SANTA LUCIAN
Protecting and Preserving the Central Coast

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

Inside

Nov/Dec 2004
Volume 41, No. 10

November 16 @ 7:00 pm
No General Meeting in December. Happy Holidays!

Sprawling Towards SLO 7
Can the Governor Be Your Friend? 8
Eat Where You Live 10
Paddlers Corner 10
Outings 12

GENERAL MEETING
The Channel Islands Experience — see page 2
November 16 @ 7:00 pm

No General Meeting in December. Happy Holidays!

by Jack McCurdy

Five years after Duke Energy unveiled its plans to replace the aging Morro Bay power plant with a new, larger and more environmentally damaging facility, the final decision in the state regulatory process has been set for December 2.

What’s at stake: The future of the Morro Bay National Estuary, which would see up to one-third of its fish and crab larvae destroyed annually for the next 50 years if the new gas-fired plant wins approval (see “Stand Up for the Estuary,” page 3). Duke proposes to build a new plant next to the existing plant, erected in the 1950s, which would take about two years, and then remove the old plant, which would take about three years. Duke estimates the total cost at about $800 million.

The December 2 decision follows the California Energy Commission’s August 2 vote to license the proposed plant. The Water Board must now weigh the approval of a water discharge permit.

But while the CEC appeared to have made its mind up about the project design despite the assured destruction of billions of larvae and an evidentiary record that contradicted its decision (according to the CEC staff and the Coastal Alliance on Plant Expansion), at least some members of the Water Board have indicated they may not be sold on Duke’s plan.

Neither were the California Coastal Commission, the California Department of Fish and Game and the National Marine Fisheries Service, all of which opposed use of water from the Estuary for cooling and supported closed-cycle dry cooling, which uses no sea water. The board will be faced with reconciling Duke’s project with requirements under new Environmental Protection Agency regulations for existing plants like the one in Morro Bay, particularly with respect to performance standards and monitoring of any mitigation programs aimed at offsetting the killing of marine life. It will be a new test of the EPA regulations, which were finalized only a few months ago.

Stupid Feasibility Tricks

There is no dispute over Duke’s right to build a new plant on its 103 acres at water’s edge in Morro Bay. Duke insists it must use once-through cooling, withdrawing water from the Estuary and discharging next to Morro Rock in Estero Bay. It has vowed not to build dry cooling is the only cooling option it is given by regulators. Dry cooling, a form of closed-cycle cooling, employs a large bank of fans that use the sea air to cool fresh water recycled within the plant.

Duke and the CEC argue dry cooling is not feasible on the 20-acre site that Duke wants to use for the new plant because the dry cooling units would be too large. The CEC

continued on page 3

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VOTE VOTE VOTE VOTE VOTE

There’s ANOTHER Election Happening

Your ballot for our Chapter’s election for the Executive Committee is on page 4 of this newsletter. Express yourself; vote for the candidates whom you believe are most capable of governing the Santa Lucia Chapter of the Sierra Club. Cut out your ballot, vote, and send it in to the chapter office. Do it today! Your vote must be received at the Chapter office by December 6.

For this election, the two candidates who receive the most votes will be elected to three-year terms. The next two candidates (receiving the 3rd and 4th highest number of votes) will be elected to two-year terms. This action will effectively stagger terms of office so some terms on the ExCom will expire each year. Starting with the November 2005 election, all candidates will be elected to three-year terms as decided in the new 2001 Bylaws.

IMPORTANT VOTING INFORMATION

• Mark your ballots for no more than 4 candidates.
• Cumulative voting is not allowed. (More than one vote for one individual)
• Vote only one ballot per member. A second ballot is included for two-member households.
• Deadline for receiving ballots is by 5:00 pm on 6 December 2004 at the Chapter office.
• Enclose your ballot in an envelope and print your name and Sierra Club member number on the envelope. Send your name across the flap of the envelope. Thus:
  Printed Name
  Membership Number
  Signature

Mail to: Santa Lucia Chapter Elections Committee, P.O. Box 15755, San Luis Obispo, CA 93406. Or you may drop it by the office at 1204 Nipomo St. between 10:00 am and 4:00 pm. Your membership will be verified, then the ballot removed and separated from the envelope.

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ballot on page 4

The future is not yet written: We can stop another destructive power plant on Morro Bay.
Lying off the coast from Santa Barbara to south of Los Angeles, the string of eight Channel Islands has a powerful pull upon mainland observers. Sometimes they appear float above the water, sometimes they vanish in the fog, and on clear days they appear close enough to touch. Visit them, you’ll be on “island time.”

Because of their isolation, they maintain a plethora of endemic and endangered species and offer shelter to marine animals. However, many years of human influence have left their mark and introduced many changes. This program is about the northern Channel Islands. Courtesy of the Los Padres Chapter archives, we sail from Ventura to Anacapa Island, Santa Cruz Island, Santa Rosa Island, and San Miguel Island, with slides covering more than 50 years of exploration—an interpretive exploration of flora and fauna, geology, ranching history and research on and around the islands.

Our speaker, Rick Skillin, is Reserve Steward for the UC Santa Barbara Natural Reserve in San Luis Obispo. He is also chair of the Los Padres Chapter and active in the Great Coastal Places Campaign. Sierra Club members, friends, and the general public are invited. Refreshments will be served.

