Too Little, Too Soon

Stand up for Santa Margarita on July 7: No info, no vote

The Santa Margarita Ranch development plan is in no shape for a vote at July 7 meeting of the County Planning Commission.

6,200 acres of Old California – the largest piece of privately owned valley oak savannah left in the state – is slated for sprawl development as residences, wineries, churches, golf courses, dude ranches, convention centers, etc. The project would incur eleven Class I impacts, the highest level of impact under the California Environmental Quality Act, making it the most destructive development in county history.

The Final Environmental Impact Report that will receive its first public hearing at the July 7 meeting of the County Planning Commission could find no way to mitigate these impacts. Hence “overriding considerations were determined necessary based on significant and unavoidable impacts associated with agricultural resources, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, noise, transportation and circulation, visual resources, and water and wastewater.”

Through an Environmental Impact Report and comment process that is outdated and makes it impossible to determine long-term availability of water, Trout Creek and Rinconada Creek, both critical habitat for endangered steelhead, have now run dry for the first time on record. Why hasn’t data gathering for this summer and fall for an updated resource capacity study been required in the Final Environmental Impact Report?

- What problems will be created by ranch wells determined to be diverting subterranean stream flow? Address this now before it’s too late for our streams and wildlife.
- Well records should be made available to verify resources to the public.
- What riparian rights have been established to allow diversion and storage in reservoirs? This effects current and future development plans on the ranch.
- How can the watershed support further irrigation demands of 2,000 more acres of crops or any residential development, especially golf resorts?
- How can the Final Environmental Impact Report be certified for a Future Development Program that is vague and has no alternatives?
- The watershed is clearly being compromised with even current usage. If the developers wish to contend that water will be available for this project, have them open up the record and prove it!

A copy of the staff report is available at the Planning Dept. website, www.sloplanning.org. The first hearing will be held at 1:00 p.m. Monday, July 7, County Government Center, 1055 Monterey Street, SLO.

Don’t let the entrance gate to Santa Margarita Ranch become the last vestige of Old California.
Hold That Line!

The sun is setting on our hyper-growth Board of Supervisors, but...
Now is the Time for Solutions to Global Warming Pollution

By Bill Magavern, Director
Sierra Club California

California stands at an environmental and economic crossroads. Behind us lie the carbon-belching energy guzzlers of the 20th century. Ahead, a cleaner, greener economy. Choices made in Sacramento in 2008 will determine how quickly we get there, as powerful polluters seek to bog our state down in fossil-fuel dependency.

Two years ago, the legislature and governor made California the first state in the nation to put an enforceable limit on emissions from power polluters that are warming our planet. AB 32, the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 (Núñez/Pavley), requires the Air Resources Board (ARB) to formulate a master plan this year that will roll back those emissions to 1990 levels by 2020; the plan should also put our state on track to meet the scientifically established goal of an 80% reduction by 2050, the goal established by Governor Schwarzenegger’s executive order. Meeting this challenge is essential to protecting human health, along with our magnificent forests, coast and wildlands, from the effects of global warming pollution.

ARB is off to a good start in its implementation of AB 32. While the agency did experience some rough spots last year, Chair Mary Nichols (who was appointed in the wake of that turmoil) and her team have successfully put those back on track. They moved quickly to triple the number of early action measures scheduled for adoption by the end of next year, and they met statutory deadlines for adoption of mandatory emissions reporting and assessment of the emissions inventory.

But now, seeking to escape accountability for the pollution that some powerful special interests are lining up to try to derail the progress of California’s path-breaking effort to curb climate change. For example, the powerful California Manufacturers and Technology Association fiercely opposed AB 32 as it moved through the legislature. After the bill became law, CMTA started posturing as a co-operative party, claiming that it was interested in a successful implementation of AB 32. Over the past year, CMTA has been outspending AB 32’s opponents by nearly 3 to 1, trying to sway public opinion.

ARB needs partners that can help accelerate the shift to a green economy and training Californians for jobs that sustain both our families and our ecology. In the words of Van Jones, founder of Green for All, “The new green economy requires flexibility to the vehicle that reaches out and includes the people and the communities we have thrown away.”

Leading the way toward that new green economy will be a major challenge for the state’s enmeshed government. While ARB clearly takes the lead in California’s greenhouse-gas reduction efforts, many other agencies need to play major roles in reducing emissions from transportation, land use, water projects, electricity, solid waste, forestry, agriculture, government facilities and other sources.

California should have a unified and coordinated approach to curbing global warming. For example, when the California Transportation Commission allocates funds for transportation projects, and when the Department of Water Resources plans water projects, they should assure that those projects reduce, rather than worsen, global warming pollution.

The majority of the required cuts in pollution should come from performance standards that directly reduce emissions by forcing automakers to make cars that use less gas and use less gasoline, requiring oil companies to make cleaner gasoline, and making electric utilities acquire one-third of their power from clean energy sources. These measures will make California’s air healthier to breathe at the same time as they help curb global warming. ARB’s plan also should provide incentives for smart growth, so people can spend more time with their families and less in their vehicles.

