



Nov./Dec. 2010  
Volume 47 No. 10

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### DON'T MISS

**Nov. 8:**  
"Solar Plans for the Carrizo Plain: Boon or Bust?"

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**Dec. 5:**  
A celebration of environmental art & literature

-see page 7

No Santa Lucian in December  
- see you next year!



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# SANTA LUCIAN

Protecting and Preserving the Central Coast



The official newsletter of the Santa Lucia Chapter of the Sierra Club • San Luis Obispo County, California

Chuck Abbe



*Shall you walk upon the beach? The Harmony Headlands.*

## Can the Public Access a Glimpse of the Ocean?

by Hershel Parker

In the October 12 *Tribune*, reporter Nick Wilson described a lawsuit some Harmony Coast property owners have filed against the Coastal Commission. At issue is an easement, required as a condition of their development permit, allowing hikers to walk along the coast as part of the envisioned California Coastal Trail, open to everyone able to make the trek or at least walk segments of it.

The Board of Supervisors, back in the dark years of the Three Amigos, removed the easement requirement, which the Sierra Club later successfully appealed to the Coastal Commission and got reinstated (see "Chapter Wins Coastal Commission Appeal," Sept. 2010).

Wilson described the inHarmonious owners as being "represented by Sacramento-based lawyer Paul Beard from the nonprofit Pacific Legal Foundation (PLF), which aims to limit government infringements and strengthen property rights."

Readers of the October 18, 2009, *Tribune* Viewpoint by Paul J. Beard

## ODSVRA Lawsuit: Rolling the Rock Up the Sand Dune

**Sierra Club will appeal "no recourse" ruling on off-roading in Oceano Dunes**



On September 30, Judge Charles Crandall affirmed a superior court ruling on the lawsuit *Sierra Club v. California Dept. of Parks*, declaring that the Sierra Club is barred from seeking to implement a provision of San Luis Obispo County's Local Coastal Plan (LCP) which requires the State Department of Parks and Recreation to bring its general development plan for Oceano Dunes into compliance with the LCP.

Were State Parks to comply with this provision, it would be forced to ban off-road recreation on the La Grande Tract, a 584-acre County-owned tract of land in the Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area. The LCP designates La Grande Tract a non-riding buffer area.

Judge Crandall recognized in his ruling that in April 2007 the County Board of Supervisors concluded that off-road activities are barred by the County LCP. The court ruled that the issue could not be adjudicated or decided in the absence of a current administrative action involving the

land parcel, such as an amendment to the ODSVRA's General Development Plan. Despite the mandatory language of the LCP ("The General Development Plan shall be revised in accordance with the Local Coastal Plan"), the Court concluded that State Parks had no mandatory duty to revise its general development plan to bring it into compliance with the LCP.

The court's ruling on procedural grounds meant the Sierra Club could not get a hearing on the merits of the case. Judge Crandall noted that the substantive issues of the case have not been resolved, writing "This conclusion does not in any way minimize the importance of the substantive issues presented in the litigation. The County's own governing body has preliminarily determined that the use of off-road vehicles, on at least part of the SVRA, is inconsistent with its own

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know that the Pacific Legal Foundation was arguing that Franco DeCicco could build, or grossly overbuild, on the property at Ocean Boulevard and Old Creek Road in Cayucos. *New Times* readers may remember that in 2002, Morro Bay Mayor Bill Yates hired the PLF to force the removal of the Western snowy plover from the list of Endangered Species—a decision that contributed to his ouster in 2004.

The California Chamber of Commerce founded the PLF in 1973 to bring lawsuits for the business community under the guise of "public interest" actions -- "public interest" as sponsored by big business, meaning "private interest." The PLF is ultra-conservative, tax-exempt, and non-profit, although funded by big business. It is, in fact, an organization designed to enrich some of its supporters, notably in agri-businesses.

The PLF has launched an astonishing range of extreme right-wing lawsuits. Lavishly funded, the PLF lawyers have mounted assaults on wetlands, equal employment, protections of consumer health and safety, rent control, labor unions,

First Amendment protection of free speech, public right to beach access, equal rights for gays, and affirmative action.

The Endangered Species Act is a frequent target. A suit in Fresno federal court challenged habitat protections for 48 endangered or threatened species of animals and plants in California—ranging from the peninsular bighorn sheep to the yellow larkspur to the western snowy plover (and not just in SLO County).

A 2008 suit against Humboldt County was designed to let employees and shareholders of incorporated businesses pour money into local elections even though they are not residents of the county. Another 2008 suit challenged the listing of the polar bear as endangered. A 2010 suit denies that greenhouse gases are a risk to public health.

The PLF is largely synonymous with another ugly and apt acronym: SLAPP, which Wikipedia defines thus: "A strategic lawsuit against public participation (SLAPP) is a lawsuit that is intended to censor, intimidate and silence critics by burdening them

continued on page 10

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# Mr. Orwell's Land Use Plan

In the name of curbing the subdivision of rural land and discouraging sprawl development, the County is planning to do the opposite.

*"The time has come to bring order out of the chaos incident to rapid growth.... Good order and convenience are not expensive; but haphazard and ill-considered projects invariably result in extravagance and wastefulness.... The real test of this plan will be found in its application; for such is the determination of the people to secure more perfect conditions, it is certain that if the plan is really good it will commend itself to the progressive spirit of the times, and sooner or later it will be carried out."*

The words above are 100 years old. They appear in Chapter One of the document entitled "Plan of Chicago," by Daniel Burnham, the preeminent city planner of his time. A large part of Burnham's vision was based on open space – areas that should never be developed.

He did not know the terms "smart growth" or "strategic growth," but he had a pretty good grasp of the concept. He didn't know that, 100 years later, placing new development within already developed areas would be found to reduce driving by as much as 61% and carbon emissions by 50%. Or that pedestrian-friendly development

planned with clean, reliable transit systems will save the average household over \$2,000 a year on transportation and cut 40 million tons of carbon emissions; or that, if 25 million new units of housing built in the U.S. over the next 25 years are placed in a more space efficient way, 3 million acres of land will be preserved, 3,000 fewer miles of new roads will be built, and at least \$250 million would be saved. But he had the right idea.

A review of SLO County's plans to update the Land Use and Circulation Elements (LUCE) strongly indicates that Burnham was ten decades ahead of his latter-day colleagues in the San Luis Obispo County Department of Planning and Building. They *do* know all those things, but they are crafting a plan to essentially achieve the opposite.

#### What is the LUCE?

As we have noted previously ("The Doughnut with Too Many Holes," Jan. 2010), there are some problems with the County's proposed update of the Land Use and Circulation Elements of the General Plan.

The LUCE contains policies that govern the way land is used and the way people move around in the

unincorporated areas of San Luis Obispo County. Per the County Planning website, the LUCE update is a consolidation and revision of the current LUCE for the rural areas of the county. It is supposed to address long-term water resources, increased cost of infrastructure, rural growth and the effects on agriculture, and traffic volumes and congestion by planning for expected growth through the year 2035.

The County's public LUCE update presentation cites as one of the most worrisome growth trends of the period 2000-2007 the fact that 40% of all building permits have been in the unincorporated rural area. But even a cursory review of the County's public outreach material quickly reveals the obvious: contrary to its stated purpose, the LUCE is determined to continue the development of the county's rural areas.

Among its primary stated aims: "Implement strategic growth, SB 375" and "Identify most suitable potential expansion areas around unincorporated towns."

This is an oxymoron. SB 375 is about encouraging compact, mixed-use, walkable communities, close to jobs and transit, not expanding growth onto rural and agricultural land, which would have an ultimate outcome the opposite of the goals SB 375 was designed to achieve.

When County planners introduced the LUCE revision in a briefing for local advisory councils last January, one of its Powerpoint slides proclaimed the following goal:

*Limit inappropriate rural development.*

Let's think about that. Faced with an inappropriate action, one that is detrimental to one's future and antithetical to one's stated goals, the proposed solution is to permit the inappropriate action at a somewhat lower level of disaster. And that's a generous interpretation, as "limit" is simply the opposite of "unlimited." Hence, "Limit inappropriate rural development" may not even entail a reduction but simply the placement of a ceiling over the current rate of development, and that ceiling could be high.

But six months later, even this had become too radical a notion. As County planners continued to roll out the proposed LUCE update, taking it to the July 12 meeting of the Agricultural Liaison Advisory Board, they backed off the apparently overly bold



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### Santa Lucia Chapter

#### 2010 Executive Committee

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TREASURER

**Cal French**  
MEMBER  
**Megan Worthington**  
VICE CHAIR  
**Linda Seeley**  
SECRETARY  
**Jono Kinkade**  
MEMBER  
**Liz Tracy**  
MEMBER

**Cal French**  
COUNCIL OF CLUB LEADERS

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The Executive Committee meets the third Friday of every month at 2:00 p.m. at the chapter office, located at 974 Santa Rosa St., San Luis Obispo. All members are welcome to attend.

