Commission to Community: Drop Dead
Fish & Game ignores residents on Morro Bay hunt

On August 18 and 19, the California Fish and Game Commission came to SLO but refused to hear most of the citizens who came to speak on the Morro Bay waterfowl hunt, spurned the pleas and concerns of the few who were able to speak, ignored the petition signatures of thousands in favor of banning or restricting the hunt, and delivered lectures and scoldings in response to protests.

Executive Director Robert Treanor was visibly upset to see so many people “being paraded” into the public meeting, where they had some thought of speaking publicly and thereby unduly taking up the Commission’s time.

The Commission also tried to ignore a request from a member of the Morro Bay City Council to consider an alternative to a ban of the hunt — a compromise of time & place restrictions — and, when later in the meeting Commissioners were forced to address it due to the determined perseverance of the Morro Bay Vice Mayor, they quickly made a motion to deny any such consideration and struck it down (That is, they refused not just to implement the compromise, but to consider voting on the compromise!)

The following day, they voted to move the 8 a.m. start time of the hunt back to 7 a.m. — at the request of nobody — ensuring a wake-up shotgun serenade for Bay residents, starting this November.

The numbers of those who are fully aware of and alarmed by the fact that birds are hunted in the Morro Bay National Estuary, next to and frequently across the poorly demarcated line between the shooting zone and the City bird sanctuary, has now significantly increased, thanks to the “deal with it” arrogance of the Fish and Game Commission. (Genuine thanks are due Commissioner Bob Beigle.)

Executive Committee Nominations Open

You, average Santa Lucia Chapter member, run for ExCom? Yes! ExCom is our administrative body: we need people who can take minutes, organize committees, inspire participation, provide publicity, and organize members. Great conservationists may apply and are welcome, but the Chapter also needs people to handle the needs of organization. If you have some time and would like to help this great organization, please volunteer to serve on ExCom.

Three slots are open for this fall’s election, so we need at least five people willing to help. Each person who is elected will be expected to serve a three-year term. The Executive Committee meets once monthly at a time and place mutually agreed upon. Members of the Nomination Committee are Letty French, chair, lmfrench@sbcglobal.net 805-239-7539, Jack Reggie, reggie@charter.net.

Economy vs. Environment?
Ask the Salamanders

The Santa Lucia Chapter has submitted comments to the US Fish and Wildlife Service disputing the agency’s economic analysis of the impacts of designating critical habitat for the threatened California tiger salamander in 20 California counties, including San Luis Obispo. The central conclusion of the analysis — that 20 counties would incur $367 million in “lost development opportunities” over twenty years — is absurd,” said Chapter Chair Karen Merriam. “The Service is calling $27,000 added on to the cost of a $2 million home a ‘potentially disproportionate economic impact’ that should be avoided at the price of ex-empting thousands of acres from the
Goodbye, Betty

Chapter Treasurer Steven Marx played the recorder as old friends gathered to remember about Betty Schetzer

On August 20, Sierra Club members gathered in the backyard labyrinth at the home of Chapter Chair Karen Merrram to pay tribute to long-time member Betty Schetzer, one of our community’s outstanding activists throughout her long life, which ended on July 14 in the manner of her choosing.

Many remembered Betty’s generosity of spirit. If she was your friend, she was your friend for life. John Ashbaugh remembered her as his mentor, saying “I wish I had that grit, that sense of direction and centeredness” – and as a constant inspiration, unstoppable, happy to be a thorn in the side for a good cause.

Jack Beigle recalled a lesson Betty taught him: “Don’t beat yourself up over making mistakes. Learn from it, correct it, and go.”

A few weeks earlier, the Tribune paid tribute to Betty’s “unwavering sense of justice, compassion and clarity” as someone who “battled for civility in an era of polarity.”

In Memoriam

The Chapter gratefully acknowledges recent donations made by Michael and Merna Pelczar and by Peg and Ted Harriet in memory of the Chapter’s late, beloved Conservation Chair, Pete Wagner. We gratefully acknowledge a recent donation of Sandy and Howard Amborn in memory of Phil and Harriet Amborn.

SANTA LUCIAN

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The Santa Lucian is published 10 times a year. Articles, environmental information and letters to the editor are welcome. The deadline for each issue is the 15th of the month prior to mailing.

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Santa Lucia Chapter

2005 Executive Committee
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John Ashbaugh    MEMBER
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The Executive Committee meets the fourth Friday of every month at 5:00 p.m. at the chapter office, located at 1204 Nipomo St., San Luis Obispo. All members are welcome to attend.

