Morro Bay and Cayucos Must Not Delay Sewage Clean-up

By David Beckman
Project Director, Natural Resources Defense Council

In the past decade, waivers from basic federal treatment requirements under section 301(h) of the Clean Water Act have become increasingly rare, and with good reason. The discharge of partially treated waste destroys receiving waters, and poses serious risks to public health and the marine ecosystem. For that reason, sewage treatment plants are not entitled to maintain Clean Water Act waivers from secondary treatment standards merely for their administrative convenience.

But if EPA and the Regional Water Quality Control Board issue another waiver to the Morro Bay-Cayucos Sewage Treatment Plant, bureaucratic convenience will be the true basis for such an action. Convenience for a discharger of partially treated sewage will come at the cost of the water quality improvements that secondary treatment provides, improvements that will both diminish risks to the ecosystem and mankind.

Because an upgrade—including one that would include tertiary treatment—can be accomplished feasibly twice as fast as proposed, and because the Plant is not entitled to a waiver from secondary standards, the only appropriate and lawful action is to deny the waiver and order an upgrade “as fast as possible,” the operative standard established under law.

There are numerous reasons why this is true.

First, a balanced, indigenous population of marine life does not exist in and around the plant’s outfall zone. The presence of a healthy ecosystem is an indispensable prerequisite for issuance of a waiver—

Outings, a Sierra Club Essential

Whither the Marketplace?

By Jan Howell Marx

What the heck should the Board of Supervisors do with Bill Bird’s controversial Dalidio Marketplace project?

“Turn it down,” say many voices and the voters of the City of San Luis Obispo, “reject it.” “Keep the land in agriculture, preferably organic.”

But, say the landowner, Bill Bird, and the Texas developer, we want to build a mega-mall on prime ag land right next to the city. We really, really want it, and we have even hired RDM to help us build that giant mall.

Three Supervisors are sounding like they will favor the wishes of the land owner over the will of the voters of the City of San Luis Obispo and over the General Plans of the City and the County. In this how the Supervisors should make land use

continued on page 4

continued on page 6
Santa Lucia Chapter General Meeting

LIVING WITH LIONS
An evening with the Mountain Lion Foundation

The Mountain Lion Foundation presents “Living With Lions,” hosted by the Santa Lucia Chapter of the Sierra Club, on March 21, 2006, at 7:00p.m. As San Luis Obispo moves and recovers deeper into lion country, education on mountain lions becomes increasingly important. This is your chance to get that education. Learn about the natural history, biology and behavior of lions, as well as ways in which we can reduce human-lion conflicts and live more peacefully alongside our wild neighbors.

Tuesday, March 21, 7:00 p.m.
Ludwick Center, Room A
884 Santa Rosa St. (corner of Mill)
San Luis Obispo

Save the date!

At War with the Coastal Act

By Mark Massara, Sierra Club Director of Coastal Programs

On February 6, the San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors adopted a proposal to amend the Coastal Act to “give local officials predominant standing in determining the resolution of issues pertaining to local traffic safety.”

This nutty idea would appeal to those wanting to go back in time to a world where local government and developers could build wide, without having to comply with the California Coastal Act or protect coastal resources and the quality of life of coastal residents and visitors. It would override longstanding law and Coastal Act Authority that requires Highway One remain a rural, two-lane road in scenic areas of the state. The policy protecting Highway One is one of the primary reasons why local citizens were able to halt the Hearst Corporation’s golf resort plans for the County, including clever ideas for various new state laws that the County’s lobbyist (using your tax dollars) will be pushing in Sacramento this year. How much this will cost county taxpayers was not mentioned, unfortunately.

You would think that the Board’s proposals for how they want to amend state law would warrant some focused discussion. But you would be wrong, because that doesn’t fit their plan to bury this item on the Consent Agenda, which means there was no staff presentation, no formal discussion and no separate vote. The Consent Agenda exists to bury things, not to provide adequate information on which to make a reasonable decision. This is your chance to get involved!

On the Consent Agenda comes the District 2 Supervisors’ proposal to allow transportation projects to trump Coastal Act protections for wetlands, habitat, agricultural lands and scenic viewsheds. If successful, the County’s proposal would also put an end to numerous Sierra Club efforts around the state to halt inappropriate transportation projects, including the Orange County Toll Road at Trestle Creek, development of the quarry property at Rockaway Beach in Pacifica and the replacement of the 10-Mile Bridge in Mendocino County.

