Full Speed Ahead for Marine Sanctuary

The long-sought, long-deferred movement to extend the boundaries of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary to include the waters of San Luis Obispo County got a major shot in the arm on April 19 when the Board of Directors of the SLO Chamber of Commerce resolved “That the San Luis Obispo Chamber of Commerce take a leadership role in building consensus for a national marine sanctuary along the central coast.”

The vote came after the Chamber’s Legislative Council Luncheon meeting of April 11 at the SLO City/County Library. Presentations by Santa Cruz Mayor Cynthia Mathews, former MBNMS Advisory Council member Ron Massengill, and Congresswoman Lois Capps’ district representative Greg Haas established one overriding fact: Having a National Marine Sanctuary is good for marine resources and good for business. The Sanctuary has been a major draw for tourism and federal research dollars for the cities of Santa Cruz and Monterey.

In many months of meetings with SLO Chamber representatives, local Sierra Club leaders made this point, put

Katcho in Hotter Water

Chapter Contributions to Diablo Canyon lawsuit

Last December, San Luis Obispo County Supervisor and California Coastal Commissioner Katcho Achadjian, in trying to do a favor for PG&E, made the motion for a vote at the Coastal Commission that got the Commission sued. Now he has triggered an additional cause of action in the lawsuit filed against the Commission.

The Coastal Commission is being sued over its decision to permit replacement of the steam generators at the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant without requiring mitigation for the plant’s significant ongoing damage to marine wildlife and habitat. Diablo consumes millions of gallons of ocean water and discharges the heated water into the marine environment. Replacing the generators will extend the plant’s life and its environmental impacts for 20 years or more. Under the Commission’s ex parte rules, Commissioners must publicly disclose all conversations they have had on any item brought before them for a decision, and with whom. The disclosures must be made with sufficient detail for the public to understand the implications for the project under review.

“We amended our lawsuit when it

Will Morro Bay Go All the Way?

Stand up for clean water on May 24

One by one, representatives of the Santa Lucia Chapter of the Sierra Club, ECOLO, Surfrider, the Otter Project and the Natural Resources Defense Council stepped up to the microphone at the April 12 meeting of the Morro Bay City Council and the Cayucos Sanitary District and pledged full support in obtaining funding for the upgrade of the Morro Bay-Cayucos wastewater treatment plant...on one condition: The plant must be upgraded to tertiary treatment, the highest standard of wastewater treatment, not secondary treatment, the legal minimum.

Our organizations have been dogging this process for years for several urgent reasons. The plant has long grated the Central Coast with the unwanted distinction of being one of only plants still operating under waivers from the three-decades-old Clean Water Act. The plant’s outfall pipe extends a half-mile offshore, in fifty feet of water (World Health Organization guidelines for sewage outfalls call for a minimum depth of 60 feet, one mile offshore). The mouth of the outfall pipe is ground zero for the highest rate of disease and stranding deaths for the threatened California sea otter anywhere in the otters’ range. The Regional Water Quality Control Board told plant operators to upgrade the plant five years ago. Over the years, we have successfully pressed the two communities, which

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One of Morro Bay’s concerned constituents.
Santa Lucia Chapter General Meeting
Hot Spots was a Hit!

Our March and April meetings covering the county’s most pressing ongoing or upcoming environmental battles — from Carrizo Plain to San Miguel, Santa Margarita and the Nipomo Mesa — was much appreciated by attend-ees.

At press time, we haven’t scheduled our May meeting agenda. Watch the Tribune calendar listings or better, request to be placed on our e-mail alert list and stay tuned.

Friday, May 25, 7:00 p.m.
St. Stephens Episcopal Church
1334 Nipomo St.
at Pismo
San Luis Obispo

Leaft to right: Anne McMahon, Sue Luft, and Kim Pasciuto weigh what Roger Lyons has to say about the Cayucos Viewshed Ordinance at our March meeting.

Santa Lucia Chapter
P.O. Box 15755
San Luis Obispo, CA 93406
santa.lucia.chapter@sierraclub.org

You Are Not a Special Interest

At some point during any meeting of the County Board of Supervisors on any contentious issue, either Katchi Achadian, Harris Ovitt or Jerry Lenthall — the three horsemen of the SLOPocalypse — can be counted on to assume a thoughtful expression and say to the assembled citizenry: “You know, everyone who has testified here today is a special interest,” or words to that effect. Murmurs of amusement rise up.

This observation invariably prefaces a vote by these supervisors to let a few dollars or the developer’s pocket open at the expense of neighbors, wildlife habitat, ag land and/ or responsible planning; nullify an attempt to provide housing that can be afforded by people who work here; or otherwise act on behalf of certain lobbies and generous donors and stick it to the public, which has somehow become a “special interest.”

This is a political strategy that was first formulated in a memo to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce by future Supreme Court Justice Lewis Powell. Powell warned against a threat to commerce from the rising tide of “environmentalism,” or as he termed it, “the special social activism that was bringing about landmark public interest legislation.” He urged that corporate money be channeled into think tanks, universities, and legal foundations to fund “environmental” and “consumer” groups that would then influence the political and legal system with the sole intent of enhancing or protecting their bottom line.