Standing Committees
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Santa Luciana Chapter General Meeting

REPORT FROM THE SUMMIT, CALL FOR ESTUARY VOLUNTEERS

Sept 20, 7-9 p.m.

Direct from the Sierra Summit in San Francisco, the Sierra Club’s first national environmental convention and exposition, we’ll have a report from Chapter delegates on the future of the Club and our environmental protection programs.

Then Anne Gillespie, Volunteer Monitoring Coordinator for the Morro Bay National Estuary Program, will tell us about the Program’s volunteer training. The Program expects to be very busy collecting data once the rainy season comes and is interested in recruiting volunteers for water quality monitoring. It’s a minimal monthly time commitment and a great opportunity for a wide range of volunteers. The data collected is frequently called upon by numerous agencies making environmental management decisions.

Tuesday, September 20
7 - 9 p.m.
Ludwick Center
864 Santa Rosa Street
(corner of Mill)
San Luis Obispo

Next:
At our October 18th meeting, Mark DeHann, Paso Robles High School teacher and straw bale house builder/owner will speak on “Global Environmental Options 101: What we all need to know!”

Visit us on the Web!

www.santalucia.sierraclub.org

Outings, events, and more!

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regulatory requirements of critical habitat protection.

The obvious faults of the neoclassical economic model of ecological economics, which can’t calculate “natural capital,” the value of the wetland, estuary, forest or other natural landscapes, In ecological economics, this is determined by a calculation of the cost to the resources the environment provides, air and water pollution and fragmented and degraded ecosystems, converting natural landscapes, air and water pollution and fragmented and degraded ecosystems, converting natural landscapes to other uses. In ecological economics, which can’t calculate “natural capital,” the value of the wetland, estuary, forest or other natural landscapes, in ecological economics, which can’t calculate “natural capital,” the value of the wetland, estuary, forest or other natural landscapes, in ecological economics, which can’t calculate “natural capital,” the value of the wetland, estuary, forest or other natural landscapes, in ecological economics, which can’t calculate “natural capital,” the value of the wetland, estuary, forest or other natural landscapes, in ecological economics, which can’t calculate “natural capital,” the value of the wetland, estuary, forest or other natural landscapes, in ecological economics, which can’t calculate “natural capital,” the value of the wetland, estuary, forest or other natural landscapes, in ecological economics, which can’t calculate “natural capital,” the value of the wetland, estuary, forest or other natural landscapes, in ecological economics, which can’t calculate “natural capital,” the value of the wetland, estuary, forest or other natural landscapes, in ecological economics, which can’t calculate “natural capital,” the value of the wetland, estuary, forest or other natural landscapes, in ecological economics, which can’t calculate “natural capital,” the value of the wetland, estuary, forest or other natural landscapes, in ecological economics, which can’t calculate “natural capital,”

The draft economic analysis does not make appropriate assumptions regarding current practices and likely regulatory changes imposed as a result of the designation of critical habitat.

The terms of the analysis are the terms of neoclassical economics, in which goods are exchanged and prof- its are made as a result of a market system with no resource constraints. These terms render the draft eco- nomic analysis incomprehensible, and likely regulatory changes imposed as a result of the designation of critical habitat.

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Sept. 17 is California Coastal Cleanup Day

Every September, 50,000 volunteers turn out at more than 700 cleanup sites statewide to conduct what has been hailed by the Guinness Book of World Records as “the largest garbage collection” (1993). California Coastal Cleanup Day is the county’s premier volunteer event focused on the marine environment.

Since the program started in 1985, over eleven million dollars’ worth of debris from our state’s shorelines and coast. When combined with the International Coastal Cleanup, orga- nized by The Ocean Conservancy and tak- ing place on the same day, Cali- fornia Coastal Cleanup Day becomes part of one of the largest volunteer events of the year.

California Coastal Cleanup Day is easy. Pre-register with your local Coordinator (ECOSLO - 544-1777; miranda@ecoslo.org), or simply show up at a drop-in site – go to www.coastal.ca.gov for information, or call (800) COAST-4U or e-mail coastal@coastal.ca.gov. Join your neighbors on Saturday, September 17, from 9 a.m. to Noon for the 21st Annual California Coastal Cleanup Day.

Be part of the solution to marine pollution!

We can phase out nuclear power
A Report from the California Energy Commission’s historic workshop

By Rochelle Becker
Chair, Sierra Club Diablo Canyon Task Force, Executive Director, Alliance for Nuclear Responsibility

Over two days of Cali- fornia Energy Commissi- on panels on August 15 and 16 in Sacra- mento, the Alliance for Nuclear Responsibility, Mothers for Peace and concerned citizens came together with representatives of the California Public Utilities Com- mission, the Nuclear Regulatory Com- mission and advocates of both renewable and nuclear power, and asked questions that deserve answers:

"Would ratepayer money be better spent on newer/cleaner technology for our state's future power generation?" (How many jobs could be created in California’s renewable energy in- dustry?)

