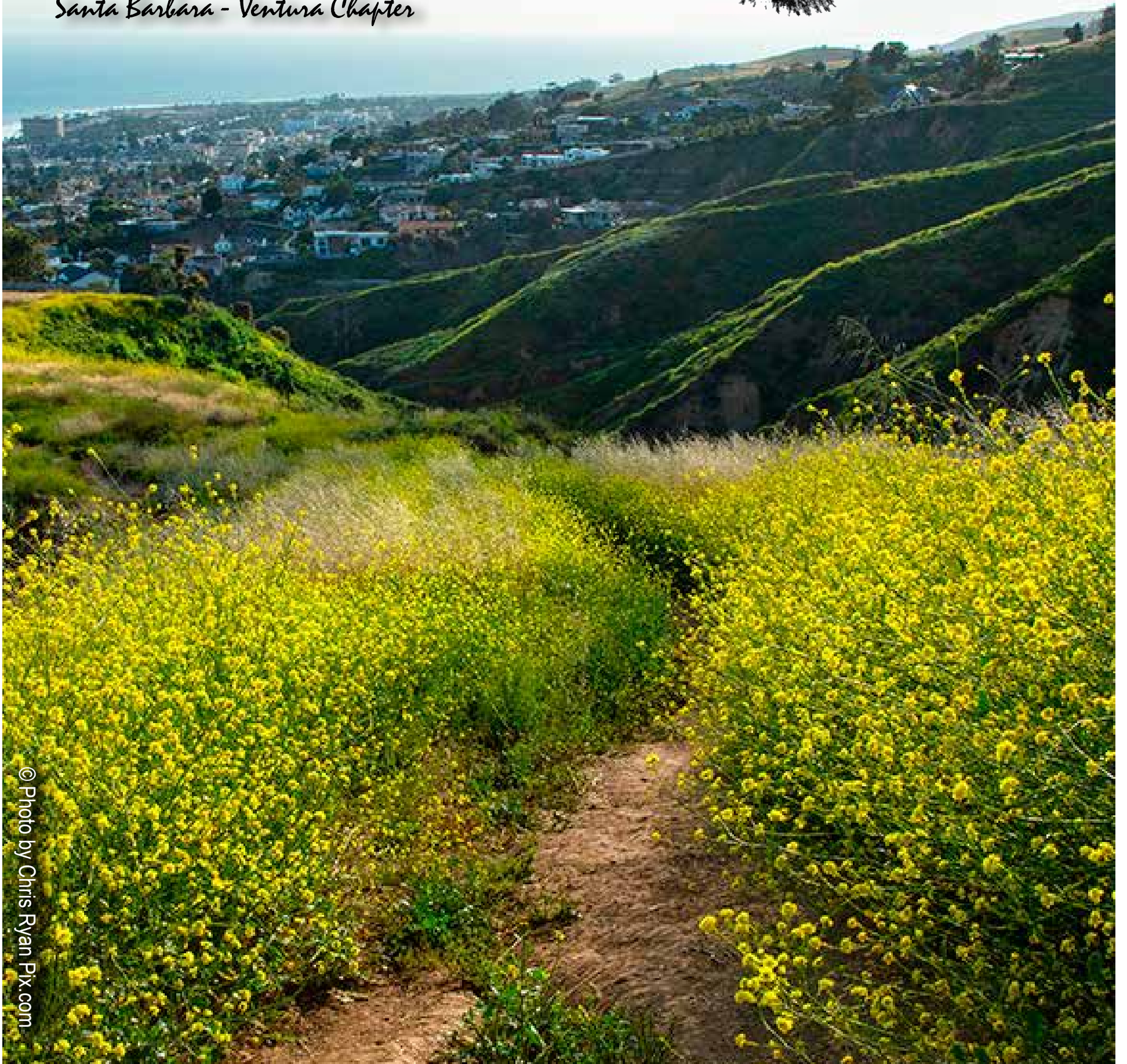


Vol. 26, No. 3 of 6

June - July 2026

# Condor Call

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



© Photo by Chris Ryan Pix.com

Feds ... Wolves ... crises ... kayak ... Roadless Rule

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# Feds have eyes to change our chapter's regions

By Jim Hines

The Trump Administration is pursuing changes to several on- and offshore lands and waters through various actions, policies, secretarial and executive orders.

Many of you have asked for a summary of what federal lands and waters along the central coast are at risk. Here's what I have put together from various meetings and conversations with the staff at the six Trump Administration agencies and boards who oversee the areas listed below:

~ **Channel Island National Park** ... working with Congress to set new boundaries and remove two islands from the national park.

~ **Santa Monica Mtns** National Recreation Area.....drastic staff cuts which are impacting land protection, ranger-guided outdoor activities, and possible elimination of National Park Service involvement in managing the recreation area.

~ **Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary** and Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary are also facing massive staff and budget cuts.

~ **Offshore oil and gas lease** sales off Ventura and Santa Barbara counties. January 2027

~ **Three national wildlife refuges** in the central coast region are facing staff and budget cuts as well.

~ **Three deep seabed** mining companies have received permits to explore for possible underwater areas around Channel Islands National Park and other regions of the Pacific Ocean for possible mining of critical minerals

~ **BLM lands** in the central coast region are advancing plans for new and expanded oil and gas drilling operations.

~ **Carrizo Plain** National Monument is facing the possibility of monument boundary changes to accommodate new oil and gas drilling operations.

~ **Los Padres National Forest** . . . numerous logging, drilling, and mining plans are all being advanced by the Trump administration, and all are within the Ventura County portion of the Los Padres NF.

~ **Military operations** at three military bases along the central coast are causing enormous damage to the marine environment with a major impact on marine mammals.

We need to stay fully engaged with the various Trump Administration agencies and boards who are behind all of the above.

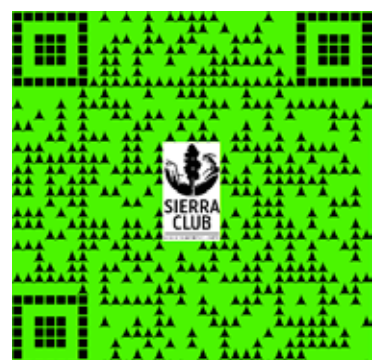


Elected officials came to Shoreline Park for a press conference on May 7 about how to combat Sable's reopening of offshore oil drilling when it hasn't gotten state and local permission. . Shown (from left) are Senator Adam Schiff, Assembly member Gregg Hart, Linda Krop of the EDC, and Rep. Salud Carbajal. (Photo by Katie Davis)

## More Mesa events

There are a lot of events in June by the More Mesa Coalition ranging from Art to Wildlife in June.

