Can This County be Saved?
Hour of decision nears for two disastrous land use plans

RPD: 11/3
The RPD Ordinance
Thursday, November 3rd at 6:30 p.m. in the SLO City/County Library

The proposed Rural Planned Development ordinance was crafted in back rooms with no public input and beneath the heavy hand of development interests.

“The proposed ordinance is inconsistent with all current rural development policies established by the County, and has not been considered or planned for in the County General Plan, Framework for Inland Planning or Resource Management System. “In addition the proposed ordinance would significantly conflict with the goals and policies stated in the Clean Air Plan. The Ag Commissioner has pointed out conflict with the goals of the Williamson Act, to hide the inconsistency with established policy and State Law, to hide the significant loss of rural character, and to hide the significant and irreversible harm this thing will do to the county.

“The proposed ordinance is inconsistent with all current rural development policies established by the County, and has not been considered or planned for in the County General Plan, Framework for Inland Planning or Resource Management System. “In addition the proposed ordinance would significantly conflict with the goals and policies stated in the Clean Air Plan. The Ag Commissi

TDC: 11/22
The TDC Program
Tuesday, November 22 at 9 a.m. in the SLO County Government Center

For nine years, the County’s transfer of Development Credits program has been supposed to direct development away from rural and agricultural lands and toward areas with existing development. A policy of putting development where density already exists.

Not only has it failed to do this, it has done the opposite. Neighborhoods and the neighbors of landowners are notoriously unwilling to accept additional density as “receptor sites.” The Bonnheim Ranch, the single largest “sending site” and seller of TDCs, has in return received a conservation easement that is fraught with controversy. To date, not one lot in a single anticipated subdivision has been retired by the program, one of its primary

continued on page 3

Vote NO on Props 73, 75 & 76

The Sierra Club opposes Propositions 73, 75 & 76 on November’s special election ballot, and urges all Californians to vote NO on these initiatives.

Regarding Prop 73, Sierra Club supports a woman’s right to choose and to have unmitigated access to family-planning services. The Sierra Club supports voluntary family planning as an important part of our work to protect public health, promote healthy communities and defend the earth’s wild places. Proponents of Proposition 73 view this as an opportunity to advance their larger agenda to systematically tear down the principles established in Roe v. Wade.

“Prop 73 is a blow to women’s reproductive freedom, and would be an unreasonable burden on young women from abusive homes, as well as victims of incest,” commented Paul Mason, a representative of Sierra Club California. Sierra Club joins the California Medical Association, California Nurses Association and Planned Parenthood in opposing this initiative.

The Sierra Club also opposes Prop 75, the effort to limit the political activities of labor unions. “As a grassroots volunteer-driven group, Sierra Club supports the right of membership organizations to engage in political activities, and we oppose Prop 75’s biased attempt to shift power toward big corporations,” explained Bill Magavern, Senior Representative for Sierra Club California. Proposition 76, the Governor’s proposal to change California’s budget process, is strongly opposed by the Sierra Club. “Prop 76 would allow the Governor to slash budgets for environmental protection under a variety of fairly common circumstance, without any oversight or involvement by the Legislature,” said Mason. “This new authority could be devastating in the hands of an anti-environmental Governor.”

continued on page 3

continued on page 4
Global Environmental Options 101:
What We All Need to Know!

November 15, 7-9 p.m.

Paso Robles High School earth science and biology teacher Mark DiMaggio is an expert at inspiring students in how to reduce their biological footprint, survive in the wilderness, and to integrate the principles of environmentalism in their daily lives through his GEO environmental education program. Now it’s your turn to get inspired!

“Today, GEO stands as one of the startlingly few classes that offer any sort of environmental studies, even a simple ecology course, in county high schools. With an emphasis on understanding issues holistically, empowering students through real-world projects, and knowing the wonders of nature, DiMaggio...is creating an ecologist student body.”

— Katie Beren, HopeDance, March-April 2003

Why do We Keep Having This Problem?
Wanted at the Board of Supervisors: Leadership

As we try to make clear on our front page — and shouldn’t have to for anyone who has lived here for a while — San Luis Obispo has a problem, and it’s not getting better.

