

SANTA LUCIAN



Santa Lucia Chapter

**May/June 2018
Volume 55 No.3**

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

Election Day is June 5

All hands on deck! As Sierra Club Executive Director Michael Brune puts it, “From the climate justice movement to the labor movement, we are all working toward an economy and a society that prioritizes people over profits.”

At this historical moment, it couldn’t be more true: You can’t have social justice without environmental justice; you can’t separate people from the environment. It’s extraordinary to have a brace of candidates on the ballot statewide and in SLO County who get this. (For the full list of endorsements for statewide office, go to www.sierraclub.org/california.) With that in mind, we urge you to support the candidates at right. Visit their websites, volunteer, write a check, and *vote*.

Supervisors Strike Out on Clean Energy, Rep. Carbajal Steps Up

Energy Opportunity Zones Act introduced

For years, with the closure of the Diablo Canyon Power Plant known to be a matter of when, not if, the County Board of Supervisors did nothing to prepare. Then last December, the Supervisors Compton, Arnold, and Peschong spurned Community Choice Energy, the one tool at their disposal that could address both the energy and economic issues presented by Diablo’s now imminent closure.

That’s why Representative Salud Carbajal’s April 9 introduction of a bill that could make SLO a renewable energy hub is particularly

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Not With a Bang But a Whimper

by The Alliance for Nuclear Responsibility

With far less fanfare than PG&E trumpeted their ill-conceived License Renewal Application for the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant in 2009, the utility last month quietly tossed that endeavor onto the trash heap of history with a brief letter to the NRC that pulls the plug on the Diablo reactors with one sentence: “PG&E hereby requests to withdraw the LRA for DCPN Units 1 and 2, and

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Sierra Club Voting Guide

Jun. 5, 2018



Controller
Betty Yee
bettyyee.com



Lieutenant Governor
Jeff Bleich
jeffbleich.com



Secretary of State
Alex Padilla
alex-padilla.com



Board of Supervisors, 2nd District
Bruce Gibson
brucegibsonforsupervisor.org



Board of Supervisors, 4th District
Jimmy Paulding
jimrypaulding.org



Superior Court
Tim Covello
covelloforjudge.com



District Attorney
Mike Cummins
judgemikeforda.com



County Sheriff
Greg Clayton
claytonforsheriff.com



YES on Prop. 68 - Authorizes \$4 billion in general obligation bonds for state and local parks, environmental protection and restoration projects, water infrastructure and flood protection.



NO on Prop. 70 - Would effectively give the oil industry control over how the money collected from the cap-and-trade program to control climate pollution is spent. Go to www.stopprop70.org.

Sierra Club General Meeting

Santa Lucian • May/June 2018

7 p.m. Wed., May 16

On Santa Cruz Island

Every year, Paso Robles High School teacher Geoff Land takes a group of students to the Channel Islands. Last year, one of those students made a short film of the field trip to Santa Cruz Island. This beautiful film was entered too late to make it into the SLO Film Festival, but we've got it tonight. Come meet the PRHS film crew and renew your sense of wonder at the natural world and hope for the next generation.



**Copeland Pavilion
3rd Floor, French Hospital
Med. Center 1823 Johnson
Ave., SLO**

Doors open at 6:30
Program: 7-8 p.m.



See You At NatureFest

The Dana Cultural Center is hosting its annual Nature Festival on Sunday, May 20 from 10a.m. to 4p.m. at the Dana Adobe in Nipomo. The event will promote science, stewardship and nature as well as outdoor recreation, and launch the grand opening of the Nature Center, the newest museum on the Central Coast, and a new barn and trail system on their 130 acre property. The opening ceremony will be followed by planting #Native California Trees. And it's free!

For more information, go to Danaadobe.org/



Nature's Best Come say hi to Dani Nicholson and Morro the Pelican at the Sierra Club table.

Santa Lucian

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EDITOR

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Sandy Simon
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Denny Mynatt
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Santa Lucia Chapter

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Christine Mulholland (12/18) SECRETARY
Sue Harvey (12/19) MEMBER
Jennifer Von Der Lohe (12/20) MEMBER
Violet Cavanaugh (12/20) MEMBER
Nancy Cole (12/20) MEMBER
Dawn Annoni (12/18) MEMBER

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Violet Cavanaugh
Membership/Development
Dawn Annoni
Conservation
Sue Harvey

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Linda Seeley

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1:30 p.m. - 7 p.m.**

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Diablo

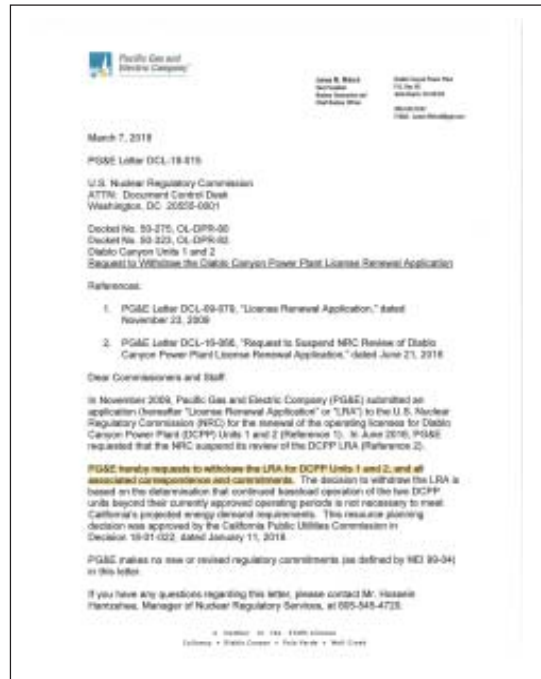
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all associated correspondence and commitments.”

