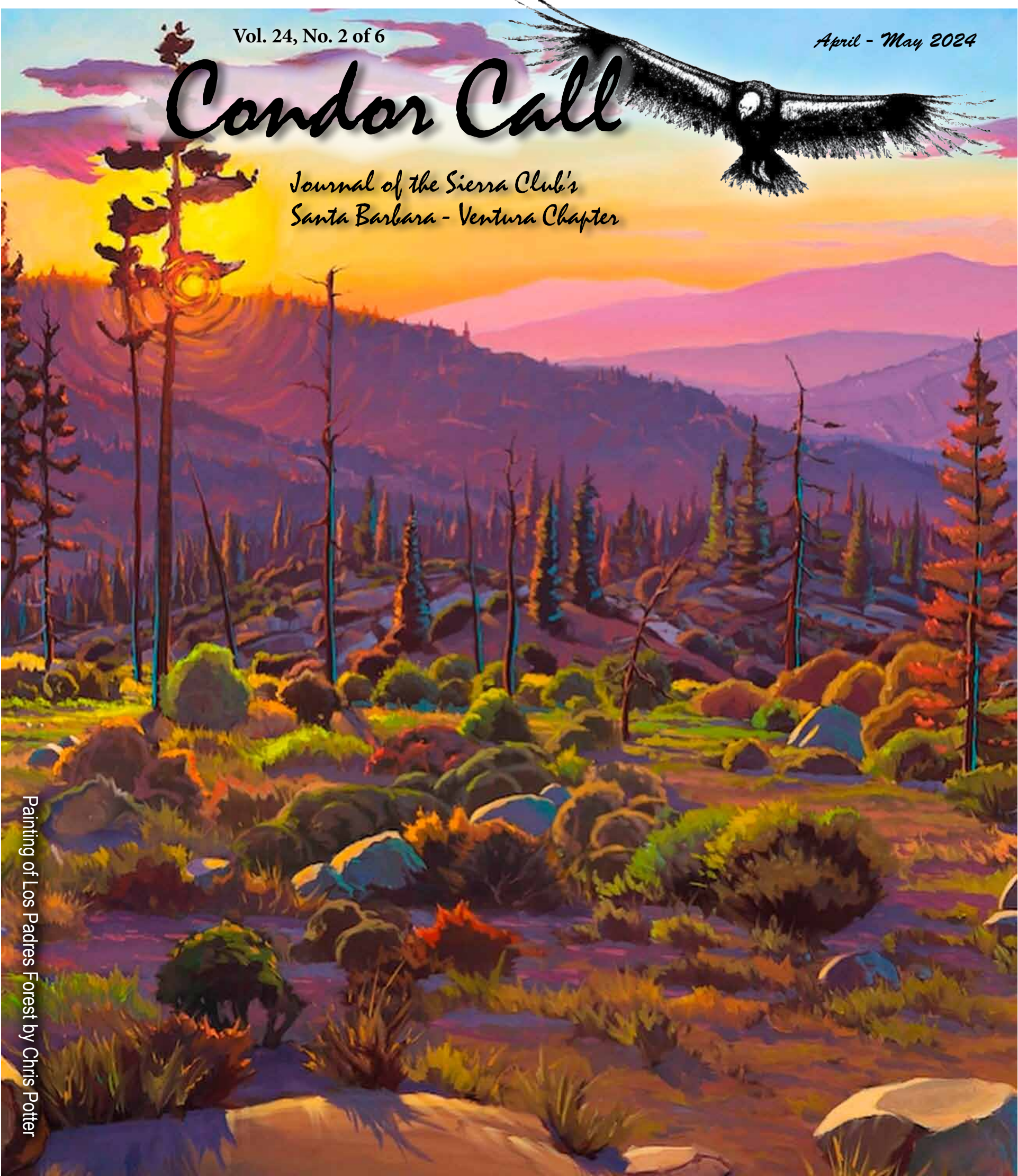


Vol. 24, No. 2 of 6

April - May 2024

# Condor Call

Journal of the Sierra Club's  
Santa Barbara - Ventura Chapter



Painting of Los Padres Forest by Chris Potter

Water & Wild ... Wilderness Women ... Wins ... World Earth Day ... Wildflowers

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Top photo is Lake Casitas in late March, filled to 97.6% of capacity. The last time water spilled over the Casitas Dam was in 1998. Photo below during an extended drought was uncovered in 2016. It's the remnants of Santa Ana elementary school. (Photo courtesy of ABC7)

**25 YEARS**

## Lake Casitas to spill?

Will Lake Casitas in Ventura County ever be full again and spill?

As of April 4, just before Condor Call's deadline, it's at 97.6% capacity, which is 238,000 acre-feet.

The last time water spilled over the Casitas Dam was in 1998 due to extensive drought conditions and usage. But over the last year with "atmospheric rivers" pummeling the county, it started to slowly fill. Climate change indeed.

Lake Cachuma in Santa Barbara County has already spilled, but it has State Project water to help fill it and survive decades of stingy rain; not so Casitas which primarily serves the Ojai Valley and western Ventura.

**GREETING FRIENDS**

## Bond with the wild

By Jim Hines

Greetings Friends:

A light breeze fluttered through the pines as I sat beneath, listening, wondering and thinking.

I was at The Pine Grove on the hilltop where I grew up on my family's ranch just north of Lake Casitas. A land rich with nature, a land teeming with wildlife and a land which molded me into the person I am today.

Growing up close to the land, living and working on our organic farm, I bonded with all the wild which surrounded me in my everyday life: two creeks flowing with life-giving water, a ranch pond, beautiful plants galore, high mountains, vast meadows and wildlife from small to large. Being raised as a free-range kid, I loved exploring and learning about the natural world



If you have a printed Condor Call in your hand, you can tap into this QR code to get a full color version that has hot links! Try it.

The Casitas Dam was completed in 1958 to create the Lake Casitas Reservoir. The lake first reached full capacity and spilled in 1978. Readers may remember how our Chapter vice-chair, Jim Hines, has often mentioned that the project flooded his family's ranch where he grew up.

Meanwhile, the remnants of an old elementary Santa Ana school, which was submerged under Lake Casitas for decades, were 'rediscovered' in 2016 when the drought uncovered what's left of it. The school was constructed in the early 1900s and razed in 1957 to create Lake Casitas. The school's foundation was buried under 69 feet of water for more than five decades until the 2016 drought uncovered that piece of history.

of the thousands of acres which surrounded me.

One cannot grow up surrounded by natural beauty and not develop a passion to protect all that is WILD!

Travel we did, my parents and I to far off places, exotic Africa (at least to me as a young boy), the great national parks of America and the fabulous gardens of the United Kingdom, I was blessed to be among wonder and awe.

It pains me to see so much destruction being done in our world, so I do my best with the resources I have available to me to attempt in my own way to stop the killing of wildlife and the destruction of our great wild places.

The land I grew up on is one of my places of solitude, a land where I find peace.

Find your passion my friends and then take a deep breath and start on your journey to make our world a better and more compassionate place for all of us.

Start in your neighborhood, then expand if you wish to protect that special wild place you treasure far from your home, I can tell you from experience your passion, your dedication and your positive inner strength will allow you to protect the places you care about.

Bond with the WILD!, form bonds with others and then your journey begins.



# Our big oil resistance

By Katie Davis  
Chapter Chair

### Earth Day Teach-in

Earth Day started as a teach-in. We are continuing that tradition by hosting a panel discussion on Earth Day this year April 27th at 1pm during the Santa Barbara Community Environmental Council celebration at Alameda Park. Look for us on the Climate Action Stage.

Our theme: Santa Barbara's Big Oil Resistance: You will learn about Santa Barbara's decades long fight against oil expansion both on and offshore, the spills and climate impacts that have shaped the fight, inspiring wins against some of the largest oil companies in the world, and the next phase in this frontline fight to protect our health, environment and our world.

### License to Spill

An oil startup has applied to Santa Barbara County for transfer of ownership from Exxon to themselves in hopes of restarting offshore oil production shut down since a massive oil spill in 2015.

They are requesting the County approve their taking over the gas and oil pipelines, including the one that burst and caused the 2015 Refugio oil spill, and the Santa Ynez oil processing facility on the Gaviota coast, which when operating was the largest facility source of greenhouse gas and health-damaging air pollution in the County.

The oil startup, called Sable, is financed by a loan from Exxon and speculative funding through a blank check company. The Santa Barbara County Planning Commission will consider the request sometime this summer. County decision makers should be highly skeptical of Exxon offloading liability for its aging oil operation to a startup company that would disappear in the event of a spill or other disaster.

Check out Sable's website here: <https://sableoffshore.com/>

### Health on the Ballot

Big Oil is drilling dangerously close to the homes of two million people in California—and putting them at higher risk of asthma, birth defects and cancer. That's why in 2022 California banned oil drilling next to homes, schools and businesses in recognition that everyone deserves clean air and healthy neighborhoods.