Tuesday, Nov. 16, 7:00 p.m.
Meadow Park Rec Center
San Luis Obispo
**Candidate Statements**

**Name:** John Burdett  
**Occupation:** Computer Systems Analyst, Cal Poly  
**Residence:** San Luis Obispo

I have lived in San Luis Obispo since 1952 and have worked at the Cal Poly Computer Center since 1980. A Sierra Club member since 1964 (I was signed up by my parents as a junior member at age 12), I am a second generation Sierra Club leader.


**Name:** Sarah Christie  
**Occupation:** Legislative Coordinator, California Coastal Commission  
**Residence:** Creston, Sacramento

I am running for re-election to the Santa Lucia Executive Committee because I am proud to be a part of one of the most active and effective Sierra Club chapters in the state. As Chair of the chapter's Political Committee, I am honored to work with a diverse group of activists and community volunteers who see the value of applying environmental values into electoral politics.

Although we are one of the smallest chapters in terms of membership, we are one of the most active and well respected statewide. By building effective networks with Sierra Club California and the National Sierra Club, the Santa Lucia Chapter has been able to leverage resources and establish credibility far beyond our numbers. We have joined Mothers for Peace in a lawsuit challenging the safety conditions at Diablo Canyon. We have sued State Parks in an effort to uphold the Endangered Species Act at Ocean Dunes. We have helped fund the acquisition of blue oak habitat in Atascadero. We have partnered with the Chumash to protect Native American cultural sites. We have supported CAPF's miraculous challenge to the expansion of the Morro Bay Power Plant. And we have a long and successful history of opposing the Hearst Corporation's various schemes to develop San Simeon Point and the North Coast.

**Name:** Susan Harvey  
**Occupation:** Business Owner, Infinite Functions, Inc.  
**Residence:** SLO County near Paso Robles

I am a founding member and current President of PasoWatch, a 503c non-profit corporation, formed to monitor land use and environmental issues in the Paso Robles area.

PasoWatch, in partnership with the Environmental Defense Center, sued SLO County under CEQA for issuing a Negative Declaration for David Weyrich's 800+ acres Santa Ysabel Development. PasoWatch is assisting the Atascadero Land Preservation Society in the acquisition of oak habitat adjacent to Stadium Park in Atascadero with Oak Mitigation Funds received from Weyrich Development as a result of the suit.

I was a candidate for the Board of Supervisors in District 1 in March 2004. I am particularly concerned about land use and planning issues and their impact on the environment. I have spoken before local, county, state and federal agencies on land use, environmental, safety and habitat issues. As a representative for PasoWatch, I was a strong proponent for including important biological, access, and oversight improvements in the Hearst Ranch Conservation Plan.

I am pleased to serve on the Chapter's Political Committee with a group of dedicated and well-informed activists. In serving on the ExCom, I wish to participate in this Chapter's strong commitment to activism for the benefit of our community and the worldwide protection of our environment.

My family and I have been residents of the County since 1975.

**Name:** Larry Houlgate  
**Occupation:** n/a  
**Residence:** n/a

I would like to serve on the Santa Lucia chapter ExCom. I am a long-time member of the Sierra Club, have participated in many of the Club's national outings, and strongly support the Club's attempt to oust George W. Bush from the presidency.

There are two kinds of environmentalists: (1) those who believe that the environment is a means to the promotion of animal physical and emotional health and (2) those who believe that preservation of the environment is an end in itself. I am the former kind of environmentalist. Therefore, I believe that preservation of healthy air, water and sufficient open space for growing crops for human consumption and provision of food and habitat (wilderness) for non-human animals is our first obligation.

continued on page 5
I have been a two-time candidate for the California State Assembly, past co-chair of the Democratic Central Committee, and chair of the 33rd District Democratic Assembly Committee. I should make it known that in my last campaign for State Assembly, I was not endorsed by the Santa Lucia chapter though I supported the entire Sierra Club political agenda. My opponent, Abel Maldonado, had an anti-environment voting record. The reason for my non-endorsement was I supported the state plan to increase housing opportunities for low- and moderate-income people in San Luis Obispo I stand by that position. The rich are benefiting from growth restrictions now in place, enjoying nice views mountain and ocean views. I favor an alternative model, one that allows for affordable housing but also protects clean air, safe water, and ample habitat for wildlife.

Name: Jack Morrow
Occupation: Retired chairman, Media Golden West, Inc.
Residence: Cambria

I would be willing to serve as Secretary for the Santa Lucia Chapter ExCom which I understand has been an open position for some time.

I served on the Executive Committee of the Long Beach Group (4500 members) for several years, holding positions of Membership Chair & Secretary/Treasurer. I also represented the L.B. Group on the Chapter’s Executive Committee. I am co-leader of the Sierra Club Task Force to organize a program for water issues with other local groups which I have organized. I represent the L.B. Group on the Chapter’s Executive Committee and other local groups which I have organized. I am also on the board of directors of the East/ West Ranch nature preserve in Cambria and serve as a docent for the Museum of Natural History in Morro Bay. I have led many Sierra Club outings in and out of state. My hobbies are hiking, camping, music, and writing, with my first novel soon to be published. I retired from my own business as Chairman of Media Golden West, Inc., a publishing and printing company.

