We’ve changed our name to the Santa Barbara-Ventura Chapter  
By Jon Ulman  
Chapter ED  
Santa Barbara-Ventura Chapter is the new name of our Los Padres Chapter  

After several months the Chapter Executive Committee in April voted to change the name, established in 1952 and named after the Los Padres National Forest.  

“The change fulfills the commitment of the Sierra Club to remove names which refer to colonial occupation of the indigenous peoples which live in our region,” said James Hines, Sierra Club Santa Barbara-Ventura Vice-Chair.  

The Chapter took this step out of respect for the indigenous American specifically the Chumash, who like other California tribes were subjected to harsh labor, a new agrarian diet, diseases like measles and smallpox, forced religious and cultural conversions, and out of a Mission system they were forbidden to leave once entered.  

The Chumash were not only driven from their homes, but also forbidden to leave the missions where they were turned for labor. Below are links to do your own research, but regardless of the Parker’s motives, the historical facts are clear.  

We realize many of our cities and counties, including our new Chapter name, are derived from individual missions, but we felt Los Padres was different as it represented the whole system. One limnus test for us if you were Native American, and even if you’re not, how would you feel?  

Los Padres Forest was signed into law by Franklin Roosevelt on Dec. 3, 1936, after the Forest Service officially changed the name for the Santa Barbara National Forest, a name that outgrew its eight consolidated forests spanning six counties. The Forest’s proximity to nine Spanish missions in Monterey, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara and Ventura was apparently rational for the name.  

Later the name “Chumash Wilderness” was given to 38,150 protected acres of the Forest in 1992, but Los Padres remained. The Southern Padas, “not a matter of 70 years; the National Forest’s name for 86 years.  

One of our close allies and Los Padres National Forest protectors has the name. We realize it’s harder to change the name of the Forest when national votes are involved, and a name is long-standing and familiar. We just asked ourselves: Considering what we know, what’s the right thing to do?  

The answer for us was to change it. Maybe the Service Forest and Congress will take our cue. It wouldn’t be the first time Denali National Park was called McKinley National Park from 1917 to 2015, named after its highest peak.  

“I hope that in the bill you will call it ‘Mt Denali National Park’ so that the true old [name] [name] of Mt Denali (meaning ‘the Great One’) will thus be preserved.”  

That quote was from a 1916 letter from one of the Park’s most influential early advocates, then acting legislation drafting team. Another Park advocate agreed it should be named Denali. But the recipient replied: “I don’t like the name of Denali. It is not descriptive. Everybody in the United States knows of Mt. McKinley and the various efforts made to climb it. In consequence, both Mr. Yard and I think that the name McKinley should stick.”  

They needed the Park legislation to pass, so they went McKinley until it was changed in 2015. Is it’s never too late to change.  

Our new name Santa Barbara-Ventura may not refer to a majestic mountain range nor noteworthy flora or fauna nor well-known river or park unit, but it’s simple to understand. It serves Santa Barbara and Ventura counties. We hope our name’s simplicity is the key to opening new doors. Further Reading: https://tinyurl.com/opinion-operforum/article/The-dark-secret-of-California's-Mt-Denali https://www.nps.gov/parkhistory/online_books/5views/twelve.htm https://reuters.com/us/los-padres-national-forest  

Images changing too: Ventura County’s new County Seal (left) is by Carol Gravelle who https://tinyurl.com/RunSonRun discusses its imagery. Condor Trail Guide is available via https://CondorTrailNatGeo.
Idle oversight on idle oil-gas wells

Over 40 percent of abandoned oil and gas wells in Ventura County cannot be confirmed as properly abandoned, according to CFROG (Climate First: Replacing Oil & Gas). Poorly abandoned wells pose serious risks to groundwater, air quality, agriculture, wildlife, and communities, made worse by other climate crises common in Ventura County.

These wells can leak methane, an ultra-powerful greenhouse gas that, when concentrated, can become a source of deadly explosions. Additionally, the research finds 34% of poorly abandoned wells are located within groundwater basin boundaries and nearly 20% located within 2,500 feet of ‘environmental justice’ communities.

The persistent extraction of oil and gas in Ventura County has left over 4,000 plugged and abandoned wells, 66% (1,629 wells) were abandoned before 1953 when modern plugging and modeling standards were established. An additional 372 wells were categorized as poorly abandoned due to insufficient plug materials, final abandonment transferred to the landowner, or ongoing, uncontrolled drainage. Lastly, 211 wells had entirely missing records and 180 had incomplete documentation, despite being labeled “plugged.”