"Would California benefit from this growing technology that is supported by both parties and our governor?"

"Would California be in the forefront of marketing this technology to the nation?"

"Would this not make our energy resources more secure?"

Two former NRC Commissioners ended the last workshop on the status of nuclear power in California by listing the reasons why the state can- not trust today’s Nuclear Regulatory Commission to protect its citizens’ health and safety. It was made clear that the federal Department of Energy is unable to responsibly and legally address permanent safe storage of growing stockpiles of high-level ra- dioactive waste – bad news for the residents who live by nuclear plants and recently licensed high-level ra- dioactive waste storage facilities.

These condemnations of federal oversight agencies told attendees that: 1)After three decades, our country is no closer to solving the problem of permanent safe storage of radioactive waste than when nuclear plants were licensed.

2) High-level radioactive waste will remain in vulnerable spent fuel pools until licenses expire, and dry casks containing radioactive waste will likely remain on our earthquake ac- tive coast “in perpetuity”.

3) Casks holding highly radioactive waste may need to be “repackedaged” up to four times to keep radioactivity isolated while on site.

4) Radioactive waste at nuclear plants in California, closed since the 1980’s, remains at the reactor site even if the plant itself has been decommissioned.

The Commissioners also spoke about energy policies that favor nuclear power and are inconsistent with market economics and /or democratic governance, including:

-Tax credits, loan guarantees and risk insulation solely for new nuclear plant output

-Extension of liability limitations to new nuclear plant powers

The California/Nevada Conservation Committee: Call for Agenda

The California/Nevada Conservation Committee will meet Saturday, September 24th and Sunday, Septem- ber 25th, 2005, at Rancho El Chorro in San Luis Obispo. All Sierra Club members are welcome. If you have an action item, discus- sion item or committee/task force report you wished placed on the agenda, please contact Allan Eberhart at gallal@cn.net. A list of any proposed resolutions must be available for posting before the meet- ing. Any action items must be plac- ed on the agenda prior to the meeting will be added to the Committee’s work on the body on Saturday.

If you are interested in being nominated for a position, contact someone, contact Vicki Lee, CNRC nominating Committee Chair.

--To the support of the Alli- ance to pass legislation to amend current law and prohibit license sales for California’s nuclear plants, go to: www. modar.org. Authority for Nuclear Responsibility PO. Box 1328 San Luis Obispo 93406

Supervisors Ease High- Income Housing Crisis

By Sue Harvey
Chair Executive Committee

On August 16, in a “Let them eat cake” moment, Supervisors Harry Ovitt, Jerry Lenthall and Katcho Achadjian threw the County’s General Plan out the window and voted to approve the conversion of sixty acres of Ag land in rural Templeton for the construction of eleven million-dollar- plus estate homes.

District 3 Supervisor Ovitt justified this zoning-change lurch into sprawl and loss of agricultural lands by claiming “We are losing our (inventory) inventory. We build it for one seg- ment of society and don’t allow any- one else to move up.”

With an all-time low of 11% in the county’s Housing Affordability Index — the percentage of households able to afford a 50,000 to 100,000 dollar home — the question for the Supervisor is: What will the other 89% be moving up from?

Supervisor Patterson dissented, asking “Is this the type of housing we need?” Supervisor Bianchi also voted no also, showing a clear grasp of how sprawl happens (“With housing, we need to put it where it belongs.”). On August 22, the Tribune delivered a well-aimed brickbat at Supervisors Ovitt, Achadjian and Lenthall, point- ing out that their real estate section has “plenty of inventory of homes in the million-dollar range.”

Couched in this insult to those who live here now and have little or no hope of owning a home or moving up to a million-dollar estate is the claim that we have already built all the housing we need and then some for your “segment of society.” I’d wager most of the buyers of those eleven homes will be from out of the county.

The next time Supervisor Ovitt leads a contingent of business owners around the county to tout our attractions and benefits, he can tour them past our million-dollar home inven- tories and ask them if they can “move up” any time.

Supervisors Ovitt, Lenthall and Achadjian fail to erect a new licensing process that has been con- sumed by the California Public Utilities Commission to protect its citizens’ health and safety. It was made clear that the federal Department of Energy is unable to responsibly and legally address permanent safe storage of growing stockpiles of high-level radio- active waste – bad news for the residents who live by nuclear plants and recently licensed high-level radioactive waste storage facilities.

