Victory at Diablo
Court Decision on Terrorism Risks Felt Nationwide

On June 2, the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) cannot choose to ignore the possibility of a terrorist attack on the dry cask storage project that PG&E is planning at the Diablo Canyon Nuclear power plant. The ruling was a victory for the San Luis Obispo Mothers for Peace, the Sierra Club, and former Supervisor Peg Pinard, who had challenged the NRC’s 2003 decision refusing to hold a hearing on the question of whether a terrorist attack on the new facility is “reasonably foreseeable” and therefore requires preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

As attorney Diane Curran told the Court in oral arguments last October, “the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, have removed any shred of credibility from the NRC’s stance that terrorist attacks on nuclear facilities are ‘speculative’ events that cannot be predicted.” Logic prevailed.

“Many thanks to all in our Chapter and our community who helped to make this happen, and to all of our colleagues at Mothers For Peace,” said Santa Lucia Chapter Chair Karen Merriam.

Hundreds of Central Coast residents supported the appeal of the Mothers for Peace, Sierra Club and Supervisor Pinard and raised $100,000 to prove that the NRC cannot choose to ignore the possibility of a terrorist attack on the dry cask storage project. The ruling was a victory for the San Luis Obispo Mothers for Peace, the Sierra Club, and for the health of California’s residents and the environment.”

California Attorney General Bill Lockyer called the ruling “a victory for communities that live in the shadow of Diablo Canyon, and for the health of California’s residents and the environment.”

The Sierra Club and Mothers for Peace filed the federal lawsuit in December 2003 challenging the Nuclear Regulatory Commission’s issuance of an amended license allowing the construction and operation of a long-term “dry cask” nuclear waste storage facility at Diablo Canyon. The storage facility presents a target for catastrophic acts of terrorism and sabotage.

The Commission had refused to examine the environmental and health risks associated with a potential act of terrorism despite requests from the public, California Attorney General Lockyer, and Senator Diane Feinstein. The Court ruled that the NRC has to analyze potential impacts from a terrorist attack on a nuclear facility. PG&E’s response to the ruling indicated that it intends to proceed with construction of the dry cask project as planned, despite the

We win: The Mothers for Peace and Sierra Club celebrated at New Frontiers in SLO on June 10.

continued on page 4

Atascadero Gets Cool
Local students persuade mayor to sign climate agreement

Atascadero Mayor Tom O’Malley has signed onto the list of mayors supporting the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement.

For the past year, the Sierra Club’s “Cool Cities” campaign has been adding to the nationwide list of mayors (200+) who have signed on to the agreement, pledging to take the lead

continued on page 10
It’s time for America to get smart about energy and be less dependent on dwindling oil reserves. We need to increase our use of clean, renewable energy sources like wind and solar power.

Add your voice to protect the planet. Join the Sierra Club today.

Join today and receive a FREE Sierra Club Weekender Bag!

My Name
Address
City
State
Zip
Phone
Fax
email:

Want My MPG?
Wish you could do something to ease the pain at the gas pump this summer? Find out how much money you’d save — and how much less gas you’d burn and CO2 you’d generate — if federal fuel-efficiency standards for your make and model of car were improved. Then sign our petition to automobile executives around the world telling them to build better cars because you want to save money while caring for the environment.

It’s at: www.sierraclub.org/mpg/

Change of Address?
Mail changes to:
Sierra Club National Headquarters
85 Second Street, 2nd Floor
San Francisco, CA 94105-3441

Wish you could do something to ease the pain at the gas pump this summer? Find out how much money you’d save — and how much less gas you’d burn and CO2 you’d generate — if federal fuel-efficiency standards for your make and model of car were improved. Then sign our petition to automobile executives around the world telling them to build better cars because you want to save money while caring for the environment.

It’s at: www.sierraclub.org/mpg/

Visit us on the Web!
www.santalucia.sierraclub.org

Nose Meets Arm
Property rights and wrongs

By Andrew Christie

When renowned sustainable foods activist Michael Ableman came to the Masonic Temple in SLO on May 30, at one point he spoke movingly of the overwhelming feeling of devastation and despair that overcame him when he found himself driving through a vast clear cut in British Columbia with his horrified four-year-old son, on their way to a wilderness retreat.

During the Q&A after his talk, a gentleman in the audience arose to ask how it was that Mr. Ableman felt the government should not “take” their timber company’s trees — the difference was clear enough.

In response, Ableman gave a polite illustration of the principles of sustainable agriculture and sustainable forestry, pointed out the non-comparable regeneration timelines and the fact that farmers don’t clear cut their crops and leave nothing standing. Though he did not include what their crops and leave nothing standing. Though he did not include what

continued on page 7
Humboldt’s Gift
County bans corporate involvement in elections

The most significant outcome of the June 6 election anywhere in California occurred in Humboldt County, where the voters passed the Humboldt County Ordinance to Protect Our Right to Fair Elections and Local Democracy, prohibiting any non-local corporation from contributing to any candidate campaign, referendum or recall in county elections.