The organization worked with students from the USC So Price School of Public Policy to assess this problem in Los Angeles County with a smaller study of wells, finding a significant number of wells with unsubstantiated abandonment. Their study found that CaGEM had no available well record data for nearly half of their samples. The group attempted to contact CaGEM about the questions multiple times with no success.

In recent months, orphan and idle oil and gas wells have received justifiied media, funding, and regulatory attention. CFROG’s report recognizes multiple agencies and decision-makers to consider the full problem of legacy oil and gas infrastructure by monitoring, assessing, and considering the re-abandonment of poorly abandoned wells.

The report estimates cleanup costs ranging from $7.4 million to $37.2 million and creating over 400 well-paid jobs and significant greenhouse gas emission reductions.

To view a full interactive map, go to: https://bit.ly/VCPlugged

Emissions Down

Are our climate plans ok?

By Katie Davis

Chapter One

What’s in a Climate Plan?

Santa Barbara County recently reported a plan on its Climate Action Plan as its goal in line with the United Nations says “50% reduction in emissions by 2050” and the country’s “greenhouse gas reduction

The report estimates cleanup costs ranging from $7.4 million to $37.2 million and creating over 400 well-paid jobs and significant greenhouse gas emission reductions.

To view a full interactive map, go to: https://bit.ly/VCPlugged

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State budget mixed

Gos. Governor Gavin Newsom released the 2022-2023 May Revision to his state budget proposal, which will bring California’s multi-year climate investment to $47.1 billion.

While historic, the May Revision unfortunately also includes funding that could set the state back in its efforts to retire outdated energy resources and increase funding for low-income communities. Among the good aspects of the May Revision are:

- Continued strong investments in the state’s transition to Zero Emission Vehicles by accelerating $1.75 billion in funding for ZEVs and the infrastructure necessary to power this transition.
- $970 million for residential solar and storage system incentives, including for low-income households. These incentives will not only help to slow the climate crisis and improve air quality, they will also help create more resilient communities.
- $370 million in grants to provide Californians with free transit for three months and $500 million for the Active Transportation Program.
- $1.2 billion to address residential electricity reliability and $200 million to address residential water and wastewater shortfalls.

Among the disappointments of the May Revision are:

- $5.2 billion that could, in part, fund new existing generation capacity that is scheduled to retire diesel- and methane-powered back-up generation.
- $500 million that could, in part, fund new environmentally harmful dams and aqueducts.
- Funds for projects that support implementation of Voluntary Agreements, instead of supporting the State Water Board’s process to update water quality standards for the Bay-Delta ecosystem.

However, there’s no guarantee that the energy reliability money the Governor is proposing doesn’t up aging fossil fuel infrastructure. The California Air Resources Board disappointingly called for these types of investments in their draft Scoping Plan, so we want to ensure that the Governor’s budget isn’t in line with that. We’re going to need to ensure that these funds don’t support polluting industries that continue to disproportionately harm low-income communities and communities of color.

Editor’s note: Sierra Club California is the legislative and regulatory arm of Sierra Club’s 13 local chapters in California, representing half a million members and supporters.
Simple acts come back

Editor’s note: We continue with the Jim Hines Chronicles, which reflects the emails by our president, about our issues and how public attitudes and out- ots of environmental activism is and check-full of information. This covers the last two months, starting the first week of April through May. Jim is our chapter vice-chair and conservation director who belongs to many wildlife groups.

April 1: At last night’s Los Padres Chapter ExCom meeting (March 31), the ExCom voted to approve my motion to change the name of the Sierra Club Los Padres Chapter to Sierra Club Santa Barbara-Ventura Chapter. I have now submitted our request for the name change approval to the national staff and national Sierra Club Board of Directors for approval. (Editor’s note: the vote was 4-1-0-3).

April 5: I can’t believe that some members of the U.S. House and Senate are supporting Russian President Putin. Many of these same members are opposing legal measures that would protect America’s national public lands.

Do I hear the echo of the Trump years when it was an open door policy for all kinds of foreign players who wanted to log, mine uranium, oil and gas drill on federal protected lands? Here we go again.

April 6: California has awarded a $326,000 grant to the Ventura County Transportation Commission to study the impacts from the 101 freeway in Ventura County on wildlife movement and find ways to migrate the 101’s impact on wildlife. It will also allow the County to start planning for a second wildlife overpass, this one would be on the Conejo Grade port of the 101.

A big thank you to Supervisor Linda Parks for gaining the grant.