These condemnations of federal oversight agencies told attendees that:

1) After three decades, our country is no closer to solving the problem of permanent safe storage of radioactive waste than when nuclear plants were licensed.

2) High-level radioactive waste will remain in vulnerable spent fuel pools until licenses expire, and dry casks containing radioactive waste will likely remain on our earthquake active coast “in perpetuity.”

3) Casks holding highly radioactive waste may need to be “repackedaged” up to four times to keep radioactivity isolated while on site.

4) Radioactive waste at nuclear plants in California, closed since the 1980’s, remains at the reactor site even if the plant itself has been decommissioned.

The Commissioners also spoke about energy policies that favor renewable energy that can be replaced easily with conservation, energy efficiency, sustainable energy, and a commit- ment to developing new technolo- gies. California can phase out pro- duction of nuclear waste on our coast in 20 years or less.

This meeting will serve as the basis for the Energy Report – the Energy Commission’s planning panel for the future of energy production in our state.

To read the presentations from all panels, go to: www.energy.ca.gov/ 2005_energypolicy/documents/ index.html#0815+1605

To support the work of the Alli- ance to pass legislation to amend current law and prohibit license sales for California’s nuclear plants, go to: www. adar.org. Alliance for Nuclear Responsibility PO. Box 1328 San Luis Obispo 93406

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"Stinky" Smith, head of Public Citizens, Texas, came to SLO to speak at an Alliance for Nuclear Responsibility event on August 15 in route to the California Energy Commission’s "nuclear issue" panel in Sacramento.
Hunt continued from page 1

Hattie for pleading with his fellow commissioners to allow the citizens of SLO to be heard, to no avail.

Thanks to everyone who turned out for these meetings, as well as the Morro Bay City Council and LCOC meetings, wrote letters to the editor, signed a petition, sent a postcard or an e-mail, and otherwise made the wishes of the overwhelming majority of our citizens known. And finally, thanks to the Commission for thoroughly misreading this community, thereby galvanizing it on this issue never before.

Any further offers of compromise as to hunt time and area restrictions are unlikely. The Commission’s actions have laid the groundwork for the future rally to public protest and numbering the days of California’s most inappropriate wildlife hunt. Stay tuned.

Peter Douglas Marks Twenty Years of Saving the Coast

On Thursday morning, August 11th, as the California Coastal Commission met in Costa Mesa, Sierra Club’s Great Coastal Places campaign Chair Tarren Collins and Coastal Program Direc- tor Mark Massara made a presenta- tion to Peter Douglas commemorating his 20th year as Executive Director of the California Coastal Commission.

A framed coastal photo was en- ginned with the caption: “To Peter Douglas: Commemo- rating twenty years of service to the people of California and a lifetime spent protecting the coast. With gratitude, Sierra Club’s coastal activ- ists.” It was presented by Great Coastal Places Campaign Chair Tarren Collins.

“I am here today representing the 5,000 members of Sierra Club’s Great Coastal Places Campaign. As the volunteer leader for this remarkable cause, I represent the coast, and as someone who has dedicated my time to state wide coastal protection, I am humbled by the opportunity to speak for a moment about California’s premier coastal champion, Peter Dou- gles.

“Peter has been a personal hero to me and a positive example for any- one who wonders if an individual can make a difference. Peter’s self- less work has helped to preserve a clean and healthy coast and to en- sure that California’s beaches and bluffs are protected responsibly in a way that protects the rights of all Californians. Those of us who work every day to ensure that our beaches are accessible, our water is clean and our coastal views are protected all owe a debt of gratitude to Peter for his clarity of vision, his unsur- passed dedication and his lifetime of public service.

“So I stand here today, represent- ing hundreds of people who are part of the coast to Peter as a token of our great esteem. 

“As Peter has said many times, ‘the coast is never finally saved, but rather ‘it always is being saved.’ But for the thoughtful and inspiring stewardship of Peter Douglas, many tens of thousands of people would be unaware of the risks facing California’s coast. Without Peter, countless coastal treasures could be lost forever.

“Thank you, Peter.”

Who’s Afraid of TDC’s?

You, hopefully. Planning Commission urging emergency stop to failed land use program

By Sue Harvey, PanoWatch, and Mary Leora, Creston Citizens for Ag Land Preservation

A review of the county’s Transfer of Development Credit Program is scheduled for October 4 at the Board of Supervisors. We are requesting an urgent action on the program until all of the concerns raised by the public are addressed.