Name: Karen Maldonado
Occupation: Clinical Social Worker
Residence: San Luis Obispo

It’s a great pleasure to offer my name in nomination for a position on the Chapter’s Executive Committee. When I was new to the area in the early 1990’s I joined the Santa Lucia Chapter in an effort to meet kindred spirits who treasure our environment, and to learn the trails into our beautiful wild places. I wasn’t disappointed. I soon became a hike leader, and then, in 1995, became a member of the ExCom. I served for two terms (four years) on the ExCom, and during my time as Secretary, I helped to establish a local office and staff for the Chapter, moving some of our work from living room floors to desks and shared spaces.

Name: Merriam Merriam
Occupation: Retired chairman, Media Golden West, Inc.
Residence: Cambria

For those who plan a year in advance, pencil in September 8–11, 2005, when the Sierra Club will hold its first-ever national environmental convention and exposition in San Francisco. The San Francisco Convention will bring together thousands of Club members and supporters and will feature three days of personal inspiration, networking, top keynote speakers, workshops packed with visionary ideas and practical how-to’s, star-studded entertainment, and an exhibition hall of cutting-edge products and solutions for living well and caring well for our environment.

The summit steering committee is seeking ideas and volunteers. Got suggestions? Go to: www.sierraclub.org/sierrasummit.

Taking the Fall at Diablo Canyon

by Andrew Christie

At 10:15 a.m. on Tuesday, September 28, 2004, the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant site was shaken by a 6.0 magnitude earthquake.

It happened less than a week after a California Public Utilities Commission judge refused to allow testimony filed on behalf of citizen, consumer and environmental advocates on the risks of continuing operation of a nuclear plant located 2½ miles from a major active earthquake fault.

The CPUC was in the process of determining whether it is in the best interest of PG&E ratepayers to replace the steam generators at the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Plant. This item was presented to the PUC by Pacific Gas & Electric with an estimated price tag of $700 million. Chump change. In terms of the real costs of this action, which would extend the operating life of the Diablo Canyon plant by twelve years, the fine print was so fine, it was invisible.

The San Luis Obispo Mothers for Peace, Sierra Club, Public Citizen, Environment California, and Greenpeace contend the costs of replacement of expensive aging components will boost the price tag considerably. The utility has previously dinged ratepayers for $4 billion in cost overruns at Diablo Canyon. If PG&E had been as candid for safer and more cost effective electric generation than Diablo can provide, it’s time to start planning an alternative model.

The CPUC convened on Tuesday morning with the summit steering committee seeking ideas and volunteers. Thank you for voting and for supporting your Chapter.

Help Plan Sierra Summit 2005

Now how much would you pay? Don’t answer yet...
Hearst Ranch: What Now?

The September 15 meeting of the State Coastal Conservancy on funding the Hearst Ranch Conservation Plan was essentially the end of the public review process for this controversial deal. In the lead-up to the vote, California Coastal Commission staff, the state Legislative Analyst’s Office, the Environmental Defense Center and the Nature Conservancy provided thorough independent analysis of the deal, pointing up the critical deficiencies in the plan’s terms of conservation, enforcement, and public access. More than thirty other local, state and national groups, the chair of the Joint Legislative Budget Committee, nine state legislators, the San Jose Mercury News, the Sacramento Bee, and eventually even the Tribune joined in the call for improvements in the terms of the conservation easement. The Sierra Club’s Great Coastal Places Campaign coordinated the mailing and delivery of 2,000 postcards and letters to the governor and state agencies calling for the same.

But in the end, the Hearst Corporation received much — self-auditing; no direct state oversight; no Coastal Trail at San Simeon Point, Ragged Point or Pico Cove; the right to extract and sell water without a water budget, etc. — and the public got little (see the September 20, 2004, New York Times: “Hearst Land Settlement Leaves Bitter Feelings,” www.nytimes.com/2004/09/20/national/20hearst.html). Adding in tax benefits and the profits from intensified agriculture, a hotel at Old San Simeon Village and the likely future sale of some or all of the permitted 27 luxury homes and demesnes, Hearst will probably realize upwards of $500 million in value from the deal.

Public pressure and grassroots lobbying were responsible for what improvements did get made. Under that pressure, the State Coastal Conservancy and the Wildlife Conservation Board made approval of public funding for the conservation easement contingent upon review and approval of a Baseline Conditions Report and Monitoring Protocol by WCB staff and the Department of Fish and Game; the resolution of concerns in the application of standards, and tested in the land use permitting process. We’ll be there.

Preserve Your Access to Hearst Ranch!

If you’ve ever hiked on the stretch of coast owned by the Hearst Corporation, you can be a vital part of the effort to preserve full public use of coastal trails and beaches, including San Simeon Point, Ragged Point, and Pico Cove, in a way that continues to preserve the natural resources of these areas. The public has used these trails and beaches for decades. Under California law, public rights to use the beach, trails, and other areas of coastal lands used by the public may be protected by the courts. To establish permanent legal rights to use these areas, it must be shown that the general public has made extensive open use of the land.

You can help legally preserve the public’s right to continue to access these wonderful areas:
1. Point your browser to www.santalucia.sierraclub.org/hearst/hearst.html
2. Click on the links to “declaration” and “maps”
3. Print, fill out and sign the declaration and maps
4. Fax and/or mail them to the Environmental Defense Center:
   Environmental Defense Center
   906 Garden Street
   Santa Barbara, CA 93101
   FAX (805) 962-3152

Ask your friends and fellow users of these properties to complete and send in the declaration to the EDC. The more they have, from various users, the better their chances of success.