#### Committee Chairs

**Political**  
Chuck Tribbey  
**Conservation**  
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Cal French  
**Litigation** [beckers@thegrid.net](mailto:beckers@thegrid.net)  
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**Nuclear Power Task Force**  
Rochelle Becker

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open

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## Visit us on the Web!

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*Outings, events, and more!*

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# This is Your 2011 Chapter Ballot

Below is the ballot for the Santa Lucia Chapter's annual Executive Committee election. All current members of the Santa Lucia Chapter are eligible to vote. If there is more than one Sierra Club member in your household, you may photocopy the printed ballot and mail both in the same envelope. The winners of this election will start their terms when the outgoing ExCom adjourns their April meeting. The newly-elected ExCom will then convene a brief meeting to elect board officers and set the date for their January meeting.

## IMPORTANT VOTING INFORMATION

- Vote for no more than 2 candidates.
- Cumulative voting (more than one vote for one candidate) is not allowed.
- Ballots must be received by **5:00 p.m., December 6, 2010**, at the Chapter office.
- Address the envelope per instructions on the ballot and sign and date over the flap of the envelope.
- Mail your ballot to our P.O. box address with sufficient time to arrive by the deadline, or drop it off via the door mail slot at the Chapter office at 974 Santa Rosa Street, SLO.



### Greg McMillan

I am a 6th-generation northern San Luis Obispo County Resident and have lived in the north eastern part of the county for almost all of my life.

I was born into a family for whom an awareness of nature and the need to conserve it was a way of life. Both my father, Eben, and his brother Ian were pioneers in the conservation movement in central California. I took their philosophies to heart at an early age and try my best to keep the momentum they created alive.

I had been a lifelong Sierra Club member until a few years ago. Due to some philosophical differences with the Club's actions, I did not renew my membership for several years. Recently, I have become aware that if we hope to cause any lasting change here on the central coast in order to preserve the unique biological diversity, the scenic beauty, the bucolic lifestyle and the agricultural

aspects of our beloved Central Coast, the Santa Lucia Chapter of the Sierra Club will be the source and the catalyst. This chapter, due to the hard work of its members and staff, has the ear of the help we need to get this job done. It became obvious to me that it was time to move on to the future. Hence, I have reinstated my membership in the Sierra Club and hope to have the chance to be a part of its policy decisions.

I am acting Chair of the Shandon Advisory Committee and a Building Contractor specializing in energy efficiency and resource conservation. I built the first permitted Strawbale house in California. On our small ranch ten miles east of Shandon, I raise grassfed beef and grow olives.

I will bring with me a dedication to the well being of our land, not just locally but throughout the world. I also bring the ability and the equipment to cook fine locally grown food for large groups, a skill I hope to put to work for the benefit of the chapter.

### Linda Seeley

I am an activist, midwife, mother and grandmother who has lived in San Luis Obispo for 28 years. I've been the secretary of the Executive Committee of the Santa Lucia Sierra Club for two years, a longtime anti-nuclear activist, a board member of the San Luis Obispo Mothers for Peace, legal intervenors in the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Plant in San Luis Obispo, and president of the Terra Foundation, a small NGO sponsoring permaculture

BALLOT  
Santa Lucia Chapter Election - November 2010

Mark an "X" or checkmark in the box next to the candidate's name. Vote for no more than two candidates.

Members who subscribe to the electronic newsletter may print out this ballot. Households with more than two members may make duplicate ballots.

Do not write your name on the ballot.

Sign and date your envelope over the sealed flap.

Pat Veasart   
Greg McMillan   
Linda Seeley



Place in envelope, sign the front of the envelope, and mail to :  
Elections Committee  
Santa Lucia Chapter  
P.O. Box 15755  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93406



training and local gardening initiatives.

I facilitate workshops for activists and environmental leaders. I am the mother of three and the grandmother of three grandsons, and a certified nurse-midwife and women's health nurse practitioner. I am an advanced facilitator of the Work that Reconnects as developed by eco-philosopher Joanna Macy,

### Patrick Veasart

I am offering myself for your consideration as a candidate for the Santa Lucia Chapter's Executive Committee because I care deeply about conservation.

I have lived in San Luis Obispo County for 40 years and have been active in many different conservation issues in many different capacities including as a former Chapter

Executive Committee member, Chapter Chair, Sierra Club California staff member, Executive Director of ECOSLO, and as Planning Commissioner for both the City and County of San Luis Obispo.

I Live on the Carrizo Plain National Monument in eastern SLO County, and am currently on the Board of Directors of Los Padres ForestWatch and working for the California Coastal Commission.

It has been exciting to watch the effectiveness of the Santa Lucia Chapter grow in recent years and I would like the opportunity to be a part of that. I bring lots of experience to the table, but I also try to bring a "beginners mind" as well. I am open to new ideas and eager to learn new things. I welcome the opportunity to serve. Thank you for your consideration.

# When You Allow Something, It Happens

Agricultural land should be for ag or things related to ag. That should include properly scaled farm product direct marketing events that do not, cumulatively, endanger public safety or overburden infrastructure (like roads, emergency services and fire fighting resources) or fundamentally impair rural neighborhoods.

But the county apparently doesn't see it that way. The Planning Department recently released a draft ordinance intended to govern public events held on private land. It is a remarkably flawed proposal that promises to do significant and

irrevocable damage to our irreplaceable rural lands.

**The proposal will dramatically expand the number of commercial event sites and the number of events in our ag and rural areas.** It allows virtually all sites in ag and rural areas to host up to 12 commercial (for-profit) events of 150-2,000 guests each year, depending on the size of the parcel. Each set of events would only require a minimal over-the-counter zoning clearance, which entails no departmental review at all and costs \$89. Compare this with the Winery Ordinance, which allows

wineries only six events with fewer than eighty people each year and requires a Minor Use Permit—with very substantial departmental and public review.

**No review required.** The proposal offers no opportunity for discretionary review — even for very large events (2,000 guests) — for those 12 events per site per year, unless an application exceeds the frequency or guest limits. Departmental reviews and meaningful standards are the two ways we can manage negative impacts on roads, on communities, and on the environment.

**Standards are weak and do not protect residents, agriculture, or the environment.** Proposed standards are very weak, with no special protections for agricultural land, no requirements regarding distance from emergency services or carrying capacity of local roads, and no reasonable protections for the neighbors, particularly regarding setbacks, amplified music or hours of operation. Setback requirements can be waived without express consent of the affected neighbor. Amplified music can be

# Fear of Sanctuary

by Sarah Damron  
Regional Manager, Central California  
Surfrider Foundation

On September 28, the Port San Luis Harbor Commission voted to oppose inclusion of the Harbor District in any future expansion of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary.

Prior to the vote, a memo to the Commission from Harbor Manager Steve McGrath stated, “A District position to support sanctuary expansion would at this time be premature given that such expansion, were it to occur, would result in management of District waters under legislation that may be changing in the near future.”

Mr. McGrath went on to say that “if reauthorization of the National Marine Sanctuary Act becomes likely at some near point, the district would then be in a position to review whether or not to support inclusion of the district within the extent of a Sanctuary.”

In both instances, using the same logic, it stands to reason that taking action to oppose inclusion of the district within a Sanctuary was also premature. The Harbor District should have postponed further consideration of a position on Sanctuary expansion until a time when there is further information and when likelihood of expansion becomes more evident.

The San Luis Obispo Chapter of Surfrider Foundation encouraged the Commissioners to consider Mr. McGrath’s citation of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary’s excellent reputation for working with the agricultural community.

We also suggested they consider:

Uses that are currently allowed within the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary:

- a coastal power plant at Moss Landing
- a full range of shoreline and marine recreational activities, including consumptive uses
- a full range of commercial activities, including fishing, agriculture (some of the most prolific in the country) and power generation
- public works projects such as harbor dredging.

Mutually-agreeable benefits of potential Sanctuary expansion:

- protection against offshore oil drilling
- pollution prevention
- education
- enhanced recreational opportunities
- enhanced research interest & \$
- increased tourist attraction & tourist \$.



Terry Lilley

**Pretty scary** Nestled below the kelp forest off Avila Beach, a monkey faced eel waits hopefully for the Port San Luis Harbor Commission to relax.

We pointed out that opposing a bill that has not even been introduced is terribly premature. Given that Congresswoman Capps’ legislation has not been introduced, there is ample opportunity to work with the Congresswoman to discuss concerns before it becomes a bill. As a “discussion draft” of a bill, its sole purpose is to promote and encourage discussion of proposed provisions, so discussion is the appropriate action to take at this time.

