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

The Price of a Canyon

If Pismo Beach okays the Spanish Springs project, south county will radically change

As we go to press, the Pismo Beach city council is preparing to vote on Spanish Springs, a development that would nearly double the size of the city and advance Pismo’s northward sprawl up the canyons heading toward SLO, as SLO creeps south toward Pismo.

For the last five years, the Sierra Club has been tracking the City’s designs on the Price Canyon area with a critical eye as the various proposed projects have wound through the planning process (see “A Watershed Win,” Feb. 2008; “A Very Poor Plan for Pismo,” Jun. 2009; “Priceless Canyon,” Jun. 2011; “Pismo’s Thirst,” Sept. 2011).

Spanish Springs’ planned 800 residential units, 150 hotel rooms, conference center, vineyards, golf course etc. all depend on the City’s certification of the project’s Environmental Impact Report, the document required by state law to accurately assess the project’s impacts and propose viable measures to avoid or mitigate them.

The Sierra Club has pointed out a number of problems with the EIR, including the project’s main conservational come-on: a 700-acre open space reserve. The reserve will not consist of contiguous acreage, and the EIR defers formulation of a management plan to sometime in the future. Any conservation benefit the reserve may provide is undermined by the EIR’s imprecise language and the omission or deferral of important details and key performance standards, including the location of a planned wildlife corridor and the identification and mapping of riparian areas and wetlands. Habitat fragmentation and the permission of activities degrading to the resource are a likely result of the EIR as written.

The EIR also defers to sometime in the future a pumping regime to ensure minimum stream flow is maintained and threatened steelhead trout on site are protected, nor does it include a meaningful analysis of the project’s impacts on the endangered Pismo Clarkia.

Among the other defects we have brought to the City’s attention is the lack of analysis of the impacts of the infrastructure needed to support the project’s expected reliance on recycled water, and the EIR’s vague reference to the potential to implement offsite mitigation for the project’s significant and unavoidable air quality impacts, without specifying what such mitigations would entail.

Output from municipal wells for Pismo Beach, Grover Beach and Arroyo Grande may be disrupted by seawater intrusion

On February 5, the Pismo Beach city council had to move to the Veterans Memorial Building to accommodate the number of attendees at its second hearing on Spanish Springs. The council again heard from the majority of people in a packed room that their citizens want the project rejected. The Sierra Club has raised significant issues with the project’s Environmental Impact Report.

40,000 March on Washington “Forward on Climate” rally demands presidential action

On Sunday, February 17, the day before President’s Day, more than 40,000 people marched to the President’s doorstep to support immediate action to contain climate change.

People from more than 30 states across the country whose land, homes and health are being threatened by the climate crisis, as well as students, scientists and indigenous community members, participated in the largest climate rally in U.S. history. Thousands more turned out at solidarity rallies in Los Angeles, San Francisco, Seattle, Chicago and Denver.

“For 25 years our government has basically ignored the climate crisis,” said 350.org founder Bill McKibben. “Now people in large numbers are finally demanding they get to work. We shouldn’t have to be here — science should have decided our course long ago. But it takes a movement to stand up to all that money.”

Rally participants called on Presi dent Obama to reject the Keystone XL tar sands pipeline and put limits on

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Sierra Club General Meeting
Thursday, Mar. 14, 7 p.m.
Through Chumash Eyes

“The World Through Chumash Eyes.” Don’t miss this chance to meet Fred Collins, the energetic Tribal Administrator of the Northern Chumash Tribal Council. He will give us an insider’s account of a native culture that has existed in California since the pyramids, yet has profound truths to teach us today about the human connection with the environment. Fred will also discuss his activism in protecting the endangered sacred sites throughout SLO County.

Steynberg Gallery, 1531 Monterey St., SLO. Info.: Joe Morris, 549-0355

Wicked Plants of Central California

By Joe Morris, Outings Chair

As spring comes to our area, lurking among the innocent faces of poppies, dandelions, and other beautiful blooms are some toxic plants up to no good. Many lurkers sooner or later brush against the shrub with that well-known motto: “Leaves of three, let it be.” Hours or even days later, the spreading, itchy rash from poison oak confirms their mistake. What did it?

Rubbing an arm on a branch, touching plants the next day that picked up the toxin, or maybe petting a dog whose coat contacted the oil—rarely do we know. Poison oak is the most infamous of the poisonous plants in our area.

This plant with the shiny, oak-like leaves, yes, in groups of three, is not actually an oak. It’s one of the most widespread shrubs in California, yet its appearance frequently deceives. From reds (fall or early spring) to green in spring, the leaves change color and turn from yellow to brown in fall. A mouthful can easily kill an animal and has small clusters of white flowers in spring, the leaves change color and turn from yellow to brown in fall. If you suspect you’ve been exposed, immediately wash yourself and your clothes with soap and water. Many drugstores sell preparations that either lower the allergic response or relieve the discomfort. Only we humans, not other animals, are susceptible to poison oak. The rash is not contagious to other people.

Of the five other plants on my personal most wanted list, close second place goes to oleander—not a native here, but originally from the Mediterranean. These plants impressed our state government so much that they are not toxic to other people. Of the five other plants on my personal most wanted list, close second place goes to black walnut—only the natives here, but originally from the Mediterranean. These plants impressed our state government so much that they are not considered a threat to other people.

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

Visit our Web Site:
www.santalucia.sierraclub.org

Change of Address?
Mail changes to:
Sierra Club, PO Box 421041, Palm Coast, FL 32142-1041

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

Santa Lucian • March 2013

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The Santa Lucian is published 10 times a year. Articles, environmental information and letters to the editor are welcome. The deadline for each issue is the 13th of the prior month.

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Santa Lucia Chapter
2012 Executive Committee
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Pat Veesart
VICE CHAIR
Linda Seeley
SECRETARY
Patrick McKibben
MEMBER
Lindi Dow-Duford
MEMBER
Cal French
COUNCIL OF CLUB LEADERS
Lindi Dow-Duford, Patrick McKibben
TREASURERS

The Executive Committee meets the second Monday of every month at 6:00 p.m., and the Conservation Committee meets the second Tuesday at 5:30 p.m., at the chapter office, located at 974 Santa Rosa St., San Luis Obispo. All members are welcome to attend.

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Conservation Sue Harvey
Membership Cal French
Nuclear Power Task Force Rochelle Becker

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So how close is the Chapter to reaching the goal of sustainability via 300 members donating $20 a month, every month?