The TDC program is supposed to direct development away from rural and ag land (‘sending sites’) and channel development into coastal and existing de- velopment (‘receiving sites’). One small problem: No cities have agreed to be receiver sites. Cities like Paso Robles that wish to create a green belt around the city have to partici- pate in the county’s efforts to stop sprawl and preserve ag and rural lands. When any developer inside the city wants a variance or General Plan amendment for their project, the cities should require them to buy TDC’s. Until cities agree to partici- pate in the program, we will merely be creating and maintaining develop- ment chess pieces around on the rural county map.

On May 12, 2005, the County Planning Commission sent a letter to the Board of Supervisors making the following recommendations on the Program: an emergency moratorium to stop all new applications while the ordinance is being modified; estab- lish a sending site criteria that brings the transfer ratio closer to 1 to 1 (one lot retired: one lot created); strengthen receiving site criteria; consider requiring a merging of underlying parcels on the sending site; strengthen the conservation language regarding allowable uses

(See L.A. Times August 15, “Ranch’s Estate Squares Controversy,” considering removing ag land as a re- ceiver site; consider requiring all recover sites be within or contiguous to urban reserve lines.

The Times article highlighted seri- ous flaws in the county’s TDC Pro- gram and has raised the hackles of the California Council of Land Trusts. This article focuses on the Las Tablas Ranch owned by Doren Bonnheim. There are only three re- ceiving agreements in the County Pro- gram: Bonnheim at 5,488 acres gen- erating 1,015 development credits; Denny at 52 acres; and Choin, acre- age unknown.

The Las Tablas Ranch site is the key to making the TDC Program look suc- cessful. Without Bonnheim, only about 56 parcels of the 736 credits in the program were sold, of the 43 existing lots at the Bonnheim site, appraisals were used to deter- mine the development value of not more than two houses on each of the 40 parcels. The difference in value to the property with and without the develop- ments rights was considered. Bon- nheim credits were then added. The Grand Jury, the reviewing appraiser and many citizens have questioned how and why the program allows this excessive multiplication of lots and resulting rural sprawl.

At the time that the credits were awarded, significant questions were raised by the appraisal review. The original appraisal estimated a loss in value to the property due to the TDC easements at 66% of the value of the ranch prior to the agreement. The reviewing appraiser noted “…this seems extremely high….” The review questions the effect the Williamson Act easement might have on the valuation, the problem of the underlying parcels not being merged, and the appropriateness of some of the comparison properties, assigning “highest and best use” as cattle ranch- ing when portions of the ranch about highly successful vineyards. This method of determining credits is no longer used, but credits based on these questionable methods are still being sold, and the Board of Supervi- sors members close Friday, September 23; petitions need to be submitted to the head of the county by 5 p.m. on Oc- tober 4.

Nominations continued from page 1


You may nominate yourself or someone else to any member of the committee. Members may also run by petition, signed by 25 Chapter members, to be submitted to the committee nominations close Friday, September 23; petitions need to be submitted to the head of the Chapter Office by 5 p.m. on Oc- tober 4.

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“Thank you, Peter.”

A Short Portage on the Las Tablas Arm of Lake Nacimiento

By Jack Beigle

The portage was only 100 yards from our parking spot to the shore of Lake Nacimiento. It is beautiful. The steep valley is covered with trees to the water’s edge. This entire arm of the lake is a no-wake zone so ski boats did not bother us. Our hosts, Letty and Cal French, led us on a de- lightful paddle to the confluence of Las Tablas Creek.

We explored upstream as far as we could, and then return, downstream, where Letty pointed out a black eagle nest. There were two egrets that had not yet fledged. One climbed to a branch that was only a few feet above the nest and off to one side. As we watched it spread its wings and half flew, half fell into the nest. Flying lesson number one was successfully completed.

After resting in the nest, it climbed off to one side. As we continued down to where we could see the party boats, ski boats and jet skis zooming around.

We returned upstream and left the noise and frantic activity behind. You can feel the joy in the serenity of a quiet mountain lake. When we ap- proached the eagle’s nest our eaglet was still on his perch trying to get up the nerve to try his second flying lesson.

The take out and portage to our parking spot was still on his perch, and under the shade of a branch that was about 3 feet above the nest. There were two eaglets that had just hatched. The reviewing appraiser then added. The view questions the effect the Williamson Act easement might have on the valuation, the problem of the underlying parcels not being merged, and the appropriateness of some of the comparison properties, assigning “highest and best use” as cattle ranch- ing when portions of the ranch about highly successful vineyards. This method of determining credits is no longer used, but credits based on these questionable methods are still being sold, and the Board of Supervi- sors members close Friday, September 23; petitions need to be submitted to the head of the county by 5 p.m. on Oc- tober 4.

