

# SANTA LUCIAN



**Santa Lucia Chapter**

**Nov./Dec. 2021**  
Volume 58 No. 6

The official newsletter of the Santa Lucia Chapter of the Sierra Club ~ San Luis Obispo County, California

## The Exxon Trucking Plan is Not Worth It

*The request of ExxonMobil to allow the installation of an oil tanker truck loading rack and equipment at Exxon's Las Flores Canyon processing facility to transport crude oil via tanker trucks to the Phillips 66 Santa Maria Pump Station and Plains Pentland Terminal in Kern County was recommended for denial by the Santa Barbara County Planning Commission on September 29, due to significant and unavoidable impacts on the environment. Exxon's request now goes to the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors, which will likely agendize a final decision on the project in the next few months.*

Dear Santa Barbara Supervisors: In 2016-17, the San Luis Obispo County Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors deliberated on a project application very similar to the one before you now.

That one involved trains; this one involves trucks. In 2016, Phillips 66 sought approval to build a rail siding at its Nipomo Mesa refinery in order to transport tars sands crude oil to

the site via rail.

As with the project before you, that project presented significant and unavoidable effects on the environment. Then as now, the project's EIR sought to dismiss a critical impact (then, the decimation of Environmen-

*EXXON continued on page 4*



**The long and winding road** Santa Barbara County Planners have recommended denial of Exxon's trucking plan, for good reasons.

## Taking Another Look at Night Hikes



Russ Hodin

At its October 19 meeting, the SLO City Council appeared to finally acknowledge the concerns that have been raised over the last several years by the Sierra Club and local residents about its decision to open the Cerro San Luis Natural Reserve to hiking and biking after sundown, when wildlife is most active.

After taking public comment and hearing an eloquent defense of the primary role of the city's natural reserves from Councilwoman Jan Marx, rather than approve a resolution

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# Sierra Club General Meeting

November 17, 7p.m.

The evening's presentation will cover the Sierra Club's work on 30x30 in California, the campaign to protect 30% of lands and coastal waters by 2030. We will discuss the origins of the campaign from the effort to protect half of the earth by mid-century, the federal and state context of 30x30 via actions from the Biden and Newsom administrations, and updates on how the Sierra Club is mobilizing our members and engaging on shaping 30x30 outcomes in California (see page 9).

Our presenters will be Jenny Binstock, California Senior Campaign Representative, Our Wild America; and Anne Henny, volunteer co-lead of Sierra Club California's 30x30 Campaign.

## Chapter Chair Chat

## Powerful Together

By Carole Mintzer, Chapter Chair

In September, the Unity Committee of the County Sheriff's Office released a report titled, "Systemic Racism and Micro-aggressions in San Luis Obispo County." (You can find it at [slocounty.ca.gov](http://slocounty.ca.gov); search for Unity Committee.) The report documents the overrepresentation of white people in positions of power across governments and organizations in SLO County and the overrepresentation of people of color in indicators of poor

Jenny has spent over 15 years working in the realms of organizing, policy, campaigns, research, program management, and grassroots fund-

raising around environmental and social justice issues. In her current role at the Sierra Club as a Senior Campaigner for the Lands, Water and Wildlife Campaign, she manages public lands campaigns in California on a range of issues. She has a BA in Communications from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and a Masters in Public Policy from UCLA.

Anne is the chair of the Sierra Club California/Nevada Wilderness Committee, and a member of the Sierra Club's national Wildlands and Wilderness Grassroots Network Team.

We meet on Nov. 17 at 7p.m. To register for the Zoom link, go to [sierraclub.org/santalucia](http://sierraclub.org/santalucia), or email [camintzer@gmail.com](mailto:camintzer@gmail.com)

Andrew Christie  
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Carole Mintzer  
EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

Denny Mynatt  
PRINT MEDIA COORDINATOR

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## Santa Lucia Chapter

### 2021 Executive Committee

Carole Mintzer (12/23) CHAIR  
open (12/21) MEMBER  
open (12/21) MEMBER  
Stephanie Carlotti (12/23) MEMBER  
Janine Rands (12/22) MEMBER  
John Sanders (12/23) MEMBER  
Mila Vujovich-LaBarre (12/22) VICE CHAIR

Barbara Babka SECRETARY  
Kevin O'Gorman TREASURER



**SIERRA CLUB**  
SANTA LUCIA

The **Executive Committee** meets the fourth Monday of each month at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom. All members are welcome to attend.