“Our hope was to ensure local control over our elections,” aid Humboldt Coalition for Community Rights spokesperson Yvonne Doble. “We wanted to make sure that elections – a vital part of democracy – happen fairly. We think that the folks who live in this county should be the ones deciding who is elected and we think that large corporations from outside our community should not have the ability to dictate what happens in our local elections. I was born and raised here and I want to preserve the way of life I grew up with – the people who live here should determine our future.”

The ordinance also restricts corporations from claiming constitutional rights. Corporations have been able to claim 1st Amendment protections, then contributing to political campaigns ever since the Supreme Court ruled that money was equal to speech in the 1970s. “Only people should have rights – the idea that corporations can claim rights is false and ridiculous,” said Nezrie Wade, a College of the Redwoods professor. “The issue is simple, do we want deciding the future of our county – the people who live here or outside corporations? We need to protect our right to fair elections and local democracy.”

The ordinance came about due in part to a 2004 recall attempt of Humboldt County District Attorney Paul Gallegher that was financed primarily by Maxxam Corporation, which was feeling heat from the D.A. due to their rapacious and often illegal logging of the Headwaters Forest.

Some folks may have seen that issue as resolved,” said Doble, “but we were concerned about the potential chilling effect the recall may have had on other public officials. Will they think twice before enforcing the law against other corporations? The reality is that large corporations have the money to bully our elected representatives – Maxxam/Palco spent $250,000 to try to buy an election.”

Larry Glass, a business owner in Eureka and Arcata, was pleased by the successful passage of the ordinance, “I think this will go a long way to level the playing field. Large corporations like Walmart have been forcing themselves on communities by way of the initiative process – communities are helpless against their deep pockets and so called ‘rights’ – this will really help protect our community and will be good for the local businesses.”

“This is something to truly celebrate,” said a spokesperson for the national Program on Corporations, Law & Democracy (POCLAD). “It’s not one of those ‘sort-of victories, but a solid measure, presented to the public in a campaign, and solidly approved. Congratulations to all involved in the campaign in Humboldt County.”

Democracy Unlimited of Humboldt County, the authors of the Humboldt County Ordinance to Protect Our Right to Fair Elections and Local Democracy, can be reached at (707) 269-0984 or www.DUHC.org.

Today, the largest non-governmental landowners are corporations. The biggest share-holders in Fortune 500 corporations are other corporations. Corporations define the country’s education, food, energy, labor, transportation, news, information, health, land use, military and monetary policy.”

POCLAD

Feds Gunning for Plovers

Proposed rule would further erode protections

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, after slashing protected coastal habitat for the Western snowy plover by a third last year, is now proposing a “Section 4(d) rule” that would hand an Endangered Species Act exemption to counties where plovers nest next if those counties can show plover numbers have met recovery goals for two of the previous five years.

Apparent as a consolation prize for the City of Morro Bay, the proposed rule was tacked on to the Service’s recent rejection of the City’s attempt to have the Pacific population of the Western snowy plover removed entirely from the protections of the Endangered Species Act.

Apparent as a consolation prize for the City’s attempt to have the Pacific population of the Western snowy plover removed entirely from the protections of the Endangered Species Act, though the Bush appointees who ran the Service could not find scientific cover to endorse the wistful claim continued on page 4

Chapter Reps

Headed for Democracy School

Corporate Accountability Committee going to the heart of the matter

The Sierra Club will hold a national ‘Deep Democracy Retreat’ over the weekend of August 11-13 at the Occidental Arts and Ecology Center in Marin County, just north of San Francisco.

The 3-day gathering focusing on community organizing and securing environmental protection by re-assessing popular sovereignty over corporations will be limited to 18 participants due to the limitations of the OMHC boarding space. A small group of Club leaders, including two Santa Lucia chapter members, have been invited to attend based on their willingness to grapple with “the big picture” and openness to “thinking in ways that can effect deep and systemic change.”

“We had several hundred folks at our breakout session last year during the Sierra Summit, but this is the first ‘school’ that we are conducting,” said national Corporate Accountability Committee member Dick Worthen. “The Committee is excited and anxious to share the message with Sierra leaders. It promises to be a significant week.”

The Corporate Accountability Committee is part of a pro-democracy movement that goes beyond the tactics of challenging one regulation or corporation at a time and works nationally and internationally to challenge the rules giving corporations undue power and influence.

The primary corporate accountability challenges for the Sierra Club are the passage of laws to hold corporations accountable to citizen-defined and government-enforced environmental standards, and the overturning of domestic laws and court decisions that unfairly enable all corporations to exploit the Earth and its inhabitants. This requires joining with other movements to challenge the unfair trade and capital investment rules proposed by the WTO, IMF and World Bank, and incorporated into such agreements as the Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA).