~ **Biologist-Led Walks** on More Mesa June 6 and 20, with an additional special walk alongside



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.

Assemblymember Greg Hart on June 13. RSVP for the Hart walk here:

<https://moremesa.org/>

~ **Habitats & Wildlife** of More Mesa talk- June 10 at 5:30 pm, at Faulkner Gallery, 40 E. Anapamu St.,

Santa Barbara. MMPC board member and biologist John Storrer will present an engaging talk on the habitats and wildlife of More Mesa. We hope to see you there! RSVP here:

<https://moremesa.org/>

~ **Oak Group's More Mesa Art Show**, also at the Faulkner Gallery to celebrate local artists showcasing the beauty of More Mesa. The opening reception is on June 3 from 4:30-6:30 pm, or stop by for the First Thursday viewing on June 4 from 5 pm-8 pm.



Jack's Solar Farm shows how it can happen. Room underneath the panels for plants and shade for workers. Farms are starting to realize the benefits. (Photo-by-Werner-Slocum)

## Exciting solar ordinance vs. oil

By Katie Davis

### Good Energy Summer

It will be a consequential summer for energy policy in Santa Barbara County.

Currently, you can drill for oil in Santa Barbara County, but you can't put a solar farm in the same industrial site. That is set to reverse this summer with an Oil Ordinance to prohibit new oil drilling expected to go to the Board of Supervisors on June 23, and a Solar Ordinance to allow solar in industrial and agricultural zones to follow.

### Solar + Batteries

For too long in Santa Barbara County -- where we have 300 days of sunshine annually -- the most abundant and cost-effective form of renewable energy has been prohibited and constrained in much of the county.

Over a decade ago, the County restricted utility-scale solar to the Cuyama Valley, where it is now largely built out. Seven years ago, the County adopted a Strategic Energy Plan to stimulate local renewable energy and expand where it is allowed. But enacting that plan has been slow, only now culminating in policy changes. On May 5 the Santa Barbara County Planning Commission unanimously supported a new Solar Ordinance. It will go to the Board of Supervisors July 14.

The Solar Ordinance facilitates solar and battery storage on buildings and parking lots. Batteries have rapidly fallen in cost and improved in safety and allow us to store and benefit from solar power in the evening hours after the sun sets, but when cost and demand for energy are still high, and batteries provide backup power in the event of outages.

Solar+batteries will help us retire the aging and polluting gas power

plants, one in Goleta and large ones in Oxnard that powered south Santa Barbara County in the past.

The Solar Ordinance will allow solar in industrial and agricultural zones, allowing ranches and farms a potential new source of income. A new ag-friendly solar asset class, called "agrivoltaics," enables ranching or farming alongside solar.

Solar panels can be set 7 - 10 feet above the ground and spaced apart to create a mix of sun and shade for crops, shielding plants from excessive heat, cold and ultraviolet radiation, and increasing the yield of many crops. A UC Davis study found that solar shade increased the productivity of pepper and tomato plants and used less water. Other studies have found benefits for basil, broccoli, cabbage, celery, lettuce, spinach, etc.

Solar can also shade farmworkers, and flocks of sheep or goats. For ranches, there are moveable so-

lar arrays that can shade and reduce water evaporation on pasture and forage crops. Once livestock are done grazing in one area, the solar can be moved and the livestock can graze where the solar arrays were.

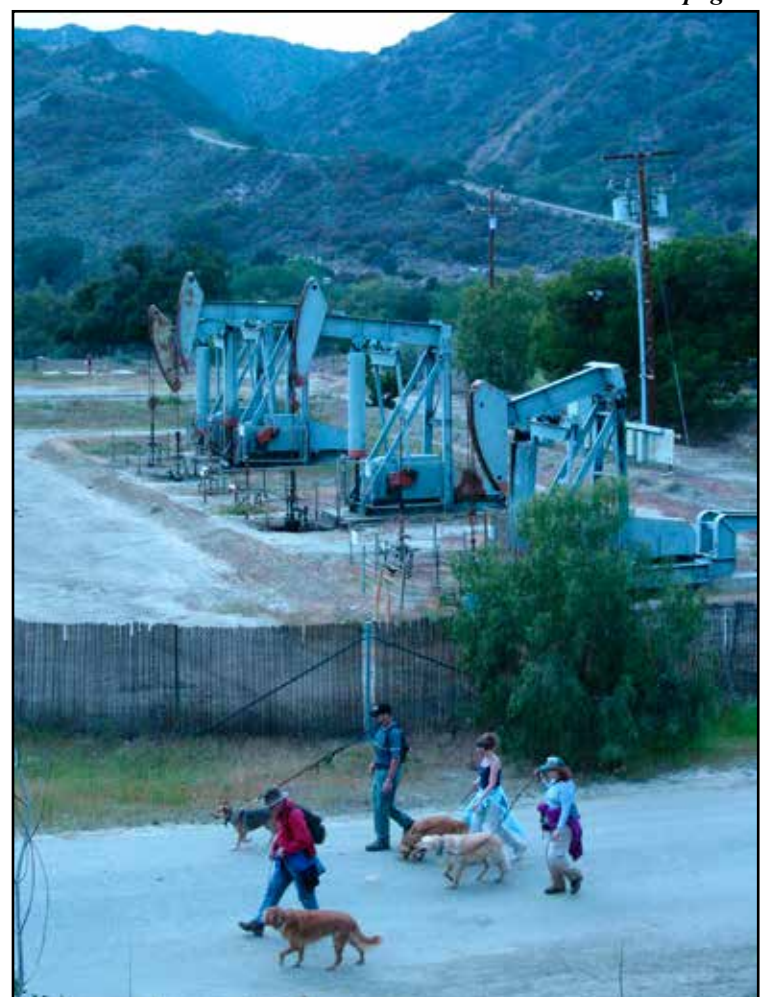
### No New Oil

The Oil Ordinance comes because of the Santa Barbara County Climate Action Plan that was adopted in 2024.