It’s the journey, not the destination. I think the need for “$20 from 300” is serving as a good illustration to help our supporters grasp the basic financial requirements for keeping the doors open. We’re getting there; but it’s going to take a while. I hope each of our generous members are stepping up and giving us a while. But in the near future, I think when we can say “Okay, we made it!” 300 people are now automatically donating $20 a month. We’re still raising!” That would be lovely, but I think there’s more outreach to our members and more intensive fund-raising in our future, not less. An endowment is pretty sure is the only way you can achieve absolute financial stability – big hint to the readers. I think what we’re going to achieve this year is a heightened level of awareness and more frequent donations, but we’re still going to have to put the package together the way we do every year: supplementing donations with fund-raisers, grants, what assistance we can get from the national organization, maybe cutting the newsletter to bimonthly publication, what have you. I’m working three-quarter time. I may go halftime. We’ll see.

Are you a Sierra Club donor?

I am actually a major donor. Not the most financially judicious behavior for someone in my income bracket, but I can’t help it; I’m very fond of our laws, and I’ve usually kicked in to ensure that the Chapter files or that we can cover fees and court costs.

Who is your favorite environmental hero, living or dead (besides John Muir or anyone on the Executive Committee) and why?

Heroism is a tricky business. I think it requires distance from the designated hero figure. Some years ago, my friend, Pat Watson, the founder of the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society, was probably the name I would have picked. He was the reason why I volunteered with Sea Shepherd for three years, then served on staff as media director for four. But after seven years up close and personal with the man, I felt like I was inside a remake of Citizen Kane. I resigned and walked away. So I’d say my guy would be [former Sierra Club Executive Director] David Brower, whom I only met a few times in meetings. He was, by many accounts, a vexing personality, but there’s no arguing with what he achieved when he staked his lot in.

In the special category of someone who you actually knew well but you can still think of as a hero, that would be [late California Coastal Commission Executive Director] Peter Douglas. Another guy with a stagger- ing list of achievements — and while occasionally operating, not remotely vowing — and a master of the most awe-inspiring skill set I have ever seen, was a lawyer, a scientist, a surgeon, a diplomat, a scholar, a teacher, a projector of the granola-munching, sandal-wearing, deeply spiritual tree-bugger he was. And an iron will when it came to waging those skills in service to those values. He took on corporations, developers, lobbyists, turf wars, and public relations. He was a gentleman of the highest order.

What was your first contact with the Sierra Club?

I was living in L.A. circa 1994 and working with several groups of folks on saving the last big area of coastal wetlands in the county from a massive development called Playa Vista, and we came to the attention of the Angeles Chapter of the Sierra Club, which then took us on as a Club task force. From there I went on the editorial board of their Chapter newsletter and stayed involved with the Chapter for about five years, hooking back up whenever I was back in L.A. after several out of state sojourns.

My first big policy fight in the Club was the immigration wars. Starting around the turn of the century, several internal showdowns were fought in the Sierra Club over the alleged environmental impacts of U.S. immigration. It built up to an admission and national headlines in 2004 in what was probably the most bitter and hard-fought board election in the Club’s modern history. The immigrants-are-destroying-the-environment contingent lost.

A few years earlier, David Brower observed that poor immigrants come here to share the loot we stole from them. He said “rather than complain- ing about immigration from Mexico, the U.S. should stop causing it.” He had a gift for the succinct turn of phrase that sums up an entire issue. In the aftermath of that fight, I’m very proud that it was the Santa Lucia Chapter, shortly after I arrived in SLO and also signed on with the Club’s national Fair Trade Committee — that managed to move Sierra Club policy from “neu- Russell Baker said “society is teeming with people who become furious if told what the score is.”

tral” to an acknowledgment of the central role of corporate globalization — aka “free trade” — as a trigger of forced migration worldwide. It’s a side effect of the corporate model that impoverishes millions of Third World people that evokes from them their land. We connected those dots, passed a Chapter resolution up the ladder, with the data to back it up, and eventually drove it into Club policy and into the fact sheets the Club disseminates on the subject. It was both a big improvement over neutral- ity, and the perfect reframe to the blame-the-immigrants contingent. They’re still around, clinging to their preferred model. They’ll never give it up; they’re all in the grip of a big, simple, bad idea. They’ve lashed themselves to that mast, but their influence in the Club now is marginal.

I like to think that I helped make David Brower’s common sense into Sierra Club policy.

Where did you get your academic training? What particular (non- classroom) experiences were especially enlightening or instructive for your current role?

Occidental College – a few years before that Obama kid showed up – and UCLA. Co-founding the Ballona Wetlands Land Trust in L.A., having run with the aforementioned Sea Shepherd Conservation Society, falling through thin ice in the Gulf of St. Lawrence during the seal hunt, getting shot at with a cannon by the Norwegian Coast Guard, going on staff with PETA in research and investigations, all turned out to be useful experiences for later life.

What would be your ideal picture of how the Chapter could function?

Members reporting on and testifying at every city council, planning commission, CSD and Board of Supervisors meeting; a chapter leader training program; all the money we need to hire two or three full- time staff; mounting legal challenges to every destructive project coming down the pike; cultivating political candidates who won’t cave and compromise on fundamental prin- ciples of environmental protection. And a weekly column. And our own radio show.

If someone wished to volunteer, what are some jobs for which you could use him/her right now?

Un languishing stuff. I don’t think we’ll ever have enough traits to accommodate all the people who want to work on trails. Conversely, please find me a student whose prof will give them credit for doing filing and database work – which is literally how I got my start as an environmental activist, by the way. It, like 90 percent of everything, was just about showing up. But that’s a tough sell.

What is the chapter’s relationship to other environmental groups in the county? What are some recent examples of collaboration?

We work with Surfrider in the Marine Sanctuary Alliance. We work with SLO Green Build in the Appro- priate Technology Campaign. We’re advisors to the Clean Energy Economy Coalition. We’ve worked with Audubon on protecting cliff swallows, and we had their back when they were taking flak for their proposed Sweet Springs restoration project. We work very closely with the Alliance for Nuclear Responsibility. Every year at the Steynberg Gallery we put together the Environmentalists Rendezvous, which brings together as many groups as can make presentations in a 90- minute timeframe, which we’ve found is about seven or eight. That’s always a packed house.

What are three major threats and three major opportunities in SLO County and how should the Chapter propose to address them?