And so it came to pass, along with the three horsemen of the SLOpocalypse – Achadjian, Harry Ovitt or Jerry Lenthall – was much appreciated by attend-ees, our upcoming environmental battles — from Carrizo Plain to San Miguel, Santa Margarita and the Nipomo Mesa, we will have to be better prepared for the effects of climate change on the state’s water supply.

AB 233 (Jones), which would improve enforcement of protections against toxic diesel exhaust.

AB 1199 (Huffman), which would implement a plan to substantially increase the energy efficiency of lighting products, while reducing toxic and other pollution resulting from electricity generation.

AB 1193 (Buskin), which would establish a shared responsibility program for recycling of mercury thermostats.

AB 1459 (Levine), which would prohibit conversion of motels/hotels in the coastal zone into timeshares or condominiums.

We oppose:

AB 739 (Doreo), which would create the “California Zero Carbon (Solar) Emission Electrical Generation Act of 2007,” a green hamner beneath which lacked an attempt to repeal California’s commonsense law prohibiting the siting of new nuclear power plants until the matter of how to dispose of nuclear waste has been resolved. This bill died in committee. Our author has vowed to bring it back until he can finally fool enough people enough of the time to pass it.

SB 59 (Cogdill), which would put a $3.95 billion bond act before the voters in order to fund two new dams. Should we instead examine and change the way we — primarily industrial agriculture — use and waste water? Perish the thought!

SB 303 (Duchen), which would require cities and counties to zone 10 years of housing at once and would limit the ability to deny any housing project and would limit the impact of the use of the California Environmental Quality Act. Cookie cutter permitting. The developer’s dream.

SB 670 (Correa), which would prohibit the use of fees on sales of homes. These fees are used to fund preservation of habitat, open space, farmland, and affordable housing. Developers love to pretend that these fees are the cause of sky-high home prices.

Needless to say, the supporters of the bills we oppose are opposing the bills we support because they are bills that might have some impact on the profit margins of the special interests they serve.

And that, in a single season’s legisla-tive calendar, is a portrait of the difference between special interests and the public interest. Glad we could clear that up.
At Oceano Dunes, the answer is blowin’ in the wind

The Santa Lucia Chapter weighed in with Congressman Pete Visclosky, Chairman of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, on the occasion of his visit to Los Osos last month to view for himself what three decades of not quite managing to build a wastewater treatment project hath wrought. On behalf of the Sierra Club, the Morro Bay Estuary, the 14,351 residents and homeowners of Los Osos and the greater population of San Luis Obispo County, we requested his consideration of the County’s request for federal assistance for the 2008 fiscal year.

Our letter to the congressman stuck a thumbnail history. Residents moved into homes on septic systems with the County’s blessing when Los Osos was a small hamlet; as it grew into a community of 14,000, a population level that requires a sanitary sewer system, it became clear that groundwater tables were too high and soils too sandy to allow effective functioning of many of the septic tanks; the cost of building a wastewater collection and treatment system, normally factored into and amortized via home prices in communities where a sewer system accompanies build-out, would be more than low- and middle-income residents could afford. After 30 years of various impasses, the Chapter was pleased to lobby for the recent successful state legislation that made it possible for the County to take the lead in the effort to build a wastewater treatment system for this community.

But cost, we noted, remains a daunting obstacle, and will be insurmountable for many of our residents on fixed incomes without federal assistance. We urged the Chairman to support the County’s request for $5 million in assistance through the FY 2008 Energy and Water Development Appropriations bill as vitally necessary for the successful completion of the engineering, design and environmental evaluation of a treatment system for Los Osos.

Cliffs of particulate matter (PM) leave the Oceano Dunes en route to Nipomo Mesa, where the County Air Pollution Control District just completed a multi-year monitoring project that discovered severe levels of PM pollution composed of sand and dust -- the highest levels in the county, and significantly in excess of safe levels set by the Environmental Protection Agency. Off-road vehicles have de-vegetated the dunes, exposing them to steady erosion by offshore winds, and daily break the thin crust of sand that forms overnight, further exposing pollution -- composed of sand and dust -- the highest levels in the county, and significantly in excess of safe levels set by the Environmental Protection Agency.

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In Memory of Lynn Christie and Bea Morrow
by Karen Merriam, Chapter Chair

Lynn Christie and Bea Morrow left us in April. They were brilliant, passionate, loving women who inspired and encouraged all of us to be our best selves. Both Bea and Lynn cared deeply about the work of the Santa Lucia Chapter, often giving their steady support and advice behind the scenes.

Neither woman would have thought of herself as a leader, however. Both were women of conviction and purpose. I remember the evening last June when Lisa Renstrom, national Sierra Club Board President, visited us to speak at our banquet. Bea sat with Lisa to explain quite clearly that certain national club policies and actions were not helpful to our chapter. Lisa listened carefully. The next day at the state convention, Lisa changed the remarks she had prepared for the occasion and instead discussed candidly with the delegates the concerns Bea had expressed, and asked for guidance. Who says one person’s voice can’t make a difference?

Only a few months ago, Lynn’s encouragement and “let’s do it” confidence led a small committee of our chapter leaders to embark on our first major donor campaign. Just as we launched the first meeting of the Sustainability Circle, the title Lynn chose for the campaign, she became ill. Although tired, Lynn insisted on coordinating the preparations for the meeting, and made sure we had sustenance for ourselves. Even though she couldn’t join us, we felt her presence, and she will remain a part of our lives.

