Slick oil...Thick of it...Ormond laws...Ag slag...Flood & Drought
Lawsuits, legislation, losses
The legacy of careless oil ops

By Katie Davis

Gathering at Refugio beach where Plains’ pipeline ruptured and spilled 87,000 gallons of oil onto the beach and into the ocean last year, legislators and leading environmental organizations --

EAAEVESDROP
"The time to heed the critics and the cynics and the deniers is past," Those who want to ignore the science, they are increasingly alone, those are on their own shrinking island."
- President Obama, speaking to delegates of an international conference on climate change in the Arctic. Reaction was mixed because he has also allowed Royal Dutch Shell to begin limited offshore oil drilling in the Chukchi Sea.

including the Sierra Club - marked its one-year anniversary with warnings about future calamities.

The spill killed hundreds of marine animals including birds, dolphins and sea lions and coated beaches and the ocean with oil as far away as Los Angeles.

And while numerous actions were taken to prevent another oil disaster, threats still remain. Here are some key milestones that have happened since the May 19, 2015 pipeline rupture:

- Specialized law were two bills: One by State Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson (SB 295) requires annual pipeline inspections while Assembly Member Das Williams’ bill (AB 864) mandates the use of automatic shut-off technology in environmentally sensitive areas.
- A renewable energy bill (SB 350) was also signed into law, but oil companies beat back a provision that would have cut petroleum use by 50%.
- The new Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) update was published in October, identifying the types and numbers of animals killed. It starts a restoration plan, the fate of the oil spilled was not recovered.
- A Pipeline Safety Act (HR 5085) by Rep. Lois Capps passed the House and the Senate. It designates coastal beaches as high consequence areas and should affect the frequency of pipeline corrosion inspections.
- In a possible sign of more stringent oversight by the state, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission filed a tariff cancelation for ruptured Line 903 and 901, both of which are shut down indefinitely (leaving some offshore platforms).
- The Santa Barbara Grand Jury in May indicted Plains All-American Pipeline on 46 criminal charges related to the oil spill.
- In a strong condemnation also in May, the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration released its final “Factual Report,” citing Plains for ineffective protection against external corrosion and failure to detect and mitigate the corrosion measured at an astounding 89%.
- The report added Plains failed to detect and respond to the rupture quickly, it lacked alarms, and the pipeline controller actually restarted the pipeline after the release occurred.
- Plains’ oil spill response plan also failed to identify the culprit as a spill pathway and asserted its staff was inadequately trained.
- Tool for Threats
- The company announced it has spent $150 million on spill clean-up and further civil and criminal penalties are pending.
- More diligence and regulations are cheaper in the long run, and yet, the fact remains that there will always be the risk of spills.
- With that in mind, here are some upcoming oil threats to our coast.
- Old, improperly abandoned oil wells are leaking yet again at Summerland beach this year.
- The Sierra Club supports a new bill (SB 350) by Jacko that would cap such old, leaking “legacy wells” continued on page 2

Cover photo
We hike into the sunset on Nineteen Oaks Trail, one of the exciting places offered by our annual Wilderness Retreat. We attracted a full complement of 56 satisfied students; next year we start in February, but please keep abreast of hikes, tips, training and photos at: www.facebook.com/SierraClubWBC/ (Photo by Arturo Hernandez)
Spill not stopping oil projects

By Fran Farina

So it’s one year since the oil spill at Refugio Beach by Plains All American Pipeline, resulting in 46 criminal indictments and a final federal report pinpointing the cause. The Plains’ Lines 901 and 903 a 1/2 mile away shut down with no start-up date and the offshore oilplatforms that rely on these pipelines are idled indefinitely. Does this mean we’ve won the battle and can rest on our laurels? Hardly!

While kudos are owed to our Rep. Lois Capps, for securing bi-partisan support in the House Energy and Commerce Committee approving a 66% increase in pipeline safety standards, the federal Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) continues.

ExCon... continued from page 1

working with SBCAN in Santa Barbara’s Never-Counter proposals for about 90 new oil wells. The ExCon also spent $250 to help sponsors SBCAN’s “Looking For Award” awards dinner on May 5.

The San Luis Obispo Planning Commission did support staff’s recommendation to deny the Phillips 66 Rail Spur project which could bring 100-car oil trains carrying volatile crude oil through the tri-county area. The matter will come back to that Commission in September and public comment will once again be accepted.

Ventura County has its own oil challenges. Whether its new oil well pads or fracking in the Seppe Oil Field located within the Los Padres National Forest, the condition of oil pipelines, or possible groundwater contamination from oil activities, Ventura is now the third largest oil producing county in the state. We have had legislative and legal successes since the Refugio oil spill, but the purpose of this article is to illustrate how important it is for everyone who cares about the environment and the impact that fossil fuel extraction has on it, to keep the good fight.

We need elected officials who share our values and will stand up to oil interests. You have opportunities on June 7 and November 8 to vote for Sierra Club endorsed candidates who have been vetted through our political process. Don’t just believe the propaganda, say someone cares about the environment or shows beautiful photos along our coast. If they don’t have the Sierra Club endorsement, they probably don’t deserve your vote.