We intend to get the process started for the designation of the waters of the Central Coast as a national marine sanctuary. We would like to see cities away from dependency on fossil fuels and into locally generated clean, renewable energy and a significant reduction of carbon emissions. And we need to continue to protect the County and our cites from the ever-present instinct of many of our elected officials to curtail democracy, restrict public participation, and “go rogue” on land use policy. We usually see that in the form of efforts to ignore state environmental statutes, head in the opposite direction of evolving regula- tory requirements, and create policies divorced from the regulations in place for the rest of the state.

That will probably always be the main part of our job. We saw it in the County’s hell-bent determination to build the Los Osos sewer with no water recycling or conservation components. We got that changed. Same thing with Morro Bay and Cayucos, only worse. We overturned the Cayucos Viewshed ordinance, the most egregious piece of backroom legislation to come out of the County
A Plan for the Pronghorn
Working on a way to help America’s antelope survive the impact of a solar power plant

by Sue Harvey, President, North County Watch

Although pronghorn antelope (Antilocapra americana) are historically abundant in California, few remain today, and these are predominantly located on northeastern rangelands.

The impact of developments appears deleterious to herds experiencing perilously low numbers south of San Francisco. Recent assessment of pronghorn herd populations and development projects has revived interest in the legacy of pronghorn in California. These concerns have led to increased public concern, especially around development projects that impact scarce native grassland and habitat for the few remaining herds in southern California.

The growing consensus is that if pronghorn are to remain part of the heritage of the southern rangelands of the Golden State, these grasslands need to be perpetuated in healthy condition. Then it may be feasible to perpetuate native pronghorn populations.

North County Watch has partnered with Mid American Solar and First Solar, owners and operators of the Topaz Solar Farm, to facilitate further research into the long-term effectiveness of solar facilities on pronghorn of the Carrizo Plain—home for a herd reintroduced by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife in 1999.

The agreement that settled the lawsuit filed by North County Watch and Carrizo Commons against First Solar’s Topaz Solar Farm provided funding for such research.

The fastest land animal and only endemic ungulate in North America, pronghorn had 19,000 years to evolve their survival skills. According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service website, pronghorn need open flat “to make use of their most famous attributes—speed and eye-sight… With eyes almost as large as an elephant’s on a body the size of a goat, pronghorn are clearly designed for watchfulness… They can outrun any predator fairly easily. The herd travels as one, not leaving a single animal open to attack. They keep the pace up for miles, their speed and endurance evolving from the pressure of their traditional enemy, the wolf.”

The focus of the Topaz project is the impact of the Topaz Solar Farm on the reintroduced northern Carrizo pronghorn herd. Of the herd relocations conducted by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife in the 1980s, the northern Carrizo herd has been the most successful of the reintroductions and has achieved levels of sustainability unmatched by the other re-introduced herds in the area—specifically Cholame and the Carrizo National Monument. One researcher, Jim Yoakum and Alice Koch, USGS researcher Dr. Kathy Longshore has a plan for the Carrizo’s fastest resident.

Pronghorn & friend Dr. Kathy Longshore has a plan for the Carrizo’s fastest resident.

Deadly Analysis

By Andrea Caufield

In the wake of the Fukushima disaster in Japan, scientists have been investigating potentially dangerous fault system near the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant. As reported by Susanne Rust in California Watch, “while PG&E maintains the Hosgri fault is too small to threaten the aging plant, some government scientists suspect the fault acting with others on the region could produce an earthquake much more powerful than the plant was built to withstand.

The current level of seismic hazard is more complex than previously thought. The Diablo plant is surrounded by over a dozen seismically active faults, of which the characteristics and complexity are poorly understood. Some of these faults are currently being evaluated by leading scientists through the Sensor Seismic Hazard Analysis Committee (SSHAC).

According to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and PG&E, the nuclear facility is safe. But scientists at the United States Geological Survey (USGS) aren’t so sure.

The plant was built to withstand a 7.5 magnitude earthquake three miles offshore on the Hosgri Fault. Dr. Samuel Steinhart, of the USGS laid out a scenario where the Hosgri Fault could extend 250 miles from Point Conception (near Lompoc) to Bolistan north of San Francisco, much longer than PG&E’s estimate. The longer the fault, the more powerful the rupture.

Dr. Johnson’s scenario shows the Hosgri Fault connecting in a system with the San Simeon and San Gregorio faults to the north of the nuclear plant.

“Should they ever extend this far, then that would be close to an 8.0,” said Rust. This could occur if the system were to rupture together in one earthquake.

To further add to the uncertainty of the seismic hazard at the nuclear plant, Dr. Jeanne Hardebeck of the USGS discovered the Shoreline Fault in 2008, a few hundred yards from the nuclear facility. Dr. Hardebeck has said that if the Hosgri and Shoreline Faults are connected, that could put a magnitude 7.2 earthquake directly beneath the plant. In sharp disagreement with PG&E, Dr. Hardebeck contends that the Shoreline Fault does connect with the Hosgri Fault. She explains that an earthquake can start on one fault and jump to other faults. This is what happened at the Fukushima plant. Scientists thought there were several unconnected faults offshore, but when the earthquake occurred it ruptured through all of those fault segments, resulting in a 9.0M earthquake.

“The Hosgri Fault requires the Boliston and unconnected Shoreline Fault,” says Rust, “there is a possibility of a magnitude 7.7 earthquake under the plant.”

Even though existing published information provides ample evidence that a damaging web of faults surrounds the Diablo Canyon plant, PG&E continues to assure us that the plant is safe, and consistently minimizes earthquake hazards to the plant. Eric Layman describes a 2005 paper published by the Geological Society of America which clearly links the Hosgri Fault with the San Gregorio Fault, which in turn merges smoothly with the San Andreas Fault.

The Alliance for Nuclear Responsibility has expressed concern that “the NRC mischaracterizes its refusals to investigate multi-fault scenarios on the Hosgri and Shoreline Faults,” and is ignoring USGS studies.

“As PG&E asks the federal government to renew its operating license for Diablo Canyon, there are questions about whether they have been Skewing data to make the plant appear safer from the threat of earthquakes than it really is,” says the Alliance.

If the plant is reclassified for continued operation, as Andrew Christie of the Santa Lucia Chapter of the Sierra Club has written, “down the road, an earthquake greater than what the plant was built to withstand could render a large part of California unavailable and leave the central coast radio silent for centuries.”

Andrea Caufield·BSW (Social Work), MPA (Public Administration) has 20 years experience conducting research and writing reports related to health and human services.

Phantom and friend Dr. Kathy Longshore has a plan for the Carrizo’s fastest resident.
Not feeling it. The actions of SLO City staff beg the question: where's the love for the city's natural open space, the most vital component of residents' quality of life?

