August 2005
Volume 42, No. 7

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GENERAL MEETING
No meeting in August - come to the Picnic!

Sierra Club Annual Picnic August 20
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The official newsletter of the Santa Lucia Chapter of the Sierra Club • San Luis Obispo County, California

Slouching toward SLO
The Rigs Are Coming

WHERE’S ARNOLD? - page 5

Our Nuclear Summer

This summer, the opinion and letters pages of the Tribune have hosted a series of eyebrow-raising claims from representatives of the nuclear power industry -- that exposure to radiation may actually be good for you; the spent nuclear fuel generated by a plant over its lifetime can “fit nicely inside a swimming pool,” therefore making it an insignificant problem; spent fuel reprocessing can “resolve the problem of nuclear waste,” the high-level radioactive waste left after reprocessing of nuclear fuel rods safely “plowed into the ground,” nuclear power is economical; the federal funding and coastal communities opposed its inclusion. During the last Congress, Congresswoman Capps was successful in passing an amendment to strip the same language from the House bill. “For more than 20 years, the Administration and Congress have made their view clear – we ought not to jeopardize the sensitive areas of the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) with new oil drilling,” Capps said. “Make no mistake, this ‘inventory’ and pre-drilling activity would be the first step in launching an all-out assault on our coastlines, putting thousands of communities at risk of assault on our coastlines, putting thousands of communities at risk of environmental and economic disasters.”

The “inventory” is also unnecessary and expensive. The Minerals Management Service already conducts a survey every five years, the latest published in 2003. That assessment reported that 83 percent of the nation’s undiscovered, economically recoverable natural gas on the OCS is located in the Central and Western Gulf of Mexico, where drilling is allowed and underway. MMS data also shows that a new OCS “inventory” could cost billions in taxpayer dollars. On June 28, the federal bill was passed by the Senate with virtually nothing in it to lower our dependence on oil, funneling billions of taxpayer dollars to polluting energy industries, and giving the green light to opening our coastlines and to destructive oil and gas activities.

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Morro Bay Hunt Decision Aug. 18-19
Fish and Game Commission meeting in SLO

After multiple efforts over many years to get the shotguns out of our estuary and off the doorstep of a bird sanctuary, San Luis Obispo may be on the verge of persuading the state to curtail the archaic waterfowl hunt in the Morro Bay National Estuary. Though “no hunting” ordinances are in effect in every city in the County, the waters of Morro Bay not within city limits are under the jurisdiction of the California Department of Fish and Game, which has traditionally bowed to the hunting lobby in permitting the ongoing hunt in the estuary, the smallest in the National Estuary System. It has continued even as the population of the hunters’ primary target plummeted, the city of Morro Bay declared itself a bird refuge, development extended to the water’s edge, and hiking, bird watching and kayaking have steadily increased in the same areas where the hunters hunt. Late last year, a grass-roots peti-

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Thanks, Audubon!
The Morro Coast Audubon Society has weighed in against the Morro Bay estuary hunt, asking the California Fish and Game Commission to observe the same types of restrictions observed in National Wildlife Refuges and Wildlife areas in the state of California and close the estuary’s grassy islands to hunters and the general public. A copy of Audubon’s letter provided to the Morro Bay City Council doubtlessly was a factor in the City’s decision to seek these restrictions from Fish and Game.

continued on page 5
Land Grab Alert!

On June 28, the Board of Supervisors considered the Rural Planned Development ordinance. This is a heavily developer-influenced proposal that would destroy the few good land use policies we have left in our General Plan, allowing new subdivisions that will not have to meet the minimum parcel size requirement.

- No joke: If you live in an area where 20 acres is the minimum parcel size, if this ordinance passes, your neighbor will be able to subdivide down to 1-acre parcels.

The RPD would allow developers to build housing on farmland and open space. Not surprisingly, the RPD was drafted in private, with no public participation. It is an end-run around a three-year-old state law that halted sprawl development allowed by low lot adjustments.

Overwhelming disapproval of the plan in public testimony made it impossible for the Board to approve a hugely expensive Environmental Impact Report, much less a Negative Declaration (certifying the plan would have no impacts) and move the RPD along. The public told the Board loud and clear that this ordinance should not go forward in any form, but instead of killing it, the Board voted to send it around to local advisory councils, thereby keeping it on life support.

In public comments, several pointed comparisons were made to the fate of the Transfer of Development Credit (TDC) program, which was supposed to direct development pressure away from the county’s rural lands and toward existing development, but has ended up doing the opposite. (The Board has yet to adjudicate the Planning Commission’s recommendation to terminate the TDC program.)

Watch the agenda of your community advisory council for the rest of the year: When the RPD ordinance comes up, be sure to show up and say you want the plug pulled on the RPD, pronto!

Some talking points:
- The RPD would result in the subdivision of parcels as small as one acre in agricultural and rural areas.
- The County should not be wasting our money on policies that create more urban sprawl.
- The County Ag Commissioner has rejected this ordinance because of its impact on agriculture.
- The Planning Commission staff report has identified significant impacts to biological, agricultural and scenic resources, as well as air quality and emergency response.
- This ordinance will deal a fatal blow to the General Plan by exempting certain subdivisions from minimum parcel size restrictions.

This effort was hijacked early on, the language of the ordinance developed in private by development interests who stand to profit from it. It is not appropriate to let developers write country land use law.

- Rather than spend an estimated $500,000 in taxpayers’ money on an EIR for this misguided effort, we should move on to more important things, such as reforming the TDC program, implementing the open space policies of the Ag and Open Space Element, and amending the Subdivision Map Act.
Nipomo Circling the Drain

On May 10, the County Board of Supervisors heard testimony on whether the County should declare a “Level of Severity III” water shortage for the Nipomo Mesa. It was a classic case of the desire for development coming up against reality on the ground: Nipomo has discovered the limits of growth – in this case, a plummeting groundwater table – and developers are desperately trying to get around them.

The water in the ground cannot support Nipomo’s existing development. A supplemental water program alone will not solve the problem as it would simply enable still more development – beyond the land can support. (Although it won’t even do that, since the proposed supplemental water project would not make up the current groundwater deficit.)

At the meeting, the Chapter agreed with the Nipomo Community Services District, the Water Resources Advisory Council, the Resource Capacity Study, and the Resource Management System, all of which told the Supervisors one thing: Reject the supplemental water proposal for new development, endorse conservation, and declare a Level III water shortage for the Nipomo Mesa.

