Morro Bay and Cayucos compelled to do the right thing

On May 24, the Cayucos Sanitary District voted to upgrade the Morro Bay/Cayucos wastewater treatment plant, which the two communities operate under a Joint Powers Agreement, to the highest level of wastewater treatment. On May 29, the Morro Bay City Council partially followed suit, voting to upgrade to tertiary without voting on a specific project. Both votes were unanimous.

It was a shining example of what citizen activism can do, and a landmark on a long and winding road that began three years ago, when local and national environmental groups began to bring pressure to bear on the two communities to stop applying for the waivers from the federal Clean Water Act that have allowed the plant to discharge primary treated sewage into Estero Bay -- site of 20 percent of all otter mortalities on the central coast -- for decades. We persuaded them to telescope a proposed 23-year upgrade timeline to just over eight years, and to upgrade beyond the legal minimum -- secondary treatment -- to a tertiary system, the highest standard of wastewater treatment and the regulatory future nationwide. Only tertiary treatment removes nitrates and the most problematic pathogens and emerging contaminants from wastewater. It was an uphill battle all the way, and we finally made it to the top of the mountain.

Morro Bay City Councilwomen Betty Winchotts and Melody DeMeritt were steadfast throughout, holding out for the tertiary standard against a seasaw of reluctant Cayucos district officials and some fellow Council members. State Assemblyman Sam Blakeslee and his A full-page ad in New Times, member alerts from coastal protection and wildlife groups (and free pizza) packed the room at the May 24 Joint Powers Agreement meeting of the Morro Bay City Council and Cayucos Sanitary District, where we won one for the otters.

continued on page 4

We Moved

We have bid a fond farewell to the wonderful little Craftsman house on the corner of Marsh and Nipomo that the Sierra Club and ECOSLO have called home for the last few years, the City of San Luis Obispo having given the green light to the owner for removal and relocation in the near future.

Creating opportunity from adversity, the Chapter has found larger quarters that will keep us in downtown SLO and accommodate our Chapter’s planned expansion. We are now at 547-B Marsh Street, behind the Spaces Art Gallery, a block and a half west of our former digs.

Same phone, new e-mail: sierracubli8@gmail.com.
In Memoriam

Thanks to Richard and Sue Harvey, Joyce Bertram, Carina Kropf and Barbara Colby for their donations in memory of Lynn Christie.

Thanks to Bill Holsworth, Bruce Balan and Beverly Murphy for their donations in memory of Bea Morrow.

A memorial service for Bea Morrow will be held on Sunday, August 5th at 1 p.m. Her family has purchased a memorial bench on the Fiscalini Ranch Preserve, just outside the Bluff Trail, where she loved to hike and watch sunsets over the ocean from the Morrow home. There will be a dedication and memorial for Bea at the site, and all her many friends are invited.

Bea was a long-time active member of the Sierra Club in Long Beach and later in Cambria and served as Co-Chair of the Desal Task Force. She was also a very successful fundraiser, primarily at the Pтвор Louse Playhouse in Cambria, and served as a Docent at the Museum of Natural History in Morro Bay.

What Consensus?!

In our conflict-averse culture, we frequently encounter “the tyranny of consensus.” Straining for consensus can mean we only talk about things we all agree on, we never have to go outside our comfort zone, and real problems never get addressed, they only fester from lack of attention.

This phenomenon recently became apparent on the TDC Blue Ribbon Committee, formed by the County to attempt to resolve glaring problems with the Transfer of Development Credit program, and the creation of a significant land use policy so dysfunctional, it has ended many development projects. They have never had to address the problems and only fester from lack of attention.

On our conflict-averse culture, we frequently encounter “the tyranny of consensus.”

For example, our understanding of the difficulty of fixing a broken process.

We need to increase our use of clean, renewable energy sources like wind and solar power.

It’s time for America to get smart about energy and be less dependent on dwindling oil reserves.

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

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MEMBER
Andrew Christie
EDITOR/LAYOUT
sierrabc89@gmail.com
Karen Morrow
EDITORIAL BOARD
COUNCIL OF CLUB LEADERS
Send to:
Jack McCurdy
Editor, Santa Lucian
C/o Sierra Club Chapter, Sierra Club
P.O. Box 1755
San Luis Obispo, CA 93406
sierra@charter.net

Santa Lucia Chapter
2007 Executive Committee
Karen Mieriam
CHAIR
kmieriam@sierraneam.com
Jack Morrow
VICE CHAIR
jmorrow@earthlink.net
Cal French
MEMBER
ccfrench@tcsn.net
John Ashbaugh
MEMBER
jashbaugh@charter.net
Steven Marx
TREASURER
Tracy Hayden
SECRETARY
tracy@dolphinshirts.com
Cleve Nash
MEMBER
conash@charter.net
Cal French
COUNCIL OF CLUB LEADERS

The Executive Committee meets the third Tuesday of every month at 4 p.m. at the chapter office, located at 547-B Marsh St., San Luis Obispo. All members are welcome to attend.

June 9, 2007
To: TDC Blue Ribbon Committee
From: Maria Lorca, representing ECOSLO

Re: List titled "Areas where consensus has been reached" dated 6/6/07 with attached 9 pages titled "Allowable Uses for Sending Sites."

We believe that it is premature, misleading and unnecessarily limiting to confirm the committee to consensus on any aspect of the program at this point. For example, our understanding of the availability of the allowable uses was that we could review and alter the list as our work progressed. Also, this new list of uses adds back uses that are prohibited now therefore we must be evaluated carefully before any final action.

Our committee has not yet even determined what the goal of the program should be, how that goal is defined, how achievement of the goal will be measured, or defined the clear public benefit the proposal that underlying lots remain on the table for future consideration or adoption.

The proposal that underlying lots remain as separate parcels but not be sold separately should be evaluated.

Language in the easement that would not only specify the location of the easement and therefore the number of additional use would reduce the value of the easement and therefore the number of additional uses that do not conflict from production of food, fiber, feed and fuel, and internal roads.

That the easements for ag sending sites provision for protecting the production of food, fiber, feed and fuel, then add uses that do not conflict from a more limited list of allowed uses than the nine pages captured above. Each additional use would reduce the value of the easement and therefore the number of credits.

That only changing the name of the easements from "conservation" to "sending site" does not solve the problem of defining what is actually to be saved at the sending sites.