The stated justification for this change is to overcome Coastal Commission objections to a left-hand turn lane on Highway One in Harmony. As justifications go, this one is highly unusual, because the Coastal Commission does not oppose a left-hand turn lane in Harmony. “I am unclear as to how [the County] came to that conclusion,” said Tami Grove, the Coastal Commission’s Statewide Development and Transportation Liaison. “A few years ago, the Coastal Commission had concerns about a passing lane, which is a completely different component and would change the rural character of the highway, but we’ve always been attentive to addressing safety concerns such as left turn lanes where they’re needed. We never said no to a left-turn lane at Harmony.”

In other words, the county’s legislative proposal would allow local governments to override the Coastal Act when dealing with transportation projects in order to fix a “local problem” that doesn’t even exist, with county taxpayers picking up the expense for a legislative maneuver, which, if successful, would destroy hard fought for quality of life in the California coastal zone.

Even worse is the proposal to amend the Coastal Act to require that disputes between local governments and the Coastal Commission be settled by binding arbitration, rather than a court of law. This would easily eviscerate the Coastal Act and eliminate public

continued on page 6
Our Great Coastal Places: No Pass for Polluters

California’s 34 “Areas of Special Biological Significance” (ASBS) are the richest and most sensitive ecosytems along the coast. ASBS were given special status 30 years ago by protecting them from discharges of all pollutants because of their "intrinsically valuable." Rocky intertidal reef habitats and extensive kelp forests are home to multitudes of fish species and endangered species.

The State Water Board is at a crossroads in deciding how to protect these precious waters. It discovered more than 1,600 illegal discharges into ASBS in 2003, and is considering a proposal to allow a "general exception" to the discharges. It would greatly enhance protecting these critical waters if letters opposing this "general exception" were sent to the Water Board, and a schedule for Best Management Practices was established tailored to eliminate pollution into all ASBS.

TAKING ACTION

Conservation groups are working on a statewide effort to protect our ASBS. This is a draft support letter.

Tam Doduc, Chair
State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814
Fax: (916) 341-5620

Re: California Ocean Plan, Areas of Special Biological Significance (ASBS)

Dear Chair Doduc and Members of the Board:

California’s 34 Areas of Special Biological Significance (ASBS) are the richest and most sensitive ecosytems along the coast. These special areas, teaming with wildlife, are the foundation of California’s coastal economy. Recognizing their intrinsic value, the California Ocean Plan gave ASBS special status 30 years ago, protecting them, in theory, from discharges of all pollutants. In 2003, however, the State Water Board discovered that the ASBS are being degraded and destroyed by over 1,600 illegal waste discharges. I urge you to protect California’s 34 Areas of Special Biological Significance through strong enforcement of the waste discharge prohibition.

State Water Board staff has proposed a policy that would actually authorize illegal discharges into these irreplaceable marine resources by issuing thousands of "exceptions." I oppose granting exceptions to over 1,600 illegal waste discharges. The Board should remain faithful to the law and fully protect these areas by refusing to adopt a lax enforcement approach. I support a framework that enforces the law yet enables waste discharges to attain compliance by using off-the-shelf technologies and cost-effective options in their cleanup plans. This framework addresses the concerns of cities and polluters by allowing them to tailor cleanup plans to their circumstances on a schedule set by the Board. Protecting the State’s most biologically diverse and pristine coastal areas is not only good for the environment, but also demonstrates fiscal responsibility by protecting resources that underpin California’s multi-billion dollar coastal tourism and recreational economies. After 30 years, the time is long overdue for full protection of our ASBS.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Human activities are threatening the health of our oceans. Can new networks of marine protected areas provide a way to safeguard the marine environment and protect ocean biodiversity? Come to a free symposium and find out! Saturday, March 4, 2006, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., California State University, Monterey Bay, University Center, Sixth Street, Seaside. Registration takes place at the symposium. No pre-registration is necessary.

For more information and program of events, visit www.montereybay.hissosa.com or contact Liz Love at the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary at (831) 647-4255 or email liz.love@noaa.gov

Sponsors:
Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments; California State University, Monterey Bay; Monterey Bay Aquarium; NOAA’s Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary

Films in March/April:


All films at the SLO Library, Osos & Palm. For dates and times, go to www.hopendance.org or call 544-9663.