At the time, the Board of Supervisors asked staff to come back with ways to reduce emissions from the oil and gas sector, which is one of the largest sources of greenhouse gas emissions in the County. County staff came back with a plan to prohibit new oil drilling and phase out existing drilling, which the Board approved in 2025.

The first phase, which is a prohibition on new oil drilling projects, was approved by the County Plan-

*continued on page 2*



It's not only offshore oil locals are worried about, but it's also pumpjacks on land. Shown are a hiking trail and oil extraction off the Ojai-Santa Paula Rd. (Photo by John Hankins)

### FRONT COVER

Sanjon Barranca from the Mariano Ranch Preserve, which opened on March 5 this year. The 1,645-acre preserve is the Ventura Land Trust's latest acquisition, located just north of the Ventura High School. And it is open to the public, despite a lawsuit filed by oil companies up Hall Canyon to close off public access. VLT has prevailed so far, so be welcome.

**Solar vs.oil...**  
*continued from page 1*

ning Commission on April 8 this year.

Planning Commissioner Michael Cooney said that it was the most consequential vote of his long career. (He was a Planning Commissioner for 21 years and just recently stepped down after this vote.)

Commissioner Kate Ford is a new appointee, and this was her first vote on oil issues. She was staunchly supportive of the Ordinance. Commissioner John Parke said that the volume of public comments might be a record. He praised the speakers and the hundreds of written comments for being unique and thoughtful. Public comments were overwhelmingly supportive. Included in the record is a [new UCSB report](#) and detailed polling showing majority support across the County in favor of phasing out oil.

The Oil Ordinance will go to the County Board of Supervisors on June 23. You can email your comment supporting no new oil drilling to:

[sbcob@countyofsb.org](mailto:sbcob@countyofsb.org)

# Local officials investigate Sable Oil

Our Chapter's local elected officials launched an investigation on May 27 into Sable Offshore's politicized efforts to restart oil drilling operations off the Santa Barbara – Gaviota Coast.

Financial ties to President Trump were outlined, notably that Sable executives have directly contributed to President Trump's campaigns. A letter accompanying the investigation said, "You have contributed over \$300,000 to Super PACs like Right to Rise USA and Senate Leadership Fund, which made contributions to President Trump's 2016 and 2024 campaigns."

"Additionally, Gregory Patrinely, Executive Vice President and CFO of Sable, contributed thousands of dollars to Trump-aligned committees in 2020 and 2024. During his campaign, President Trump promised to reverse environmental rules for your industry in exchange for \$1 bil-

lion in donations. It is difficult to avoid the inference that actions like the use of DPA to overcome state laws on behalf of an oil producer represent a fulfillment of that "pay to play" promise. "

Senator Adam Schiff (D-Calif.), Congressman Salud Carbajal (D-Calif.-24), and members of the California congressional delegation launched the inquiry and are demanding answers on the company's collaboration with the Trump administration to invoke the Defense Production Act (DPA) in relation to this project.

In a letter to Sable's CEO and Chairman Jim C. Flores, the lawmakers raise concerns about the timeline of Sable's accrued lawsuits, cease and desist orders, fines, etc. dating back from April 2025 to March 2026.

They demand Sable preserve all their internal communication records between the company and Trump administration officials related to the restart.

"The administration's reliance on the Defense Production Act (DPA)—no doubt in consultation and coordination with lawyers representing Sable—is a serious misuse of a federal law meant to be invoked for national security reasons, not to enrich an industry already making record profits," the lawmakers wrote. "Californians do not want oil production restarting along their coasts and have voted repeatedly for California laws that block coastal oil production. The environmental impacts, along with the economic fallout from those impacts, are simply too great, especially when there is little to no benefit for California consumers," the lawmakers concluded.



While local officials are investigating Sable Oil, public opposition was clear during Earth Day in Santa Barbara, and the youth were fully on board, creating their own signs and slapping around oil to show how awful it is. (Photo by John Hankins)

## Feds allow Sable's oil

*SEditor's note: This is a partial court judgment that allows Sable Offshore Oil to produce oil from the Santa Ynez Unit platforms, with the Trump Administration's blessing, but the public's curse on them, including other pending court cases; the state of California and the public energy against it continue.*

Sable along with recruiting elected officials at the city, county and state levels.

As of March 13, the Unit has been transporting about 30,000 barrels of oil per day to California and is expected to reach 60,000 barrels per day. It is also considering using ships to transport the oil if the pipeline method is delayed.

"Sable is fighting an uphill battle" after facing criminal charges, court losses, and cease-and-desist orders, countered the Santa Barbara Environmental Defense Center's Executive Director Alex Katz". EDC warns that restarting the same corroded pipeline — which ruptured in 2015 along the Gaviota Coast — could lead to another major spill, citing an analysis that projects a spill roughly once a year and a major rupture every four years.

The EDC and Sierra Club, CFROG, Surfrider, SBCAN and many more also criticized Sable's alternative plan to use floating vessels instead of the onshore pipeline, calling it a "huge risk for an offshore spill" and noting that air pollution from platforms and barges could violate strict Santa Barbara County air quality rules under the Clean Air Act.

U.S. District Court for the Central District of California on May 15 dismissed the complaint in Center for Biological Diversity v. Burgum — one of several cases challenging Sable Offshore Corp.'s oil and gas operations at the Santa Ynez Unit in the Santa Barbara Channel.

"Our defense of BOEM's decision supports domestic energy production in furtherance of President Donald J. Trump's directive to unleash American energy," said Adam Gustafson of the Justice Department's Environment and Natural Resources Division.

Tell that to the kids during Earth Day covered with black oil on their clothes, Sierra Club backing lawsuits, regular citizens opposed during No Kings Days, environmental groups rousing the public to fight against



**Condor Call**

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

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

**Sierra Club**

[SierraClub.org/santabarbara-ventura](http://SierraClub.org/santabarbara-ventura)

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Typography and production by Dan Fuller

**EAVESDROPS**

*"About five years ago, we crossed an invisible line where it became cheaper to produce power with the sun and wind and batteries than by setting stuff on fire."*

*~ Bill McKibben, co-founder of Third Act, which mobilizes people over 60 for action on climate and justice.*

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)

**SIERRA CLUB**

Santa Barbara-Ventura Chapter  
P.O. Box 31241  
Santa Barbara, CA 93130-1241

# We have active wildlife corridors

By Vicki Hoover

California's 30x30 program, launched in 2020 by Governor Newsom's executive order, aims to conserve 30 percent of California's lands and coastal waters by 2030.