The three-day event will challenge the assumptions that we all hold about what it means to live in a democracy, what a successful environmental movement should look like, and the proper relationship between people, corporations and our government,” said Worthen. “This is a new paradigm.”
Coastal Cleanup Day is September 16

by Patrick Kirby

Coastal Cleanup Day is September 16.

This is an International event in which volunteers from throughout the world take three hours of one day (this year it is Sept 16th) and collect trash from beaches, ditches, rivers, tributaries, and wetlands.

Last year California had 50,000 volunteers that collected 970,000 pounds of trash and recyclables from 700 sites. San Luis Obispo County had 1,069 volunteers over 24 sites that collected 3,566 pounds of trash & 889 pounds of recycling for a total of 4,455 pounds in just three hours.

This year we still have sites that are in need of Captains as well as volunteers. We would also like to see some more sites added such as creeks, rivers, tributaries, and wetlands.

Volunteers are needed to help out this year. Our ultimate goal is for there to be no need of a Coastal Cleanup Day, however this will take quite a bit of work and we need all the help we can get.

If you or a group is interested in helping with this event, please contact me at patrick@ecoslo.org or call me at 805-544-1777.

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Failing First Test

By Richard Schmidt

Now that the City of San Luis Obispo’s new Conservation and Open Space Element (COSE) is approved, its worth lies in whether it gets implemented. Initial signs are encouraging.

A local resident wants to build a large house in his back yard as the first step towards subdividing his property, selling both houses, and leaving the country. The interior of this block (bounded by Broad, Mission, Chorro and Murray Streets) is at the heart of what is arguably one of the best wildlife habitats within the city, thanks to Old Garden Creek’s summeertime surface flow width of 6 to 10 feet, combined with deep leaks with no or minimal development on their rear portions.

The house would sit astride the junction of two significant wildlife corridors shown on the corridor map in the new COSE. The project will add more of these corridors, blocking access between San Luis mountain and the creek and harassing migratory salmon along the creek while fragmenting the habitat due to seamless development.

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Blakeslee’s Bill: First Legislative Action on Radioactive Waste Problems in 20 years

By the Alliance for Nuclear Responsibility

When Assemblyman Sam Blakeslee introduced the bill AB 1632 on June 15, the Alliance for Nuclear Responsibility, Sierra Club, Environmental California, TURN, Environmental Priorities Network, ECOSLO, and Physicians for Social Responsibility - L.A. immediately signed in support. This is a ground-breaking step to address both high-level radioactive waste and seismicity on our precious coast. This bill is not about good neighbors, jobs, property taxes or other benefits to be gained from a nuclear power plant on an earthquake active coastal zone; it is about lethal radioactive waste left on our county’s earthquake-active coast for generations after the last job, property tax payment and kickstart has flowed from Diablo Canyon.

Although the bill falls short of ending the production of high-level radioactive waste at Diablo Canyon when current licenses expire in twenty years, we are encouraged that after twenty years there is a reasonable dialogue on aging nuclear reactors. The Alliance will continue to encourage support for the California Energy Commission’s cost, benefit and risk analysis of the state’s dependence on aging nuclear reactors post current license terms. We hope PG&E will view this as an opportunity to achieve the utility’s goal of ‘wind, water and sun’ as future energy suppliers for our state. We also hope this will cause PG&E’s management to rethink filing for a license renewal in 2010, fifteen years before current licenses are set to expire.

Blakeslee’s bill seeks to assure that our community will be able to address issues that could deviate the economy and leave a legacy of fear each time the earth moves or a terrorist threatens our country.

It is hard to imagine how anyone could oppose such a responsible state action to assure these issues are addressed and resolved.

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Diablo continues from page 3

likelihood that the NRC will order design changes to make the casks less vulnerable to terrorist attack. Possible protective measures could include putting the casks behind protective barriers or scattering them so they are not present as a single target from the air.

In the weeks after the ruling, our community’s win was used in San Francisco at the California Public Utilities Commission. In a general rate case, PG&E is seeking permission from the Commission to make ratepayer-funded in-house feasibility study on the renewal of Diablo Canyon’s operating permit for another twenty years. The Alliance for Nuclear Responsibility and co-investigators in the case, having filed at the CPUC to oppose PG&E’s request and to support the California Energy Commission’s recommendation for an independent cost/benefit/risk analysis of the state’s continued dependence on nuclear power plants.

On June 3, PG&E spokesman Jeff Lewis told the L.A. Times that the court’s decision “does not affect current operations at Diablo Canyon and would have no effect on the construction schedule of the fuel storage casks there. On June 14, under questioning from the Alliance for Nuclear Responsibility, PG&E admitted that the 9th Circuit ruling “has a potential to impact the project schedule” for the dry cask storage facility.