### Committees

**Political**  
Alex Mintzer  
**Fundraising/Development**  
Stephanie Carlotti  
Dani Nicholson  
**Conservation**  
Sue Harvey  
**Nuclear Power Task Force**  
Rochelle Becker  
Linda Seeley  
**Zero Waste Task Force**  
Janine Rands  
**CA Conservation Committee delegates**  
Janine Rands, John Sanders  
**Council of Club Leaders delegate**  
Carole Mintzer

**Facebook Administrator**  
Kim Ramos  
**Bookkeeper**  
Sandra Cirilo

### Public Lands Task Force

Holly Sletteland

### Outings

Lisa Ludovici

### Webmaster

Stephanie Carlotti

### Trail Guide

Gary Felsman

### Chapter Director

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## Sierra Club Honors Coastal Commission Director

Jack Ainsworth, Executive Director of the California Coastal Commission, received the Sierra Club's Environmental Achievement award at the Club's annual awards ceremony on September 17.

This award honors persons in public service for an action of singular importance to the environment or environmental justice. It's hard to imagine a more worthy recipient than the public official who finally dared to say that



Above and beyond Sierra Club president Ramon Cruz commended Jack Ainsworth for having "the personal courage to recommend that the Commission order the end of off-roading."

offroad vehicles must be removed from the Oceano Dunes at the Commission's historic March 18 meeting.

## Fred Collins, 1949-2021



By Andrew Christie, Chapter Director

## The Promise of the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary

By Gianna Patchen, Santa Lucia Chapter Intern

Along the Central Coast lies a long awaited missing puzzle piece in the protection of our ocean and shorelines.

From Cambria to Point Conception, the proposed Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary provides an opportunity to prioritize the Chumash peoples' cultural values and heritage as well as public health, local economic growth, and the environment.

National marine sanctuaries are designated stretches of ocean waters deemed vital for the protection of natural and cultural resources while supporting local economic growth.

This primarily means promoting equitable access to and sustainable use of natural resources, while protecting our waters from offshore oil expansion, acoustic testing, pollution, and seabed mining. The proposed boundaries of the

sanctuary extend the length of 140 miles of the Central Coast and up to 13 miles offshore. Our communities are reliant on the health of this coastline, so we all stand to benefit from the protection of these waters.

Local businesses have much to gain if the marine sanctuary is designated. According to a 2014 economic study, the sanctuary could create "at minimum 23 million dollars per year to the local economy and almost 600 new jobs" (Scorse and Kildow, 2014). National marine sanctuaries provide opportunities for education, recreation, tourism, research, and commercial activity along the coast.

A key component of the proposed sanctuary is community access and collaboration between many different stakehold-

It's hard to believe he's gone. From the day I met Fred Collins and through all the years we worked side by side on the same issues, I always thought of him as one of those people who will always be there. It was difficult to think otherwise. All the clichés apply -- larger than life, a force of nature -- and all true.

No elected official is ever likely to forget the sound of his voice, which was like rolling thunder, usually reminding them of their obligations to respect the rights of Native Americans and consult with the tribes, specifically with the Northern Chumash Tribal Council, before they had permitted the project before them. He was unwavering in that cause.

His private self was the flipside of his stern public presence. I remember him happily tending his hydroponic strawberries, opening up his home, welcoming everyone, laying out a spread. His laugh was huge. He was a hugger. He was one of a kind.

We now feel an even greater urgency to help achieve his final goal and his other great cause -- creating the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary, the primary occupation of the last eight years of his life, pushing at the local and federal level to advance the nomination to designation status.

I wish that could have happened when Fred was here to see it. But when it does, I think he'll know.



# Vote

## It's time to select your Sierra Club Chapter's Executive Committee for 2022



It's time to vote for the next members of the Santa Lucia Chapter's Executive Committee, the policy-making body of your Sierra Club chapter. There are a total of two positions open this year, for 3-year terms. All current members of the Sierra Club's Santa Lucia Chapter are eligible to vote. You may vote online or by mail. You are encouraged to vote online by going to [sc.org/santaluciaelection](https://sc.org/santaluciaelection). Online and vote by mail instructions are on your ballot on the next page.



### John-Paul Leonardo

I am a graduate of Cal Poly with an Environmental Management and Protection major and a concentration in Ethnic Studies. I worked as an outdoor educator for the City of Monterey and for Delphinus School of Natural History. I have always enjoyed working in the outdoors.

*LEONARDO continued on next page*



### Cynthia Replogle

I became an active environmentalist in 2003 when I started learning to surf in Florida. Concerned about cruise lines dumping waste offshore, I helped to start Surfrider's Cocoa Beach chapter. After moving back to California, I remained active in leadership roles with Surfrider. Most

*REPLOGLE continued on next page*

## Exxon

*continued from page 1*

tally Sensitive Habitat Area due to the Phillips 66 project; now, the re-start of three offshore oil rigs due to the Exxon project). Then as now, the oil company attempted to downplay the frequency and impact of accidents and spills involving their chosen method of transport, despite the evidence in the record.

Then as now, though the significant, unavoidable impacts of the project would be felt far beyond the county line, the oil company needed only the approval of one California county for its project.