Furthermore, polluters should have to pay for the privilege of emitting waste gases into our atmosphere. Revenue raised from the major polluters should be used to promote clean energy and public transit, reduce energy costs of low-income consumers, protect natural resources, and support skills training for green jobs.

The task is large and the stakes are high, but finding the right solutions to global warming can improve our quality of life.


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July 30 - Aug. 3: Cool Summit & Sustainability Conference in SLO

Sierra Club California’s Energy-Climate Committee is planning a statewide “Cool Cities” summit for the end of July at Rancho El Chorro in San Luis Obispo.

“The Cool Cities” is a Sierra Club campaign begun in 2005 that empowers city residents and local leaders to join the hundreds of municipalities that have made a commitment to stopping global warming by signing the U.S. Mayors’ Climate Protection Agreement, then encourage their cities to implement energy solutions to save money and build a cleaner future.

The July 30 training will be organized largely by the new Cal Poly chapter of the Sierra Student Coalition, and is scheduled for the day before the start of the July 31-Aug 3 Sustainability Conference at Cal Poly (http://sustainability.calpoly.edu). The 7th annual conference will bring together an estimated 1,000+ students, staff, faculty and administrators from around the state to explore the ways in which we can implement social, environmental, and economic sustainability in campus practice, policies and contemporary culture.

We urge every Sierra Club chapter to send a delegation to the July 30 training at Ranch El Chorro, and to register for the Cal Poly conference afterward.

The July 31-August 3 Conference program will provide inspiring keynote speakers, concurrent educational tracks (panel presentations and interactive workshops), and a poster session and exhibit, as well as on campus tours and field trips to sustainable sites in the region. Pre- and post-conference events will include workshops and a student sustainability conference on final day of the conference. An exhibit hall will showcase products and services for sustainable campuses. The goal of the event is to ensure that you will take away ideas and information

Why are the Apollo Alliance, the Blue Green Alliance, Environmental California and the Sierra Club all touting Green Jobs? Because Green Jobs provide a triple bottom line payback to the community in economic, environmental and social benefits.

On June 6, Santa Lucia Chapter Community Development Coordinator Ken Smokoska sat down with the San Luis Obispo Green Foundation’s Director of Programs Janice Pong Wolfe Cal Poly professor Kate Lancaster; James Souza, Superintendent of the Santa Lucia Regional Occupational Program; and Environmental California founder of Green for All, “The new green economy requires flexibility to the vehicle that reaches out and includes the people and the communities we have thrown away.”

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The task is large and the stakes are high, but finding the right solutions to global warming can improve our quality of life.
Litigation Update

Cayucos Viewshed
Sierra Club v. County of San Luis Obispo continues to jam a stick in the jaws of the worse-than-nothing Cayucos Viewshed ordinance. Our legal encumbrance has blocked the flood of land sales, permit requests and automatic approvals for ridge-top starter castles that otherwise would have burst forth to take advantage of the sweetheart deal the (outgoing) majority on the County Board of Supervisors tried to hand to their supporters. A Case Management Conference is scheduled for July 8 before the Hon. Teresa Estrada-Mullaney, the third judge to have been assigned to the case since we filed it in January. The County has until July 30 to file a response to our petition and complaint.

Oceano Dunes
The parties to the lawsuits Friends of Oceano Dunes v. the County of San Luis Obispo and Sierra Club v. County of San Luis Obispo-Olmos continue to jam a stick in the jaws of the worse-than-nothing CKCP. California Department of Parks have agreed to a mediation session on July 7 and 8. The two lawsuits focus on the same issue, with diametrically opposed conclusions. The Sierra Club seeks to compel State Parks to acknowledge and abide by the Local Coastal Plan, which designates County land in the Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area as a buffer between the riding area and the Dunes Preserve. The Petition lawsuit against the County essentially argues the opposite, saying that clashing policies between the LCP, the Coastal Development Permit for the ODSVRA and State Parks General Management Plan should be resolved in favor of the continuation of off-road vehicle use on County land and the approval of sale of that land to State Parks, which currently leases from the County. The purpose of legal mediation is to see if all parties can generate possible options that would resolve part or all of a dispute and better serve the interests of the parties than proceeding with litigation.

Gary Friedman, a mediation law specialist from Mill Valley, was found suitable by all parties to conduct the two-day session.

There’s the Fire
On June 12, the Forest Service called our office. It was the day of the Hunter Liggett fire. The fire was heading for King City. They wanted to know if they could get 100 copies of the “Trail Guide to Los Padres National Forest – Northern Section” shipped overnight for the fire fighters.

While we feature the Los Padres Guide on our Chapter’s website, the Forest Service saw it, it is a publication of the Ventana Chapter of the Coast. We don’t have copies on hand.