On June 28, Sierra Club and Mothers for Peace filed a motion for declaratory judgment with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. The motion asks the NRC to put PG&E on notice that PG&E’s permit to use the dry cask storage facility at Diablo Canyon has effectively been revoked by the 9th Circuit, that construction schedule “has a potential to impact the project schedule” for the dry cask storage facility, and that PG&E continues construction work in violation of the 9th Circuit’s decision.

The Alliance for Nuclear Responsibility has been meeting with state representatives, energy groups, service and environmental organizations, businesses and oversight agencies in hope that Californians will begin to address issues of energy, waste, jobs, taxes, infrastructure, environment and economy of aging nuclear reactors. We are pleased that it is our Assemblyman who has taken the lead and we look forward to working with his office and all California representatives over the next few years.

Senators from California’s other reactor communities and energy committees have agreed to co-sponsor this bill. Co-authors of the Blakeslee bill include Senators Chesbro (D-Humboldt), Kehoe (D-San Diego) and Assemblymembers De La Torre, Evans and Harmon.
Look Northward, SLO
Santa Cruz County issues very different report on genetically engineered crops

Santa Lucian • Jul/Aug 2006

The SLO County Health Commission has reviewed the report on the health risks of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) completed by its GMO Task Force last May. The County Board of Supervisors is expected to deliberate on the report on August 22. The report reads largely as a supplementary to the biotech lobby’s defense of genetically engineered foods, aka genetically modified organisms (GMOs), which rests on the argument that GE foods have been in large-scale commercial production for a decade with no ill effects.

The report states: “Scientists and federal regulatory officials generally agreed that long-term monitoring of the human health risks is not necessary because there is no scientific evidence suggesting any long-term hazards from GMOs.” The only way that harm could be identified, of course, would be through the research that would discover the harms and establish links to the cause of harm. Without the research, there is no way of knowing what harm GMOs are doing to the population.

Between 1994–2001, food-related illnesses attributable to food-borne illness, which is the common denominator in the GMO Task Force’s rapid literature review, increased by 150% globally. Between 1995–2000, food-borne illness reports increased by 40% globally. The report notes that these rapid increases are evidence of the importance of monitoring future developments in GMOs.

The report concludes that a moratorium on genetically engineered crops should be imposed immediately. The Santa Cruz and San Luis Obispo reports, compiled on the same subject, were virtually the same at the behest of their respective health commissions, in nearly adjacent counties. The Santa Cruz report notes that the Task Force had noted that the Task Force had noted that the possibilities are very great for the use to be made of genetically engineered crops to produce food with reduced nutritional value, or even to induce harm in the human population.

The Center for Food Safety has filed suit against the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for the agency’s failure to adopt any pre-market safety requirements for genetically engineered foods. This is because the FDA has been under pressure from industry to avoid any actions that might delay the commercial introduction and expansion of genetically modified organisms. In the UK, soy allergies rose 50% following the introduction of GE soy.

Unlikely, there is no way to trace the potential ill effects of ingestion of genetically modified organisms. The report concludes that the difference in these reports could of Pusztai and colleagues’ data was nullified by saying that the differences are due to differences in the selection process used to determine membership on the committee.

The Santa Cruz GE Subcommittee spent more than 3 months researching the health, environmental, economic and social risks associated with the growing of GE crops in the county.

The subcommittee concluded:

§ No long-term human health testing or assessments have been done on GE foods, so no claims can be made about GE safety.

Health risks of GE crops include allergies, toxicity, carcinogens, altered fertility, increased antibiotic resistance, novel allergens and adverse impacts on the human immune and endocrine systems.

§ Pharmaceutical crops, plants used to produce components of pharmaceutical drugs, are grown in open-air trials, which can lead to toxic contamination of food crops.

§ A federal audit found that the USDA is not following its own limited standards for these crops.

§ California has no structure for regulating GE crops.

The San Luis Obispo supervisors also moved to send their Subcommittee report and their ordinance to the state legislature and as well as every county in California, in order to encourage statewide action similar to that of Santa Cruz.

“We can keep our house clean, or we can try,” said Supervisor Mark Stone, “but this needs to be addressed at state and national levels.”

The full report can be accessed via the Internet at: http://svincal.com/kfsx

TAKE ACTION
Come to the August 22 meeting of the County Board of Supervisors and speak in favor of requiring federal labeling of genetically engineered food and the local labeling of genetically engineered produce sold at farm stands and farmers markets in San Luis Obispo County.

Lancet, England’s leading medical journal, saw it this way: “Last week (May 22, p1769) we reported that the Royal Society had reviewed what it could of Pusztai and colleagues’ evidence and found it flawed, a gesture of breathtaking impertinence to the Rowett Institute scientists who should be judged only on the full and final publication of their work.”

Pusztai’s report on his work — peer reviewed and approved — was published five months later in The Lancet.