Idle rumor has it that there may actually be rubber stamps that passes back and forth between the Supervisors and the Planning Department. One that says “OK...MND,” meaning “approve this proposal with a Mitigated Negative Declaration — no significant environmental impacts.”

If true, it would explain a lot: the chopping down of scenic and cultural and rural lands, felled oak, shrinking habitat and vanishing wildlife, the specter of monster malls in rural neighborhoods (good morning, Templeton!), the giant sucking sound of vanishing water (hello, Nipomo!), the non-commitment to affordable housing except for the continued mowing of the words (welcome to Cypress Ridge!), and the death of a thousand cuts faced by urban fringe neighborhoods at the hands of developers with a free pass from having to consider the cumulative impacts of their developments (alas, Arroyo Grande!)

In June, the Board had before it the Rural Planned Development ordinance — a development tool that would allow subdivision of a 20-acre lot down to 1-acre parcels in ag and rural areas — and chose to keep it alive and circulating among advisory councils rather than adhere to overwhelming demand by the public and the County Ag Commissioner to kill it.

And then there’s the TDC program. On October 4, after a year of putting the Supervisors through an overwhelming majority of those who spoke at the Board meeting, their own advisory councils, and their Planning Commission, all of whom were telling them to shut down the TDC program and pass an urgency ordinance to do so. They punted again and delayed a decision until November 22.

No Supervisor made a motion for a moratorium on the program, or for the interim moratorium while the Supervisors deliberated. The idea of an urgency ordinance to suspend TDC permit applications until the Board had decided on a course of action was waved away without discussion, virtually guaranteeing a land rush for TDC permits in the month and a half until the Board’s November 22 meeting — a last-chance fire sale to fully exploit the loopholes in the severely flawed program, get applications into the pipeline and lock in development of substandard lots before the program can be shut down or re-formed. The Board succeeded in making a serious problem worse.

This board will continue to thwart the will of citizens and the advisory councils by the expedient of “continuing” agenda items that threaten the will of the pro-development Board majority — and then continuing them again, until enough members of the public drop off, can’t take yet another day off work, can’t continue coming back to another Board meeting on the same issue...and then the Board can return to its preferred natural habitat: A nearly empty hearing chamber, where votes can be taken in comfort, with the least number of eyes upon them.

The standards set in carefully crafted Area Plans, based on community needs and concerns, are routinely being discarded, one development at a time, raising the question of whether the County has a General Plan at all.

This is happening for one reason: The Board of Supervisors lacks leadership. Not one, the 2nd and 3rd district seats are up for grabs. This is an opportunity create a Board majority that will actually listen to the community instead of reflexively bending the knee to development interests, who have a clear vision of what they do and do not want life in San Luis Obispo to become, and have the will to implement that vision.

Let’s take that opportunity.
184 mayors sign on...but not yours

from 1990 levels by 2012;
- Urge Congress to pass the biparti-
san Climate Stewardship Act, which
includes clear timetables and emis-
sion limits.

On the campaign’s website, there is
a map of participating cities whose
mayors have signed on. Dozens of
them are in California, but there’s a
big, embarrassing blank space
between Santa Barbara and Santa
Cruz.

You can change that, in three easy
steps:
1. Go to www.seattle.gov/mayor/
climate and read the U.S. Mayors
Climate Protection Agreement

2. Print it out and mail to your mayor
with a letter asking him to take
advantage of this wonderful
opportunity and sign on your city.
(Scroll down to “participation form,”
print out separately and include it so
the mayor can sign it and send it in)

3. Call the mayor’s office and ask
when he or she will be signing it.
Show up at the next city council
meeting (bring your friends) and ask
him the same question. Repeat as
necessary.