Our Economic Environment

By Andrew Christie

Late last year, the Economic Vitality Corporation delivered an update on its work on the Economic Strategy, a public/private partnership with the County. The EVC cited the update of the Economic Element in the County’s General Plan, amended last October, as a milestone in the implementation of that strategy. Their main point of pride was Policy EE 1.7 of the Economic Element:

“Whenever there is a possibility of economic impact assessments of regional significance, economic impact analyses should be used to enable consideration of positive and negative effects of proposed plans, policies and projects on capital, jobs, incomes, sales and public revenue…This information helps the County balance the pros and cons of its significant decisions.”

The policy concludes with the caveat: “incuring the cost to produce this economic information may not be warranted in all cases.”

While much of the language in the County’s Economic Element is rooted in the logic of neoclassical economics and economy-vs.-environment, that language can be easily adapted to and interpreted through the evolved 21st-century understanding of the economy as a wholly owned subsidiary of the environment.

The term “capital” is a good example. If ecological economics doesn’t calculate the value of “natural capital” — the environmental services provided by water, estuaries, forests and other natural landscapes — Herman Daly, a former senior economist at the World Bank and author of many of the basic texts in the field of ecological economics, notes that sustainable ecosystems produce goods and services, incur no production costs, and improve economic well-being. Those services include flood control, storm protection, fertilizer, fish habitat, pollination, water purification and climate regulation. In 1997, a University of Maryland study concluded that the public value of natural services provided by the world’s wetlands at $4.9 trillion annually, and coastal estuaries at $4.1 trillion. A Cambridge University research team found that the worth of an intact ecosystem in terms of natural capital is 82 percent greater than its value after the land has been clear-cut, drained, paved or otherwise developed. An economic impact analysis of a project involving these ecosystems must assess the public value of the natural services that would be lost through the conversion of such lands to another use.

While not welcome news to those who prefer to cast environmental regulations or the denial of development permits simply as negative economic impacts, it has become clear that full-cost accounting, which factors in the costs to society of development’s “externalities” — including soil degradation, pollution and the cost of their impacts on human health — is necessary for any kind of balanced economic analysis. A calculation of income, sales and property tax revenue that will or will not be realized if a shopping mall is built or not just won’t cut it.

As the County moves to implement Policy EE 1.7 of the Economic Element, it will be important to note whether its review of a project or policy’s economic impacts is based on these principles. Such analysis will not be simple or cheap. But let’s be clear: while it may be true that “incuring the cost to produce this economic information may not be warranted in all cases,” no review of the economic conversion of natural assets into “externalities” — including soil degradation, pollution and the cost of their impacts on human health — is necessary for any kind of balanced economic analysis. A calculation of income, sales and property tax revenue that will or will not be realized if a shopping mall is built or not just won’t cut it.

As the County moves to implement Policy EE 1.7 of the Economic Element, it will be important to note whether its review of a project or policy’s economic impacts is based on these principles. Such analysis will not be simple or cheap. But let’s be clear: while it may be true that “incuring the cost to produce this economic information may not be warranted in all cases,” no review of the economic

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Happy Birthday to Us

Join us on May 11 to celebrate 45 years of saving the central coast

Come to a party and fundraiser marking the last 45 years of the Santa Lucia Chapter’s work to conserve the natural treasures that make life here something special. (We’ll also be celebrating the next 45 years, which, at a dollar a year, works out to a ticket price of $90.) On Saturday, May 11, we’ll be celebrating with food, drink, music and more at a beautiful home and garden in the Edna Valley.

Music provided by Ranchers for Peace, with beers and wines provided by local brewers and vintners.

Plus:

“John Muir’s Yosemite”
Outings Chair Joe Morris, who leads our popular SLO city walks, will take you back to Yosemite as John Muir knew it 140+ years ago. With vintage slides and music, you will take a tour of its long-lost sights and pioneers, and hear the stories of Muir’s transformation into America’s wilderness visionary.

A $90 ticket gets you all of above plus appetizers & main course. Reserve your place(s) no later than April 10 and get the address & map to the event. Send an e-mail to sierraclub8@gmail.com, or call (805) 543-8717.

Sierra Club National Election

It’s time to vote for this year’s directors

The annual election for the Club’s Board of Directors will be held in April. Those eligible to vote in the national Sierra Club election will receive your ballot in the mail (or by Internet if you chose the electronic delivery option). This will include information on the candidates and where you can find additional information on the Club’s website.

The Sierra Club is a democratically structured organization at all levels. The Club requires the regular flow of views on policy and priorities from its grassroots membership in order to function well. Yearly participation in elections at all Club levels is a major membership obligation. Your Board of Directors is required to stand for election by the membership. The Board sets Club policy and budgets at the national level and works closely with the Executive Director and staff to operate the Club. Voting for candidates who express your views on how the Club should grow and change is both a privilege and responsibility of membership. Members frequently state that they don’t know the candidates and find it difficult to vote without learning more. You can learn more by visiting the Club’s election website: www.suerrachub.org/bod/2013election.

This site provides links to additional information about candidates, and their views on a variety of issues facing the Club and the environment.

You should use your own judgment by taking several minutes to read the ballot statement of each candidate. Then make your choice and cast your vote. Even if you receive your election materials in the mail, please go to the user-friendly Internet voting site to save time and postage. If you choose the mail option, you will find the ballot is quite straightforward and easy to mark and mail.

Remember Fukushima

On the 2nd anniversary of the nuclear disaster at Fukushima Daiichi Power Plant in Japan, San Luis Obispo Mothers for Peace acknowledges those who continue to suffer. Please join us for an evening of shared remembrance through poetry, song, story, and kindness.

Monday, March 11, 6pm
Steynberg Gallery
1531 Monterey Street
San Luis Obispo
dangerous carbon pollution from the nation’s dirtiest power plants. Much of President Obama’s legacy will rest squarely on his response, resolve, and leadership in fighting the climate crisis. “Forward on Climate” rally participants urged him move forward on his State of the Union declaration, “For the sake of our children and our future, we must do more to combat climate change.”

Twenty years from now on President’s Day, people will want to know what the president did in the face of rising sea levels, record droughts and furious storms brought on by climate disruption,” said Michael Brune, Executive Director of the Sierra Club. “President Obama holds in his hand a pen and the power to deliver on his promise of hope for our children. Today, we are asking him to use that pen to reject the Keystone XL tar sands pipeline, and ensure that this dirty, dangerous, export pipeline will never be built.

