

Appreciating Owen

By Tarren Collins

I've been thinking a lot lately about a wonderful Sierra Club conservation campaign I was privileged to chair from 2001 to 2007. It was called the Great Coastal Places campaign and its purpose was to unite all of us who care about protecting California's Coastline into one broad campaign so that California Sierra Club members could work collectively to protect threatened iconic places along California's 1,100-mile coastline.

Guess what? One of the things we learned was that there are untold numbers of places along our coast that deserve to be cared about and protected. Locally of course there is the Hearst Ranch's coastal property, specifically San Simeon Point, and the fragile ecosystems of the Oceano Dunes, which have been harmed by so many years of irresponsible Off Highway Vehicle use.

The thing that made Great Coastal Places so effective is that it brought together Sierra Club members from San Diego to Humboldt County, all united to help protect this important coastal resource. When I think back about what made that campaign so special, it is the people who come to mind first.

And of all the folks that I met, my colleague and fellow traveler, Owen Bailey, stands out the most. He was the heart and soul of the Great Coastal Places Campaign, and working together, he and I (and many more) scored some impressive coastal victories. We played a huge role in the preservation of the iconic Monterey Pine trees that grace the coastline of Monterey County and laid the groundwork for the eventual protection of the Oceano Dunes.

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GENERAL MEETING
Jim Patterson-District 5
Supervisors' Candidate

The Great Coastal Places Campaign Is Looking to Hold Arnold Accountable
by Owen Bailey, Great Coastal Places Campaign staff member

Sierra Club's 5,000 member coastal network is united in demand to show Arnold how great California's

Snowy Plover Faces New Threat
by Pete Wagner

On October 10 Rob Schultz, Morro Bay City Attorney, filed a Notice of Intent to Sue the US Fish and Wildlife Service, demanding that the Western Snowy Plover be delisted as a "threatened distinct population segment" under the Endangered Species Act. Schultz, acting for Mayor Yates and a majority of the City Council, asserted that, "Citizens and visitors to Morro Bay ... have suffered financial devastation due to lost tourism in the area." The action stemmed almost solely from a campaign by one individual to delist the plover. Schultz asserted further that "... beach closures to protect the Plover have caused many tourists to avoid the region", and that "... local men should have followed williams of

Owen Bailey made his Santa Lucian debut in Nov. 2003 with an article letting Gov. Schwarzenegger know the Sierra Club would be holding him accountable for his Coastal Commissioner appointments.



A huge achievement was the rejection of the Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) plant that was proposed off the coast of Oxnard, a campaign Owen embraced and led for over a year. It was because of Owen's leadership that thousands of people wrote letters, attended demonstrations and showed up at the decisive Coastal Commission hearing where the massively polluting LNG proposal was defeated. On June 8, 2008, after years of battling with BHP Billiton, the world's largest mining corporation, Owen and local teen activist Shannon McComb received recognition for unifying a community and defeating the multi-year \$800 million dollar project. Headlining the event was California Lieutenant Governor John Garamendi, who presented Owen with the Sierra Club's Environmental Hero Award and told the audience that Owen laid the foundation and marshaled the resources necessary to defeat the project. It was through Owen's and Shannon's tireless efforts, said Garamendi, that he "found his voice" while presiding at the State Lands Commission hearing for the LNG terminal and became a champion for the environment by casting the deciding vote against the project.

I ask myself what it takes to lead a successful conservation campaign the way Owen did. It takes vision, leadership, hard work and the ability to put together a diverse and powerful coalition, and Owen is the embodiment of those skills. Owen went on from the Sierra Club to lead the highly regarded Environmental Defense Center, based in Santa Barbara. As their executive director, Owen has led their battles for the cessation of offshore oil drilling in the Santa Barbara Channel, the preservation of rare and vital open space, and clean water.

It warmed my heart to see a colleague of mine, who made such a difference to the Sierra Club, move into a role where he's in the lead in the fight to protect the Central Coast's natural resources.

Owen has been engaged in the fight for his life the five years since a cancer diagnosis in 2017. He has endured many treatments and has been given some scary timelines. He and his wonderful family are not giving up. Owen is focusing on healing and has taken a leave of absence from EDC. Cards and letters are welcome. You can write to Owen at 149 Alpine Drive, Goleta, CA 93117. You can follow Owen's recent journey by [linking to his journal](#).

I want to thank our Great Coastal Places Campaign staff lead from back in the day, Elizabeth Lambe, for helping me write this article. (That's her, signing in activists, on the front page

SANTA LUCIAN

Protecting and Preserving the Central Coast

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Hearst Ranch: Inching Toward a Fair Deal



Attendees sign in at the Sierra Club picnic rally held just before the July 15 public workshop on the Hearst Ranch Conservation Plan at the Cayucos Vets Hall.

All summer long, they called in *Jose Mercuru News - the Tribune's*

Chapter Kicks Off 20/2000 Campaign

by Tarren Collins, Chapter Chair

If you're an environmentalist in SLO, you know the meaning of the term "high-maintenance relationship." There's a lot of love, but it's a lot of work.

In the last twelve months, the Santa Lucia chapter has done a lot of work. We:

- worked with State Parks to oversee the finalizing and implementation of our consent agreement to restrict off-road vehicle activities among fragile nesting areas of the western snowy plover at Oceano Dunes;
- successfully weighed in with the Morro Bay City Council to deny State

of the Sept. 2004 Santa Lucian. Elizabeth is simply the best.)

Most of all, I just want to say cheers to you, Owen, for your unfailing enthusiasm, work ethic and optimism. You are an example of how people, when they work together, are able to protect the natural spaces that they care about.

Those are the kind of people that embody the spirit of the Sierra Club, and I am proud to be one of them.