Strive to meet or beat the Kyoto Pro-
tocol targets in your own communi-
ties, through actions ranging from
anti-sprawl land-use policies to urban
forest restoration projects to public in-
formation campaigns;

Urge your state governments and
the federal government to enact policies
and programs to meet or beat the
greenhouse gas emission reduction tar-
get suggested for the United States in
the Kyoto Protocol — 7% reduction

NO LONGER WAITING FOR THE FEDERAL
G O V E R N M E N T TO A C T ON THE URGENT
THREAT POSED BY CLIMATE DISTURPTION TO
THE ENVIRONMENTAL AND ECONOMIC
HEALTH OF OUR COMMUNITIES, MAYORS AND
OTHER LOCAL LEADERS ARE PUTTING
INTO PLACE WINNING ENERGY SOLUTIONS
RIGHT NOW. BY USING THE INNOVATIVE
TECHNOLOGIES OF CLEANER CARS, ENERGY
EFFICIENCY AND RENEWABLE ENERGY,
CITIES ACROSS AMERICA ARE PROTECTING
OUR HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT, WHILE
SAVING TAXPAYER DOLLARS.

On February 16, 2005, the Kyoto
Protocol, the international agreement
to address climate disruption, became
law for the 141 countries that have
tatified it. On that day, Seattle Mayor
Greg Nickels launched an initiative to
advance the goals of the Kyoto
Protocol through leadership and
action by American cities. Mayor
Nickels, along with a growing
number of other U.S. mayors, is
leading the way via the creation of the
US Mayors Climate Protection
Agreement.

By the time of the U.S. Conference
of Mayors met in Chicago last June,
182 cities in 38 states had signed on.
The Conference likewise endorsed the
agreement.

Under the Agreement, participating
cities commit to take following
actions:

- Strive to meet or beat the Kyoto
Protocol targets in their own commu-
ties, through actions ranging from
anti-sprawl land-use policies to urban
forest restoration projects to public in-
formation campaigns;

- Urge your state governments and
the federal government to enact policies
and programs to meet or beat the
greenhouse gas emission reduction tar-
get suggested for the United States in
the Kyoto Protocol — 7% reduction

TDC
continued from page 3

goals.

Last May, the County Planning
Commission urged the Board of
Supervisors to pass an urgency morato-
rium to halt all new TDC applications.
The Board’s advisory committees
have urged termination of the pro-
gram. The Board failed to take this
decision.

“Our Community has worked very
hard to attempt to figure out how to
make a TDC program function as it
was intended,” says Susie Hermreck,
Chair of the Nipomo Community
Advisory Group. “We have tried to
structure the ordinance within the
concept of good planning. We are
unfortunately, it will never solve the
problem that it was intended to solve.”

TDC’s have become a subdivision
assistance program. If it continues,
development will continue to sprawl,
fling itself outward, consuming the
last of San Luis Obispo’s ag and
rural land.

Either the Transfer of Development
Credits program goes down, or this
county does. To tip that balance, you
have to show up. Fill out a card and
speak, or just be present in support
when the Supervisors are called to
decide the fate of the program at the New
County Government Center on No-
ember 22. Check the agenda at
www.co.slo.ca.us to see when TDC’s
are scheduled to be heard, but be
prepared to take the day.

RDP
continued from page 3

up to $250,000 for an EIR? How is it
possible to expose the taxpaying pub-
lic to the expense of litigation, sub-
stantial penalties for Williamson
Act violations and either substandard
service or unreasonably high
expenses for pub-
lic services and roads, especially for
law enforcement and fire safety?

“We do not need or want this pro-
posed ordinance in any form.”

To beat back the RPD, as many resi-
idents as can fit into the room need to
come to the meeting of the Advisory
Councils at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday,
November 3rd, in the SLO City/Country
Library. Tell the Supervisors you will
not sacrifice SLO by allowing them to
write sprawl development into law.

Energy Program. “These cities show
that we can curb global warming and
save money at the same time.”

“The Cool Cities campaign will
tour the country and advocate for
local energy solutions that can help
cities meet their climate protection
commitments.”

The October 12 launch began a
national fall tour to over 20 “Cool
Cities.” Each tour stop will feature a
rally where “Cool City” mayors and
local Sierra Club leaders will call for
proven local energy solutions that will
reenergize our cities and help
curb heat-trapping global warming
pollution.

To accompany the tour, the Sierra
Club has released a new guide, “Cool
Cities: Solving Global Warming One
City at a Time.” The guide explains
the steps toward making cities “cool”
and tells success stories from a broad
range of cities, from greening
municipal vehicle fleets with hybrid
cars in Houston and Charlotte; ener-
gy efficient street lights and build-
ings in Salt Lake City and Scottsdale,
Arizona to renewable energy
investments in Waverly, Iowa and
Columbia, Missouri.