The reviewing appraiser noted “…this seems extremely high….” The review questions the effect the Williamson Act easement might have on the valuation, the problem of the underlying parcels not being merged, and the appropriateness of some of the comparison properties, assigning “highest and best use” as cattle ranch- ing when portions of the ranch about highly successful vineyards. This method of determining credits is no longer used, but credits based on these questionable methods are still being sold, and the Board of Supervi- sors members close Friday, September 23; petitions need to be submitted to the head of the county by 5 p.m. on Oc- tober 4.

The科技进步迅速，对城市发展具有极重要意义。
Penguins March, Sea Lions Rock!

California Sea Lions - an Unforgettable Encounter, narrated by Sean Astin (Lord of the Rings), will have its SLO theatrical premiere at the Palm Theater starting at 7:30 p.m. on Sunday, September 25.

This film has already delighted audiences at the SLO Film Fest, the Montecito Film Festival, and the Channel Islands Film Festival (winner - Encourage Choice Award, Best Film). California Sea Lions - an Unforgettable Encounter features the sea lions’ behavior in their marine environment. Awkward on land, amazingly graceful in the water, performing amazing acrobatics two feet below the surface.

SALAMANDER

and Human Well-being," has defined the benefits of ecosystem services in a peer-reviewed framework. In order to reflect these changes and maintain its function as the principal federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting and enhancing fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people, and to properly administer the Endangered Species Act, the Service must update its measurements of the economic effects of critical habitat designation in accordance with the present-day understanding of natural capital, ecosystem services and the economic impacts in terms of envi- ronmental conversion.

Based on an economic analysis that omits to state the positive economic benefits of CHD via the preservation of natural capital, ecosystem services and the economic impacts in terms of environ- mental conversion.


[NOTE: On August 23, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service issued a Final Economic Analysis and an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the negative effects of the BLM’s proposal to delete critical habitat for the species. The Service stated that the EIS would include an analysis of the potential economic impacts of deleting critical habitat. The Service did not cite another passage from the guidance memo that in- structed "Even when a benefit or cost cannot be expressed in monetary units, you should still try to measure it in terms of its physical units. If you are able to measure the physical units, you should still describe the benefit or cost qualitatively, and "if the non-quantified benefits and costs are likely to be im- portant, you should carry out a threshold analysis to evaluate their signifi- cance." The Service did none of the above. The rule will take effect on September 23.]

Oct. 1: Sampling Sustainable Systems, a Benefit for Mothers for Peace

Your are invited to attend work- shops, films and talks exploring alternative forms of energy on Saturday, October 1. It is going to be a fun day at the Southern California Sustainability Group of Architects' Complex. You can begin the day at either the Baja California Film Center or by clicking on the Botanical Garden website from 10 o'clock on.

At the Botanical Garden there will be several different present- ations, every hour on the hour between 10:00 and 2:00.

1. The San Luis Botanical Garden and the Southern California Sustainability Group of Architects' Complex. You can begin the day at either the Baja California Film Center and/or the Botanical Garden.

2. John Ewan of Pacific Energy Company comes to us with 25 years of experience of solar energy systems. He will give you insight into the many options for off-grid and grid-tie inter-tie such as the Palm The- ater. (At the Garden's amphitheater.)

3. Representatives from the Sustainability Group will provide educational tours of the partially-built Education Center - a completely sus- tainable building.

At the Sustainability Group of Ar- chitects' Complex on Tassajara Creek Rd. near Santa Margarita, Saturday, October 1, you will find all the information you will need to find the day's events.

Tickets are available at BooBoo Records on Monterey St., SLO: Pacific Energy Co. on Santa Barbara St., or you can contact the Board and tell them you want the program eliminated. The San Luis Obispo Vets Hall, 861 California Ave.

Featuring Green Businesses and Non-Profit organizations: 20 work- shops, educational tours of Organic Farmers * Delicious Food & Local Produce * Local Arts & Crafts * Healing Arts * Solar Demo- strations * Fun hands-on art ac- tivities for kids * Raiffe Prices * Meet your local elected Representa- tives * and more.

Join us in celebration of all the great things that are happening in our community and around the world.

Keynote speaker Ocean Robins - 2:00 - 2:45pm - Live from the sounds of Hip Deep. This year's event is a fundraiser for ECO SLO and Information Press.

The Green Earth Expo 2005 website is up and running!! There you will find all the information about the Expo: greenearthpromotions.org

Oct. 15: Green Earth Expo 2005

Healthy Home Healthy World Healthy Kids

Saturday, October 15th * 11 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. * San Luis Obispo Vets Hall, 861 California Ave.