That ends any future for Diablo Canyon beyond 2025, at the latest.

In fairness, PG&E has lived up to the commitment it made as part of the Joint Proposal to retire the facility, despite not being granted all it requested from the California Public Utilities Commission.

The Alliance for Nuclear Responsibility *did* get what it wanted from the CPUC deal: PG&E had requested reimbursement of \$53 million for the aborted license renewal process. A4NR had opposed granting license renewal funding in 2010 when PG&E first filed an application at the CPUC, and we made its continued opposition a condition and cornerstone of our agreement to sign on to



That's all she wrote Note to the Green Nuclear folks: You can stop writing angry letters to *New Times* and *The Tribune* demanding that the Board of Supervisors, the Governor, or the Emperor of Ice Cream force PG&E to stay in the nuclear power business.

the Joint Proposal for closure of the plant.

We then offered PG&E a settlement: we'd let them keep about 30 cents on the dollar (and require other concessions that lowered the total

further). *That* settlement was approved.

And so it ends, not with a bang, but a whimper. Given that the process in question is nuclear fission, that was the most appropriate outcome.

A Message from Code Enforcement



The San Luis Obispo County Department of Planning and Building, Code Enforcement is now available for weekend and holiday on-call service to the unincorporated areas of the county. Beginning Friday May 4, residents can call (805) 788-2350 and speak directly with the on-call County Code Enforcement Officer. The on-call hours are:

- Friday 5 p.m.-10 p.m.
- Saturday 8 a.m.-10 p.m.
- Sunday 8 a.m.-10 p.m.
- Holidays 8 a.m.-10 p.m.

This service will allow people to report violations such as unpermitted grading, work that is causing environmental damage, unpermitted temporary events and violations of event conditions. These types of activities often occur on weekends outside of Code Enforcement's normal business hours. The environmental damage can be extensive and typically irreparable.

The Department is hoping to reduce or eliminate these types of weekend problems by providing this on-call service.

During normal business hours residents can continue to report violations by calling (805) 781-5600 or by going to the department website at www.sloplanning.org and following the Code Enforcement link.

Carbajal

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good news.

The Energy Opportunity Zones Act of 2018 would extend tax credits encourage clean energy investments in "any municipality or county that has within its boundaries a nuclear power plant that ceased operation during the 10-year period beginning on January 1, 2018."

"It became evident, one of the things I could really do is work on a tax credit program at the federal government that could spur investment in renew-

able energy here in SLO County to make sure we are helping to revitalize the economy that's going to be hit hard by creating jobs and bringing such technology to this region," said Rep. Carbajal.

"Twenty years ago, renewable energy and solar was a footnote in the energy industry.

Today it's the fastest growing sector in the energy economy," said Mike Borger of REC Solar.

Renewable energy tax credits for former reactor communities coming to pass, of course, depends on

Congress -- *this* Congress -- finding love in their hearts for California, renewable energy and a Democratic colleague and voting to pass the bill.

Meanwhile, Community Choice, a state law since 2002, is increasing the amount of renewable energy produced in California and achieving statewide emission reduction goals while providing

lower electricity bills, rate stability, economic development and clean energy jobs, in addition to reducing carbon emissions at a faster and steeper rate than any program investor-

owned utilities have had to offer.

And all we need to make it happen here is one more vote for it -- and one less against -- on the board of supervisors.





It's a Sign!

Many thanks to graphic designer Scott Kam of Rootamental and generous Sierra Club supporter Marilyn Hansen for our brand new office sign at 974 Santa Rosa in SLO -- for years, notoriously hard to find when our signage was a small, dark green rectangle barely visible over a hedge.

A black & white photo can't do it justice; cruise by some day at the magic hour and behold the golden rays of the sun flashing behind our trademark coast redwood. It's a treat.

Volunteers Wanted

Development Coordinator: Work with the chapter executive committee to develop and implement an annual fundraising program based on conservation goals. 2 years experience with non-profit volunteer activities, project development, basic knowledge of spreadsheets and Word a plus.

Volunteer Coordinator: Work with chapter leadership to develop and implement programs for volunteer recruitment to support various chapter activities, programs and office functions. Good written, public speaking and organization skills.

Contact Chuck Tribbey at cltquest@gmail.com, (805) 441-7597.

County Supervisors Solve That Climate Thing

Gee, that was easy

On April 17, the County Supervisors voted to eliminate the position of Climate Action Program Manager, because they've pretty much solved that clean energy/carbon emissions/global warming thing.

The County concluded that "This position was added to achieve the objective of implementing the County's EnergyWise Plan. Much of the work has been accomplished and the position recently became vacant. The remainder of the EnergyWise Plan objectives will be met by being assigned to existing planning staff."

This statement is best viewed in contrast to the scathing report on the County's climate action or lack thereof in the 2015 grand jury report, "Energy Used, Time Lost, Results Missing," which blasted the County's efforts to implement its "EnergyWise" climate action plan, adopted in 2011 to meet the state's climate change targets both in government operations and throughout the unincorporated areas of the County.