Sustainability Circle. Lynn and Bea were devoted to the health and sustainability of our natural environment. They loved their families, their communities, and the exquisite expressions of nature on view outside the windows of their homes in Cambria. As a community, we celebrate their lives.

Victory At Sea

Sierra Club helps shut down polluting offshore LNG terminal

The words “historic victory” don’t do it justice. After more than three years work, Sierra Club members, community volunteers and our coalition partners this month won a pair of major victories over a multi-national corporation and its $800 million plan to further industrialize the California coast with a massive liquefied natural gas terminal.

Australia’s BHP Billiton, the world’s largest mining corporation, had proposed the coast of Oxnard and Malibu for the first LNG terminal on the West Coast of the United States. But on Monday, April 9th, more than 2,000 Sierra Club members, community leaders and activists inside the packed hearing room, listened to community leaders, public officials and concerned citizens speak out against the project, 1,500 more project opponents, unable to squeeze into the overflowed room, waited outside in the courtyard, listening to the proceedings on speakers.

Sierra Club’s Great Coastal Places Campaign had helped to mobilize what Coastal Director Mark Massara has called the “best attended environmental hearing in California in the last four decades.” In the face of this massive opposition, two of the three Commissioners – Lt. Governor John Garamendi and State Controller John Chiang – refused to allow the dirty and dangerous terminal access to the California coast.

Just three days later when another 500 activists attended a hearing of the California Coastal Commission in Santa Barbara, we won another major victory with a unanimous vote against the project.

If approved, the contested, floating terminal and its tankers would have lived off the coast of Oxnard and Malibu for at least the next 40 years, emitting more than 200 tons of smog-producing air pollution every year. It would have also posed significant risks to migrating whales, fragile coastal wetlands and the health and safety of communities throughout Southern California.

In voting to deny the project, Commissioners from the two agencies focused on many of these issues as well as global warming and the lack of credible evidence that California even needs the foreign gas.

Leading up to these critical hearings, the campaign had helped to mobilize what 15-21, studies management problems in this new Monument proclaimed by President Clinton. Learn the ongoing threats to these unique big trees and their ecosystem, on day hikes with veteran leaders Cal and Letty French and former Sierra Club president Joe Fontaine. (Trip 07191A $395)

Rallying and activism in Dinosaur Nation Monument, Utah, is a family activist adventure from July 5 to 9 that brings kids too into figuring out why we care so much about saving Utah’s dazzling landscapes. Join leader Pat Fritz on the historic Green River. (Trip 07261A $855/$755 child)

Wild in the Wide Open Wild Sky, backpacking in Washington State, June 23 to July 2, studies management problems in designated wilderness and candidate areas in the heart of the Mount-Baker Snoqualmie National Forest. (Trip 07175A, $495)

Sierra Club Activist Outings Highlight Adventure and Advocacy

By Vicky Howen

The Sierra Club national outings program features several special trips each year that inform participants about the issues surrounding their particular trip and train them on how to advocate effectively for the relevant campaign.

Wilderness and other preservation campaigns are the focus for 2007’s seven activist trips, headed for West Virginia, Alaska, California, Utah, New Mexico, Washington, and Nevada.

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Valle Vidal Service and Advocacy, July
One Question for the Morro Bay Power Plant

By Jack McCurdy, Coastal Alliance on Plant Expansion (CAPE)

Dynergy, current owners of the Morro Bay Power Plant, and LS Power, those that plan to sell some of the power plants in its LS Power portfolio without naming Dynergy.

Here’s a question an enterprising reporter needs to ask Dynergy: Is the Morro Bay Power Plant planning a project that have been mentioned as possible candidates for sale?

The Morro Bay City Council has formed a Futures Committee to explore alternative uses of the plant site in the event it becomes available for sale. So the possible redevelopment of the 103-acre site is very relevant in the context of uncertainty about plans for a new plant.

This question became more relevant after a landmark decision by the Second Circuit federal appellate court on January 25, which got little local, state or national media attention.

The question raised is whether the power industry can bear the cost of avoiding the destruction of marine life is feasible.

The court held that it doesn’t make any sense to say opponents have put up a barrier to voting on Measure J, but the City of SLO Ballot — that has a little or a lot of marine life in it.

“Natural” water must be presumed to contain marine life under the U.S. Clean Water Act, the court said, and must be protected under the Act. A violation of the Act is not the basis that Duke Power proposed and the California Energy Commission re-scinded that approval through a ballot process, it is not considered a measure.

I do not see how Measure J is any different from the City of SLO measure that rescinded the approved project. We can’t reject legally approved projects through popular vote only to comply and when we see them approved through popular vote.

City residents voted against impacts to the City. But when County residents voted to impose those impacts on the City, after their defeat at the hands of city voters, the developers calculated that enough county residents distant from the City of SLO could be swayed by appeals to general “property rights” arguments and counted on it to overwhelm the City of voters who were familiar with the actual details of the project and who would know the impact of its impacts. They figured right.

Get-out-of-CEQA free. The outcome of the vote on the City initiative was simply the revocation of a project approval.

The outcome of the County initiative was the automatic approval of a project, because in its terms as developers wrote them, exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act. Under CEQA, any project is considered a ballot initiative and approved by voters instead of taken through the planning process, which is not considered a “project.” This exemption was intended for use by citizens who wish to organize mass protests; the SMART initiative itself does not consider it a “project.” For the voter to be able to make sure it is approved.