This focus on protecting Nature and keeping more lands natural and undeveloped is to combat climate change effects and the biodiversity crisis. Natural lands can sequester vast amounts of carbon and provide the best wildlife habitat, to avoid species extinctions.

But these lands offer the best habitat only when connected to other protected lands. If a park and a wilderness area, for example, are separate and isolated from each other—having a protected wildlife corridor connecting them greatly boosts their habitat value.

Therefore, the 30x30 program put a strong emphasis on wildlife corridors.

It's good to know both Santa Barbara and Ventura counties

have active wildlife corridor programs, with Ventura County leading in formalized regulations and legal protections.

Sierra Club supports a bill in the current state legislature, SB 1250 by Senator Dave Cortese of Santa Clara County) that would support efforts to put in infrastructure for highway wildlife crossings. As Senator Cortese puts it:

"Every year across California, thousands of drivers experience dangerous wildlife-vehicle collisions on highways and local roadways. More than 7,000 wildlife-vehicle collisions are reported annually in California alone involving deer and other large animals—creating serious safety risks and costly damage for motorists."

SB 1250 has been approved by the Senate and is now referred to the Assembly.

Tell your Assemblymember to vote YES on SB 1250. Go to <https://tinyurl.com/FindLocalRep> Highway crossings that

let creatures from deer, foxes, wolves down to tiny salamanders cross roads safely are the most visible aspect of wildlife corridors. But the broad natural corridors which wildlife prefer to move indicate vital natural processes beyond highway over or under-crossings.

California is not the only state to care about wildlife corridors.

On Earth Day this year, elected reps introduced a bipartisan bill, HR 8438, the Wildlife Corridors and

Habitat Connectivity Act. This legislation would support planning for and identification of natural species migration patterns to improve safe, free movement between habitats by establishing a National Wildlife Corridor System.

In the current Congress, this bill has no chance of passage. However, it is important to let our members of Congress know we strongly support this bill and its vital connectivity concept.

## SB-Vta Chapter Wildlife Xings

Good news to report from the Santa Barbara-Ventura Chapter about protecting wildlife corridors.

~ As part of a protected wildlife corridor in south Ventura, the 3+ year-long construction of the Liberty Canyon Wildlife Bridge over the 101 freeway is slated for its grand opening on Dec. 2. This overpass will connect the inland Santa Barbara National Park Service-owned Cheeseboro Canyon with the state parks-owned lands south of the freeway.

~ Our Ventura County Open Space Lands Collaborative started work to connect another wildlife corridor over the 101 freeway in the Conejo Grade area east of Camarillo. It will also allow safe passage from open space lands on the north and south sides of the freeway.

~ Gaviota Coast region of Santa Barbara County: Caltrans has agreed to begin construction of two wildlife underpasses below the 101 freeway, allowing safe wildlife movement to north and south sides, including the

coastal habitat.

~ Ojai Valley Land Conservancy has just completed the purchase of the 6000-acre Rancho Canada Larga, which will protect a major inland wildlife corridor stretching from the Ventura River to Upper Ojai open space lands and onto the Los Padres National Forest.

~ Sierra Club Santa Barbara-Ventura Chapter is working with our partners on the above projects.

It's good to know both Santa Barbara and Ventura counties have active wildlife corridor programs, with Ventura County leading in formalized regulations and legal protections.

~ Compiled by Jim Hines



## HINES CHRONICLES

**Editor's note:** The Hines Chronicles is based on Jim's emails "for the wild," typically sent to the Executive Committee of our Chapter.

In addition to extended Chronicles on our chapter website, it is also on Substack, so that all can access the vast amount of information that Jim gathers practically every day! It will have more than you'll find in the print version and be more up to date.

<https://tinyurl.com/ChroniclesBy-Hines>

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

The stories below cover April-May; Jim is our Conservation Chair and available as a speaker at: [jhcasitas@gmail.com](mailto:jhcasitas@gmail.com)

May 28: **Pesticide Problems:** I have not been having any success in my efforts to remove deadly butterfly and pollinator-killing pesticides or deadly Roundup from retail stores in Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties.

Each week, as I visit various nurseries and garden centers in the two counties to seek out new plants for my ever-expanding gardens, I see so many customers buying numerous pesticides. It makes no sense to see customers going out the nursery door with a cart full of pollinator plants . . . but also deadly pesticide products and Roundup.

I often speak to managers/employees at these stores and get no response regarding efforts to slow down and completely eliminate these deadly products from store shelves. They say that customers demand these products.

I think it is time to advance our education campaign: Is anyone interested in sitting up and staffing up a Don't Use Pesticides or Roundup table in front of the nurseries.

May 21: **Pacific Rock Quarry** is requesting to expand its mine just south of the 101 freeway next to Calleguas Creek at 1000 South Howard Road, Camarillo. The county planning commission will hear this request in June.

May 6: **Ventura sales tax?:** Open space and agricultural lands are such valuable assets for any community, but in Ventura County, the pressure is on to develop open space and ag lands for residential housing, commercial and retail centers,

as well as major manufacturing and data centers. What do we do?

In April a group of us were brought together to form a Ventura County Open Space Collaborative to work on ways to protect and restore open space lands. Our collaborative is co-chaired by the Executive Directors of the Ventura Land Trust and of SOAR.

In 2025, Ventura County lost

as much open space land as we preserved; we are currently running in place. Cities around the county are expanding through the SOAR-allowed CURB boundaries.

So, after our April and May meetings, we, as a group, have decided to see whether voters in Ventura County would support a sales tax to protect and restore open-space land.

## Annual Film Fest moving

The 2026 Wild and Scenic Film Festival has been reimagined as Ventura Land Trust's largest annual event, inspiring environmental activism and a love of nature through film.

Mark your calendar for Aug 22 @ 2 - 3:30 at the Majestic Ventura Theater, 26 South Chestnut Street, Ventura, CA. The new venue replaces the usual outdoor event, but the outdoor festival vibes aren't being left behind; they're moving to the streets of Downtown Ventura instead.