The guide is available online at
sierraglobal.org/globalwarming/cool-
cities.

TAKE ACTION!
Want to make a difference in the
fight to stop global warming?

Looking for more information about
this problem and how it can be
solved? Sign up for The Hotline, and
receive the Sierra Club’s global
warming alerts.

www.sierraclub.org/globalwarming/
newsletter.

Biodiesel: Fueling Change

By Lake Polito
Vice President, ApriFuels LLC

“The use of vegetable oils for en-
gine fuel may seem insignificant
today, but such oils may become,
in the course of time, as important
as petroleum and the coal-tar
products of the present time.”

-Rudolf Diesel, 1912

There is a change in the air. Some
people think it smells like ham-
burgers, others say fresh fries, and
lots of people are getting hungry.

It isn’t a new restaurant; it is ex-
haut from the new fuel people are
using in their diesel engines.

Biodiesel is diesel fuel made from
vegetable oils and fats, and can be
used in any diesel engine with few
to no modifications. It is the fastest
growing alternative fuel, and people
all over the world are making and
using it. Farmers, fleet managers,
and truck drivers are all embracing
biodiesel. Biodiesel is touching the
hearts and minds of the young and

continued on page 6
Election 2005: Santa Lucia Chapter Executive Committee

the chapter office today! The four winners of this election will start their terms on December 16 when the outgoing ExCom adjourns their meeting. The newly-elected ExCom will then convene a brief meeting to establish Officers and set the date for their January meeting. The three highest vote getters will serve three-year terms each. The fourth highest vote getter will serve a one-year term.

IMPORTANT VOTING INFORMATION
Mark your ballots for no more than 4 candidates.
Cumulative voting is not allowed. (More than one vote for one individual)
Vote only one ballot per member. A second ballot is included for two-member households.
Deadline for receiving ballots is by 5:00 pm on December 6, 2005 at the Chapter office.
Enclose your ballot in an envelope and clearly write your name and Sierra Club membership number on the envelope. Then sign it. Like this:

Printed Name
Membership Number
Signature
Send to:
Santa Lucia Elections Committee,
P.O. Box 15755
San Luis Obispo, CA 93406.
Or you may drop it by the office at 1204 Nipomo St. in SLO between 11:00 am and 5:00 pm.
Your membership will be verified, then the ballot removed and separated from the envelope. Both are saved until the next Executive Committee orders them destroyed.

BALLOT
Santa Lucia Chapter Elections November 2005
Households with two members may return their ballots in the same envelope.
You must write your Sierra Club membership number(s) on the envelope.
Do not write a membership number on the ballot.
Households with more than two members may make duplicate ballots.
Mark an "X" in the box next to the candidate’s name. Vote for no more than 4. Order drawn by lot:

- Cleve Nash
- Jono Kincade
- Cal French
- Steven Marx
- Katherine Wassenberg

Do not write your name on this ballot. Put ballot in envelope, print your name and Sierra Club membership number on the envelope. Return to:

Elections Committee
Santa Lucia Chapter
P.O. Box 15755
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

This ballot may be reproduced

BALLOT
Santa Lucia Chapter Elections November 2005
Vote for no more than 4.

- Cleve Nash
- Jono Kincade
- Cal French
- Steven Marx
- Katherine Wassenberg

Do not write your name on this ballot. Put ballot in envelope, print your name and Sierra Club membership number on the envelope. Return to:

Elections Committee
Santa Lucia Chapter
P.O. Box 15755
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

This ballot may be reproduced

Candidate Statements
Katherine Wassenberg
Hello! As a Santa Lucia Executive Committee member candidate, I offer our chapter a fresh perspective and willingness to facilitate an outreach to our younger community members.

Having graduated from San Luis Obispo High School in 2000 and Cal Poly in 2003, I have a local foundation and educational connection, through which I can contact the next generation of Sierra Club members.

My decision and care of the environment resonates deep into my soul and life. As an environmentalist, I choose to live simply and ever strive for greater sustainability. But, I believe that being an environmentalist is more than a choice—it is a need. Fulfilled only by a commitment to spending time in nature and daily appreciating her beauties.