Santa Lucia Chapter Community Development Coordinator Ken Smoskoska and Chapter Director Andrew Christie started making calls and leaving messages at every Ventana Chapter number they could find, as well as the Ventana Wilderness Alliance, Los Padres Forest Watch and Central Coast Books. Within half an hour, they had tracked down Ventana Chapter Chair Rita Dalessio and put her in touch with the Forest Service.

“The Ventana Chapter was honored to be able to donate 100 trail guides and maps to help the firefighters with this devastating fire,” said Dalessio. “I delivered them that afternoon to the Salinas staging area and the Forest Service had them that evening.”

Nice teamwork.

Solar Power Siting Issues
Come to SLO
On July 9, the feds want to hear what you think

A Solar Energy Development Pro-grammatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) is being prepared for Arizona, California, Colorado, New Mexico, Nevada and Utah to govern the siting of solar power facilities on public lands.

Due to increasing local interest, a scoping meeting has been scheduled for San Luis Obispo at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, July 9. Venue not determined by press time.

Visit the “Public Scoping Meetings” page of the Solar Energy Development PEIS Web Site at: http://solareis.anl.gov/involve/pubschedule/index.cfm. Times and locations of the public meetings will be announced via the local media and the Web page.

The pre-registration period closes at 4:00 p.m. Central Time on July 9. If you do not pre-register, you may register at the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

For more information, contact the Solar Energy Development PEIS Webmaster at solareiswebmaster@anl.gov.
Is Light Rail at the End of the Tunnel?

By Eric Greening

This article grew out of a response to a citizen asking why we haven’t yet built a light rail system connecting our county’s cities.

Most of us wrestling with local transportation issues (I represent the 5th District on the Citizens’ Transportation Advisory Committee) are keenly aware that the single-occupant vehicle model is not sustainable even if the vehicles are powered by pure, sustainable angel dust, because the rapid increase in vehicle miles traveled creates increased congestion and the projects to increase road capacity to catch up with that congestion are increasingly expensive and ecologically overwhelming. (Just the amount of streambed that is dug up each year for road base is an enormous ecological affront!) We have long struggled with scenarios for viable light rail, and have not found the right population density in this area to support such a system. If local habits change dramatically, with a major shift from cars to transit, the population density needed to make a light rail system viable shrinks proportionally.

The opportunity that is presently arising for reconsideration of this possibility is the update of our Regional Transportation Plan, being undertaken through our Council of Governments. This effort, a major update rather than a minor tweaking, is just getting under way, and we welcome your participation as a citizen.

If a light rail system were to operate in our county, there are several possible models. One would follow, or occupy the median of, Highway 101. It would represent new construction.

The capital costs of a new system, the inadequate median width in several stretches (including the entire Cuesta Grade) and the so-far lack of likelihood of sufficient ridership to amortize construction costs, has for far too long discouraged implementation. Another possibility would be to use the existing Union Pacific lines. This would avoid the need to invent a new system, and has the advantage of being able to include Santa Maria by the existing spur line from Guadalupe, and the so-far lack of likelihood of sufficient ridership to amortize construction costs, has for far too long discouraged implementation. Another possibility would be to use the existing Union Pacific lines. This would avoid the need to invent a new system, and has the advantage of being able to include Santa Maria by the existing spur line from Guadalupe, but has the disadvantage of being very slow and circuitous over the Grade, and of being single-tracked, with inadequate sidewalks. It would be impossible to run a local service with any speed system that would miss the November ballot would, as expected, bring in more light rail to service such a rail line connecting Amtrak traffic that share the line.

Meanwhile, the main state source is state transit assistance (STA). While the Cities of San Luis Obispo and Morro Bay are the only cities in our county, the May revision raids this county's cities. The Los Osos Valley Road corridor may be the best in the county for a "pilot project" to test the worth of a region-wide light rail sys-

Hold that Line! continued from page 2

bore the telling distinction of not actually being Ortiz. A 5-term incumbent doesn’t get blasted out of office by a nearly 2-to-1 margin just because the other guy focused on absentee voters. Message sent: We’ve had enough of what this man is selling. Once in office, election results provided the verdict on cash vs. people. The people spoke. The forces of Enguil & Devour

In honor of World Fair Trade Day, May 10, an estimated 50,000 people in 70 countries took time out to participate in events and celebrations promoting the right to an equitable and just food system. In addition, more than 12,000 people around the country participated in a coordinated Fair Trade Coffee break, a new world’s record! In our neck of the woods, the SLO Fair Trade Coalition, with an assist from the Santa Lucia Chapter, prevailed on the Board of Supervisors to officially proclaim May 20 Fair Trade Day in SLO County. With over 100 celebrations in the U.S., alone, this year’s World Fair Trade Day was the largest fair trade celebration in American history. Thanks to everyone who participated in local events, bought fair trade products or just spread the word about the benefits of fair trade.