You can also help by providing photographs, slides, news and magazine clippings, travel guides, or other evidence depicting or mentioning use of these trails by members of the public over the years.

San Simeon Point Memorial Kiosk

Royal Hodin
Sprawl I Want for Christmas

SLO Supervisors Tossing Holiday Gifts to Developers

Last August, Newsweek columnist Anna Quindlen wrote that concerns about drilling for oil in Alaska or global warming may resonate more on the national political stage, but “if you asked many Americans what is most devaluing the quality of their lives...” the answer would be sprawl. Since the beginning of September, the San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors has been setting up that game board. They have approved quadrupling the development potential on agricultural lands by “re-interpreting” the ag cluster ordinance, brushed aside protections for endangered species and any plan for habitat conservation in the update of the Estero area plan, and moved closer to approval of the rural planned development ordinance, a subdivision scheme that guarantees the development of otherwise unbuildable parcels and increases residential development in rural areas (see “How to Fix It,” right, and “The Land Use Plan from Hell”... September issue). The board has been in such a rush to lock in development at any cost before the coming of the new year and a potential shift in the growth-crazed board majority, it ignored the advice of its own attorney and violated the county’s general plan in order to accommodate developers seeking to make the Ag Cluster ordinance into a tool for even more development of the contiguous parcels are a part of the development... or not the contiguous parcels are a part of the development... or parcels that are contiguous to it and were held in common ownership on or after the effective date of this act, whether or before, the current Subdivision Map Act.

For the steam generator replacement project. The County of Napa may adopt ordinances to require, as a condition of the issuance of any permit or the grant of any approval necessary to develop any real property which includes in whole or in part an undeveloped substandard parcel, that the undeveloped substandard parcel be merged into any other parcel or parcels that are contiguous to it and were held in common ownership on or after the effective date of this act, whether or not the contiguous parcels are a part of the development...
How Did Arnold Do on Environmental Bills in 2004? First, let me give you a little background. He came into office saying “the environment? That will be no problem for me” or something to that effect. He went on to say he believes that a strong economy and healthy environment are not in conflict, which are nice words to hear from a Republican leader. When a group of representatives and the environmental community finally got to meet with him on August 11th, he said “I am your friend.” I wonder how many groups he has said that to! But, he Digests. He was a good listener as the various environmental advocates raised a variety of issues with him. On a few, he spoke out and agreed that these items should be priorities for the State.

Meanwhile, despite the fact that the State has the money to buy such land using voter-approved bond money. So his actions are not revealing him to be very “green.”

An example of how he is doing could be how much of his “Environmental Action Plan” he is implementing. This plan was devised when he was campaigning for Governor, its main author being Terry Tamminen, now Secretary of CalEPA. He was very big on the budget, the March election (big bond measure), worker’s comp reform, etc. this year, so he didn’t get too far

by Bill Allayaud, State Director
Sierra Club California

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An example of how he is doing could be how much of his “Environmental Action Plan” he is implementing. This plan was devised when he was campaigning for Governor, its main author being Terry Tamminen, now Secretary of CalEPA. He was very big on the budget, the March election (big bond measure), worker’s comp reform, etc. this year, so he didn’t get too far into the environmental issues. And, to be fair, this action plan was not intended to be finished in a year. We can look for him to introduce some kind of major initiative about housing and land use in his State of the State address in January. The hydrogens highway, one of his campaign promises, is not going away. Our hope is that he will become more of a leader next year, and make it “safe” for Republicans to support environmental bills.

By the end of August, the Legislature had put a number of environmental bills on his desk for signature. While there were no blockbuster pieces of legislation this year, there were some significant measures that we wanted him to sign. The result? A mixed record. Overall, his first year appears to be better than any recent Republican governor, but not as good as say Gray Davis’s first years as far as legislation is concerned. So, your lobbying team in Sacramento will continue to work with his administration, push him to be true to his Environmental Action Plan, expand that Plan, and bring his party along on environmental issues. It won’t be easy, given his fund-raising proclivities, the pressure from his party, and the philosophy of some of his key advisors. But, as David Brower said, “political are like weather vanes; our job is to make the wind blow.” We are pursing our lips....

Here is a summary of key bills that reached his desk. The author and our position is noted along with what the bill does or if he signed or vetoed it.

AB 923 (Firebaugh) Support. This raises significant new money for the Carl Moyer program, helping to reduce emissions of dirty diesel engines. SIGNED

AB 2042 (Lownenthal) Support. Prohibits air pollution at the Ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles from exceeding baseline levels. VETOED

AB 2683 (Lieber) Support. Will repeal the 1976 smog ruling, exception that applies to the Smog Check and Smog Check II programs; therefore, cars built after 1974 will never be exempt from smog regulations. SIGNED

SB 1478 (Sher) Support. Makes numerous changes to the California Renewable Portfolio Standards Program and the Renewable Energy Program. VETOED

SB 1648 (Chesbro - Sierra Club CA) Support. Reforms the management of Jackson Demonstration State Forest in Mendocino County. VETOED

SB 1369 (Kushl - Sierra Club CA) Support. Increases the requirement for defensible space from 30’ to 100’ in the most fire-prone areas of the state. SIGNED