The Keystone XL tar sands project would pipe some of the dirtiest oil on the planet through the breadbasket of America to be shipped overseas through the Gulf of Mexico. It would be a disaster for our climate, producing tar sands crude that kicks out two or three times as much carbon pollution as producing conventional crude oil.

“The Yinka Dene Alliance of British Columbia is seeing the harm from climate change to our peoples and our waters,” said Chief Jacqueline Thomas, immediate past chief of the Saultie First Nation in British Columbia and co-founder of the Yinka Dene Alliance (People of the Earth). “We see the threat of taking tar sands out of the Earth and bringing it through our territories and over our rivers. The harm being done to people in the tar sands region can no longer be Canada’s dirty secret. We don’t have the billions of dollars that industry has. But we do have our faith that people will do the right thing to protect Mother Earth. The Forward on Climate Rally shows that we are not alone in the fight to stop tar sands expansion and tackle climate change.”

The president has the authority and responsibility under the Clean Air Act to reduce its main cause, carbon pollution — with stopping construction of the Keystone XL tar sands pipeline as a critically important first step.

The historic rally calling for climate leadership reflected Americans’ recognition of the threats of climate change and their support for meaningful action now. Study after study has shown strong public support for climate solutions, including polling conducted by Public Policy Polling immediately after the President’s State of the Union address.

That PPP poll found that 65 percent of Americans think that climate change is a serious problem and a substantial majority of Americans support President Obama using his authority to reduce its main cause, carbon pollution. The Forward on Climate rally was organized by 350.org; Sierra Club, the Hip Hop Caucus; Natural Resources Defense Council and many other organizations.

We Stand with the Planet
by Sarah Hodgdon, Sierra Club Conservation Director

On February 13, I watched history made as Washington, D.C., police arrested Sierra Club Executive Director Michael Brune, President Allison Chin, and a coalition of almost 50 other climate-crisis activists outside the White House. This protest came because the Club’s grassroots leadership decided that the obligation to address climate disruption has become so urgent, and the opportunity to attain clean energy prosperity so real, that we had a moral duty to act.

This act of civil disobedience, the first in the Club’s 120-year history, was an announcement to President Obama and other leaders that they must take bold action now to address the threat of fossil fuel pollution — with stopping construction of the Keystone XL tar sands pipeline as a critically important first step.

I could not have been more proud as I watched the protest unfold in the peaceful, purposeful spirit in which it was intended. Conscientious planning paid off with an orderly event, witnessed by over 300 supporters and more than 100 representatives of print, national broadcast and online media.

Among those arrested were former Sierra Club president Adam Werbach, Nebraska cattle buyer Randy Thompson, labor leader Joe Uehlein, United Church of Christ Reverend Doctor Jim Antal, Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., actress Daryl Hannah, and longtime NAACP chair Julian Bond.

Dear Sir

This letter occupied a full page in the February 11 edition of The Hill newspaper.

President Barack Obama,

Your legacy as 44th president of the United States rests firmly on your leadership on climate disruption. Only you have the power to act on this issue before the scale and urgency of the problem that these fossil fuels pose is too much for America to bear.

We support your demonstrating the strongest resolve in fighting the climate crisis on every front. Our country can make a real difference in our health and the health of our children.

The next four years are crucial in the fight against climate disruption. Together, we can make sure President Obama acts on the right path with bold climate solutions and clean energy innovation. Get updates on planned actions, join our fossil fuel campaigns, get fact sheets and printed materials and get into the social network for 100 Days of Action to Fight Climate Disruption.

You’ll find all that and more at standwiththeplanet.com
Need Land?

Central Coast Grow acquired the SLO City Farm land on January 7, and is excited to announce nineteen acres are available to lease at the beautiful city of San Luis Obispo. This prime location features irrigated Class One and Class Two farmland and an agricultural well and pump. Additional benefits of this project include: easy access from the 101 freeway, flexible lease terms, and public recognition through organizational outreach and programming efforts. Whether you are interested in leasing all 19 acres or a portion of this land for production agriculture, please complete the proposal process by following the link at centralcoastgrow.org/site/docs/CAN_RFP_GROUND_LEASE.pdf. The deadline for applications is March 15.

Interested in the SLO City Farm, Educational Experimental Plots? These $5 – 2 acre plots will be available through a separate proposal process in April. For immediate notification upon proposal release, email info@centralcoastgrow.org with the subject line “Educational Experimental Plots” and contact information including your name, email address, and telephone number.

On Governor Brown’s 2013 State of the State

By Sierra Club California

In his January State-of-the-State address, Governor Brown commented on three issues directly addressing the environment: Delta water conveyance, California’s efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and climate disruption, and transportation’s alignment with environmental needs.

First, we are pleased to join the governor in congratulating the legislature and voters for passing Proposition 30, which helped bring us to the healthiest budget in a decade.

Sierra Club California supported Proposition 30. The governor deserves high praise for his leadership in introducing and pushing that measure through, so thank you, Governor Brown.

We also appreciate the governor’s continued leadership on addressing climate change and moving ahead to meet the state’s greenhouse gas pollution goals. Californians are united in wanting to take a lead on reducing that pollution, and we are all benefitting from the shift to cleaner energy for our electricity and our transportation.

We strongly disagree with the governor’s approach to the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta. Giant tunnels or a peripheral canal are both out of order and won’t solve the water problems we face. Creating infrastructure that will literally suck the life out of a vast ecosystem on which the fishing industry, regional tourism, local farms and California’s complex natural environment are all dependent is an outdated idea that needs to be deep-sixed.

A more rational approach makes more sense for the economies of Northern and Southern California, for the environment, and for the people who will need water if and when a massive earthquake strikes. That includes helping plug the leaks in the aging water delivery infrastructure in California’s cities and towns; focusing on water conservation and reuse more intensely all over the state, including in the industrial and commercial sectors; fixing the crumbling levy system; and generally reducing Californians’ dependence on hundreds and hundreds of miles of quake-vulnerable aqueducts.

Californians have shown time and again their willingness to change and innovate to improve their lives and protect the environment. The governor has proven more than once that he is an innovative leader. That’s why the notion of addressing our water challenges with an outmoded big building project that won’t deliver a better economy, better environment or more reliable water delivery is so perplexing. It isn’t innovative, it won’t protect the environment, and it won’t solve the problem.