Then as now, the County heard overwhelming opposition from student groups, cities and counties, school districts, business leaders, environmental groups, and thousands of individuals across California. Santa Barbara elected officials prominent among

them. Their message to our Planning Commission and Supervisors was clear: Put the public welfare before oil industry profits and deny this project.

The editorial board of the *SLO Tribune* wrote, "we cannot support a project that would increase rail shipments of crude oil through communities in San Luis Obispo County, or any other county. There are too many risks and too many unanswered questions."

What SLO County did not have before it in 2016, but Santa Barbara County does, is the Huntington Beach oil spill and the Sixth Assessment Report of the IPCC, the "code red for humanity," released last August. That report found:

- In 2019, atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations were higher than at any time in at least 2 million years, and concentrations of methane and nitrous oxide were

## The Sierra Club Los Padres Chapter filed an 85-page petition in opposition, signed by more than 2,000 California residents.

higher than at any time in the last 800,000 years.

- Global surface temperature has increased faster since 1970 than in any other 50-year period over a least the last 2,000 years.

- Global mean sea level has risen faster since 1900 than over any preceding century in at least the last 3,000 years.

- Emissions of greenhouse gases from human activities are responsible for approximately 1.1°C of warming historically, and averaged over the next 20 years, global temperature is expected to reach or exceed 1.5°C of heating.

"Stabilizing the climate will require strong, rapid, and sustained reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, and reaching net zero CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Limiting other

greenhouse gases and air pollutants... could have benefits both for health and the climate," per IPCC Working Group Co-Chair Panmao Zhai.

The EIR for the Exxon/Mobil project states that the project will result in the release of an additional 317,043 MTCO<sub>2e</sub>/year.

In 2016, the SLO County Planning Commission, like your planning commission, recommended denial of the project to the board of supervisors. The commissioner who made the motion to deny the Phillips 66 project cited overwhelming public opposition and concluded his motion thus:

"I live by a simple rule in my life: Do unto others as you would have them do unto you. I vote against this project."

Please do likewise.

**Leonardo**

*continued from previous page*

while simultaneously educating the youth to become inspired and understanding of the natural environments that surround us. I have worked for the Bureau of Land Management, Monterey County State Parks, and SLO County Parks and Recreation as a botany assistant and field assistant for restoration and conservation projects. I was the lead facilitator for DMG Consulting for two years and have developed and facilitated numerous workshops and trainings for professional staff, organizations, and non-profits within SLO and Santa Barbara County. Through a social and environmental lens, these consulting projects aimed to better many undervalued students and underrepresented communities of color. I also worked in the renewable energy field as an engineering designer for PV systems and EV charger stations. My objective in life, no matter the field or organization I work for, is to make sure that everybody is fairly represented and being held accountable for all decisions that affect our communities, while keeping in mind those who are not in the decision-making process, so that justice and equity is achieved. I also rock climb, and there is a strong push in the climbing community to keep our mountains and nearby ecosystems healthy and flourishing!

**Replogle**

*continued from previous page*

recently, I served as Vice Chair of the SLO Chapter, where I initiated local Ocean Friendly Restaurants and Hold on to Your Butt programs to reduce plastic waste. I am the general counsel for iFixit, a small SLO company with the big goal of helping everyone to fix everything. I have served as a Director on the Oceano CSD Board since 2018. After I joined with the Sierra Club to object, as an individual, to local participation in the environmentally-harmful and expensive proposed Delta Tunnel project to bring water from northern California south, the OCSB Board majority stripped me of committee assignments as punishment for disagreeing with their position. I have signed onto letters to Governor Newsom from Elected Officials to Protect California, urging him to phase out fossil fuels in favor of clean, renewable energy. In my spare time, I help to manage the Central Coast team of National Lawyers Guild legal observers and volunteers as a co-coordinator of the Dunes Alliance. I am an advocate for the environment and for social, economic and environmental justice. Despite retaliation from other members of the OCSB Board and threats from off-roaders, I remain committed to always standing up for what's right.

**2022 Santa Lucia Chapter Executive Committee Ballot**

To vote online or by mail, you will need your 6 to 8-digit member ID number. It should be on the address label of this newsletter, or on the label of any issue of *Sierra* magazine. If you need help finding your member ID, contact the Sierra Club membership office at [member.care@sierraclub.org](mailto:member.care@sierraclub.org) or (415) 977-5653.

**To vote online:** Go to [sc.org/santaluciaelection](http://sc.org/santaluciaelection) any time before 5 p.m. on December 6, 2021, and follow the instructions there.

**To vote by mail:**

- Make an X or checkmark in the box for the candidate of your choice. Vote for no more than two candidates, including write-in candidates. Write your 8-digit member ID in the space provided.
- Your mailing label should indicate whether you have a JOINT or SINGLE membership. Joint members please use both check boxes to vote.
- Sign and date the flap of the envelope. Do not write your name on the ballot. Mail to: **Elections Committee, Santa Lucia Chapter, P.O. Box 15755, San Luis Obispo, CA 93406** with sufficient time to arrive by the deadline.
- Ballots must be received by **5 p.m., December 6, 2021** at the chapter office. Mail only; No drop-offs. If both a mailed and online ballot are received with the same Member ID, only the final online ballot will be counted.