The County vote meant the project was never reviewed. The Dalidio Marketplace place project on the County ballot was not the Dalidio Ranch project on the City ballot.

“coastal urban restoration” projects to restore industrial sites like the Morro Bay plant, and Morro Bay is on a state list of such potential projects. The Coastal Conservancy administers the bond funds and is working with a number of coastal communities toward funding such projects, the most prominent one being Redondo Beach, where the community has voted to pursue conversion of an old power plant to parkland and open space. Morro Bay’s site redevelopment committee has been inspired by the model of Redondo Beach.

Sierra Student Coalition, Summer 2007: Be a Force For Change

Student Environmental Leadership Training Programs -- apply online at www.ssc.org/sprog

Attention students: This summer, take advantage of week-long training sessions in organizing skills led by the nation’s top student organizations. Learn to develop effective groups that can tackle serious environmental issues, and network with other activists to build your region’s student environmental movement. Then take what you’ve learned and put it into action at your high school, on your campus and in your community.

ENERGY FOCUS

Global warming presents an enormous opportunity for the health and well-being of our planet. The good news is that youth
California’s Global Warming Law: Now the Work Begins

By Bill Magavern, Senior Representative, Sierra Club California

In 2006, California’s Legislature passed landmark legislation putting an enforceable cap on our state’s emissions of global warming pollution—the first such law in the United States. The Global Warming Solutions Act, AB 32, authored by Assemblymember Fran Pavley and then-Assemblymember Karen (Merriam) Pavley, has garnered justifiable praise around the country and even overseas as a demonstration of California’s willingness to fill the leadership vacuum left by the Bush Administration’s refusal to take meaningful action to curb greenhouse gas emissions.

Now the hard work begins.

Far from the culmination, passage of the law represents the beginning of what will be a long and difficult process of implementing policies to bring California’s greenhouse gas emissions down to their 1990 level by 2020. The Legislature has required a reduction to that level, and has wisely put the state’s Air Resources Board in charge of making it happen. The ARB, which has built a reputation as the nation’s premier guardian of air quality, now takes on the additional challenge of addressing global warming. Industry lobbyists are already flocking to the workshops and seminars on the topic, hoping to shape the eventual rules to benefit their narrow interests.

The ARB’s first task, which may come up as early as its April meeting, is to publish a list of “Early Action Measures,” those regulations that could be put in place before 2010 to start bringing down greenhouse pollution, ARB staff have indicated their inclination to put forward only two such measures: the Low-Carbon Fuels Standard announced by the Governor in a January executive order, and restrictions on refrigerants called hydrofluorocarbons that have high global warming potential. The Low-Carbon Fuels Standard will require a 10% reduction in the carbon intensity of transportation fuels by 2020, stimulating deployment of alternatives.

Environmental groups, including Sierra Club California, have urged the ARB to take a bolder approach and add several other early action measures that reduce emissions from passenger vehicles, heavy-duty vehicles, cement factories, landfills and marine vessels. The ARB also is in the process of setting the “baseline”—the level of emissions in 1990—and of establishing a system for large emitters of greenhouse pollution to report their emissions. Advisory committees have been chartered on the topics of environmental justice, markets, and technology.

As implementation proceeds, many important questions will be debated and decided, including: how many emission reductions will come from technology standards and incentive programs, and how many from market mechanisms? Will the market mechanisms include a “cap-and-trade” program, as Governor Schwarzenegger has ordered? If so, will pollutants be given permits to emit greenhouse gases, or will they have to buy them? Technology-based standards have a far better record of success than pollution trading schemes, especially when the right to emit is granted to polluters for free.

This implementation process will be a high priority for Sierra Club California this year and for years to come.

For more information on-line, go to www.climatechange.ca.gov and www.sierraclubcalifornia.org.

What is Empower Poly?

By Ken Smokoska, Co-Chair, Sierra Club California Energy Committee; Chair, Santa Lucia Chapter Conservation Committee

Empower Poly is a new coalition of sustainability clubs on the Cal Poly campus. The coalition unites diverse organizations in a multidisciplinary alliance to establish Cal Poly as a university leader in the stewardship of environmental, social, and economic resources. The partners of Empower Poly will work to continuously improve student, staff, faculty, and administrative collaboration in leadership and action for a healthy future.

The inspiration for this effort is the ReNew CSU campaign, which I have been partnering with for over 4 years on behalf of Sierra Club California and local Chapters. The ReNew CSU campaign focused on the creation of a comprehensive set of clean energy and green building standards by the California State Board of Trustees, approved in September 2008. Students argue that a strong sustainability policy will lead to significant savings for the system, create new jobs throughout the state and make the CSU a national leader in the high-tech cutting-edge fields of green architecture and clean energy production.

We are now in final planning stages for an expanded “ReNew CSU” Campaign with Cal Poly the demonstration site. If you are a Cal Poly alumni, former/current staff or faculty or just plain interested in being part of the climate change solution, please consider donating or volunteering to help. If interested in being part of an exciting campaign, please email ksmokoska@hotmail.com or call (805) 541-1369.