We are encouraged that the governor has asked the Transportation Agency to review how transportation planning and funding align, including his acknowledgment that Californians have a different perspective on transportation and the environment today than we did in the past, when his father was building highways. We hope the agency remembers that addressing the need to clean up our highly polluting goods movement system must be part of any review. It would also be good for that agency to bring a broad range of stakeholders to the table, including representatives of communities that have suffered the most from the old ways of doing transportation planning.

Sierra Club California is the legislative and regulatory advocacy arm of the Sierra Club’s 13 chapters and more than 150,000 members in California.

Shell game

continued from page 3

at the point.

But parks and athletic fields do have enhancements and amenities. And conflating SLO’s open space with parks and athletic fields is exactly what City staff tried to do eight years ago in the COSE. They were beaten back by the wrong residents.

It is hard not to look at the results of the latest “update” and goal-setting process and avoid the thought “here we go again.”
Get Green at the SLO International Film Festival

The SLO International Film Festival, March 6-10, will feature a cornucopia of films about nature, politics and economics as well as profiles of individuals who have stood up to powerful interests to preserve the natural world. The following films should be of particular interest to Sierra Club members.

Pipe Dreams deals with opposition to the Keystone Pipeline by landowners, farmers and people living near the path of the proposed pipeline; it will be shown at the Downtown Theatre in SLO, Friday, 3/8 at 1 p.m. Bidder 70 tells the story of a university student who foiled President Bush’s 2008 fraudulent oil and gas lease auction by bidding $1.8 million to save 22,000 acres surrounding Utah’s National Parks—he had no intention to drill or to pay but is now paying with his future. The film will be shown at the Downtown Theatre on Friday, 3/8 at 1 p.m. and at the Palm Theatre in SLO on Saturday, 3/9 at 11 a.m.

Congo follows four of the world’s most fearless paddlers at they attempt the first kayak descent through the world’s biggest rapids—on the Congo River; it will be shown in Avila Beach Community Center on Thursday, 3/7 at 4 p.m. and at the Palm on Saturday, 3/9 at 1 p.m.

Santa Ynez River Wilderness has been described as “a love letter to the upper Santa Ynez River watershed” and features beautiful images of the birds, plants and wildlife of the Valley. It will be shown at the Palm on Sunday, 3/10 at 10 a.m.

Shadow of the Condor follows biologist Joseph Brandt as he reveals the realities of bringing the California condor back from the brink of extinction. The film will be shown at the Downtown Theatre on Sunday, 3/10 at 10 a.m.

The Ivory Crisis is a short film on the African Elephant poaching crisis, sharing experiences from researchers and local communities. It will be shown at the Palm on Sunday, 3/10 at 4 p.m.

“Between The Tides” at Filmmaker Showcase

Former SLO County Supervisor returns as film producer

Bud Laurent, who served two terms on the San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors from 1991-1999, will return to his native habitat from his current home in Oregon for a screening of his highly acclaimed film Between The Tides at the SLO Obispo International Film Festival.

Laurent is a marine biologist and former manager of Central Coast Marine Resources for the California Department of Fish & Game. His film looks at the pioneering marine ecologist Ed Ricketts (1897-1948) and some of Ricketts’ spiritual descendants whom Laurent knew during his years as a researcher and SCUBA diver on the central coast.

Nobel Prize winning author John Steinbeck turned his friend Ed Ricketts into the legendary “Doc” character in his novel Cannery Row, but it’s the real Ed Ricketts whose spirit permeates this remarkable film. Most of Between The Tides was shot at central coast locations familiar to local residents, including the Abalone Farm in Cayucos, Avila Beach and the tidepools of Montaña de Oro. One sequence takes place at Bahia de Los Angeles in Baja California, where Ricketts and Steinbeck journeyed for their famous adventure aboard the Western Flyer.

Laurent teamed with Southern California filmmaker Peter Comnradt to make the film. The Festival showing will be its first local screening. More information at www.betweenthetides.net.

4:00 p.m., Sunday, March 10, Perla del Mar, 205 Windward Ave., Shell Beach

Economics

impacts of a major project or land use policy can claim to “balance the pros and cons” if it is not based on the principles of ecological economics. If the County can’t afford to perform full-cost accounting and assess the value of natural capital as part of an economic impact analysis of a project or policy, then it can’t afford to do an economic impact analysis.

When such an analysis is prepared, it will be up to the public to look for key phrases such as “natural capital,” “natural services” and “non-market valuation,” and to ensure that these concepts are present, accurately described, fully assessed, and appropriately valued.

This will be necessary in order to avoid the outcome that Kenneth Boulding, former president of the American Economics Association, once summed up poetically:

So cost-benefit analysis is nearly always sure
To justify the building of a solid, concrete fact,
While the Ecologic Truth is left behind in the Abstract.

Wicked

bean, that is quite common in disturbed areas and is poisonous in an unrefined form. The seeds are the most toxic part, several of which can kill an adult. The plant grows 3 to over 10 feet tall, has a red stem, large lobed leaves, and greenish flowers in clusters. Especially distinctive are the fruit capsules, spiny things about an inch or less long, that contain shiny seeds the size of kidney beans. They contain ricin, one of the deadliest poisons known—though it’s been used in chemotherapy for cancer.

Finally, Jimson weed deserves mention. Like castor bean, its deadliness is partly due to the seeds, though all parts are toxic. It grows 2-4 feet tall and displays striking white or pale violet trumpet-shaped flowers, about 4-10 inches long. Native Americans apparently brewed a narcotic drink from the leaves, but these days, it’s more likely to be young teenagers using it for a narcotic high, but often experiencing hallucinations, seizures, or even death instead.

All of these plants are common in southern California as well. Many dozens of other poisonous plants grow locally, e.g., tree tobacco and scotch broom. Nature wasn’t designed expressly for our safety, but I wouldn’t have it any other way.

Let it Rain

Harvesting the Rain: Storage and Use is the latest how-to guide from the Appropriate Technology Campaign -- SLO Greenbuild, Sierra Club and Surfrider. Hot off the press, and a worthy companion to our Graywater Guide and Rainwater Management for Low Impact Development. $10 postage paid; while supplies last. Mail your check to Sierra Club, P.O. Box 15755, San Luis Obispo, CA 93406.
Taking Issue
Reviewing problematic environmental coverage & commentary in our local media


Summary: Now that the Coastal Commission has rejected the first try at a sewer replacement project under Morro Bay and Cayucos’ Joint Powers Agreement (JPA), people are going to start being annoyed by insisting on being part of an open public process. And what’s all this nonsense about climate change?