A Will is a Way

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

Contact: Donation Stewardship Director of Development (415) 972-5339 or e-mail plan8net@sierraneam.com
A Bridge Too Fat

Chapter appeals assault on San Simeon Creek

By Andrew Christie, Chapter Director

On Memorial Day, a few miles up San Simeon Creek Road from Highway One, I stood in the creek's nearly dry bed with rancher Jon Pedotti, gazing at a small pool in the shadow of a bridge abutment. Between this year's low rain-fall and the ceaseless pumping of the Cambria Community Services District, the creek was almost gone. We counted four thin steelhead in the pool, swimming in slow circles, trapped, their migration at a premature end. "Yeah, they're doomed," said Pedotti, "in the tone of voice of a man who has seen this sight more times than he can count." In a week or so, they'll die and the raccoons will eat them.

He said that volunteers used to trap the fish, transport them to a nearby reservoir, then release them back into the creek when its flow had returned, but the Department of Fish and Game had killed off that volunteer effort by demanding that permits be applied for and fees paid to rescue the fish. Then, for good measure, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service had decreed that the doomed fish could not be trapped or transported at all because they are a protected species. You may think couldn't get much worse for this endangered species in this beleaguered creek. You'd be wrong.

The County is proposing to replace the bridge we were standing under, and another one that crosses the creek a mile up the road. Though far from decrepit or dangerous -- they routinely support without protest 80,000-pound loads from the ranch operations that line the road -- both are nearly 40 years old and look it, with deep ruts worn into the wooden surface of their single lane. The problem is the bridges that the County proposes to replace them with:

- Nearly thirty feet wide, including guardrails, they would be almost twice the width of the road and require the removal of more than 70 mature sycamores, white alders, buxus, and arroyo willows, their construction dumping tons of riprap into that steelhead creek.
- They would be built to highway specs, imposed on a 7 ½-mile long county road that turns to dirt for its last mile and a half and dead-ends into a fence.
- The reality of the road makes the ludicrous proposed overconstruction of the bridge even more ridiculous. Much of the tree removal is necessitated by the guardrail requirement, which stipulates that no solid object be allowed standing within 200 feet of the guardrails. "This is open range, with cattle crossing the pavement," says Pedotti, "not a 65-mile-an-hour highway. For the last two miles of the road, you can't go over 10 miles an hour." He points to a huge sycamore at the edge of his property, slated for removal. "We've never had guardrails, and in all the years I've lived here I've never seen a car hit that tree."

The project is being driven by the availability of $4 million in federal funds for bridge replacement. Eligibility for those funds requires a road with two-way traffic and at least 400 car trips per day. San Simeon Creek Road has two-way traffic if two average-size cars approaching each other both squeeze over and carefully ease past. If two full-size pick-ups approach, one of them must back up to the nearest turn-out. The County's representation that the road sees 400 car trips per day is even more dubious. Rancher Mike Phelan points out that the traffic census the estimate is based on was taken in 1996; ignores more recent census data that shows traffic has dropped from a high of 350 trips to about 130 trips a day. and both those counts were taken at a location that counted traffic to and from three commercial operations near the highway -- Cambria Rock and Gravel, Harvey's Honey Huts, a landfill; wood recycling, etc. -- commercial traffic that never reaches the residences, ranches and bridges beyond.

The more they learned about the project, the more the canyon's ranchers wanted to make sure the County aware of their concerns. They drove down to the County Government Center in San Luis Obispo for a scheduled April hearing at the Planning Commission, only to be told that there had been a change: The project was now considered to require only a Minor Use Permit; as such, there would be no public hearing. The notification of the change, without explanation, was in their mailboxes when they returned home.

The ranchers, having grown rather fond of their sycamores and growing less fond of the County's approach to the project and to them, filed an appeal of the permit along with the Santa Lucia Chapter. Both bridges are located within the Coastal Zone and therefore subject to the jurisdiction of the California Coastal Commission, which tends to look dimly on any proposed changes to the 'sensitively Sensitive Habitat Areas (ESHMA), coastal wetlands and creeks, especially those that are home to endangered species.

So do we. The bridges of San Simeon Creek need to be replaced someday, but not with the massive, out-of-scale highway crossings the County proposes to inflict.

"I could live with a 26-foot bridge if that's all there was to it," says Pedotti. "The problem is the approach planned for each of them, wiping out the trees. We'd like to see the Commission scale this project down."

"Who knows, if they build them smaller, they'd probably be cheaper and the County could have enough left over to afford to replace another bridge somewhere else."

A Carrizo pronghorn

What Carrizo Needs Now

The Bureau of Land Management recently renewed the long-delayed management planning process for Carrizo Plain National Monument, including the preparation of a broad environmental impact statement. This "scoping process" is undertaken to address the values inherent in management of the 250,000 acres of public lands contained within the Carrizo Plain National Monument, an important unit of the National Landscape Conservation System (NLCS).

The designation of National Monuments and establishment of the NLCS represent the cornerstone of a new era of land stewardship. The eyes of the nation will be focused on the results achieved, and on the BLM's ability to fulfill this new mission of stewardship to "conserve, protect, and restore these nationally significant landscapes that have outstanding cultural, ecological, and scientific values for the benefit of current and future generations."

On June 12, the Wilderness Society, Los Padres ForestWatch, Sierra Club, California Wilderness Coalition, Defenders of Wildlife, Center for Biological Diversity, Californians for Western Wilderness, Western Watersheds, and Natural Resources Defense Council jointly submitted comments to the BLM that constitute a blueprint of the measures the Bureau should undertake to protect this priceless natural landscape in San Luis Obispo county.

The full text of our comments can be read at http://santalucia.sierrachild.org/ carrizo.htm. Click on "2007 developments."

For more information, contact: tell:lauri@scubirds.org, tel: 805-928-9550. For more information, contact: tell:lauri@scubirds.org, tel: 805-928-9550.
for county supervisors, mayors, city council members, city and county planning commissioners, city managers, development directors, building and planning department heads, business directors, and other senior staff. While it will not be open to the general public, some civic and institutional leaders will also be invited.

The general purpose will be to focus local governments on energy planning across jurisdictional lines, mainly in connection with (1) goals and implementation measures for energy conservation, the use of renewables and green building, and (2) issues raised in the CEC's recent Integrated Energy Policy Report Update regarding the relationship between energy and land use. Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) goals and Community Choice Aggregation will be among key topics covered.

Recognizing how difficult it is for public officials and staffs to break away from the office, every effort has been made to choose a time schedule that will work for most, and to compress the agenda without sacrificing key content. Late August was picked largely because most voters will still be out of town. The Thursday and Friday were picked to avoid conflicts with public meetings on Mondays through Wednesdays; and the hours of 9:00 to 3:45 on Day One and 9:00 to 2:00 on Day Two were picked to allow for phone calls and other business as well as for early departures, especially on Friday.