Driver, Spare that Creek

As a condition of our 2004 legal settlement over the management of the Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area, the Chapter is continuing to meet with representatives of State Parks to review progress in the effort to avoid vehicle crossings continued on page 4

Films in March/April:


All films at the SLO Library, Osos & Palm. For dates and times, go to www.hopendance.org or call 544-9663.

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Sewage continued from page 1

contributing to the obvious prob-
lem. In fact, the one study relied on
by the agencies simply does not rule out
the possibility that pathogens—
shielded from destruction by the
relative inefficiency of the Plant’s
operation—cause or contribute to
outage morbidity and mortality.
Second, the Sewage Plant has not
met its legal requirement to show
that it can comply with its existing
permit and meet applicable water
quality standards
consistently.

Based on a selective analysis,
the Plant asks EPA and
the Regional Board to ignore
the accumulation of toxic
spills, which show that even
untreated effluent is reaching local
waters due to the outdated nature
of the Plant.

Sewage Plant’s failure to present a
complete application submitted in 2003 and
the Regional Board has before them an
application to grant another waiver
On the other hand, EPA and
the Regional Board should deny the
waiver and require that the
Plant upgrade so as to improve
water quality “as fast as possible.”

This

sewage groups, Regional Board
staff, Plant staff, and Joint Powers
Agency (JPA) Board members. This
process, which was greatly aided by
the perspectives of the Regional
Board, and many of its staff, resulted in a
JPA Board commitment to
upgrade the Plant.

While positive steps have been
taken, given the risks and the
existence, additional commitments are
both appropriate and necessary. Sec-
tion 301(h) waivers are not in-
tended to provide cover for
recreational wrangling, nor may
they be issued to make meeting
bedrock Clean Water Act rules
convenient. Since this is the evi-
dent function of the proposal to
grant the waiver here, EPA and
the Regional Board should deny
the waiver and require that the
Plant upgrade so as to improve
water quality “as fast as possible.”

TAKE ACTION

Deny the waiver! Ten years is too
long! The Morro Bay-Cayucos
Sewage Treatment Plant needs to
clean up its act now!

Come speak at the Regional
Water Quality Control Board hearing:
Friday, March 28, 8:30 a.m.
895 Aerovista Place, San Luis Obispo

Creek

continued from page 3

of Arroyo Grande Creek and find alter-
native access points to the ODSVRA.
Vehicles driving across the mouth of
Arroyo Grande Creek are a threat to
endangered steelhead and tidewater
goby.

The alternative access study is ex-
pected to conclude in August.

Dalldio
continued from page 3

clear mandate has been so far ig-
nored: paving the way for a 9.5 year
upgrade schedule will assure that
water quality degradation con-
tinues to occur for nearly a decade.

Seventh, the Draft Permit
allows the agencies propose in the
meanwhile not waive secondary treatment
standards, it fails to include effluent
limits and monitoring for pollutants
which should be preventable potential
to cause or contribute to violations of
water quality standards. Chief
among these is the possibility that patho-
genically linked to sea otter
mortality and morbidity. Given that
these issues are the most serious, the
agencies fail to require the
work on an expedited basis, as is required.
Moreover, it otherwise
creates the conditions for
much longer delays be-

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● Reward your employees for
taking public transit, carpooling or
walking.

● Reduce parking demand, subsidize
vanzoom seat.

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direxpress@rideon.org

photo: Jeff Foott

Santa Lucian • March 2006
The Santa Lucia Chapter’s Political Committee, chaired by Sarah Christie (left) and Richard Kranzdorf (right), held its first meeting of the 2006 electoral year on February 18. They finalized the questions that will go out to Second District Supervisor candidates Roger Anderson, Bruce Gibson and Judy Vick for their responses.

The Committee will invite each candidate to be interviewed on the issues, then deliberate on their positions and qualifications. The Chapter will decide on whether and whom to endorse in May.

McCloskey vs. Pombo
By Carl Zichella
Regional Staff Director

Expressing outrage at the anti-environmental agenda and ethical lapses of Republican incumbent Richard Pombo (R-11th, Tracy), a former GOP congressman with a history of challenging corruption and fighting for his belief has announced his candidacy for Congress in the June Republican primary.