But the oil industry is set on trying to overturn even these modest health and safety buffers, paying to get enough signatures to hold up implementation

of the law and put it on the November 2024 ballot. Learn more about the Campaign for a Safe and Healthy California uniting to protect neighborhoods from dangerous oil wells at: <https://www.cavsbigoil.com/>

### Fracking is Not the Problem

A few years ago California Gov. Gavin Newsom announced a halt to new permits for well-stimulation treatments such as fracking, saying that the state "needs to move beyond oil." A formal plan to ban fracking statewide was recently released by the Department of Conservation's Geologic Energy Management Division (CalGEM) with the goal to "prevent damage to life, health, property, and natural resources," as well as mitigate greenhouse gas emissions.

That sounds great, but the problem is the definition of well-stimulation treatments they are using does not include steam injection methods -- which is the kind of unconventional oil production most used in California. There is no fracking in Santa Barbara County and very little in Ventura County, but 100 percent of the proposed oil projects

in SB County over the last decade have been steam projects.

Cyclic steam and steam flooding are forms of well stimulation that superheat oil out of the ground. They have the same kinds of risks and impacts as fracking, but they are more energy-intensive with higher emissions.

These methods were included in a 2021 bill introduced by state senators Monique Limón (D-Santa Barbara) and Scott Wiener (D-San Francisco), which would have halted permits for fracking, acid well treatments, cyclic steaming, and water and steam flooding starting in 2022, and then prohibited those extraction methods entirely in 2027.

But thanks to the oil lobby, that bill was shot down.

*continued on page 2*

### EAVESDROP

*"The four biggest banks in America are the four biggest financiers of fossil fuel expansion in the world. We can, and must, call on these banks to move money out of dirty energy projects and finance more clean energy instead."*

*~ Ben Jealous of the Sierra Club and Bill McKibben writing in the Guardian UK, concluding "If Chase, Citi, Wells Fargo and Bank of America no longer fund new fossil fuel expansion, it makes the climate fight easier."*

### COVER PHOTO

The late Chris Potter painting from Big Pine Mtn looking down the Sisquoc within the San Rafael Wilderness. See his photo and more info on page 3. Meanwhile, check out his other art at: <https://www.chrispotterart.com/shop>



No more oil indeed. Instead, let's seriously consider a strong effort for renewables, such as these wind turbines. Sierra Club and community leaders attended the Strauss Wind Project ribbon cutting on Feb. 29 outside Lompoc. It has 27 turbines, powers 400,000 homes day and night. (Photo by Jon Ullman)

## Goleta approves Ag protection

The same day that the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors heard presentations from property owner and developer representatives who want to convert agricultural parcels into new housing developments, the Goleta City Council directed city staff to look at steps to place an extension of the city's current agricultural land protection before Goleta voters this November.

At the [March 19 Goleta City Council meeting](#), the five members of the council unanimously voted to direct city staff to move forward with preparing a ballot measure asking city voters if the Measure G2012 Agricultural Land Protection Initiative should be extended by another 20 years, which would be December 31, 2052.

Measure G was approved by a majority of Goleta voters in 2012,

prohibiting changing Agriculture-zoned properties of 10 or more acres in the city limits or planning area unless approved by City of Goleta voters. As approved by the voters in 2012, Measure G is in effect through December 31, 2032.

But converting agricultural parcels to residential is top-of-mind for many in the South Coast areas lately, as Santa Barbara County Planning Commission and City Council are reviewing options to rezone as high-density residential several orchards and nurseries in the unincorporated county to the east of Goleta.

"The county and what they're looking at doing with agricultural land is Exhibit A of what we don't want to be doing," said councilmember Kyle Richards.

Members of the Goodland Coalition and the Environmental Defense Center who worked on the

original initiative spoke during the public comment saying protecting agricultural land in Goleta was more important today than it was in 2012.

"Measure G is working," said councilmember James Kyriaco. "It's protecting agriculture and it's causing us to put housing in the right place. Measure G forces us to make the hard choices about infill and density, to put housing where people live, work, and play already."

The Goleta City Council directed city staff to work with the county and others to prepare an ordinance for placing a ballot issue on the November 2024 ballot to extend Measure G2012 Agricultural Land Protection Initiative. To have ample time to get the extension of Measure G on the ballot before Goleta voters this November, the City Council wants to make a decision by the regular June 18, 2024 meeting.





Directed and produced by Harry Rabin (also Heal the Ocean) and Joey Szalkiewicz of On the Wave Productions. The film is a thought-provoking documentary that sheds light on the environmental challenges facing Summerland and its leaking oil wellheads. They are the first offshore wells in the world (Russia claims it was first) and it had over two hundred offshore wellheads 120 years ago. Many are now leaking.

## Big oil resistance...

*continued from page 1*

It is easy to ban fracking when it is hardly used in California at all. Really grappling with oil pollution will require phasing out steam production as well.

### Methane Risks

Fracking IS used to produce natural gas (methane) in Texas and New Mexico, and that gas is then transported via pipelines to California for use in buildings and power plants. We import 90% of the methane gas we use from other states. Along the way, compressor stations push the gas along to underground storage areas such as the La Goleta gas storage facility underneath Goleta beach and parts of UCSB.

Methane leaks are a problem at every stage. The Ventura Compressor station next to E.P. Foster Elementary School has had several leaks documented by the Air Pollution Control District going back decades, putting residents and school children at risk of inhaling dangerous chemicals like methane, benzene and other volatile organic com-

pounds harmful to health.

The most notorious gas leak in California history occurred less than a decade ago at SoCalGas's Aliso Canyon storage facility in the San Fernando Valley. The leak was one of the most severe in American history, lasting for months and sickening nearby residents.

Recognizing these risks, the Westside Clean Air Coalition, made up of Ventura community members and environmental organizations, has been fighting a proposal by SoCalGas to expand the Ventura compressor station to send more gas to the La Goleta storage facility. The project would cost more than \$500 million – which will largely come from increased rates for consumers in Santa Barbara, Ventura and elsewhere.

Instead of expanding fossil fuel infrastructure, the California Public Utility Commission should require SoCalGas to build a much smaller compressor away from the school and residents, and we should instead invest in electrifying buildings and switching to renewable sources of energy to reduce the need for methane gas locally.

# Thanks to women in wilderness

*Editor's note: A standing ovation to ForestWatch for honoring 16 local extraordinary women during Women's History Month. Clearly a lot of research work was done. We are presenting their chosen ones but due to space we edited the descriptions, so please read the full notices and see the photos on the website: <https://lpfw.org/women-leaders-of-central-coast-public-lands/>*

By Los Padres ForestWatch

This Women's History Month, Los Padres ForestWatch is honoring sixteen extraordinary women who—through actions large and small—have played a leading role in protecting public lands and waters throughout California's central coast region.

Their stories inspire us and remind us that strength, determination, and tenacity are some of the best tools we can use to protect and defend the places we love.

And what do you know, some are/were Sierra Club members, notably Anne Van Tyne and Kathleen Goddard Jones (see below). Many others worked with the Sierra Club and may have been members.

This list is by no means exhaustive, and it focuses specifically on groundbreaking work protecting public lands and waters. They are:

**Anne McMahon:** From Cambria to Carrizo (1952-2009).

She was a relentless crusader for environmental protection and led efforts to the creation of the 200,000-acre Carrizo Plain National Monument among other acquisitions.

**Anne Van Tyne** "Grand Dame of the Environmental Movement" (1904-1993).

Anne was Sierra Club's Chapter Chair for many years and led a years-long campaign to protect a large swath of the San Rafael Mountains, prompting Congress to pass a law in 1984 establishing the 70,000-acre Dick Smith Wilderness. She led countless hikes and opposed the Forest Service's use of herbicides to clear fuel breaks.

**Gloria Brown** "Black Woman in Green" Goleta (1951-2021)

Gloria served with the U.S. Forest Service from 1974 to 2007 and was the first Black woman forest supervisor.

She worked her way up eventually retiring as Los Padres National Forest supervisor in 2007. While here, she scaled back a proposal to expand oil drilling in the forest. She co-authored *Black Woman in Green: Gloria Brown and the Unmarked Trail to Forest Service Leadership*.

**Jan Hamber:** "Champion of the Condors" Santa Barbara

Jan is a wildlife biologist who has worked to bring endangered California condors back from the brink of extinction since 1976, tracking down the last known condor in the wild. Also a founder of SB Audubon and curator of condor archives at SB Museum of Natural History.

**Janine McFarland:** "Forest Archaeologist & Whistleblower" Goleta

Janine worked as an archaeologist with the U.S. Forest Service, and her studies helped us better understand the relationship of the Chumash people to the land.

She was also steadfast in reporting sexual harassment and discrimination within the agency, serving as a whistleblower and filing more than two dozen complaints

that led to Congressional hearings and investigations, making her the subject of retaliation and threats to her personal safety.

**Joy Parkinson:** "British Birder Extraordinaire" Santa Barbara (1924-2013)

Joy was a founding member of Santa Barbara Audubon, spearheading its response to the 1969 blowout and oil spill in the Santa Barbara Channel.

She was instrumental in getting the land around Lake Los Carneros dedicated as a county park and organized a campaign supporting passage of the Wilderness Act of 1964.