Attendance both days will be crucially important. Day One will consist entirely of presentations and panels dealing with current energy legislation, policies and programs in our state and region. Day Two will begin with a short “tutorial” on energy planning and lead into two breakout sessions for hands-on planning.

Our keynote speaker on Day One will be the State's energy commissioner, Jackaline Panniererst. Day Two will tee up a leadership roundtable discussion by local mayors and county supervisors, moderated by Tony Ferrara, aimed at eliciting commitments to next steps.

SEA Change originally came into being to mount the Smart Energy Solutions Summit, a county-wide conference on energy policy and best practices that was held in San Luis Obispo in October of 2006. The conference was sponsored by a coalition of business, government, university and environmental organizations, including the SLO Chamber of Commerce, SLO County's Air Pollution Control District, PG&E, Cal Poly's Renewable Energy Institute, Coast National Bank, the Sierra Club, Home Builders Association, Cienega Energy Systems, SLO Green Build and the Environmental Center of San Luis Obispo (ECOSLO).

Feedback from conference attendees overwhelmingly called for local governments to formulate energy policies and goals. The Summit's sponsors decided to form an energy alliance that is broadly representative of areas and interests on the Central Coast. There is currently no program or plan within the County for engaging in a full and open examination of energy policy and alternatives. Consequently there is neither a coordinated planning effort within the County to address the issues comprehensively nor a coordinated outreach effort to educate the public on best practices. The planning workshop is designed to spark regional thinking and action toward countering the adverse economic and environmental impacts of high energy costs, the depletion of finite resources, the emission of greenhouse gases, and, ultimately, our dependence on distant sources of energy.

The Santa Lucia Chapter of the Sierra Club is a founding member of SEA Change, which advances regional solutions for sustainable energy and transportation policy and voluntary community action by bringing together local governments, the private sector and the general public within San Luis Obispo County to promote public awareness and best practices in the generation, distribution and use of energy.

The goals of the Alliance are:
1. Identify and define business opportunities that can strengthen the local economy while promoting best practices in energy conservation, the use of renewables and green building.
2. Educate and influence community and service organizations, schools and faith groups to adopt practices that will reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, promote energy independence and economic vitality, and nurture a spirit of local unity.
3. Persuade local governments to incorporate in their General Plans goals and implementation measures for energy conservation, the use of renewables and green building.

“Clean Money” Program Passes
If you want clean water and air, you need clean money
By California Political Desk

After a federal election in which corruption was identified as the most important national issue and a Californian election in which nearly $170 million was spent on the governor's race alone, the California State Assembly on June 11 passed a key measure designed to demonstrate the effectiveness of public financing to reform the campaign finance system in California. The pilot program will provide California and the nation with a model for reform.

By a vote of 45 to 34, the Assembly passed AB 583, the California Clean Money and Fair Elections Act. Authored by Assemblywoman Loni Hancock (D- Berkeley), the amended version AB 583 that passed would establish a voluntary, full public financing system for the Governor's race, one open Assembly seat, and one open Senate seat in 2010. Modeled after successful systems in Arizona and Maine, AB 583 is designed to fund the full day, from 10 AM to 4 PM, please come for the morning session.

This workshop is co-sponsored by Assemblymember Pedro Nava, the Community Environmental Council, and Sierra Club California.

Learn more about CEC's vision for a sustainable energy future at http://santaclara.sieraclub.org. Click on “Fossil Free by 35.”

Energy
continued from page 1

Clean Money and Fair Elections Act is an important step in ending the corrosive effects of money in our elections systems. Assemblymember Hancock, Speaker Fabian Nunez, Appropriations Chairman Mark Leno, Elections Chairm Man Curren Price, and the Assemblymembers who voted for the bill have done the right thing for California" said Susan Lerner, Executive Director of the California Clean Money Campaign.

Clean Money systems have been adopted across the country; Arizona and Maine started public financing of three legislative districts. After a federal election in which corruption was identified as the most important national issue and a Californian election in which nearly $170 million was spent on the governor’s race alone, the California State Assembly on June 11 passed a key measure designed to demonstrate the effectiveness of public financing to reform the campaign finance system in California. The pilot program will provide California and the nation with a model for reform.

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expanding the use of renewable energy

by steven fischback

with the rise in price of oil and natural gas, and the new knowl-edge of the environmental repercussions from heavy use of fossil fuels, renewable energy has become an important component of our society. renewable energy is receiving energy front-and-center attention, as evidence by the decision made recently by cal poly (see page 6).

While energy from the sun is free, these photovoltaic systems are not. The cost for a 1000 square feet solar panel system is about $32,000. It is expensive but it is clean and the costs are continuing to fall. The other reason is that currently, there is a lot of potential for solar energy on the campus of cal poly because where ever the sun shines solar energy can be created.

Geothermal energy is renewable and would really reduce energy demands on HVAC systems by tapping underground thermal activity when it comes to heating and cooling buildings. Geothermal heat pumps transfer heat from soil to a building during the winter and in summer heat is transferred from the building to the soil. This transfer is made possible by an environment-friendly, environmentally safe heat exchanging fluid that is similar to antifreeze. According to the Association for the Advancement of Geo-thermal heat pumps can reduce the energy demands on HVAC systems by 20-30%.

cal poly has started to become a more environmentally responsible institution. In December of 2006, solar panels were installed on the roof of the engineering west building. The geothermal energy system can generate enough energy to power to run 20 homes per year. This is quite a small percentage of the total energy needs, but it is a step in the right direction. Cal Poly received a pollution reduction award from the san luis obispo county air pollution control board for this project (biennial progress report 2006).

cal poly has other plans to reduce their dependency on fossil fuels. one is the poly canyon village housing complex that will open in 2008-2009. it will include a co-generation plant that will be capable of producing enough electricity on site to meet all the hot water needs of this 2700 bed complex (biennial progress report 2006). currently cal poly is only able to generate 15% of their energy from renewable energy. the other 20% comes from coal and the rest is purchased power from the pepco grid.

the college of business at cal poly is doing students a great disservice by not encouraging sustainable business practices. in order to maximize the potential of each student, employee and enter-prise, the college of business must implement sustainable business practices. the college of business is not acting on this information, and because of this cal poly business students need to graduate business school and get a job, a job that is in business practicing business.