The grand jury found that the County:

- was two years late in beginning to implement energy conservation and emission reduction measures in County operations.
- was using obsolete utility software that couldn't manage energy usage.
- the County Energy Manager position had been vacant for three years.

In response to the paddling from the grand jury, the County Energy Manager position became the Climate Action Program Manager, with a real person tasked with implementing the program. Two years and seven months after the grand jury filed its report, the position was eliminated entirely, with "the remainder of the EnergyWise Plan objectives" to be tossed to random planning staff to work on as time permits.

Again: the EnergyWise Plan was drafted to reduce carbon emissions county-wide, not just emissions resulting from County government operations. It found that "On-road vehicles were the greatest contributor to the county's baseline emissions (40%). Commercial/industrial energy use and residential energy use were the next largest contributors, with 24% and 15% of overall emissions, respectively."

Nice to know that "much of the work has been accomplished," meaning virtually all the greenhouse gas reduction measures in the EnergyWise plan's 374 pages of policies, goals, and actions have been implemented in the span of two years -- after a two-year late start --and so successfully that the County no longer needs a Climate Action Program Manager to meet all its targets for 2020 and 2035.

At the board's April 17 meeting, Supervisor Bruce Gibson requested that staff "write a memo as to what tasks are ahead and how those tasks are going to get accomplished."

We'd like to know that, too, in view of the fact that the EnergyWise program promised to "consider developing a Community Choice Aggregation program with the incorporated cities in San Luis Obispo County to procure up to 50% of the region's electricity use from renewable sources by 2020."

In February 2012, when County planners presented supervisors with the schedule for the phase-in of implementation measures for the Plan, the exploration of Community Choice was designated for phase two, planned to commence three years from that date.

Almost six years later, in December 2017, supervisors Compton, Arnold, and Peschong decided to halt that exploration. Four months after that, they zeroed out the Climate Action Plan Manager position.

The County needs to get its priorities straight and start showing a serious commitment to emission reductions and the transition to clean, renewable energy.



Now More Than Ever: A Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary



CA Natural Resources Secretary John Laird is on board, Rep. Carbajal asks for designation

The Sierra Club co-hosted an event on the San Luis Obispo campus of Cal Poly on March 17 furthering the cause of a Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary along the coast of San Luis Obispo and northern Santa Barbara Counties.

The event, "Now More Than Ever: A Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary," began with a greeting from a representative of the Northern Chumash Tribal Council, followed by the chairwoman of the Yak Tityu Tityu Northern Chumash, who offered a prayer of benediction in her native language.

Tribal Council representative Violet Cavanaugh then read a letter the tribe had received that week from John Laird, California's Secretary for Natural Resources, affirming his support of the proposed marine sanctuary:

"As articulated in the proposal submitted to [the National Oceanic

and Atmospheric Administration], sanctuary status for this area would provide protection for submerged Chumash Tribal Sacred Sites, a prohibition on oil and gas exploration and development, protection of a unique and significant coastal ecosystem, increased tourism on the Central Coast, and increased funding for marine research on the Central Coast. Designation of this area ...would also, for the first time, explicitly elevate indigenous culture and historic use as primary core values along with protection of ocean habitat."

The highlight of the day came when Greg Haas, district representative for Congressman Salud Carbajal, came to the stage to read a statement from the Congressman that read in part: "I am supportive of moving the public review process forward for the Chumash National Marine Sanctuary. My



Violet Cavanaugh (left) and Mona Tucker, Chair, Yak Tityu Tityu Northern Chumash.

office will contact NOAA in the coming weeks to encourage them to promote the proposed sanctuary from the inventory list and begin the study and an inclusive public engagement process."

The news of the support of Carbajal and Laird galvanized the 150 attendees in the audience, and was followed by a presentation by biologist Holly Lohuis of Jean-Michel Cousteau's Ocean Futures Society, a multimedia overview of the



Dive! Holly Lohuis on the Cousteau dive team.

Society's ocean explorations, marine wildlife habitat efforts, and support for the national marine sanctuary program.

This was followed by a "how to" presentation

from Dan Haifley, a force behind the creation of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary and the long campaign against offshore oil drilling.

SIGN THE PETITIONS at tinryurl.com/CHNMSpetition or chumashsanctuary.org and add your voice to Rep. Carbajal's request for sanctuary designation.



Newsflash! Rep. Carbajal's district aide Greg Haas announced the Congressman's call for designation.

Membership has its privileges Members of the Sierra Club's Cal French Circle, who donate at least \$240 a year to the Chapter, had lunch with presenters before the event. To join, go to sierraclub.org/santa-lucia/donate and make a monthly donation of \$20 or more.



Taking issue - This land is our land

Problematic environmental coverage & commentary in our local media

“Justice Dept. sues Calif. over right to sell public land,” Kate Irby and Stuart Leavenworth, McClatchy Washington Bureau, *The Tribune*, April 3, 2018.

Summary: California has taken steps to head off any plans by the Trump administration to transfer public lands into private hands. In response, the Justice Dept. is A) claiming there are no such plans, and B) suing to stop California from thwarting such plans.

California’s law ensures that the state would be “provided with the right of first refusal or the right to arrange for the transfer of the federal

Senior Justice officials were not shy about the targeting of California, saying during a briefing on the issue Monday their action was a “product of the extreme nature of laws that have been passed in California recently.”

public land to another entity [and] would require the commission to issue a certificate of compliance if the commission was provided with the right of first refusal or the right to arrange for the transfer of the federal public land to another entity.”