Reality, however, could inconvience developers, as such a declara-

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Eat What You Know

By Mark Phillips and Mike Zelina

The arguments in favor of labeling genetically modified foods — also known as GE (genetically engineered) foods and GMOs (genetically modified organisms) — are so obvious it seems silly pointing them out. Numerous polls indicate that most folks want labeling in order to have legitimate control over what they eat. Without labeling, there is no way to ascertain whether the GE products most of us have been consuming for years have long-term health effects (since no long-term human study on the health effects of GM foods has ever been done). A study of that sort would have to come from among the 15 nations that are now part of the European Union. Japan, South Korea, Thailand, Australia, New Zealand, and China, since those countries do have GE labeling.

The beneficiaries of no labeling in the U.S. are agribusiness companies like Monsanto, Syngenta, and Bayer Crop Science who make GMO crops. They know that labeling would cut their profits considerably (perhaps even destroying the entire practice of seed control). Since they have an obligation to their stockholders to provide the highest possible return on their investments, they will continue to adamantly oppose any such federal legislation. Working at the local level, the folks at SLO GEFree (www.SLOGEFree.org) have made efforts to provide for labeling. Thanks to SLO GEFree, the North Coast Advisory Council (NCAC) has formally requested the Cambria Farmer’s Market to ask its vendors to label their products so that customers will know if they’re buying locally grown genetically engineered produce.

The North Coast Farmers Market Association, with markets in Templeton, Paso Robles, Atascadero and Baywood, decided to allow voluntary labeling. Hopefully folks will stand up to see the beautiful GE-Free butterfly at more and more stands. Support those vendors who display it and mention it to those who don’t. On the County level, SLO GE Free has drafted a resolution that urges our state and federal representatives to support labeling efforts, in particular Dennis Kucinich’s HR 2916, The Genetically Engineered Food Right To Know Act. Our draft resolution was formally presented to the board of supervisors on June 14th. The Board has stated that it will not take action on this resolution until after it hears from the two task forces that have been set up to look into GE issues. We have contacted both the Agriculture Task force and the Health Commission task force and will address them soon. After they return their recommendations (if any) to the Supervisors we will be in a position to go back and ask again that they place a discussion of our resolution on their agenda.

One ray of hope in this battle to “know what we eat” comes from understanding the history of existing food labels. Industry fought just as hard to avoid the labels we now have. Allow these labels some fame. Help protect against a firestorm of blame, predicting Cambria would burn to the ground if they didn’t get their proposal approved immediately. In fact that they have a permit, they are appealing the lawsuit against the Coastal Commission and the County that they lost on every count. And they are moving ahead with condemnation proceedings for property they no longer need.

At press time, a legal conference between the parties was in the offing, so by the time you read this the state Attorney General may have prevailed on the board to drop the case. If so, it’s some $500,000 too late for Cambria ratepayers. If not, then the CCSD is still doing everything but protecting the citizens of Cambria – and might suggest to their elected officials that they stop wasting the ratepayers’ money on frivolous lawsuits, lobbyists and expensive private law firms and build the tanks. The DVD Stop Feeding Kids GMOs is being distributed by the Sierra Club National Agricultural Engineering Committee. The audio CD You’re Eating WHAT, a lecture by Jeffrey Smith describing the health risks of genetically modified foods and how industry manipulation and political collusion got them approved, is available free for wide distribution. Go to www.seedsofdeception.org or call 1-888-777-7700.
Stars Aligning for Central Coast Marine Reserves

After the passage of the Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) in 1999, it looked like California was going to be able to use a powerful new tool — no-take marine reserves — to protect sea life in its coastal waters from the rampant exploitation that has resulted in crashing fisheries around the world. The Merritt Island refuge off Florida’s Cape Canaveral has had spectacular success since barring the take of fish or other resources, with world-record size fish found inside its waters and within 100 kilometers of its boundary area. St. Lucia’s no-reserve has seen a 300% increase in biomass inside its boundaries and a 200% spill-over just beyond, with fishermen seeing up to 90% increases in their catch since it was established.

Then, shortly after the creation of the Channel Islands Marine Reserve in 2002, the state budget crisis hit, and the MLPA fell into disuse. Now, thanks to foundation funding partnerships and a commitment from the state, the MLPA and Marine Protected Areas are back on the front burner. A Blue Ribbon Task Force of the Department of Fish and Game has picked the Central Coast as the region where the state’s next set of reserves will be created. The Fish and Game Commission could adopt a Master Plan Framework for the creation of Marine Protected Areas as early as August.

For the Sierra Club and many other water quality and marine wildlife groups, the consensus is that the best possible area to study for the location of future Central Coast MPAs are the state waters between Pigeon Point and Point Conception. Pigeon Point would be a logical northern boundary because it contains the majority of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, fostering a stronger partnership between those Federal and State agencies charged with protecting marine resources. Point Conception as a southern boundary connects with the Channel Islands Marine Protected Areas. This would be a large, flexible study area that would serve to protect several different diverse habitats — upwellings, deep water, sandy bottom and submarine canyon — a necessary “big canvas” from which to create a viable network of reserves.

Commercial and sport fishing interests think this area too large and would like to see the smallest possible study area declared. Even better, they’d like to see the MLPA go away entirely so they can fish anywhere and everywhere...until, of course, there are no more fish.

Central Coast Sierra Club members and other residents need to participate in this historic opportunity to protect our marine wildlife and habitat. Public involvement opportunities abound, at meetings of the Blue Ribbon Task Force, Science Advisory Team, Statewide Interest Group and workshops. Go to www.dfg.ca.gov/mrd/mlpa to view video and live webcasts of meetings.

Think We Don’t Need a Marine Sanctuary?

The Bureau of Reclamation is under court order to find a way to dispose of the billions of gallons of toxic, selenium-laden wastewater created by the industrial agricultural operations in the San Joaquin Valley. Piping it over here and dumping it in Estero Bay is one of the options being considered.

On July 6, the Bureau of Reclamation held a small briefing for local elected officials at the County Government building in SLO regarding the “San Luis Drainage Feature Re-evaluation.” At one point, a question was raised about the border of the Monterey Bay Sanctuary expanding to include the waters of San Luis Obispo. Wouldn’t that hinder any plan to dump toxic ag run-off here?

The representative from the Bureau’s p.r. firm sweetly pointed out that the Bureau is under court order to find a way to dispose of the billions of gallons of toxic, selenium-laden wastewater created by the industrial agricultural operations in the San Joaquin Valley. Piping it over here and dumping it in Estero Bay is one of the options being considered.

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Action for the Arctic Refuge

Fight to save the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge enters new phase

With Congress poised to vote this fall on whether to open the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil drilling, a broad coalition of conservation, religious, and other organizations has launched Arctic Refuge Action, a summer-long television, radio, and media campaign to protect the Arctic Refuge. The nationwide effort integrates public events, advertising, and grassroots organizing to amplify the voices of citizens who oppose drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

www.ArcticRefugeAction.org serves as the refuge nerve center for the campaign, keeping activists and allies informed on the campaign’s progress, and providing resources with the means to make their own voices heard.