April 11: National Sierra Club Board of Directors held a special session just to hear our request to change its name from Los Padres Chapter to Santa Barbara-Ventura Chapter. I appeared before the board to answer any questions they might have had. It was approved and our chapter has entered a new era.

April 16: I spoke at the request of VC Supervisor Carmen Ramirez at a fundraising event she held on behalf of VC 2nd District supervisor candidate Claudia Bill de la Pena who is currently a member of the Thousand Oaks City Council. I spoke as a lifelong environmental leader since the Sierra Club had not made an official endorsement yet. (Editor’s note: she is now endorsed).

April 18: It all starts with a simple act. I am getting lots of positive comments and accolades from throughout the Sierra Club praising our chapter for changing our name and causing many others across our nation to look at names within their chapter regions which may be offensive.

April 28: Fish and Game Commission published a notice of intent today to list the Southern California steelhead Trout population as endangered. This region includes Ventura and Santa Barbara counties. This starts a one- year process to determine if full endangered species protections are warranted so the population can recover, mostly due to habitat loss.

The Sierra Club California Wildlife Team supported this designation.

May 10: I am working with our Sierra Club national public lands office to counter the lies the Stop 30 x 30 Campaign is putting out. It is so important on any campaign to know what our adversaries are doing. So, I joined the American Stewards of Liberty’s zoom meeting. Check it out here: https://tinyurl.com/Shop30X30wed.

May 16: Gosh, I think I am beginning to join more anti-environment organizations than I am pro-environment organizations. But in any good battle it is so important to know what our adversaries are up to. It is all about gathering intelligence. Secretary Gerry Ching chimed in: “We are going to watch you closely to see that you don’t slip over the Dark Side.”

May 20: I have been sharing language to prohibit the use of rodenticides, herbicides and pesticides which kill wildlife. Sierra Club supported it in the Santa Monica Mountains’ Coastal Land Use Plan with our Sierra Club National Wildlife Policy Team (I am one of 8 members). Now the Club’s Colorado Chapter is trying to get similar language included in various land use plans. Our great work moves around.

ECCD’s Owen Bailey resigns

Editor’s note: The SB-Ventura Sierra Club wishes the best for Owen Bailey and his family. Due to health issues, he is resigning as Executive Director of the SB Environmental Defense Center. Bailey joined the EDC on Jan. 1, 2013, after nearly a decade at the Sierra Club, first specializing in outreach and organizing for the Club’s Coastal Program, notably working with our chapter to stop a floating LNG facility off the coast of Oxnard. Despite the club losing its former Executive Director “Chair Chair” at the time, Mike Stubblefield, commented: “This is great news.”. Program details appear below.

By Owen Bailey

After nine amazing years, I am writing to inform you that I will no longer be returning to my role as Executive Director of the Environmental Defense Center (EDC). Last fall I took what I had hoped would be a short leave of absence to regain strength to resume my role. Unfortunately, that’s not how things worked out.

But I find comfort knowing that I am stepping away from EDC when our organization is at a point of great strength, with top-notch staff and a dedicated board, and poised for many more decades of victories for our climate and coast.

While I continue to be hopeful that my latest treatment will be effective and get my cancer under control, this has turned out to be a harder struggle than I had hoped. Since my leave began, my friends and colleagues, and especially Linda Krop, as Chief Counsel, and Beny Weber, our Assistant Director, have covered the bulk of my duties in addition to their own work.

Everyone has filled in for me brilliantly. They have been extraordinarily successful, winning victories and carrying forward the work of this essential organization.

This year, EDC is celebrating its 45th anniversary and our work is more important today than ever before. As the climate changes, and oil companies fight to squeeze last drops of carbon, putting fossil fuel from beneath our feet and waves, EDC and its new leadership will be ready to fight back.

We will push back for the clean, renewable sources of energy we need now and for the future. As developers look to pave over our local agricultural lands and open space that wildlife and residents depend upon every day, EDC will be there to stand in the way and still fight for the affordable housing we need.

Together we can fight the spread of sprawl which adds more traffic to our roads and pollution to our air and water. And, as we move forward, we will stand with our diverse partners and clients to make sure the Santa Barbara Channel remains a clean and welcoming home for marine life, responsible fishing, and recreational users for generations to come.

I have so enjoyed my time as part of the EDC family, and I look forward to seeing you again on June 5th when Green & Blue returns as a live event for the first time since 2019.