Sierra Club Developing New Global Warming Strategy

By Lisa Renstrom, Sierra Club President and Michelle Skaff, Sierra Club Foundation President

The world’s leading scientists have reached consensus: global warming is real, happening faster than predicted, and caused by humans. The scientists who released the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change’s conclusive report also agree urgent action is needed now to curb global warming to protect our planet, our economy and our children’s future. The challenge now is to translate this consensus into a course of action, into the identification and embrace of a set of solutions that will slow and ultimately reverse global warming and its consequences.

We believe it is a fight the Sierra Club is uniquely qualified to lead. Our grassroots network reaches deep into communities across America. Since our founding 115 years ago, we have been at the heart of — and learned from — environmental, social, and economic

A Green Idea

By Lisa Donaldson and Julian Revilla, SIFE

On March 15, the Green Idea Project from Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) at Cal Poly spoke to a classroom of 6th graders at C.L. Smith Elementary School, SIFE is a Cal Poly club that executes various projects to benefit the local community. Some of the other projects worked on this year were: a business plan for biodiesel production at Cal Poly, a seminar on the topic, hoping to shape the eventual rules to benefit their narrow interests.

For more information on-line, go to www.itsouroption.com.

Lisa Donaldson educating the next generation.
Santa Lucian  • May 2007

Barbara Boxer had initiated federal investigations into an unexplained EPA reversal granting the project an unprecedented and unlawful exemption from the Clean Air Act. The cities of Oxnard, Malibu and Port Hueneme all passed resolutions in opposition to the project, as did the PTA and school districts in Oxnard. By the final hearings, our coalition was as diverse as the communities in which they were held – with Sierra Club members side-by-side with Latino groups, business leaders, union members, public officials, realtors, farm workers and surfers.

And it may indeed be too early to raise a child, it takes an environmental activist to defeat an international energy conglomerate. In this case, that activist was Susan Jordan of Santa Barbara, coastal advocate and community organizer extraordinaire. Jordan was one of the principle advocates to defeat an international energy conglomerate. The governor can be reached by email at the power plant. The highest source of mercury in our air comes from burned wood and cars.

We produce them, watch their effects for awhile, then often raise standards about them or ban them. We didn’t used to worry about them or dispose them into an unexplained landfill. (Incascent bulbs are hazardous, dirty, dangerous, dirty, dirty. The ab- sence of compacts and ‘green’ energy is rather an oxymoron.)

Bulbs

LNG continued on page 4

When the Hazard is Worth It: Compact Fluorescent Bulbs & Mercury

There’s no excuse for not changing your light bulbs

By Teddy Lovett

We need a better perspective on toxic waste. When I was a kid, we threw everything in the “trash” can, food scraps, paper, light bulbs, tin cans, toxic spray bottles, burned-out or broken fluorescent tubes. Fluorescent lights contain mercury. We didn’t have to worry about them or about batteries. A proliferation of “helpful” hazardous products now concern us. We generate toxic waste, in every form, that affect our health. Mercury is used in many household items: thermostats, thermometers, fluorescent lights, batteries and switches for appliances, lights and automobiles.

Exposure to large quantities of mercury in our air, water and food we eat is a documented risk to human health. An extremely small amount of mercury – an average of four milligrams – is sealed within the glass tubing of a CFL. This is said to be about the size of a pea. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, this amount of mercury is what allows the bulb to be such an efficient light source. For a basis of comparison, there are about one to three grams of mercury in your average home thermostat. It would take between 250 to 1,000 CFLs to equal that same amount. Ironically, CFLs prevent mercury from entering our air, where it most affects our health, by reducing energy demand at the power plant. The highest source of mercury in our air comes from burning fossil fuels such as coal, the most common fuel used in Michigan to produce electricity. A power plant will emit 10 milligrams of mercury to produce one trillion BTUs, which is equivalent to running a CFL for the same amount of time. Integrated Waste Management Authority (www.iswma.com) is working on a list of locations throughout SLO Co. for recycling fluorescent tubes and bulbs. For every CFL used, 8 fewer incandescent bulbs end up in landfills.

Global warming is a serious concern. World scientists agree. Power plants throw a lot more mercury into the air, and greenhouse gases at the end of this sentence. It is an essential, irreplaceable element in CFLs, and it is allowed to be burned to run a CFL for a pittance. Integration of hyper-efficient Solartopia runs totally, gratefully and without compromise on Mother Nature’s sun.

Check the www.sknr.org website for details on the June 3 event. Stay tuned for this exciting opportunity to meet one of the legends of the environmental and sustainability movement.

Commuter Bike Challenge

Teams shift gears to cycle in May for Bike Month

SLO Regional Ridershare encourages employees to shift from driving alone during May to joining the “Commuter Bike Challenge.” The 2nd annual Commuter Bike Challenge has expanded from one week to the entire month of May. Team captains can register their teams of 4-10 people on the bike month:

On Sunday, June 3rd, Harvey Wasserman will be in San Luis Obispo to promote his book Solartopia: Our Green-Powered Earth, A.D 2030, and help raise funds for the Santa Lucia Chapter and the Alliance for Nuclear Responsibility in an event we will be co-sponsoring.

Wasserman is one of the world’s leading advocates of renewable energy. Solartopia is an instant visionary classic, looking forward from this same vantage point on an earth that has solved the most vexing problems of the present day. “Solartopia,” writes Wasserman, “is the prosperous, doable, and absolutely necessary green-powered Earth of A.D. 2030. It is essential to our survival — economically, biologically and spiritually.