For more details about World Fair Trade Day 2008, visit the Fair Trade Resource Network’s website, www.fairtraderesource.org/ wftd08.
Chapter’s 40th Birthday Bash Raises Spirits, Cash

By Karen Merriam, Chapter Chair

Now that’s what we call a party.
All the Santa Lucia Chapter’s annual awards banquet fundraisers have been memorable, this year’s May 31 edition at Temple Beth David, marking our fortieth year on the Central Coast, was pretty special.

The venue was perfect, all the table settings were lovely, the food fantastic, the music was upbeat and hit just the right note, the silent auction was very successful, Chef Noah Smukler outdid himself, we had plenty of wine, and wonderful people helping us in every aspect of the event. I think we even made money.

Many thanks to our keynote speakers, U.S. Representatives Lois Capps (D-23rd) and Jerry McNerney (D-11th), and to our Very Special Guests:
Assemblymember Pedro Nava (D-Santa Barbara), SLO Mayor Dave Romero, SLO City Councilwoman Christine Mulholland, County Supervisor Jim Patterson, and County Supervisor-elect Adam Hill.

Special thanks to:
Congregation Beth David and Rabbi Norman Mendel & staff
Café Roma
The Rizzo Family
Wild Horse Vineyards
Passadino Olives
Clay Thompson & Fredericka Churchill
Clbrhorne & Churchill Winery
Tolosa Winery
Robert Schiebelhut
Bimmer Udsen
Carmody McKnight
Gary Conway

Rinconada Dairy
James & Christine Maguire
SweetEarth Organic Chocolates
Joanne Carrie
Scott Secret
Natural Investments LLC
SLO Morning Kiwanis
Central Coast Rappahansenn
Albert’s Florist
Pandora Nash
Capavos Land Conservancy
Jeri and Lee Hiedel
Verona Bollwurk
Helanthe Stevig
Linda Rollison
Steven and Jan Marx
Prog Palace
Ocean Breeze
Sycamore Springs

our Event Planning Team:
John Ashbaugh
Shaba Mohseni
Patricia Duron
Rosemary Wilvert
Rose Marie Shapley
Marcia Alter
Noah & Laura Smukler

and last but not least:
Jennifer Cooper of Rep. Capps’ office
Bryan Bowers, SLO Graphic Arts

Andrew Christie, Chapter Director
Ken Smokoska, Chapter Community Development Coordinator
...and my fellow members of the Executive Committee!
It felt to me that the fruition of a lot of hard work of these past years -- the work of building community, creating a positive, solutions-driven vision for our Chapter and for the central coast -- was affirmed that night. What a swell party that was!

Volunteers Bring Top-Notch Service to 40th Birthday Banquet

By Shaba Mohseni, Volunteer Coordinator

The path to an outstanding event can be an arduous one, but not when it’s the Sierra Club’s Santa Lucia Chapter, and specifically the group of volunteers who comprised the setup, kitchen and cleanup crew at this year’s Banquet. I want to extend a heartfelt thanks to those smiling faces who answered the call to assist. Your help was invaluable in making this event spectacular.

Our kitchen team, comprised of Jeffrey and Ariella Pienack, Alston Paff, and Andrew Christie, with a spontaneous pitch-in by Lucia Casalimouco, worked with wonder-chefs Noah Smukler and Laura Lopez, carefully prepping ingredients and creating masterpiece spreads on each table. Thank you to set-up and serving crew members Christie and John Cutter, Carol Singleton, Rachael Willey, and David Drake for dialing in the outstanding decor and ambiance and providing additional support throughout the dinner. We’re grateful to Nita Renyon and Abe Perlestein for bringing in fresh energy during tear-down and cleanup. We hope you had an enriching time with friends and peers, and we are indebted to you for making this a better Chapter for all!

Chapter Treasurer Steven Marx (right) conveyed all our thanks to Representative Jerry McNerney, the man who unseated environmental enemy Richard Pombo in the upset election win of 2006.

By Shaba Mohseni, Volunteer Coordinator
Rep. Capps conveys thanks of Congress to Rochelle Becker

The highlight of the Sierra Club banquet was the moment when Grover Beach resident Rochelle Becker received both the Kathleen Goddard Jones Award, the highest honor bestowed by the Santa Lucia Chapter of the Sierra Club, and a Congressional certificate of special recognition from Representative Lois Capps honoring her work.

Becker was a guest at the banquet, unaware that she was to be named the recipient of the Chapter award and the Congressional certificate of recognition. A preview clip from David Weisman’s forthcoming documentary Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Nuclear Power “But Were Afraid to Ask,” produced for Becker’s Alliance for Nuclear Responsibility and partly funded by the Santa Lucia Chapter, was shown preceding the award.

“All of Congress applauds you for your work,” Capps told Becker on handing her a Congressional certificate “in recognition of outstanding and invaluable service to the community.”