**Julie Tumamait:** Chumash Elder and Educator, Ojai Valley

Julie's ancestors were raised in the Chumash village of Matilija, and she is well-known for her Chumash cultural education programs with local schools and community groups. She is the founder and former Chair of the Barbareno-Ventureno Band of Mission Indians and works tirelessly to protect culturally important landscapes.

**Kathleen Goddard Jones:** SLO Defender of the Dunes (1907-2001)

Kathleen helped found two local Sierra Club chapters in San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara, where she attended hearings and proved testimony in support of the San Rafael, Ventana and Santa Lucia Wilderness. Her most important efforts led to the preservation of the Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes.

**Linda Krop:** A Force of Law - Santa Barbara

Linda has served as Chief Counsel at the Environmental Defense Center since 1999 where she and her legal team represent community groups (notably our Sierra Club) seeking to protect coastal, open space, and natural resources.

She has protected the Santa Barbara Channel by defeating several oil and gas development proposals and compelling the retirement of forty federal offshore leases; saved coastal open spaces from development at Ellwood Mesa, Carpinteria Bluffs, and Hearst Ranch; preserved lands abutting Los Padres National Forest and served on the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council for fifteen years, where she advocated for the first network of marine reserves.

Linda teaches Environmental Law at UCSB, inspiring the next generation of environmental lawyers.

**Lois Capps:** A Conservation Congress member, Santa Barbara

Lois Capps served as the federal representative for central coast communities for nearly two decades. Her record is exemplary: she introduced legislation that led to the establishment of the Carrizo Plain National Monument, to ban oil drilling in the Los Padres National Forest, to stop the Adventure Pass, to study the feasibility of a Gaviota Coast National Park, and to expand the network of wilderness areas and wild and scenic rivers.

These accomplishments and more earned her a 95% lifetime score from the League of Conservation Voters.

**Marlene Braun:** Legacy for the Carrizo Plain (1959-2005)

Marlene served as the first Manager for the Carrizo Plain National Monument, tasked with developing a resource management plan that prioritized putting the

health of native plants and animals ahead of commercial grazing operations and other development.

Her experience included thirteen years working with the Bureau of Land Management and an advanced degree in soil science. A change of administrations in Washington DC and a new supervisor prompted a reassignment of her duties amidst an onslaught of harassment and bullying.

The situation became intolerable, and Marlene took her own life at work one day, on the land she loved so dearly. Five years after her death, the new management plan was approved, marshalling in a new era of conservation in keeping with Marlene's vision.

**Mary Looby:** A Mighty Volunteer, Ventura

Mary has contributed thousands of volunteer hours in Los Padres National Forest. Pick any trail and she's likely helped maintain it, protect it, or used it on a mission with the Upper Ojai Search and Rescue team. She was recently recognized as Volunteer of the Year for Ventura County for her years of community service. She was an admired speaker at the Sierra Club's Wilderness Basics Course.

**Nancy Sandburg** Santa Barbara

Nancy served as a wildlife biologist with the U.S. Forest Service for two decades on the Mendocino, Tongass, Rio Grande, and Los Padres National Forest. She received several awards for her work; however, she became the subject of harassment and retaliation by her superiors after reporting illegal bulldozing by Forest Service employees that destroyed stream habitat and killed hundreds of endangered frogs and toads.

**Patricia Weinberger:** Defender of Pine Mountain & Ojai (1923-2016)

Pat worked tirelessly to protect Ojai's character and the sanctity of its backcountry. She stopped the expansion of a freeway through Ojai, was instrumental in protecting the Lake Casitas watershed from construction of 10,000 homes and thwarted a plan in the early 1970s to construct open-pit phosphate mines on the south slope of Pine Mountain.

Pat founded and led two grassroots community organizations—Citizens to Preserve the Ojai, and the Ventura Environmental Coalition.

**Sally Reid:** A Wilderness Legend, Pine Mountain Club (1919-2002)

Sally Reid was one of the most important conservation leaders in our region for nearly three decades. She chaired the committee that developed proposals for new wilderness areas that ultimately were signed into law as the California Wilderness Act in 1984, establishing the Dick Smith and Machesna Mountain wilderness areas and significantly expanding the existing San Rafael and Ventana wilderness areas. And in 1992, Sally successfully fought for the creation of the Chumash, Sespe, and Matilija wilderness areas in Ventura County.

**Violet Sage Walker:** Ocean Protector Guadalupe

Violet is the Tribal Chair of the Northern Chumash Tribal Council, and in that role, formally nominated the Proposed Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary. She also helped oppose an attempt to remove the protected status of Carrizo Plain National Monument and was recently appointed to the federal Ocean Research Advisory Panel.

## Condor Call

[SierraClub.org/SantaBarbara-Ventura](http://SierraClub.org/SantaBarbara-Ventura) ~ All phone numbers 1-805 area code

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# Election mostly good for us

Both highlights and lowlights followed the March 5 Primary election in Santa Barbara and Ventura counties.

Our Sierra Club posted endorsements and we attained good results for state and federal offices.

“The fact that our endorsed legislators continue to do so well reflects the strong support for the environment by voters in our Chapter area,” said David Gold, our chapter’s political guide. Also note the section below about Sierra Club California, which rates our local legislators and the governor.

Locally, there were some mixed bags. But let’s let our Chapter leaders sort it out:

## SANTA BARBARA

Jim Taylor, SB ExCom

“As far as Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors District 1, we were surprised that our candidate Das Williams lost, though by a very narrow margin, to Roy Lee, a City Council Member from Carpinteria. Das has been a stalwart environmentalist, but his longevity in office might have worked against him.

We will be coordinating with Roy in the coming months and have reason to believe that his viewpoint on environmental matters is in line with Sierra Club values.

We are pleased that Joan Hartmann kept her seat on the Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors, in spite of new district boundaries that exclude Isla Vista and include Lompoc. Her convincing victory over a Republican and the Mayor of Lompoc is a testament to her non-partisan popularity.”

Das Williams - District 1 -- 49%  
-- Lost - Roy Lee 51%

Joan Hartmann - District 3 -- 59% -- Won - (Frank Troise 25%)

## VENTURA



## New life for plant

A new life for the notorious Santa Clara Wastewater processing plant in Santa Paula is on the horizon, with a new owner telling Ventura County supervisors that he will clean up the site and use it for a contractor’s storage yard.

But for now, supervisors on March 26 revoked the facility’s conditional use permit, which has been on hiatus just after Nov. 18, 2014, when a vacuum truck exploded and created a 3-mile-long plume of toxic smoke from the site at 815 Mission Rock Rd.

The truck was loaded with chemicals and the blast caused severe injuries to first responders and at least 50 people were hospitalized. Pollution was extensive.

An indictment followed by the Ventura County Grand Jury and after much legal action until 2019, huge fines totaling at least \$3.6 million were required to corporate entities and others who pled no contest and guilty.

The new owner, Tim Finnigan of Carpinteria, bought the property after it went into foreclosure in 2023. He informed the board that he has done this before when he bought a derelict Santa Paula area sewer plant in 2019 and dismantled it to clear space for a contractor’s storage yard.

“I have filed for a demo permit to take everything off, have no intention at all of putting in a wastewater treatment plant,” Finnigan said.

## Santa Barbara-Ventura Chapter Primary Results

All of our endorsed legislators advanced to the November General Election. Note: For the US House and California legislature, the top two finishers advance to the general. (Those we endorsed are listed below in boldface.)

Note: For the US House and California legislature, the top two finishers advance to the general.

## US House of Representatives

**Salud Carbajal -- CD24 54%** Thomas Cole 37%  
**Brad Sherman -- CD32 59%** Larry Thompson 19%

## California State Senate

**Monique Limon -- SD21-- 62%** Elijah Mack 38%

## California Assembly

**Gregg Hart -- AD37 -- 60%** Sari Domingues 40%  
**Steve Bennett -- AD38 -- 62%** Deborah Baber 38%

## Jim Hines, Chapter Vice-Chair

“Here in Ventura County, voting yesterday yielded an environmental disaster . . . Third District anti-environmental incumbent (Kelly Long) won overwhelmingly with close to 65% of the vote.

Voters in that district listened to the county sheriff and his deputies and county firefighters and not to the voice of environmental protection.

The VC Board of Supervisors will continue its 3-2 anti-environment majority.

Now onto November . . . hang on to your hats folks, we are in for a wild ride.”

## SIERRA CLUB CA

Meanwhile, Sierra Club California gave high marks to our Democrat legislators serving Santa Barbara and Ventura counties during 2023 in its annual report card. Monique Limón garnered a perfect score, but the others were not far behind. They are:

- Steve Bennett, assembly #38
- Greg Hart, assembly #37
- Jacqui Irwin, assembly #42
- Monique Limón, senate #19

Overall, SCC reported that “this (2023) was a year of victories for the environment in the state legislature, and bills advancing corporate account-

ability, lands conservation, oil & gas drilling, clean transportation funding, and integrity in the referendum process were all passed by the legislature and signed by the Governor. Sierra Club California was also successful in thwarting numerous environmentally harmful bills - a testament to the robust strength of our movement.”