“Every day we hear from more and more people from across the nation who are outraged that some in Congress are trying to open America’s Arctic National Wildlife Refuge,” said William H. Meadows, President of The Wilderness Society. “Arctic Refuge Action will channel that passion to ensure that Congress bears America and protects the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

The FY 2006 budget resolution passed by Congress this spring opened the door for a vote that could allow oil drilling in the Arctic Refuge through a backdoor in the budget process. It requires the director of the drilling Senate Energy and House Resources committees to pass $2.4 billion in “savings” through the budget reconciliation process — “savings” that “drilling that batters backers” have claimed could come from revenues generated by drilling leases in the Arctic Refuge. A special effort by the advance of the expected September Congressional vote on that budget reconciliation bill. The summerizing and communications effort by conservation groups, grassroots organizations, religious groups, businesses, and Native American groups is helping conservationists and citizens across the country deliver a clear message to Congress: Do not allow oil and gas development in the Arctic Refuge.

Arctic Refuge Action member groups have focused their efforts in California, Oregon, Alaska, Vermont, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, New York, and New Jersey; more are scheduled throughout the Northeast and Midwest. In addition, the campaign underwrote an unprecedented live telecast and webcast of the annual caribou migration on the coastal plans of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge that was featured June 12 on Good Morning America and two days later on stations nationwide.

Teams of organizers will spend the summer crossing the country in specialty-manned vehicles equipped with a state-of-the-art public relations tool. The “Don’t Drill on Me” tour will cross the state with its fleet of model oil derricks, raising support for Arctic Refuge Action on the community level. The Arctic Refuge Action plans radio, television, and print advertising in key markets nationwide to further raise awareness of the Arctic Refuge Action for the oil royalty vote. The Arctic Refuge Action campaign will culminate after Labor Day, when thousands of Americans will converge on Washington, D.C. to convey their opposition to Arctic Refuge drilling directly to Congress. The campaign is also maintaining a special toll-free Action Line to con- nect citizens directly with their members of Congress: 1-888-WILDKAA.

Arctic Refuge Action is composed of the following member groups, with additional partner groups are being added daily: The Alaska Coalition; Alaska Wilderness Leagues; Defenders of Wildlife; Earthjustice; The Episcopal Church, USA; The Gwich’in Steering Committee; The League of Conservation Voters; The Natural Audubon Society; The Natural Resources Defense Council; The National Wildlife Federation; The National Wildlife Refuge Association; Northern Alaskan Environmental Center; R.E.P. America; Trustees for Alaska; The Sierra Club; U.S. PIRG; The World Wildlife Fund; Churches; The Wilderness Society; and The World Wildlife Fund.

Harvey Wasserman senior senator to Greenpeace USA, notes that at July’s G-8 summit in Scotland, President Bush “bull- lied the G-8 nations into gowling at the feet of Big Oil” even as “conservative Repub- licans on the American corporate right are growing nervous about the carbon dioxide emissions into the earth’s atm- mophere, which has reached apoca- lyptic proportions.” Bush’s “fossil fuel addiction,” Wasserman writes, “has become a global plague.

“At a time when gas prices are sky- rocketing, Americans need an energy plan that saves consumers money, creates new jobs, protects the envi- ronment, and makes America more secure by cutting our dependence on oil,” said Sierra Club Executive Di- rector Carl Pope, enumerating the things the energy bill doesn’t do. “We have the solutions,” said Pope; “all that is missing is political leader- ship.”

TO TAKE ACTION!

At its August meeting, the California Coastal Commission is expected to hear the issue of re-opening 36 undevel- oped oil and gas leases on the central coast. Ten leases have re- quested oil and gas lease term suspensions. A sus- pension actually extends a lease to allow development. Without a lease suspension, the lease’s term expires and no oil and gas development can occur. The Commis- sion will determine if extending the leases is consistent with the Cali- fornia Coastal Manager’s Plan.

Go to the Coastal Commission’s website (www.coastal.ca.gov) and click on Documents related to the U.S. Outer Continental Shelf Oil/Gas Consistency Determinations submitted by the U.S. Minerals Management Service. Click on “Public Meetings” for the most current updated agenda and specific date on which this item will be heard, and plan to attend — and speak at — this meeting.

AUGUST 9-12, 2005
The Westin South Coast Plaza
686 Anton Blvd., Costa Mesa, CA
(714) 662-6614

“The it’s the proverbial camel’s nose under the tent. The tent’s going to collapse if we’re not going to drill all off the coast of Florida and all off the eastern seaboard and all off the pacific coastline.”

— Senator Bill Nelson

Despite dire implications for his administration’s stated goals for California’s energy future and environ- mental protection, and a personal plea from a half dozen of our state’s Cong- ressional representatives, Governor Schwarzenegger has maintained a discrete silence on the Bush admin- istration’s new energy bill, declining to assist in the effort to strike out or curb its most onerous provisions. A plea to the former action hero to take some

...Where’s Arnold?

Action hero is MIA on offshore oil

“The...Where’s Arnold?”

— Susan Jordan, California Coastal Protection Network

Governor’s assertion that Oxnard “would probably be the safest” site to locate a terminal for tankers shipping highly explosive liquefied natural gas

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“Million Solar Roofs” initiative in the state legislature, but an energy policy Democrats could all agree on. Schwarzenegger eagerly jumped on board the energy future and environ- mental protection. Despite dire implications for his administration’s stated goals for California’s energy future and environ- mental protection, and a personal plea from a half dozen of our state’s Cong- ressional representatives, Governor Schwarzenegger has maintained a discrete silence on the Bush admin- istration’s new energy bill, declining to assist in the effort to strike out or curb its most onerous provisions. A plea to the former action hero to take some...
Sierra Club California invites you to

Lobby Day
August 28-29, 2005 -- Hotel, meals on us

Help Sierra Club California discuss its priority environmental issues with our state legislators at the State Capitol. This is a great opportunity to protect the environment by influencing the political process and to practice your advocacy skills, as well as meet new people with similar issue interests from around the state.

Training for Lobby Day will take place on Sunday afternoon (August 28) in Sacramento. Sierra Club California’s lobbyists will provide helpful tools and knowledge for achieving successful meetings with legislators and their staff members. The lobbyists will also discuss the legislative process and provide talking points on the priority bills that you will discuss in the capitol. Lobby Day Participants will attend meetings with key legislators at the State Capitol in Sacramento on Monday, August 29 throughout the day. The day will end with a debriefing and wrap-up back at the Sierra Club office.