Fran Farina represents the Sierra Club Los Padres Chapter on the Santa Barbara Environmental Political Committee. The Coalition monitors all energy activity in three counties. She is also the Sierra Club California Political Committee Co-Chair and Los Padres Chapter Political Committee Co-Chair.

Fracking finds friends

The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) has declared there are “no significant environmental impacts” from the frack that has been done off of any of the 23 oil and gas platforms offshore California. The decision will be appealed to the State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission on September 11.

The city of Ventura got a C+ from school teenagers who asserted it isn’t doing enough to protect the people, and us, from climate change. Representing the group iMatter, Olivia Loorz and dozens of students challenged the Ventura City Council on May 9 to do more and asserted, “we will help you to protect our children and grandchildren.”

Noting that “we are the transitional generation,” Loorz announced iMatter’s new campaign to assess a city’s action – or inaction – to make meaningful progress.

The report card is based on real data following prescriptions by former NASA climate scientist Dr. Jim Hansen. Ventura’s grade was based on a Zero Emissions Plan (ZEP), Renewable Energy (A+), Waste (B-), Carbon Removal (F) and Youth Involvement (None), among others.

iMatter was founded by then 13-year-old Alec Loorz in 2007. Olivia is helping to run iMatter, which has chapters throughout the nation. Its new strategy “is to make climate change personal by empowering passionate high school and middle school youth to press for meaningful climate action in their communities. And it is working,” Alex Loorz wrote in announcing the report card.

“Wow, that was impressive,” commented Mayor Erik Nasarenko, but the council took no action.

The method was supported by the Ventura Sierra Club because “engaging youth is key and we are carefully considering the destruction of our marine resources due to the oil spill and the beautiful photos along our coast,” noted Chapter Chair Jim Hines. To view the report and support iMatter, go to: www.imatteryouth.com.

As part of a national action called BreakFreeFromFossilFuels, Sierra Club members from Santa Barbara and Ventura joined about 2000 others at a rally and Climate Dine Out on May 14, calling for more action on climate change. (Photo by Kate Davis)

Refugio... continued from page 1

in Summerland and Goleta. Proposed expansion of crude oil by rail along the coast presents a new risk, since the San Luis Obispo Planning Commission ignored the staff’s recommendation of denial, despite a huge outpouring of opposition and 10,000 public comments opposing the Phillips 66 rail spur expansion. Final approval will mean frequent, mile-long and explosive oil trains along the coast.

The decision will be appealed to the SLO Supervisors and Coastal Commission.

The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management may lift the temporary ban on offshore fracking which includes dumping potentially toxic wastewater into the ocean.

The California Public Utilities Commission approved another peaker plant on Mandalay Beach in Oxnard on May 26, but gave some breathing room in coastal Goleta by requiring more environmental review for refurbishment of an old peaker plant there.

– Venoco wants to restart oil operations using Pier 421 near Haskell’s beach, despite an oil spill there 20 years ago.

It also seeks to expand drilling along the central coast, but a new oil field using horizontal drilling from Platform Holly Venoco wants to process this oil at the Ellwood Onshore Facility, an aging oil processing plant that has been out of zoning compliance for 25 years. The City of Goleta found that it was fully amortized in 2009 and Venoco has sufficiently profited from it, so the City has the legal right to shut it down.

The only thing currently protecting us from new federal offshore oil leases is the Obama Administration.

One positive development is potential designation of a new National Marine Sanctuary from Gaviota to Monterey which would permanently protect central coast waters from new oil drilling.

Ventura’s eco-grade: C-

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We work on projects and issues so that we can all enjoy the mountains to the sea. Here’s some highlights of our work, and feel free to join us anytime. Use the contact numbers or emails listed in Group News or the Directory.

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April 30 to May 1: Interstate Interest - Chapter represented strongly at the California Nevada Regional Conservation Committee at which our Chair, Jim Hines, was appointed co-chair of the important Wilderness Committee. Ventura Sierra Club rep Mike Stubblefield elected secretary and lobbied for creating a CA Sustainable Agriculture Committee (see story on page 6). Co-Legal Chair Fran Farina was also there.

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~ Compiled by Condor John Hankins

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The chapter did, however, have a presence in the Santa Ynez Valley which doesn’t conduct large Earth Day events if at all. But thanks to Arguello Group ExCom members Rebecca August and Rosemary Homes the late (May 21) event drew dozens of people signing onto our mailing list and petition for a new marine sanctuary.

Thanks to all members who staffed our booths, notably organizers Katrina Davis in Santa Barbara and Liz Lamar in Ventura-Oxnard and Jim Hines in Ojai.