“Out of the 51 bills Sierra Club California opposed this year, only one managed to reach the Governor’s desk.”

“As for Gov. Newsom, he aligned with the Sierra Club 73% of the time. We ultimately gave him a C grade, with an asterisk noting that he “doesn’t always play well with others.”

## Read our blog



Chris Potter painting the Los Padres, who passed away on Feb. 3. Los Padres Forest-Watch considers Chris a legend, one of many artists who are drawn to the astonishing beauty and diversity of our forest and area in general. The family is asking in lieu of flowers or gifts to consider a donation to the Potter teenagers, Zenia and Malakye here: <https://gofund.me/4cca5570>

## Goleta’s going green

In time for Earth Month, the city of Goleta has unveiled its new environmental campaign – Go Green Goleta/Vamos Verde Goleta.

“It’s not just a slogan, it’s a genuine call to action to encourage all of us to take steps, both big and small, to protect our Goleta now and for the future,” said the city in a press release. The tag line for the campaign says it all — “Our Tomorrow is Today.”

Goleta has six programs in the Go Green Goleta umbrella. The campaign aims to educate community members about the programs and motivate them to act in their everyday lives to make a difference.

To view the new Go Green Goleta video with tips from city staff, visit <https://youtu.be/hwhvBbwC0o>. It is also available in Spanish at <https://youtu.be/4dUsr15g4pc>.

“Go Green Goleta emphasizes that little drops of water make the mighty ocean,” said Dan Rowell the city’s environmental specialist. “This is a timeless saying that reminds us that even seemingly small efforts, when multiplied across a community of individuals, can lead to substantial positive impacts.”



# 30x30

## ORGANIZING TO CONSERVE 30% OF OUR LANDS BY 2030.

**SUPPORTING STATE, FEDERAL AND LOCAL CONSERVATION INITIATIVES**

- H.R. 973 (Carbajal)
- Chumash Marine Sanctuary
- Carpinteria Bluffs

**STOPPING HARMFUL POLICIES AND PRACTICES**

- Oil Extraction and Trucking
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Methane Heating & Cooking Fuel

Sierra Club supports federal legislation- H.R. 973 (Carbajal) would:

- Designate 288,672 acres of wilderness in Carrizo Plain National Monument and Los Padres National Forest
- Create two scenic areas (34,882 acres)
- Establish the 400-mile Condor Trail
- Safeguard 159 miles of wild and scenic rivers

Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary

- 140 square miles
- Cambria to Channel Islands
- Connects existing marine sanctuaries

**JOIN US!**



**Most meetings continue online for now**

*Group News*

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/SantaBarbara-Ventura](http://www.SierraClub.org/SantaBarbara-Ventura)

**SANTA BARBARA GROUP**

~ We meet 2nd Tuesdays, 11-12pm 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 send an email request to:  
[ConejoGroupHiking@gmail.com](mailto:ConejoGroupHiking@gmail.com).  
Or view the Conejo Group website:  
[www.sierraclub.org/SantaBarbara-Ventura](http://www.sierraclub.org/SantaBarbara-Ventura)  
[www.sierraclub.org/SantaBarbara-Ventura/outings](http://www.sierraclub.org/SantaBarbara-Ventura/outings)





By Deborah Williams

Editor's note: We continue to feature specific climate action ideas, authored by Deborah Williams who is a UCSB lecturer in environmental studies.

Everything we put into our mouth has a carbon emission history. Some foods – like beef and lamb – have an exceptionally large climate change footprint.

To calculate the greenhouse gases (GHG) associated with the food we eat, there are seven components to consider:

- 1) land use change including deforestation, 2) methane and carbon dioxide emissions from cow flatulence, rice paddies, farm machinery, etc., 3) animal feed, 4) processing, 5) transport, 6) retail, refrigeration and more and 7) packaging from production to disposal.

To graphically capture the GHG emissions per kilogram (2.2 pounds) of 29 foods, check out this very informative website:

<https://tinyurl.com/HoldTheBeef>

Beef tops the chart at 60 kg CO<sub>2</sub>e

equivalents (CO<sub>2</sub>e). Lamb is second at 24 kg CO<sub>2</sub>e. Other foods also have a meaningful carbon footprint, including cheese, chocolate, coffee, farmed prawns, and palm oil, but much less than beef.

Many foods have a very small CO<sub>2</sub>e equivalent of 1 kg CO<sub>2</sub>e or less, such as corn, soymilk, peas, root vegetables, citrus fruits and nuts.

An Oxford University study concluded that to help avoid catastrophic climate change, the US and UK need to reduce beef production by 90% and make other changes to our diets and agricultural practices.

Annually, livestock accounts for 14.5% of the world's greenhouse gases each year (about the same amount as from cars, trucks, airplanes and ships combined).

We can make a difference by what we eat.

To begin with, we can stop eating, or significantly reduce eating, beef and lamb. Eliminating red meat from our diet is not only good for our climate, but also for our health. A Harvard School of Public Health study found: "Red meat: in addition to rais-

ing the risk for colorectal cancer and other health problems, can shorten your life . . . each additional daily serving of red meat increased risk of death by 13%." In other words, "It appears 'healthy meat consumption' has become an oxymoron."

Beef and other meat also require an astounding amount of water. Only 8 ounces of beef demands over 850 gallons. If all Americans ate meat one less day a week, the water saved would equal the Colorado River's annual flow.

Also, about 50% of the Earth's habitable land is devoted to food production. Of that "nearly 80 percent is for grazing livestock," often after extensive deforestation. This excellent video further explains why beef has such a massive carbon footprint, and the importance of making informed food consumption choices, as does a *How to Save a Planet* podcast called "What's the Beef with Beef?"

Somewhat surprisingly, as a recent extensive analysis published in the *Journal of Animal Science* reveals, conventional feedlot cattle have a lower greenhouse gas footprint than grass fed cattle.

We can also take one or more additional steps in lowering our food carbon footprint by reducing our consumption of cheese, chocolate, coffee, farmed shrimp, palm oil, dairy products and/or pork. A plant-based diet is win-win from so many perspectives.

Finally, we can help reduce the transportation portion of our food's greenhouse gas emissions by buying locally grown fruits, vegetables, nuts, honey, eggs and more. What's more, the food is generally fresher, tastier and helps our local economy.

According to ATTRA, fresh US produce travels over 1,500 miles before being consumed. Local is better, and we have great local options in our farmer's markets and stores in Santa Barbara and Ventura counties.

The bottom line is that we have a choice regarding what we eat and the greenhouse consequences of our food consumption. Fundamentally, we can make choices on a meal-by-meal basis to reduce our carbon footprint, which is empowering.

## Sierra Club provides easy plastic action

Life in plastic ain't fantastic – the world is finally getting that, and finally accepting that plastic pollution is a global problem that requires a unified, global response.

In June, 170 countries agreed to prepare a "zero draft" text of a legally binding agreement on tackling plastic pollution by April 2024.

The treaty has an unusually ambitious timescale for globally binding agreements. The next round of talks in Kenya are scheduled for this fall, ahead of the publication of the zero draft and the final agreement is planned for late 2024. If that happens, countries are expected to incorporate the treaty into national laws in 2025.

"This mandate was hard fought for, but at least provides a clear direction of travel towards starting to draft the plastics treaty in earnest," Christina Dixon told *The Guardian*. She is the ocean campaign leader at the Environmental Investigation Agency.

Globally 400 million tons of plastic waste are produced each year. About 14 million tons of this ends up in our oceans.

Plastic waste has now infiltrated some of the planet's most remote and pristine areas. A wide range of impacts are occurring on the environment, wildlife, and human health, including choking and starving wildlife, worsening flooding by blocking water-

ways, and exacerbating air pollution.

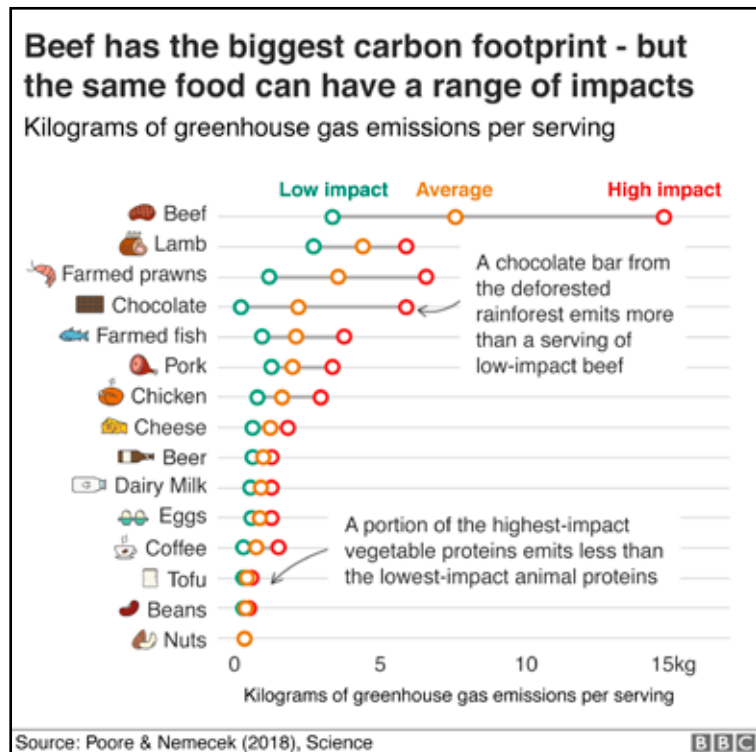
Eliminating plastic pollution will require a radical rethink of how this material is produced, used, and disposed of, and that in turn will require setting up reliable and effective compliance mechanisms. As the editors of *Nature* pointed out in a recent editorial: "So far however the negotiations do not include a specific plan to hold countries accountable for the pledges and promises they make on behalf of their plastics producers, exporters, and recyclers. It is clear this must change – and fast."