Sierra Club California will provide free hotel accommodations in double-occupancy rooms in a nearby hotel in Sacramento, and will also provide Sunday dinner, Monday breakfast and Monday lunch. A portion of travel expenses will also be reimbursed with prior approval.

The registration deadline for Lobby Day is August 8. Please register as soon as possible. As we may receive more applications than we have space for, preference may be given to applicants from our targeted districts. Early registration is helpful as we make appointments with legislators.

Please contact Sabrina Juarez, Sierra Club California Legislative Aide, for more information at 916-557-1100 ext.107 or at juarez@sierrclub-sac.org.

You can register for this event at www.sierrclubcalifornia.org by clicking on the ‘Register for Lobby Day’ link.

Water Board Lowers Dischargers’ Damages

$225,000 in fines assessed for dischargers’ damages

One of the longest-running and most egregious environmental violations in County history came (hopefully) to a close on July 8. Nearly four years from the date of the original violation, the Board found land speculators David Pierson of San Diego and Haig Kelegian of Newport Beach liable for fines of $125,000 and $100,000, respectively, for denuding their adjacent Santa Margarita properties with silt, causing massive erosion on 1,000 acres of former California oak grasslands and choked a tributary of Huero Huero Creek with silt.

A portion of the fines will go to local Supplemental Environmental Programs (SEPs), a Water Board program that funds efforts to undo environmental damages elsewhere in the Salinas River watershed where the discharger did the deed.

For the eight-hour duration of the hearing, witnesses and photographers testified to the massive erosion and sedimentation damages done by their having “grubbed” the land and allowed the bare soil to wash away with the first rains. The dischargers bewailed their fate, challenged the witnesses, the photographs, the Water Board staff report — to no avail.

Out standing in their field: The Regional Water Board took a day off in June to review the progress of the restoration of San Luis Obispo Creek, fifteen years after making the original commitment to the parties. The regional Water Board has continued to fight the case, and in doing so, has lifted the dam along the creek and narrowed a critical irrigation channel within a State Water Quality Control Board order.

In response to the Water Board’s order, the parties entered into a Consent Decree and the dam was removed,benefiting 21 miles of creek and 7,000 acres of habitat. The Water Board had not been able to compel the parties to remove the dam until this point.

New Blood on Water Board

Monica Hunter has been appointed to the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board by the Governor. The Water Board oversees permits, discharge and pollution issues throughout the region, from rural subdivisions to the Diablo Canyon and Duke power plants at Morro Bay and Moss Landing.

A resident of Los Osos, Dr. Hunter is one of the most outstanding candidates the Water Board has ever fielded, highly experienced in Coastal Community issues; a genuine environmentalist and staunch proponent of public participation in government. She is Regional Coordinator for the Planning and Conservation League and has done research or consulted for the National Science Foundation, California Sea Grant Marine Advisory Program, California Department of Agriculture, Morro Bay National Estuary Program, and the Underwater Archaeological Consortium. She has delivered college lectures on the subject of “Environmental Problem Solving in Coastal Communities.”

The Governor’s decision came after five months of deliberation. A lot of environmental groups and individuals, including the Santa Lucia Chapter, pressed Sacramento hard for her appointment, and our perseverance paid off.

Congratulations to Jack Beigle on being named the 2005 recipient of Sierra Club California’s William Penn Mott Award!

The award recognizes a person who has made a significant contribution to state parks in California. William Penn Mott was the California State Parks Director from 1967-1975, and subsequently Director of the National Park Service. The Mott award recognizes a person who has made a significant contribution to state parks in California.

Heading for the Summit?

Please drop us a line & let us know so we can put together a SLO head count.

543-8717; sierra8@charter.net

Sierra Club Santa Lucia Chapter leaders Karen Bonham (left) and Latty French congratulate Jack Beigle on his Sierra Club California award at Ranchos El Chorro event.

Sierra Club Santa Lucia Chapter leaders Karen Bonham (left) and Latty French congratulate Jack Beigle on his Sierra Club California award at Ranchos El Chorro event.

Sierra Club California Chapter Leaders Karen Bonham (left) and Latty French congratulate Jack Beigle on his Sierra Club California award at Ranchos El Chorro event.
assistance, donations can be mailed to SLO GE Free, PO Box 2482, Har-
mony CA 93435.

Resolution for the Board of
Supervisors (draft)

Whereas:

Consumers have a right to know what genetically engineered (GE) foods they are eating.

And Whereas: Consumers wish to know whether the food they pur-

chase and consume is a GE food. Consequently, there is a need to reduce the potential trans-

fer of allergens into food and other health risks, potential environmental risks, the Morro Bay 21 with the genetic

engineering of crops, and religiously and ethically based dietary restric-

tions.

And Whereas: Adoption and implementation of mandatory labeling

requirements for GE food pro-

duced in the United States would facilitate such desires.

And Whereas: Citizens from around the world have called upon their
governments to label genetically engineered foods. More than two
dozen industrialized nations have either passed or enacted labeling
requirements. These countries include the 15 nations that make up the
European Union, as well as Japan,

South Korea, Thailand, Austral-
ia, New Zealand and many others. Even China has agreed to label ge-

netically engineered foods.

And Whereas: A growing number of regional and local orga-
nizations in the United States and

around the world are calling for the mandatory labeling of genetically
engineered foods. These include The American Association of Retired
People, Consumers Union, Consumer Federation of America and the
Sierra Club.

And Whereas: Public opinion polls consistently show that the great
majority of Americans—both Demo-

crats and Republicans—want genetically engineered foods to be labeled.

And Whereas: A significant por-
tion of the citizens of San Luis
Obispo County have expressed their desire for an outright ban of geneti-
cally engineered crops via Measure Q and even opponents of Measure Q
have publicly expressed their support of GE labeling.

Therefore, be it resolved that: The San Luis Obispo Co. Board of Super-

visors, on behalf of the citizens of
San Luis Obispo County, do hereby urge our representatives at both
the state and the federal level to support efforts to require mandatory labeling of GE foods. In particular, we urge our federal representatives to support
Dennis Kucinich’s Genetically Engi-

neered Food Right To Know Act, oth-

erwise known as H.R. 2916, in every way possible. We also urge the
USFDA to move forward with provi-
sions for GE labeling.

Nuclear

tax breaks afforded to wind and solar energy are greater than the subsidies lavished on the nuclear industry:

nuclear plants have no trouble getting adequate public support, and the Congressional act capping the liability of nuclear utilities does not constitute a subsidy.