in 2004 the president of cal poly, warren baker, signed the tallieres declaration on climate change. among other things, this declaration stated that the college of business will have to overcome in order to implement sustainable teaching methods.

the attitude that only engineers and architects should be concerned with the environment. professors and administrators at cal poly should recognize that, regardless of their personal beliefs concerning global warming, they work for an institute that is 100% dependent on the success of these cars and now ford may have to do the same if ford continues to make the car.

the traditional notion that enter-prise must be profitable and better the world at the same time has been weakened by certain business ventures. mohammad yunus, the developer of the grameen bank serves as a perfect example that sometimes profit is the perfect example that sometimes profit is an alienating businessPlanet, And Humanity. Ford Motor Company, according to daniel esteve, the author of turning green into gold, at risk of becoming the first environment related bankruptcy because of the gas-guzzling cars that they produce. the market no longer favors the damaging gas con-sumption of these cars and now ford may have to do the same if ford continues to make the car.

by offering minute loans of money to people that had no collateral, to his enterprise flourished in a place and among people that other businesses never considered a viable market. with a 95% payback rate, the grameen bank not only profited, but also offered hundreds of people a chance to build a new way of life. cal poly's power

two students scrutinize our local university's commitment to an alternative energy future. take notes.

profit and planet

by katie wolfe

plans to utilize alternate en-ergy, reduce waste and decrease green-house gas emissions are being implemented in businesses across the globe. companies are em-ploying new technologies in addition to profit to gauge success. impact on the planet is a small percentage of its considered as well as the bottom line. the business is a driving force for change. because of this cal poly business students need to graduate business school and get a job.

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Los Osos: The Start of the Last Chance

Representatives from the Santa Lucia Chapter and several other environmental organizations, County Public Works, the Chumash Tribe, and the Los Osos Watershed Project Technical Advisory Committee filled the meeting room at the offices of the Morro Bay National Estuary Program on June 7. It marked, with any luck, the beginning of the last act in the long-running drama of the Los Osos sewer.

Dan Berman of the MBNEP and the Technical Advisory Committee's Environmental Working Group called the meeting to ensure the environmental community is involved, informed and engaged in the effort to build a Los Osos wastewater treatment project that addresses the pollution of the aquifer and the Morro Bay Estuary.

“This is one of the most important environmental issues in the county,” said Berman. “It’s on people’s radar around the state and the nation.”

The Technical Advisory Committee is holding Monday night meetings every week in Los Osos through August, when it expects to issue a brief pro & con analysis of potential sites, technologies, and financing options.

The County hopes that, by the time of the Prop. 218 vote this fall, it will determine whether property owners are willing to assess themselves for the funds needed to build the system. Confidence in the process will be high, and there will be consensus that this is a community-driven project. Ballots are expected to mail to Los Osos property owners on October 5, with a final hearing to be held just before Thanksgiving.

“I think this is the best chance we have to maintain local community control,” said Berman. Project director Paavo Oggren noted that if the Prop. 218 vote fails, the job of building a treatment system for Los Osos would most likely fall to the State of California, an “unprecedented circumstance.”

Diablo Canyon Report Comes Up Short


The study was mandated by order of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, which last year turned aside the NRC’s argument that the possibility of a terrorist attack on a U.S. nuclear power plant is “remote and speculative” and upheld the landmark lawsuit filed by the Sierra Club charging the NRC with violation of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and evaluating the environmental impacts of an attack.

But the NRC’s attempt to fulfill its court-ordered obligation has left much to be desired. The primary text of the agency’s Environmental Assessment is six pages long, and concludes that the environmental impacts of an attack would be insignificant and therefore a full environmental study of those impacts and any means of their avoidance or mitigation is not required. (The Environmental Impact Report on the replacement of Diablo Canyon’s spent fuel casks with more secure casks will be published in the fall.)

The EA creates the appearance of compliance with NEPA’s requirement to consider reasonably foreseeable catastrophic impacts by claiming to consider all “plausible” attack scenarios. But the EA clearly fails to consider credible terrorist attack scenarios.

On reviewing the NRC’s brief Environmental Assessment, Mothers for Peace attorney Diane Curran and Dr. Gordon Thompson concluded that “the EA distorts and minimizes the environmental impacts of attacks on the facility by using hidden and unjustified assumptions. It also fails to identify the key documents on which it relies, thus making it impossible for any party to verify the appropriateness of its reliance on those documents.”

I urge officials to consider all “plausible” attack scenarios. But the EA clearly fails to consider credible terrorist attack scenarios.

Planet & Profit continued from page 3

engaged in business with the 4.1 billion poor people of the world. Environmental responsibility and social justice, an inseparable pair, form the goal of business for the future.

Only sustainable businesses will survive in a world of diminishing resources and growing populations. Where businesses are used to be faced with choices like economy or environment, profit or planet, corruption or kindness - businesses must now refrain from choosing and instead combine all of these together. Cal Poly boasts the value of “learning by doing” and this motto should hold true for every college on campus. The global conversation about sustainability is louder than ever and college students are now the business owners tomorrow. Cal Poly business students cannot be left behind.

Katie Wolfe is a first-year student at Cal Poly majoring in Business while running cross-country and track.
The awkward moment arrives for Dalidio project

Rule number one for mega-mall developments: A huge retail enterprise without freeway access shall perish from this Earth. That access was a little detail that was not included in Measure J, the 2006 ballot initiative that dropped the Dalidio Ranch project on the citizens of the City of San Luis Obispo. The Dalidio Ranch project didn’t have that access, and needs to get it in the form of the Prado Road interchange. But Caltrans, which has found the overpass to be “development driven” – i.e. unnecessary but for the additional traffic caused by the mall — wants nothing to do with it, and it is becoming increasingly obvious, neither does the City or the County. Without it, traffic generated by the proposed giant mall at the gateway to San Luis Obispo will snarl and die, taking the mall with it. This is where the voters learn the difference between campaign promises and fine-print reality.

Before the election, Dalidio spokesmen, led by Ron Cox of the Bank of America, Transformed this Los Osos Community Advisory Council that Measure J “provides solutions to existing traffic problems at no cost to the taxpayer or delay of other highway projects…. Our plan will benefit the entire county.” As election day neared, and it became clear that this plan was sketchy, Mr. Cox openly admitted that he was sure the City and County would work something out. Mr. Dalidio editorialized in the Tribune that a special assessment district should be formed to pay for the overpass, and found it “reassuring that a committee of county supervisors and city council members is scheduled to meet and discuss how the county and city can work together.” If the voters decide that Dalidio Ranch should be developed, we need to have solutions in hand ready to be implemented.