Plastic is everywhere – in the oceans, in our food, and even in our bodies. Americans generate roughly 40 million tons of plastic waste each year and ingest 240,000 bits of nanoplastic with every bottle of water. Democratic leaders in Congress are trying to pass the Break Free From Plastic Pollution Act of 2023. This will help keep plastics out of our landfills by holding the companies that make them accountable. Ask your representatives to support the law today!

The Sierra Club makes it easy to take action, just follow this link:

<https://tinyurl.com/SCplasticAction>

In person, visit the Sierra Club Santa Barbara – Ventura Chapter booth at the Community Environmental Earth Day Festival on April 27 and 28.



Looks like Chief Peak above Ojai is getting older and gray. No that's snow -- on Easter Sunday. The Chief's face laying down is easier to pick out with that snow contrast. (Photo by Bob Ward, courtesy of the Ojai Valley News).

## SIGHTINGS

# Resources, rains, appeals, bad and good news!

By John Hankins

So much will be happening this year in the political and environmental realms and not all of it good, but we persist with a positive attitude to *Explore, Enjoy and Protect the planet* (Sierra Club's motto). Check out the stories and links below and throughout this issue as we look back and forward.

Please get involved and have fun too. Join our activities and activism and free hikes. See **Group News** box on page 3 for contacts and links where you can get involved or enjoy our free hikes via links on page 5, including via MeetUp and internet lists.

*Donations help a lot, and the money stays here at home doing good stuff. Donate here:*

[www.sierraclub.org/donate/1000](http://www.sierraclub.org/donate/1000)

April 3: **New water plan** for California announced by Gov. Newsom. It addresses how the state handles water, including efforts to replenish groundwater, recycle wastewater and restore the natural ecosystems of watersheds. Certain to be controversial, Sierra Club CA has filed a lawsuit against the Delta Water Project component. DWR is hosting a two-hour webinar on April 29, from 10am to noon highlighting the key points of CA Water Plan Update 2023. Register or learn more here: <https://water.ca.gov/>

April 1: **Official notice** of successful end to Exxon Trucking court case!!!!!! Exclamation points provided by Katie Davis, our Chapter Chair, informing us that the Environmental Defense Center was successful in halting any idea of transporting offshore oil via trucks.

March 30: **EV Tax** in New Jersey will be the highest in the nation, no thanks to Gov. Phil Murphy, a Democrat. Beginning in July, NJ owners will pay an annual \$250 road tax fee to offset the state's loss in fuel tax revenue, rising to \$290 in 2028. In another deal breaker, the state will require four years of registration fees upfront, including the new EV fee.

March 30: **Storm Rescues** by Ventura County aviation unit. Multiple groups of stranded hikers on the Sespe River Trail, in the Los Padres National Forest, due to heavy rains north of the Fillmore area. In total, 11 hikers and 3 dogs were airlifted to safety, thanks to the unit which includes Sheriff and Fire Department units. *Condor Call* thanks all rescue units, notably Search and Rescue!

March 28: **Open House** held at the Mt. Pinos District Office to provide an overview of upcoming fuel-break projects along Tecuya Ridge, Frazier Mountain, and adjacent to the Pine

Mountain Club community. The issues are controversial. Find out more from Forest Service and the citizen based ForestWatch on their websites: [www.fs.usda.gov/lpnf](http://www.fs.usda.gov/lpnf) [LosPadresForestWatch.org](http://LosPadresForestWatch.org)

March 28: **"Chasing Condors: Stories of Life, Death, Hope, and Community while Protecting North America's Largest Bird."** Happened at the Channel Islands visitor center via the Ventura Land Trust's 2024 Environmental Speaker Series. Joseph Brandt, the condor expert at Fish and Wildlife, spoke and showed slides. (PS: he's also on the VLT's Advisory Council).

March 25: **Los Padres Forest Watch** honors women leaders of environmental success. A must read, see story pg. 2.

March 21: **"Strongest vehicle pollution** technology standard ever finalized in United States history," said EPA Administrator Michael S. Regan. It would require car manufacturers to increase sales of electric vehicles while cutting carbon emissions from gasoline-powered vehicles, which would begin taking effect with model year 2027. Clearly, it will be controversial except in the environmental community.

March 18: **Santa Cruz Island Trip,**

our fourth annual event from Movin' with Mo public group. Maureen is our Ventura County hike leader, and you can get other events by joining up at its MeetUp site: <https://tinyurl.com/MovinWithMo>

March 16: **Bad news:** While combatting weeds, the Ventura County Parks Department misapplied herbicide, leaving hundreds of trees dead or dying. As the Ag Commissioner said after a fine of \$45,000 against Parks, "It's really saddening ... these are 100-year-old trees in some cases. Even if you replant trees, we won't see them to their full glory in our lifetimes."

**Good news:** Probation workers, coordinated by GSA Employee of the Year Diane Grace, helped the Parks Department switch to non-toxic weed management. (Report by David Goldstein, environmental writer)

March 16: **Blue Water Ball** at the Cabrillo Pavilion was sold out with 200 plus guests, raising \$170,000 for the SB ChannelKeeper. It brought together ocean enthusiasts and activists, for a lively and memorable evening. Over two dozen sponsors helped, notably Patagonia whose CEO Ryan Gellert spoke about the transformative power of local, grassroots efforts to protect the environment, such as its advocacy on behalf of the Ventura River.

March 16: **Beautify Goleta** is a year-round program to clean up trash throughout the City and on this date 32 volunteers collected 257 pounds of trash that otherwise would have made its way into our creeks and waterways. Sign up to participate in future events at [www.CityofGoleta.org/Beautify-Goleta](http://www.CityofGoleta.org/Beautify-Goleta)

March 8: **Prescribed burns** in the Camino Cielo area were announced to start this month through the spring. Total burn acreage for the project is about 450 acres but broken up into smaller units of up to 35 acres each which are totally dependent on the weather. Such burns will be announced. Website on this and other air quality issues are here: [www.OurAir.org](http://www.OurAir.org)

March 7: **California appeals court** ruled unanimously that Kern County violated the law by using a flawed environmental review for its local oil and gas ordinance designed to fast-track permitting. This is the second time the court has ruled that the county's rubberstamping of such permits violates the state's foundational environmental law. As a result, Kern County has been directed to set aside its permitting ordinance, and county officials will remain prohibited from issuing local permits for those projects.

*continued to page 5*





Ever wonder why the Sierra Club (among our fellow travelers) want to save our region? Well, here's a photo of family and friends just relaxing and loving the view down to Hendry's Beach (aka Arroyo Burro) and beyond. Please join the Sierra Club so we can restore damage done by grazing and oil development. (Photo by Jon Ullman)

### Rescues, burns, appeals...

*continued from page 4*

ects. If it tries to move forward a third time, Kern County will have to adopt a new ordinance and redo its environmental review to comply with the California Environmental Quality Act, or CEQA. "Today's ruling sends a clear signal that cutting corners to drill won't be tolerated at the expense of Kern's air, water and soil," said Mercedes Macias, a Kern County organizer with the [Sierra Club](#).

March 6: **Los Flores Ranch Park** access is temporarily being detoured at least until May, due to closure of Dominion Road for repairs to a culvert failure/sinkhole, located at 6271 Dominion Rd. Santa Maria. The Park remains open, and a detour route is required. See updates and detour route at its Facebook page: Los Flores Ranch Park Facebook.

Feb 27: **Tesla Megapack** batteries are now active at the City's Cater Water Treatment Plant to provide power backup during emergencies and help manage demand on the grid.

Feb 26: **You can bike** from the Santa Barbara Waterfront to Goleta Beach via the [Las Positas Modoc Roads Multiuse Path Project](#) which recently connected to the county's multi-use path. Since its opening in 2022, the city has also planted 75 trees and over 500 native plants.

Feb 17: **"Rare sightings** like this are just really exciting," said Andrea Mills of Island Packers. "This" was two basking sharks in the SB Channel. The sharks are the second largest fish and Mills told the *Ventura County Star* that the sharks were 20-25 feet long. This follows December sightings of killer whales, aka orcas. Could it be that such sightings are the whales celebrating that our Channel area was recently designated as a Whale Heritage site?!

Feb 14: **"It is time** that state government models the change we ask of everyone else," said Assembly member Steve Bennett while introducing AB 2648, which would phase out the purchase and sale of single-use plastic bottles by state agencies. AB 2648 does not apply to the average consumer.