And, of course, the refrain that those anti-nuclear folks don’t have

their facts straight and can’t refute any

of these arguments. Suffice it to say, all those claims are false (a quick stroll through the website wwww.citizens.org, or will knock them all down). We are witnessing the
local edition of a national movement to

revive their moribund industry — one into which the administration is proposing to pour another $10 bil-

lion in federal handouts, after spend-
ing, a trillion dollars of forty years on an industry that still can’t figure out what to do with its deadly waste product. It is now being trusted as the solution to the problem of global warming.

Again, not so. On June 16, nearly
300 international, national, regional and local environmental, consumer, and safe energy groups reiterated their substantial concerns over nuclear energy and rejected the ar-

gument that nuclear power can solve global warming. Rather, the groups

urged a focus on clean and sustainable sources of energy and energy effi-
cy and conservation.

Representatives of several of the groups called on Congress to defeat legislation that subsidized nuclear power plants as part of reducing global

warming pollution.

“Global warming is the most seri-
ous environmental problem facing us today and we should aggressively increase energy efficiency and renew-
able energy to reduce carbon dioxide pollution,” said Anna Aurilio, Legisla-
tive Director for the U.S. Public Inter-

test. “It’s time for a change.”

In an environmental statement on nuclear energy and global warming, the groups outlined five key reasons why nuclear energy should not be part of the solution to global warming, stating that nuclear energy is unne-

cessary, too expensive, too dangerous, too polluting and that using nuclear

power to address global warming would exacerbate the problems posed by the technologies.

Throwing a few billion dollars at the nuclear industry is an insult to those who are working to keep our planet healthy for future generations.”

To read the letter to Congress, go to

www.citizens.org/documents/

Groups/for_nuclear.htm

CAREYNE’s Mandy Davis and Sierra Club’s Andrea Christia

talked about the Morro Bay hunt on the SLO Public Access show “SLO issues” this

week to three during the November to January hunt. The City is also asking that the “grassy

islands” in the middle of the estuary, the primary resting and feeding area for several species of mi-
nigrant birds, be declared off-limits to hunting.

Your Nuclear Calendar

August 9th, 7 – 9 p.m. San Luis Obispo: Mark the 20th anniversary of the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant and 30 years of the atomic bombing of Nagasaki in the best way possible: With the Alliance for Nuclear Rights (ANR) getting a rare copy of the landmark documenta-
tory on the Diablo Canyon plant, A Question of Power, and getting a community update. Re-live the be-
ginnings of the movement to halt nuclear power and help plan the successful conclu-
sion of a long-term campaign. At the SLO Library.

Contact Paula Dukla (955) 772-

4253 (A) 237-9969 (e) 440-9240 (c), paula@dublinfoot.com if you’re in-
terested in joining a carpool and staying for one day or both days.

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Eat

continued from page 3

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terested in joining a carpool and staying for one day or both days.
California Energy Commission staff's damning critique of once-through cooling virtually rules out its use for California coastal power plants. CEC will consider adoption of this policy in the fall.

By Jack McCurdy

A message has gone out to power plant builders: Cooling your genera- tors with water from the ocean, rivers, lakes or beneath the ground is a thing of the past in California, and alternative cooling technologies are becoming more efficient, effective and affordable.

That was the word from the June conference of the California Energy Commission (CEC) on power plant cooling strategies and technologies. This signalled shift from the CEC has profound meaning for a new Morro Bay power plant. Energy engineers, experts and state consultants at the Sacramento conference agreed the growing scarcity of water in the face of a burgeoning population, and the need to protect aquatic life from destruction by power plants using ocean water for cooling, will force the change.

Due to this new focus, alternative technologies are expected to increase. The main alternative to once-through cooling, in which fresh or ocean water is continuously channelled through power plants with a resulting loss of aquatic life, is closed-cycle cooling. One such technique is dry cooling, in which a limited amount of water is recirculated in the plant through air-cooled condensers with little loss from evaporation.

CEC member John Geesman said, “We have to send a message to builders that we will not look with favor on the use of fresh water for energy production. We will be diligent in looking at alternatives to once-through cooling.”

How different a message Geesman’s will be in the future remains unclear in view of the fact that the CEC in recent years has approved three controversial projects to replace aging power plants along the California coast and licensed them to use ocean water for power generation.

These plants are in Morro Bay, Moss Landing and El Segundo. The decisions drew strong protests from state regulatory agencies, coastal advocates and environmental groups, including the Santa Lucia Chapter and Sierra Club California. The CEC and the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board are being sued for approving the use of ocean water for cooling in new generating units at El Segundo and Moss Landing, respectively.

One state official noted that if the California Supreme Court agrees to hear the El Segundo suit, CEC policies and new facts on closed-cycle cooling might have an impact on the Court’s decision. The Moss Landing appeal to a state appellate court and the Regional Board’s pending review of the Morro Bay project could be similarly influ- enced. The court could return the

Moss Landing decision to the Regional Board for reconsideration of closed-cycle cooling, at which point the new CEC policies and new information on alternative technologies could come into play.

Barbara Carney of the U.S. Department of Energy’s National Energy Technology Laboratory noted a landmark federal decision last year on power plant cooling.

“Buildings that didn’t really need new plants must use closed-cycle” cooling, but then again, “It really depends.” Power plants will likely be challenged in the not too distant future with more stringent regulations on water use and water quality.”

Geesman acknowledged that “federal law is flexible on” power plant cooling requirements.

The Better Way

The conference produced a lot of potential ammunition and reports of forthcoming ways to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of air-cooled technologies that are aimed at addressing objections by plant builders to closed-cycle cooling. Alternative cooling technologies gain favor, “the cost of equipment will come down because the market (for air-cooled condensers) is heating up,” said John Maulbetsch, a CEC consultant. He predicted “a rapid acceleration of air-cooled condensers in the U.S.”

He also reported on research at five plant sites across the country showing that dry-cooling a 500-mega-watt plant can save 900 million gallons of water a year, at a cost of $21 million to $26 million. The projected size of Duke Energy’s proposed replacement plant in Morro Bay is 1200 megawatts, for which Duke has estimated the cost of dry cooling at $290 million. Using Maulbetsch’s figures, dry cooling for the Morro Bay plant could come in at about $50 million—just 6% of the capital cost of the new plant—of the existing one, and a cost which the CEC staff found reasonable.

Maulbetsch also calculates the “cost of water saved” between $1,100 and $3,800 per acre-foot, or $3.50 to $4.50 per 1,000 gallons.

Bill Powers of Powers Engineering presented a paper that analyzed a proposed plant in Wisconsin showing that the Environmental Protection Agency “overestimates the costs and impacts of air-cooled condensers (ACC).” He said those estimates are much higher than what the industry engineers would agree with.