We would have hoped the Harbor District would have taken advantage of this opportunity and engaged with other stakeholders to discuss its concerns and find points of agreement before taking an unwarranted and short-sighted stand against legislation that will very likely benefit the Port of San Luis, the user groups and communities it supports, and other communities of SLO County.

We hope the Harbor District will engage in discussion with other stakeholders to contribute meaningful input to National Marine Sanctuary Act authorization.

# Night of the Buffalo

Montana’s Buffalo Field Campaign returned to San Luis Obispo in October, on one of their periodic west coast road show tours in support of their work on behalf of the Yellowstone bison herd – the only wild, free-roaming, genetically intact population of wild buffalo in the United States.

The Santa Lucia Chapter and the California Conservation Corps hosted the 2010 edition of the BFC tour on October 6 at its SLO stop at the Ludwick Community Center, where Los Osos resident Joey Racano and the BFC’s Phoenix Afterbuffalo serenaded the crowd, and founder Mike Mease related the history of the



**Buffalo sojourn** Phoenix Afterbuffalo (above) and Mike Mease (right) at the Ludwick Center.

timed to coincide with the foaling of calves — by ensuring that such operations are witnessed and videotaped. Meanwhile, the BFC is engaged in public trust litigation to force federal agencies to protect bison herds on National Forest lands and halt the commodification of Yellowstone bison.

For volunteer applications, newsletter, weekly e-mail updates, and camp and roadshow information, go to [www.buffalofieldcampaign.org](http://www.buffalofieldcampaign.org).



Yellowstone herd, the depredations and harassment wrought by the Montana Department of Livestock, Montana Fish & Wildlife, the National Park Service, and U.S. Forest Service at the behest of industry, and the work of the Field Campaign in protecting the buffalo from the misbegotten Interagency Bison Management Plan.

Wild bison are shot or hazed – driven for miles by pursuers in helicopters and snowmobiles — whenever a herd leaves the confines of Yellowstone National Park out of the ostensible need to ensure that brucellosis does not spread from buffalo to livestock. This has never happened, and is highly unlikely to happen, but disease control is a handy pretext for the livestock industry to ensure that they don’t have to share cattle grazing lands with the region’s original inhabitants.

BFC volunteer patrols primarily work to monitor and curb the worst excesses of the hazing operations –



# It's Different in Europe



## Food products which must be labeled

from [Gmo-compass.org](http://Gmo-compass.org)

EU Regulation 1829/2003 on genetically modified food and feed states which items must be labelled with regard to applications in genetic engineering. It reads, in part:

Labelling:  
GM sweetcorn  
GM tomatoes

Food which is a genetically modified organism (GMO) or which consists of GMOs. GMOs can be GM plants, GM animals or GM microorganisms. To date, only GM plants are permitted and, among these, only GM cotton, GM rape, GM soya and GM maize. Possible examples include:

- genetically modified sweetcorn (in tins)\*
- GM tomatoes\*\*
- GM potatoes\*\*
- raw salad from GM chicory\*\*
- GM salmon\*\*

\* = approved in the EU, but not available  
\*\* = the respective GM plants or GM animals are not approved in the EU at present.

Labelling: oil or lecithin from GM soybeans

Labelling: Peanut puff snacks containing starch from GM corn

Labelling: sugar from GM sugar beet

Food, ingredients or additives, which are produced from GMOs. For labelling, it is irrelevant if the GMOs used are detectable in the end product. At present, possible products include those made from GM soy beans and GM maize.

## Who sells Monsanto's Bt corn and who doesn't **FARMERS' MARKETS** San Luis Obispo County 2010

Day	Market	Grade	Contact	Phone #
Mon.	Baywood/Los Osos	I	Sandra Dimond	748-1109
Tues.	Paso Robles	I	Sandra Dimond	748-1109
Wed.	Arroyo Grande	F	Peter Jankey	544-9570
Wed.	Atascadero	I	Sandra Dimond	748-1109
Wed.	Pismo Beach	A	David Diaz	305-7017
Thurs.	Morro Bay	F	Peter Jankey	544-9570
Thurs.	San Luis Obispo	F	Peter Jankey	544-9570
Fri.	Avila Beach	A	Julie Andrews-Scott	602-8266
Fri.	Cambria	I	Mike Broadhurst	924-1260
Fri.	Cayucos (summer)	A	Lola Balestra	995-1664
Fri.	Paso Robles	I	Judy Suschke	748-0512
Sat.	Arroyo Grande	I	Peter Jankey	544-9570
Sat.	Morro Bay	A	Gary Billington	602-1009
Sat.	Paso Robles	I	Judy Suschke	748-0512
Sat.	San Luis Obispo	F	Peter Jankey	544-9570
Sat.	Shell Beach	A	David Diaz	305-7017
Sat.	Templeton	F	Sandra Dimond	748-1109
Sun.	Grover Beach	A	Julie Andrews-Scott	602-88266
Sun.	Nipomo	A	Glenn Johnson	929-3081
Sun.	San Luis Obispo	I	Moaz Bensalem	310/435-9006

### KEY:

<b>A</b>	Bt corn is not on sale at these markets and they have a policy excluding it
<b>I</b>	Bt corn is not on sale now at these markets, but there is no policy excluding its sale in the future
<b>F</b>	Monsanto's genetically engineered Bt corn is sold by Hayashi & Sons at these markets

We support small farmers and Farmers' Markets. We don't think the markets should support Monsanto Corporation.

The above letter grades refer ONLY to the market's position on Monsanto's Bt corn and no other aspect of the market.

We suggest you discuss your feelings on this issue with your market manager.

We believe the information in our table was correct as of 9-20-10, but of course the facts could change. We would hope that more markets will move into the A category.

Prepared by Jesse Arnold, 927-3096.

### Correction:

In "Where the GMOs Are" (October), we misspelled the name and e-mail of the manager of the SLO Certified Farmers Market. For readers wishing to contact him regarding the possibility of including a provision in future contracts with vendors to prohibit genetically modified produce, send an e-mail to: Moaz Bensalem, [slocfm@gmail.com](mailto:slocfm@gmail.com). And a clarification regarding the petition against genetically modified corn at the Cambria Farmers Market: the petition is against potential future sale; the Market does not currently offer Bt corn for sale.

# A White Mountains Outing

Amy & Set Collitz



**Extremely large and incredibly old** A spectacular bristlecone pine.

By Janet Damen, CNRCC, Desert Peaks Section

Late August seemed like a good time to escape our stifling urban areas. Luckily our desert-loving leader, Lygeia Gerard, scheduled a great weekend in the White-Inyos, a wonderful desert range where we were able to indulge our love of wide open spaces at very bearable temperatures because of the high elevation.

Friday evening about a dozen of us

traveled along Highway 168 out of Big Pine to gather under an almost full moon at the spacious Grandview campground at an altitude of 8,600 feet.

Our focal point was the Forest of the Ancients where those magnificent Bristlecone pines – older than any other trees on earth – are somehow able to survive the high, harsh and

dry desert environment. On a clear, slightly breezy Saturday morning, we leisurely car-pooled to Schulman Grove (at about 10,100 ft.) on a road which afforded the most incredible views across Owens Valley to the High Sierras, home to 12 of the highest peaks in the nation.

In the parking lot at Schulman Grove (named after the man who devised the system for determining the age of the Bristlecones), we saw the ruins of the Visitors Center, destroyed a couple of years ago by a deranged arsonist. The fairly new center had been a beautifully designed wood structure that housed informative history and educational aids, which greatly enhanced visits to this unique area. Fortunately, generous monetary contributions have made it possible to build another center. The arsonist is incarcerated in a psychiatric institution, and the new Visitors Center is set to break ground in the spring of 2011.

There are two main trails through the grove: the Discovery Trail, a short path with great examples of the trees and their history; and the Methuselah Walk, a 4-mile loop through an extended area. Blessed with balmy weather, we opted for the longer path. Initially it took us higher up the mountain, into dolomite and granite rocks, and past our first gnarly, twisted, awe-inspiring trees with their

trunks in shades of brown, grey and gold. After a mile or so we began to descend, with magnificent views across Deep Springs Valley and way, way beyond. The ground cover was more varied here, with desert plants and bushes of much interest to the herbalists and photographers in our group, including sagebrush, Indian paintbrush, pennyroyal, mountain mahogany, squaw currant and Mormon tea, amongst many others.

Our trail eventually took us even lower, down to a concentration of Bristlecone Pines where many of the trees are known to be 3,000 to almost 5,000 years old. One tree is known as Methuselah because it has been dated as 4,767 years old and therefore Earth's oldest living inhabitant. It is no longer marked to save it from people helping themselves to souvenirs. One can only guess which tree it might be.