In the article “The Appliance of Science: Britain Urgently needs New Measures to Guarantee the Accountability of its Scientists,” biologist Dr. Tom Wakeford makes the following observations about the Royal Society: “Set up as a product of royal patronage, the Royal Society’s funds have traditionally come, with minimal parliamentary scrutiny, from the public purse. More recently it has become to receive substantial funds from transnational biotechnology corporations, such as Rhone Poulenc [part of Aventis, which took over AstraZeneca when the two firms merged].

Honouring such generous donors by making them part of its ‘President’s Circle,’ the Society bizarrely justifies such donations by saying that it will ensure it can ‘formulate balanced judgements about the use of science to solve national, social, economic and industrial problems...independent of vested interests.’

‘Until the 1980s, the Philosophical Transactions of the Society carried an advertisement in every issue claiming: ‘It is an established rule of the Royal Society...never to give their opinion, as a body, upon any subject.’

“Recently, these words have been quietly dropped, and now it seems that British citizens are paying taxes to fund an organisation that actively promotes the interests of...”

Lawsuits Challenge FDA Policy on GE Crops

§   Pharmaceutical crops, plants used to produce components of pharmaceutical drugs, are grown in open-air trials, which can lead to toxic contamination of food crops.

§   The center for Food Safety has filed suit against the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for the agency’s failure to adopt any pre-market safety requirements for genetically engineered foods, and for failing to require labels so consumers can know when foods contain ingredients from GE crops.

§   The FDA lawsuit calls for a mandatory, pre-market regulatory review system for all genetically engineered foods. Currently, there are no binding FDA regulations to protect the public from the risks of the genetically engineered foods that are found in thousands of products on supermarket shelves.

§   CFS and over fifty consumer and environmental groups, including the Union of Concerned Scientists, Physicians for Social Responsibility, Natural Resources Defense Council, and others filed a detailed legal petition with FDA in March 2000, outlining the comprehensive requirements for genetically engineered foods.
The press took at face value the film-flam explication that the Speaker's office had no knowledge that the appointments for the firm of Gibson, Dunn and Crutcher, which regularly represents developers, is a strong indicator of the Speaker's motives.

One day later...not so much. If there was any doubt left about the political nature of the aborted appointment, the subsequent action of the Monterey County Board of Supervisors put it to rest. Acting at the request of the Pebble Beach Company, the County Board withdrew the application for the golf course the day before the Commission was scheduled to hear it. Without Brem sitting in for Padilla, they knew they didn't have the votes on the Commission (thanks to the tremendous educational effort of the Sierra Club's Great Coastal Places Campaign). The Pebble Beach Company and this proposal will be back, but this was a monumental victory for coastal protection, in the face of immense political pressure.
to its location at the center of the block's wild area.
The creek-mouth/landscape is thus very serene. Three-fourths of the mountain's base is urbanized. Water is inaccessible on-existant all most of that perimeter. For the urbanized water resource, access is available via Broad Str and links to Old Garden Creek. All of this is cut off. Impacts on mountain wildlife are likely to be devastating.

The Conservation and Open Space Element is explicit about the City's responsibility to protect wildlife from development. 

"Animals move within and through habitat areas to find water, food, shelter, and to reproduce... Urban development...change[s] the landscape too quickly for many ani-

largest to accommodate an asser-

To see where this leads, one need look no further than the ultimate strategy of the most antien-

large individual or party in whatever amount of money the private party estimates it would have made were it not barred from trading the public trust. Should such a provision become law, the government will face a choice between non-enforcement of environmental laws or going broke. On a smaller scale, the Atascadero Planning Commission did a good thing when it recently refused to ex-

property rights continued from page

For films and events in July and August, go to:
www.hopedance.org
or contact:
hopedance.org
Tel: (805) 544-8663

lar with Las Tablas Creek. Oaks, gray pines and sycamores lined the canyon from the skyline to the creek edge. The spring rains raised the lake level to the point that we could paddle through the trees that were previ-

Las Tablas Arm of Nacimiento Lake

After a short portage, we put on in the shore of Franklin Creek. Oaks, gray pines and sycamores lined the canyon from the skyline to the creek edge. The spring rains raised the lake level to the point that we could paddle through the trees that were previously on the creek shore when the water level was lower.

Cal French led us to a hawk's nest, full of young birds, but we couldn't tell their species. While we were watching, a red tailed hawk flew in with a small fish in its bill, fed a chick and circled above and another. Farther down stream, just below the con-

understood. SLO says COSE doesn't cover this. approach that the agency should be taking to assess the health and safety issues from new GE foods.

GE Lawsuit continued from page 3

countries that have adopted mandatory pre-market approval and labeling systems for GE foods include Russia, China, Brazil, India, Japan, and South Korea and all of the European Union. In international forums, FDA and other U.S. officials have endorsed at least three agreements on safety assessments and pre-market review to protect consumers around the world from the risks of GE foods. But FDA's own guidelines for American consumers do not follow these international safety standards.