Cynthia Replogle

John-Paul Leonardo

Write-In \_\_\_\_\_

Write-In \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
8-digit member ID



# Supervisors Blow It at Arroyo Grande Oil Field

On October 19, the San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors approved, on a 4-1 vote, Sentinel Peak Resources' application to resurrect an expired permit to drill an additional 31 oil wells in the Arroyo Grande Oil Field.

When the proposal to extend the time originally permitted to add additional oil wells to the Arroyo Grande Oil Field was approved by the County Planning Commission in 2015, it was already an expired, decade-old permit to drill new wells and increase production from 5,000 to 10,000 barrels a day.

The request for additional time, per Freeport McMoRan Oil & Gas Director of Government affairs John Martini at the 10/22/15 planning commission meeting, was due to the fact that "We were not able to complete the Phase IV project within the timeframe allotted by the original CUP. The discovery of the need for the division to work with the US Environmental Protection Agency to update certain boundaries that were originally established in 1983 put a stop in our ability to execute the remainder of Phase IV."

Thus did Mr. Martini provide a perfect example of the reason why permits are designed to expire, not to be amended and continued over extended periods of time. His



"Plastics!" Supervisor Dawn Ortiz-Legg reenacted the most famous scene from *The Graduate* and declared her love for everyone's favorite synthetic petrochemical pollutant to justify her vote for more oil drilling in SLO County.

company had to "update certain boundaries" because it was discovered that state officials had allowed oil companies to drill wells into federally protected aquifers around the state, including the current proprietor of the AGOF. In another event subsequent to 2005, state regulators found that the underground injection procedures like those planned for some of the new Arroyo Grande wells, in fracturing rock formations, can create underground pathways for pollutants into aquifers.

In short, conditions change on the ground. The Planning Commission ignored this reality in 2015 when it extended an expired permit that was based on a cursory environmental review which was then ten years old, triggering an appeal to the Board of Supervisors by the Center for Biological Diversity of the permit approved for Sentinel Peak Resources, current proprietor of the Arroyo Grande field.

What was before the Board amounted to a request that it approve new wells on an amended permit that expired six years ago. Sentinel's argument that it should do so hinged on a euphemism, exchanging the word "new" for the word "replacement."

The County has allowed 37 new wells to move forward without public review since issuing the 2005 permit, each new well representing an increased impact on the environment.

There is one more reason not to rubber stamp extensions on expired well drilling permits as though conditions on the ground do not change over the course of 15 years, a time period in which the state of California has experienced a relentless increase in deadly heat and monster wildfires. In 2015, as is the case today, California was in the grip of a mega-drought. The most recent report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) constitutes a "code red for humanity," clarifying that we are in a climate emergency and that federal, state, and local authorities must stop approving fossil fuel projects. The oil

## Night

*continued from page 1*

making the pilot program permanent, the council took note of the need for more data and a thorough review of the potential environmental impacts of the program, tabling a decision until a special meeting on

November 9.

Council directed staff to further evaluate the information submitted into the record prior to taking further action.

We direct staff's attention in particular to this assessment from the California Dept. of Fish and Wildlife's peer-reviewed journal:

"Mountain biking in the dark (i.e., night riding), which is on the rise in protected areas, can disrupt the natural balance between diurnal and nocturnal wildlife.... Night riding can compound the pressure such wildlife experience from daytime recreational activities by increasing encounters with competitors and even further reducing the time available for foraging and breeding."

- *California Fish and Wildlife Journal*; 6-10; 2020



BOARD continued on next page



**Sanctuary**

*continued from page 3*

ers. To protect these resources that we are so reliant on, the sanctuary proposes to stop the threats of offshore oil expansion and acoustic testing and provide funding for much needed local marine research. Designating the proposed Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary is an essential part of sustainably strengthening our local economy for current and future generations.

Spearheaded by the Northern Chumash Tribal Council, this will be one of the first tribal-led national marine sanctuaries in the

U.S., should the designation pass.

The hard work that has gotten us to this point is not over. Community support is just as important now as it was six years ago when the nomination was accepted by NOAA. As we reach the home stretch, we are calling on local businesses to step forward and join the long list of supporters. We hope to soon see the extensive benefits of the proposed Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary extended to our communities.



B. K. Richard

**Board**

*continued from previous page*

extracted from the AGOF ranks with the dirtiest, most carbon-intensive oil in the world.