The reference is to the “fighting, bickering and stress” the Bay News fears will now ensue. We could have sworn it began in 2006 when Morro Bay -- part of the National Estuary Program and home to a depleted and sick population of California sea otters -- agreed to abandon its notorious status as a community with one of the only waivers from the standards of the Clean Water Act on the West Coast, and upgrade its wastewater treatment plant in a reasonable period of time. Then in 2007, the JPA voted to upgrade to the highest tertiary standard of treatment (both votes taken under enormous public pressure to do the right thing -- aka bickering and stress). Then in 2009 came the Morro Bay City Council’s disastrous decision to certify the Environmental Impact Report even though it had just been disclosed that the existing plant is in a 100-year floodplain and could not be upgraded but would have to be torn down and a new one built. Then came the knockdown, drag-out of 2010-12, when the JPA could not be dissuaded from their determination to submit a doomed project design to the Coastal Commission for a permit they couldn’t possibly get. “Now” it begins? Has the Bay News been asleep for the last seven years?

The Coastal Commission dashed all hopes of doing this project in an orderly, uncontroversial and relatively inexpensive manner. And why? Because the sea level is going to rise 30-50 feet due to climate change, and there might be a giant tsunami? Please.

The Water Board will indeed fine a community for any public works project that incurs avoidable delays. It will not impose fines for delays beyond that community’s control -- such as a permit being denied by a state regulatory agency. We suspect the residents of Morro Bay and Cayucos may not share the disappointment of the Bay News in the Water Board’s failure to impose fines -- or, unmentioned here, in the offer by the State and Regional boards to help review alternative siting options and locate funding for the project, including funding sources keyed to global climate change and adaptation planning, funds unavailable to the original project.

It’s not supposed to. In the event of a community being inundated by any method -- tsunami, hurricane, or sea level rise -- the one public structure you most want to protect from harm and disruption in order to avoid compounding the disaster and health hazards a hundredfold is a wastewater treatment plant.

The Regional Water Quality Control Board threw out its own settlement agreement and agreed not to hold the JPA to the project schedule, so the Water Board must agree with Planned Retreat. They were going to fine us? What a joke.

And So It Begins

Let me ask you which is more likely -- the sea level will rise 50 feet and tsunamis will wipe out the site where the sewer plant now sits...or that our friends and neighbors will get caught up in a political frenzy and fight, bicker and stress over this project for the next decade?

Yes, we are that positive. And no, it sounds exactly like scientific research and discovery when every scientific study confirms previous the previous studies and builds on them with additional hard data, all of which validate the original climate models and point to impacts from climate disruption that are more severe and happening sooner than even the least conservative models predicted.

So why do I say “Heaven help us” and compare us to Los Angeles? I predict that this project will divide us and we’ll be bombarded with arguments on where to put the plant, annexing land and what technology to use.

It’s called the public process. Ask the SLO County Public Works Dept. if they’re not kind of glad the public process nixed their original project design for the Los Osos sewer and turned it into a project that could get a Coastal Development Permit. And pursuant to our previous question of whether the Bay News was asleep circa 2006-2011, where were they during the 2012 Morro Bay City Council election, in which all concerned were “bombarded with arguments” about the sewer plant, resulting in the ouster of the mayor and turnover of the city council?

As a handy refresher, we commend to the attention of the Bay News this article from the October 2009 Santa Lucian, which records the precise moment (Sept. 8, 2009) when Mayor Janice Peters led the Morro Bay city council -- members Betty Winholz and Noah Smukler dissenting -- in the decision to disregard the public, the California Environmental Quality Act and a 100-year flood plain and set off down the road to sewer purgatory and a head-on collision with the Coastal Commission. It’s now the job of the current city council to clean up the mess left by the previous two.

Upshot: Let the Bay News join the ousted 2012 Morro Bay city council in writing two million times on the blackboard “The California Coastal Act is the law and bad things happen when I try to get around it.” Or as the Coastal Commission put it, much more poetically: “There is no question that the additional costs and time that would be required to construct a WWTP at the Righetti site (or another alternative site) are impediments to a new WWTP. At the same time, given the WWTP is not approved at the existing location, it is not an either-or question. Rather, this represents the practical reality of where this Applicant finds itself...because they pursued a project at the existing location notwithstanding the issues associated with it that have been highlighted for many years, including prominently that alternative siting was necessary.”
Santa Lucian  •  March 2013

Classifieds

Next issue deadline is March 12. 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 sierrahub8@gmail.com

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Hold Your Water
“Slow it, sink it, spread it” is the mantra of enlightened water managers who know that water works best when it stays on the land where it falls.

Now that mantra can be yours, too, along with healthier soils, happier wildlife, and reductions in your water bill, thanks to the tips and techniques in Rainwater Management for Low Impact Development, a publication of the Appropriate Technology Coalition -- SLO Green Build, the Santa Lucia Chapter of the Sierra Club and the Surfrider Foundation, available for $10 postage paid, while supplies last. Mail your check to Sierra Club, P.O. Box 15755, SLO 93406.

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

Contact:
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Director of Gift Planning
(805) 927-5670 or email julie.caveney@sierraclub.org

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PC AND MAC REPAIR

Rainwater Management

Low Impact Development

Law Offices of Babak Naficy
Babak Naficy - Attorney at Law
Outings and Activities Calendar

All our hikes and activities are open to all Club members and the general public. Please bring drinking water to all outings and optionally a lunch. Sturdy footwear is recommended. All phone numbers listed are within area code 805 unless otherwise noted. Pets are generally not allowed. A parent or responsible adult must accompany children under the age of 18. 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 Jo Morris, 549-0355. For information on a specific outing, please call the listed outing leader.

Sat-Sun, Mar. 2-3 (Fri and Mon. optional) Death Valley Tour. Meet in Shoshone, Nevada, south of Death Valley, 8 a.m. Saturday, for tour of Badwater, Natural Bridge, Golden Canyon, and Artists Drive. Sat. night camp at Texas Springs (fee). Info.: Carol Wiley, 760-245-8734 or desertlily1@verizon.net Mojave Group/CNRCC Desert Committee.

Sat., Mar. 9th, 8 a.m. Pozo/Los Machos Hills. 10-13 mile, 2009 gain, hike on the Avenales Ranch, east of Pozo—not for beginners. Plenty of wildflowers and pleasant weather are likely. Bring lunch, water, sturdy hiking shoes, and plan to be out all day. Meet at Pacific Beverage Co. in Santa Margarita. Hikers must previouly RSVP leader, as the number of hikers must be limited. For details, reservation, and meeting place, contact Gary Felsman, 473-3694. Rain or threat of rain cancels.