We ENDORSE for June 7 ballot

See stories on pgs 4 & 5

Salud Carbajal, Congress, 24th Dist.
Julia Brownley, Congress, 26th Dist.
Henry Stern, State Senate, 27th Dist.
Monique Limón, Assembly, 37th Dist.
Christy Smith, Assembly, 38th Dist.
Das Williams, S.B. Supervisor, Dist. 1
Joan Hartmann, S.B. Supervisor, Dist. 3
Steve Bennett, Vta Supervisor, Dist. 1
Carla Castillo, Vta Supervisor, Dist. 3

Los Padres Group News

The public is welcome to our programs

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Executive Committee meets at 7pm on the fourth Thursday of every month, either in-person or by conference call. Email Secretary Gerry Ching for the agenda and details: gch@comcast.net

ARGUELLO GROUP

Chair: Carla Castilla, SB Supervisor, Dist. 3. Email Chair Katie Davis about the importance of voting for environmental candidates, noting oil and other polluting industries are heavily supporting others. Link is at: http://tinyurl.com/EcoVote

SANTA BARBARA GROUP

Chair: Mike Stubblefield. Office: 882-1468, mstubblefield@sierraclub.org

CONCEJO GROUP

Chair: Alex Pujo, Ventura. Contact: apujo@sierraclub.org

VENTURA NETWORK

Chair: Carla Castilla at www.carlacastilla.com.

CARL M. SEIDENSTICKER, Chair

430-6295

~ Outstanding Chairman's Award

~ Sustaining Membership

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~ Full editorial staff

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Carla Castillo endorsed

The Sierra Club is endorsing Carla Castillo for Supervisor of Ventura County’s District 3, which includes Camarillo, Port Hueneme, Naval Base, Santa Paula, Fillmore, Pine, Los Padres and parts of Oxnard.

“This is a key seat, a swing seat held for five terms by Kathy Long. Long is retiring,” said David Gold, chair of the chapter’s Ventura County political committee.

Carla has worked for Rep. Lois Capps and is currently the District Director for State Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson. “Carla is a really strong candidate due to her political skills,” Gold said. She blew away our interview committee with her detailed knowledge and passion about the full range of local environmental issues.

Not only that, she is the only candidate supporting the traditional SOAR measures, which the Sierra Club favors, while all the other candidates are backing “SustainableVC,” a competing measure funded by agricultural and development interests.

A Ventura native, she plans to fight for more jobs, water safety, environmental protection, safe neighborhoods, and preserving the quality of life for Ventura County families.

“Now our work is cut out for us … this will be a very competitive race that will make a huge difference for the future of Ventura County’s environment,” Gold concluded.

To help her win, go to: www.carlaestrella.com

We organized a rally to ban fracking from offshore oil platforms but the feds didn’t listen (see story on page 2). We’re not giving up. (Photo by Katrina Davis)

Danza’s Dozens – Big shout out to the inspiring teens and Sierra Club adults who worked tirelessly restore the earth by hand at Hedicr Ranch Nature Area, organized by Nina Danza.

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**WELCOME HIKERS**

The public is welcome to all outings listed, unless otherwise specified. Please bring drinking water to all outings and optionally a lunch. Study footwear is recommended. If you have any questions about a hike, please contact the leader listed. All phone numbers are area code 805, unless otherwise noted. Pets are generally not allowed. A parent or responsible adult must accompany children under the age of 14. A frequently updated on-line listing of all outings can be viewed at the chapter’s website: [http://lospadres.sierraclub.org](http://lospadres.sierraclub.org)

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**June 7**

**RAY MILLER TRAIL - POINT MUGU STATE PARK:** Moderate 5.4 mile hike with 700’ elev. gain. Fabulous ocean views, good switchbacks, up the first half of the hike, with a downhill return. Bring, water, food and lug-soled shoes. Meet in parking lot next to Freddy’s at the Shell Station off of Hampshire Road in Thousand Oaks no later than 8:45am for carpooling. Or meet at 8:30am at the La Jolla Canyon parking lot off of PCH (CA State Park lot with parking fee) next to the trailhead. [FONTAINE HOLMES 300-4950 (CJ)]

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**June 10**

**HAPPY CAMPION CANYON:** 10 mile hike in Happy Camp Canyon Park north of Moorpark off of an abandoned ranch road. The parking is in an important wildlife corridor linking the Simi Hills with the Santa Susana Mountains, and features oak woodlands and open grasslands in a sheltered canyon. 1,000 feet gain/loss. Bring hat, sunglasses, sunscreen, water, and lunch. Rain cancels. Meet at 8am at Fillmore Starbucks. [TERESA 524-7170 (VEN)]

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**June 11**

**SAN MARCOS FOOTBALL PREPARES FOR 2016:** San Marcos has a moderate 3.5 mile hike across the San Marcos Football Preserve, part of our Courier’s Park Preserve. We’ll explore the parts of the current trail system.