Many of the trees, in their efforts for survival, have become beautifully contorted, natural sculptures. Some are more dead than alive with perhaps a single strip of bark feeding the entire living part of the tree from its roots. A dead tree can remain standing for hundreds of years, and some of the relics on the forest floor are reputed to be up to 9,000 years old. One tree has a sawn limb to

*continued on page 7*

# CORRT in Session

The third annual Coast and Ocean Regional Round Table was held at the San Luis Obispo Public Library on September 30.

A primary objective of the CORRT series is the creation of a "Land-Sea Advisory Committee," that will "make the land-sea connection," a primary goal of the Joint Ocean Commission Initiative report "One Coast, One Future," which recommended that local leaders "ensure that existing codes and ordinances adequately protect the health of coastal and ocean ecosystems, focusing in particular on reducing the impacts of land uses and development on water quality."

Sponsored by the Planning and Conservation League Foundation, the event, now held in three central coastal counties, provides a local forum for the consideration of important regional policy and program developments integrating marine and coastal resource management for the Central Coast.

Locally, the CORRT process notes that "identifying local opportunities to integrate coastal and marine resource considerations will also help to break through established practice in San Luis Obispo County that regards coastal zone management as a disconnected area determined by a different set of ordinances and regulations under the authority of the California Coastal Commission and separate from county policy determined by the County General Plan."

The theme for CORRT 2010, "Models for Action," focused on pilot projects and leading efforts in coastal regions that are setting the pace and establishing best approaches for more effective management of coastal and marine resources.

Emily Glanville, Program Manager for Save Our Shores' "No Butts About It" program, reported to attendees on the success of SOS in Santa Cruz County in getting new infrastructure installed and initiating public education to reduce the impact on coastal communities of cigarette butts, identified by the Coastal Commission as the number one litter item collected in statewide beach cleanups.

Mark Moline, Director of the Center for Coastal Marine Sciences at Cal Poly, and Heather Kerker, Program Coordinator of the Central and Northern California Ocean Observing System, reported on how the local applications of ocean observing systems, focusing on Cal Poly's SLOSEA Program, oceanographic tools and the study of beach closures, can help characterize coastal ecosystems.

The role of Low Impact Development – a new approach to storm water management that seeks to mimic the hydrologic functions of healthy watersheds – was discussed by Darla Inglis, Program Director for the LID Initiative at UC Davis Extension's Center for Land Use and Natural Resources, joined by Mark Hutchinson, Environmental Program Manager for the SLO County Public



**Holding CORRT** Monica Hunter of the Planning and Conservation League welcomes round table attendees.

Works Department for an update on the status of local LID implementation standards and a new SLO county ordinance that will guide future efforts to apply LID approaches to stormwater management.

For more information about the Coast and Ocean Regional Roundtable, see the CORRT 2009 report at <http://corrtr.blogspot.com/>. CORRT presentations and reports for the 2010 series in San Luis Obispo, Monterey, and Santa Cruz Counties will also be posted at this site.

## Bioneers Was Here



Kudos to EcoLogistics for pulling off the first-ever Central Coast Bioneers Conference October 15-17, making Cal Poly one of the dozen satellite sites of the annual International Bioneers Conference held in Marin, a gathering that promotes solutions from nature and innovative social strategies for

restoring the Earth.

Above, Eric Veium, head of the Renewable Energy Secure Community (RESOCO) project, presented a locally based vision of a clean, renewable and secure energy future for SLO County at a Saturday session in the Spanos Theater.

## Sierra Club Holds Dual Meetings in SLO

**Now get to work** Sierra Club California Chairman Andy Katz called the convention to order on Saturday at Rancho El Chorro.



**Campaign mode** Candidates for Sierra Club California's Executive Committee were introduced to convention delegates. Our own Cal French (right) won a seat.

Two of the Sierra Club's largest deliberative bodies – Sierra Club California and the California/Nevada Regional Conservation Committee (CNRCC) — held their first-ever joint meeting over the weekend of October 9 at Rancho El Chorro, just across Highway 1 from Cuesta College.

Amid reports from coastal and Sierra activists, charter amendments, bylaws changes and the treasurer's report, candidates were elected to Sierra Club California's Executive Committee, and CNRCC members voted on resolutions protective of the Pacific fisher, California wolverine, American marten, and Sierra Nevada red fox.

Bill Magavern, Director of Sierra Club California, reported that 2010 was "the year of living dangerously in Sacramento," as polluters tried to take advantage of the recession to roll back gains in environmental protections the Club has won over recent years. Hostile legislators pretended that the environmental laws they were targeting had something to do with the state's present economic condition and whatever legislation they were trying to block or pass. The Club successfully beat back this year's attempts to jam anti-environmental riders into the budget bill that would have gutted clean air laws and the California Environmental Quality Act. The most notorious such effort was a campaign to win a CEQA exemption for Chevron's Richmond refinery, even though a judge had found that Chevron had lied in its environmental review documents, deliberately electing not to inform residents and regulators that they were proposing to process a dirtier form of crude oil to the refinery, with greater environmental impacts.

More troubling than such traditional efforts by "rabidly anti-environmental Republicans in the legislature" carrying water for their corporate masters have been votes by "business Democrats" that helped to get some bad bills passed.

"In the period 1999-2008, the California Senate was probably the greenest legislative body in the country," said Magavern. "It's now in decline, and no longer a friendly place for environmental legislation."

The keynote address for the joint meeting was delivered by Sierra Club Executive Director Michael Brune, who urged leaders to "give power to youth" and said "It's our work at the local and state levels that's critical." He announced that in November he will be taking to the Club's Board of Directors "a bold plan to get America off oil."

Both Sierra Club California and the CNRCC have long selected SLO County and Rancho El Chorro for their meetings as an approximately central location for attendees coming from across California and Nevada.



# SIERRA CLUB

## SANTA LUCIA CHAPTER

presents

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Tickets are limited

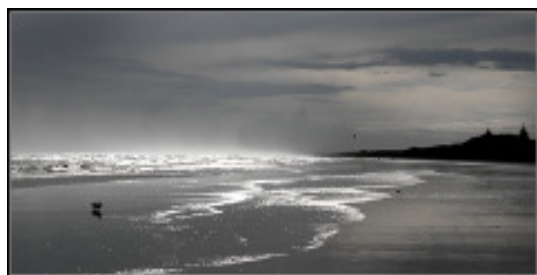
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#### Winter Beach

Walking's too fast a pace  
for man or dog  
on California winter beaches.  
Kinetic energy from sea to sky,  
elemental mixed media,  
render random motifs  
without ceasing,  
calling senses to attention.  
Thunderous waves,  
rocks clamoring like castanets,  
seabirds screeching soliloquies,  
rhapsodize the day,  
serenade dogs rolling in rotted treasures,  
invite crazy dancing.  
Washing waves hurl ashore kelp forests for feet to savor,  
enmeshing multicolored human detritus  
in tubular plant tangles,  
like giant storm strewn macramés.  
Crunching feet softly cross swales of gravel  
fine as black French lentils,  
clunk clumsily over swaths of baseball smooth rocks  
tumbled down coastal creek canyons from distant hills that cup this coastal shelf.  
Seething waves scrub delicate frizzy sea lettuce,  
fling it out to dry atop wind sculpted winter sand dunes  
like close-cropped strawberry blonde wigs,  
sparkling with sun- lighted water droplets.  
Whimsical driftwood huts,  
crafted by mystery beach pilgrims,  
punctuate leeward pockets in the bluff,  
providing journey rests for reverie.  
Here, stilled man and dog find their place  
in nature's frenetic installation art.



#### White Mountains

*continued from page 5*

expose its rings, and a mark showing when Jesus Christ was born.  
Lygeia carried a guidebook of the area, which some of us took turns reading in order to more fully understand and appreciate our visuals. In between stops, Lygeia kept a moderate pace for those that wanted a steady hike, and our sweep, Doty Sandford, hung back and acquiesced

to those preferring to loiter to investigate and photograph the trees and the plants. Afterwards, we enjoyed a leisurely pack lunch at the picnic area at the end of the trail.

Those who hadn't yet had enough of this truly amazing desert range, continued 12 miles further up the

*continued on page 10*



## Orwell's Plan

continued from page 2

concept of actually limiting inappropriate rural development. Between January and July, the language of the Powerpoint had evolved into: "Consider limiting inappropriate rural development."

And something new had been added to the presentation: a GIS map, labeled "Identifying Least Constrained Areas." It depicted, by way of example, the town of San Miguel, indicating both its Urban Reserve Line and, far beyond it, a wavy black line forming a rough circle that was identified as a "1 mile buffer." This consisted of thousands of acres of rural and agricultural land color coded to indicate areas where, depending on resource constraints, more development could conceivably be accommodated beyond the community's current boundaries, expanding it to several times its size.