In developing its lax GE foods policies, FDA was heavily influenced by biotechnology interests. A former attorney for Monsanto, the world's leading producer of GE crops, was named director of the GE food labeling when working as an FDA regulator in the mid-1990s. Previous protections by numerous FDA documents showing that GE scientists say such comparisons cannot adequately address the kinds of unexpected changes in food that the genetic engineering process can create, including changes that could create health concerns. Last fall Australian scientists were surprised to find that genes from a bean engineered into pea plants created a potentially dangerous allergen in the GE pea. The tests that exposed this potential hazard have not been conducted on any of the GE foods currently marketed in the U.S., even though these foods contain genes from non-GE foods that have never been in the human diet and have never been adequately assessed for allergenicity.

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"Our Legacy and Promise," the Santa Lucia Chapter's first annual fundraiser and awards banquet, was a major success. More than 120 people paid $125 each to come to the Atascadero Lake Pavilion on June 10 to celebrate the Sierra Club’s accomplishments in San Luis Obispo -- and help us to accomplish a lot more. We made $11,500 for the evening.

Thanks to all the volunteers who made this event possible, with special thanks to Inga Swearingen and keyboardist Linda Vanasupa who donated their time and talents to further the mission of the Sierra Club!

2006 Santa Lucia Chapter Awards

PROMISE OF CONSERVATION AWARD
To JEFF KUPER
With appreciation for his commitment to protect and preserve the legacy of wilderness and conservation in the Los Padres National Forest

ACTIVIST HISTORIAN AWARD
To JAN CLUCAS
With thanks and appreciation for her passionate activism to protect and preserve open spaces throughout the County, and to honor the proud history of conservation by members of the Santa Lucia Chapter.

LIGHTNING ROD AWARD
To SARAH CHRISTIE
In recognition of her fearless defense of our open space, wild coast and environmental laws, and her ability to take the political heat without flinching.

Chapter Chair Karen Meniam presented Jack Beigle with the Chapter's highest honor, the Kathleen Goddard Jones Award.

Sarah Christie (right) suggested her Lightning Rod Award should go to the man who appointed her to the County Planning Commission, District 5 Supervisor Jim Patterson (upper right).

Sierra Club President Lisa Renstrom keynoted. "It is our patriotic duty to reduce our dependence on oil... The next wave of the environmental movement will be about partnering with huge swaths of American society and unleashing innovation."

Many thanks to our donors:
KATHLEEN GODDARD JONES AWARD
To Jack Beigle
In recognition of his decades of dedication to the cause of the preservation of San Luis Obispo County, his outreach to our citizens and guests, educating and enlisting them in the cause of conservation, and his consummate embodiment of the Sierra Club credo: To explore, enjoy and protect the planet.

John Ashbaugh’s Powerpoint presentation “100 Years of Land Conservation in SLO County” was a highlight of the evening. You can view it in its entirety at http://santalucia.sierraclub.org

LEGACY OF CONSERVATION AWARD
To James Sinton
In recognition of his lifetime of contributions to the protection, preservation and enjoyment of the wild lands of eastern San Luis Obispo County.

UNSUNG HERO AWARD
To Joan O’Keeffe
with thanks for her years of service to the Chapter, participation in many activities, the wearing of many hats, and her willingness to step in and take on duties whenever they needed doing.

UNSUNG HERO AWARD
To Denny Mynatt
In appreciation of his unswerving commitment to the performance of those tasks without which our Chapter could not function.

Letty French presents the Legacy award to Jim Sinton.

Peter Douglas, Executive Director,
California Coastal Commission

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Letters

[As a note sent to Carl Pope, Executive Director, Sierra Club]

Dear Carl,

Please read the enclosed article (“A Hunting Will We Go?” May Santa Lucian). Personally, I could not believe that our Sierra Club, the protector of wildlife and environmental guru, would sponsor hunting! Have we been infiltrated by the NRA?!

I am angry that the Club’s resources would be spent in such an obscene way! Essays on “Why I Hunt” with a first prize of $12,700 plus a hunting trip to a environmental guru, would sponsor hunting!! Have we been infiltrated by the Sierra Club is about. There are definitely better projects for that kind of money. ($15,700: I’m not happy to learn that our dues/donations – even a private donation – might be used in this unholy way. Unless this is addressed very soon, you can count me out.

Trophy hunting is disgusting! It is only an “ego satisfier” for the mindless and uncaring. It’s certainly nothing worthwhile.

The only time I could consider hunting

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Atascadero continued from page 1

where the federal government has failed and achieved energy savings and improve their city’s quality of life at a target. The reduction of their global warming emissions to 7% below 1990 levels by the year 2012.

O’Malley signed up the city on May 23, saying he would exceed these expectations and do more.

Atascadero’s road to signing on was several months long, and the effort was spearheaded by Cuesta College and Atascadero High School students. They signed private meetings with the mayor and testified at city council meetings as to the energy and financial savings realized by other cities that have adopted the alternative energy, energy efficiency and conservation programs urged in the Mayors Agreement.