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**June 12**

**GORDOTA PEAK:** Walk past the hot springs, then up to a 2,400 foot peak for lunch and a sweeping coastal view. Long drive. Moderate 6.6 mi trail. Bring lunch and water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. [DIANE 455-6188 (SB)]

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**June 13**

**MONDAY MORNING WALK:** Meet at 8:30am at Mission Plaza shopping center in Ventura near Main St. or at 9am behind Ventura city hall at trailhead to walk uphill to the cross. For info, call PAT at 645-0270 (VEN)

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**June 15**

**SUNSET HILLS TRAIL:** Moderate 6.6 mi hike with approx. 750’ elev. gain. Bring, water, food and wear lug-soled shoes. Meet at 8am at the trailhead. Directions: north on the 23 Fwy toward Moorpark; exit at Mission Hills Blvd. turning right onto Sunset Hills Drive and continue to Erbes Road (about 1/2 mile); turn left onto Erbes and continue about 0.7 miles to the trailhead parking lot on your right. [MELANIE ASH 497-6773 (CJ)]

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**June 17**

**LA JOLLA VALLEY LOOP:** With a car shuttle: 7 miles with 2169’ cumulative elevation gain - moderate hiking pace. Start out going up the Chumash trail into the La Jolla Valley then looping around and coming back the overlook trail and ending up in La Jolla Valley via the Ray Miller trail. If you hike you get to see pretty much all of the La Jolla Valley and much of its surroundings. Meet at the Ventura carpool at Seaward and Harbor at 8am so that we can carpool to trail head. Park along Harbor Blvd. Hiking boots, 3 quarts of water, and snack/lunch required. Sunscreen, sun hat and insect repellent recommended. Extreme heat (above 85F) or rain cancels. [PHILIP & LORA 218-2103 (VEN)]

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**June 19**

**CATHEDRAL PEAK:** Start up Tunnel trail and brunch off onto Jesusita connector trail. Continue up primitive trail, steep and rocky in places, to Cathedral Peak. Lots of downhill hiking. Swellness 5.5 mi. Some agility required. Bring lots of water. Meet behind B of A as upper at Hope Ave. at 9am. [ALEJANDRO 898-1240 (S)]

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**June 21**

**ROMERO CANYON LOOP:** Hike up a trail with trees and a small stream then down an abandoned road with beautiful views where we will have lunch. Moderate 6 MRT. Bring lunch and water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. [ROBERT 685-1283 (SB)]

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**June 25**

**ESCALANTE RIVER BACKPACK:** Enjoy the stunning landscape of southern Utah on this backpack along 27 miles of the Escalante River and 10 miles of deep and narrow Harris Wash Creek. Side trips along the way will explore the narrow canyons and creeks. Arrive in the park on Wednesday, June 29th at the Escalante Interagency Visitor Center around noon MDT to get our free permit and latest route information. Then set up a car shuttle between the beginning at the Hwy 12 bridge and the end at Harris Wash Trailhead. Bring a daypack for the side trips and footwear appropriate for being in and out of the river all day. There is an option of ending the trip June 24 or 25. DAVID HARDY, 702 875-4826, email preferred: hndhiker@gmail.com. (S. Nevada Group/ CNRCC Desert Committee)

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**June 26**

**PLAT TRAIL TO VALLEY VIEW CAMP:** Catch the last breath of spring (or the first beam of summer’s) looking down on the Ojai valley. Round trip distance 6.6 miles, gain/loss 2,000 feet, end in cool shaded Valley View Camp. Wear hiking boots; bring 2 or more liters water, snacks, and sun protection. Meet 8am at Ventura carpool pond (Carson’s parking lot at Seaward and Harbor Blvd.) or 9am at Los Padres National Forest Trailhead parking (next to Stewart Cyn Debris Basin off Signal Street, Ojai). Contact: NINA, email: prettypatch@sweetleaf.com. [VIN]

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**July 3**

**SANTA YNEZ SWIM: (6 mile round trip with 400 ft elevation gain) Moderately strenuous hike follows road to and trail to Gibraltar Dam, then returns along the Santa Ynez River for a picnic and swim. Bring plenty of water, lunch and sun protection. It is most convenient to hike in your swimming suit. Wading shoes may be useful for river crossings in wet years. Meet behind B of A on upper continued on page 5
July 8

REYES PEAK (7,514’): This is a July 8 return to the main trail and back a spur to the top of Mugu Peak.

PIKE PEAK: Salute independence on land of the free and the home of the brave. August 4.

CHUMASH TRAIL TO MUGU PARK: Natural playground off West Camino Cielo. Some rock scrambling and agility required. Always a new route!

July 10

PLAYGROUND: Explore the labyrinth of boulders forming a natural playground off West Camino Cielo. Some rock scrambling and agility required. Always a new route!

July 13

FRANKLIN TRAIL: Moderately steep hike up to E. Franklin Peak. Moderate 6.5 mile round trip hike. Bring hiking shoes/boots, bring 3 liters water (required), snacks, and sun protection. DIFFICULT river crossing! Expect to wade through 18” water. Bring sandal, hiking shoes, and sandals for water crossings. Please do not come on this hike if you’re not comfortable hiking in the heat or in a creek.

August 27

RIO CUYO TRAIL: Easy to Moderate hike from Gaviota Hot Springs to Hot Springs trail head along a little-used loop from Gaviota Peak/Hot Springs to the Santa Clara River. No development, few people, offer great views of the Channel Islands and the coastline. Kid-friendly. August 27.