In an open letter to the people of the 11th congressional district, Pete McCloskey explains in detail why, at 78 years of age, he is making the run. The list is long.

“As a fourth generation Californian Republican, who served for 15 years in the Congress, in military or civilian service under ten presidents from 1945 until 2000 and during three wars, I feel strongly that the Republican Party needs to return to traditional values of honesty, high ethical principles, fiscal responsibility and a reasonable balance between economic progress and environmental protection. My wife and I have moved to Lodi because we feel that Congressman Pombo, by reason of his voting record and close ties to Indian Gaming Lobbyist Jack Abramoff and former Majority Leader Tom DeLay, has become an embarrassment to the Republican Party.

“It is not comforting to have Congressman Pombo named as one of the continued on page 6

A Caring Community that Shares Common Goals

By Meredith Whitaker

Sierra Club’s president, Lisa Renstrom, is emphasizing community building as a goal for our whole movement. We Santa Lucians will see what we can do to further that goal.

One idea that has just gotten off the ground is having dinners in homes before our general meetings. Our e-mail alert addressers were the first group to be surveyed, and a dinner was held before our January meeting. People reported that they very much enjoyed getting acquainted and plan another one next month.

Perhaps the word “dinner” glorifies the occasion! It should not be fancy. It could be take-out or pizza with veggies provided by the host/hostess. When I have one at my house, I will make soup because I have the time. But the goal remains to get acquainted at this different level and to discuss what is going on with the Sierra Club. Perhaps even do brainstorming to give input to the board.

Our survey turned up 2 scenarios. One: SLO members volunteer their homes and members coming from elsewhere provide the food. Too: that the dinners be in other cities in order to build the critical mass to take on issues that might effect them.

Another way to start would be to subscribe to the “house parties connected to the Sierra Club Chronicles series (see www.sierraclublaws.org). I welcome support and more ideas. Please contact me by phone 594-1133 or e-mail rmwhit@charter.net

Lake San Anotonio
Eagle Watch
by Jack Beigle

Winter on San Anotonio Lake is usually quiet, very few speed boats, very few water skiers and very few fisherman. It can also be very cold. This year we had a beautiful day. It was “picture postcard perfect” every direction that you looked. The air was warm and crystal clear. The surface of the lake was flat like a mirror. The white lines in the blue sky from the jet exhausts were reflected on the lake surface. As we paddled, the reflected contrails danced around our boats. It was mystical.

It is always enjoyable to get on the water in a canoe or kayak but there is joy in sharing the experience with others. We had 19 boats on this outing. We followed the north shore for a while and saw hundreds of Canada Geese. They were beautiful and talked constantly. There were lots of coots and pelicans. They are so majestic in flight. It is a thrill just to watch them fly by.

We had our picnic lunch on the south shore and we saw five golden eagles and one immature bald eagle. At the end of an outing like this I really don’t want to take my canoe out of the water.

Check the outing schedule and join us on the water.

PADDLERS CORNER

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- price includes tax and 10% discount (1 to 4) or 15% discount (5 or more).

For mail orders, write or call the Chapter office, p.o. box 15755, San Luis Obispo, CA 93406; (805) 543-8717. For in-town pick up, call Bonnie at 543-7051.

The gracious ladies of Code Pink came to downtown SLO on January 31 and adorned the pages of the Santa Lucia Chronicle for The Political Season Begins.
Dangers amounts of mercury are being found in people who eat fish and seafood. Solution: cut back on consuming power plants biggest mercury source. From coal-burning power plants, the leading U.S. source of mercury.”

The mercury research project is ongoing. To purchase a hair sampling kit or to view supporting documents visit: www.sierrialc.org/mercury

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At War continued from page 2

participation, because it means that the enforceable policies of the law would no longer apply if a local government disagreed with how they are interpreted or applied. Instead, a single arbitrator in a closed process that would not include public review or participation would decide the fate of the coast when the Coastal Commission and local governments disagree.

Such “disregards” as the ones over the 650-foot Hearst Ranch Golf Resort, the proposed development of East West Ranch, public access to Diablo Canyon Club have been conducting a monitoring campaign since 1986. They conclude that they are advocating stronger federal regulations for coal-fired power plants, the leading U.S. source of mercury. “Greenpeace and the Sierra Club have been conducting the mercury survey because they are advocating stronger federal regulations for coal-fired power plants, the leading U.S. source of mercury.”