Feb 14: **We're read** and ready to get out pertinent information, and on this



The VC Sun is a bureau of Ojai Valley News that covers western Ventura area. Check it out here: [www.venturacountysun.com](http://www.venturacountysun.com)

day a financial reporter reached out to our Chapter Chair Katie Davis about her page 1 story in *Condor Call* entitled: "Oily deal doomed to fail." In this case it was Bob Welkos who writes for CTFN, a financial news organization based in Connecticut that publishes business stories for investors in North America and Europe. Katie's story led with a warning: "Sable Investors Beware" of Exxon trying to loan/sell its three shuttered platforms and the onshore processing plant. See background story on page 1.

Feb 13: **Lower Eastside** of Santa Barbara could be "dramatically transformed" if all goes well in constructing a bicycle and pedestrian bridge over Highway 101 to connect to the waterfront. Cost is estimated to be \$32.5 million.

Jan 29: **Protecting** Blue Whales and Blue Skies program pitch to cargo ships and others was noted in the *Pacific Coast Business Times*. The link provides how ships and businesses can become an "Ambassador and receive emissions reductions and environmental benefits data for the carriers you work with." Slowing ship speed and other methods are currently voluntary. Learn more here: [www.bluewhalesblueskies.org](http://www.bluewhalesblueskies.org)

Jan 29: **FREE design services** are being offered by the Ventura River Water District for transitioning your home landscape to a design perfect for harvesting rainwater, utilizing graywater reuse, and attracting important pollinators to your garden. It's in concert with the Wildlife Conservation Board, Watershed Progressive, and the county's Conservation District.

To get started, contact the Ventura River Water District at (805) 646-3403 or: [office@vrwd.ca.gov](mailto:office@vrwd.ca.gov)



The global organizer of Earth Day -- [www.EarthDay.org](http://www.EarthDay.org) -- declared this year's theme to be **Planet vs. Plastics**.

"This theme is committed to advocating for widespread awareness on the health risks of plastics, rapidly phasing out single-use plastics and pushing for a strong U.N. Treaty on Plastic Pollution by the end of 2024."

#### SANTA BARBARA:

Earth Day is officially April 22 but celebrated April 27-28 in Santa Barbara at Alameda Park, April 27 from 11am. to 7p.m. and Sunday, April 28 from 11am. to 6pm. Now in its 54th year, the community-organized festival is one of the longest-running Earth Day celebrations in the country and is one of the largest Earth Day festivals on the West Coast. Presented by the Community Environmental Council (CEC). More info at: [www.SBEarthDay.org](http://www.SBEarthDay.org) <https://www.facebook.com/sbeearthday>

A special treat will happen Saturday, April 27 1-2pm at the Climate Action Stage. Join our Sierra Club to learn about Santa Barbara's decades long fight against oil expansion both on and offshore, the spills and climate impacts that have shaped the fight, inspiring wins against some of the largest oil companies in the world, and the next phase in this frontline fight to protect our health, our environment and our world.

Panelists/speakers will include three from the Sierra Club Santa Barbara-Ventura Chapter: Jon Ullman, Director; Emily Engel SB ExCom, and Wendy Santamaria, Labor Organizer, SB ExCom.

Also, Linda Krop, Chief Counsel, Environmental Defense Center, Ken Hough, Co-Director, Santa Barbara County Action Network and Sarah Siedschlag, Environmental Programs Advisor, UCSB Associated Students.

*Green Car Show* all day both days of fun, education, networking and talking to visitors about electric cars and charging issue. We will be co-located with a booth providing information on the Save-California-Solar Program. Want your car to participate? Register at:

<https://driveelectricearthmonth.org/4162>

#### GOLETA

Beautify Goleta goes big for Earth Day with multiple activities on April 20<sup>th</sup>. Three Part Event: Community Cleanup, Bulky Item Drop Off and New Beach Cleanup.

Last year's event was such a success that we are making this one bigger and better. Will include Elubia's food truck and Considered Coffee Bar as well as a MarBorg Touch-a-Truck for the kids. In addition, there will be a bulky item drop off and a special beach cleanup for Earth Day at Bella Vista Park (intersection of Padova Drive and Placer Drive) from 9am to noon. Cleanup will be led by the Montessori Center School of Santa Barbara.

A limited edition "Beautify Goleta Earth Day 2024" volunteer t-shirt will be available for participants while supplies last. There will also be Waste Free Goleta & Go Green Goleta themed prize giveaways for event participants.

#### SANTA YNEZ

Chumash Earth Day celebration, Saturday, April 13 10am to 2pm at Kitiyepumu' Park, 100 Via Juana Road.

The free event is filled with family-friendly activities and booths from local environmental organizations. And if you're one of the first 250 people to register at the event, you'll receive a swag bag including a free t-shirt with this year's Earth Day theme "For Our Wild Relatives."

#### VENTURA:

Earth Day Festival will return to downtown Ventura on Saturday, April 20 from 11am – 4pm at Park Plaza on East Thomson Street.

This year, hosted by the MERITO Foundation in collaboration with the City of Ventura Sustainability Division and over 40 environmentally minded not-for-profit organizations, governmental agencies, transportation and utilities industries, outdoor recreation businesses, and sustainable food and goods vendors.

The Ventura Earth Day Festival 2024 theme is "A celebration of

our Blue Planet, Earth!"

*Some event highlights* include a blessing by Chumash Elder Alan Salazar, followed by opening remarks by our City of Ventura Mayor, Joe Schroeder. Then, a series of live performances by Inlakech Art Center's Mariachi Band & Ballet Folkrórico; local singer and writer Olivia Willhite's Ukulele Surf Pop; Jazz by Cabrillo Middle School Jazz Band "A" & Ventura High School Jazz Combo, with ending performance by 'Strange', an outstanding local Youth Rock Band.

*Patagonia's Child Development Center* will lead the Kid's Zone activities; Bike Valet Parking will be available, and all are encouraged to participate in interactive games, the Earthly costume contest, and trivia to win prizes.

*Green Car Show* too, thanks to Kent Bullard of the Sierra Club and EV Advocates. The most current Electric Vehicles (EV) led by Sierra Club Ventura will be displayed. Want your EV car to be part of it? Register here:

<https://driveelectricearthmonth.org/4161>

Also *Ventura Ecofest* on Sunday, April 28, 11:30am to 4:30pm at the Ventura Charter School, 2066 Cameron St. (off Ventura Avenue, west side). If you would like to help coordinate and have an EV showcase, please contact Kent Bullard: [kentbullard@gmail.com](mailto:kentbullard@gmail.com)

#### OJAI

Join us on Saturday, April 20th for our Earth Day Ojai Hike & Trail Clean Up. Start the day at Republic of Pie at 10am. The vans will then depart and take us to the trailhead in Ojai. The hike is a 2.9-mile loop which should take us just over 3hrs. After our hike we'll have a picnic before returning to Republic of Pie.

Dogs are welcome but must be on a leash.

#### THOUSAND OAKS

Arbor/Earth Day, Saturday April 20, 10am to 2pm. Sierra Club and EV Advocates will have a show of EV vehicles, coordinated by Brian Pletcher. Want you car in the mix? Register at:

<https://driveelectricearthday.org/4119>

## Most events feature EV shows



Our Chapter's Transportation Director and EV Advocates leader Kent Bullard went out and bought himself a Tesla Cyber Truck to show during the EV shows during Earth Days and beyond. According to Elon Musk, the design unveiled in 2019 was in-spired by Blade Runner and "Wet Nellie", the Lotus Esprit driven by James Bond in The Spy Who Loved Me, which doubled as a submarine. No, it doesn't go underwater (yet!) Photo by Cathy Bullard)



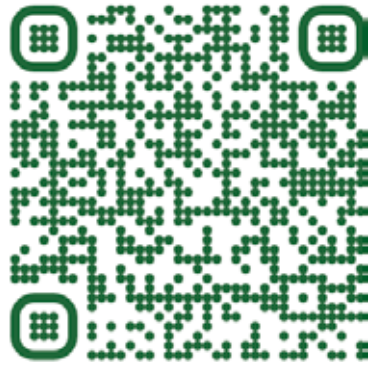


# Take a Hike!

## SANTA BARBARA-VENTURA CHAPTER

Panorama above Goleta by Robert Bernstein

UPDATES: [www.sierraclub.org/santa-barbara-ventura](http://www.sierraclub.org/santa-barbara-ventura)



### HIKE WITH CLUB



### 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.

See updated listing of all outings via the QR code (above) or: <https://www.sierraclub.org/santa-barbara-ventura>

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.



### 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.

- [www.sierraclub.org/santabarbara-ventura](http://www.sierraclub.org/santabarbara-ventura)
- [www.LPFForest.org](http://www.LPFForest.org)
- <https://L.PFW.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>



Our Sierra Club led a hike to Mt. Pinos a while back where this rock pile is located. Check out our link and others (below) welcoming hikes to just about everywhere locally. (Photo by Jean Paul Tummler)

### From our Mountains to the Sea: Where to go?

“Maybe they shouldn’t be called hikes. Maybe that defeats the joy and the purpose. I don’t like either the word [hike] or the thing. People ought to saunter in the mountains - not ‘hike!’”