All of the above should have been sufficient cause for the board to set aside the proposed Environmental Determination and the finding of the Environmental Coordinator that “no substantial changes have occurred with respect to the circumstances under which the project is undertaken which will require major revision of the previously certified [Final Environmental Impact Report], and no new information of substantial importance has been identified that was not known at the time that the previous FEIR was certified.” (One impact ignored in the FEIR: Greenhouse gas emissions.) Instead, they dismissed the appeal and gave Sentinel Resources three more years of expanded fossil fuel extraction privileges.

Last September, Oxford University researchers released a paper titled “Empirically grounded technology forecasts and the energy transition,” which concludes: “Compared to continuing with a fossil-fuel-based system, a rapid green energy transition will probably result in overall net savings of many trillions of dollars – even without accounting for climate damages or co-benefits of climate policy.” Commenting on the report’s findings, Bill McKibben noted that the oil and gas industry is “using all their economic and political muscle to prolong the transition” from “their economically outmoded system of energy generation” to a clean fuel economy.

The San Luis Obispo County Supervisors have failed in their duty to future generations by approving the Conditional Use Permit granting additional time to Sentinel Peak Resources California LLC to install 31 additional oil wells in the Arroyo Grande Oil Field.

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**Thank You, Monthly Donors!**

During this time of giving thanks, we want to make a special thank you to our monthly donors. Your ongoing support of the Santa Lucia Chapter provides a secure foundation for our advocacy to protect the Central Coast. As we monitor and call for action on local environmental issues, it’s reassuring to know you are there to sustain our efforts.

Want to see your name here next year? Go to our website and sign up to be a monthly donor. It’s an easy and much appreciated way to support the Chapter, and all your donations stay here in San Luis Obispo County.

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|--|---|
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|--|---|



Mark and Susan Garman

## How Long, Port San Luis?

In September, we alerted Sierra Club members that the Port San Luis Harbor District is planning to remodel parts of the Harford Pier and is seeking community input via a Harford Pier Site Plan Survey.

Here's why: Six years ago, the Sierra Club joined with other local wildlife groups in expressing concern over problems with the fish cleaning station on the pier, which was in dire need of improvement to keep pelicans from choking on discarded fish skeletons and dying of hypothermia due to fish oil cascading down on them as they waited for their free lunch. The port agreed to make the necessary fixes.

Six years later, those improvements languish, uncompleted.

What's the problem with poorly designed fish cleaning stations? In 2012, two fish cleaning stations in Crescent City and Shelter Cove caused "a wildlife management crisis in northern California harbors." A report by Pacific Eco Logic documented that "Recreational fish cleaning stations with perched discharge pipes that drained directly onto pelicans scavenging from below were the most obvious and harmful sources of oiling in the Crescent City and Shelter Cove harbors.... A total 246 pelicans with fish oil fouled plumage were captured and washed by wildlife rehabilitators in the project area."

On Oct. 14, wildlife activists Mark and Susan Garman, longtime advocates of fixing the Harford Pier fish cleaning station, attended a special meeting the Port San Luis Harbor Commission convened to provide feedback to the preliminary design ideas for the Harford Pier. In reviewing the survey results, the architects mentioned the "robust response" they received from the public, with the number-one concern being the fish cleaning station and trash management.

Mark and Susan reminded commissioners that local wildlife experts are willing to help ensure the FCS is properly designed. They also asked Facilities Manager Chris Munson to make necessary repairs to the recently reopened station at the base of the pier, as several of the modifications we all succeeded in encouraging the Port to make back in 2016 are now damaged or have disappeared.



## Carbon Capture is Not a Plan

*In September, Sierra Club joined Physicians for Social Responsibility and more than a dozen environmental, public health, and environmental justice groups in opposition to the California Air Resources Board's proposal to use Carbon Capture, Utilization and Sequestration (CCUS) to curb climate change. Carbon removal — the natural sequestration of carbon via tree planting and retention, restoring wetlands, and encouraging regenerative agricultural practices — is in every way superior to CCUS, which is enormously expensive, is all about enabling and extending fossil fuel extraction, and does no favors for public health or environmental justice.*

*The following is an excerpt of the letter. For the full text go to: <https://bit.ly/3ACzG4W>*

September 20th, 2021

Dear Chair Randolph and Members of the California Air Resources Board,

PSR-LA and our allies thank you for the opportunity to provide comments regarding engineered carbon removal through Carbon Capture, Utilization and Storage (CCUS) technologies as presented at CARB's public workshop on August 2, 2021.

We urge CARB to reject techno-fix carbon removal strategies, including the ones that do not also reduce local air pollution, which disproportionately harms and increases the cumulative health burdens faced by frontline and Environmental Justice (EJ) communities, and are unproven, unstable, unsafe and costly techno-fixes that incentivize the most polluting industries while keeping much-needed public dollars from going to the most critical solutions on the frontlines of human and ecological harm.