SB 391 (Florez) Support. Requires the perpetrators of pesticide drift poisonings to compensate the victims. SIGNED

AB 338 (Levine) Support. Requires CalTrans to use increasing levels of rubberized asphalt concrete made from recycled tires. VETOED

AB 1369 (Pavley - Sierra Club CA) Support. Bans sale of gasoline with lead additives, requires replacement of lead emission control components, including catalysts, filters, and electric fuel pumps, by January 1, 2006. SIGNED

AB 2911 (Pavley) Support. Requires the sellers of cell phones to take them back from consumers for recycling. SIGNED

AB 2093 (Nakano). AB 2672 (Simmitan) and AB 471 (Simmitan) Support all three. These bills tighten up regulations for cruise ships entering state water for air and water emissions. SIGNED all three

AB 2055 (Wolk) Support. Would strengthen the open space element in general plans, including emphasis on agriculture, urban parks, and habitat issues VETOED

AB 2476 (Wolk) Support. Would have the Delta Protection Commission look at land uses impacts on key resource areas. VETOED

AB 2572 (Kehoe - Sierra Club CA) Support. Requires water meters to be installed in Central Valley cities not covered by last year’s bill, including the City of Sacramento SIGNED

AB 1459 (Alpert) Support. Restricts bottom trawling in State waters. SIGNED

AB 2600 (Laird and Leslie) Support. Creates the Sierra Nevada Conservancy. SIGNED

AB 2913 (Laird) This bill deals with desalinization of seawater and power plants. I included it here because added this particular bill was brought up at the CNRC meeting Oct 2-3 in San Luis Obispo. Turns out we opposed the bill in its early form, but dropped opposition when it was amended to only be a study. SIGNED

SIERRA CLUB CALIFORNIA was established in 1898 to represent the Sierra Club’s approximately 200,000 members and 13 chapters in California before the state legislature, state agencies, and the governor’s office. Visit our website at: www.sierraclubcalifornia.org. Please sign up to receive our web-based legislative action alerts at: http://cal-legalalert.sierraclubaction.org.
It’s the holiday season once again. In the over-stressed times we live in can we pause and do better to put thanks and love back into our holiday celebrations? The Sierra Club Sustainable Consumption Committee’s “True Cost of Food Campaign” will call our choice of food, now more than ever during the holiday season, affects our health, our health and what we leave as a legacy to our children and our children’s children. Let’s pause and think about where the food we eat came from and what cost to the environment. Please choose plant based, organic and locally grown.

What is Eco-Cuisine?

In his book, Eco-Cuisine: An Ecological Approach to Gourmet Vegetarian Cooking, author Ron Picarski writes, “Ecology is an awareness of the interrelationships between living organisms and their environment. Eco-Cuisine is about the human diet and its relationship to our personal health and the natural environment. We must begin to look at food as a route back to nature and a way to understand our connections with natural cycles. We need to live in harmony with nature and within our biological boundaries that are part of that natural system.”

A delicious cooked meal, especially if it’s shared with friends and family, provides nourishment for the spirit as well as the body. Food that is locally grown by organic farmers is healthy for our communities and local economy. Respecting the earth and its animals when producing and eating food creates the harmony that we seek in relating to each other and our planet and allows us truly to celebrate in a way that honors our earth and each other.

As Sierra Club members, we can lead the way. This year invite your friends, neighbors and family members to a low-impact, cruelty-free Thanksgiving Day meal that is mindful of its origins and the connections that bind us all to a sustainable planet.

Celebrating an Earth-Friendly Thanksgiving

This Holiday Season, Let’s Think About Our Health, Our Children’s Health and the Health of Our Planet

Eco-Friendly Recipe Ideas

(If you choose to offer a turkey to your family and guests, please avoid animal products, free of hormones and from certified Animal Feeding Operations (factory farms) and seek the “Certified Humane Raised and Handled” seal. For more information visit: www.certifiedhumane.com)

Tofu “Turkey” with Stuffing
Turkey: 5 pounds of firm tofu 1 pound of tofu for the “drumsticks” - optional Stuffing: 2 tablespoons toasted sesame oil 1 large onion, chopped fine 1 and 1/3 cup celery, diced (about 4 stalks) 1 cup mushrooms, finely chopped 3 to 4 cloves garlic, minced 1/4 cup sage (may use 1/8) 3 to 4 cloves garlic, minced 2 teaspoons marjoram 2 teaspoons thyme 1 teaspoon winter or summer savory salt and pepper to taste 1 teaspoon rosemary 2 teaspoons celery seed 1/4 cup soy sauce or tamari 3 cups Pepperidge Farm Herb Stuffing
Basting mixture: 1/2 cup toasted sesame oil 1/4 to 1/3 cup soy sauce or tamari 2 tablespoons miso 2 tablespoons orange juice 1 teaspoon vegan mustard of choice
Mash tofu or mix well with hands. Be sure that all of the lumps are out. Line a 12” colander with wet cheesecloth over lapping the sides. Add the mashed tofu to the cloth covered colander, press down and cover with the overlapping cheesecloth. Place the whole thing in a large bowl. Cover the cheesecloth with a plate that fits inside the colander and place a 5 pound weight on the plate. Refrigerate and let sit for 2 to 3 hours.