The Ventura Sierra Club is at it again and again, asking volunteers to bring gallons of water to ensure newly native plants have a chance of success. Most work done at Community Park (AKA Kimball). Photo by Nina Danza who welcomes you to help:

May 25: Good Morning Ventura. No more oil wells, nuclear fusion or Father Serra on the new Ventura County seal. Here is the new official County of Ventura seal unveiled yesterday. This seal was supported by the Sierra Club.

Most events continue online for now

CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Meet 4th Tuesday, 7pm of every month, via internet for now. Email Secretary Gerry Ching for the agenda: jching@cox.net

www.SierraClub.org/Santa-Barbara-Ventura

SANTA BARBARA GROUP

We meet 3rd Thursdays, noon to 1:30pm of each month. For details and to follow the South Coast area, contact:

http://www.sbenviroclub.org

https://www.FACEBOOK.com/SBSierraClub

https://TWITTER.com/SierraClubSantaBarbara

https://www.MEETUP.com/SierraClub-SantaBarbara

https://www.INSTAGRAM.com/SierraClubSantaBarbara

ARGUELLO GROUP

Our North County Group will keep you informed on our Facebook page:

www.facebook.com/SierraClubArguelloGroup - Volunteers needed, your talents could make a difference. Call 350-0629 or

Rebecca August@mac.com

VENTURA NETWORK

For board meeting dates, times and location email:

sierraclubventura@gmail.com

Get latest info about the western Ventura County group via Facebook and blog:

http://venturasierraljubFB

https://venturasierraljubBlog

Or view the new website for the Conejo Group:

www.conejogroupventura.com

CONEO GROUP

Events, outings and meetings will be sent to you if you send an email request to:

ConejoGroupHiking@gmail.com.

Or view the new website for the Conejo Group:

www.sierraclub.org/Santa-Barbara-Ventura

www.sierraclub.org/SantaBarbara-Ventura/outings

Most events continue online for now

EDEC's Owen Bailey resigns

Editor's note: Owen Bailey resigned due to health issues; we hope he can fight for his health like he has fought for the environment. (Photo Courtesy EDC)
How to save water, energy and $$

Editor’s note: While it’s increasingly clear that the need for climate action is urgent, it can be hard for an individual to know where to start. This year we are featuring specific actions you can take authored by UCSB lecturer in Environmental Studies, Deborah Williams.

“As Earth’s atmosphere continues to warm due to climate change, droughts are becoming more frequent, more severe, and pervasive. The last 20 years have been some of the driest conditions in the American west on record,” according to NASA

by up to 60%. Check out the best current techniques to reduce your water use.

7 Best Low Flow Fixtures (2022 Reviews) - Sensible Dogs

Also, use a bucket while waiting for it to get hot, capturing about 10% of a shower’s water down the drain. Then use the bucket to water plants, or use it to flush the toilet, slowly pouring slowly into the bowl (tank water will be retained).

How often should we shower, anyway? Research (Harvard et al) concludes showing a few times per week is plenty for most people, is better for your health, and saves lots of water.

Also, a showerhead leak of one drop per second wastes over 1,660 gallons of water a year. So, fix leaks quickly, saves you money. There are lots of good guides and YouTube videos to help you do this.

~ Saving Water in the Shower. Especially using low-flow showerheads. A average U.S. household can save around 2,700 gallons of water annually and 330 kilowatt hours of electricity (enough to power a house for 11 days) by installing just one low-flow showerhead. Details are at: www.CDFW.EDU/wateruse/Showheads

Low-flow showerheads are low-cost and can reduce water use

June 5: Green & Blue, Environmental Defense Center’s signature fundraiser and best way to connect with environmental activists. If you’re reading this after the date, go to website anyway, lots to see and do.

www.EnvironmentalDefenseCenter.org

June 9: Hiking on the Channel Islands 5:30-6:30 zoom, details on page 7.

June 11: Paddle Out fundraiser for SB Maritime Museum 1-4pm at Leadbetter Beach. Includes food and surf music, beach games and crafts. Surf legend Shaun Tomson will lead paddlers into the water and on June 15 he will be holding an in-person lecture along with Noah Brenscha. Details at www.SBMM.org

June 16: Build Trails Plan for SB County, Sierra Club Hikeriter Ryan Ford via zoom 5:30-6:30 via Zoom, details on page 7.

JTrees need help

The Sierra Club has sent out a message asking members and friends to help save California’s beloved Joshua Tree National CA Fish and Game Commission to list them as endangered.

The item 4 on the commission’s June 15-16 agenda via zoom and a message should be sent before then at: https://siouxfalls/treeAlert

Scientists say that the western Joshua Tree could lose 90% or more of its habitat in the Mojave Desert by the end of the century.