The safe energy revolution will spawn millions of jobs and trillions of dollars in decentralized wealth. With homes, buildings, communities and farms controlling their own energy supplies, prosperity is widespread. (The switch to renewables has defunded global terrorism. Shuttering all nuclear plants has eliminated these pre-deployed weapons of radioactive mass destruction, and relined us of the ongoing fear of melt-downs. The money not wasted on this failed atomic technology has accelerated the switch to true green energy.)

The absurd old hype about ‘green’ nukes or fossil fuels is remembered in Solartopia as a silly joke. When push comes to shove, King OIL — Coal, Oil, Nukes & Gas — could not cut it. Our hyper-efficient Solartopia runs totally, gratefully and without compromise on Mother Nature’s sun.

contact: bulbatatime@yahoo.com

Hazardous waste disposal sites in SLO County:

MBI/Cayucos Waste Water Plant (Hazardous Waste Site), 160 Atascadero Rd., 782-8511
Cold Canyon, HWY 227 SLO, 549-8332
Chicago Grade, HWY 41, Atascadero, 466-2985
Paso Robles, HWY 46 East; Nipomo, 509 Southland.

We Gotta Wear Shades

Solartopia coming to SLO June 3

Today, June 3rd, Harvey Wasserman will be in San Luis Obispo to promote his book Solartopia: Our Green-Powered Earth, A.D. 2030, and help raise funds for the Santa Lucia Chapter and the Alliance for Nuclear Responsibility in an event we will be co-sponsoring.

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Check the www.sknr.org website for details on the June 3 event. Stay tuned for this exciting opportunity to meet one of the legends of the environmental and sustainability movement.
operate the plant under a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA), to reduce the planned timeline for the upgrade from 23 years to 15 years to 8 years. A major focus now is to raise the proposed level of the upgrade from secondary to tertiary. Grants for tertiary treatment projects are available on a first-come, first-served basis, and go to communities that have a project ready to start. Many grants and funding sources are available for water reclamation and improvement of water quality to the level of tertiary treatment, but not for upgrades to secondary treatment. This raises the interesting prospect of an upgrade to the superior, more expensive standard costing residents less than an upgrade to the minimum secondary standard – or a resident-paid secondary upgrade, with a tertiary upgrade that is essentially free. Many funding sources derive from state bonds, and when they go, they're gone. That means further delay will be costly.

On May 24, the JPA Board must vote to finalize the upgrade project to the level of tertiary treatment before it can seize the funding opportunities in the form of grants that will lower the cost of the project to residents and cover the difference in cost between a secondary and tertiary upgrade.

TAKE ACTION

We successfully persuaded the JPA Board to put a VOTE on the wastewater treatment plant upgrade on the agenda for their May 24 meeting. Public comments were key in getting the JPA to commit to a vote at that meeting. We've also produced movement towards tertiary treatment, but the JPA remains undecided, even though tertiary makes the most environmental and economic sense. They will need to see large turn-out for the May 24th meeting in order to do the right thing.

7 p.m., Thursday, May 24, Morro Bay Community Center, 1901 Kennedy Way. Be there!
Santa Margarita Event Raises Funds, Awareness

The Santa Lucia Chapter thanks the following businesses for their support and sponsorship of our spring fundraiser, Flora! A Celebration of Nature and Art, held April 1 at the Santa Margarita and Sinton Ranches:

Organic Chefs TO GO
NOAH & LAURA SMUKLER, PROP.

Katcho continued from page 1
became apparent that certain Commissioners had been less than forthcoming when required to disclose ex parte communications at the hearing,” said Marcia Hanscom, managing director of the Coastal Law Enforcement Action Network (CLEAN), which filed suit in January after consulting with the Chapter on our Coastal Commission appeal of PG&E’s permits. Achadjian is one of the Commissioners whose ex parte disclosure has been deemed inadequate.

At the Coastal Commission’s December 11 hearing on the steam generator project, PG&E strongly objected to proposed mitigation for the project’s marine impacts. Achadjian moved to issue PG&E the permits stripped of Commission staff’s proposed mitigation: The permanent preservation from development of 9,000 acres of PG&E land around the plant.

At their February 16 public meeting, the Coastal Commission noted the problems inadequate ex parte disclosures cause for the public, as well as other decision-makers who are not party to the same communications.

If a Commissioner does not report an ex parte communication, the Commission action may be revoked and penalties assessed.

The Santa Lucia Chapter has secured a grant from the Angeles Chapter, which we have donated to CLEAN to help defray legal costs incurred in pursuing this important conservation action.

The case is scheduled be heard this month in Superior Court in San Francisco. A decision for the plaintiff would revoke PG&E’s permits and send the appeal back to the Commission for re-hearing and mitigation.

Chapter Introduces Santa Margarita Project to Global Warming

On April 11, the Chapter submitted to the County Department of Planning our comments on the Environmental Impact Report for the Santa Margarita Ranch Agricultural Residential Cluster Subdivision Project and (see “What’s Next for Santa Margarita?,” February). The short version: The EIR needs to be redone and recirculated. Our comments, drawn from the paper ‘Recommendations by the Association of Environmental Professionals (AEP) on How to Analyze Greenhouse Gas... continued on page 10

Board that the Chamber should get behind the effort and spread the word to other chambers in the county. We have never been closer to finally protecting the waters of the Central Coast from oil drilling, the dumping of toxic ag waste water, and other bad projects to which we are vulnerable without National Sanctuary status.