August 14

TREASURE ISLAND TRAIL: Easy to Moderate hike from Gaviota Hot Springs to Hot Springs trail head along a little-used loop from Gaviota Peak/Hot Springs to the Santa Clara River. No development, few people, offer great views of the Channel Islands and the coastline. Kid-friendly. August 27.

August 21

PIEDRA BLANCA: Strenuous 8 mile hike across the Sespe and up Piedra Blanca Creek, cross some rock and boulder scrambling to our favorite swimming hole. Much of the hike is along a remote sandy beach, so expect to get wet. Can be very hot in August, so bring at least 3 liters of water, sunscreen, and hat. Bring lunch, bring 2 liters of water, snacks, and personal first aid. Rain cancels. Meet behind B of A on State St. at Hope Ave. at 9:00am.

August 18

BIRCH CREEK CAMP: Strenuous hike up to E. Birch Creek Camp on Sespe Creek. 9 mile round trip hike. Bring hiking shoes/boots, bring 3 liters water (required), snacks, and sun protection. Difficult river crossings. Please do not come on this hike if you’re not comfortable hiking in the heat or in a creek.

August 19-21

FLYING WANDERER SHOWER in a dark sky area. We’ll probably have about 100 people camping in the widest part of the Black Rock Desert about 100 miles north of Reno. Expect a potluck, tours, and meteor watching. Sky will be pretty dark in this remote area and the meteors show up really well. Side trips to hot springs and other nearby hikes. GORBAN BOOK 755/841-6443 (Great Basin Group/CNREC/Desert Committee).

August 20

FLINT ROCK: Moderately steep 10.4 mile hike with an elevation gain of 1700’. Let’s check out the newly re-opened hiking trail, July 3-7. Some trails that offers great views of the Channel Islands and the coastline. We will hike at a moderate pace or about 2 miles an hour and stop halfway for lunch and snacks, returning to the trailhead between 4-5pm. This is a long hike and good physical condition is recommended. Under 18 must be accompanied by a parent. Wear hiking shoes/boots, bring 2 liters of water, snacks, and personal first aid. Rain cancels. Meet behind B of A on State St. at Hope Ave. at 9:00am. KRISTI Email: sbhikergirl@cox.net.

Water Fuller, the full-time volunteer “Steward of Ormond Beach,” shows a visitor information from his many displays. Ventura Sierra Club has signed on to help him out with equipment and leading hikes. See story on page 6. Photo by Nina Danza

OUTINGS... from page 4

State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. PAUL 886-1121 (SB)

July 3

CHUMASH TRAIL TO MUGU PEAK: Salute independence on land of the free overlooking our U.S. Navy Base. Moderate 4.5 mi loop hike with 1,100 feet elevation gain. Some steep climb for the first 1/2 mile, which is crowded with hikers and runners. Then leave the crowd behind and enter the scenic La Jolla valley for several miles. We’ll take a spur to the top of Mugu Peak for a refreshment break and then return to the main trail and back to parking lot. Total 2 liters water, snacks, and sun protection. Wear good hiking shoes. Meet at 9am across from the Navy firing range (northerly of Mugu Rock) at the free parking area. Contact: NINA, email: prettycheapjewelry@gmail.com. (VEN)

July 4

MONDAY MORNING WALK: Meet at 8:30 am at Mission Plaza shopping center in Ventura near Main St. or at 9am at Park and Bard in Port Hueneme. Bring a tote for trash tidy walk. For info, call PAT at 643-0270 (VEN)

EAE DDSPODS From the Sierra Club in actively supporting the 100th anniversary of our National Parks in 2016.

July 8

REYES PEAK (7,514’): This is a great hike in the summer, because at 7,514’ it’s usually cooler than the pine trees keep the trail shaded. There are many birds and maybe seals and dolphins offshore. See McGrath Lake, Santa Clara Estuary Natural Preserve, 25-ft high sand dunes. Bring snacks, water. Meet at 10am at the parking area along State St. and Hope at 8am. VICKI 635-4830 (SB)

JULY 17

RATTLESNAKE TRAIL, CANINE Hike: Hike up a wooded canyon with scenic views of 10+ mile. No. Moderate 4.5 mi. with 1000 feet elevation gain. Well behaved dogs encouraged. Leash your dog and water for your and your canine companion. Hikers without dogs welcome too. Meet at Bank of America parking lot at 3790 State at 8am. NOTE: EARLY START TIME. Hikes limited to five dogs - please call to reserve your dog’s place. Rain/cancels. SALLY 889-7820 (SB)

SANTA CLARA RIVER TO SOUTH GARDEN TRAIL: Sierra Club has permission this date to explore private lands andNatuna as part of the future Santa Clara River Parkway. We will be hiking a 1,500’ canyon with Christopher Creek. In the Conservancy, approximate distance 5 miles with 1000’ gain. Bring 2 liters water (required), snacks, and sun protection. DIFFICULT river crossing! Expect to wade through 18’ or deeper water 50’ across with very slippery bottom. Wading footwear such as flip flops are preferred. Meet at 9am at south end of Mission Rock Road (past Pick the Past, 950 Mission Rock Road, Santa Paula 93060). Contact: NINA prettycheapjewelry@gmail.com (VEN)