More details as the date draws near, but you can get tickets and in-

formation at:

<https://www.venturlandtrust.org/events>

## Read our blog



If you are a member or on our email list, you will be getting our stories and pictures via Condor Call Currents.

For emails and phone numbers for specific areas and Sierra Club officials and issues, see the page 2 Directory.

# Climate Watch

## State is confronting crises

By John Hankins

A “confronting crisis” dialogue at UCSB on May 6 by Wade Crowfoot, head of California’s Natural Resources Agency, aimed to strengthen the connection between residents and natural resources.

In short, what is California doing to transition to clean energy, climate resilience, and wildfires?

The state participates in international climate efforts and aims for carbon neutrality by mid-century, “aligning with global climate targets.”

Of course, there’s the Trump Administration in the way, noted by the president who calls it a “hoax”.

The agency has an army of more than 25,000 employees to fight that ignorance, notably protecting over 2.5 million acres, expanding state parks, and supporting areas that lack park access.

Also, Crowfoot noted that the state has an increasingly collaborative relationship with its Native American tribes. Notably, 57% of state parklands are under tribal partnership agreements.

It all leads to nature-based solutions and wildlife restoration, Crowfoot told the packed audience of students who were eager to ask questions afterward and mingle with food and drink. But Crowfoot couldn’t stay long, having to catch a plane at Santa Barbara airport to continue his mission.

As an example, when the Ventura Land Trust bought the Ventura Hills above the city, our elected officials and tribal leaders stood high atop the highest hill overlooking the city, ocean, islands, and coast. Chumash leader Julie Tumamait quipped, “Now we can trespass legally on our lands!”

Some of Crowfoot’s highlights included the recovery of endangered species, notably the condor, beaver, gray wolf, and salmon. The removal of the Klamath River dam led to rapid salmon returns, demonstrating ecosystem resilience. It led to the construction of the world’s largest wildlife crossing over the 101 Freeway at Agoura Hills to protect mountain lions and other wildlife. It is set to open Dec. 2.

Crowfoot highlighted that the state is aiming for 100% clean energy, phasing out gasoline and fossil fuel use. Part of the agency’s job is ensuring the transition “remains affordable for residents.”

Of course, that raised the issue of Sable Offshore restarting production despite state and local objections, leading to lawsuits and fines against the oil company. The Trump Administration is backing the restart while the state and local residents are determined to stop it.



Wade Crowfoot, head of California’s Natural Resources Agency, aims to strengthen the connection between residents and natural resources at UCSB (Xtra credit!) and with the public, including Ventura residents who carpooled in an electric car. (Photo by John Hankins)

The strategy for the Agency includes a priority to help vulnerable communities, build a sustainable future using nature-based solutions, and action plans for wildfire, water resilience, and other climate impacts.

Wildfire resilience projects would include fuel breaks, home hardening, native landscape restoration, and controlled burns “learning from tribal practices.”

### EAVESDROPS

“Everybody needs beauty as well as bread, places to play in and pray in, where Nature may heal and cheer and give strength to body and soul alike.”

~ John Muir, founder of the Sierra Club



“Don’t Enable Sable” was the protest by scores of residents on a paddle out along a Gaviota beach. (Photo by Katie Davis)

## Fight for the roadless rule

The Trump administration is unleashing relentless attacks on our shared public lands, vulnerable wildlife, and our planet’s future.

But we’ve beaten threats like these before: by taking corporate giants to court, organizing grassroots power in all 50 states, by filing lawsuits to protect bedrock environmental protections, and by mobilizing communities to pressure Congress. We will fight back with every tool at our disposal – but to face these challenges, we need your support.

Go here to help:

<https://tinyurl.com/FightforRoadlessRule>

## Yet another push to extend Diablo

By Gianna Patchen and Andrew Christie  
SLO Santa Lucia Sierra Club

*Editor’s note: This article is accompanied by an action: telling legislators that PG&E must stop overcharging ALL Californians to prop up the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Plant, a phenomenon detailed in a UC-Santa Barbara study.*  
<https://sc.org/stop-diablo-overcharge>

California’s last nuclear plant, Diablo Canyon, was slated to close last year, but backdoor nuclear lobbying in Sacramento stoked fear about California’s energy supply – Governor Gavin Newsom and an obliging legislature pushed through last-minute legislation that extended Diablo’s life five years beyond its decommissioning date.

But now they’re trying to extend the nuclear plant to 2045, while we’re still left with the lingering question: Does anyone know what Californians are paying for the 5-year extension?

When PG&E originally decided to close the plant, they did so because their own analysis found it would soon be unprofitable and that the plant actually impeded California’s ability to transition to renewable energy. In the plant’s shutdown plan, they stated: “PG&E in consultation with the Parties has concluded that the most effective and efficient path forward for achieving

California’s SB 350 policy goal for deep reductions of Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions is to retire Diablo Canyon at the close of its current operating license period and replace it with a portfolio of GHG-free resources.”

Instead, we got Governor Newsom’s about-face and a 5-year extension of Diablo Canyon. On top of that, California gave PG&E a \$1.4 billion interest-free loan to subsidize the cost of keeping the nuclear plant open. That’s one way to make an unprofitable plant profitable again – use California tax dollars to subsidize corporate profit!

Even after ongoing hearings and an array of potential off-ramps, the California legislature has never required a comprehensive, independent analysis of the costs of the

5-year extension.

However, UC Santa Barbara has started that work for them. In April, a study written by UC Santa Barbara’s “2035 Initiative” economists found that “PG&E is overcharging Californians to keep the last nuclear power plant open” as reported by the *LA Times*.

“In the [new white paper](#) from UC Santa Barbara’s 2035 Initiative, three climate policy experts analyzed PG&E’s public filings and the Department of Energy’s evaluation of plant costs. They find that PG&E inflated costs when it requested the state loan and is likely to come up \$658.6 million short in repaying it, which will be borne by taxpayers unless the Legislature takes action.” Detail here: <https://tinyurl.com/DiabloEconomics>

For those of you outside of PG&E utility territory, your bills are paid into the Diablo pot too, for upkeep, which doesn’t come back to your district.

Meanwhile, “PG&E has enjoyed record profits the last three years,” almost \$2.5 billion in 2024 alone.