The Tribune’s five-paragraph abridgment of the Times story left out matters of cause and origin entirely, leaving even the most determined reader without a clue as to where all that mercury is coming from. Coal-burning power plants are the nation’s biggest mercury polluters. Mercury from dirty smokestacks and power plants pollutes in lakes and oceans, concentrating in fish and shellfish. The people who are then consumed by people. In 2005, the EPA proposed weak power plant mercury regulations. The California legislature rejected the Clean Air Act according to a lawsuit filed by our 15 State Attorneys General.

Switching from coal and oil to wind and solar energy would reduce pollution and its negative health impacts, help curb global warming and create jobs. The question is, can citizens stop them?

Time and again the County has acted as its sponsor of legislation to weaken the Coastal Act, circumvent judicial review of lawsuits and thus undermine Coastal Act protections. It’s understandable that they would now seek to undermine Coastal Act protections. The question is, can citizens stop them? Is this how San Luis Obispo wants to distinguish itself as a coastal county? As sponsor of legislation to weaken the Coastal Act, circumvent judicial review and eliminate public participation?

The County’s proposals have the same chance of success and are likely the equivalent to throwing public money into the wind. Yet given their track record on coastal protection, one has to wonder when they are going to stop expending public resources on ill-advised policy changes.

Pombo’s record over the past several years, you have noted, following years of a budget surplus under a Democrat administration, he has walked an unbreakable path. He cast the vote that brought conservative Republicans into projected deficits in the billions of dollars. The Governor’s substantive larger than that was five years ago. The number of lobbyists inside the Belushi has more than doubled and the Dealy & Street Project and the activities of Jack Abramoff have threatened the indictments of a number of Republicans, inside the Administration and in Congress. Many chief executive officers of our largest corporations and largest Republican contributors continue to plead guilty to serious crimes. McCloskey wrote.

As a prominent moderate Republican in his term, McCloskey was at the forefront of supporting wildlife and land conservation laws. “It was a Republican, Teddy Roosevelt, who gave us a strong environmental policy to protect parklands, wildlife preserves and wilderness, as well as anti-trust laws to prevent business excess.” Presidents Nixon, Ford, Reagan and the first George Bush substantially increased park and wilderness areas and environmental health protections.

McCloskey himself helped author the landmark Endangered Species Act.

But McCloskey believes Pombo has abandoned these values to favor development. McCloskey believes that people like Richard Pombo are betraying what the Republican Party has stood for and are ruining our country. And he is very angry about it.

This will be an extremely inter-
esting campaign.

Outings continued from page 1

Program to encourage participation by all of our members and newcomers, and provide outings for all levels of abilities. Ideal outings will include not only daily hikes and conditioning hikes, but also a wide range of campouts, backpacks, and trips far afield—from the Channel Islands to the Sierra Nevada. Some of our outings may even be offered as Chapter fund raisers.

Our training program for new Outings leaders will include not only the essentials of safety and first aid, but also elements of good communication skills to introduce our Chapter to prospective members. Some people join the Sierra Lucian Chapter for its outings opportunities and camaraderie. Others may join solely for the way. We will be meeting both if the Chapter is to remain strong.

John Murri’s words of decades ago still ring true today: “The tendency nowadays to wander in the wilderness is a fad. Thousands of tired, nerve-shaken, over-civilized people are beginning to find out that going to the mountains is next to home; that wilderness is a necessity; and that mountain parks and reservations are useful not only as fountains of timber and irrigating rivers, but also fountains of life.”

If you are interested in this important program, please contact Chapter Chair Karen Merrin: 544-6628 or kmerrin@digitalpuppy.com

Pombo continued from page 2

thirteen most corrupt Members of Congress. The issues are those of ethics, honesty, influence by big money lobbyists, and the hideous Republican principles of fiscal responsibility, limited government and environmental balance.