“The went from ‘we’ll see what staff says to have about a costbenefit analysis, we’ll put a report on the agenda, etc.,’ to signing the agreement with out even a vote from the City Council,” marvelled Jono Kirkdale of Cuesta Grassroots and the Santa Lucia Chapter’s Conservation Committee. Kirkdale, Brandon Istenes of the Atascadero High School Earth Committee, Kinkade, Brandon Istenes of the Santa Lucia Chapter’s Conservation Committee. Kirkdale, Brandon Istenes of the Atascadero High School Earth Committee, Kinkade, Brandon Istenes of the Santa Lucia Chapter’s Conservation Committee. Kirkdale, Brandon Istenes of the Atascadero High School Earth Committee, Kinkade, Brandon Istenes of the Santa Lucia Chapter’s Conservation Committee. Kirkdale, Brandon Istenes of the Atascadero High School Earth Committee, Kinkade, Brandon Istenes of the Santa Lucia Chapter’s Conservation Committee. Kirkdale, Brandon Istenes of the Atascadero High School Earth Committee, Kinkade, Brandon Istenes of the Santa Lucia Chapter’s Conservation Committee. Kirkdale, Brandon Istenes of the Atascadero High School Earth Committee, Kinkade, Brandon Istenes of the Santa Lucia Chapter’s Conservation Committee. Kirkdale, Brandon Istenes of the Atascadero High School Earth Committee, Kinkade, Brandon Istenes of the Santa Lucia Chapter’s Conservation Committee. Kirkdale, Brandon Istenes of the Atascadero High School Earth Committee, Kinkade, Brandon Istenes of the Santa Lucia Chapter’s Conservation Committee. Kirkdale, Brandon Istenes of the Atascadero High School Earth Committee, Kinkade, Brandon Istenes of the Santa Lucia Chapter’s Conservation Committee. Kirkdale, Brandon Istenes of the Atascadero High School Earth Committee, Kinkade, Brandon Istenes of the Santa Lucia Chapter’s Conservation Committee. Kirkdale, Brandon Istenes of the Atascadero High School Earth Committee, Kinkade, Brandon Istenes of the Santa Lucia Chapter’s Conservation Committee. Kirkdale, Brandon Istenes of the Atascadero High School Earth Committee, Kinkade, Brandon Istenes of the Santa Lucia Chapter’s Conservation Committee. Kirkdale, Brandon Istenes of the Atascadero High School Earth Committee, Kinkade, Brandon Istenes of the Santa Lucia Chapter’s Conservation Committee. ---

Plovers continued from page 9

Draft Recovery Plan, which was based on the assumption that the critical habitat as designated in 1999 would remain protected and not be subject to adverse modifications. In 2005, critical habitat for the Pacific plover was reduced from 18,000 to 12,145 acres.

The loss of critical habitat means that developers need not apply for Section 10 permits, which require that the Secretary of the Interior must find that the incidental taking of plover by the proposed development will not reduce the likelihood of the survival and recovery. Housing developments in coastal areas, commercial recreations and visit- serving facilities, as well as public sponsored developments (that developed, beach conservation, shore-line protection improvements, coastal stabilizations) would not need Section 10 permits under the proposed rule, even though they may result in “takings” of plovers or de struction of critical habitat.

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Atascadero continued from page 1

Just outside Yosemite National Park on 50 Acres of beautiful forested hillside

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Full service Ayurvedic spa with sauna, hot tub, cold plunge, massage, scented soaking room & yoga classes.

Meetings to room accommodations & retreats of all sizes. Outdoor amphitheater with fire pit.

Cafe at the Bug serves fresh Californian cuisine with Vegans & Vegetarians options.

Visit us once, and you’ll come back for a lifetime.

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Potato continued from page 5

multinational biotech corporations, under the guise of independent sci- ence.” (“The Royal Society: Best of British science or corporate rent- boy?” GMWATCH No. 6, February 8, 2003).

The phenomenon described by Dr. Wakeford is not exclusive to the U.K. Writing in the March 2006 issue of Harper’s on “the political machinations of American science,” Celia Farber noted that “Today’s scientists are al- most wholly dependent on the goodwill of government researchers and powerful peer review boards, who control a financial network binding together the National Institutes of Health, academia, and the biotech and pharmaceutical industries. Many scientists live in fear of losing their funding.”

Interviewed by Farber, Richard Strohman, an emeritus professor of biology at UC Berkeley, said “Before the biotech boom, we never had this incessant urging to produce some- thing useful, meaning profitable. Everybody is caught up in it. Grants, millions of dollars flowing into labo- ratories, careers and stars being made. The only way to be a successful scientist today is to follow consen- sus... You’ve got the next quarter to report, and you don’t want any bad news. It’s all about the short term. Science has totally capitulated to corporate interests.”