The election came and went, minus solutions or implementation. After the election, Dalidio said that the overpass “has got to get done; it’s an absolute necessity.” Eight months later, solutions still not in hand, and the county and the city are showing a distinct lack of interest in working together to find a way to build Mr. Dalidio’s overpass cost now at $57 million and climbing. At the May 22 meeting of the SLO County Board of Supervisors, May 22, 2007

**Stalling on Viewshed**

After five years of struggle to put meaningful protections in place for the 53 square miles of rolling oaks and green hills between Cayucos and Paso Robles, known as the “Cayucos Fringe,” the Board of Supervisors met in April to take another shot at it. The broad community showed up and made it overwhelmingly clear to them that the strongest possible viewshed protection is what the majority of our citizens want. Supervisor Ottvit tried and failed to ram through the deeply flawed substitute ordinance drafted by “Protect Our Property Rights” and the Farm Bureau, a toothless ordinance that defines viewshed only as what is visible from Highway 1 and would leave the Cayucos area what it currently is: the wild west for developers, lacking the basic viewshed protections that are in place virtually everywhere else in the county.

When Ottvit’s developer-friendly gambit failed, the Board kicked this can down the road again, and took up Chairman Lenthall’s offer to “put his credibility on the line and “take some ownership on this issue.”

The result was a committee blatantly stacked with supporters of the ordinance put forward by PPR and the Farm Bureau; then a 2-month delay before its first meeting, which was held 16 days before the June 12 meeting of the Board of Supervisors and yet another scheduled attempt to take a stab at leadership on this issue. Result: The viewshed ordinance was continued again, to August 21. One wonders exactly what kind of consensus Supervisor Lenthall expects to reach with a committee stacked 4 to 2 in favor of the weakest ordinance before the Board. No tourism interests were represented in his stakeholders group, nor the Sierra Club’s 2,500 members in any other environmental or public interest group. No Native Americans were invited. It begs the question: Where are the other stakeholders in Mr. Lenthall’s stakeholders group?

At the June 12 meeting, we suggested that the Board direct staff to bring back on August 21 a viewshed ordinance applying the standards already in place in the districts of Mr. Ottvit, Mr. Achadjian, and Mr. Lenthall. That would be an ordinance that protects views from every public road in the Cayucos area.

--- Andrew Christie, Santa Lucia Chapter Director meeting of the SLO County Board of Supervisors, May 22, 2007

Gosh afternoon Mr. Chairman and members of the Board. The EIR for the previous project planned for the Dalidio site stated the Prado Road overpass was needed to handle the traffic generated by the mall. Caltrans has identified the need for the overpass as ‘development driven’. As we are talking about the need for the overpass as a ‘development driven’ project it has brought before the ballot box this issue.

As it stands, your only reasonable course is Option A. No funding for the interchange.

Russell Hedin

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As it stands, your only reasonable course is Option A. No funding for the interchange.
Chief of Staff, Christine Robertson, stepped in at the key moment to provide necessary encouragement to officials. At the crucial May 24 meeting of the Cayucos Sanitary District and Morro Bay City Council, the testimony of Alexis Strauss of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, along with very candid letters sent to community officials by the Ocean Protection Council and the Regional Water Quality Control Board, were especially important in bringing about the best outcome.

“The decision to move toward the end of Clean Water Act waivers and the beginning of tertiary treatment for the Morro Bay-Cayucos plant represents the successful resolution of one of the most significant and longstanding water quality issues on the California coast,” said Chapter Chair Karen Merriam. “The Sierra Club is pleased to have been a partner in the effort that brought about this historic win.”

Plans for water reclamation and other details will be defined as the process moves forward. Tertiary treated water can be reused for irrigation and other purposes. Even if it were discharged into the ocean, there are significant environmental benefits associated with discharging cleaner water into the offshore recreational area of human and habitat for marine life, including threatened sea otters.

Three years ago, this was going to be a minimal upgrade to secondary treat- ment. It was a done deal. Back then, the option of tertiary treatment was ac- corded a single line in an off-hand refer- ence in a staff report, and was only being talked about by the environmental activists who dogged Morro Bay and Cayucos through their long trail of meetings, often given inadequate no- tice, with votes promised and votes delayed, as we simultaneously hammered down the highly padded pro- continued from page 1


Awards All ‘Round

The Santa Lucia Chap- ter recently presented Darlene Felman with the Starshine Award and Gary Felman with the Kathleen Goddard Jones award. Named after the Chapter’s founder, the KJG award is given annu- ally for outstanding service to the Chapter and the local environ- ment. Gary is our Out- going Leader and former Chair. Gary and Darlene are integral activists and led the effort to create the Felman Loop Trail on Bishop Peak, as well as three editions of the San Luis Obispo County Trail Guide, published by the Chap- ter.

Ken Smokoska at- tended the Empower Poly Coalition at the Agents of Change Awards Gala in June 5th, where he received his Agent of Change award from the EPC. Ken is a conservationist, Chair, works with the Coalition on energy issues. As Chair of the Sierra Club California’s Global Warming/En- ergy Committee, he is a driving force behind the Sierra Club’s energy policy agenda.

The SLO County Community Foundation recognized long-term Chapter volun- teers Dirk and Bonnie Walters at its 2017 Environmental Awards, presented annually to individuals, groups or organizations that have contributed to the betterment of the environ- ment or ecology of San Luis Obispo County. Dirk and Bonnie were recog- nized with the award for Sustained Environmental Contribu- tion, a $2,000 prize honoring a sustained body of environmental activism over a period of time, including their work with the Native Plant Society, Zero Population Growth, and the Sierra Club.

Kathleen Goddard Jones
Ken Smokoska, Agent of Change

Bay Area Shows the Way

San Francisco says goodbye to PG&E, prepares to launch local green energy plan: 50% renewable power by 2017

If the Governor’s passage of a state cli- mate change plan was big California energy and environmental news, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors’ final vote on June 19 to adopt a Community Choice Energy Implementa- tion Plan and become a “Community Choice Aggregator” (CCA) should have stopped every press in the state.

In an unplanned decision made just blocks away from corporate headquar- ters of PG&E, the state’s largest for- profit, investor-owned utility, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors voted 9-2 to organize a local customer base, leave the big utility, and begin to signifi- cantly “green” California’s energy pro- duction locally.