Already I have encountered many of like heart through our chapter and am encouraged to meet more of you. In serving our chapter, I hope to bridge the gap between the current lifetime Sierra Club members and the future ones.

Steven Marx

I’ve served as an ExComm member on and off over the last ten years, putting in two stints as chapter Treasurer. I enjoy working with our present team and with our Chapter Coordinator. My commitment to the Club’s national and local goals has been strengthened by attending the recent Sierra Summit.

If elected to another term, I plan to focus my efforts on streamlining our finances, on strengthening our fundraising efforts, and on trying to build membership and involvement among young people.

At Cal Poly, where I’ve been since 1988, I developed the Cal Poly Land project, edited Cal Poly Land: A Field Guide, taught courses in Environmental Literature and Writing about Place, and organized three University-wide Earth Day programs on Education for Sustainability.

Cal French

I am currently serving on the executive committee as membership chair, delegate to the Sierra Club’s Council of Club Leaders, and a member of the litigation committee. I want to help the Santa Lucia Chapter work on these issues and programs:

- Protecting open space, native species, and wilderness values on our coast, in our forests, along the Salinas River and its tributaries, and on the Carrizo Plain National Monument and its neighboring state and national lands;
- Increasing active membership in the chapter and developing leadership, especially among younger members;
- Raising adequate funds to support our chapter’s staff person, currently Andrew Christie, who has made a positive and significant difference in our effectiveness;
- Making our towns and cities more livable, more energy efficient, and less polluting or our air and water;
- Cooperating with other conservation organizations in accomplishing our goals.

I am a retired teacher, now living in the Adelaida area west of Paso Robles. A member since 1966, I have served in all sorts of Sierra Club positions.

California Coastal Art and Poetry Contest

The California Coastal Commission invites California students in kindergarten through 12th grade to submit artwork or poetry with a California coastal or marine theme to the annual Coastal Art & Poetry Contest! Up to eight winners will be selected to win $100 gift certificates to an art supply or book store, and each winner’s sponsoring teacher will receive a $40 gift certificate for educational supplies.

Students may have their work featured on Commission webpages and in educational materials, and/or public venues.

Entries must be postmarked by January 31, 2006, to be eligible. For contest rules and entry form, visit www.coastforyou.org, email coast4u@coastal.ca.gov, or call (800) Coast 4U.

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positions at the local, state-wide, and national levels. Currently, I am the chair of the national Conflict Resolution Team.

Jono Kinkade
I am a Cuesta College student studying Environmental Conservation and Sociology. After growing up in Santa Margarita and a stay in Thailand when I was 18, I made the decision to find my niche as an activist. Last year I co-founded Grassroots, a Surfrider Taskforce. We began looking at campus issues such as recycling and polystyrene, campaigning for Measure Q, and raising environmental awareness. As a taskforce for the San Luis Bay Chapter of the Surfrider Foundation, we provide assistance to their various environmental campaigns. Last year I served as president of Grassroots and representative to the Associate Students of Cuesta College. This year I am Grassroots’ Community Liaison and Activities Director on the ASCC Executive Cabinet.

I must inform you that this spring I’m going to Thailand for three months, and I will transfer to a school out of the area this fall. However, I still believe I could contribute, bringing to the table organizational experience with youthful energy dedicated to working for a more sustainable, conscientious future. I have become particularly interested in the Sierra Club after returning from a Sierra Student Coalition Training Program. I look forward to both contributing to and learning from the future campaigns of this organization.

Cleve Nash
I am a former editor of the Santa Lucian and a former founding board member of North Coast Small Wilderness Area Protection. “Former,” frankly, because a few years ago I got selfish. I wanted more time to spend in my hobbies of wildlife photography and bicycling. I figured contributing money to organizations fighting the good fight was sufficient. I can’t say I haven’t enjoyed the period of shirked personal responsibility. But events during those years leave no conscious alternative other than to do whatever I can to help this country regain the values of John Muir. One of my gravest concerns is what I perceive as a diminishing of those values with each generation. Sierra Club is grasping and I fear losing contact with the future. If elected, I will push for initiatives that reach out to young people and present them with wonders no Nintendo or Ipod can.