CARB needs to promptly analyze proven and real climate solutions, rather than support carbon storage

and utilization technologies that are clearly a public subsidy for the continued operations of the fossil fuel industry. CCUS fails to address climate change and health disparities; it does not meet the goals of AB 32 or AB 197; it is an expensive false solution path that will perpetuate our dependence on fossil fuels; and it will be primarily utilized as polluter subsidies such as Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR), continued oil extraction, and the conversion/expansion of farmlands to grow fuel (corn ethanol).

CCUS technology requires more energy, which will increase pollution and the negative health impacts associated with increased pollution. CCUS also extends the life of fossil fuels and thereby delays a Just Transition to a safer, healthier, more caring world. We cannot continue to reward public dollars to the fossil fuel industry for a bad business model -- this scheme would allow the industry to continue externalizing the cost of their business on the backs

*PLAN continued on next page*



**Plan**

*continued from previous page*

of the public and EJ communities. This would force communities to pay further with their health, their well-being, and their lives. This would also squander billions of dollars in public funds that should be spent on real renewable energy like wind and solar, critical climate survival strategies, food sovereignty and holistic solutions pathways that repair the harm done to the health of people and the planet.

We believe that the Scoping Plan must do more to establish a stronger public health framework to this puzzle. Additionally, we recommend a precautionary approach to how CARB assesses and evaluates carbon sequestration and storage, as well as other climate strategies. We need to prevent harm. Therefore, we need to be very clear about the technologies and practices we will use to meet the dual goal of reducing carbon emissions and not increasing the emissions of co-pollutants. This represents a critical opportunity cost - will the state invest public dollars on false solutions that subsidize the fossil fuel industry, or on the diversity of proven, cost-effective and ecologically sensible solutions that benefit public health, equity and the climate?

We ask CARB to prioritize climate solutions that promote a fair and inclusive transition to a sustainable and regenerative economy with justice at its core. This calls for climate investments that work to eliminate existing environmental

disparities, shifting the burden away from frontline EJ and Indigenous communities. CCUS plans are too narrowly focused on counting molecules and offsetting carbon emissions, while ignoring local health impacts and high economic risk. CARB's focus on CCUS as a key strategy ignores climate solutions that generate far-greater, and more immediate benefits for community health and well-being, such as improving local air quality, restoring natural ecosystems, and increasing community engagement, vitality and jobs.

We call on CARB to do the following:

- 1) Do not include CCUS in the Climate Change Scoping Plan and remove its use as a predetermined input to the models for achieving California's carbon reduction goals.
- 2) Remove CCUS Protocol from the Low Carbon Fuel Standard (LCFS).
- 3) Incorporate ecologically-based carbon sequestration strategies that are not offsets such as Permaculture and Indigenous Food Sovereignty -- which provide co-benefits for environmental justice, public health, jobs creation, ecosystem restoration and community resilience into CARB's modeling and Scoping Plan.
- 4) Support community-driven solutions that keep fossil fuels in the ground and that advance a Just Transition that benefits frontline workers and communities with family-

sustaining, healthy, long-term jobs across many regenerative economic sectors.

5) We must conduct a robust assessment of real solutions to embed in the CEQA process that poses the fundamental question in "whose interest are we making decisions"; and, we must stop making decisions based on the best interests of the fossil fuels industry.

In conclusion, CCUS is a

false climate solution that would legitimize and extend the extraction and burning of fossil fuels and is not needed to meet our climate goals of reducing GHGs & other pollutants. CCUS is a false climate solution that would legitimize and extend the extraction and burning of fossil fuels. The continued emission of GHGs & other pollutants hurt everyone and will disproportionately harm frontline communities.



## Progress Toward 30x30

California's Goal of Conserving 30% of Lands and Coastal Waters by 2030, known as 30x30, is making progress.

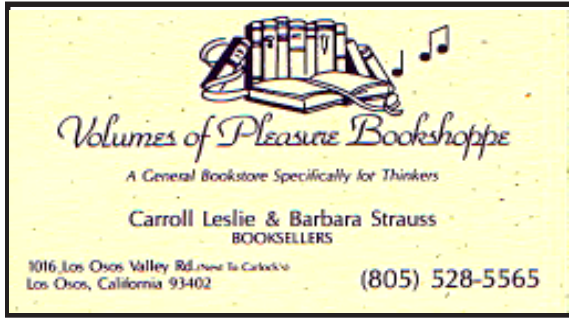
In July, the Anza-Borrego Foundation (ABF) finalized the transfer of 17,597 acres into the Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. In August, the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority acquired 320 acres of prime ridgeline parkland adjacent to Chino Hills State Park, following an 80-acre acquisition in the same area in June. The Wildlife Conservation Board awarded \$20 million to help construct the Wallis Annenberg Wildlife Crossing at Liberty Canyon, the largest wildlife crossing of its kind in the world.

These early actions will complement the long-term strategy, "Pathways to 30x30," which will be released online as a public draft later this year.