July 18

MONDAY MORNING WALK: Meet at 8:30am at Mission Plaza shopping center in Ventura near Main St. or at 9am at Ojai on Shelf Road trailhead to do large square for about 2 hours. For info, call PAT at 643-0270 (VEN)

July 23

THREE POOLS BEYOND SEVEN VIEW LOOP: A 4 mi moderate hike on the Tunnel View Trail and newly re-opened undercrossing. We’ll start on a short portion of the Trippass Trail, then onto the Tunnel View. Great views of the NW section of the park and1,000’ undercrossing and link up with the Ortega Trail. Return my way of the Ortega Trail. Meet behind the Bank of America parking lot at 9am. If you are coming from north of Santa Barbara, you can meet us at the trailhead. Call or email for instructions. Rain cancels. GERRY 964-5411, ghging@cox.net (SB)

July 25

MONDAY MORNING WALK: Meet at 8:30am at Mission Plaza shopping center in Ventura near Main St. or at 9am at Athletic Drive in Oak View to walk the new trail, for about 2 hours. For info, call PAT at 643-0270 (VEN)

July 29

ROMERO LOOP: Strenuous 11 mile loop with 2,400’ gain in Montecito. Enjoy beautiful views and lunch on a water tower. Moderate pace. Bring food, but at least one quart of water. Two toilets. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. ALEJANDRO 898-1240 (SB)

August 13

POLO CLUB - RESERVOIR TRAIL LOOP: Join us on this 4mi easy-moderate hike to the Summerland Reservoir. Mostly flat, but short steep sections. We’ll start from the Toro Cyn Creek trailhead on Via Real in Summerland just north of Toro Cyn Rd. We’ll package the Edlin Trail back of Summerland and connect with the Reservoir Trail to the reservoir where we’ll stop for lunch. We’ll return via the Reservoir and Polo Club trails. Meet at the Bank of America parking lot, Hope & State. GERRY 964-5411 (SB)

August 14

TREASURE ISLAND TRAIL: Easy to Moderate hike from Gaviota Hot Springs trail head along a little-used loop from Gaviota Peak/Hot Springs to the Santa Clara River. No development, few people, offer great views of the Channel Islands and the coastline. Kid-friendly. August 27.

July 31

BEAR CREEK CAMP: Hike to a swimming hole at Bear Creek Camp on Sespe Creek. 9 mile round trip hike. Probable hot weather but a relatively level trail with chances to cool off in the creek. Finish at a sand bar with a swimming hole and shade from cottonwood trees. A good all day adventure. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. Early start time SAM. DIANE 455-6818 (SB)

August 6

COLD SPRING EAST: (9 mile round trip with 2735’ elevation gain) Very strenuous hike to one of the most scenic front country trails to Camino Cielo. Optional loop at top adds 2000’ gain. Bring plenty of water, lunch and sun protection. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. PAUL 886-1121 (SB)

August 7

FIR CANYON: Long car pool to Dunken Dawn camp foreground Mnt. Steep hike up the most beautiful canyon in the area near to the top of Figueroa Mnt. Moderate 6.5 mile. Bring lunch and water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. ALEJANDRO 898-1240 (SB)

August 27

RIO CUYO TRAIL: Easy to Moderate hike from Gaviota Hot Springs to Hot Springs trail head along a little-used loop from Gaviota Peak/Hot Springs to the Santa Clara River. No development, few people, offer great views of the Channel Islands and the coastline. Kid-friendly. August 27.

August 28

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New laws protect Ormond Beach

"Ormond Beach is a designated Audubon Important Bird Area which indicates its global importance to wildlife conservation efforts as a unique and essential bird habitat."

From Oxnard city staff report

With that kind of professional testimony, the Oxnard City Council passed an ordinance that will protect Ormond Beach’s plants and animals by restricting harmful activities such as unleashed dogs, kite flying, camping, fires, private vehicles and trespassing into closed areas.

The importance of this ordinance is that Walter Fuller – longtime volunteer caretaker at the beach – and officials can now point out to visitors that any disturbance is the law, that ideally will be enforced. Pending is a future Memo of Understanding to improve enforcement between all entities to ensure priority is given to the protection and restoration of habitat.

Present at this May 17 council meeting was Carmen Ramirez, a long-time supporter of Ormond Beach包括 the Ventura Sierra Club. A fence-sitting discussion ensued that concluded with consultant comment from attorney Karen Kraus, who skillfully acknowledged the problems to the satisfaction of a vote in favor of the ordinance 4-1, with only Bert Perello opposed.

Oxnard Council Member Carmen Ramirez moved the recommended action for an ultimate safe public access management plan, "...although we do not have all the resources, this is essential to take at Ormond Beach." She also emphasized that, "The Nature Conservancy is an international organization that acquires property world wide, (and) is making its greatest investment in the world in Oxnard..."