In 2016, former Congressman Zinke voted for H.R. 2316, a bill to “strip U.S. Forest Service’s authority over millions of acres of forest lands and hand over management of these lands to state-appointed ‘advisory committees,’ comprised of extractive industry representatives and county officials. These committees would manage millions of acres of National Forest lands – designated by Congress as ‘community forest demonstration areas’ – in any way the committees choose.”
– “Rep. Zinke Flip-Flops on Public Lands Transfer,” Wildmontana.org, Jun. 15, 2016.

Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, a former congressman from Montana, has repeatedly said he opposes the sale of federal lands.

“A leaked White House infrastructure plan...includes this line: ‘Disposition of Federal Real Property: would establish through executive order the authority to allow for the disposal of Federal assets to improve the overall allocation of economic resources in infrastructure investment.’”
– “Leaked Documents Reveal the Trump Administration’s Plan to Sell Off Our Public Lands,” *Mother Jones*, Jan. 27, 2018.

Trump administration officials have said they’re opposed to selling federal land to other interests.



In 2017, California filed 24 lawsuits against the Trump administration.

This is 2018, so let’s bring that figure up to date with the full scope of California’s resistance to

the Trump administration’s assault on the environment. Take it away, NYU Law School State Energy & Environmental Impact Center (facing page).

Upshot: No one should be surprised to see this administration furiously defending their right to privatize public lands while insisting they have no intention of doing so. But, to be fair, this is not a phenomenon that suddenly appeared when Trump walked into the White House. An early draft of Rep. Paul Ryan’s 2012 budget bill included a provision to sell off millions of acres of public lands, citing as its inspiration a bill from Rep. Jason Chaffetz (R-UT) to sell 3.3 million acres of land in Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, and Wyoming. A prominent plank in the Republican Party’s 2012 platform stated that “Congress should reconsider whether parts of the federal government’s enormous landholdings and control of water in the West could be better used for ranching, mining, or forestry through private ownership.”

And historically: “Ronald Reagan’s Interior Secretary, James Watt, famously proposed that public lands be sold to help pay down the federal deficit.... Former Rep. Richard Pombo (R-CA), who was briefly the Chair of the House Resources Committee, proposed in 2005 that mining corporations be allowed to buy vast tracts of public land for \$1,000 per acre. The Bush Administration’s 2007 budget called for the sale of \$800 million worth of national forest lands over five years and \$182 million in public lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management in the same time period.” (*Carving Up the Commons: Congress and Our Public Lands*, by Janine Blaeloch, Western Lands Project.)

The picture is clear, and California can see just fine.

Attorney General Jeff Sessions then blamed California for wasting public resources [citing] lawsuits filed against the federal government by California. “We are forced to spend our resources to bring these lawsuits against states like California that believe they are above the law and are passing facially unconstitutional laws specifically intended to interfere with the federal government’s ability to carry out its legitimate law enforcement duties,” Sessions said.

So Sorry, Attorney General Sessions



March 23, 2018

California Attorney General Xavier Becerra led a coalition of seven attorneys general in threatening to sue the EPA in 60 days if it continues to refuse to enforce a critical rule that protects public health and the environment. The Landfill Emissions Rule aims to reduce emissions of methane and other compounds that pose threats to air quality, creating a public health risk. The rule regulates emissions of methane, an extremely potent greenhouse gas, from the third largest source of methane emissions in the country, landfills.

March 23, 2018

Maryland Attorney General Brian Frosh is leading a coalition including California and three other states in fighting efforts to roll back the federal government’s obligation to ensure clean water under the Clean Water Act. The lower court found that the Tennessee Valley Authority violated the Act and exposed residents and the environment to toxic substances in coal ash – a byproduct of burning coal – that include chromium, arsenic, lead, aluminum, boron, iron, sulfate, selenium and manganese.

March 9, 2018

New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman led a coalition of 14 attorneys general in sending a letter to congressional leaders urging them “to ensure that funding for the Environmental Protection Agency is maintained at least at its FY 2017 levels, that EPA’s vital core and specific programs receive necessary continued funding, and that all anti-environmental riders that would prohibit, de-fund or otherwise amend key health and environmental protection policies of the Agency are omitted from the spending measure.”

March 9, 2018

Maryland Attorney General Brian Frosh led a coalition of 12 state attorneys general in filing comments with the Department of the Interior expressing strong opposition to plans to expand drilling off the Atlantic and Pacific Coasts and in the Gulf of Mexico. “The Secretary of the Interior should defer to our opposition to drilling in areas off our states’ coasts, and should exclude all such areas from any new or revised [Outer Continental Shelf] leasing program. Indeed, failure to do so would be inconsistent with the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act...and the Department of Interior’s past practice of not imposing offshore drilling over state opposition.” Attorney General Becerra says that he is prepared to do what is necessary to protect all 1,100 miles of California’s coastline, including going to court.

February 27, 2018

New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman led California and 17 other attorneys general in filing comments opposing the “Environmental Protection Agency’s Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (‘Advance Notice’) on a ‘potential’ replacement to the Clean Power Plan.”

February 22, 2018

California Attorney General Xavier Becerra “announced that he is establishing a Bureau of Environmental Justice at the California Department of Justice to protect people and communities that endure a disproportionate share of environmental pollution and public health hazards. This will be accomplished through oversight, investigation, and enforcement of the law.”