Take Action!
Fill out, clip & send to: Sierra Club, PO Box 15755, San Luis Obispo, CA 93406. We’ll collect them and deliver to the County Supervisors

Dear Supervisor,

I believe the Central Coast deserves the protection of a National Marine Sanctuary.

Please support expansion of the southern boundary of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary to include the waters and marine wildlife of San Luis Obispo County. This is the only way to permanently protect these precious resources from future harmful projects, including oil drilling and the construction of a pipeline for dumping toxic agricultural waste water into the bay.

Name _____________________________

Address ____________________________

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary
Global Warming

The Santa Margarita Ranch project assessment of its compliance with state regulations to address global climate change caused by CO2 and associated greenhouse gases. Emissions and Global Climate Change in CEQA Documents. On June 1, 2005, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger issued Executive Order S-3-05, establishing greenhouse gas emission reduction targets. In 2006, the California State Legislature passed AB 32, requiring the development of regulations to address global climate change, caused by CO2 and associated greenhouse gases. Lead agencies are now being asked by the State Attorney General’s Office to analyze the impacts of large development projects on global warming as part of the CEQA process. With the passage of AB32, the CEQA analysis of greenhouse gas emissions and global warming impacts of development projects cannot considered beyond the scope of an EIR. The EIR should mandate an inventory of the project’s greenhouse gas emissions and assessment of its compliance with state reduction targets.

Global Warming

These ideas will be synthesized and fleshed out by a team of staff and volunteer leaders and forwarded for review by the Interim Campaign Planning Committee. They will report back to the Club and Foundation Boards in May for consultation and then for final approval by the Sierra Club Board. Involvement of all of us across the organization — staff, boards, and volunteers — will be crucial to the success of this massive undertaking.

Global Warming has not been subjected to such analysis. The lack of discussion of climate change impacts in the draft document deprived the public of meaningful opportunity to comment upon a substantial adverse environmental effect of the project, or a feasible way to mitigate or avoid the effect. County staff are expected to determine by the end of May whether the draft EIR will be recirculated. If not, the project goes to the Planning Commission by October. If it is recirculated, it won’t get to the Planning Commission until next year.

SLO Paddlers Canoe/Kayak Schedule May-June 2007

OUTINGS

SUNDAY, MAY 20 SANTA MARGARITA LAKE DAY TRIP
Our goal for this outing is to enjoy birding, wildflowers, and a leisurely paddle on Santa Margarita Lake. We will all eat lunch at the campsite, then paddle to the end of the lake and back to our cars. Bring your boat and equipment, PFDs, food and water.

Contact Joe Dickerson at 693-9534 OR 688-5057 regarding park fees and details.

SATURDAY, JUNE 9 CANOE/KAYAK MORRO BAY
Here is a chance to enjoy a picnic dinner and a short hike on the sand spit. Bring your boat and equipment, PFDs, binoculars and water.

LOW TIDE — PUT IN 4:00 PM HIGH TIDE — 6:00PM 4/8 LAUNCH AT MORRO BAY STATE PARK MARINA

If you have any questions, please call Joe Dickerson at 693-9534 OR 688-5057.

DATES & DETAILS:
1. New Hampshire: June 18-24 Kimball Union Academy
2. Northern Virginia: July 9-15 Prince William Forest Park
3. Louisiana: July 16-22 Hud- don Oaks Family Campground
4. Iowa: June 18-24 Iowa 4-H Center
5. Michigan: TBD
7. Los Angeles, CA: June 18-24 Loyola Marymount College
8. New Mexico: July 23-29 Gila River Lifesway Conference Center
9. Puerto Rico: TBD Native Spanish speakers only

APPLY NOW online at www.ssc.org/ssp

Cost: The subsidized cost of the program is set up on a sliding scale, from $150-200 (please pay what you can afford). This covers tuition, room and board, local transportation to and from the site, and all the benefits of membership in the Sierra Club. Don’t let money concerns keep you from applying and attending. We are dedicated to helping you request funds from your school, and you can also apply for a need-based fee waiver from the SSC. Travel scholarships are also available.

**Special Group Rate: $480 for 4 people/$400 for 3 people**

Santabarbara.ssc.org/sspcamp

Questions? Call 1(888) JOIN-SSC

May-June 2007

Vicky Hoover with Sierra Club Director and longtime Utah Chapter activist Jim Callin on a 2006 activist outing to Utah’s Tusher Mountains

Everyday are rising to the climate challenge and the SSC can give you the skills you need to succeed. It’s time for our schools and communities to take the lead for clean energy and challenge our political leaders to follow. Energy’s not your thing? Don’t worry — the skills you’ll learn at the summer program will be applicable to whatever issues excite you the most.