The report to the Santa Lucio Josip County Health Commission by the GMO Task Force on the potential health risks of genetically engineered foods is a portrait of that capitulation.

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E-mail: bughost@yosemitebug.com

Read: Has Your Mayor Signed the Climate Agreement? at www.santalucia.sierraclub.org

Peter Knap

The proposed rule will not en- courage voluntary conservation efforts by private landowners. Pri- vate landowners enter into voluntary management agreements with local governmental agencies to protect endangered or threatened species because this may avoid the necessity for a Section 10 permit.

That counties may obtain an ex- emption from the critical habitat rule, and to leave the existing regulatory protections of the ESA in place. If in the future a final rule is deemed necessary and required by the Secretary, it should be based on a Final Recovery Plan that takes into account the current status of the plover, especially the existing regu- latory protections for the plover arising out of the changes in critical habitats.

TAKE ACTION

Send comments on the proposed special 4(d) rule for the threatened Pacific Coast distinct population segment of the western snowy plover by August 21, 2006, to:

Field Supervisor
Arcata Field Office
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
1655 Heindon Road
Arcata, CA 95521
fax: 707-822-8411
Classifieds

September issue ad deadline is August 10. 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., 7:00 p.m.; 473-5404
Atascadero--2nd & 4th Tues.; 466-8099
Cambria CSD -- 4th Thurs.; 927-6223
Grover Beach--1st & 3rd Mon., 6:30 p.m.; 473-4567
Morro Bay--2nd & 4th Mon.
City of Paso Robles--1st & 3rd Tues., 7:00 p.m.; 237-3888
City of 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, June 6, 2006
In attendance: Holly Slettland, Jan Marx, Jono Kincade (part.), Mandy Davis
Guests: Karen Merriam, Neil Havlik, Gail McPherson, Jessica Daem
Staff: Andrew Christie

Meeting called to order at 5:25. Minutes of S2 meeting approved.

SLO City Manager Neal Havlik presented a request for the Chapter to assist financially in the purchase of a conservation easement over Brughelli Ranch, 400 acres adjacent to SLO Airport. Easement value appraised at $975k, owners asking $750k. City wants chapter’s assistance in raising $200k. Members requested more details as available.

Havlik confirmed that students “geocaching” on Bishops Peak and other natural areas are not exempt from “stay on the trails” requirement.

Gail McPherson presented an outline for Talk About the Bay (TAB) conference. Members requested final program, budget, venue and date.

Mandy Davis will organize attendance at August DFG Santa Barbara meeting on waterfowl hunt regulations per Morro Bay hunt. Members directed request that Angeles Chapter be informed to get them involved in the issue.

Jono will present Cool Cities certificate to Atascadero Mayor O’Malley on, tell students to get ready for effort in Paso. Holly will work with Mayor Mecham on getting signs on to Climate Agreement.

Jan requested permission to re-form Chapter Dalidio Task Force to oppose the current project. Andrew will check mailing list procedure.

All other matters tabled.

Meeting adjourned at 7:00.
All of our hikes and activities are open to all Club members and the general public. If you have any suggestions for hikes or outdoor activities, questions about the Chapter’s outing policies or would like to be an outings leader, call Outings Leader Gary Felsman (473-3694). For information on a specific outing, please contact the outings leader. Outings Leaders please get your outings or events in by the 1st for the next month’s outings.

**Outings and Activities Calendar**

**July 2, 9:30 a.m., Point Sal Hike** Meet at west end of Brown Rd. at locked gate. We’ll hike up road to ridge, 2.5 miles, 1000 ft elevation change then decide to 1-continue to beach, 2.hike down ridge, 3. turn around. Many stops on the way, at 80 I promise to go slow.确诊 a few days before at 929-3647, bdennen@kcbx.net

**July 5, 12, 19, 26, 5:30 p.m. Informal Hikes. 2-hour hour hikes around the San Luis Obispo Area. Bring water, snack, and dress for the weather. E-mail glemmard@onemain.com for meeting location.**

**July 7, 5:30 p.m. CANOE/KAYAK MORRO BAY DINNER PICNIC:** This is an evening paddle on the bay and a beach dinner picnic with friends. It should be a romantic evening for a gourmet picnic. Bring your boat and equipment, PFDs, windbreaker, warm clothing and a picnic lunch.

**July 8, 9, 16, 23, 30, 5:30 p.m. Informal Hikes. 2- hour hikes around the San Luis Obispo Area. Bring water, snack, and dress for the weather. E-mail glemmard@onemain.com for meeting location.**

**July 9th, 9:30 a.m., BLACK LAKES Hike:** Meet at junction of Leguna Negra and Guad. Rd (south end of Zenon). Hike into oak woodland, eucalyptus, and riparian bacteria. There is a possibility of poison oak. Meet at the Cerro Alto campground off Highway 101. For info, call Chuck @ 441-7297. There is a $5 fee per car parking, unless you have an adventure pass.

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