When time is up, start the stuffing. Saute the onions, celery and mushrooms in the 2 tablespoons sesame oil. When soft, add the garlic and all of the rest of the stuffing ingredients, except stuffing, mixing well. Stir and cook for 5 minutes. Add herb stuffing to tofu mix well. Remove tofu from frige and take off plate, weight and top of cheesecloth. Hollow out tofu to within 1 inch of the sides and bottom, placing the tofu in a bowl. Place the stuffing inside the shell and pack in firmly. Cover with the remaining tofu and pat down firmly. Turn stuffed tofu onto a greased baking sheet, flat side down. Gently press on sides of “turkey” to achieve a more oval shape. If desired at this point, you may mold “drumsticks” out of one pound of tofu, and place on each side of the “turkey”.

Mix up the basting mixture and baste tofu “turkey” with half of it. Cover the “turkey” with foil, and bake at 400 degrees for about 1 hour. Remove foil, baste with all the remaining mixture except a few tablespoons and place to oven for 1 hour more, or until the “turkey” is golden. Remove from oven and use rest of basting mix. Using at least 2 large spatulas, move to a large plate. Serve with the gravy of your choice, if you wish, and cranberry sauce.

Zesty Cranberry Sauce
2 cups fresh or frozen cranberries 1/2 cup undiluted orange juice concentrate 2 ripe pears, finely chopped 1 medium apple, finely chopped 1/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon 1 teaspoon grated orange rind 1/2 cup raw sugar or other sweetener
Combine all ingredients except sweetener in a saucepan, and bring to a simmer over medium heat. Continue cooking, uncovered, until cranberry skins pop and mixture thickens slightly, about 10 minutes. Add sweetener to taste. Serve hot or cold.

Harvest Veggie Pie

* 1 Red Bell Pepper chopped fine * 1 Tbs Thyme * 1 Bunch Scallions/Green Onions chopped fine (or 1 head leek chopped fine) * 8 Cloves Garlic chopped fine * 1-1/2 cups vegetable broth * 1 cup soymilk * 1 cup raw sugar or other sweetener * 1/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon * 1/2 cup brown sugar * 1 acorn squash * 1/2 cup dry raw corn * 1/2 cup dry or frozen asparagus, chopped * 1/2 cup chopped carrots * 1/2 cup chopped broccoli * 1/2 cup chopped brussels sprouts * 1/2 cup chopped red cabbage * 1/2 cup chopped red onion * 1/2 cup chopped green onion

Take the squash out of the oven, face up, and fill the cavities with the apple mixture, add a pat of margarine to each and top with a shake or two of nutmeg as taste dictates. Cover very lightly with foil, and bake until the apples and the squash are soft and cooked, approximately another 1/2 hour.

Bulgur Pilaf

* 2 Cups Bulgur Wheat * 1/2 Cup Raw Sunflower Seeds * 2 1/2 Cups Vegetable Broth

Bulgar Pilaf

* 1/2 cup raw wheat berries * 1 cup water * 1/2 cup toasted sunflower seeds

Bulgar Pilaf

* 1/2 cup quick oats * 1 cup water * 1/4 cup raw sugar or other sweetener

Harvest Veggie Pie

Serves: 3-4.

Corn Chouder

* 1 tablespoon oil * 1 onion, chopped * 2 cups water * 2 stalks celery and 2 carrots, chopped * 2 17-ounce cans vegan creamed corn

Corn Chouder

* 1 cup soymilk * 1 potato, chopped * 1/2 teaspoons garlic powder * 1/2 teaspoon red pepper flakes * salt and pepper to taste

Serve. Serves: 4

continued on page 10
Eat Local, On Line
by Susan Coward

The Neighborhood Produce eXchange ("NPX") will be an online resource. Home gardeners will use the NPX web site to create a profile for themselves and register their excess produce. The information will go into a database which will be accessed by other members using the web site. The database will offer contact information, and will be searchable by various criteria, including neighborhood zone, produce category, growing method, and grower.

For example, a resident of the Old Town area of SLO could locate a source for tomatoes grown without commercial fertilizers within walking distance, while offering oranges and persimmons to others. Other items could also be registered, for example, seeds or plants to trade, cut flowers, etc. A volunteer will serve as Project Manager. The site will be a model for other communities, and details of the completed program will be made available to those interested in starting a similar program in their regions.

Participants may also choose to join coordinated backyard exchanges, where people bring their extra produce for trading. We hope all people will be able to assess the value of their foods to allow for fair exchange. However, if the initial month of the program shows flaws in this system, we will move to a script system with point values assigned to each product.

An online bulletin board will also be available for people to share ideas and information. The NPX will be a great way to meet neighbors, eat well, and have some fun contributing to a community project.

Volunteers are needed. Volunteers will receive acknowledgment online and in media releases, letters of reference, and sincere gratitude from other participants. Volunteer opportunities: Database design and building, web design, Public Relations & Outreach.

To volunteer or be put on the project update e-mail list, please contact volunteer project manager Susan Coward at ‘susan@mrcoward.com’.

Compost!

A compost pile must be of sufficient size to permit rapid dissipation of heat and moisture, yet small enough to allow good air circulation. The minimum dimension to keep sufficient heat in the pile is 3 feet x 3 feet x 3 feet (1 cubic yard). The maximum dimension to allow air to diffuse to the center of the pile is 5 feet x 5 feet x any length. Some composting bins add insulation to adjust for smaller size or forced air to compensate for larger size.