Student Coalition

Global Warming

Global Warming is a global phenomenon that affects every major conservation battle in our nation’s history. Now the question is how best to use our assets — our expertise, our hardworking volunteers, our expertise and influence — to combat global warming. At a recent joint meeting of the Sierra Club Board of Directors and The Sierra Club Foundation Trustees held in Tucson, we began a process to help us answer that question. For three days, starting on February 22, Club volunteers, staff, and donors began debating the tough questions: How do we change the ways we produce and consume energy? What can we do to help keep our communities safe from violent storms, drought, and the other consequences of global warming? How do we repair the earth’s natural systems for absorbing the carbon dioxide that causes global warming? The program ideas and strategies that emerge from Tucson are just the start of the conversation with Club members.
Classifieds

June issue ad deadline is May 15. 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

Law Offices of Jan Howell Marx
A Client-Centered Practice

Business
Medicine
Environmental Law
Elder Law
Real Estate
Wills and Trusts
541-2716 janmarx@fix.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.; 466-8999
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.; 781-5459
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.

A Will is a Way

Make a commitment to the next generation by remembering the Sierra Club in your will. Your support will help preserve the intrinsic balance of nature.

Contact: John Calamy
Director of Gift Planning: (805) 977-5600 or email: plannedgiving@sierraclub.org

EcoSlo

Learn Green, Work Green, Live Green.

The Land Conservancy of Santa Lucia County

Survival at the Edge of Experience

Karen Merrian’s Searching for Connection: An Exploration of Trauma, Culture, and Hope delivers into the heart of traumatic experience, where important connections to safety, hope, and strength are revived. Even in the darkness of traumatic events, however, personal and collective resources can be accessed and brought to bear to help oneself and others endure. Through a series of personal stories and case studies, Merrian develops a paradigm of traumatic experience that reveals the common factors that allow individuals to survive and to overcome nightmare experiences. Amazingly, survivors often discover within themselves untapped resources they have never known before.

The ten chapters of Searching for Connection build with cumulative authority and power, shining a search beam ever deeper into the abyss of traumatic experience. Merrian’s exploratory approach will be especially appealing to readers who prefer to reach their own conclusions based on their unique strengths and wisdom. This is a groundbreaking study addressing a subject of profound significance, which all readers will profit from contemplating.

ORDER YOUR COPY TODAY! A GREAT GIFT FOR READERS INTERESTED IN THE HUMAN CONDITION.

YES, I want to order this thought-provoking book. Send me ___ copies of Searching for Connection: An Exploration of Trauma, Culture, and Hope at $22.95 plus $3.95 each for shipping and handling. (California residents add 8.25% sales tax per book.) Please allow three to four weeks for delivery.

Name ________________________________ Phone __________________________
Organizations: ________________________________ Email __________________________
Address ________________________________ City/State/Zip __________________
Make check or money order for $__________ enclosed • Charge my 21/218 A MasterCard
Card number ___________________________ Exp. date/Secrecy
Mail to: Truthspeaker Press P.O. Box 1244 San Luis Obispo, CA 93406
Call your credit card order to (800) 326-9001 or order online at www.searchingforconnection.com
Outings and Activities Calendar

All of our hikes and activities are open to all Club members and the general public. If you have any suggestions for hikes or outdoor activities, questions about the Chapter’s outing policies or would like to be an outing leader, call Outings Leader Gary 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.

**Biking Classifications:**
- Distance: 1 = < 2 mi., 2 = 2-3.5 mi., 3 = 3-9 mi., 4 = 10-12 mi., 5 = 12 mi. or more.
- Elevation Gain: A = 500', B = 1000', C = 1500', D = 2000', E = 2500', F = 3000' or more.

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**Whales, Pinnipeds & Wildflowers: Channel Islands National Park**

**July 20-23**
4-day, 4-island cruises visiting San Miguel, Santa Rosa, Santa Cruz & Anacapa Islands:

- **San Miguel Island**
  - **July 20**
    - **8:00-11:00 AM** BIRDING with Roger Zachary at River Road:
      - An easy 3 mile walk along the Salinas River before it flows into the lake. Appropriate for all experience levels.
      - **MEET AT RIVER ROAD ACCESS**

- **July 21**
  - **10:00 AM KAYAK / CANOE**
    - Lunch with Joe Dickerson for informal lake tour (bring PFD’s, sunscreen, binoculars)

- **July 22**
  - **10:00 AM BEGINNER’S WATERFOWL WATCH**

- **July 23**
  - **10:00 AM-1:00 PM** BREAKFAST & SUBMARINE TAIL WATCH

**August 25-29**
9-day, 5-island cruises visiting all five islands included in Channel Islands National Park: San Miguel, Santa Rosa, Santa Cruz, Anacapa, & tiny Santa Barbara Island:

**August 25-29**
9-day, 5-island cruises visiting all five islands included in Channel Islands National Park: San Miguel, Santa Rosa, Santa Cruz, Anacapa, & tiny Santa Barbara Island:

**All cruises depart from Santa Barbara Pier**

**June 20-23**

- **June 20**
  - **10:30-11:30 AM** HIKE to Callender Dunes.

**June 21**

- **11:00-12:00 PM** PLANT WALK with Janine Kirkpatrick (bring a “sit & warn against dumping pollution. We need bike brigade volunteers to find & replace the stormdrain markers that are missing. Learn how you can help in 3 easy steps. Sign up now to patrol your neighborhood. Call 544-9096 to volunteer. (Sponsored by the Land Conservancy of SLO)**

**June 22**

- **10:00-12:00 PM** FISHING with Dave Langerman (bring your pole & gear)

**June 23**

- **10:00-12:00 PM** RECREATION-WHILE-WALKING with Liz Fassler (bring binoculars & a pair of binoculars)

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**Santa Lucian • May 2007**