Becker, in addition to her executive director duties with the Alliance for Nuclear Responsibility, heads the Santa Lucia Chapter’s Diablo Canyon Task Force and is vice-chair of the Nuclear Power Task Force for the Sierra Club’s national Radiation Committee. She received Sierra Club’s 2007 Environmental Alliance Award last fall in San Francisco, where she shared honors with former Vice President Al Gore, in recognition of her capacity to build alliances and promote community understanding of the need to decommission nuclear power as part of our transition to a renewable domestic energy economy, one in which nuclear subsidies are redirected to energy efficiency and new technologies as part of the investment in a smart energy policy.

A former leader of San Luis Obispo Mothrs for Peace, Becker founded the Alliance for Nuclear Responsibility in January 2005 to address the economic issues around nuclear power.

Some Awarded Evening

After naming Rochelle Becker the recipient of the Kathleen Goddard Jones Award, Chapter Chair Karen Merriam bestowed the Chapter’s Star performer Ex-ecutive Award on Bonnie Walters, and the Chapter Leaders Award on our Community Development Coordinator, Ken Smokoska (below). Finally, the Chap-ter Exec-utive Commit-tee did the only thing that could stop her, crowning her with a surprise Laurel of Leadership (right) and leaving her (almost) speechless.

Above & Beyond

Ken Smokoska received the Chapter Leaders Award (left) in recognition of his unfailing energy, reliability, and ubiquitous presence throughout the community, his vast scope of knowledge on renewable energy issues, and his dedication to that cause.

Environmental Hero Award winner Eric Greening, “the sixth Supervisor” on the County Board of Supervisors, represents all the districts of the County, and speaks on behalf of the health and integrity of our human and natural resources. He champions those whose voices get lost in the clamor of politics and bureaucracy, and his influence on public policy in the County is profound.

Unsung Hero Award winner Bonnie Walters is always there, lugging around the heavy boxes, never complaining, but ready to share her great love for the natural environment, as band-boxes are presented in the Club books and calendars she sells on behalf of our cause, ensuring a constant flow of revenue for our campaigns.

In Muir’s Footsteps

by Rosemary Wilvert, SLO Poet Laureate 2007, remembering the Sierra Club’s founder on the occasion of the Santa Lucia Chapter’s 40th Anniversary, May 31, 2008

If John Muir could hear our cry for disappearing places – rainforests, polar ice, viewsheeds, sand dunes –

he could believe his heart-breaking defeat, the damming of Tuolumne River, might be undone.

Muir lives as long as one person sees no interest too moneyed, no regime too entrenched to challenge.

[Poetic reflection not transcribed]
On May 23, representatives of the local chapters of Surfrider and Sierra Club met with County Public Works staff on the Los Osos Waste Water Treatment Project, engineers and scientists with the Wallace Group, and legendary wastewater treatment designer and inventor Jonathan Todd. The Wallace Group hosted the meeting at their SLO headquarters.

The wide-ranging discussion included the potential of using wetlands for Los Osos (not the type that failed to gain approval ten years ago when the Los Osos CSD put all its eggs in that basket, which would have consumed sixty acres of Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Area and likely never have passed muster with the California Coastal Commission), the use of constructed wetlands for the Tally Sensitive Habitat Area and likely eggs in that basket, which would have failed to gain approval ten years ago. For what everyone pulled together.

After it's done, we may find out that it can post a link. Santa Lucia Chapter of the Sierra Club and Surfrider to put the documents on the band and venue donated a portion of the proceeds to the Appropriate Technology campaign. This is a campaign of the San Luis Bay Chapter of Surfrider, the Santa Lucia Chapter of the Sierra Club and SLO Green Build. Working together with local government agencies, we are seeking to educate the community on the importance of emerging technologies that will aid in sustainable development and green building in San Luis Obispo County, with an emphasis on wastewater treatment and water quality.
Agents of Change

In deliberating on this year’s recipients of their Agent of Change awards, the Empower Poly Board of Directors decided upon five individuals on the Cal Poly campus and in the San Luis Community “who have shown a genuine passion in the realms of social, economic and environmental sustainability.”

Two of this year’s honorees were Cal Poly faculty member (and Santa Lucian Chapter Executive Committee member) Steven Marx and Santa Lucian Chapter Chair Karen Merriam.

The awards were presented at EPC’s Agents of Change May 29 Gala at the Sandwich Factory in SLO, which also featured the premiere of the European Smart Energy Study Tour movie that the students put together in the course of our trek across northern Europe last spring.

Redefining the Rules and Roles of Environmental Politics

By Assemblyman Sam Blakeslee

The Legislature used to be a lonely place for environmental Republicans. Those of us who dared to vote for—or even worse, author—bills to clean up our environment, conserve energy, and prevent pollution were typically shunned by our fellow Republicans, and mistrusted by the Democrats. Once considered green renegades, a new wave of environmentally-minded Republican Assemblymembers have banded together to lend our voices, and our votes, to the promotion of innovative policies that improve air and water quality, increase energy efficiency, and expand alternative energy while growing our economy.