Changing conditions caused by climate change, droughts, and wildfires will make it harder for the Joshua Tree CA Fish and Game Commission to survive and thrive in the future.

Listing the tree under the state’s Endangered Species Act would help set a precedent to protect other species from climate change in upcoming years – a critical tool for ensuring a thriving future for our state, and ensuring California achieves our goal of protecting 30% of our lands and waters by 2030.

The boardwalk to Rincon Island, a familiar sight along the 101 freeway in Ventura. SB Group’s Jim Taylor took a tour and photos with the State Lands Commission which would have been a great “Severe Drought.” Jim thinks it might best serve as a bird refuge. More info: for info see emon on April 27 below.

SIGHTINGS

Action = Progress

By John Hankins

What we’ve been up to the last two months on their way to Spring. And it’s really been busy but with some good stuff happening. Check out the below.

Please join our activities and activism; see Group News box on page 3 for contacts and links where you can get involved and find free hikes. We encourage all to go outside and get more time in nature. And check out our outings on pages 6/7.

If you’d like to donate (it helps a lot, since our membership is so low), do not pass go, but go directly to: www.sierrioclub.org/donate

June 1: Ventura County Beach Trail virtual for SB Group was pitched by our Sierra Club (thanks to Nina Danza) to put in a new multi-trail along the bluffs from Montecito to Santa Barbara. "This is a long sought-after Class 1 (no motor vehicles) path for bikes, pedestrians and all wheels. This is a major step toward extending a path to the beach," Nina said on Facebook.

May 29: Bike Clean & Fix-it day sponsored by the Ventura Sierra Club for giving away to local kids in need, too, at Ventura Bike Hub which provided all tools.

May 24: Dirty Oil & Gas wells can lead to larger legal effort to prevent EWS in SB County according to the county Grand Jury. Also, on this day in Ventura County, a judge ruled theみたいな also the判断 in the EDC’s case against the Goleta EDC. It is part of EDC’s larger law effort to prevent EWS from issuing a plan that could allow oil companies to harm endangered species and get future oil projects approved more easily in Santa Barbara County.

May 17: Battery Brouhaha leading up to this date and all ways. AYES on Measure A&B which our chapter supports, sponsored by Food & Water Watch.

May 21: Water-Weed the newly planted Native Area the Ventura Sierra Club planted last fall at Kimball Ranch. Mentioned on Meetup, similar work was done on May 22, 28 and 29 thanks to Nina Danza, organizer.

May 19: Need for documents via Freedom of Information Act was backed by our Chapter as support for the SB Environmental Defense Center to file an FWS A&E and Wildlife Service to release documents to the EDC. It is part of EDC’s longer legal effort to prevent EWS from issuing a plan that could allow oil companies to harm endangered species and get future oil projects approved more easily in Santa Barbara County.

May 14: YES on A&B Opinion Editorial by our Chapter Chair Katie Davis appeared in the Ventura County Star, and likely other local newspapers. Read it here: https://flumewater.com/viewEd/AandB

May 9: New treasurer for our chapter is Jim Taylor, at least on an interim basis. If there’s anyone out there who would like to fill the spot permanently, contact our Chair Katie Davis at: kdevi24@icloud.com

May 4: Rincon Island follow-up (see April 27 below) by the State Lands Commission staff on its Phase 2 of a ‘decommissioning’. For updated information, go to a video of the meeting here: 

www.youtube.com/watch?v=DEEGFhF9

May 1 & 6: Trails are us, right? Aks Alex Pugo of the SB Group on the highly controversial Montana De Oro parking plan. Parking congestion is off the charts while East Mountain Drive property owners have formed a group to fight with landscaping, rocks and no parking signs. Owners insist on an environmental impact report. Alex wants the club to get involved in a solution.

On May 6 a judge ruled the county’s parking plan to add parking spaces cannot move forward until it is determined whether an environmental review is needed. Alex commented, “things are not looking good.”

April 27: Rincon Island conundrum, what to do with it? State Lands Commission had in meeting there with the public. Our invitational Council contact, Jim Taylor, reported said the commission wanted public input. He also took photos and made them into a delightful commemorative:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=vWc06eEUXio

For any updates on the process about the island, and to sign up for email updates, go to: www.ic.gov.oil-and-gas/riinc

April 26: “Very sad” notice to our Executive Committee that Jules Zimmer passed away at 92 years on April 9. He was a long time member of our political committee and married to Carolyn Cogan, also a member. Jules was a very active person, “I really adored Jules who was always so helpful in our work and a smiling, warm individual.”