Happily, I see there are a couple of young people who want to serve on the ExCom. Please vote for them before you vote for me.

County Health Commission Expands GMO Task Force
The County Health Commission’s Task Force on Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) was formed at the request of the Board of Supervisors in the wake of last year’s Measure Q ballot initiative, which was aimed at keeping genetically engineered crops from being grown in SLO County. Though the measure was defeated, it put the issue on the agenda for many SLO citizens who remain concerned about the health, environmental and economic impacts of GE crops locally.

The Board of Supervisors requested that both the Health and Agricultural Departments form task forces to investigate and gather information.

Controversy has plagued the Health Commission task force since it began. The selection process, conflicts of interests, and material to be reviewed have repeatedly come under fire at the task force meetings and in complaints to the Health Commission.

Sierra Club 2006 Calendars
The 2006 Sierra Club calendars are now available, and they are gorgeous. Your purchase goes directly to funding the Santa Lucia Chapter’s efforts for our land, air, water, and quality of life in San Luis Obispo. The 2006 Sierra Club calendars are now available, and they are gorgeous. Your purchase goes directly to funding the Santa Lucia Chapter’s efforts for our land, air, water, and quality of life in San Luis Obispo.

WAL-MART: The High Cost of Low Price
WAL-MART: The High Cost of Low Price
The criteria used in the application process for the selection of task force members was never revealed. Of the five public task force members, three were actively involved in the Yes on Measure Q campaign. Although applications were submitted, no one from the Yes on Q campaign was selected for the task force, including a registered dietician who also teaches at a local community college. At the October 17 meeting, after...
Hurricanes Katrina and Rita had prices increase, the need for alternative, rich and poor, Democrats, Republicans, and other parties. As fuel prices increase, the need for alternatives is pressing, and Americans are doing something about it.

California Attorney General Bill Lockyer and the states of Washington, Utah and Massachusetts have joined the case. Lockyer’s office cited confirmation by the federal government of evidence that terrorists are seeking to target U.S. nuclear plants.

Several eyewitness-claiming assertions arose in the court room around the circumstances of the PG&E and NRC attorneys, who tried to make the case that no one can definitely say that terrorists will ever attack a nuclear facility.

Judge Stephen Reinhardt asked the NRC lawyer why the agency contends that that possibility of a terrorist attack is remote or unforeseeable, and if the federal government has clearly been stating to the contrary for the last several years.

“Are you being told constantly?” he asked.

“No,” said the NRC attorney. “They’re by the president,” Reinhardt said.

Laywer Diana Curran represented the San Luis Obispo Mothers for Peace and the Sierra Club. “Diane made the case clearly, easily communified why this is an unacceptable risk and how the NRC has failed to keep us safe,” said David Weisman of the Santa Lucia Chapter’s Diablo Canyon Task Force. “The PG&E and NRC attorneys’ attempts to refute her on case law were weak. The NRC was in the position of saying they can’t exactly what the terrorists would do, at the same time that they are making preparations and improvements in anticipation for a small attack at nuclear plants. They are simultaneously claiming it’s too unlikely a possibility to require them to spend the money to protect the dry cask storage facility at Diablo Canyon, and saying they aren’t required to hold hearings or make the discussion part of the plant relicensing process.”

Should the appellate court rule in our favor, a public hearing must be held on these issues, and the spent fuel project put on hold until they have been resolved.

Biodiesel

continued from page 3

old, rich and poor, Democrats, Republicans, and other parties. As fuel prices increase, the need for alternatives is pressing, and Americans are doing something about it.

Hurricanes Katrina and Rita had devastating impacts on people, and cans agree it just makes sense to use biodiesel when they hear of the environmental, economic and energy security benefits it offers.”

The new Energy Bill contains a provision for comprehensive biodiesel information. Join the Biodiesel Alliance.

What Part of “Global Warming” Do We Not Get?

... It’s about time for denial to come to an end. We’re no longer talking about theory, about computer models of what might happen. We’re talking about what is happening, all around the world, with almost unimaginable speed. Other countries have at least begun to try to deal with the problem, implementing small first steps like the Kyoto Protocol.