Sat., Mar. 9th, 8:30 a.m. Willow Springs Trail. Moderate, 4.2-mile hike on trail with scenic views of Los Padres backcountry. Bring hat, sun screen, plenty of water, long-sleeve shirt and pants, and sturdy walking shoes. Carpool pt. at intersection of Hwy 101 and 166. Get off at 166, turn west toward Hutton Rd., south on Hutton Rd. Park on Hutton Rd. by Cuyama Lane. Those wishing to meet at the trailhead, a 9 a.m., go to Willow Springs Trailhead off Hwy 166, approximately 20 miles from Hwy 101, on right side, heading east. Park on the right by the gate. Info: Andrea Ortiz, 934-2792.

Sun., Mar. 10th, 10 a.m. Guided Walk of Mission-Era San Luis Obispo. Do you know where SLO’s first physician lived, located of the “hanging tree” and stagecoach stop, or the oldest building in town? Find out and more on an easy stroll past the Mission, several adobes, and old Chinatown. Hear stories of the early days of SLO, the Chumash, and Gold Rush pioneers. Families welcome. Meet at N.E. corner of Monterey and Oso Sts. Info: Jo Morris, 549-0355.

Thurs., Mar. 14-17, 7-9 p.m. Bimonthly Meeting: “The World Through Chumash Eyes,” Meet Fred Collins, the energetic Tribal Administrator of the Northern Chumash Tribal Council. He will give us an insider’s account of a native culture that has existed in California since the pyramids and has pro-found truths to teach us today about our connection with the environment. Fred will also discuss pro tecting endangered sacred sites in the county. Directions: Hwy 101 from south, 1 mile north from SLO for one mile, right on Reservoir Rd. to trailhead.

Sat., Mar. 16th, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. St. Patrick’s Day Potluck Hike at Reserve Canyon. 6-mile moderate hike past wildflowers, caves, water-falls, riparian vegetation, and vistas. Potluck at top of Reserve Canyon, overlooking Avila Valley. Bring 6 servings of a delicious, local produce dish to share with fellow hikers. Pack dinnerware, plate, cup, and bring water. We may spot edible trailside plants to incorporate in lunch and discuss what wild plants can be harvested. Poison oak common on area trails. Directions: Hwy 101 north from SLO for one mile, right on Reserve Canyon Rd. to end (trailhead). Info.: Victoria Carranza, 459-6752 or ycaranza@gmail.com.

Sat-Sun., Mar. 16-17. Ghost Town Extravaganza. Camp at historic ghost town Ballarat. Hikes to Lookout City and Riley townsites. Send $8 per person, 2 large sase, H & W phones, email, rilesahare info to leader: Lygia Gerard, P.O. Box 721039, Pinon Hills, CA 93278. Info.: 760-868-2179 CNRCC Desert Committee.

Sun., Mar. 17th, 10 a.m. Trekking Pole Hike at Sycamore Springs. Two-mile, 700 ft. gain, hike to model benefits of trekking poles. Meet near entrance to Sycamore Springs Resort. 1215 Avila Beach Dr. Confirm with David George, 458-5575 or poleclxrleader@gmail.com.

Fri-Sun., Mar. 29-31 WildflowerCharacteristics Involved with Needles BLM. Annual Sierra Club service trip to document area adjacent to wilderness area. Car camping and optional central commissary, small fee. Info.: Vicky Hoover, vickyrhove@gmail@ sierraclub.org, or 415-977-5525.

Sat., Mar. 30th, 8:30 a.m. Reserve Canyon and Bowden Ranch. Mod-erate 5-mile hike. 1000 ft. gain, through Reserve Canyon and over backbone ridge, with spectacular views of Elegant Peak at the high school. Duration 3.5 hrs. Meet at east corner of SLO High School parking lot, near corner of Johnson Ave. and San Luis Drive. Car shuttle to Reser-voir Canyon will be arranged. Bring water, snacks, hat, sturdy shoes, dress in layers for the weather. Info: Bill Waycott, 459-2103 or bill.waycott@ gmail.com; Rain cancels.

Sat., Mar. 30th, 8:30-10 a.m. S. Big Sur, Lion Den Camp. Strenuous, 13-mile hike with 3000 ft. elevation gain, following Cruikshank Trail to camp, then to Silver and Lion Den camps. Not for beginners. Beautiful views from rock outcroppings. Bring water, lunch, and dress for weather. Ticks and poison oak are possible. Meet in Washburn day use area. San Simeon State Park, one mile north of stoplight at Windsor and Main St. in Cambria. Refueling stop after hike. Info: Chuck Tribbey, 441-7587.

Fri-Sun., Apr. 5th-7th Carrizo Plains. Two nights at Selby Rocks camp site, camp, free, no reserved sites. Hikes through areas of often stunning wildflowers. Gathering at camp on Sat. 9 a.m., carpool to day hike, tbd. Bring your own food, water, sturdy shoes, camping material. Info: Carlos Diaz-Saavedra, 546-0317.

Island Hopping in Channel Islands National Park

April 7-9; May 5-7; June 2-4; July 21-23; Aug. 25-27; Sept. 15-17

Join us for a 3-day, 3-island, live-aboard cruise to Channel Islands Na-tional Park. Hike wild, windswept trails bordered by blooming wildflower-y kayaks rugged coastlines. Marvel at pristine waters teeming with frollick-ing seals and sea lions. Train your binoculars on unusual sea and land birds. Watch for remnants of the Chu-mash people who were here for thousands of years. Or just relax at sea. All cruises depart from Santa Barbara aboard the 68’ twin diesel Truth. The cost, $590, includes an assigned bunk, all meals, snacks and beverages, plus the services of a ranger/naturalist who will travel with us to help lead hikes, point out items of interest, and present evening programs. To make a reservation send a $100 check, written to Sierra Club, to leader Joan Jones at Jo. You don’t know where SLO’s first physician lived, located of the “hanging tree” and stagecoach stop, or the oldest building in town? Find out and more on an easy stroll past the Mission, several adobes, and old Chinatown. Hear stories of the early days of SLO, the Chumash, and Gold Rush pioneers. Families welcome. Meet at N.E. corner of Monterey and Oso Sts. Info: Jo Morris, 549-0355.

2013 Sierra Club Calendar

wall or desk calendar: $9

To order call: 805-543-7051

Santa Lucian • March 2013

This is a partial listing of Outings offered by our Chapter. Please check the web page www.santaluca.sieracal.org for the most up-to-date listing of activities.