The Board voted on ordinances re- searched and advanced for more than three years, making San Francisco a leader among dozens of California cities and counties that have formally expressed interest in or are actively working to become Community Choice energy Aggregators. As Community Choice Energy gains momentum, and communities like San Francisco suc- ceed in assuming local control of energy production, they can green the state, help avert climate change, and ensure that local energy security and reliably low energy costs for ratepayers. The San Francisco Board’s approval demo- strates that local governments are tak- ing the lead to ensure a clean, safe envi- ronment and affordable energy.

California cities and counties, frus- trated with the exorbitant costs and weak environmental performance of the State’s three large, investor-owned for- profit utilities, are seizing the opportu- nity to gain local control of energy pur- chasing by taking advantage of a 2012 state law called Community Choice Aggregators (AB 117, Carol Migden). The law enables localities to leave the utilities, assemble their own, local cus- tomer bases, and build their own, largely local, clean energy systems. The City and County of San Francisco will likely be the second local- ity to file Notice of Intent to leave PG&E (San Joaquin Valley Power Authority recently served its CCA Notice of Intent to the California Public Utilities Com- mission). San Francisco’s Community Choice Implementation Plan (IP), authored by Paul Finn and Robert Frelsing and

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Clean Money

 Continued from page 4

tant reform and I trust that my colleagues in the Senate will recognize its necessity.

“If the voters of California want clean water and clean air, we’ve got to get clean money in the system,” said Bill Magavern, senior legislative representa- tive for Sierra Club California.

All but two Democrats in the State Assembly voted yes on the measure. The measure received no ay votes from Republicans. The sole Democrats to vote against the measure were Assemblymembers Nicole Panara (D-Bakersfield) and Cathleen Galgiani (D-Merced).

Diablo

continued from page 6

able scenarios that could cause signifi- cant environmental damage. For in- stance, the EA fails to consider attack scenarios in which a spent fuel pool is accompanied by the use of an incendiary device to ignite the arszenic cladding of the spent fuel. It then assumes a detailed de- scription of a wide range of potential attack scenarios in which several canisters could be affected. These de- tails could be available to persons cleared to receive such information.

In considering the consequences of potential releases of radioactive materi- al, the NRC has employed only one indicator, namely “the potential for early fatalities.” To exclude conse- quences other than early fatalities is absurd. Land contamination is a very serious impact that can cause delayed fatalities, illness, and billions of dollars in expenses of relocation and lost in- come.

The EA for the Diablo Canyon spent fuel storage facility completely fails to demonstrate the NRC made a “fully informed and well-considered” determi- nation of no significant impacts.
Taking Issue

Problematic environmental coverage & commentary in our local press


Summary: Participants in Supervisor Jerry Lenthall's Fossil Point Advisory Committee find themselves abruptly shut down by the developer-paid facilitator when it becomes clear that most of them want the bluffs above Avila Beach to remain as open space.


Summary: A landmark event in the other major wastewater treatment story on the Central Coast (see our front page), a story of statewide significance, receives zero coverage in The Tribune the day after the Morro Bay City Council votes to upgrade the Morro Bay-Cayucos wastewater treatment plant to tertiary treatment.

This failure to report a major news story came six days after the initial vote by the Cayucos Sanitary District to upgrade wastewater treatment, which also received no coverage.

We don’t mind doing the P&B’s job for it, but we have 10 editions a year, as opposed to 365.

The Trib pooh-poohed this notion last March when it first surfaced on their letters pages. In our April issue, The Santa Lucian reported back from Leuthold’s first meeting. “Focus groups are used by developers to create the illusion of public process and buy-in, helping grease the wheels for the developer’s project in the permitting process.” 

Citizens group called a front for builders

If ideas were merely being solicited, committee organizers should have simply held one or two town hall meetings to do that... It’s unfortunate that this committee’s outcome wasn’t more positive.


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A Nuclear Bill

By Rochelle Becker, Executive Director, Alliance for Nuclear Responsibility

Last year, a bill authored by Assemblymember Mark Leno, would have ensured that this independent cost, benefit and risk analysis of the state's reliance on nuclear energy would be completed before more ratepayer dollars were spent on the renewal of licenses for nuclear power plants. Organizations in support of the bill include the Sierra Club, League of Women Voters, Alliance for Nuclear Responsibility, Physicians for Social Responsibility, TURN, Environment California, Public Citizen, California Church Impact, Clean Power Campaign, CalPIRG, and Physicians for Social Responsibility.

In June, AB 1046 couldn't get out of committee due to stiff, utility-backed opposition, with union leaders and lobbyists expressing the fear of losing jobs. In requiring that the CEC analysis be completed before more ratepayer dollars were spent by utilities on the renewal of licenses for nuclear power plants, the bill is pending in the Assembly's Utilities and Commerce Committee, with the deadline extended until Jan 31, 2008. PG&E wants to fund its own study of the feasibility of license renewal. We are at a loss to understand how rushing to renew operating licenses 14 to 17 years in advance of current license expiration will protect ratepayers from the well-documented history of cost overruns in the nuclear industry.

Sierra Club and ANR applaud the courage of Assemblyman Leno for taking on this important issue and supporting the intent of the legislature to complete the cost, benefit and risk analysis before more ratepayer money is wasted on in-house utility studies with forgone conclusions. California is leading the nation in innovative energy planning. To blindly rely on an industry study to determine if the state should continue its dependence on an energy source that has already left over two decades of highly radioactive waste on a seismically active coast could be a disaster.

The Alliance for Nuclear Responsibility was among the panels for the Energy Commission's June workshop. Other panels included representatives from the Department of Energy, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, all the utilities, economists, security experts, the Union of Concerned Scientists and nationwide experts.

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Chapter funds documentary on nukes vs. clean power

The Santa Lucia Chapter, a supporter of the Alliance for Nuclear Responsibility, has provided matching funds to underwrite an ANR documentary that was largely filmed at the June 25 and 28 meetings of the California Energy Commission in Sacramento.

The CEC two-day workshop initiated a study of California's continued reliance on nuclear power, including a review of the status of federal programs to manage and dispose of or reprocess spent nuclear fuel; issues related to California's operating nuclear power plants; and the environmental, safety, and economic implications of a continued or increased role for nuclear power in California's energy future.

Policies and issues discussed in the 2007 workshop will be used to inform the development of the Energy Commission's bi-annual energy policy recommendations to the governor and the state legislature. The Alliance for Nuclear Responsibility's participation in the 2005 CEC conference resulted in the recommendation for the state to do a full cost/benefit/risk analysis of continuing to operate nuclear plants past the expiration of their current licenses.