The State Energy & Environmental Impact Center at NYU Law supports state attorneys general in defending and promoting clean energy, climate and environmental laws and policies.

February 6, 2018

New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman led California and the other attorneys general in suing the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for suspending for two years the Clean Water Rule. The attorneys general argue the EPA ignored scientific evidence and changed the definition of “waters of the United States.”

February 1, 2018

California was part of a coalition of 12 attorneys general that sent a letter to Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke urging him to terminate the Draft Proposed Program to expand offshore drilling.

January 24, 2018

California Attorney General Xavier Becerra filed a lawsuit challenging the Department of the Interior’s repeal of the Fracking Rule for federal and tribal lands that would have required solid drilling-well construction, proper wastewater management, and the disclosure of chemicals used during the fracking process.

January 10, 2018

Massachusetts Attorney General Maura Healey led a bipartisan coalition of 12 state attorneys general in calling on the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to ensure customers, not utility companies, benefit from recently enacted federal tax cuts.

January 9, 2018

EPA’s “failure to disqualify” Administrator Scott Pruitt from the Clean Power Plan repeal process has “irreparably tainted” the rulemaking because he “prejudged” the outcome prior to and during his tenure leading the Agency, resulting in a “lack of due process and fairness,” argued California Attorney General Xavier Becerra, along with 12 other attorneys general and six municipalities. EPA “must withdraw the proposed repeal,” or “any resulting rule will be invalid.”

January 5, 2018

California Attorney General Xavier Becerra led 12 attorneys general in opposing the EPA’s attempt to repeal a key rule that limits the amount of emissions permitted from trucks known as “gliders.” These trucks have a new body but a refurbished engine. The 2016 Glider Rule holds these trucks to the same emissions standards new trucks must meet. EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt announced he would seek to repeal the Glider Rule

When Nature meets Mindfulness

Tessa Stoddard Photography



by Nan Cole

I was 16 and my dad was suffering from a debilitating disease that left my family struggling to keep calm and composed through the ordeal. My home life was emotional and charged. My urban environment was dangerous and polluted. Refuge came in the form of oak trees, bird songs and slow walks. I meandered through quiet paths in Redwood Regional Park, located in the hills east of Oakland. The concepts of “mindfulness” and “walking meditation” were very foreign to me at that time, but I experienced the sensations of my mind and body slowing down, becoming relaxed, and feeling less preoccupied with my personal problems.

Years rolled by, I moved to Southern Germany and often felt ‘lost in translation,’ lonely and isolated in my adopted homeland. Within a five-minute jog, I could escape into the beautiful Black Forest. With every hike and trail run, I would try a new path, go deeper into the woods, get lost and forge my

way back. My primary goal was not to get a workout; it was more like playtime and freedom from the over stimulus of culture shock. Upon return from the woods, I felt a boost in productivity and creativity; as well as an improved outlook on my situation.

Fast forward to the present and researchers have pinpointed the phenomenon I observed during my time in nature. A two to four hour nature walk is proven to lower blood pressure, lower heart rate, lower the stress hormone cortisol, increase activity in the parasympathetic nervous system that prompts rest and conserves energy, increase immunity and allow the whole body to relax.

A walk in a forest for just five minutes can change the brain. Many healthcare practitioners, governments and individuals have observed these benefits. Countries such as Finland, Korea and Japan have begun to “prescribe” nature to people with anxiety and stress. Shinrin-Yoku, or “forest bathing” has been

established in Japan as a therapy for the over-stressed and over-worked urbanites. It is the practice of cleansing all your senses with the healing powers of nature: hearing the sounds of wind, water, plants and animals; smelling the trees and leaves; seeing water moving down a river or in a stream; touching the soil and stone; and tasting the edible plants along the way.

The very essence of what makes this country great—our National Parks—were conceived with the premise that nature has healing properties. Our National Park Service has started a program called Park Rx and organizes park prescriptions programs with agencies that use nature and public lands to improve individual and community health.

Several books have been written about the healing powers of nature. Some notable titles include: *The Nature Fix*, *Blue Mind* and *Last Child in the Woods*.

The Sierra Club Santa Lucia Chapter has a fleet of well-trained nature guides that offer a range of experiences all throughout the county. Keep in mind the positive powers of nature the next time you feel stressed or overworked.

Nan Cole is a Sierra Club Hike Leader and Yin Yoga teacher in San Luis Obispo. She received her Masters in Urban Management and is interested in how to live in our bodies and in the world gently and compassionately. She leads monthly Yoga Hikes for the Chapter.

The Other Problem at Oceano Dunes

As we go to press, a hearing board of the Air Pollution Control District is preparing to accept or reject the latest attempt at a joint agreement with State Parks to reduce the giant, hazardous dust clouds that rise from the Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area and settle on the Nipomo Mesa and points south due to off-road vehicle activity.

As you read this, it’s likely that the board will have deemed the latest settlement agreement acceptable, or, if not, set a date for an abatement hearing, where Parks will be forced to accept revegetation and riding area closures with no more delay or compromises.

Though it tends to get lost in those giant clouds, another



Fig. 1. Snowy Plover banded 001 USA.

environmental problem at State Parks’ favorite cash cow holds as much or more potential legal jeopardy for the ODSVRA’s proprietors the longer they fail to resolve it: The conservation measures they are supposed to be implementing to protect the threatened species that live there.