After the meeting, Powers said, “Height and noise is always presented as a problem by developers who don’t want to build ACC, but it’s almost never a real issue if a low-profile (75-foot high or less) ultra-low noise ACC design is specified. I call this the urban ACC design and it will be used at Otay Mesa (a CEC-approved plant near San Diego) and is used at the CrockettCogeneration Plant (east of San Francisco).”

Another paper described how research into the effects of winds on power plant efficiency will likely allow builders to site plants in order to avoid wind interference with cooling and also to enhance performance if these are designed to take advantage of currents.

Technical information on air-cooled condensers has not been readily available due to the limited demand. However, a CEC decision that the new Morro Bay project will have had the units and the fact that many of the technologies are new, charge permission application might be a window to power industry. As a result, there has been no single de- pository of performance and operating data and testing of units.

It is not clear whether the new research, information and implica- tions to use alternative cooling tech- nologies will reduce or end once-through cooling in California. The CEC adopted a policy report in 2003 saying it would not support use of ocean water, and another such report is expected to be approved later this year op- erating use of ocean water.

If that policy is adopted in the fall, it could come just before a possible Regional Board hearing on Duke’s application for a dis- charge permit to build a new Morro Bay power plant. That hearing de- pends on whether Duke wants to go forward, and has not been sched- uled.

Coastal Commission Executive Director Peter Douglas came to Morro Bay on the evening of June 21 for the Chapter’s monthly general meeting, where he gave a wide-ranging talk on the subject of “undying environmen- talism.”

Douglas is a legend among envi- ronmentalists in California and na- tionwide due to his ability to bring enlightened practices and environ- mental awareness to a state bureau- creacy while simultaneously fending off three decades of developer-or- chestrated political attacks and hos- tile governors who have tried to rust him and curb or destroy the Coastal Commission.

Speaking a few days before the California Supreme Court handed down the decision that turned back the latest challenge to the existence of the Coastal Commission, he told the packed room at the Lucretia Community Center that the greatest threat to the face of humanity is ignorance and apathy, and this can be countered by activism and education.

“Our vision of environmental pro- tection has to embrace both people and nature,” he said. “The right wing has effectively demonized the envi- ronmental movement, characterizing it as misanthropic. There is common ground between protecting the well- being of the individual and the well- being of the environment.”

Douglas advised attendees that while the environmental picture may be grim at the national level right now, they should “focus on local is- sues, where you are able to make some headway” and take note that commu- nity is being re-defined as not necessar- ily place-based, but as a community of interests. “You can take a way of thinking with you wherever you go.”

Other topics Douglas referred to himself as a “radical pagan heretic,” saying “Radical means getting to the root; ‘pagan’ connotes a reverence for life, and a ‘heretic’ engages in con- structive dissent from state religion and insists on the ability to choose.”

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Peter Douglas dined with Chapter leaders at Novo in downtown SLO before his talk.

John McCurdy: “Peter Douglas: Environmentalism Undying”

Peter Douglas: Environmentalism Undying

Peter Douglas, environmental activist, was the subject of “undying environmen- talism.”

Douglas described the Coastal Commission as “undying environmentalism” and insists on the ability to choose.”

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Join our E-mail Alert List

Get notification of important upcoming meetings and decisions on issues of environmental concern for Central Coast residents. Send your e-mail address to: john@nicharles.net (Soray, Santa Lucia Chapter members only)
A Word About Trail Work

By Carlos Diaz-Saavedra

Many of us take for granted the trails we use and enjoy, and give little thought to how they are built and maintained. Trail work is not for everyone, but for those who want to give it a try, you’ll find it rewarding. To see an improvement to an erosion trail that takes years-to-come and requires less exer-
tive effort to walk through gives a certain satisfaction for your labor. Blasting away a new route or building a new trail altogether is even more gratifying. For those who are interested in trying to do some trail work, we have special outings led by Chapter volun-
teers which provide a great way to learn the information you’ll need to have a safe and fun experience building and main-
taining our local trails. Check our web site for information about current work we’re doing. Let me know if you have questions or how you can partici-
One of the main tasks of trail work is to provide a relatively flat pathway on dirt or rock that you’ll be able to walk on. We work to prevent water from washing away the trail, and to prevent gravity, animals, or people from displacing the flat, dirt tread.

There are various tasks that need to be done. Planning a new route or making improvements often requires consulting with land ownership and authorities that have jurisdiction over the prop-
erty. A new trail needs to be planned initially to be designed and flagged for location of the route. Cutting vegetation is a major part of the actual hands-on business, from uprooting grass to cutting a path of the ground. This work can be done with a multitude of tools: a pickaxe to cut roots and remove soil, weed cutters (which work best through light vegetation, a scythe for heavier growth, lopping shears for bristles and limbs, and axes, bows saws

Sierra Club volunteer work parties go to Carrizo Plain to take down old fences and clear paths to water and food for the Plain’s wildlife. Watch our Outings listings for the next work party.

Water Board

Chair Jeffrey Young pointed out that any measures they may have taken to keep the soil out of the creek after they let it wash off the hillsides were a case of too little, too late. Tori and Marti have returned to the Carrizo Plain for a third time to pull down fencing that was still in place. The men, two or three at each post, break away years of metal and min-
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Los Padres ForestWatch

Los Padres ForestWatch is a new nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting and restoring the entire Los Padres National Forest, from the Big Sur coastline to the Sespe wildlands. We invite you to spend some time at our new web site, located at www.lpfw.org.

The Los Padres is facing tremendous threats from oil and gas drilling, overgrazing, off-highway vehicle abuse, and ecosystem mismanagement. We're using community organizing, legal advocacy, and scientific collaboration to halt these threats and promote more sustainable uses of our public lands.

1. Check out our new web site. Once there, you'll be able to sign up for our action alerts, read the latest news, and find out more about our projects and ways to get involved. You can also become a member or donate on-line.

2. Spread the word about our group to anyone who might be interested. We are a relatively new organization that relies on people like you to spread the word about issues affecting our national forest.

Thanks, and we look forward to working with you to protect our public lands!

Jeff Kupper, Executive Director
Los Padres ForestWatch
P.O. Box 831
Santa Barbara, CA 93102
805.252.2277
jeffk@lpfw.org

Not yet a member of LPFW? Join today at www.lpfw.org.

Don’t Worry, Be Happy

A delightful overnight at Santa Margarita Lake

By Jack Beagle

In the early 1930s Meher Baba, a popular guru from India, coined the phrase “Don’t worry, be happy,” which was much later incorporated into a popular song. I think it is good advice and it really applies to me. When I set one foot into my canoe, my worries are all gone and I am happy.