Award-winning documentarian and ANR board member David Weisman filmed interviews with the national and state panels, including a tape filmed at the June 25 and 28 meetings of the CEC. The Alliance for Nuclear Responsibility, the Santa Lucia Chapter, a supporter of the Alliance for Nuclear Responsibility, and ANR member Sam Blakeslee responsibly provided matching funds to underwrite a documentary on the topic.

The interview will appear in a documentary that will range across the subjects of nuclear proliferation, fuel reprocessing, the history of nuclear propaganda films, and how nuclear energy stacks up against wind, solar, and other forms of clean, renewable power.

Weisman has co-produced a series of award-winning videos for U.S. AID on community development in South Africa and Morocco. Sponsored by the National Science Foundation, he pro-duced and directed the 25-part environmental education series Preserving the Legacy for PBS and their distance learning affiliates. Weisman’s films have won the Silver Screen Award of the US International Film and Video Festival and a Cindy Gold Award for science and math programs.

Film Screening

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Take-Back Program

Starting July 10, check the website of the county’s Integrated Waste Management Authority, www.imwma.net, for the list of the 300+ local retail stores with drop-off locations for used compact fluorescent light bulbs, fluorescent tubes and batteries. It’s part of the largest recycling/take-back program in California, spearheaded by the manager of the county’s Integrated Waste Management Authority, Bill Worrell. Look for IMWMA’s extensive information pages in the yellow pages of your phone book, preceded by a tab card that says “Recycling Guide 2007.”

San Francisco CCA

approved by the Board on June 12, including a long-range plan to clean up, reduce, (one third of San Francisco’s peak load) and local management of innovative energy efficiency programs. A “Solar Bonds” measure passed by San Francisco voters in 2001 would be used to construct the new renewable energy infrastructure. An energy service provider, to be selected by the City in coming months, will share construction costs and assume all the risks; when the system is paid off, San Francisco will buy out the private energy partner. As a CCA, San Francisco can offer lower rates than PG&E from day one because of its superior municipal financing capabilities and elimination of all private executive salaries and profits. The slow pace of California’s investor-owned utilities in delivering affordable clean, renewable power, and their lackluster performance in energy efficiency programs despite all their green-washing, coupled with their waste of ratepayer funds, led consumer and environmental organizations to support Community Choice Aggregation, Sierra Club, Local Power, Greenerpeace, Pacific Environment, Women’s Energy Matters and many others have urged cities and counties to move expeditiously to become UCAs before the profit-seeking investor-owned utilities can further expand fossil fuel and nuclear power plant construction and pin the cost on consumers. Nearly all of San Francisco’s Supervisors helped advance the Community Choice Aggregation decision and contributed to the development of San Francisco’s innovative Community Choice Aggregation Energy Plan. See page 4 for information on the July 13 CCA workshop in Santa Barbara. CCA will be a major topic at the Aug. 23-24 regional energy conference in San Luis Obispo (page 1.)

How Can I Help?

Life Insurance for the Chapter

By Doug Buckmaster

Some people have paid-up life insurance policies for many, many years. Quite possibly they no longer need them. The cash value of that old insurance policy may be of benefit to the Santa Lucia Chapter of the Sierra Club.

If you are one of those policy holders and you are inclined to do so, you could simply designate the Chapter as your primary beneficiary, give it to us, restricting its use as you wish, earn a healthy income tax deduction of its face value, and reduce the size of your taxable estate! The environment would be the ultimate beneficiary of your thoughtfulness.

Another possible benefit to the Chapter would be from insurance proceeds if you choose to name Santa Lucia Chapter as your primary beneficiary. Or you could name the Chapter as a “contingent” or secondary beneficiary to benefit only if family members do not survive. The exact formulas that would apply, and the tax consequences, may be very complex, depending on your particular situation.

Bulbs Across America Giving Away Free 4-packs

A free 4-pack of energy-saving light bulbs is available to every volunteer who talks to family, friends, school, club, or church in the benefits of using energy-saving compact fluorescent light bulbs, also called CFLs.

Receive free Light Leader Guide and Bulbs Across America buttons. For details or to make this your class or group project, contact bulbatime@yahoo.com.

Why CFLs?

Compact fluorescent save on electric bills, using 75% less energy than standard bulbs. CFLs help reduce global warming by decreasing energy demand at the power plant. The greenhouse gas emissions of producing coal-burning power are greater than the emissions of using CFL bulbs.

Replacing one incandescent bulb with a CFL will keep a half-ton of CO2 out of the atmosphere over the life of the bulb. Every household in America replaced one light bulb with an energy-saving CFL bulb, we could save enough energy to close down two power plants.

Breezing Through

The ninth of June dawned clear, bright, warmish and breezy. Very breezy. We had scheduled an evening paddle, 4 p.m. launch, with plans for a dinner picnic on the sand spit at Morro Bay. With the morning wind conditions in Santa Ynez, any paddling was doubtful, but one must try, right?

After some debate, the consensus was that it wasn’t all that windy and we’d be eating dinner in the lee of the sand spit anyway, so off our little six-kayak fleet went from the State Park Marina. In the interest of staying as dry as we could, we headed directly into the wind and getting to the sand spit took nearly twice as long it does usually but once we got into the lee of the sand it was quite pleasant. Now I have paddled next to the spit when the sand was blowing off it in sheets. This evening, while the wind was still noticeable, at least it wasn’t threatening to take any paint off the boats. So we turned south, taking advantage of the protection of the spit, and paddled down to Middle Point where we landed for our hard-earned picnic. We explored the dunes, trying to guess what kind of animal/insect/bird tracks we were seeing and failed completely at finding the old freshwater spring that used to be out there somewhere. After dinner we lazed on the beach for a while, watching the light changing on Morro Rock and the others of the Nine Sisters — and yes, there are Nine Sisters, not Seven — and started to think about heading back, wishing we could stay right here forever.

But the reality was that we all had to return to civilization, and we did want to be off the water before dark, so we reluctantly headed back for the world. During all of our exploring, dining, and lazing we had forgotten about the wind, and it had all but gone away. The return paddle was almost totally flat and one of the most enjoyable ever. Sorry you missed it…

Kids Teaching Kids

Grades K-3 and 4-6 enjoyed a different kind of after-school program at Bishop’s Peak School on May 25th. Monica Carmo, program coordinator with SLO City Parks and Recreation, invited Teddy Llovet of Bulbs Across America to bring her energy-saving light bulb program to Bishop’s Peak kids.