Though the toxic dust problem and the endangered species problem are connected in multiple ways, the strongest connecting thread may be the long-standing determination of State Parks and the off-road lobby to elevate vehicular recreation to the same level of priority as the protection of human health and the preservation of endangered species.



Pacific Wildlife Care will hold its annual festival on Saturday, May 12, at Mission Plaza in San Luis Obispo from 11:00 am - 4:00 pm.

The free, family-friendly wildlife educational faire will have exhibits, displays and interactive activities that aim to promote awareness and inspire responsible stewardship and coexistence with the native wildlife that live on the Central Coast. Native wildlife ambassadors, puppet shows/skits, film, arts and crafts, and exhibits, displays and activities by partner organizations will highlight the day.

Welcome New Members!

Whether new to the Sierra Club or new to San Luis Obispo, welcome all to the Santa Lucia Chapter. We're very glad to have you aboard!

William Schuler
 Nicole Brocking
 Melinda Wilcox
 David and Barbara Dixon
 Kathleen M Angevin
 Ann Gray
 Kaleen Perlich
 Lauren Udsen
 Mrs. Ulla Thomason
 Carolyn Hottle
 Sandra Schubert
 Mary Harrington
 Kara Woodruff
 Rogan Ritchie
 Lois Dirkes
 Beverly J. Hensel
 R. Cannon-Miller
 Dori Hughes
 G. Thompson
 Lynlee Yeager-edkins

Elisabeth Blake
 Deborah Powell
 Susan Bezenek
 Richard E. & Dixie L. Ridge
 Gayle Pierce
 Carol Bell
 Robert Ryan and Sue Krout
 Brian Somodi
 Carol Ross
 Summer Enns
 Elizabeth Ehrler
 Terry Beaschler
 Lois Thompson
 Cathy Johnson
 Paul Abramson
 Joseph Amanzio
 Victor I. & Sandra D. Pulido
 Mrs. Malka Kutner
 Kathy & Mackenzie Beaschler
 Tyler Conrad



Kent Nagano in Concert

Morro Bay native Kent Nagano, who grew up at the foot of Cerrito Peak before going on to worldwide acclaim as a conductor, will present a benefit concert to support MBOSA's campaign to purchase Cerrito Peak/Eagle Rock as permanently protected open space. The concert will be held on June 8, from 7 to 9 p.m. at St. Timothy's Catholic Church, Morro Bay.

SLO county—rarely sees talent of this accomplishment. To get updates on this concert, please email events@mbopenspace.org with your contact information.



Biodiversity First! is a Voice for the Voiceless

by Patrick McGibney

Biodiversity First! is a local non-profit formed in 2015 by a group of environmental and political activists. Through litigation, education, and public pressure, BDF! aims to protect and preserve the last remaining critical habitats and connective corridors used by a plethora of endangered species in our western deserts, rivers, watersheds, and grasslands.

Projects in progress include establishing a lead-free feeding station for the endangered California Condor in conjunction with the Ventana Wilderness Society; funding the development of a management program for the Salinas River; working with the County of San Luis Obispo to establish a workable management program for the Arroyo Grande Lagoon to protect several endangered species like the Tidewater Gobi, Red Legged Frog and California Steelhead; and our latest, the purchase of a 40-acre parcel on the Carrizo Plain as part of a puzzle piece creating a connective corridor for migrating species such as the Tule Elk and Pronghorn Antelope.

With the placement of two of the nation's largest solar plants in the middle of historic migratory pathways on the Carrizo Plain, these corridors are imperative for the survival of these species. This particular parcel is surrounded by open conservation properties, but is fenced. The



previous owner, who loved wilderness areas and the nature within, purchased the property in the early 80's. At the time, it was being farmed with wheat as part of a larger parcel and had an old abandoned "A" frame cottage that had been, and still is, home to ravens and owls. A few years back, someone came and dumped a bunch of old car parts and other junk, so he fenced the 40 acre property for security reasons.

It's a four-barb, five-strand fence, which has to have its two lower strands removed to make it critter friendly. BDF! is planning a barbed wire removal day open to community participation, date TBA.

We will need your help. Contact us at info@biodiversityfirst.net and visit our website to learn more. <http://www.biodiversityfirst.net>

Our Nominee

If you heard him speak at the SLO March for Our Lives, or read "And Now A Few Words from the Paso Robles High School Progressive Club" (Nov. 2017), you know why the Sierra Club and North County Watch are teaming up to give Mason Seden-Hansen a full scholarship to SPROG, the Sierra Student Coalition's week-long summer program for young activists.

For more info, go to www.sierraclub.org/youth.

Outings

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Sunday, May 6th, 10 a.m. Fiscalini Ranch.

Come explore the bluffs and forests of Cambria on the 4.5-mile hike, with approx. 600-foot elevation gain. We will start at Shamel Park, stroll the neighbor to the Ranch, walk along the bluffs, then ascend the hillside into the forest before returning to our starting point. Bring water, snack and dress for the weather. Meet at Shamel Park in Cambria. For details call Gary at (805)473-3694. No dogs on this one please. Rain Cancels.