The Sierra Club met with a representative from PMC | Urban Revitalization + Design, the consulting firm tasked by the County with collecting public/stakeholder input on the LUCE, and put the question to her: What exactly is the "1 mile buffer" on the GIS map, and where did it come

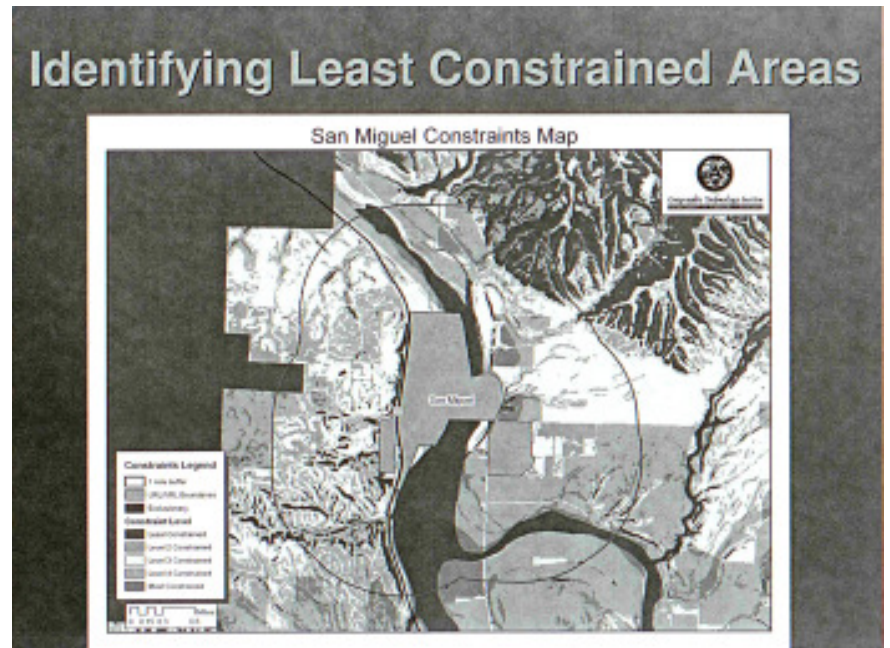
from?

She dutifully conveyed the question to County staff, and relayed their reply:

"Sorry about the misnomer - it's not really a buffer. It's the outer boundary of the urban expansion suitability analysis; we don't anticipate needing to look further out for urban expansion at this time. Within the one mile area we will use GIS maps at a smaller scale for viewing constraints and suitable slopes, vegetation and other factors."

In other words, the existing Urban Reserve Line - which could and should serve as hard boundary for where development is allowed in a community in accordance with the community plan, thereby encouraging redevelopment and "smart growth" and discouraging development outside the URL - is to be erased and redrawn around the communities in our unincorporated rural area, much farther away.

Hence the County's stated goals in the revision of the LUCE to "confront challenges within San Luis Obispo County" and "protect agriculture and other important resources" come down to an adaptation of the well-known world's easiest weight loss plan: buy a pair of pants somewhat



**A little bit pregnant** The County plan to curb rural development: Allow it.

larger than your current size.

In 2008, Chicago kicked off a year-long centennial celebration of Daniel Burnham's 150-page "Plan of Chicago" because it saved their waterfront from what it would have otherwise become, a sprawl of private interests, bulldozing the public realm and the social good. The intervening

100 years have produced the overwhelming consensus that his plan was, as Burnham hoped, "really good," so Chicago spent a year throwing Mr. Burnham a party.

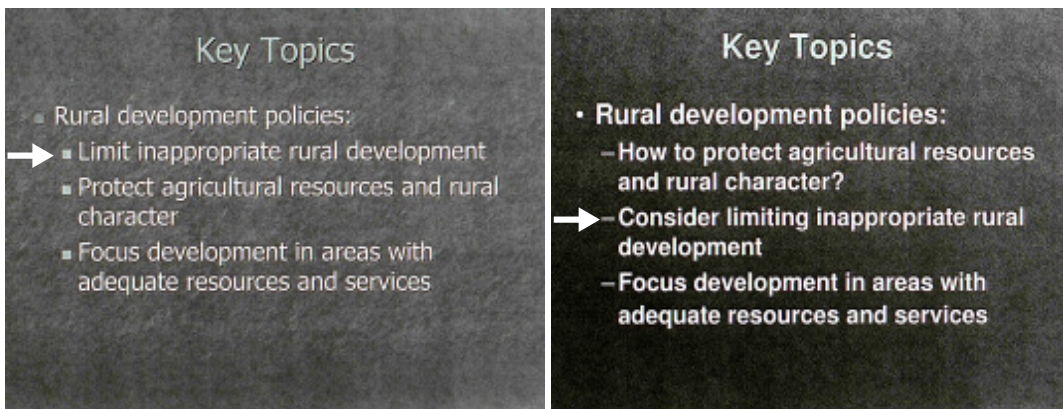
Based on the proposed update of the Land Use and Circulation Element, both in its premise and its particulars, it doesn't seem likely

that San Luis Obispo will be throwing a party for the Department of Planning and Building a hundred years from now.

### TAKE ACTION

The Public Review Draft of the LUCE update will be released on January 11, 2010. It will be posted on the County Planning website at [www.slocounty.ca.gov/planning.htm](http://www.slocounty.ca.gov/planning.htm)

The County is preparing the LUCE update simultaneously with its Climate Action Plan. The Sierra Club is part of the ClimatePlan Partnership, which has a wealth of resources that both point to where communities should be going in shaping land use and climate policies and clarify the difference between that road and the road San Luis Obispo and the LUCE are heading down. To help the County make the needed course correction, download some relevant text from the site and share with County planners and your Supervisor. Go to [climateplan.ca.org](http://climateplan.ca.org).



**Too bold** Over the first six months of this year, County planners toned down the concept of "limiting" a bad thing (left), and are now suggesting thinking about limiting it (right).

## Dunes

continued from page 1

General Plan, the County LCP, and the Coastal Act. While the State Parks Department and the Friends [of Oceano Dunes] take a different view, the County's position is apparently supported by the [Coastal] Commission. Plainly these important policy and legal issues need to be addressed."

The Club will appeal the ruling. "It's frustrating, to say the least," said environmental lawyer Babak Naficy, who has represented the Club in the two-year case. "The judge agreed that the Board of Supervisors has already determined the Local Coastal Plan does not allow off-road vehicle use of this land, and acknowledged the clear language in the LCP directing State Parks to amend its prior management plan for the Oceano Dunes to incorporate the provisions of the LCP. But his ruling barred any action to require Parks to actually obey those policies unless and until Parks chooses to amend its own management plan or the County chooses to amend a specific section of the LCP. Our appeal will argue that a government agency cannot indefinitely put off an action it has been required to undertake for at least twenty-five years. The Judge's decision gives the agency the option of never complying with the County's LCP."

The seeds of the legal battle were planted at a January 2007 meeting of the County Planning Commission where the proposed sale of the 584-acre parcel to State Parks by the

County was about to quietly clear the final hurdle prior to sale. The Sierra Club presented evidence that the land in question, the La Grande Tract, is designated as a non-riding buffer area per the standards in the Local Coastal Plan, standards that had been overlooked for two decades. The Planning Commission agreed that selling the land to State Parks would be inconsistent with County's LCP.

At a marathon hearing two months later, the Board of Supervisors upheld the Planning Commission's decision. In an attempt to reverse the "inconsistency" finding and erase the buffer provision in the LCP, the so-called Friends of Oceano Dunes and other riding groups sued the County. The Sierra Club sued State Parks to enforce the LCP and implement the buffer. The Friends of Oceano Dunes argued that the County's LCP was

preempted by State Parks' enabling statute. Friends and State Parks voluntarily dismissed their challenge to the County's "inconsistency" determination when, following a hearing on their action, it became clear that they would likely lose their challenge.

A grand jury investigation of the County staff report to the Planning Commission on the proposed land sale found that the report's omission and deletion of every mention of the buffer designation from cited planning standards was in all likelihood a deliberate attempt at deception.

During the same time period, the Air Pollution Control District released a study finding that hazardous levels of pollution on the Nipomo Mesa are being caused by vehicles on the Oceano Dunes.

"We've accomplished a lot on this

issue over the last three years," said Chapter Director Andrew Christie. "We succeeded in blocking the sale of the land, turning back a legal challenge to the authority of the Local Coastal Plan, and securing the determination that off-roading on the La Grande Tract is in violation of the County's land use policies."

"And nothing would do more - and more quickly - to alleviate the severe air pollution problems afflicting residents of Oceano and the Nipomo Mesa than implementing the planning standards that bar vehicles from the County-owned land in the dunes."

Right now, we're left hanging, along with the dunes, the frustrated residents of Oceano, and the choking folks of the Nipomo Mesa. State Parks is at 25 years and holding in implementing the required policies of the Local Coastal Plan.