For more info, go to [www.californianature.ca.gov](http://www.californianature.ca.gov)



In September, a broad coalition sent the CA Natural Resources Agency a 35-page letter urging equitable, science-based conservation in the 30x30 program.



**Powerful**

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social outcomes, such as poverty, homelessness, and low educational achievement.

The report also includes a few stories of what it’s like to be a person of color living in SLO County. It’s well worth reading and taking the time to think about the information within it.

Towards the end of the report there is a section titled Affecting Change which reminds us that, “to tackle the deeply-embedded systemic racism in our institutions, culture, and social structures, we need to all work together toward a common goal of equity.” How do we do this? We can start by learning about and checking our assumptions.

Or as the report puts it: “First, we must admit that due to our socialization in this nation, this state, and this county, what we have learned about race has created implicit bias. We all have biases! Even the best of us slip into racial stereotypes that benefit one group while putting down another. The good news is that we can change our beliefs and our actions. Each day we must commit to educating ourselves to recognize bias and discrimination.”

I hope all of us are on the journey toward less implicit bias in our lives. As a child of the white male-dominated 1950s and 60s, the first time I remember owning up to an implicit bias was when I encountered female physicians in the 1970s. Even though I

was all for women’s rights and gender equality, I discovered that I would automatically refer to physicians as “he” and “him.” Wow. But this first recognition led to identifying other false assumptions as part of a life-long process to overcome the automatic stereotypes that sometimes pop into my brain.

The Unity Committee also recommends investigating “how bias may be perpetuated in our systems, organizations, community culture, and institutions.” It poses a set of questions that we can use to examine the groups we participate in and explore what they are doing or not doing to perpetuate bias:

- \* Is racial injustice a topic of conversation within the company/institution/social group/organization?

- \* Do people of color have positions of power in our organization?

- \* Have we conducted an anonymous survey to hear how people feel within the organization as it applies to race/ethnicity, religion, gender, sexual orientation, class, etc.?

- \* How might our practices (advertising, language, [lack of] cultural competency training, etc.) impact how we serve constituents?

- \* Is our institution segregated (e.g. agriculture-Hispanics are overrepresented in field work and white people most often own the farms)?

- \* Does our group believe racial justice matters? If so, why? And how do we show our support?

- \* Do we utilize our time, talent, and treasure to support local non-profits (NAACP, Diversity Coalition, Race Matters,

Gala Pride, and Diversity Center, etc.) working toward racial equity?

- \* Are our sports teams, churches, book clubs, community groups inclusive? Who has power in these groups?

- \* One way to understand an organization’s priorities is how it utilizes its funds. How do our organizations and institutions distribute resources?

So you are probably wondering how Sierra Club stacks up. What I have seen is that Sierra Club is becoming a more equitable and diverse organization, and it’s still a work in progress. Change doesn’t happen overnight, and Sierra Club had a long way to go from being a predominantly white organization to one that is fully inclusive and equitable. Signs of progress include the racial and gender diversity of the national Board of Directors and locally of our Chapter Executive Committee.

As new policies are written and old policies revised, the concepts of equity and inclusion are among the guiding principles. One example of this is the Club’s Policy on Urban Infill, which recognizes that “Land use policies and development often reflect and contribute to racial and economic bias.” The new policy, adopted in 2019, outlines how decisions about infill development should “ensure that people from low income, disadvantaged, marginalized, and communities of color have equitable access to quality of life services that are essential for overall well being, economic advance-



**Powerful**

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ment, and dealing with the impacts of climate change.”



Sierra Club works with partner organizations as part of a diverse, inclusive movement to address intertwined environmental and social justice issues. Locally, we have engaged with the Northern Chumash Tribal Council to work toward designation of the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary and to find ways to protect lands when the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant is decommissioned. As part of People for the Dunes, we advocated for the removal of off-highway vehicles at Oceano Dunes, full coastal access and clean air for the communities of Oceano, Nipomo and Guadalupe.

The concepts of racial and environmental justice are regular topics at Sierra Club meetings and trainings and have been for a number of years. As a volunteer leader in the Club, I have participated in a number of workshops and trainings

with the goal of raising sensitivity to injustice and implicit bias.

Now perhaps you are wondering why Sierra Club, an environmental organization, is so concerned with social justice? What does that have to do with protecting the environment? I encourage you to read “Racism is Killing the Planet,” by Hop Hopkins in the June issue of *Sierra* magazine. He does a far better job than I could ever hope to do in connecting the dots and explaining the imperative that we must become a racially equitable organization if we are to succeed in our efforts to address climate change, writing:

“All I know is that if climate change and environmental injustice are the result of a society that values some lives and not others, then none of us are safe from pollution until all of us are safe from pollution. Dirty air doesn’t stop at the county line, and carbon pollution doesn’t respect national borders. As


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*For further information contact:*

Lisa Ludovici, Outings Chair  
(310) 864-4679  
l.ludovici@outlook.com



John Muir, founder of the Sierra Club, in Yosemite

long as we keep letting the polluters sacrifice Black and brown communities, we can’t protect our shared global climate.”