Despite all this, PG&E and its proponents are aiming for another 15-year extension. This effort is gaining traction in Sacramento, despite growing evidence that the plant is too expensive and the still-missing comprehensive financial and needs analysis.

Also note that Trump’s Nuclear Regulatory Commission is reducing nuclear safety regulations, security measures, and safety inspections.

We need community members across the state pushing back on this shared affordability issue.



Public Townhall

## THE FUTURE OF OUR WILD ROADLESS FORESTS

**June 10, 2026**  
**6:30-7:30 PM**

Toad&Co.  
2020 Alameda Padre  
Serra, Santa Barbara

25 years ago, the US Forest Service held more than 600 public meetings in the process to create the Roadless Rule, one of the most important conservation measures in history—and it could soon be repealed.

The Forest Service’s process to repeal may not include a single public meeting—so our community is hosting our own.

Join us to speak up for your national forests.

RSVP



# Paddling into a Natural Balance

*Editor's note: The Sierra Club's Ventura Network has again hit the bullseye in free, public events featuring fascinating people and topics. Held at the Poinsettia Pavilion on May 20, it was a riveting talk by Chuck Graham, a long-time surfer, lifeguard for 32 years who kayaked the islands for 28 years, 22 as a guide. Check out our Meetup for future events.*

**By John Hankins**

We landlubbers often gaze at the five northern Channel Islands and wonder at their beauty and history, perhaps taking a day trip to watch dolphins and whales ply the Channel, stepping onto an island to gaze happily at island foxes and beached seals, or taking a day hike or staying overnight.

Not Chuck Graham, a Carpinteria resident who went beyond gazing, wondering if he could kayak seven miles or more from the shore and more distance around and to all the islands. Well, why not? The Chumash made the journey in tomols, which could carry five to eight people and more than 2,000 pounds of cargo.

After so many adventures, he decided to write a text and photo book of "stories of kayaking and conservation."

"This book emerges from my undying curiosity about the islands, my encounters with its unique wildlife and observations of conservation efforts across the Islands."

Titled, *Paddling Into a Natural Balance*, it is an amazing compilation of adventures, queries, hardship, joy and fascination.

In a foreword by park ranger Kate Rooney Faulkner, she writes: "It's a window into this wild, natural world."

"The island has long represented an evolutionary hotbed for plant and animal species, some of which are

found nowhere else in the world . . . The iconic island fox, island ironwood, island scrub jay and island Dudleya, found nowhere else in the world, are just some of the many plants and animals."

It was fun sharing Chuck's stories. My favorite:

On Santa Rosa Island, elephant seals cozied up to his tent while in a sleeping bag: (weight 750 to 1000 pounds each) "After lots of snorts, flatulence and gurgles by my tentmates, the four of us fell asleep."

Its history is amazing. In the modern years, the ranching era was between the 1820s and 1997. On Santa Cruz feral sheep were there until 2001, feral pigs until 2008. On Santa Rosa, elk and deer for hunting were stopped and removed by 2012.

Then, golden eagles were threatening the island fox, and the eagles were taken off the island and relocated to Northern California. Then up to 5000 pigs were eradicated by New Zealand hunters.

Before that Mammoth remains were discovered on 3 of the 4 islands. In 1959, two femurs, the oldest human remains in North America, dated 13,200 years ago!

Chuck's favorite island is San Miguel, which "has lots of wildlife." Santa Cruz "has many sea caves, a big draw.

By the way, there are island cameras on all the islands so you can see what's happening at any time, but it's not the same as being there!

"His remarkable adventures imbibe the very heart of preserving and protecting Channel Islands Marine Sanctuary as one of our nation's treasures," writes Shauna Fry of NOAA on the last page of the book. It's available at bookstores, harbors and via mail. Check it out at: [www.chuckgrahamphoto.com](http://www.chuckgrahamphoto.com)



"When all the elements align for a great moment captured with my camera. Scorpion Rock, seaside daisies, willing kayakers, and the bobs was the California brown pelicans soaring over the entire scene." (Photo by the author Chuck Graham)

## SIGHTINGS

# Nature immersion, animals and Pt Sal petition

**By John Hankins**

Check out the stories and links below on what happened in the last two months.

Join us by getting involved and have fun too. We offer activities, activism and free hikes via our MeetUp. See Group News box on page 3 for contacts and links or enjoy our free hikes on page 5.

If you'd like to be an official hike leader, contact our hike teacher Gerry Ching at: [gching@cox.net](mailto:gching@cox.net)

Donations help a lot, and the money stays here at home do-

ing good stuff. Donate here: [www.sierraclub.org/donate/1000](http://www.sierraclub.org/donate/1000)

June 8: **Last day to weigh in** on furnace incentives proposed by the Ventura APCD to replace current furnaces with modern and lower-emission furnaces. Follow this link for more information about how it will affect you: <https://tinyurl.com/FurniceIncentives>

June 2 - August 31: **Summer Hummerz** — an immersive exhibit where nature meets imagi-

nation, at the Ventura Botanical Gardens. Expect bursts into a colorful hummingbird-inspired experience with this debut.

May 30: **The Beachfront Run**, sponsored by the regional non-profit City Impact Inc., this year's event was "Together drew over 700 registered runners along the Ventura Promenade. In its 16<sup>th</sup> year, the event offered four race options: Half Marathon, 10K, 5K, and Kids 1K Run. All proceeds benefit City Impact programs serving at-risk youth and families. The theme of registered We Change Lives".

May 12: **Oil phase-out rejection** by the Camarillo City Council on a 3-2 vote Tuesday night to reject a youth-led resolution that would have put the city on record supporting a phase-out of oil and gas production in Ventura

*continued on page 7*



**CALIFORNIA'S OCEAN NEEDS YOUR VOICE**  
Proposed Marine Protected Areas — Public Comment Now Open

For details about MPAs and how to comment, go to: <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Marine/MPAs>

**SIERRA CLUB**  
SANTA BARBARA-VENTURA CHAPTER

Your membership supports our local grassroots movement to protect vulnerable communities and defend our Central Coast wildlands.

Join today!