Go to www.digitalseed.com

Another Concert-Quality Outing
by Jack Beigie

It is always a pleasure to paddle in Morro Bay Estuary, but when you can paddle with friends, enjoy a good picnic lunch and listen to music at a Mozart Festival Fringe Concert you have a very special outing.

The tide was full and the wind was at our backs as we paddled to Baywood. We beached our boats near the pier and sat on the sand with a good view of the concert. This year we had a fiddle, a bodhran drum. They played Irish & American folk music and a few classical pieces.

Promptly at 1:00 the MC said that the tide was falling fast. All of the other boaters were going to launch the State Park Marina. We had to avoid the shallows off of Los Osos back. There is something wrong with people. We all drove off with songs.

Checking the outing schedule and join us on the water.
**45th Annual Sierra Club Anniversary Dunes Walk**

Come rain or shine, storm or a beautiful hiking day, our walk will take place. This is the 45th year, for the now famous Annual Anniversary Nipomo Dunes Walk of the Santa Lucia Chapter of the Sierra Club. This walk has annually celebrated the founding of our chapter on the first Saturday in January since 1961 (except when it falls on New Year’s Day). The leader of that first walk was a young environmentalist who was called “The Lady of the Dunes” due to her efforts to save the dunes from a PG&E plan to build a nuclear power plant in the heart of the fragile, scientifically rare natural resource wonderland at Oso Flaco. Kathleen Jackson Jones led this walk almost every year since 1961. This year we will walk with fond memories of Kathleen.

Come and help us celebrate our chapter’s history at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, January 8, in the Oso Flaco Lake parking lot! Coming from the north, take Hwy 1 south from Pismo Beach, approximately 10 miles. As you drive down off the Nipomo Mesa, watch for a sign on the right reading “Oso Flaco Lake Road,” turn right and continue 3 miles. The road ends in the parking lot.

Coming from the south, take Main St. in Santa Maria toward the ocean, turn right on Hwy 1. Drive slowly through Guadalupe (25 mph), cross the Santa Maria River and continue approximately 3 miles. Watch for a sign on the right reading “Oso Flaco Lake Road,” turn left and continue 3 miles. The road ends in the parking lot.

Plans have been made for short, medium and long walks. Carpool if possible. There is a $4 parking fee. Bring a picnic lunch, binoculars, a camera, if you wish, and warm, snug clothing (a woolen cap is good). The dunes may have winter breezes.

Call Jack Beigle for more details, 773-2147.

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**Get your Trail Guide today!**

Name _______________________________________________________
City, State & Zip _____________________________________________

Make check payable to “Sierra Club Trail Guide” and mail to:
Sierra Club Trail Guide
P.O. Box 15755, San Luis Obispo, CA 93406
Phone orders, call Bonnie Walters at 543-7051

**Order your 2005 Sierra Club Calendar Support your chapter!**

The 2005 Sierra Club calendars are now available, and they are gorgeous. Your purchase goes directly to fund- ing the Santa Lucia Chapter’s efforts for land, water, and our quality of life in San Luis Obispo.

- Wildness wall (spiral bound, picture every month) $12.50 $15.50
- Engagement (spiral bound, picture every week) $11.50 $14.50

Calendars can be mailed or picked up at Sierra Club office, 10-2, M-F (Andrew, 543-8771) or picked up in SLO any time (Bonnie, 543-7051)

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**Yes, I would like to help the Santa Lucia Chapter of the Sierra Club preserve precious lands on the Central Coast**

by making a donation the Sierra Club Morros Preservation Fund, and/or SLO Land Preservation Fund.

- Morros Preservation Fund
- SLO Land Preservation Fund

I have enclosed: $50 $100 $250 $500 $1000 Other: ______

Please make your check payable to:
Sierra Club Foundation Morros Preservation Fund, or
Sierra Club Foundation SLO Land Preservation Fund

Name _______________________________________________________
Address ____________________________________________________
City _____________________________ State __ Zip ___________

Mail your contribution to:
Santa Lucia Chapter of the Sierra Club
P. O. Box 15755, San Luis Obispo CA 93406

Donations are tax-deductible.
hike with 600 foot elevation gain. Everyone is welcome but beginners will fall behind due to elevation gain. Meet at the visitor center in Montana de Oro State Park. Continental rain cancellations. Details call Leader Al at (534-0462) (3C).

Sun., Dec. 5, 9:30 a.m., DANA ADOBE: Meet at site on OakGlen in Nipomo. Easy hike. Confirm a few days before at 929-3647 or bdennen@slonet.org.

Sat., Jan. 9, 9:00 a.m., NEW YEARS MUSSELS: Come take this 26th annual hike with Bill Demmen to the top of the highest dunes. Meet at end of West Main on the beach. Bring lunch, water, binoculars, inspirational reading. Dogs on a leash permitted at this time of year. It is out and back so you can turn around anytime. Confirm: 929-3647 or bdennen@slonet.org.

Sat., Jan. 2, 9:30 a.m., DANA ADOBE: Meet at OakGlen in Nipomo. Easy hike. Confirm a few days before at 929-3647 or bdennen@slonet.org.