Monday, May 7th, 12:00 Noon, Hike + Yin + Yoga Nidra at the Beach. Hike the Ontario Ridge Trail and practice Yin Yoga and Yoga Nidra with the relaxing sounds of the ocean at Pirate's Cove. Yin Yoga is a slow and deep practice that will be followed by a guided meditation of Yoga Nidra, or "yoga

sleep." Yoga Nidra nourishes the body and the subconscious through a guided relaxation that calms the nervous system. Meet at El Portal Dr. and Shell Beach Road for the hike. We will walk directly to the beach, so be sure to bring enough water. Bring a beach towel (en lieu of a yoga mat). For more information, contact Nan a cole.nancy.j@gmail.com

Saturday, May 12th, 8:30 am, Hike American Canyon to Buckeye Camp.

This is a hike that we have not taken in some time. It's route which goes out and back on the same trails is entirely in the beautiful Garcia Wilderness. This 12-mile hike with 2,000 feet of elevation gain is considered strenuous. The condition of this trail is unknown because it is not easily accessed, but there will definitely be some poison oak. We will

need to cross a shallow section of the Salinas River at the beginning of this trek and some minor creek crossings later along the route as well. If you wish, you may want to do just part of the hike, as this is an "in and out" on the same trails. Bring lunch and water. Expect to be out all day. We have to pass through a locked gate to drive to the trail head. We will meet in Santa Margarita at the Pacific Beverage Co. Rain. Extreme heat will postpone until a future date. Behaved dogs on leash are welcome. If there are any questions you may contact Carlos (805) 546-0317.

Saturday, June 2nd, 8:30 am, Ragged Point to Salmon Creek Trailhead. This hike takes us into a beautiful part of the Silver Peak Wilderness on dirt roads and trails in chaparral, meadows

and under tree cover. It is a moderately strenuous route of approximately 11 miles and nearly 3,000 feet of elevation gain. This route goes via the old Murray Mine Road and consequently, is shorter than the alternative, which covers more of the Spruce Creek Trail. There will be exposure to poison oak. This trek requires a car shuttle. We will meet at the Washburn Day Use Area of San Simeon State Park, 1.5 miles North of Cambria. Hot weather will postpone to another day. Dogs on leash are welcome. Contact Carlos (805) 546-0317.

Saturday, June 9th, 9:30 am, Historic Walk of Paso Robles. Guided stroll through downtown Paso Robles and past century-old Victorians to recount the city's beginnings, early pioneers, and stays by notables like the musician Paderewski and outlaw Jesse James. Meet at the corner of Spring and 10th Streets, the city's birthplace. Families welcome; no reservations needed. Leader: Joe, (805) 549-0355

Saturday, June 16th, 10:00 am, Shell Beach. Park at the intersection of Bluff Drive and El Portal (with Indio also intersecting). The hike is 1.5 miles, 100 feet elevation change. Pole-Cats is a group dedicated to demonstrating the effective use of trekking poles. From Shell Beach Road, go west on El Portal until

you reach the above intersection. Go right and park near the Bluff Drive illegal gate. The hike will go up the fire road to the trail and then follow the trail for less than a mile, returning to the fire road and back to the parking area. Call to confirm. David, hikingpoles@gmail.com, (805) 458-5575. Rain cancels and no dogs.

Sunday, June 17th, 10:00 am to 12:00 Noon, Cerro Cabrillo Peak.

Join Nan on a hike up the third of nine prehistoric volcanic peaks in San Luis Obispo, Cerro Cabrillo Peak. This 3-mile hike has an elevation gain of 900 feet and is the tallest peak in Morro Bay State Park, with 360-degree views at the top. We will meet at the Quarry Trailhead's gravel parking lot on South Bay Blvd, 1.4 miles south of Hwy 1 or 0.4 miles north of Turri Rd. Difficulty is moderate. Bring water. Questions? Email Nan at cole.nancy.j@gmail.com

Sunday, June 17th to Saturday, June 23rd, Escalante Backpack.

There are two possible trips, and which one will be determined by water conditions and weather. Both trips are mostly moderate but will be strenuous at times. Limit 12 participants. Trip-1 would be 14 miles down 25-mile wash to the Escalante River. There would be several side trips to ruins and slots. First day hiking would start early to get

OUTINGS continued next page

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Outings

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to water and trees 4 miles up the wash. Will include will hikes to Ringtail Slots and Neon Canyon. Trip-2 is on the Upper Escalante. Hike 3½ miles from town in afternoon to camp. Next day 3½ miles to Mamie Creek, option of backpacking a couple of miles up creek to Death Hollow. The following day is a long hike up to where the Mail Trail meets the canyon. The day after that is along the river to just below where Sand Creek meets the river. Short day hike to arch and ruins. Last day to cars at bridge on Hwy 12. This possibility would require protecting anything you don't

want to get wet. Leader: David, hardyhikers@embarqmail.com, (702) 875-4826, email preferred. S. Nevada Group/CNRCC Desert Committee.

Saturday, June 23rd, Morro Mania (varying start times) - The Morros of SLO County. Join Andrea and Bill on the Seventh Anniversary Hike, a one-day ascent of the five publicly accessible Morros, near San Luis Obispo and Morro Bay. All five Morros can be hiked in succession (see schedule listed below) or selected to suit one's preferences and conditioning. Each has a beautiful but different vista—from

city to oak woodland to grassland to seashore. Total round-trip distance for all five hikes is about 13 miles, with 3,500 ft. elevation gain. Bring plenty of water (store extra water in your vehicle), lunch and snacks, and dress in layers for changing weather. The day is likely to start and end cool but be quite warm at mid-day. A hat, sunscreen, and sturdy hiking shoes are essential. Dogs are welcome except for Cerro Cabrillo and Black Hill (State Park properties). For more information, contact Bill, (805) 459-2103, bill.waycott@gmail.com. The plants, animals, and the geology of the area will be topics during the hikes.