April 22: Long awaited groundbreaking for the Wallis... continued on page 5
Three lawsuits were filed against the Forest Service for failing to protect environment and cultural resources on Pine Mountain and Reyes Peak, backed by a coalition of environmental, business, and recreational groups. Ventura County and the City of Ojai were also part of the suit filed suit in federal court in May to challenge the commercial logging and vegetation removal project in the Los Padres National Forest.

"Pine Mountain must be protected, not offered up to logging companies using loopholes that make a mockery of our bedrock environmental laws," said Los Padres ForestWatch executive director Jeff Kuyper.

Keep Sespe Wild Director Alasdair Coane noted that, "These 'sky islands' of giant trees only survive at the rare high elevation peaks of SoCal's national forests. Threatened by climate change, they need protection, not logging."

Deluge of lawsuits on Pine Mt.

Earth Day fuels EV owners

By John Hankins

This year’s Earth Day may have been quieter than pre-Covid celebrations, but the passion to demonstrate support for environmental protection was palpable here and worldwide, celebrated by about a billion people in nearly 200 countries.

Here, the environmental heroes were EVs, the electric vehicles that are gaining popularity at a rapid rate, and you should hear the stories the owners tell how that future is now.

For instance, Scott Toshi showed his 2015 BMS 3 that was the most earth-friendly car possible. "This whole car was made to be recyclable," he explained at the Pacific View Mall. That was where a bank of new Electrify America chargers was placed, drawing EVs from all over for the free charges offered that day.

The car was made with carbon fiber instead of steel, with an aluminum frame and the fabric inside was from recycled bottles. For emergencies it has a tank holding 2 gallons of gas to run a generator. A nice start and an inspiration, but it’s not made anymore!

Also at the Mall was a sight drawing everybody’s attention – two EVs connected, one giving a charge to the other which could come in handy on a prolonged journey.

This is the future of what we call an "adaptation" to a new reality. Two EV owners, Russell Balson, who was visiting family in Ojai during a show backed by the EV Advocates of Ventura County and the Sierra Club organized by our Transportation Chair, Kent Bullard, who doubled down with an advocate’s meeting, inviting the public.

Reed reached the Plaid-Logo Tesla in the movie "Spaceballs" and is high performance with "no clutter" around the steering wheel, just buttons.

The "old" Tesla from 2014 is a story by itself via the owner, Brennan Balhorn, who was visiting family in the area. He was an early owner at an early age of the first EVs, the ones with lead batteries that did not have a "technology. The technology was not ready for long range, but it felt like the next generation car."

Another EV owner, Russell Sydney, remarked over 11 years the maintenance on his EV consisted of new tires and a new battery, "not the battery that runs the car, but the 12-volt one (for accessories, in all gas cars)."

Finally, a story of adaptation by Jeff and Nanette from Hollywood, who stopped by the event in Ojai, carrying their young child. They were travelling past the Temecula area to see the hot-air balloons, but the event was cancelled. So, they cooled their heels at a Hyundai dealer on President’s Day and out of the blue bought the latest Hyundai Ionic 5 because "it’s ahead of everybody else."

They found a new use for it, as their travelling RV, plenty of room to sleep all three of them and no hotel bills. No high gas prices either!

Want to learn more about EVs? Here’s some links:

www.cecc.org/en-101
www.GreenCarReports.com
www.PlugInAmerica.org

Sightings...

continued from page 4

Annenberg Wildlife Crossing ceremony on Earth Day! Long supported by the Sierra Club, we are ecstatic about the groundbreaking just south of Ventura County near the King Gillette Ranch. Located in the city of Agoura Hills and when built will cross the 101 Freeway. We expect more wildlife crossings but within Ventura and Santa Barbara counties.

April 20: Kiss the Ground, a leading-edge film narrated by Woody Harrelson with a guest panel and moderator, Professor Dinna Dunia, a Sierra Club member. Held at Oxnard College.

April 13: Announcement in the New York Times that California intends to phase out new gas-powered cars by 2035 was shared by our Executive Director, Jon Ullman. The plan would require 35% of new passenger vehicles sold in CA would be powered by batteries or hydrogen; Jon bets most will be electric.

April 6: A win to another level for carbon neutrality happened at the SB County supervisors meeting when staff was directed "to develop an ordinance to restrict natural gas infrastructure and increase energy efficiency performance and electric vehicle charging infrastructure for new construction and major renovations." A reach code must also be developed (allowing jurisdiction to go above state regulations).