## Don't wait to donate!

If you want to make a 2010 tax-deductible contribution to the Sierra club in support of our local public interest litigation and environmental campaigns, make your check out to "Sierra Club Foundation," write "SLO Land Preservation Fund" in the memo section, and mail to Sierra Club, P.O. Box 15755, SLO 93406. But DON'T wait until Christmas, or your donation won't be processed until 2011.

Sooner is safer!



Mike Baird/ bairdphoto.com

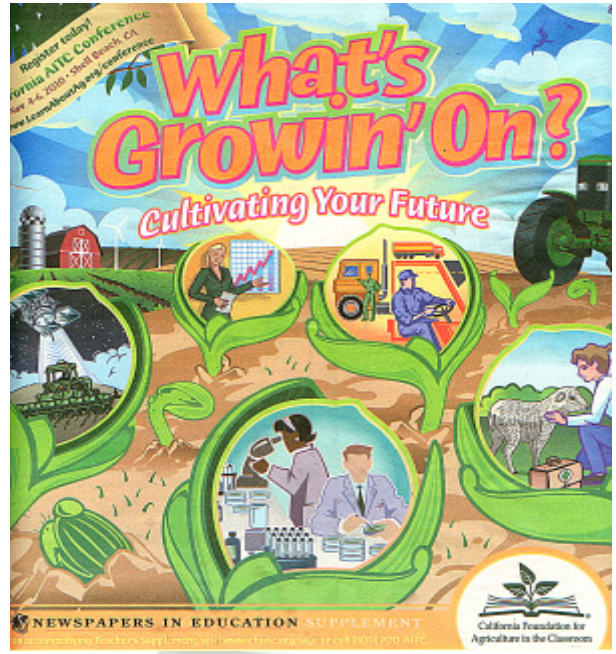


# Taking Issue

problematic environmental coverage & commentary in our local media

“What’s Growin’ On?,” by the California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom, a Newspapers in Education supplement, *The Tribune*, October 7, 2010.

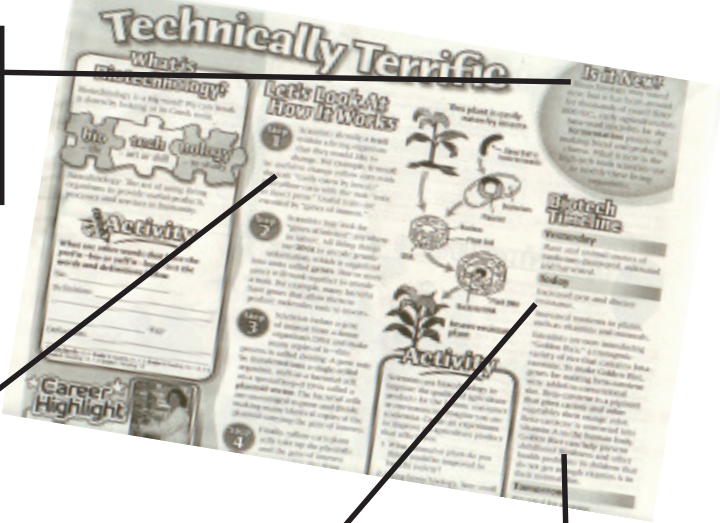
**Summary:** A 16-page paen to Big Ag for schoolchildren, with a two-page center spread that follows the path “from seed to sushi” of a rice crop in a massive, fossil-fuel intensive, hi-tech industrial agriculture operation. A “Growing Strong Glossary” includes the words “DNA,” “Foodborne illness,” and “Plasmid vector,” but not the word “organic,” which appears nowhere in the supplement. Listed sponsors include Walmart, Syngenta, and the James G. Boswell Foundation, with “special thanks to Kristen Bennett, Monsanto.” Shown here is page 6, introducing your kids to the highest of hi-tech ag, genetically engineered crops.



Traditional breeding and hybridization are completely different from genetic engineering. In traditional breeding it is possible to cross a rose with another rose to get a new variety, but it is not possible to cross a rose with a potato or a mouse. Even when species that may seem to be closely related do succeed in breeding, the offspring are usually infertile—a horse, for example, can mate with a donkey, but the offspring (a mule) is sterile. Genetic engineering or genetic modification has only been developed over the last 30 years. (The first field experiment with a genetically engineered plant was in 1983). With these molecular techniques, scientists are able to take DNA from any species – bacteria, viruses, insects, animals or even humans — and engineer them into another organism.

- Luke Anderson, *The Kauai Newspaper*, March 8, 2004

Is it New? Biotechnology may sound new, but it has been around for thousands of years! Since 1800 B.C., early agriculturalists have used microbes for the fermentation process of making bread and producing cheese.



The Union of Concerned Scientists has demonstrated increasing pesticide resistance in plant pests due to genetically engineered Bt corn. Bt is a naturally occurring pesticide, essential in organic and traditional farming, which genetic engineering could render useless. The other primary characteristic of genetically engineered crops is resistance to Monsanto’s glyphosate herbicide, Roundup. The spread of glyphosate herbicide-resistant “super weeds” has accompanied the spread of these crops. “Glyphosate-resistant pigweed first turned up in 2004 in Macon County, Georgia, and has since spread to other parts of Georgia as well as to South Carolina, North Carolina, Arkansas, Tennessee, Kentucky and Missouri. 29 counties have now confirmed pigweed resistance to glyphosate. In 2007, 10,000 acres of glyphosate-resistant pigweed infested land were abandoned in Macon County.”

- Lucian E. Marin, “GMO Crops Super-Weed Time Bomb Explodes,” WordPress.com

Scientists identify a trait within a living organism that they would like to change. For example, it would be useful to change yellow corn with the trait “easily eaten by insects” into yellow corn with the trait “toxic to insect pests....” Scientists have done this by adding a gene called “Bt” to the genetic information found in yellow corn!

The International Assessment of Agricultural Knowledge, Science and Technology for Development (IAASTD), the result of three years of deliberation by 400 participating scientists and non-government representatives from 110 countries around the world, came to the conclusion that small scale organic agriculture is the way ahead for coping with hunger, social inequities and environmental disasters.

“The IAASTD is ignored by the proponents of a New Green Revolution precisely because it shows that the best hope for ending hunger lies with local, traditional farmer-controlled agricultural production, not high tech industrial agriculture.”

- Jim Goodman, Food and Society Policy Fellow, Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy

Tomorrow: Potential for resource conservation, as more food can be grown on less land with fewer impacts on soil and water resources.

There is no safety testing data on Golden Rice, which is engineered to overproduce beta carotene. Studies show that some retinoids derived from beta carotene are toxic and cause birth defects.

“We... strongly object that the image of the poor and hungry from our countries is being used by giant multinational corporations to push a technology that is neither safe, environmentally friendly, nor economically beneficial to us. We do not believe that such companies or gene technologies will help our farmers to produce the food that is needed in the 21st century. On the contrary, we think it will destroy the diversity, the local knowledge and the sustainable agricultural systems that our farmers have developed for millennia and that it will thus undermine our capacity to feed ourselves.”

Scientists are now introducing “Golden Rice,” a transgenic variety of rice that contains beta-carotene.... Golden Rice can help prevent childhood blindness and other health problems in children that do not get enough Vitamin A in their normal diet.

- Statement signed by 24 delegates to the UN Food and Agricultural Organization from 18 African countries

**Upshot:** Per Dr. Suzanne Wuerthele, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency toxicologist, “this technology is being promoted, in the face of concerns by respectable scientists and in the face of data to the contrary, by the very agencies which are supposed to be protecting human health and the environment. The bottom line in my view is that we are confronted with the most powerful technology the world has ever known, and it is being rapidly deployed with almost no thought whatsoever to its consequences.” Persistent propaganda has been carried out by GMO proponents, including government regulatory agencies, against organic agriculture, including recent attempts to prove organic food is no more nutritious than conventional food, which backfired (see “UK Food Standards Agency Study Proves Organic Food Is Better,” *Institute of Science in Society* 44). Claims that organic agriculture yields less and requires more energy than conventional agriculture, and organic produce is no more nutritious or healthy but less hygienic than conventional produce were thoroughly refuted, with evidence from the published scientific literature, in the report by the International Institute for Science and Security (ISIS), “Food Futures Now: Organic -Sustainable - Fossil Fuel Free.” When might we expect to see a Newspapers in Education supplement educating schoolchildren on these facts, courtesy of the California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom?

**When You Allow Something...**  
continued from page 3

played until 10 p.m. (winery special event music must shut down at 5 p.m.), and event activity can go on until 11 p.m.

The proposal allows new construction and grading to serve these commercial event activities with no review or public input. Of particular concern is the permitting of new construction and grading with no discretionary review or public comment. The current Temporary Events ordinance prohibits grading and new construction, as do similar ordinances in other counties; the proposed draft includes no such prohibitions. Thus, existing structures, including unpermitted ag-exempt structures, may be retrofitted to serve event purposes with only a zoning clearance and a building permit—no review by planners or public input.