A long-time supporter of the Conservancy’s vision that would make it a world-class habitat, Ramirez recognized Walter Fuller, whose personal quest to keep the area clean and protected evolved into being a trail and storage container at the gate where he resides.

Lately, the Ventura Sierra Club is pitching in to help Fuller with equipment and via “Clean and Green” guided nature walks, the first at 9:15am on June 5. "This is the first of a series of Ormond Beach Clean and Green hikes to be held as a benefit for Walter Fuller, resident docent of Ormond Beach. For a requested $5 donation, we will have a combined clean-up - nature tour,” said VSC organizer Nina Danza. Future hikes will be announced at:

EVENTS

June 12 - Green & Blue, A Coastal Celebration is the last chunk of 40 prime real estate with ocean of it have been donated or officially celebrated on June 4 of the Backbone Trail was an uninterrupted trail among National Parks

The Backbone Trail System

There must be a better way to grow our food without using damaging chemicals and pesticides, and member Mike Stubbefuck is determined to show the way. (Photo contributed)

Changing Ag methods

By Mike Stubbefuck

As a long-time gardener in the third largest agricultural area in California, I've always been fascinated by commercial agriculture.

But lately, I've become alarmed by some of its practices. Recently, my wife and attended a community meeting of hundreds of farmers, workers, and county and state Ag officials, to protest increasingly heavy aerial applications of chemical pesticides on fields, especially local schools and neighborhoods. I was shocked to learn that the "regulators" don't always regulate as well as they should.

I'm disturbed by many of the practices employed by commercial agriculture (farming, dairy farms and cattle ranching). That is why I decided to propose a statewide "Sustainable Agricultural Committee," under the aegis of Sierra Club California, to identify such threats to our environment, create alternatives to current practices and lobby the agricultural community or the legislature to change the way they do business. At the Sierra Club’s recent California-Nevada Regional Conservation Committee meeting, I introduced a resolution to form the new statewide committee and it was unanimously approved. Here are some initial issues we'll be tackling:

~ Health hazards to farm workers, nearby neighborhoods and consumers due to toxic chemical fertilizers and pesticides. There is a virtual lack of any rules regarding the use of these chemicals beyond "following the manufacturer's instructions [italics mine]," some of which also causes unhealthy or 'dead' soil.

~ The means by which crops are watered via inefficient and wasteful sprinkler systems instead of drip irrigation. Also, the inability of soil at commercial farms to retain moisture because there are no longer any organic nutrients in the soil, which in turn causes more contaminated runoff into adjacent land and streams.

~ The impact of increasing use of genetically modified seeds (many of them actually trademarked).

~ For dairy farming and cattle ranching, we consume so much that the herd is 93,000,000 strong! These critics consume enormous amounts of water and grain, and pose a serious threat to soil fertility. That's partly because both dairy and meat products have trace residues of heavy metals, drugs, fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides.

Animal waste at large dairy farms and ranches is often stored in "lagoons" chock full of chemicals and disease organisms. And the enteric emissions (belching and flatulence) from those 93 million cattle and cows are a major cause of global warming because it’s rich in methane.

~ Vehicles used in farming and ranching mainly use diesel engines, which emit far more NOx than gasoline engines. Farmers like diesel because it’s rugged, reliable, efficient and therefore cheaper to operate. But unlike virtually all street-legal vehicles, many farm vehicles have few or zero emission controls.

~ Overall, as currently practiced, agriculture in California is a threat to our air, water and soil, unhealthy for all of us, and it’s simply unsustainable.

The Sierra Club, the oldest and biggest environmental organization in the world, which began in and has its headquarters in California, is the logical organization to lead the fight for more sustainable agricultural practices.

We are now up and running. I invite those of you who share our concerns about this threat to join us. For more information, call me at (805) 216-2630 or email:

Armando Pena • 805-972-4525 • armando@roadrunner.com
Rethink flood control to recharge our water

By Nina Danza

Too small or too little is the new water reality.

Climate change means longer drier droughts and shorter rains. In Ventura and Santa Barbara counties (and in much of the US) the flood side of that reality needs to be used to help solve the drought side.

With every kind of development, more runoff gets into our rivers and is rushed to the ocean. There goes the water that’s supposed to replenish aquifers which is an irreplaceable part of our water supply.

So why do we rush streams and rivers to the ocean? In this new reality of fewer bigger storms, this is all the water we get. There isn’t another magic source.

You guessed it, that water needs to be contained for flood control. In this climate is certainly a no-sense paradoxical twist, we send the very water that we need away, do developments stay dry?

"In what is certainly now a senseless paradoxical twist, we send the very water we need away, do developments stay dry?"


How to change this losing game? Can the disconnect between land use decisions and flood control be resolved? Or maybe FEMA will be overhauled so taxes don’t keep bailing out those who live in disaster prone areas? Far enough. Even though there are rare successes in river stewardship (such as in Denver, Colorado), waiting for the flood control political correctness is foolishly.

Green flood control techniques are a better way to leverage extreme storms for water sustainability. These techniques are proven but highly underutilized. They slow and allow infiltration down flows to allow groundwater recharge. It means using rock in naturally placed arrangements, growing trees and plants to bio-filter urban contaminants, restoring wetlands to allow healthier water ecosystems. And maybe even welcoming back extirpated species as steelhead trout.