April 5: Call to Action by Jim Taylor of Carpenteria informing our chapter of a developer who wants to build a resort on the bluffs above the Harbor Seal Sanctuary. It was a presentation to officials and the public, and no action was taken. It’s up to the developer to come back with a plan.

March 31: Stand up to SoCalGas rally outside the Crowne Plaza Hotel where it sponsored an event announcing its study on alternative sites for the Ventura Compressor Station.

March 28: Los Carneros Creek hearing by the Goleta Planning Commission in which the Environmental Defense Center, Sierra Club and others testified to protect the creek and habitat from Heritage Ridge development. The proposed rentals would have 104 or 332 units available as a below-market price, which is supported. But we asked for a redesign to require a minimum 100-foot buffer from the creek.
SANTA BARBARA-VENTURA CHAPTER
UPDATES: www.sierraclub.org/santa-barbara-ventura

June 12 ROCKY PINE RIDGE - SHORT ROUTE: From Camino Cielo, hike into this wonderful pine tree-strewn region and start along the ridge line. Moderate with some boulder hopping and agility required, 4 miles round trip. Bring water and lunch. Meet behind B of A on upper State St at Hope Ave at 9am. ALEJANDRO 805-451-1239 (SB)

June 18 FIR CANYON: Long (90 minutes) capped to Davy Brown camp behind Figueroa Mt. Sleep hike up the most beautiful canyon in the area near to the top of Figueroa Mt. Strenuous 6.5 miles round trip. End time is just an approximation. Bring lunch and water, meet behind B of A on upper State St at Hope Ave at 9am. ALEJANDRO 805-451-1239 (SB)
GET TO KNOW MORE ABOUT OUR LOCAL CHANNEL ISLANDS AND LEARN HOW NEW TRAILS ARE CREATED IN SANTA BARBARA COUNTY THROUGH TWO ZOOM PRESENTATIONS FEATURING LOCAL TRAIL EXPERTS, COURTESY OF THE SANTA BARBARA PUBLIC LIBRARY.

**Thursday, June 9, 5:30-6:30pm**
**Features: Hiking & Backpacking on the Channel Islands.**

**During the last ice age, the four islands off our coast – Anacapa, Santa Cruz, Santa Rosa, and San Miguel – were all part of a single, larger island called Santarosae. This talk will highlight the hiking and backpacking opportunities on these four islands today, as well as describe an imagined traverse of the now submerged super-island of Santarosae. Join local author James Waptonich as he shares images and stories from hiking, backpacking, and camping on the four islands. He has hiked many of the trails and has visited all five islands within Channel Islands National Park. An experienced backpacker and trail guide he also writes the Santa Barbara News-Press hiking column, Trail Quest.**

**Thursday, June 16, 5:30- 6:30pm, Building a Comprehensive Trails Plan for Santa Barbara County: Where? What? How and Who?**

Ray Ford has more than a decade of experience designing, rebuilding, and repairing trails in the Santa Barbara area, and has coordinated and led trail projects for the Santa Barbara County Trails Committee and Los Padres Forest Association.

He is the author of numerous books and maps on hiking, backpacking, and mountain biking in the Santa Barbara area, including Santa Barbara Day Hikes (1973- present), Trails of the Santa Rafael Wilderness (1974), Santa Barbara Mountain Biking (1992), Santa Barbara Road Rides (1992), Santa Barbara Wildfires (1991) and the recently revised Santa Barbara Front Country Trails map. He is the outdoors writer for Noofoo, and his website is www.shobdotton.com.

To register for the talks, go to the Santa Barbara Public Library’s home page, https://tinyurl.com/SBPL-Spring-2022, and then click on the specific event, or contact James to be included on email list at waptonich@yahoo.com.

**CA clubs asks**

Please support Sierra Club California, your voice for the environment in the state capitol.

We advocate for environmental politicians and guide them, educate frontline activists, reduce plastics and toxic substances and protect and enjoy CA lands and waters.

Also important for the Santa Barbara-Ventura Trails Council is that the Sierra Club California PAC is the only source of funds we can use to contribute on behalf of our members to our local endorsed candidates.

We are volunteer run, please donate here:https://tinyurl.com/CAsierraclub.

**Welcome to simple things**

By Jim Hines

It is our sacred duty as human beings to protect our earth. Walk gently to the earth, recycle, care for the land, enrich the soil organically, grow healthy organic fruits and vegetables to nourish our bodies, gently farm the land, enrich the soil organically, feed the soil with healthy organic matter, practice sustainable agriculture, protect our wildlife and do no harm to animals. A tall order of simple ways we humans need to take immediate action on to save our planet.