Featuring Green Businesses and Non-Profit organizations: 20 work- shops, educational tours of Organic Farmers * Delicious Food & Local Produce * Local Arts & Crafts * Healing Arts * Solar Demostrations * Fun hands-on art ac- tivities for kids * Raiffe Prices * Meet your local elected Representa- tives * and more.

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Meeting Minutes from recent Chapter meetings

Conservation Committee meeting Aug. 16, 2005
Meeting was called to order by Chair Pam Heatherington at 4:15pm
Present: Jack McCurdy, Sue Harvey, Ian Marx, Pam Heatherington
Absent: Leslie Krinsk, Janice Rohn
Staff: Andrew Christie
Guests: “Grassroots” students from Cuesta college, City Planner Jeff Hook

Jeff Hook made a presentation regarding the Conservation and Open Space Element (COSE) draft which is being revised by the Planning Commission (PC). He told us that staff did not intend to weaken environmental protection of the 1994 Open Space Element in the consolidation process. Committee members pointed out that, in fact, many changes which he had made had weakened environmental protection. He indicated that he was open to all comments from the Sierra Club and offered current revisions as proof (attached). He said that whenever it is pointed out to him by the ECOSLO or Don Dollar that the old language was more protective than the new language, he is changing it back to the original in the next revision. The Planning Commissioners are being asked to review the consolidated new element without reference to the 1994 Open Space Element which Conscom members let him know was unprecedented. Hook is putting limitations on the development of Open Space back into the draft, expanding the greenbelt, new section on viewsheds, green building standards, setting a higher bar for builders. He will post the next draft on the web prior to the Planning Commission meeting at which it will be considered, October 12. Planning Commissioners should be encouraged to read the 1994 Element prior to reading the next draft. SC should submit detailed comments and new language to the PC.

Old Business
Ag Liaison Committee. Sue Harvey reported that the presentation regarding the issue of cultural criteria for TDCs, which she and others made before the Ag Liaison Committee had been productive. The committee agreed on a moratorium on TDCs when the Gen. Plan Amendment and Planning Commission letter come before the Supervisors Oct. 4.

Cambria CSD: The CSD wishes to allow parking in a wetland conservation easement. Ian will attend to monitor the CSD Board’s attempts to intimidate environmentalists through abuse of process re Pine Knolls tanks.

Marine Life Protection Act: will be considered August 18 by Fish and Game at the new BOS office, SC is supporting the full Pigeon Point to Point Conception MPA study area in the draft prepared by the Blue Ribbon Committee.

Chicago Grade Landfill Expansion: Draft EIR has been issued and Andrew is coordinating review and working with neighborhood groups who have asked us for assistance.

New Business
Pam brought up the fact that the sewage spill from the SLO city plant also contained chemicals, but that was not covered in the press. Pam will draft a letter asking the city what type of water testing they did after the spill and we will refer the matter to the ExComm.

Los Padres National Forest will be subject to oil drilling. SC is reviewing appeal options.
Letter from Jesse Arnold re: Labeling of genetically modified foods will be referred to ExComm.

Local Government Meetings
City of SLO—1st & 3rd Tues., 7:00 p.m.; 781-7103
Arroyo Grande—2nd and 4th Tues., 7:30 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
SLOCOC Citizens Advisory Committee—1st Wed. every other month, 6:00 p.m.
SLOCOG Board—1st Wed. every other month, 8:30 a.m.
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Classifieds...

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A Will . . .

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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

Sierra Club - Santa Lucia Chapter
San Luis Obispo, CA 93406
p.o. Box 15755
sierr8@charter.net

Classifieds

October issue ad deadline is September 16. To acquire a rate sheet or submit your ad and payment, contact:
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San Luis Obispo, CA 93406
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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 outing leader, call Outings Leader Gary Felsing (473-3694). For information on a specific outing, please contact the outing leader. Outings Leaders please get your outings or events in by the 1st for the next month’s outings.

**Hiking Classifications**
- Distances: 1 = 0-2 mi., 2 = 2-3.5 mi., 3 = 3.5-5 mi., 4 = 5-10 mi., 5 = 12 mi. or more.

**Sept. 4th, 4:00 p.m.** Valenca

**Peak Southern Route Conditioning Hike**
This is a 2-hour, 4.5-mile hike with an average elevation gain of over 1200-foot elevation gain. Bring water, sturdy hiking shoes and clothing for the weather. Everyone is welcome, but this is not a casual outing; it is a vigorous conditioning hike. It is intended who want to maintain a high fitness level. It is a non-smoking outing. Meet in shape, as they are likely to be left behind. Meet at the Cerro Cactus parking area at the end of Perico Road in Montano de Oro. Leader Al (534-0462/12B)