Scan to Join online

(805) 617-3106  
Maureen Ellenberger [melle2007@gmail.com](mailto:melle2007@gmail.com)  
PO Box 31241, Santa Barbara, CA 93130-1241



# 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.LPForest.org](http://www.LPForest.org)
- [https://LPFW.org](http://https://LPFW.org)
- [www.HikeLosPadres.com](http://www.HikeLosPadres.com)
- [www.SBSierraClub.org](http://www.SBSierraClub.org)
- [www.SantaBarbaraTrailGuide.com](http://www.SantaBarbaraTrailGuide.com)
- [www.SantaBarbaraHikes.com](http://www.SantaBarbaraHikes.com)
- [https://SBTrails.org](http://https://SBTrails.org)
- [www.VenturaCountyTrails.org](http://www.VenturaCountyTrails.org)
- [http://Hikes.VenturaCountyStar.com](http://http://Hikes.VenturaCountyStar.com)



Our Sierra Club chapter's Basic Backpacking class was back for 2026 and likely for 2027 under the steady and knowledgeable hands of Scott Nelson, and as you can see the fellow backpackers were all smiling. You can put yourself on a list for next year and get notices here: <https://tinyurl.com/BasicBackpacking>

### 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 SoCal 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/>*

## Herbwalks is going places!

Lanny Kaufer of Herbwalks offers a plethora of walks and hikes on June Saturdays and one Sunday, where you not only get exercise but also learn about the flora and fauna that comprise a 50-year anniversary. You can get all the details at: [www.HerbWalks.com](http://www.HerbWalks.com)

~ June 13: Nature Preserve Walk at Taft Gardens & Nature Preserve, a 264-acre property, nestled in the Ojai foothills near

Lake Casitas.

<http://www.taftgardens.org>

~ June 20: Summer Solstice Nature Hike on Pine Mountain

~ June 27: Herb Walks 50-Year Anniversary Garden Party in the Chumash Garden at Ojai Valley Museum. Free event. Refreshments, garden tour, book signing. RSVP at

<https://herbwalks.com>

~ Sunday, June 28: Full Moon Sunset Nature Hike in Ojai

#### EAVESDROPS

*"God has cared for these trees, saved them from drought, disease, avalanches, and a thousand tempests and floods. But he cannot save them from fools."*

~ John Muir, founder of the Sierra Club



### EVENTS

June 7: **Green & Blue:** A Coastal Celebration and the biggest fundraiser of the year for the coveted Environmental Defense Center, 2-5:30 pm, from the beautiful gardens at Rancho La Patera & Stow House at 304 N. Los Carneros Rd, Goleta. This event brings together environmental organizations (Sierra Club!) and around 500 guests from across the tri-county region. Details at: <https://www.environmentaldefensecenter.org/gb/>

June 14: **No Kings Day** throughout the USA, which 'happens' to be Trump's birthday. Millions are expected to protest the Administration and make his day!

June 10: **Slow Nature-Art** - A slow art walkthrough is a quiet, meditative experience designed to stretch and challenge the average 8-second viewing time for museum artwork. Hosted by the CA Nature Art Museum with a picnic and a picnic lunch at Hans Christian Andersen Park. CALNAM is located at 1511-B Mission Dr. Solvang. Details at: [info@calnatureartmuseum.org](mailto:info@calnatureartmuseum.org)

June 21: Drum Circle on Summer Solstice at Harmon Canyon Preserve - Details at: <https://www.venturalandtrust.org/events>

June 28: **SBCAN at 25:** "Honoring the Work, Empowering the Future" on a Sunday at Sunstone Winery in Santa Ynez from 1-4:00 pm. Your gift will help ensure that its work continues to grow and make an impact on the community we all care about. [www.sbcand.org/fundraiser](http://www.sbcand.org/fundraiser)

June 29: **Harmon Canyon Hike** Club. Details at: <https://www.venturalandtrust.org/events>



#### EAVESDROPS

*"Sierra Club adventures offer tremendous quality at affordable prices. When we schedule a Sierra Club trip, we know we will get an in-depth experience wherever we visit."*

~ Barbara R., a participant. See all trips here: <https://outings.sierraclub.org/>

#### EAVESDROPS

*"Communities are encouraged to report wildlife activity to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife for wildlife population monitoring and research; reports may be submitted online via the CDFW Wildlife Incident Reporting (WIR) System: <https://apps.wildlife.ca.gov/wir/incident/create>"*

~ Steve Gonzalez, communications officer with Fish and Wildlife, in response to recent sightings of mountain lions in the Ojai area.

# Sightings...

continued from page 5

County. Vice Mayor Martita Martinez-Bravo and Council member Susan Santangelo voted yes. The phase-out, backed by CFROG, would have defended California's 3,200-foot oil and gas setback law and supported the "polluters pay" superfund legislation at the state level.

**March-April:** Spring rattlesnake bites in March-April brought seven in Ventura County and four in Santa Barbara County. Statewide, California has recorded 77 rattlesnake-related calls and three fatalities, marking a significant early-year increase. Two of the deaths happened in Ventura and Santa Barbara. Detailed in-

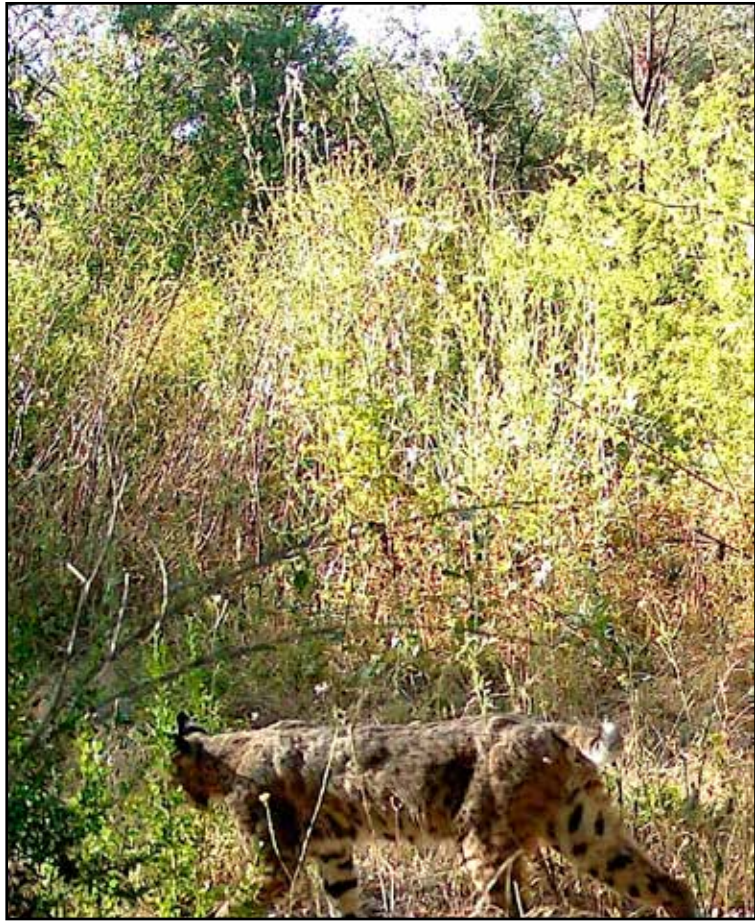
formation here:  
[www.CaliforniaHerpes.com](http://www.CaliforniaHerpes.com)