Despite the huge expansion of possible activity and the anemic regulations, this proposal does nothing to beef up current weak enforcement. It's likely that Planning Staff wants to declare that this proposal will have no meaningful negative environmental consequences, thus avoiding a time-consuming and costly environmental study and the need to make mitigating changes in their proposal. A Negative Declaration would make a mockery of CEQA—they need to hear from us!

In essence, this proposal reflects the direction given by the Board of Supervisors at its August 12 meeting. We can do much better. For example, Napa—a county that has much in common with San Luis Obispo County—offers a model:

- Napa's ordinance clearly states that its goal is to protect agriculture. We might also add protection of the rights of rural residents to quiet enjoyment of their homes, rural character, and rural tranquility.

- Napa has a definition that limits public event gatherings to those that have public benefit (eg.- non-profit sponsors, education, etc.; not private weddings or commercial gatherings.) As a boost to our active farmers and ranchers, we could add a category that allows them to hold commercial



Noelle Crisan

**Party on and on** Twelve commercial events a year, at 2,000 guests a pop, may be coming soon to SLO county ag land near you.

events to increase sales of their farm products.

- All permits/licenses are simple, low-cost licenses good for one year with simplified renewal; no long-term entitlements. Applicants must demonstrate ability to comply with a set of specific standards. However, neighbors can always request a hearing, and events of over 400 do require a hearing.

- As in most counties, no new construction or grading for temporary events is allowed, and Napa standards are reasonably protective of residential and agricultural interests, particularly regarding setbacks and amplified music. We might also consider funding improved enforcement activities through fees levied on event-holders.

Area councils are currently reviewing the Planning Department's proposal. Their comments should be returned by mid-November, and then the Department will make its final revisions. That draft will then go to the Planning Commission for review, and the Commission will forward its recommendations to the Board of Supervisors sometime next year.

Anyone interested in the impact of events on rural residential life, the county's agricultural capacity, and our environmental resources should be tracking this proposal and letting your voices be heard as it moves through the process!

**A Solar Panel**  
The League of Women Voters presents  
**"Solar Plans for Carrizo Plain: Boon or Bust?"**  
with  
Jim Patterson, Fifth District County Supervisor  
Greg Blue, Sunpower Corp  
Kathryn Arbeit, First Solar, Inc.  
John Ewan, Pacific Energy Co.  
Andrew Christie, Sierra Club  
Moderated by Neil Havlik, SLO City Natural Resources Manager  
  
6 p.m., Monday, November 8  
City/County Public Library, 995 Palm Street, SLO

**White Mountains**  
continued from page 7

road to Patriarch Grove. There they enjoyed a ¼-mile mountain top stroll through another concentration of magnificent Bristlecones, which look surprisingly strong and healthy, considering the gale-force winds, snow depths and blistering sun they endure.

Finally, it was back to camp where the group enjoyed a delicious potluck supper followed by a blazing campfire – a very satisfying end to a very stimulating day. We won't soon forget our escape from the city.

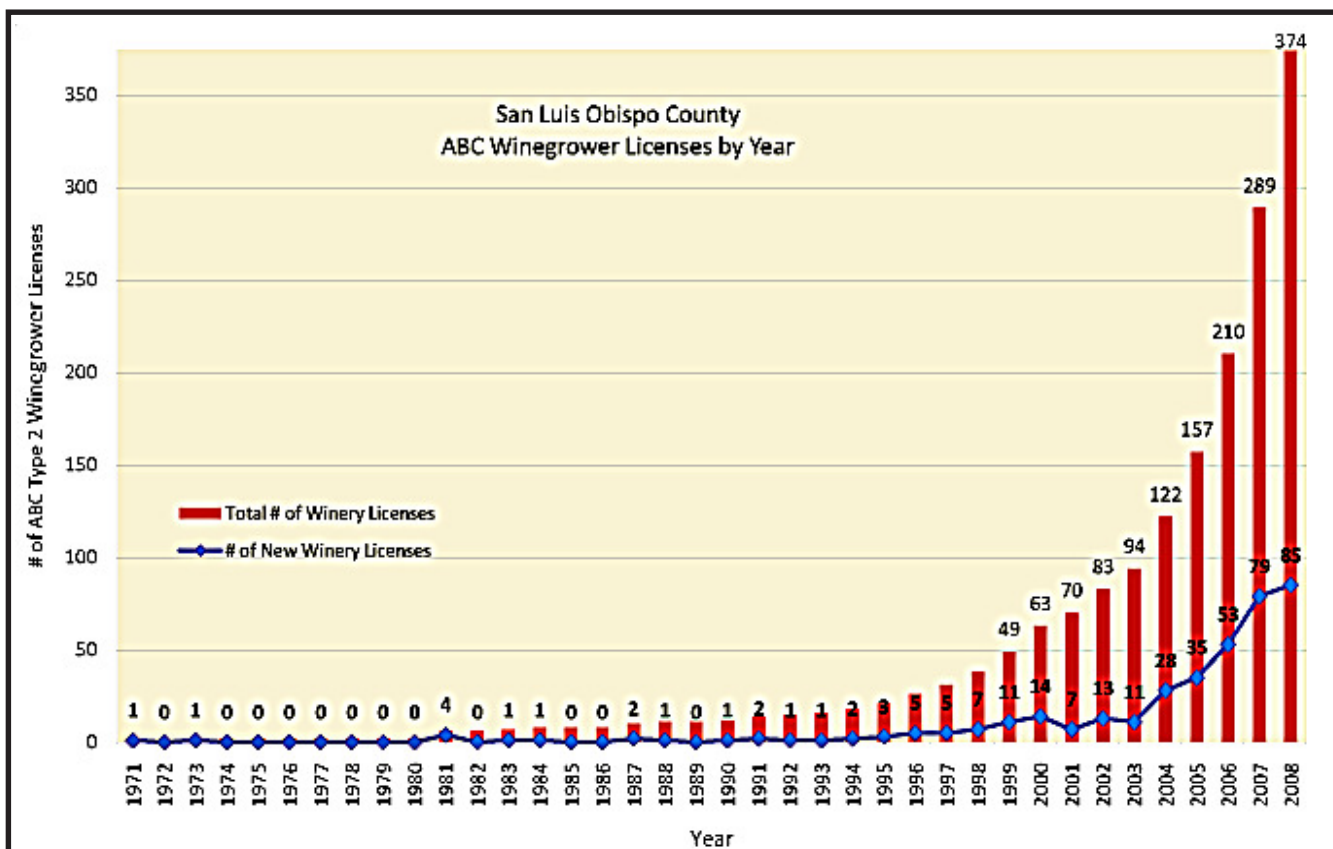
**Harmony Coast**  
continued from page 1

with the cost of a legal defense until they abandon their criticism or opposition. The typical SLAPP plaintiff does not normally expect to win the lawsuit. The plaintiff's goals are accomplished if the defendant succumbs to fear, intimidation, mounting legal costs or simple exhaustion and abandons the criticism. A SLAPP may also intimidate others from participating in the debate. A SLAPP is often preceded by a legal threat. The difficulty, of course, is that plaintiffs do not present themselves to the Court admitting that their intent is to censor, intimidate or silence their critics. Hence, the difficulty in drafting SLAPP legislation, and in applying it, is to craft an approach which affords an early termination to invalid abusive suits, without denying a legitimate day in court to valid good faith claims."

Not surprisingly, Wikipedia lists the Pacific Legal Foundation as a notable practitioner of SLAPP, for the PLF has used its funds to discourage public-minded citizens who sue for redress, as in its 1981-1986 lawsuit against the Abalone Alliance here in SLO County. PLF did not mind losing every legal challenge, since every stage of the suit was designed to further impoverish the Abalone Alliance.

Now Nick Wilson blandly describes the PLF as a "nonprofit" organization helping a family fighting an easement. As Dan Bacher said last February in the *California News*, the PLF is "a law firm that advocates on behalf of agribusiness and other corporate interests"—and wages unrelenting war against the environment.

Could we begin describing the PLF in terms of the lawsuits it initiates and pursues?



**Case in point** In tracking the growth in wineries once they were allowed in Agricultural areas of SLO County, it's obvious that once a particular use is allowed, it can grow much faster than one might imagine.

# Classifieds

Next issue deadline is **December 13**.  
To get a rate sheet or submit your ad and payment, contact:  
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# Outings and Activities Calendar

Seller of travel registration information: CST 2087766-40. Registration as a seller of travel does not constitute approval by the State of California.

All 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 Chair Joe Morris, 772-1875. For information on a specific outing, please call the outing leader.

**Wed., November 3rd, 5:30 p.m. Informal Hikes Around San Luis Obispo.** 1 to 2 hour hike around San Luis Obispo. 5 - 6 mile hikes with elevation gain around 1200 feet. For more information or to sign up for Hikers List send an e-mail to Gary Felsman.