As Chair of the newly created E3 (Energy, Environment and the Economy), an environmental caucus within the Republican caucus, I am working to increase collaboration among legislators, putting sound policy over politics. This year, E3 has authored the following legislative proposals:

- **Green Chemicals in Schools** (AB 2908 Garcia): Encourages schools to replace dangerous cleaning supplies with non-toxic alternatives by the year 2012.
- **California Green Building Certification** (AB 2144 Smith): Creates a California certification program to encourage sustainable building practices; allows local agencies to adopt standards of the state green building codes; establishes a less expensive alternative to the privately managed LEEDs (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design ratings).
- **Green Entrepreneurs & Green Collar Jobs** (AB 2792 Blakeslee): Creates a new program within the California Conservation Corps that prepares local residents for careers in a growing green collar skilled laborer.
- **California Sustainable Biofuel Certification** (AB 2790 Blakeslee): Creates a certification program to encourage the in-state sustainable production of biofuels as defined by a life-cycle analysis; allows biofuel feedstock growers and producers to certify their products with the special designation if they so choose.

Additionally, an important responsibility of Chair of E3 is to identify key environmental protection bills authored by Democrats around which Republicans can rally in support. E3 Legislators meet twice monthly to review bills under consideration for our support, working closely with the author’s offices on amendments to strengthen the policy objectives.

The end of May marked the Assembly’s house of origin deadline, when hundreds of bills move from the Assembly to the Senate. E3 used this opportunity to showcase our commitment to helping authors obtain the necessary votes to move their bills. In many cases, we did more than just vote in support of these bills—we spoke in support, lobbied other members and added our names as coauthors.

I will continue working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to protect our environment, strengthen our economy, creating jobs, capitalizing on advanced technologies, and reducing market barriers.

**We Do PayPal!**

The Santa Lucia Chapter has plunged headlong into the 21st century and made it possible for you to donate to us electronically, 24 hours a day, without even asking you. Go to www.santalucia.sierrclub.org and look for the friendly orange button.

And Then We Partied

Thanks to a way too big jar of animal crackers and a license to party, matters threatened to veer out of control when the Empower Poly Coalition’s senior class members dropped by Sierra Club HQ after hours on Friday, June 13, to commemorate their graduation.

Thankfully, order was eventually restored and we toasted the graduates, Agent of Change award winners Marx and Merriam, and a smashing year of collaboration between the Chapter and Poly’s student activists, which also saw the establishment of the Sierra Student Coalition on campus.

The Empower Poly grads leave their organization in good hands. The hard-charging clean energy activists in the freshman, sophomore and junior classes.

Cool Cities

continued from page 3

to be able to immediately implement the sustainability practices and concepts that you learn at the conference as you return to your community.

A special note will be the Student Convergence hosted by the Empower Poly Coalition and our local Sierra Student Coalition. These students are our community’s leaders for climate change solutions. They were the organizers of Cal Poly’s Focus The Nation on January 31, 2008 (http://lookthatbird.ono latinoecon.com).

“Our community is thankful to the 5,000 students, faculty, staff and community members who participated in Focus the Nation,” said Sierra Club California Energy/Cimate Committee co-chair Ken Sminkoska. “Now that we’ve learned many different solutions to global climate change, let’s make it happen.”

One thing you can do to combat global warming right now is to sign-up at www.coolcities.us/shl/.

Congratulations to our change agents, Steven Marx (back row, 2nd from left) and Karen Merriam (2nd row, 3rd from right).

The Sierra Club encourages all Republican California Assemblymembers to bring their environmental voting scores up to the level of any Democratic Assemblyman
Climate Action Starts Here

With grant funding from the County Air Pollution Control District and the national Sierra Club, the Chapter is initiating a campaign to sign up all seven cities and the County to undertake inventories of the greenhouse gases emitted by municipal operations and assemble action plans that will reduce those emissions to 7 percent below 1990 levels by 2012, then cut current levels by 50 percent in 2025, and 80 percent by 2050. The Sierra Club, working with the Employer Poly Coalition, will assemble Climate Action Groups and other volunteers and provide training on emissions information software provided by the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICfLEI). The APCD will subsequently help underwrite cities’ implementation plans.

The Sierra Club is also providing funding for the effort due to the project to build landowner awareness of our Cool Cities program, which has enrolled hundreds of cities across America in the project of finding ways to reduce climate change impacts. Smart energy solutions that reduce carbon emissions, lower energy bills, save taxpayer dollars and protect the environment.

“Finding out what your emissions are is the first step toward everything else,” said Ken Smolenska, who is also co-chair of Sierra Club California’s Energy/Climate Committee. “Targeting cuts and implementing programs to hit those targets means reducing waste, cutting city electric bills and operating costs, attracting and incentivizing green jobs and building a green energy economy. It’s all good. Cities are already asking to sign up for the SLO Climate Action Program before we’ve even put together the teams to formally go out and pitch the program to them.”