**Sept. 4th, 9:30 a.m.** POINT

**SMOKY BEACH:** Meet at end of Brown Rd. at locked gate at 0930 climb 2.5 miles to pass/saddle and then decide what to do next. Bring water, snacks, lunch. A group might be hiking all the way to Smoky 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 10-11th.**

**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 OAH 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 signs, building vehicle barriers to prevent entry to the wilderness area to the south, and camouflaging and restoring illegal vehicle trespass 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, (301) 477-2273, cdeutsch@earthlink.net. CNC Desert Com**

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

**Sept. 16th - 18th CATALINA ISLAND FUN IN THE SUN:** Paradise Club - 290 & 30’s Singles Section. Crescenta Valley/ OSCS (sign up at www.sacs.org)

**Sat-Sun., September 17-18th. Carcamp and Service in the Owens Valley.** We’ll be on the Owen’s River Delta, removing tamarisk, and then take short hikes to view wildlife and special areas. We’ll visit the Inner Owens River Delta service area. If the weather is hot, we can re- create to the Inn. We will drive over the mountain roadways. 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, hoppers and handaevs (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, contact Leaders: Cal and Letty French, 14140 Chimney Rock Road, Camarillo, CA 93010. Prefer e-mail: ccfrench@tcsn.net. CNCC/Santa Lucia Chapter

**SAT., Sept. 17, 9:30 a.m. CANOE/ KAYAK MORRO BAY SAND SPIT CLEANUP.** Help us improve the estu- ary by cleaning a section of the Morro Bay Spit. Bring your boat and equipment, PFDs, picnic lunch, gloves and bin- oculars. We will provide free bags HIGHTIDE 10:02 AM. 5’, LOW TIDE 4:19 PM. 2’. LOCATE AT 80/080 MORRO BAY STATE PARK MARINA. Details call Jack Beigle 773-2147

**Sat., Sept. 17, 9:30 a.m. Oats Peak - Coon Creek Loop.** Enjoy a wide va- riety of flora and fauna, and miles of hiking in a marvellous cypress grove. Possible ticks and pos- son oak in places. Meet at visitor cen- ter. Bob Schwartz. 441-6508, crew_santa@yahoo.com or BDenneen@SLONET.org.

**Saturday September 17th-3 P.M. Guadalupe Dunes Beach Hike at Low Tide.** Meet at the Dunes Visitor’s Center in Guadalupe, shortly after the Sta- ria Bridge on the right side of S.R. 1. Will carpool to the Dunes after a short visit to the Center and then walk along the sand, go south to Guadalupe State Park beach. Contact Elaine at 473-0298 before 5 PM to confirm.

**Sat., Sept. 17, 10:15 p.m. SUNSET MONOINSE Hike and POTLUCK AT POINT SAL Road:** Moderate 5 mi. RT hike with uphill most of the way to our dinner destination, then 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 daypack with food to prepare dinner/activities, plus catered meals from Fri lunch to Sun brunch. Potluck Sat night. Leader—now we get maybe 20 items. JIM 937-6766 (AR)

**Sat., Oct. 1st SURF BEACH: Cel- ebrate the opening of Surf Beach by walking along the shoreline. Meet at 3:32pm. Dogs welcome. Always contact the leader; hike particulars can change. CON 735-2292 (AR)

**Oct. 2nd, Sun., 0930 BLACK LAKE CANYON: Meet at junction of Guadalupe Rd. and Lengua Nigra to hike down Xeron Way, see oak-wood- land, a man-made canyon, giant crab- grass and protected areas. Call or e-mail a few days before for details.929-3647 or BDenneen@SLONET.org

**Outing in the Sequoia Monument**

You are invited by the Sierra Club’s Sequoia Task Force on a Fall Outing in the magnificent Giant Sequoia Na- tional Monument, about 90 minutes east of Porterville, California. You can arrive anytime after 2:00 pm Fri- day, Sept. 30. Saturday morn- ing we will have several hikes and see a wide variety of spectacular scenery. If we are lucky, the aspens will be changing colors and the dogwood will be turning red! We will hike through the Wheel Meadow Grove down the South Fork of the North Fork of the Tule River. Later we will take a short but steep jaunt to a secret swimming hole. We will provide the visit from Dome Rock with views of the Kern Valley and views into the magnificent Giant Sequoia Na-

**tional Monument.**

We will visit sites where the Sierra Club is challenging logging to mea- sure stumps and count rings to deter- mine the ages of these recently felled trees. Saturday night we will have a pot- luck dinner.

Bring your own food and gear. Tent recom- mended but not required. $10. Details, Carla at cacoc@ocnet.net.

**RESERVATIONS RE- QUİRED BY SEPTEMBER 25TH.**