In December 2014, when I was Chair of our Angeles Chapter, I had to respond to a request that the Chapter support local labor unions’ goal of raising the minimum wage in the City of Los Angeles to \$15 an hour. I will admit to questioning why an environmental organization would engage on this topic so I surveyed Club leaders across the Chapter. While some members opposed engaging on the issue, others connected the dots, just as Hop did in his article. When it came time to vote, the ExCom approved the resolution to support the increase in the minimum wage “because we realize that the struggles for environmental justice, protection & enjoyment of our earth and its resources, and a living wage are inextricably linked.” Or put

in simple terms – if we are going to succeed in our fight against climate change, we need everyone engaged. It’s not about excluding anyone, it’s about building a bigger tent.

I’m proud to be part of an environmental organization that is moving in the direction of equity, diversity, and inclusion. It may be happening too fast for some, and not nearly fast enough for others, but the direction is clear and unstoppable.

Until next time, stay safe, get outdoors, and advocate for a clean environment and the protection of nature here on the Central Coast.

*Carole*



**Get On Line with Your Sierra Club Chapter**

This is our only print edition of the year. Do you want to receive notification when our newsletter is posted on line?

Want to get e-alerts of upcoming Sierra Club meetings and urgent environmental issues?

Go to [sc.org/SantaLuciaNews](http://sc.org/SantaLuciaNews) (case sensitive).





# Outings and Activities

All our hikes and activities are open to all Club members and the general public. Please bring drinking water to all outings and optionally a lunch. Sturdy footwear is recommended. All phone numbers listed are within area code 805 unless otherwise noted. Pets are generally not allowed. A parent or responsible adult must accompany children under the age of 18. If you have any suggestions for hikes or outdoor activities, questions about the Chapter's outing policies, or would like to be an outings leader, call Outings Chair Lisa Ludovici at 310-864-4679, [l.ludovici@outlook.com](mailto:l.ludovici@outlook.com). For information on a specific outing, please call the listed outing leader. Environmentally friendly outdoor adventures



farther afield—from Tahoe to Tibet— are available to

people of all ages, abilities, and interests, whether you're seeking lodge-based explorations or supported treks, backpack journeys leisurely to strenuous, or vacations nearly anywhere in the world. Go to [sierraclub.org/outings](http://sierraclub.org/outings) or call 415-977-5522 or contact [national.outings@sierraclub.org](mailto:national.outings@sierraclub.org).

## We Are On Meetup!

You don't have to be a Sierra Club member to be part of our Meetup Group and see *all* our outings. Go on the Meetup website, or download the app, go to "San Luis Obispo Sierra Club," and request to join.

[meetup.com/San-Luis-Obispo-Sierra-Club-Meetup-Group/](http://meetup.com/San-Luis-Obispo-Sierra-Club-Meetup-Group/)



**Sun., Nov. 14th, 2-3:30 p.m. Sierra Club Ecology Walk of the Elfin Forest.** One-mile guided stroll along bluffs overlooking Morro Bay to discuss adaptations of native plants and animals in this coastal dune scrub preserve. No reservations, free. From South Bay Blvd. in Los Osos, turn west on Santa Isabel, then right on 14th street to end. Mask required if not vaccinated. Leader: Joe Morris, 805-549-0355.

**Sat. Dec. 18th 9am – 3pm Winter Solstice Hike – Blinn Ranch Trail.** Los Padres NF, North side Santa Margarita Lake Regional Park. Moderate: 9 miles; Elevation gain and loss 600 feet. Let's celebrate the shortest day of the year with a scenic local hike on the back side of Santa Margarita Lake Regional Park. We will enjoy beautiful views of the lake, stately gray pines and sweeping oak woodland studded with amazing sandstone. Bring lunch, snacks and at least 2.5 liters of water and/or a purifier if you plan to refill with lake water. No swimming is allowed in the lake. Parking fees \$5 per car. This hike will be limited to 10 participants. Unvaccinated participants must wear a mask. You must contact the hike leader for meet time, location and to reserve your spot, or sign up for free on Meetup at San Luis Obispo Sierra Club. Hike leader: Lisa Ludovici [l.ludovici@outlook.com](mailto:l.ludovici@outlook.com) 310-864-4679.

**Sun., Dec. 19th, 5-6:30 p.m. Sierra Club Victorian Christmas Historic Walk of San Luis Obispo.** Guided stroll past 15 holiday-lit Victorian houses in the Old Town Historic District to recall Christmas customs, events, and locales of the 1890s. Flashlights recommended. Masks required if not vaccinated. No reservations, free. Meet in front of St. Stephen's Church, corner of Nipomo and Pismo Sts. Leader: Joe Morris, 805-549-0355.

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