It’s a beautiful word and originated away back in the Middle Ages. People used to go on pilgrimages to the Holy Land, and when people in the villages asked where they were going, they would reply, ‘A la sainte terre’ (To the Holy Land). And so they became known as ‘sainte-terre-ers’ or saunters.

Given that Sierra Club’s co-founder John Muir was one of history’s greatest saunters, we should not only allow him his grumpiness, but give it profound consideration. And there is no better place than the Ventura - Santa Barbara region to amble in the great outdoors and give anything consideration.

As a wise soul once said, “It’s only in the great open spaces that we find ourselves.”

(Editor’s note: Taken from Visit Ventura website with light editing to include Santa Barbara! Photo:

<https://www.facebook.com/SteveACattanach>

## Click to access all hikes

#### All links are now live!

We used to print our Sierra Club Outings here covering a two-month period. But we find that planning that far ahead may change due to weather, Covid restrictions, closures etc.

So, we ask that you now rely on the many Meetups and websites for the chapter and some others. For our chapter Meetups go to Group News box always on page 3, otherwise, here we go: The chapter’s website:

<https://www.sierraclub.org/santa-barbara-ventura>

A very special personal website run by

Diane Soini which includes our chapter hikes, blogs, connections and a dragonfly on the screen:

Visit Ventura has a lot of information about hikes in the county and the Channel Islands. Go here:

<https://visitventuraca.com/biking-hiking/>

Los Padres National Forest is the turf for Los Padres Forest Association and it’s the ‘bible’ for the forest as it shares amazing information gleaned from hikers and others outdoor sites. Here’s its hiking site (see QR code too)

<https://www.hikelospadres.com>

Ojai Valley Land Conservancy has a handy Trailfinder for our phone. Go to:

<http://www.ovlc.org/trailfinder/>

Going a bit more afield, the LA Times has published a trail guide for the So-Cal region here:

<https://tinyurl.com/NearUsLA>

Even more! UCSB’s Deborah Williams created a new and expanded website as part of her “Public Lands and Waters” class. Here’s the link:

<https://50greatpubliclanddestinations.org/>

## It’s bloomin’ wildflower season

#### By Los Padres Forest Assn.

If you’ve been out in the forest or driven around the Central Coast recently, you likely have noticed the wildflowers beginning to blanket the green hillsides across the Los Padres.

It’s that time of year to start checking all your favorite wildflower spots ... Lower and middle elevations are starting to really show off with fields of fiddleneck, goldfields, buttercups, sky lupine, chick lupine and of course, the iconic California Poppy.

Higher elevations are still looking like winter, with lots of places above 5000ft still snow covered, but those around that 3500ft mark are showing signs of early spring with endless fields of shooting stars. If you are heading out to see the blooms, please remember to Leave No Trace!

Principle 2 of LNT is to “travel and camp on durable surfaces”.

Wildflower meadows and Potrero can be incredibly delicate places that numerous rare species call home. Let’s do our best to travel lightly and

avoid creating or following use trails through these special places. And of course, don’t pick wildflowers!

The first Figueroa Mountain Wildflower Update of the year has been published thanks to the Santa Lucia District @usforestservice. Check it out, as well as get a refresh on your LNT principles, through our links:

#hospadresnationalforest #wildflowers #wildflowerseason #california #centralcoast #poppies #lupines #leavenotrace #leaveflowersinplace



## EVENTS

April 14: **Bike Clean & Fix It Day** revived! Bi-monthly events need volunteers to help with light mechanical work or clean-ups from 9am to noon. Bikes are often given to kids. Always at the Ventura Bike Hub 490 N. Ventura Ave. Call for all dates (805) 641-2665 or visit: [www.bikeventura.org](http://www.bikeventura.org)

April 20: **Wildflower-Weed Show** at the Agriculture Museum, 926 Railroad Ave. Santa Paula from 11am-3pm. Special hour at noon as Antonio Sanchez gives a demo of CA native plant foods. Biodiversity and pollinators too!

April 24: **Deadline to vote for Sierra Club’s Board of Directors.** All members should vote. Go here <https://tinyurl.com/SClubElectInfo>

May 12: **Last day** to provide feedback on the city of Ventura’s Land Use map. You have an opportunity to provide feedback on specific parcels across the City. Go to: <https://www.planventura.com/>

June 9: **Green & Blue!** A coastal celebration every year for the SB Environmental Defense Center. It’s the largest and most successful fundraiser, that brings guests together to enjoy exciting live and silent auctions, environmental heroes, and special guests. Runs from 2-6:30pm at the Rancho La Patera & Stow House. Details at: [www.environmentaldefensecenter.org/events/](http://www.environmentaldefensecenter.org/events/)

## Herb hikes

Lanny Kaufer is ‘walking’ again, and you can join him and his wife Rondia, celebrating 48 years of Herb Walks.

As you can see, the walks are quite varied for enjoyment and learning, such as a first aid walk and workshop, full moon – sunset events, wild food etc. Lanny is the author of *Medicinal Herbs of California* and was taught by Chumash elders.

Check out the events and sign up at <https://herbwalks.com>

April 13: Nature Education Walk at Taft Preserve, 9-11am.

April 14: Ojai Wild Food Experience with Lany and Rondia, 10am – 3pm.

April 20: Herbe Walk on San Antonio Creek Trail in Goleta 11am-12:30pm.

April 24: Full Moon Sunset Nature Hike and after-party (optional) at Ojai Valley Brewery, 5:30-8pm.

April 27: Herbal Tools for Tumultuous Times, garden workshop with Carol Wade, 9am-4pm.

May 11: Nature Education Walk at Taft Preserve, 9-11am.

May 18: Potrero John Creek nature hike, 9am-3pm.

May 22: Full Moon Sunset Nature Hike and after-party (optional) at Ojai Valley Brewery, 6-8pm.

June 1: Herbal First Aid walk and workshop with Emily Watson, 10am-4pm.



HINES CHRONICLES

# Beware of oil organizers

*Editor's note: We resume with the popular Jim Hines Chronicles, reflecting the emails by our premier lobbyist on the joy and sorrows of environmental activism. This covers the last two months (Feb-March). Jim is vice-chair of our Chapter and Ventura Network. He is available as a speaker.*

*We start out with this general statement in an email:*

**By Jim Hines**

It is the start of another busy week in our work to protect the environment and I started off by attending the Ventura meeting of Californians for Energy Independence (CEI) as part of my efforts to learn more about what our adversaries are doing and planning.

CEI is emboldened and filled with energy by recent victories in Ventura County which include electing oil industry friendly elected officials at the local government level, the defeat of Measures A and B two years ago and the support for oil industry positions by judges, county planning staff and county supervisors.

CEI has partnered with unions, farmers, law enforcement, business leaders and others to gain expanded support for the oil and gas industry in Ventura County. They do not fear the environmental movement.

They claim that if you vote against the oil and gas industry you are voting to kill jobs and make gas prices go even higher than they are now. And sadly, many believe them.

They have also made inroads into the Biden Administration for increased oil and gas drilling on federal lands including their partnership with the BLM who is issuing approvals for expanded oil drilling around Hopper Mountain National Wildlife Refuge north of Fillmore.

Feb 1: **Ever drive** along Highway 101 between Ventura and Santa Barbara at night and see a huge number of bright lights shining in the in the Santa Barbara Channel? They are often commercial squid fishing operations that are competing with one of the most valuable food sources for whales, dolphins, sea otters etc. Several people have asked me about the impact of the commercial squid fishery on these tiny but important creatures.

So, I am diving into the world of commercial squid fishing, international ships which fish here and the loss of a creature so small that it does not even have a support organization.

Feb 8: **Woo Hoo**, your Mountain Lions FOREVER! campaign has a win. In a couple of months, the staff at the CA Dept of Fish and Wildlife will advance a major plan to set aside hundreds of acres of open space lands within Santa Barbara and Ventura counties as critical habitat.

Feb 9: **Sierra Clubbers** are winners . . . thanks to your support we have secured the signature and support of Ventura County congress member Julia Brownley on a congressional letter asking the Biden Administration to ban the use of ALL body gripping traps on federal lands across the U.S.

Feb 15: **Our Beaver Brigade** is on the move thanks to a mention in the recent *Condor Call*. We have new Beaver Brigade activists helping us. CA Dept of Fish and Wildlife Beaver Restoration Program has received my request to have beavers reintroduced into Sespe Creek in the Ventura County backcountry and Sespe Creek is now officially listed on the state's map of designated Beaver habitats.

Feb 22: **Ventura City Council** had an item about the bold 30 X 30 plan in this region that became a national goal three years ago. There are no 30 x 30 designations in the whole state of California let alone in our region. I brought the subject up to council staff recently . . . and I knew it: the answer has to do with 2024 being an election year.

I am at wits end as to what to do and many of you have suggested we should flood the White House .

So, we will attempt to do just that . . . not sure what else to do. But giving up is not an option.