**March 20** - CD Fish & Wildlife releases Draft Evaluations for Point Sal, an ecologically rich area in Santa Barbara's North County that supports a diverse array of marine life. The Point itself and its offshore waters hold historical and cultural significance for the Chumash people.

A petition seeks to protect the waters of Point Sal in a new State Marine Conservation Area (SMCA). Point Sal's remoteness offers an opportunity to protect thriving seabird and marine mammal colonies, an important habitat for baby fish and invertebrates, and Indigenous cultural resources while they remain relatively undisturbed. Learn more here: <https://tinyurl.com/ProtectPtSal>



Mixed-conifer Forest at Pine Mountain, an example of why we don't want the repeal of the Roadless Rule in that wild area. (Photo by Bryant Baker, during his time at ForestWatch)



Bobcat caught by a wildlife camera on Ojai Valley Land Conservancy. Not shown here is the date and time and exactly where! Photo courtesy of OVLC

# Defend the roadless rule

The Trump administration is unleashing relentless attacks on our shared public lands, vulnerable wildlife, and our planet's future.

But we've beaten threats like these before: by taking corporate giants to court, organizing grassroots power in all 50 states, by

filing lawsuits to protect bedrock environmental protections, and by mobilizing communities to pressure Congress. We will fight back with every tool at our disposal – but to face these challenges, we need your support.

Go here to help:  
<https://tinyurl.com/FightforRoadlessRule>

Your gift right now will give us the resources we need to:  
~ Fight for the Arctic and our

- national monuments
- ~ Protect the Endangered Species Act
- ~ Ensure clean air and water for everyone
- ~ Challenge pro-polluter policies in court and hold decision-makers accountable
- ~ Defend our national parks from industrial exploitation
- And so much more. Please, support all our critical work with a donation today.



The graphic below wanted our voice and it may not be specifically for MPAs, but it shows we're paying attention, such as participating by the hundreds a recent paddle-out at Gaviota. (Photo by Katie Davis)

**CALIFORNIA'S OCEAN NEEDS YOUR VOICE**  
Proposed Marine Protected Areas — Public Comment Now Open

**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 (34,862 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!**







# SIERRA CLUB

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

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION  
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SINCE 1982

## We're still fighting for the environment!

### History of Sierra Club actions:

~ 1892: Founded and quickly mobilized to defeat a proposal to re-duce the boundaries of Yosemite National Park.

~ 1910: National Park Service is created, with Sierra Club member Stephen Mather as its first director.

~ 1920s: Sequoia National Park is expanded, and the Sierra Club successfully opposes dam sites in the Kings River region.

~ 1940s: Kings Canyon National Park is established while the Sierra Club opposes an attempt to repeal the Antiquities Act, successfully defeats proposed dams in Kings Canyon and Glacier National Parks.

~1950s: Grand Tetons and Olympic National Parks are enlarged at the Sierra Club's urging and its campaign stops dam construction in Dinosaur National Monument. Also, the Sierra Club organizes its first volunteer service outings.

~1960s: The landmark Wilderness Act is passed by Congress after a long campaign by the Sierra Club and others, marking the first time that public lands (9.1 million acres) are permanently protected from development

~1962: Sierra Club member Rachel Carson's 1962 book *Silent Spring* contributed to the shaping of the modern environmental movement ... it led to creation of a national pesticide policy supported by a 1972 Sierra Club lawsuit that led to the ban of DDT.

~1966: Major campaign to stop dams that would flood the Grand Canyon and provide power boats for tourists "who would enjoy viewing the canyon wall more closely." That sparked the meme: "Should we also flood the Sistine Chapel so tourists can get nearer the ceiling?"

~1969: Coupled with a stretch of Ohio's Cuyahoga River bursting into flame from the concentration of pollutants on June 22, 1969, the Santa Barbara spill jump-starts the nascent environmental movement, leading to Earth Day in May 1970, creation of the federal Environmental Protection Agency and a raft of far-reaching legislation including California's Environmental Quality Act and the federal Environmental Protection Act. A 1972 initiative creates California's Coastal Commission.

~ 1980's: The Sierra Club has actively campaigned for federal action on climate change, responding to scientific evidence linking human activities to rising temperatures.

~ 1990s, the organization pushed for government accountability, notably during the Earth Summit, and later broadened its strategy to target automobile manufacturers and promote cleaner energy solutions.

mate pollution longer than any other organization. In 2002, we sued the EPA which ultimately resulted in the Massachusetts v. EPA Supreme Court decision that held that the Clean Air Act covers greenhouse gases and led to the EPA issuing the endangerment finding.

~2005: The Sierra Club was one of the first major environmental organizations to address climate change, making it the centerpiece of its campaign for environmental protection for the next

several years.

~2010s The Sierra Club works with President Obama to protect more than 4 million acres of public lands. The Sierra Club's Beyond Coal campaign becomes the most successful environmental initiative in history.

~2026 The Sierra Club, the Environmental Defense Fund, and other groups are preparing to bring legal challenges against the Administration slashing of the EPA, which President Trump calls a hoax.



Yes, the Sierra Club has been fighting since 1892. Now in 2026 we are still seeing tough, persuasive action by a new generation such as Angel Golis, chair of the Sierra Club's Ventura Network, numerous other eco-groups and our local Environmental Defense Center. (Photo by Katie Davis)