Sat., Jan. 13, 9:00 a.m., 45th Annu- al Sierra Club Anniversary Hike at Oso Flaco Lake. Come and take an easy, moderate or long walk on this 45th annual celebration of our Sierra Clubs first official hike in the dunes. There will be hikes for all ages and fitness levels. Meet in the Oso Flaco Lake parking lot and hear stories of the early days of our chapter. Carpooling is advised as there is a $4.00/car parking fee. For details call Jack Beigie (773-2147).

Sat., Jan. 8, 9:00 a.m., 45th Annu- al Sierra Club Anniversary Hike at Oso Flaco Lake. Come and take an easy, moderate or long walk on this 45th annual celebration of our Sierra Clubs first official hike in the dunes. There will be hikes for all ages and fitness levels. Meet in the Oso Flaco Lake parking lot and hear stories of the early days of our chapter. Carpooling is advised as there is a $4.00/car parking fee. For details call Jack Beigie (773-2147).

Outings and Activities Calendar

This is a partial listing of outings offered by our chapter. Please check the web page at www.santalucia.sierraclub.org for the most up-to-date listing of activities.
Duke
continued from page 1
staff, with 30 years of expertise in the field of power plant design, testified that Duke deliberately proposed units that are too large to be feasible. Although the units Duke proposes would be able to cool at average temperatures of 85 degrees in Morro Bay, the CEC staff documented that the temperature in Morro Bay exceed degrees on average per cent of the time. Smaller units would do the job just fine.

Duke and the CEC argue that the units would be “representatively costly,” that is, unreasonable in terms of the benefit (avoiding killing marine life). Duke estimated the cost to be $200 million. The CEC staff and a Water Board consulting firm estimated the cost to be in the $50 million range because the size of the units should be smaller than Duke contends.

About $110 million of Duke’s $200-million estimate, according to Duke testimony, would go to moving supporting facilities around the existing plant to allow it to operate, generating electricity and reducing revenue while the new plant is being built with dry cooling units. But two units of the old plant have now been shut down because they are too costly to operate, and the remaining two units are expected to cease operating by the time you read this. If the plant is mothballed, as is now likely, there will be no revenue stream or operating plan to protect, hence no $110 million expenditure needed, and more than half of Duke’s estimated cost disappears.

More is More

All the agencies, including the water board staff, agree that a new plant would cause a significant adverse impact on estuarine marine life, ranging from 16% (as per the CEC to 33% (as per the marine scientists consulting to the regulatory agencies). The CEC staff concluded that this would cause “peak and juggling numbers to avoid dry stack emission levels and juggling numbers to avoid dry stack emission levels.” The Coalition for Closed-Cycle Cooling, which the Santa Lucia Chapter’s Executive Committee endorsed last year, has also made a strong case that Duke’s proposed new plant will exceed 84 degrees only three percent of the time.

California Sierra Club has joined the statewide Coalition for Closed-Cycle Cooling, which the Santa Lucia Chapter’s Executive Committee endorsed last year. The Coalition opposes use of seawater for cooling coastal power plants (“once-through” cooling) because of the heavy toll this takes on marine life and the environment. Closed-cycle cooling is the superior environmental alternative.

At its October 4 meeting at Rancho El Chorro, the Club’s California Nevada Regional Conservation Committee (CNRCC) voted unanimously to adopt a resolution submitted to the Chapter “to encourage and support state regulatory agencies and decision-makers to make protection of our marine environment a top priority by requiring closed-cycle cooling for coastal power plants.” CNRCC has primary responsibility for determining Club policy on California conservation issues.

The Coalition, founded by the Coastal Alliance on Plant Expansion, has also been joined by the San Diego Health Coalition with more than 30 groups, and the SLO Coastal Alliance with more than 20 groups. The Coalition was formed primarily to marshal support for requiring closed-cycle cooling for the proposed new Duke Energy power plant in Morro Bay, but the Coalition will oppose use of seawater for cooling at other proposed new and replacement plants elsewhere along the coast.

Here is the resolution endorsed by the CNRCC.

WHEREAS, millions of young fish, larvae, eggs and invertebrates as well as in some cases damage ecosystems of fragile bays and estuaries, if allowed to destroy marine life in ocean water diverted into plants for cooling.

WHEREAS, estuaries and bays are resident and nursery habitat for fish stocks on which the commercial and sport fishing industries depend, are the source of about 75% of the fish and shellfish that are harvested and supply the seafood industry, which has annual sales of more than $800 million a year.

WHEREAS, relatively new technology called “closed-cycle” cooling, which uses no sea water for cooling, would eliminate power plant impacts on ocean resources by removing the need to use “once-through” cooling, which depends on coastal waters for cooling the plants.

WHEREAS, closed-cycle cooling is feasible, cost effective and far superior to alternative measures that would compensate for killing fish with habitat restoration, plans, according to California Energy Commission and California Coastal Conservation Association.

WHEREAS, support for closed-cycle cooling as a prevention strategy to avoid marine impacts before they are allowed is growing across the nation, marked by a flurry of appellate court decisions, recently resulted in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency requiring all newly-designed plants to use closed-cycle cooling.

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the California Nevada Regional Conservation Committee will encourage and support state regulatory agencies and decision-makers to make protection of our marine environment a top priority by requiring closed-cycle cooling for coastal power plants.