Our overnight campout at Santa Margarita Lake is a good example. We had a group of congenial paddlers. The weather was warm, but not too hot. Our after lunch paddle was a delight with several good bird sightings. We saw a golden eagle, several great blue herons, several green backed herons, an osprey, a couple of western grebes, a beautiful twirling swirls of the morning mist and the still lake reflected a prefect reversed image in the water and the classic beauty of the sun rising over the mountains and shining through the gray pines. When I have no worries, I can find joy in simple things like the dancing patterns of light that the rising sun forms as it is reflected off of the small wavelets and shines through the hall of my Kevlar canoe. It was a thrilling paddle shared with friends, and this was all before breakfast.

To say that this was a joy-filled outing just doesn’t come close. We hit a high average of joy on our outing but this one was truly outstanding.

We couldn’t do what we do without you, so on behalf of the land, air, water, and critters:

THANK YOU!

SLO Students Attend Sierra Student Training in Washington

Sierra Rose Przybyle and four of her fellow Cuesta College and Cal Poly students traveled to Washington State in July for the summer program (Sprig) of the Sierra Student Coali-
tion, the student-run arm of the Sierra Club.

The Washington Sprig, held July 18-24 at Lewis and Clark State Park near Portland, was one of five SSC Student Environmental Leadership Trainings held nationwide this summer. The week-long programs, led by the nation’s top student activists, teach how to develop strong, effective groups that can tackle serious environ-
mental issues. Throughout the week, the program focuses on helping attendees prepare to take what they’ve learned and put it to the test at their schools, including:

ORGANIZING 101: How to start and run an effective organization. Covers everything from recruiting folks to running a meeting to developing new leaders to ensure that your organization continues once you graduate.

CAMPAIGN PLANNING: How to plan, implement, and run an effective environmental campaign. The Sierra Club Matrix teaches the most essential skills needed to effect real change.

COMMUNICATION SKILLS: How to say what you mean, with confidence and persuasion — be it to the media, to fellow group members, or the public.

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES: Using those skills on an issue you would like to use them for -- public lands, energy, clean water, you name it.

Of course, the program isn’t all work and no play. In addition to the main focus, guest speakers from the environmental movement, delicious vegetarian cooking, hikes, games, and general hanging out with good people are all part of the agenda.

Back at school, the student activ-
ists can join together to create a strong network to help the Earth.

Yes, Cuesta or Cal Poly student: This could be you! The subsidized cost of the program is $129, which covers tuition, room and board, and local transportation to and from the site. If you are not already a member of the Sierra Club, student membership is just $25. Make a note to check out www.sssc.org before summer 2006, and we’ll see you next year!
Local Government Meetings

City of SLO—1st & 3rd Tues., 7:00 p.m.; 781-7103
Arroyo Grande—2nd and 4th Tues., 7:00 p.m.; 473-5404
Atascadero—2nd & 4th Tues.; 466-8099
Cambria CSD—4th Thurs.; 927-6223
Grover Beach—1st & 3rd Mon., 6:30 p.m.; 473-4567
Grover Beach Planning Commission—2nd Tues.
Morro Bay—2nd & 4th Mon.
Paso Robles—1st & 3rd Tues., 7:00 p.m.; 237-3888
Pismo Beach—1st Tues., 5:30 p.m.; 773-4657
Los Osos CSD board—1st Tues. & 2nd Mon., varies
California Coastal Commission—3rd Tues., varies
SLO County Board of Supervisors—every Tues.; 781-5450
SLO Council of Governments; 781-4219
SLOCOG Board--1st Wed. every other month, 8:30 a.m.
SLO County Board of Supervisors-- every Tues.; 781-5450
SLOCOG Citizens Advisory Committee--1st Wed. every other month, 6:00 p.m.
SLOCOG Board—1st Wed. every other month, 8:30 a.m.

Meeting Minutes

Highlights from recent Chapter meetings

Executive Committee meeting, June 24, 2005
Meeting called to order at 5:00 p.m. Members Present: Karen Merriam, Cal French, Eliane Guillot, Steven Marx, John Ashbaugh. Members Absent: Sue Harvey, Jack Morrow. Staff: Andrew Christie. Visitor: Letty French.

Morro Bay Hunting—Many club members and supporters showed up at the June 13 meeting of Morro Bay City Council and provided public testimony opposing duck and goose hunting in Edyes. Mayor Janice Peters said the overwhelming public response convinced the Council to draft a letter to Fish and Game supporting Mandy Davis’s proposal to limit the hunt in duration and location. Eric, Betty and Mandy, Carrying the Chapter’s letter, went to Bishop to testify before the five-member Fish and Game Commission.

Water Treatment—Consider appreciation and approval of the A-B-C plan for regional sewage treatment including Cayucos, Morro Bay and Los Osos, agreed upon in principle, consistent with our earlier letter approving of considering multiple problems on a regional rather than local basis.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Next meeting: Wednesday, July 27, 7:00 p.m.

A Will . . .

. . . is a way to protect the environment as well as yourself. If you do not have a will, the state decides how your property and other affairs are handled. Decisions made now can later provide financial security for family, friends, and the Sierra Club. You may even direct your bequest to a specific Club program or your home Chapter.

For more information and confidential assistance, contact

John Calaway
Sierra Club Planned Giving Program
85 Second Street, 2nd Floor, San Francisco, CA 94105-3441
(415) 977-5538.

Outdoor & Travel Clothing
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Granite Stairway
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871 Santa Rosa Street
San Luis Obispo
541-1533
Sierra Club Outings Launches Contest

The Sierra Club, the nation’s oldest and largest grassroots environmental organization, is founded on the belief that experience in the outdoors will inspire the public to protect natural lands. Through its Outings program, Sierra Club encourages the public to explore, enjoy, and protect the planet.

The Sierra Club Group and Chapter Outings Committee (GCC) is sponsoring a contest to develop a program identifier for club outings leaders. The program identifier is a suitable design for patches, hats, etc. It will provide recognition to those individuals who volunteer their time and expertise to develop and run outings, and will serve to help outings participants identify outings leaders at trailheads.

Sierra Club membership is not required to submit an entry. Submissions will be judged by an independent panel based on originality, content, technical quality, and visibility. Contest deadline is August 31, 2005. The winner will be announced at the Sierra Summit in San Francisco, September 8-11, 2005. The winning entry will be awarded a cash prize of $500.

Send entries by email to: gco@sierrclub.org

or by postal mail to: Group and Chapter Outings Committee
Sierra Club
85 Second Street, 2nd Floor
San Francisco, CA 94105-3459

Entries submitted by postal mail must include both hardcopy and digitized (5 mb maximum) versions of the entry.