Llovet teamed up with Cal Poly grad Melissa Daugherty and Morro Bay High School freshman Dom Rioso in an interactive demonstration/talk on energy-efficient light bulbs, water conservation, solar power, and reduce-reuse-recycle. Llovet, wearing her Sierra Club t-shirt, reminded kids of our motto: “Explore, enjoy and protect the planet.” Kids shared ideas on how each of us can help make our environment healthier.

Asked if they would do program again, Llovet, Daugherty and Rioso responded, “Absolutely!”

How Can I Help?
Classifieds

June issue ad deadline is August 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

Local Government Meetings

City of SLO--1st & 3rd Tues., 7:00 p.m.; 781-7183
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
Grover Beach Planning Commission-- 2nd Tues.
Morro Bay--2nd & 4th Tues.
Oceano CSD- 481-6730
Paso Robles--1st & 3rd Tues., 7:00 p.m.; 237-3888
Pismo Beach--1st Tues., 5:30 p.m.; 473-4567
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.

watch or listen on
www.slo-span.org

Survival at the Edge of Experience

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

The ten chapters of Searching for Connection build on cumulative authority and power, shining a search beam ever deeper into the abyss of traumatic experience. Merriman’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.

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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 $4.95 for shipping and handling (California residents add $1.66 sales tax per book). Please allow three to four weeks for delivery.

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(800) 326-9001

Fax (805) 541-1860 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 outings leader, call Outings Leader Gary Felsman (473-3694). For information on a specific outing, please contact the outing leader. Outings Leaders please get your outings or events in by the 1st for the next month’s outings.

Hiking Classifications:

- Distance: 1 = 0-2 mi., 2 = 3-5 mi., 3 = 6-9 mi., 4 = 10-12 mi., 5 = more than 12 mi.

July 14th, 9 a.m. Ridge Trail-Barbara Loop. Bring a snack, water, and dress for the weather. 7 miles, 1200 foot elevation gain. Meet at the Ridge Trail Parking Lot, MDO SP. Eats after for details. Details call Gary 473-3694.

July 14th, 9 a.m. SAN SIMEON STATE PARK. Meet leader: John Schmerr, at the SW corner of the Morro Bay Spencer’s Market parking lot at 7:00 AM. (Spencer’s Market is on Main Street, a short distance NORTH of Route 41.) We will walk a slow-paced 3 to 4 mile loop thru grasslands, pines and willows, finishing around noon or a little after. We will be on trails, mostly flat, but with several short up-grades. This trip is suitable for bikers of all levels, including beginners and youth. Bring water and snacks. (Some may want to have lunch before returning south.) As on most “carnavaing” trips, a FRS walkie-talkie radio tuned to 11.22 will be useful. Please RSVP Alan at bdenneen@kcbx.net or 772-2026 if you plan to attend.

July 22, 0930, NIPOMO CREEKRESERVE PRESERVE. Meet behind Adobe Plaza in Old Town Nipomo. See new trail, riparian habitat, and native plants. My easiest hike. Dogs OK. If we have the time & interest might go to DANA BLM. We’ll talk about the importance of riparian habitat and native plants. Meet at the Adobe Plaza (6670). CNRCC Desert Committee ldr: Don Peterson, (760) 375-8599.

July 22, 0930, NIPOMO BIKE TOUR. Meet at Library with bike & helmet. An easy ride on bikeways to Nipomo Native Garden. Park, Creek-side Preserve. Duna Adobe (if time & interest). A great way to spend a Sun. AM. Call 929-3647 or bdenneen@kcbx.net a few days before to confirm and for details.

July 27, 0930, MUSSEL ROCK, Meet on Guad. Beach parking lot. No dogs, bike to top of MR where I turn around. You can keep on going to Point Sal or camping on Paradise Beach. Call 929-3647 or bdenneen@kcbx.net a few days before to confirm and for details.

July 29, 0930, NIPOMO CREEKRESERVE PRESERVE. Meet behind Adobe Plaza in Old Town Nipomo. See new trail, riparian habitat, and native plants. My easiest hike. Dogs OK. If we have the time & interest might go to DANA BLM. We’ll talk about the importance of riparian habitat and native plants. Meet at the Adobe Plaza (6670). CNRCC Desert Committee ldr: Don Peterson, (760) 375-8599.

Saturday, we drive out to the north near Inyo Mountains with sage flats, ponderosa Pines and Open House at Barcroft. Call 929-3647 or bdenneen@kcbx.net a few days before to confirm and for details.

Sat-Sun., Aug. 25-26, TAMARIK BEACH in SURF CANYON. Celebrate the end of the summer by helping to remove invasive tamarisk from Surf Canyon. It is warm weather, but the year-round stream will let us soak and cool as the spirit moves us. We will work Saturday with Marty Dickes, our coordinator from the BLM. Sunday we will hike up the nearby Telescope Peak for long views and cooler weather above the desert. Enjoy carpaccio, a potluck dinner Saturday and carpinter stories. Contact leader Craig Deutsche, deutsche@earthlink.net, (210-848-3078). CNRCC Desert Committee.

Looking for a real wilderness vacation? Come rent Canyon Creek Lodge. In the mountains near Smithers, British Columbia. Designed for groups and families. Easily accessible by air, road or rail, yet located in a true wilderness setting. Canoe, kayak, raft, bike, hike, ski, or view the abundant wildlife. The Lodge accommodates up to 10 with 5 bedrooms and 2.5 bathrooms, including your own private wilderness area, but with all the comforts of home. Also great for retreats, seminars, conferences or club outings. We can connect you with local outfitters, guides or instructors. Visit www.canyoncreekbritishcolumbia.com, email info@canyoncreekbritishcolumbia.com or call 250-847-4349 (Roger McCollin). Mention this ad and 5% of your rental goes to the Santa Lucia Chapter.

Whales, Pinnipeds & Wildflowers: Channel Islands National Park

JULY 20-23 4-day, 4-island cruises visiting San Miguel, Santa Rosa, Santa Cruz & Anacapa Islands. $775

AUGUST 25-29 5-day, 5-island cruises visiting all 5 islands included in Channel Islands National Park: San Miguel, Santa Rosa, Santa Cruz, Anacapa, & tiny Santa Barbara Island. $925

All cruises depart from Santa Barbara. Prices include assigned bunk, All meals, snacks, beverages, & services of a ranger/naturalist who will travel with us to help identify, teach & sea lions, birds & wildlife.