Feb 23: **My friend Christina** at our partners the Gaviota Coast Conservancy in our work to protect the Gaviota Coast sent me this about the El Capitan Canyon expansion plan. <https://tinyurl.com/EICapPlan>

She hopes the Sierra Club will show up and speak on this issue.

Feb 25: **Out in the real world** away from our Sierra Club bubble I find so many differing perspectives on protecting our environment. I have been speaking to various law enforcement organizations and many of them believe that the Sierra Club is very anti-law enforcement. I am increasingly finding that they play a major role in electing anti-environment candidates.

March 7: **Our chapter's largest** land protection bill will not see the light of day on Capitol Hill now that voters have decided to pit Adam Schiff against Steve Garvey for Congress. Rim of the Valley Corridor Protection Act would have created a 300,000 acre preserve in eastern Ventura county and western LA county to be managed by the National Park Service as the largest protected wildlife corridor

in the United States. After yesterday's election the bill is now dead ... the Republicans in the House will not advance this bill to help Schiff.

**March 8:** President Biden did it, he took two seconds out of his state of the union address last night to mention "conserving 30% percent of America's Lands and Waters by the year 2023"...good job Mr. President. Now, let's act.

**March 9:** What a beautiful Saturday after so much rain. From gardening class I decided to drop by the MAGA celebration of their numerous wins in the primary election this past Tuesday. So off I went to rural Somis, the sweet smell of blossoms from the orange groves surrounded me and the hills were awash in green and then there it was, all things MAGA: Don't Tread on Me flags, confederate and Trump forever flags. They even mentioned the MAGA win on the SB County Board of Supervisors.

They feel emboldened by election wins the past few years and they had unflattering words for us in the environmental community ... but I am used to that.

Folks don't for a minute think these are just some far right nuts to be ignored ... the people I see and speak with at these events are small business owners, housewives, law enforcement personnel, firefighters, veterans and they have all joined together to form a force to be reckoned with.

March 12: **It has been 100 years** since the last Grizzly Bear in California, the symbol of our state, was killed. In recognition of what we have lost, Sierra Club California and my Wildlife Committee are celebrating 2024 as the year of the California Grizzly and a celebration of biodiversity.

March 15: **Our Mountain Lions FOREVER!** campaign is happy to report that we are expanding once again, this time into Los Angeles county. All of the mountain lions we are working to save travel through the Santa Monica Mtns traversing Ventura and LA counties so it is only natural that they want to join with us.

What starts in the Sierra Club Santa Barbara-Ventura Chapter is so innovative that it expands beyond our chapter boundaries.

March 16: **At the oil meeting** I attended there was a great deal of discussion regarding gaining voter approval of an oil and gas industry sponsored initiative on the Nov. 2024 ballot which would, if passed by voters, overturn restrictions on oil and gas drilling near residential areas and schools within our state. The oil and gas industry in Ventura County is already organizing, funding and canvassing for this measure's passage. They have hired paid canvassers who now are targeting the three MAGA epicenter regions in Ventura County. There will be a competing pro-environment measure on the ballot as well.

March 27: **I often attend** or speak to groups and organizations which are not friendly to environmental protection, and I have noticed that many of these groups here in the Ventura County area have monthly county-wide lobby days.

It would be great if we could have lobby days where we would meet monthly with supervisors and/or staff to share our concerns. districts and then a monthly county-wide event at local government centers



A contingent of Sierra Club hikers did 'tread lightly and marveled deeply' at a high place in Ventura Land Trust's Harmon Canyon. The canyon has hundreds of acres of oak woodland, hills and plenty of trails for all ages, dogs too but only on a leash and only on a part of the canyon. (Photo Suzanne Tanaka)

## Tread lightly, marvel deeply

**By Laura Pavliscak, Ventura Land Trust Conservation Director**

Spring has sprung and the vibrant unfurling of leaf and bud, bird song and butterfly wing are upon us.

It's always a good time to be outside here in balmy Southern California, but never a better time than in the mesmerizing eruptive technicolor of our busiest growth season when shrub, tree, vine and seed awaken to the moisture and warmth of this nurturing season.

But here in the most populated region of the most populous state in the country, it is worth a reminder that our engagement in wildlands isn't impact-free, and there are meaningful ways to support our beloved natural spaces.

In Ventura's first landscape-scale publicly accessible natural area, Harmon Canyon Preserve, Ventura Land Trust supports over 150,000 visitors each year—that's about 30% more than the total population of the City of Ventura! While we celebrate the community interest, and we strive to provide sustainable public access, we can't do it on our own—only you can make it happen.

Well intentioned people that pick flowers, collect animals, walk or bike off trail, trample the fragile wet environment of the creek, leave garbage, and let their dogs run loose may not

realize how damaging their seemingly small indulgences are when multiplied by the extraordinary number of visitors to the preserve.

And in this tender green window of spring, it is precisely because our growing season is so dramatic that makes it so fragile—seedlings, new plant growth, and new generations of wildlife occur in response to the limited resources provided by our one wet season per year, and often only in average or above average rainfall years like this one.

So please do your part to support our spectacular and well-loved open spaces. Stay on marked trails, leave only footprints and take only photos and memories.

Let's practice low impact, high appreciation love for our natural areas and harvest only gratitude and wonder. And let's provide this example to our kids: the future recreationists, conservationists, ecological stewards, and wonderers who will care for and be inspired by these extraordinary wild places after us.



A canopy of beautiful trees line parts of the Sedgwick Reserve's many trails in the Santa Ynez Valley, which is administered by UC-Santa Barbara. Public hikes are allowed during every second Saturday Oct. - May. Go here to see events and trail opportunities: <https://sedgwick.nrs.ucsb.edu/store>

## EAVESDROP

**"The (Earth Day) festivals are more than just a weekend of activities; it's a catalyst for change, inspiring attendees to adopt more sustainable lifestyles and to think more deeply about their role in environmental stewardship."**

~ Michael Lazaro, CEO of CarpEvents and SB Festival Co-Director.



It's hard but rewarding work and the Los Padres Forest Assn. has now spent months restoring the Manzanita Trail and another month+ on the Potrero Trail. Even if folks can't attend the upcoming volunteer project, or that's not their cup of tea, there are other opportunities to help. Go to: <https://lpforest.org/> (Photo courtesy of LPFA)



# SIERRA CLUB

SANTA BARBARA-VENTURA CHAPTER  
P.O. Box 31241  
Santa Barbara, CA 93130-1241

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## Sustainable solutions

The Sierra Club hopes you are enjoying these beautiful first days of spring with the sun shining high in the sky and wildflowers coming into bloom.

By now you should have received our letter in the mail updating you on the state of our chapter. We hope you have had the chance to open it and look at all the work being done on the Central Coast every day to protect our local wildlands and wildlife. From advocating for renewable energy to promoting environmental justice among our most vulnerable local communities, the Santa Barbara - Ventura Sierra Club is hard at work and virtually all are volunteers.

Despite the obstacles, we have come a long way in the last four years and our work continues. Your investment in the resistance is turning the tide.

Santa Barbara County recently blocked Exxon Mobile from reopening its faulty pipeline off our coast. And Supervisor Joanne Hartmann was re-elected just a few weeks ago.

Our opponents continue to move ahead with an agenda that sacrifices public health and safety for short-term profits and will likely lead to further damage to our precious wildlife and wildlands. We know that with growing support for sustainable solutions we can achieve victories that reduce our reliance on fossil fuels and at the same time improve our quality of life, making the Central Coast a healthier, happier, more resilient community.

In the coming months, look for new announcements about the fight for more renewables, increased protection of public lands, and expanded programs on environmental justice. Because of your support, we are moving toward sustainable solutions across Santa Barbara and Ventura counties.

Thank you for making this progress possible, it's good for all of us.

If you want to help out by giving a donation, it will be put to good use. Follow this link: [www.sierraclub.org/santa-barbara-ventura/ways-to-give](http://www.sierraclub.org/santa-barbara-ventura/ways-to-give)

### About the Sierra Club

*The Sierra Club is America's largest and most influential grassroots environmental organization, with millions of members and supporters.*

*In addition to protecting every person's right to get outdoors and access the healing power of nature, the Sierra Club works to promote clean energy, safeguard the health of our communities, protect wildlife, and preserve our remaining wild places through grassroots activism, public education, lobbying, and legal action. For more information, visit [www.sierraclub.org](http://www.sierraclub.org).*

*For local actions and info, go to your local Santa Barbara-Ventura counties' Chapter: [www.sierraclub.org/santa-barbara-ventura](http://www.sierraclub.org/santa-barbara-ventura)*

**With your support, we can protect our health and our environment to create a better future for all.**

There is so much on the line on California's Central Coast — from stopping the oil and gas industry from continuing to damage our local environment to stopping climate change through large-scale renewable energy projects from solar panels on schools to wind farms in northern Santa Barbara County. Our volunteers work tirelessly to protect vulnerable wildlife like dolphins and mountain lions by supporting the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary and the Wallis Annenberg Wildlife Crossing.

**Please Support Your Chapter Today:**  
[sc.org/SBVForward23](http://sc.org/SBVForward23)

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