Outings and Activities Calendar

All of our hikes and activities are open to all Club members and the general public. If you have any suggestions for hikes or outdoor activities, questions about the Chapter’s outing policies or would like to be an outings leader, call Outings Leader Gary Felsman (473-3694). For information on a specific outing, please contact the outings leader. Outings leaders please get your outings or events in by the 1st for the next month’s outings.

Hiking Classifications:
Distance: 1 = 0-2 mi., 2 = 3-5 mi., 3 = 6-10 mi., 4 = 10-15 mi., 5 = 12 mi. or more.

Elevation Gain: A = 500', B = 1000', C = 1500', D = 2000', E = 2500', F = 3000' or more.

• August 27th, 9:30 a.m.
BLACK LAKE CANOE Trip. Meet at junction of Guadalupe Rd and Leguiona Nigra. Hike down into the Canyon, oak woodland, lake problems, bio-diversity, wildflowers and maybe some of the rare flora and fauna of the cyn. Call or e-mail a few days before for details: 929-3647.

Aug 13-14, Vicente Flat Trailbie Overnight Trip. Join VWA Trailbie leader Mike Heard in the ongoing effort to clear deadfalls from the popular Vicente Flat trail, campground. The outing will be made in the beautiful redwood glade of Vicente Flat, one of the nicest places on the coastal slope. Work will include preparation of work sites, assisting a certified sawyer at one end of a two-person crosscut saw, helping to roll cut trees off the trail, and clean-up of damaged tread once the trees are gone. All able-bodied folks are most welcome. For more information or to reserve a place on this trip, contact Mike Heard at hear@pobox.com.

Aug. 28th, Sat. 9:30 a.m.
COAST BIKE-RIDE: Meet at Melendrana in Oceano at 0930 with bike & helmet. Tour the Central Coast and see Coastal Corn. access points. Call or e-mail a few days before for details: 929-3647 or BDenneen@SLONET.org.

Aug. 29th, Sat. 9:30 a.m.
KAYAK OSO FLACO LAKE: Bring kayak, life jacket, binos and bird book to tour OPL. An easy paddle. Have an extra kayak. Must be able to swim. Call or e-mail a few days before for details: 929-3647 or BDenneen@SLONET.org.

Aug. 19, Sat. 9:30 a.m.
BICYCLE RIDE: Meet at Dune Center with bike and helmet. We’ll tour Guadalupe with many stops and then head to Pacific. Call or e-mail a few days before for details: 929-3647 or BDenneen@SLONET.org.

Sat, Aug 6th, 9:00 a.m.
Valencia Peak Loop Hike. Come take a hike to the top of Valencia Peak, in Montaña de Oro State. A 5-mile hike 11300 feet elevation gain. Bring water, snack, and dress for the weather; some on your own may be present. Meet at the Montane de Oro Visitor Center, MDO State park. Details call Gary at (473-3694/2C).

Sat, Aug 27th, 9:00 a.m.
Ridge Trail-Barranca Loop: Stay cool on the coast on this moderate 7-mile, 1500 foot loop hike in Montana de Oro SP. Meet at Ridge Trailhead. 2.3 miles past park entrance. Park in large pullout across from the trailhead. Bob Schwartz, 441-9508, <rws_usa@yahoo.com> (SC)

Sat, Sept. 3, 8 a.m.
VALENCIA PEAK Southern Route Conditioning Hike. This is a 2-hour, 4.5-mile hike with over 1200-foot elevation gain. Bring water, sturdy hiking shoes and dress for the weather. Everyone is welcome, but this is a rigorous conditioning hike. It is intended who want to maintain a fitness level. It is not for those who want to get into shape, as they are likely to be left behind. Meet at the Coon Creek Parking are at the very end of Pecho Road in Montana de Oro. Leader AI (534-046/2B).

Sat, Sept. 4, 9:30 a.m.
POINT SAL: Meet at end of Brown Rd at locked gate at 0930 climb 2.5 miles to ‘pass’/saddle and then decide what next. Bring water, windbreaker, lunch. A group might be hiking ‘all the way’ to Paradise Beach and then Guadalupe Beach (e-mail me if interested). Call or e-mail a few days before for details: 929-3647 or BDenneen@SLONET.org.

Sat-Sun., September 10-11.
Desert Protection and Restoration.
We will participate together with an off-road vehicle group in a National Public Lands Day project sponsored by the Ridgecrest Office of the BLM. The area, lying between the Spangler Hills open OHV area to the north and the Golden Valley Wilderness to the south, has incurred considerable damage from illegal OHV activity. Projects will include general trash pickup, signing the boundary of the open area to the north, installing limited use trail signs, building vehicle barriers to prevent entry to the wilderness area to the south, and camouflaging and restoring illegal vehicle trespasses routes.

Saturday will be a workday followed by a potluck dinner. On Sunday there will be options for a hike and/or a trail ride. Info and sign up with Ldr: Craig Deutsche, (310-477-6670), deutscht@earthlink.net, CNCN Desert

Sat., Sun., Sept 11th.
COAST KAYAK: Call or e-mail a few days before for details:929-3647 or BDenneen@SLONET.org.

Sat-Sun., September 17-18.
Carcamp and Service in the Owens Valley.
We will be removing tamarisk, and then take short hikes to view wildlife and special areas. We will visit the lower Owens River Delta. If the weather is hot, we can re-treat to the higher mountain meadow ows. Camp at Diaz lake County Park just south of Lone Pine; fee required Meet Saturday morning at 0900 in the campground. Potluck Sat night. Bring all your food and camping gear, gloves, loppers and hammers (if you have them) and clothes for all kinds of weather. Mike Prather, Owens River Committee activist and outstanding birder, will be our re-source specialist. For more information, call Mike Prather, 662-3500 or letty French, 14140 Chimney Rock Road, Paso Robles, CA 93446, (805-239-7338). Prefer e-mail: cfdenny@csn CN CNCN/Santa

Sat., Sun., Sept. 17, 5:15 p.m.
SUNSET/MOONRISE HIKE AND POTLICKER AT POINT SAL. Moderate 5 mi., RT hike with uphill most of the way to our dinner destina-tion and mostly downhill on the way back. Come and watch as the sun goes down and the full moon comes up a few minutes later. Bring a despack with food to share, as well as a plate, utensil, and water for your- self. Meet at the Orcutt Long’s Drugs parking lot, NE corner of Bradley and Clark, at 5:15pm. Always contact the leader; hike particulars can change. JIM 937-6766 (AR)

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

Santa Lucian • August 2005