“If you have followed Congressman Pombo’s record over the past several years, you have noted, following years of a budget surplus under a Democrat administration, he has walked an unbreakable path with the conservative Republicans. They have projected deficits in the billions of dollars. The Governor’s substantive larger than that was five years ago. The number of lobbyists inside the Belushi has more than doubled and the Dealy & Street Project and the activities of...
Classifieds

New/Dec issue ad deadline is March 15. To acquire a rate sheet or submit your ad and payment, contact:
Sierra Club - Santa Lucia Chapter
p.o. Box 15725
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. 7:00 p.m.; 237-3888
Paso Robles--1st & 3rd Tues., 7:00 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

highlights from recent Chapter meetings

The Conservation Committee
February 7, 2006
Present: Pam Heatherington, Jono Kinkade, Holly Slettland, Lynne Harkins, Leslie Kritak (by phone), Absent: Sue Harvey, Jack McCurdy.
Staff: Andrew Christie. Guests: Shoosh Crotzer, David Broadwater, Karen Merriam

The meeting was called to order by chair Pam Heatherington at 5:20 p.m. ConsCom will continue to meet the first Tuesday of each month at 5:15 pm.

Andrew and Karen announced that the Mercury Testing project of the Sierra club would announce results to media tomorrow.

Shoosh Crotzer reported on the effort to expand the Monterey Bay Marine Sanctuary all the way down our coast to Pt. Conception.

David Broadwater presented his proposal in support of extending the County moratorium on land application of sludge for another 4 years. So moved by Jan and seconded by Lynne that we recommend to ExComm the chapter send a letter to the BoS in support of his proposal before the 2/28 BOE meeting.

MIG/MPLA. The chapter will support Package #2 and Package AC as they afford the most protection, and oppose any further dilution of Package #2.

Cool Cities: Jan will present Dave Romero with a plaque on 2/28 to honor SLO’s commitment to climate protection.

MB Power Plant: Jack McCurdy is out of town. We will seek an update on his return. Power plant ad hoc committee is clicking.

COSE: The next and possibly last meeting regarding the Conservation Open Space and Energy Element of the Gen. Plan will be on 2/28/06 before the SLO City Council. Andrew and Jan are working with Jodee Bennett of ECOSLO and Michael Sullivan to keep protections of Open Space in place. So far, successfully, but still need to review the latest version of the COSE thoroughly. Public turn out is needed to show people care about these issues.

Diablo Cyn: Recommend to ExComm the chapter participate as an Intervenor in CPUC ratemaking lawsuit with a cap of $2,000. Approved unanimously.
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 future outings, questions about the Chapter's outing policies or would like to be an outing leader, call Outings Leader Gary Felsman (473-3694). For information on a specific outing, please contact the outing leader. Outings Leaders please give your outings or events in the by the 1st for 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 or more.
- **Elevation Gain:** A = 0'-1000', B = 1000'-1500', C = 1500'-2000', D = 2000'-2500', E = 2500'-3000', F = 3000' or more.

**SUNDAY, MARCH 5, 11:00 a.m. CAMEOVA BIKE RIDE/ MORRO BAY:** We are two weeks early for Saint Patrick's Day, but bring a green salad or a green sandwich in your canoe or kayak for a day on the bay and a picnic on the sand spit. Spring is beautiful on the Morro Bay, and we are lucky and this date works in between spring showers we will paddle to the sand spit and enjoy a picnic lunch. We will have a bike to find the early spring wildflowers and a short busway to the Morro Bay Outings. Bring your boat and a picnic, PFDs, windbreaker and a picnic lunch. HIGH TIDE 12:33 P.M.

**SATURDAY, MARCH 4, 6:00 P.M. MACHESNA WILDLIFE HABITAT CONNECCT STORY.** We will join our trip to a well known mountain in the Sierra Madre Range located near Nno-Cuyama. It tops out at 5,748 feet. With clear views we will see the San Rafael Wilderness, the Caliente Range, the Cuyama Valley and possibly the Sierras. This 11 mile hike with 2870 feet gain is moderately strenuous. This will be an all day excursion with the 170 mile round trip drive from S.L.O. Expected return time is approx. 8 P.M. We will meet at the Aliso Campground in S.L.O., and at the Halcyon exit park in A.G., and on the east side of the highway on Route 166. It is possible to stay at Aliso Campground the night prior to and/or the night after the hike. We will have supper at the BUCKHORN in New Cuyama after the hike if you want join us. The little poison oak at we encounter is avoidable. The climb up can be hot, but the top can be cold and windy. Bring appropriate clothing, food and water. If hot weather is expected this will be postponed because of a lack of shade on most of the hike. The Adventure Pass is required at the trailhead. Please call if you want to meet at a site other than Santa Rosa Park or you have questions. Carlos, 546-0317. (4F)