7:30 a.m. Islay Hill, 2 miles, 500 ft. gain, moderate. The easternmost of the Morros, with views of five others. To trailhead, take Tank Farm Rd. east past Orcutt Rd, then south on Spanish Oaks Dr., then east on Sweet Bay Lane to end.

9:00 a.m. Cerro San Luis, 4 miles, 1,100 ft. gain, moderate. Has knock-out views of SLO. Trailhead at the end of Marsh St., just before onramp to Hwy 101 south.

Lunch: 11:15 am to 12:00 pm, Throop Park, corner of Cerro Romauldo Street and Cuesta Drive, in SLO.

12:00 p.m. Bishop Peak, 3.5 miles, 950 ft. gain, moderately strenuous. Highest of all the Morros. From Hwy 1, go west on Highland Dr., then right on Patricia Drive. Park at trailhead on Patricia Dr. just before



reaching Anacapa Circle.

3:30 p.m. Cerro Cabrillo, 2.5 miles, 800 ft. gain, moderately strenuous. 360-degree views from the Santa Lucia Mts. to coastline. Meet at Quarry Trail trailhead on South Bay Blvd, 1.4 miles south of Hwy 1 or 0.4 miles north of Turri Rd.

6:00 p.m. Black Hill, 3.0 miles, 650 ft. gain, moderate. Ocean views from Montaña de Oro north to San Simeon. From South Bay Blvd, drive into Morro Bay State Park on Main Street. Meet at the parking area on the north side of the road, next to restrooms opposite the boat marina, east of the campground entrance.

Wednesday to Sunday, August 8th to 12th, Central Nevada Backpack - Twin Rivers Loop, Arc Dome. This area has been described as one

of “deep, rugged canyons, high bald peaks, elk and wet feet.” The trip begins on the North Twin River, near Carver, about an hour's drive northeast of Tonopah, at an elevation around 6,300 ft. After arriving at the trailhead, we will hike in 2 or 3 miles to our first camp. The next day we will hike around another 5 miles and camp. On day 3 we do a day hike (bring a day-pack) to the top of 11,773 ft. Arc Dome, 12 miles roundtrip with 4,100 ft. elevation gain. Day 4 sees the start down South Twin, with a camp after several miles. The last day is the hike out. 16 miles, 3,000 ft. elevation gain with backpacks. Limit 12 participants. Leader: David, hardyhikers@embarqmail.com, (702) 875-4826, email preferred. S. Nevada Group/CNRCC Desert Committee.

The Sierra Club Needs You!

Become an Outings Leader

Saturday, May 5th, 8:00 am – 12:00 pm, Sierra Club New Outings Leader Training. If you are interested in becoming an outings leader on the Central Coast, this training is for you! The leader training starts with a 4-hour class at the Sierra Club office, located at 974 Santa Rosa Street, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401. We will go over the guidelines and handbook issued by the Sierra Club. To be certified, in addition to this 4-hour class, you will need to complete a basic First Aid course, as well as create and lead a provisional hike along with one of our current outings leaders. To enroll in this class, please contact Bill Waycott, bill.waycott@gmail.com, (805) 459-2103, at least one week prior to the class start date.

Sierra Club

Santa Lucia Chapter
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San Luis Obispo, CA 93406

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Outings and Activities Calendar

Seller of travel registration information: CST 2087766-40. Registration as a seller of travel does not constitute approval by the State of California.

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 Bill Waycott, (805) 459-2103. For information on a specific outing, please call the listed outing leader.

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This is a partial listing of Outings offered by our chapter. Please check the web page www.santalucia.sierraclub.org for the most up-to-date listing of activities.

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Island Hopping in Channel Islands National Park. May 6-8; June 10-12; July 15-17; August 19-21; September 23-25; October 21-23. Join us for a 3-day, 3-island, live-aboard tour of the Channel Islands. Hike windswept trails bordered with blazing wildflowers. Kayak rugged coastlines, marvel at pristine waters teeming with frolicking seals and sea lions and an occasional whale. Watch for the highly endangered island fox. Look for reminders of the Chumash people who lived on these islands for thousands of years. Or just relax at sea. All cruises depart from Santa Barbara. \$675 cost includes assigned bunk and all meals. A park ranger/naturalist will help lead hikes and give evening programs. Kayaking overseen by our concessionaire; all hikes on trails, class 1 terrain. This is a fund-raiser to support the Sierra Club political program in California. To reserve space send a \$100 deposit to "California Sierra Club PAC" to Joan Jones Holtz, 11826 The Wye St., El Monte, CA 91732. For information: Joan Jones Holtz: jholtzhl@aol.com; 626-443-0706. Wayne Vollaire: avollaire1@gmail.com; 909-327-6825.

Village Creek Plaza

168 La Costa Grill
(805) 474-8797

170 Cutting Edge Salon
(805) 481-3126

172 Bend Chiropractic
(805) 474-4747

174 House 2 Home Interiors
(805) 489-5233

168 - 174 Station Way, Arroyo Grande, CA 93420

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