Moonlit Nights at Clair Tappaan Lodge

Hikes, auction, food and fun at 4th annual Clair Tappaan Lodge fundraising weekend

By Olivia Diaz

Watching a full moon rise over the shadows of pine trees at 7,000 feet is worth the drive. Join us August 15-17 at the Clair Tappaan Lodge for the August Fund Raiser and take a hike under the light of the full moon. This year our astronomical theme will be the moon, including a talk on fascinations and facts of the moon by Dr. Paul Guttmann. We will follow the same formula of the previous three successful August Fund Raisers – live music, hikes with a theme, an outdoor silent auction in the yard on Saturday afternoon with a wine and cheese reception, a wild fish dinner on Saturday night and a raffle for a Peak Aventures rafting trip. All proceeds will go to help the Lodge meet the September 30 deadline to break even. Help keep this historic lodge part of the Sierra Club.

So far, we have Don Rivenea for a bird walk, Donna Graf for a native plants hike, Jeri Merrit for a Summit Lake hike/swim. Won’t you join us, starting Friday, August 15, until Sunday noon to enjoy a summer weekend, the air perfumed with warm pine tree resin and the sunshine and breezes, at Donner Pass Road. For $150 per adult, you can enjoy the lodge all weekend, six meals, a wine and cheese reception, listen to live music and art, share the moon in addition to contributing to the well being of the Lodge. On Saturday there will be a Silent Auction with items gathered from the region, and themed hikes on Saturday and Sunday. Through the weekend there will be opportunities to get to know each other.

There will be fees for one-day and for children. For details, click on: http://moorthelodge.sierrachug.org/sierranevada/moon.html Last year the Lodge filled up and we stopped taking reservations a week before the event, so don’t wait too long to reserve your spot.

To hope to see you there. The Lodge is located at 19940 Donner Pass Road in Norden, CA. To make a reservation or to volunteer for the event, call the Lodge at (800) 679-6775 or (530) 462-3632.

Even Pismo Can Change

By Terry Lilley, Save Our Seas

The City that worships Hummers, off road vehicles, car shows, hotels and condominiums has turned to a shift toward environmental awakenings.

For three years, I and other environmentalist have been complaining to the City about the lack of good, enforced green building codes. I have filed over 20 complaints of environmental abuse with the City, including over 100 photos and four length movies. This city has been run by developers and realtors, but now they are well aware of these laws and they heard of the Migratory Bird Act when a year ago, the City had never even seen scared the nesting peregrine falcons and night herons off their nests and out of the area, for over five days. I also documented this with photos and movies. The babies left in the nests were eaten by crows and owls or starved to death. Concerned local residence complained to the police. Fire Department, USFWS and the Mayor. This year, the City raised the fine for using fireworks from $600 to $2,000 and has promised to step up enforcement. They are also printing a nice door hanger that volunteers will walk the neighborhood and give to each tenant. Once someone actually gets a $2,000 fine, I feel the illegal fireworks will stay in their boxes.

I am a very positive person and almost always I looks at the bright side of an issue. The environmental problem is like trying to walk up the sand dunes that the four-wheel drivers tear up in their Hummers. I sometimes feel that tackling these problems is like trying to walk up the dunes on one leg, with cars zooming by at 40mph. I now feel that the cars are slowing down... and I and others are learning to walk faster!
Classifieds

Next issue deadline is June 11. To get a rate sheet or submit your ad and payment, contact:
Sierra Club - Santa Lucia Chapter
P.O. Box 15755
San Luis Obispo, CA 93406
sierracubs7@gmail.com

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CFLs contain 1/100 less mercury than a thermometer. It's illegal to throw CFLs in the trash. Return UNBROKEN used CFLs to a local participating "take back" store. BROKEN fluorescent bulbs, or any mercury containing products, should be disposed of with hazardous waste. If a CFL bulb breaks, treat it like any toxic product; be careful not to inhale the mercury. Use a wet rag for clean up, put all pieces, and the rag, into a plastic bag to take to a hazardous waste disposal site listed in the back of your phone book.

AWAKENING THE DREAMER SYMPOSIUM
PRESENTED BY THE PACHAMAMA ALLIANCE

Gain new insights into the ways we can shape and impact the direction of our world with our everyday choices and actions. Explore the link between environmental sustainability, spiritual fulfillment, and social justice.

Sunday, July 13
1:00-5:00 p.m.
Temple Beth David
San Luis Obispo
$15 donation $5 Students w/I.D.
www.AwakeningTheDreamer.org
email: phelgewest@gmail.com

NURSING HOME?
If you have loved ones in a nursing home or about to enter a nursing home – do not “spend down” their assets. Nearly ALL the assets of nursing home residents can be SAVED. Their care will remain the same. Nursing home residents have legal rights. Learn federal and state health insurance laws that work for the resident.

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Outings and Activities Calendar

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

### July

**July 6, 4:30, OCEANO DUNES HIKE**
Meet at Melodrama in Oceano to hike along the dunes into remote dunes. Three-mile hike. Binos & Ref. Bkts. (Sponsored by Elder Bill). Dog Owners be sure of location prior to bringing your pet. Call 929-3647 or <chdemereen@kcbx.net>.