But...Washington is governed by a bipartisan consensus that somehow the laws of physics and chemistry don’t apply to us. In early August a paper by a Massachusetts Institute of Technology researcher in the journal Nature showed that hurricanes were 50 percent stronger and lasted 60 percent longer than a generation ago. You’ve seen the results on every TV screen and magazine cover.

“Is that what we’re being told constantly?” he asked.

“Not by us,” said the NRC attorney. “Then by the president,” Reinhardt said.

Laywer Diana Curran represented the San Luis Obispo Mothers for Peace and the Sierra Club. “Diane made the case clearly, easily communified why this is an unacceptable risk and how the NRC has failed to keep us safe,” said David Weisman of the Santa Lucia Chapter’s Diablo Canyon Task Force. “The PG&E and NRC attorneys’ attempts to refute her on case law were weak. The NRC was in the position of saying they can’t exactly what the terrorists would do, at the same time that they are making preparations and improvements in anticipation for a small attack at nuclear plants. They are simultaneously claiming it’s too unlikely a possibility to require them to spend the money to protect the dry cask storage facility at Diablo Canyon, and saying they aren’t required to hold hearings or make the discussion part of the plant relicensing process.”

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The new Energy Bill contains a provision for comprehensive biodiesel information. Join the Biodiesel Alliance.
Classifieds

Nov/Dec issue ad deadline is November 14. To acquire a rate sheet or submit your ad and payment, contact:
Sierra Club - Santa Lucia Chapter
p.o. Box 15755
San Luis Obispo, CA 93406
sierra8@charter.net

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
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

Conservation Committee meeting October 18, 2005
Chair called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m. Present: Pam Heatherington, Sue Harvey, Leslie Kinkade, Carla Saunders, Lynn Harkins.

COSE: The SLO City Planning has deleted 110 pages from the original 125-page Open Space element from 1994 and scheduled a single meeting to review the changes, prob. over the holidays, assuring minimum public notice. Changes would allow commercial development in open space. Planning Commission must review full document and the Land Use element. Chapter Coordinator to prepare letter to Planning Commission.

Duke plant site: Sale of the power plant could reap tax benefits for Duke depending on structuring of sale. Grant funding for public process likely from other sources. Chapter will contribute. Consensus vote to endorse Toby Crockett’s vision for a regional cultural/arts/food center, work with CalPoly engineering students on realization.

RPG: County Planning presenting to advisory committees Nov. 3; committees will send a letter to Supervisors urging termination of process considering adoption of ordinance.

Bt corn: SLO GE-Free is polling members to see who would be interested in purchasing GE corn test kits at cost, $3.50 each from a 100-lot.

Desal: The Cambria contract is silent as to ownership, should Cambria be bankrupted, it would force a sale and privatization of water source. Current technology can reduce state water use by 20%. Committee will approach Green Building Council for Determine current Cambria water use and how much it can conserve. Resolution to urge National SC to oppose bills HR 1071 and S.1016 subsidizing desal plants, exacerbating unsustainable coastal development. Unanimous.

Andrew Christie recommended as Chapter liaison for Club’s Corporate Accountability Committee.

Sierra Club “Cool Cities” campaign: Committee members will present to Morro Bay council.

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Los Osos sewer: Send to ExCom for post-recall policy decision. A new EIR or supplemental would mean LOCSD will have to evaluate a regional treatment approach.

...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.

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Meeting Minutes highlights from recent Chapter meetings

Resolution to urge National SC to oppose bills HR 1071 and S.1016 subsidizing desal plants, exacerbating unsustainable coastal development. Unanimous.

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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 outings leader, call Outings Leader Gary Felsman (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:

Distance: 1 = 0-2 mi., 2 = 3-5 mi., 3 = 6-8 mi., 4 = 9-12 mi., 5 = 12 mi. or more.
Elevation Gain: A = 500’

November 4, 5, 6 and 7, 2005, Black Cone Trail Work Trip. Come join the VWA Trail Crew as we continue our efforts to reclaim the scenic Black Cone Trail deep in the heart of the Ventana high country. We’ll be logging out the trail corridor and repairing the trail tread as necessary. Expect a 10 mile hike into and out of base camp from the China Camp trailhead. For more information or to reserve a place, contact Brian at blackconetrailwork@vt.edu. Sponsored by the Ventana Wilderness Alliance.