We all have inherited the special place of Mother Earth. We cannot forsake her, we must stand up for her, the earth has done us no harm so why are we harming her?

Each single action we as individuals take to save our earth does matter and does make a difference and when we join forces with likeminded individuals and organizations to save our planet, we even make a bigger difference.

**Hiking the Channel Islands**

Creating trail plan for SB

Our region is designated as an “Extreme Drought” condition (see story pg. 4). Fire danger is high, noted by tough rules in the National Forest. Harmon Canyon (story below) is intended as a natural fire break. (Photo courtesy of SB County Fire).

**Warm up to Harmon**

The arrival of hotter temperatures this time of year triggers visible change across the hillsides, with green giving way to tan and yellow. Harmon Canyon Preserve in Ventura County is no exception. The above-average rainfall of the 2021-22 winter season promoted extra growth; unfortunately, much of it is composed of invasive species: wild mustard, tamarisk, and milk thistle.

Visitors to Harmon over the past few months may have noticed work crews “brushing” (removing overgrowth) alongside trails, to make them passable again. Visitors on Sunday or Monday mornings might even notice volunteers with the Wildlife Habitat Improvement Program (WHIP) removing these invasive plants by hand.

As vegetation dries out, and seeds get dispersed, the stage is set for further spread of these species. If you are interested in helping with this important work, sign here: www.venturalandtrust.org/events

Preserve visitors will also notice a new feature at Harmon, its first one-way, downhill only trail. Here’s a video from a mountain biker’s helmet camera – a wild and wonderful ride! See it here: https://youtu.be/RHgodPGZPRA

So much more on the website: www.venturalandtrust.org/events

The official opening of Ventura Land Trust’s Harmon Canyon was held on Earth Day which was blessed by the Chumash, VIPs and supporters. Executive Director Melissa Baffa welcomed the crowd and the public to Ventura’s newest and biggest land conservancy, open for free from dawn to dusk. (Photo by John Hankins)

**For the wild, Jim**
Condors released in Northern California

“Prey-Go-neesh Keech Ke-Me’-Yehl – Condors Have Come Home!”

For the first time in more than a century, the endangered California condor soared the skies over the state's redwood forests along the far northern coast and more releases are expected in the future.

Two captive-bred male condors (Prey-go-neesh in Yurok) play a principal role in the Yurok tribe’s creation story and is prominently featured in its White Deerskin and Jump Dances. The birds were released from a pen in Redwood National Park on May 3, under a project aimed at restoring the giant vultures to their historic habitat in the Pacific Northwest.

“They just jumped up and took flight off into the distance,” said Tiana Williams-Claussen, of the region’s Yurok tribe.

The release was a collaboration between the tribe, National Parks Service and US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), taking place in the northern California redwood forest, containing some of the planet’s tallest trees.

The release was in collaboration with the tribe, National Parks Service and US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), taking place in the northern California redwood forest, containing some of the planet’s tallest trees.

Now, the forest also contains some of the planet’s largest — and most endangered — birds which disappeared from the area around 1892.

Once, the California condor ruled the skies across western North America; their nine-foot wingspans casting shadows on habitats as diverse as the arid scrubland of southern California to the forests of the Pacific Northwest.

But by 1980s, the global condor population had dropped to 27 birds, decimated in part by hunting and lead poisoning. Now, the population in California, Arizona and Utah stands at just over 300 birds.

It was here in SoCal when the recovery started in 1983. The USFWS teamed up with the L.A. Zoo and San Diego Wild Animal Park to start the first-ever captive breeding facilities, now numbering four.

In 1987 the condor went extinct in the wild, last captured in Southern California for the zoo breeding project to bring them back from the brink of extinction with only 22 of them sighted that year. By 1991 there were enough adolescent condors that it was possible to release them into the wild, but that didn’t happen until 2003 and by 2008 there were more condors released into the wild than in captivity.

Breeding facilities in addition to the first two came online via Santa Barbara and Oregon zoos, Chapultepec Zoo in Mexico City and in Boise, Idaho.

Despite success, the condor is still listed a critically endangered because of human activity, notably lead poisoning. USFWS reports in the last 20 years there were 120 documented deaths from lead poisoning, half of all 234 condor deaths. California started banning lead ammunition in 2019. To keep track, go to: https://tinyurl.com/CondorsStory

The Yurok Tribe started working on condor reintroduction in 2008.

More details at: www.YorokTribe.org

~ By ‘Condor’ John Hankins