**Friday, July 7, 6:00, Hike at Cabrillo Peak**
Meet at the Maino Open Space trailhead, which is located off the Marsh Street onramp of Highway 101. From downtown SLO take Higuera Street to the intersection with Marsh Street and proceed as if to take 101 South. Immediately after the freeway underpass, bear right into the parking lot. Contact David Georigi at polecatleader@gmail.com for upcoming activities. Bypeds welcome.

**July 7, 10 a.m., Quary Trail, Pole Cats**
Join the leader on this moderate 6.4 mile hike on the Quary Trail. Meet at the Cabrillo Peak trailhead. From SLO, go 12 miles north on Hwy 1 to Los Osos/ Baywood Park exit just before Morro Bay, CA until you see Sweetbay Blvd and drive 7 miles to the State Park entrance. Continue straight for 2.4 miles and look for the dirt parking lot on the left. It is easy to miss. Do not wait at the Live Oak trailhead, which is shortly after the Quary trailhead. Contact David Georigi at polecatleader@gmail.com for upcoming activities. Bypeds welcome.

**Aug., 9:00, a.m. Hike**
Salmon Creek Trail to Estrella Camp. Join the leader on this moderate 6.4 mile hike near Ragged Point. There is about 1500 ft. of elevation gain. Summer is a good time to hike near the coast. This hike will feature Spruce Creek and Salmon Creek. There will be a lunch stop at Estrella Camp. There is a possibility of ticks and poison oak. Bring water, bug spray or snacks, and dress for the weather. Meet at the Washburn day use area of San Simeon State Park.

**July 10, 10 a.m., Maino Open Space, Pole Cats**
Is dedicated to leading local Sierra Club day hikes and modeling effective techniques for using trekking poles. Join us on July 10, 13 AM for an easy hike on the Maino Open Space trail. (Sponsored by Elder Bill). This is located north of Cambria and a short distance past the Hamlet Restaurant. There will be a refueling stop following the hike. For info, call Chuck at 441-7597.

**July 12, 6:00, High Tomalte Backpack the High Tomalte Range**
This trip in central Nevada will explore the east side of the Toiyabe Range, crossing a 10,000’ foot pass between the South Twin Creek and Jett Creek farther south. The canyons have water; temperature should be comfortable; views east and west across the Great Basin spectacular. Using a car shuttle our trip will be one-way, starting at 6100 feet and with a total distance of 19 miles, some on trail and some cross-country. For more info contact leader: Craig Deutscher, polecatleader@gmail.com for upcoming activities. Bypeds welcome.

**Aug, 6, 13, 20, 27, 5:30 p.m. Informal Hikes.** See website, or e-mail Gary Felsman for details. E-Mail is located on the Website.

**Wed., Aug. 6-10, Mt. Morris (12,067) - Central Nevada Backpack.** Moderate, 24 miles rt, about 18 with backtracks. This little visited area on the north end of the Snake Range is about 5 hours north of Las Vegas. We will start at Hendy Creek trailhead (6000’), and hike for two days along the creek through a pine forest, and camp at 10,000’. Day hike on third day to the Table and the peak. Next two days going out, distance on the last day is short, to allow for travel time home. If there is an active thunderstorm pattern at Mt. Morris, an alternative trip to the Toiyabe Range is planned. Group limited to 15. David Hardy (e-mail preferred hardkh@embarqmail.com) or (702-875-4549).

**Wed., Aug. 13, 20, 27, 5:30 p.m. Informal Hikes.** See website, or e-mail Gary Felsman for details. E-Mail is located on the Website.

**Sun., Aug. 10, 10 a.m. Islay Hill, Pole Cats leads local Sierra Club day hikes**
This is a partial listing of Outings offered by our chapter. Please check the web page www.santalucia.sierrclub.org for more up-to-date listing of activities.

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### Island Hopping in Channel Islands National Park

**Sierra Club California Fundraising Cruises Scheduled for 2008**

- **July 18-21, 4 islands ($775)**
- **August 23-27, September 13-17, 5 islands ($925)**

Explore the wild, windswept islands of Channel Island National Park. In spring the islands are alive with wildflowers. In summer, the pristine waters of the Marine Sanctuary entice swimmers, snorkelers and kayakers. All year long, enjoy unusual plants and flowers, seals and frolicking sea lions, sea and sand birds.

All cruises depart from Santa Barbara aboard the 68’ twin diesel Tarth. Fee includes an assigned bunk, all meals, snacks, beverages, plus the services of a ranger/naturalist who will travel with us to lead hikes on each island and point out interesting features.

To make a reservation mail a $100 check, payable to Sierra Club, to leader: Joan Jones Holtz, 11826 The Wyre St., El Monte, CA 91732. Contact leader for more information (626-443-0700; jholtzhln@aol.com)

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**Outings Calendar 2008**

**Photo by Joaquin Palting**

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**Island Peak hike**