The problem with green flood control is usually figuring out how slower, sometimes larger flows can be accommodated if space is tight. The solution is working by other means such as buying floodplain land or elevating the buildings.

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The problem with green flood control is usually figuring out how slower, sometimes larger flows can be accommodated if space is tight. The solution is working

Please accept an immense thank you to everyone of you who contributed money to our annual March Appeal, making it possible for us to be catalysts of change. And a similar thank you to all who volunteered your time.

While we only ask you once per year, you can contribute anytime, and the simplest way is online. Just click on the ‘Donate’ link at our website: http://lospadres.sierraclub.org/

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The Sierra Club has been at it since 1892, saving Yosemite and the Grand Canyon, helping to secure passage of the Wilderness Act, Clean Air Act, Endangered Species Act and so much more. Your donations to the Los Padres Chapter stay local, funding the incredible work our volunteers are doing in Santa Barbara and Ventura counties, which includes hundreds of riparian outings per year and first-class activism keeping our air and water safe from threats like pollution, fracking, offshore oil drilling and undeveloped.

You may also contribute via a check to Los Padres Sierra Club, PO Box 31241, Santa Barbara, CA 93130-1241. To support our effective action programs (not tax-deductible), make a check out to “Los Padres Sierra Club,” and for a tax deductible donation, make it out to “Sierra Club Foundation.”

June/July 2016 • Canine Clip 7

Green flood control is the answer. We need to be willing to ask the tough question. Why aren’t there more green flood control projects?
What a deal...nature heals

By Jim Hines

Nature heals us and brings each of us back to a simple world where the strength and beauty of nature allows each of us to feel renewed and reconnected with life and ourselves.

There are times when I feel “down” and so I take a long walk in the Ventura River Preserve (western Ojai Valley) and once I am on the trail, so many positive feelings take over me, memories of hiking with my parents, the joys of exploring new trails and the feeling that I am part of the beautiful creation of our natural world.

The same values which make us great trail companions are also the same values which make us positive human beings. Treat the land and people with respect, fight for the protection of our great wild places and know that the call of the land is forever waiting for us.

Need a short unwind after a long stressful day at work? A quick beach walk will bring total relaxation and well-being to our souls. Life poses so... placed in focus, take a hike along any creek in Santa Barbara and Ventura counties and let your mind sort things out and heal itself.

Mountains, the Cheesboro Canyon Preserve and of course the numerous trails in the front country of Santa Barbara and Montecito.

After an experience hiking there one cannot leave the trail without feelings of the richness of life. It brings out, in me, feelings of happiness, joy, love, emotional strength, respect and a zest for life.

Yes, nature heals us. The world needs more people getting out to enjoy and appreciate nature.

Let’s go hiking!

Sierra Club California’s annual Channel Islands hopping trips has five left during the 2016 season and they are highly recommended by our Chapter Chair Jim Hines, and ‘Condor’ John Hankins, both of whom have participated.

Sierra Club Los Padres Chapter’s annual Channel Islands hopping trips has five left during the 2016 season and they are highly recommended by our Chapter Chair Jim Hines, and ‘Condor’ John Hankins, both of whom have participated.

Each one is a 3-day, 3-island, live-aboard cruise to our Channel Islands where you can hike the trails, kayak the coastlines, snorkel in pristine waters teeming with colorful fish, swim with frolicking seals or just relax.

The dates for the remaining excursions are: June 12-14, July 17-19, Aug. 21-23, Sept. 25-27 and Oct. 23-25.

All cruises depart from Santa Barbara. The cost, $650, includes an assigned bunk, all meals, snacks and beverages plus the services of a naturalist-docent to help lead hikes, point out items of interest and give evening programs.

For details contact leader Joan Jones Holtz at (626) 443-0706 or email: jholtzhln@aol.com.

GO SOLAR

The Sierra Club has partnered with Sungevity to make it easy and affordable for rooftop solar systems, and $750 will go to your local chapter. Get a free quote and details at: http://tinyurl.com/LosPadresSolar.

Tap solar app

By John Hankins

On the day that my solar panels were turned on (April 15) the top front page headline in the Ventura County Star asserted that electric power rates were going up.

On June 1 they did, SCE also replacing its 4-tier system with three tiers ... and that’s just the beginning as it’s estimated that such costs in California will rise 5-7% each year.

Excuse me if I yawn and tap my solar app showing that my modest 8-panel 2.4kW system takes care of about 80 percent of my electric rates. SCE now pays me and even with the loan to buy I’m paying less than ever.

But frankly, I get more of a kick knowing I am getting energy from the sun; it’s a fantastic feeling.

All thanks to the Sierra Club partnering with Sungevity, one of the top two in the nation. With a simple phone call, Sungevity can estimate how much you’ll save with federal and Sierra Club discounts (over $3,000); just go to: http://tinyurl.com/LosPadresSolar

When you do, reference this number for more money off: 2519826.