**Saturday, November 6th, 9 a.m., Rinconada Trail.** Enjoy the autumn foliage and join a hike to the top of Bell Mountain with 360o views, via the Rinconada trail in Los Padres National Forest. Total distance is 4 miles with an elevation gain of 800 feet, and a total hike time of 3 hours. Meet at the trail head, approximately 10 miles east of Hwy 101 on Pozo Road (3 miles beyond the turnoff for Santa Margarita Lake and 25 miles from San Luis Obispo). Bring adequate water, a sack lunch, and dress in layers for the weather; a hat is advised. For info, call Bill at 459-2103 ([bill.waycott@gmail.com](mailto:bill.waycott@gmail.com)). The plants, animals, and the geology of the area will be topics during the hike. Rain cancels.

**Sat., November 13th, 9:30 a.m., Bishop Peak via the Felsman Loop.** You can work off your Thanksgiving dinner in advance. Burn off some calories with us with a warm-up walk on Felsman Loop and then a hike to the top of Bishop Peak. We will go at only a moderate pace but there are steep sections. Total distance is 5.4 miles and it will take approximately 2.5 hours. Sturdy shoes and water recommended. Meet at the Patricia Dr. trailhead at 9:30 AM. Non-members welcome. For info contact Mike Sims, [msims@slonet.org](mailto:msims@slonet.org), cell 459 1701.

**Sat., Nov. 20th, 8:30 a.m. The Pools of Big Falls.** Come take a moderately strenuous 10 mile rt hike with 1800 foot elevation up the Rinconada Trail through the Santa Lucia Wilderness. We will enjoy the fall colors and possibly running stream at Big Falls Creek. Bring water, lunch and dress for the weather. There may be poison oak along the trail. Meet at the Pacific Beverage Company in Santa Margarita. The last building on the right from Highway 101. Details call Gary @ 473-3694.

**Sat., Nov. 20, 10 a.m., City Walk: Mill St. Historic District.** Guided stroll past splendid century-old homes to discover SLO in the era of Hearst, WW I, and the twenties, learning about the rich and not-so-famous who shaped the city of today. Meet at corner of Monterey and Johnson Sts., SLO. 1 1/2 hr. Info.: Joe Morris, 772-1875.

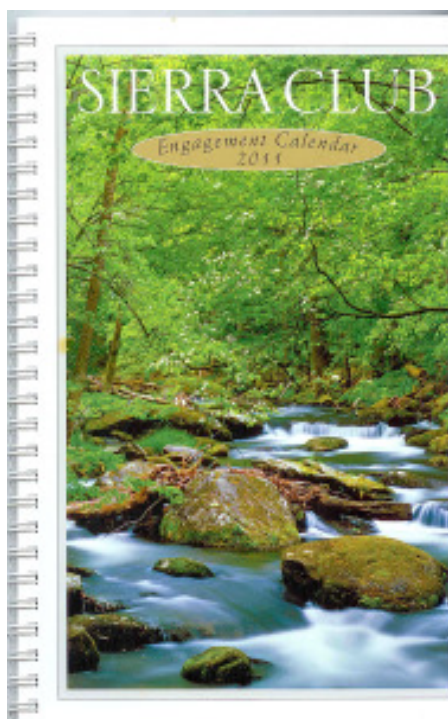
**Sat.-Sun., Nov 20-21, November Service in the Carrizo Plain.** Pronghorn antelope will not jump fences to escape predators but rather attempt to crawl under. Our service on Saturday will either remove or modify several sections of fence to facilitate

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## 2011 Sierra Club Calendar

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this mobility. Sunday will be, at the choice of the group, either a hike in the Caliente Range or else a tour of popular viewing areas in the plains. This is an opportunity to combine carcamping, day-hiking, exploring, and service in a relatively unknown wilderness. Leader: Craig Deutsche, [craig.deutsche@gmail.com](mailto:craig.deutsche@gmail.com), 310-477-6670. CNRCC Desert Committee

**Sat., Dec. 4. 9:00 a.m. Hike at Cerro Alto.** Join the leader for this 7-mile loop hike at Cerro Alto. There is about 1700 ft of elevation gain. There are great views of the Chorro Valley, Morro Bay, and Estero Bay from the summit. Bring snack, water, and dress for the weather. There is a possibility of ticks and poison oak. Meet at the back of Cerro Alto campground, located on Highway 41; 12 miles west of Atascadero and 8 miles east of Morro Bay. May be a day use fee. There is a high probability of getting eats after the hike at Taco Temple. For info, call Chuck @ 441-7597.

**Sat - Sun, Dec 4-5, Carrizo Plains Fence Removal.** Our work parties to remove barbed wire fences on the Carrizo Plain NM are opening up the Plain for the benefit of pronghorn antelope and other wildlife. Here is another chance to destroy fences. Meet at 0900 Saturday morning at Goodwin Visitor's Center or join us Friday night at Selby campground. Potluck dinner and campfire Saturday. Bring fence tools if you have them, heavy leather work gloves, long pants and long-sleeved shirts, and clothing appropriate for the weather. Bring everything you need, including water, as there are no stores on the Carrizo. Resource specialists Alice and Bob Koch. For more information and to sign up, contact leaders: Cal and Letty French, [lettyfrench@gmail.com](mailto:lettyfrench@gmail.com), 805-239-7338. CNRCC Desert Com/Santa Lucia Chapter.

**Saturday December 11th, 9 a.m., Cerro Alto Loop Trail,** Hwy 41 between Morro Bay and Atascadero. Get in shape BEFORE the holidays and join a hike to the top of Cerro

Alto, one of the best places to view the Central Coast. The hike begins at Cerro Alto Campground off of Hwy 41 and climbs up coastal hills for spectacular views. Total distance is 6 miles with an elevation gain of 1,600 feet, with a total hike time of 4 hours. Meet at the trail head off of Hwy 41, 8.7 miles west of Hwy 101 or 7.0 miles east of Hwy 1. Meet at the end of the campground road in the parking area. A fee is charged for parking. Bring adequate water, energy snacks/lunch, and dress in layers for the weather; a hat is advised. For info, call Bill at (805) 459-2103 ([bill.waycott@gmail.com](mailto:bill.waycott@gmail.com)). The plants, animals, and the geology of the area will be topics during the hike. Rain cancels.

**Tues-Sun, Dec. 28, 2010 - Jan. 2, 2011, Holiday Service in Carrizo Plain.** Celebrate the end of one year and the beginning of the next in one of our newer national monuments. The Carrizo Plain, west of Bakersfield, is a vast grassland, home to pronghorn antelope, tule elk, kit fox, and a wide variety of birds. A welcome hike Dec. 28, three and a half days of service modifying barbed wire fencing, and a full day for hiking and exploring are planned. Use of accommodations at Goodwin Ranch included. Limited to 14 participants, \$30 covers five dinners. For




This is a partial listing of Outings offered by our chapter. Please check the web page [www.santalucia.sierraclub.org](http://www.santalucia.sierraclub.org) for the most up-to-date listing of activities.

more information, contact leader Craig Deutsche, [craig.deutsche@gmail.com](mailto:craig.deutsche@gmail.com), 310-477-6670, or co-leader leader Melinda Goodwater, [mgoodwater@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mgoodwater@sbcglobal.net), 408-774-1257 CNRCC Desert Committee.


**Sat., January 1st, 9:30 a.m., New Years Day Hike along the Coast in the Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes National Landmark with Elizabeth Scott Graham.** Following the tradition of Bill Denneen, Kara Blakeslee has led this outing in the past. Being unable to lead this year, Elizabeth Scott Graham has agreed to take her place to lead an outing in the Dunes north of Muscle Rock. Come join her as we celebrate the New Year. Meet at Guadalupe Nipomo Dunes Parking Lot at 9:30 a.m. This is at the West end of Highway 166. Bring water, snack, windbreaker and be sure to dress for the weather.

### Outings Sponsored by Other Organizations

**Nov.-Jan.: Ventana Wilderness Alliance Trail Workdays in the Big Sur Area.** Help clear and maintain trails on the Big Sur Coast. Contact Dave Knapp at [veknapp@ventanawild.org](mailto:veknapp@ventanawild.org).




## The Sierra Club Needs You!



### Become an Outings Leader

- Lead hikes and camping trips
- Introduce others to nature
- Explore the outdoors
- Make new friends
- Protect the environment
- Get healthy exercise

**For further information contact:**  
**Joe Morris, Outings Chair**  
**Sierra Club, Santa Lucia Chapter**  
**(805) 772-1875**  
**[dpj1942@earthlink.net](mailto:dpj1942@earthlink.net)**



John Muir, founder of the Sierra Club, in Yosemite