**SATURDAY, MARCH 4, 9:00 a.m. CARRISA PLAIN, MANY HABITAT PROTECTION CAMP.** The Nature Study/Work Party with little rainfall and few water sources, the species that live here are both hardy and particularly beautiful. Particularly beautiful are the pronghorn antelope, which evolved in their open spaces. Then cattle ranching left a legacy of overgrazing. The pronghorns, and other native wildlife, have evolved in these wild, open spaces. And endangered. Particularly beautiful species that live here are both hardy and face the weather. E-mail dott333@adelphia.net, (818-879-0960), Ldr: Jim Kilberg, (310-215-0992). CNRC Desert Camp/Dessert Peaks.

**SATURDAY, MARCH 4, 10:00 a.m. MCPHERSON PEAK HIKE.** Our final rest stop. We should have plenty of wildflowers, and pleasant weather. Bring lunch, water, sturdy hiking shoes, and plan to be out all day. Most of us will go to the Pismo Saloon after. Meet at Pacific Beverage Comparison in Santa Maria. This is not a beginner's hike. Limit 20 people. For details, reservations and meeting place call Gary (473-9285) or email GAP.

**FRI-SUN., APRIL 14-16, PANAMINT MOUNTAINS SERVICE, CARCAMP & HIKE.** Improve the environment and learn about the Panamint Canyon story. On Saturday we will join the BLM staff in tamarisk eradication. Families welcome. Possible, wildflower display and Easter egg hunt. Sunday will be a recreational hike. 2WD vehicles only. Bring large SASE, roadside info, vehicle type, H&W phones, E-mail to Reserve- Co-lrd: Sue Palmer, 12773 Sudderhill Rd., Westlake Village, CA 91361, dott333@adelphia.net, (818-879-0960), Ldr: Jim Kilberg, (310-215-0992). CNRC Desert Camp/Dessert Peaks

**SATURDAY, MARCH 4, 10:00 a.m. CARRISA PLAIN.** Join the VWA Trail Leaders: Cal and Letty French, 14140 Koch. For more information, contact rain cancels. Resource specialist: Alice SPECHT, 22221 Wood Island Lane, Westlake Village, CA 91361, montrose@montrosetravel.com.

**SUN., MAR. 5, 9:30 A.M. COAST HIKE.** A 4 mile hike on coast. Call or e-mail Bill Dennis to Santa Barbara or join the leaders on hikes and frontier salmon explorations. Cruise Glacier Bay National Park and College Fyrd. After crossing the mighty Gulf of Alaska, we bid farewell in Whittier for transport to Anchorage and the flight home. Your cruise fare includes an astounding array of onboard facilities: ship stateroom, ocean transport, gourmet meals, quality entertainment, exercise opportunities and some beverages. Staterooms available from $564 based on occupancy. Port charges, gov’t taxes, transfers, tips, discounted airfare extra. Move fast, limited spaces in each category. Call Violet Calderon. For details call Gary (473-3694), or join the leaders on hikes and frontier salmon explorations. Cruise Glacier Bay National Park and College Fyrd. After crossing the mighty Gulf of Alaska, we bid farewell in Whittier for transport to Anchorage and the flight home. Your cruise fare includes an astounding array of onboard facilities: ship stateroom, ocean transport, gourmet meals, quality entertainment, exercise opportunities and some beverages. Staterooms available from $564 based on occupancy. Port charges, gov’t taxes, transfers, tips, discounted airfare extra. Move fast, limited spaces in each category. Call Violet Calderon. For details call Montrose Travel’s Group Division, 800-301-9673 for a brochure and the best cabin choices or go online at www.montrosetravel.com/sierracl. A post-cruise extension will be offered to Denali Nat’l Park. For information on either the cruise or the extension, please send a fax or email to our Group Coordinator, DONNA SPECHT, 22221 Wood Island Lane, Huntington Beach, CA 92646, 714-962-6345 or donnaspecht@ij.com Co-Leader: ANA CADEZ (Angeles Chapter Coordinator, Orange County Sierra Singles)

**MARCH 2006**