Sat., Nov. 12, 9:00am: Three Hazards hike in Montana de Oro SP: Enjoy views from the Ridge Trail and a beautiful hike on this 6.5 mile, 1100 ft. loop hike. We’ll climb up Hazard Canyon to Hazard Peak, then descend to the ocean to Hazard Reef. Meet at Moody Nose trailhead, at junction of Pecho Valley Rd. and Sand Spit Rd. in dirt parking area at junction. Bob Schwartz, 441-9509, (2C) for details.

Sat., Nov. 19th, Another trip up Guadalupe Dunes to the top: Bring a lunch, wear sandals, dress for a breeze. Go south on US 101 to Santa Maria. Take 166 west (Main St) part Guadalupe to the end. Go three to (Preserve small) few miles deep of trail parking lot at the beach. Meet there. Details and meeting time call Jim Wilson 786-0243.

Sun-Sat., November 19-20:
Carriage Plain Antelope Protection Caravan: Come as a limited number of people gather at the cattle ranching area remote area fencing for their benefit at KCL campground, bring food, water, leather work gloves, and camping gear for the weekend. Luck Sat night. Rain cancel. Request: Alice Koch. For more information, contact Leaders: Cal and Letty French, 14140 Chimney Rock Rd. Paso Robles, CA 93446, (805-239-7383). Prefer e-mail: ecranch@tcsn.net. Santa Lucia Chap/CNNC Desert Com

Sun., Nov. 20th, 10 a.m.: CANOE/KAYAK MORRO BAY SPIT: A winter paddle to the sand spit and beautiful hike in the Ventana Wilderness. Possible ticks and poison oak in places. Carpoolers meet at the Harpers Market in Morro Bay at 8am or at Wasmuth Day Use Area (N of Hwy.101). Bring your boat! Call Land Conservancy of SLO at 544-9096 for details.

Sun., Dec. 10, 11 - Arroyo Seco Trail Work Party. Come help the Ventana Wilderness Alliance work on the Arroyo Seco Trail. Crew members will be brushing the trail corridor and cutting out deadfall in an ongoing effort to reclaim this important route from The Indians to the coastal contact. Leader: Dave Knapp - dknappl1@gmail.com. Sponsored by the Ventana Wilderness Alliance.

Dec. 9, 10, 11 - Arroyo Seco Trail Work Party. Come help the Ventana Wilderness Alliance work on the Arroyo Seco Trail. Crew members will be brushing the trail corridor and cutting out deadfall in an ongoing effort to reclaim this important route from The Indians to the coastal contact. Leader: Dave Knapp - dknappl1@gmail.com. Sponsored by the Ventana Wilderness Alliance.

Dec. 17, 8 a.m.: Vicente Flat: Enjoy great ocean views and coastal redwoods. Hike 3.5 miles, 2300 ft. hike in the Ventana Wilderness. Possible ticks and poison oak in places. Carpoolers meet at the Harpers’ Market in Morro Bay at 8am or at Wasmuth Day Use Area (N of Hwy.101). Bring your boat! Call Land Conservancy of SLO at 544-9096 for details.

6th Annual Sierra Club Anniversary Dunes Walk:
Come rain or shine, storm or a beautiful hiking day, our walk will take place. This is the 6th year, for the now famous Annual Anniversary Nipomo Dunes Walk of the Santa Lucia Chapter of the National Sierra Club. This walk has annually celebrated the founding of our chapter on the first Saturday in January since 1961 (except when it falls on New Years Day).

The leader of that first walk was a young environmentalist who was called “The Lady of the Dunes,” due to her efforts to save the dunes from a PG&E plan to build a nuclear power plant in the heart of the fragile, scientifically rare “The Lady of the Dunes,” due to her efforts to save the dunes from a PG&E plan to build a nuclear power plant in the heart of the fragile, scientifically rare.

Call Jack Beigle for additional details, 773-2147.

Santa Lucian - Nov./Dec 2005

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.