The permit that allows the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant to take in and discharge cooling water is scheduled to expire in 2018. On June 28, the State Lands Commission will hear from its staff a summary of issues that the proposed renewal of Diablo’s outfall permit raises under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). If the Commission decides to proceed with a full environmental review, it will be the first time that the operations of the plant have been subject to CEQA.

PG&E doesn’t want that to happen. An environmental evaluation of the Diablo Canyon plant and the impacts of its offshore intake and outfall is long overdue. We do not support any proposal to avoid CEQA or “grandfather” the extension of the permit beyond its scheduled expiration in 2018. On June 28 meeting of the State Lands Commission will be held in Sacramento at 10 a.m. SLO County residents may attend and comment via video uplink at a satellite location at the inn at Morro Bay.

On May 2, I was standing in the crowd at the press conference that Congresswoman Lois Capps held on the Pismo Pier to announce that she has formally asked the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to begin the designation process for the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary, when a thought occurred to me. I thought that when I got back to the office I should probably start writing out and collecting e-mails, meeting agendas, minutes, articles, deeds of public occupancy, plus scrawled notes and other ephemera of the actions that led up to this day. Because this is starting to feel historic.

The week before, I had been sitting in the office of the Northern Chumash Tribal Council with five other people—most of the same folks, give or take, who had first gathered in a living room in Shell Beach three years ago for the first meeting to discuss how to go about making 10,000 square miles of ocean into a marine sanctuary for the Central Coast. Then came NOAA’s 2014 announcement last for the first time in nearly twenty years, they were reviving the moribund selection process for marine sanctuaries, but in a new way: taking nominations from local residents of coastal areas. Previously, potential sanctuary sites were chosen by NOAA administrators. This was to be a grass-roots nomination process.
Oil Eyes on Price Canyon

Santa Barbara Oil Spill Brings Gusher of Indictments

The fate of California’s groundwater may hang on the EPA’s decision on an application to keep dumping wastewater from the Arroyo Grande Oil Field into an aquifer.

Only eight oil fields have a higher carbon intensity than Arroyo Grande. (See OILFIELD on page 5.)

who benefited from the state’s current lignite oil extraction boom, now have obtained exemptions from federal protections by persuading regulators that the injection of oilfield wastewater into a porous, unconfined aquifer doesn’t endanger California’s supply of underground water.

The EPA responded to their exemption request with a letter to California regulators asking for more information due to inadequacies in the data regarding the drinking water impacts.

A question the EPA didn’t ask is whether the oilfield operators will have the right to mandate that wastewater injected will not impact nearby water wells or water bodies available for beneficial use? So far, the answer to that question has been a resounding no. And that’s likely.

Six reasons why not:

Two Freeport MMP: A number of separate application for 450 new wells and the record of the company that it would be wise to simply reapply for application for another 450 wells beyond that.

The EPA responded to the GAO report by saying it agreed with the report’s findings and that it would take steps to improve its oversight of exempted oilfield wastewater, but that was pretty much the same language it used in response to a 2014 GAO report on exempted oilfield wastewater. The GAO’s Program to Protect Underground Water, Sources from Injection of Petroleum and Gas Production Needs Improvement. While EPA’s response only shows the EPA isn’t planning to do much more than analyze its procedures again, the EPA continues to believe that EPA should take both actions to better assure protections of underground sources of drinking water.

The Executive Committee meets in person at 5:30 p.m. The Conservation Committee meets the second Thursday of each month at 7 p.m., located at EPA Santa Rosa St., San Luis Obispo. All members are welcome to attend.

The Santa Lucia Chapter is publisher 10 times a year. Articles, environmental information and letters to the editors are welcome. The deadline for each issue is 15th of the month.

Editor: Santa Lucia
C/o Santa Lucia Chapter, Sierra Club P.O. Box 1275
San Luis Obispo, CA 93406
sierclad@gmail.com

Santa Lucia Chapter 2016 Executive Committee
Kim Remick (12/16) Chair
Cheryl Greet (12/16) V-P
Leslie Belen (12/16) Secretary
Holly Fink (12/16) Treasurer
MEMBER
MEMBER
Member at Large (12/17) Member
MEMBER
MEMBER
MARKET
SECRETARY"
Sierra Club Endorses Kamala Harris for U.S. Senate

On May 10, the Sierra Club announced its endorsement of Kamala Harris for U.S. Senate.

As Attorney General and U.S. Senator, she has been a leader in protecting key climate change initiatives including defending California's landmark carbon pricing and President Obama's Clean Power Plan. Her rigorous and comprehensive approach to environmental justice is raised by standing for the families of Mia Loma, and helping companies accountable for dumping hazardous waste.

The Sierra Club is proud to endorse Kamala Harris for U.S. Senate, "said Sierra Club Executive Director Michael Brune. "Ms. Harris has been a proven leader of the playing field of corporate polluters and fighting to protect our environment and the health of California's families. Congress desperately needs more climate champions like her, who is why Sierra Club wholeheartedly supports her and will work throughout the state to ensure she is elected."

The Sierra Club previously endorsed Hildy for Attorney General. "It's time for change and to proudly support of the Sierra Club in this race," said Harris. "Together, we've done great work to protect the California to fight climate change and hold polluters accountable and win more for families with environmental issues.

Protect Crucial Habitat from Poorly Situated Renewable Energy Projects

In 2016, it only increase in utility-scale solar projects in the northern California in the wake of the passage of AB 350 mandating 50% of retail electricity sales from renewable energy for by 2030. The Sierra Club has expressed concern that the new requirements will lead to the siting of utility-scale renewable energy projects. Here's hoping.

Sierra Club’s climate policies require that large-scale renewable energy facilities have been and will become our friend!
We strongly urge you to eliminate this threat to U.S. climate policy by compelling firms to agree to ISDS procedures – or limit them to the federal government – in any new trade agreements.

**Fossil fuel dependencies:**

Fossil fuel dependencies are increasing as US firms and other existing trade and investment pacts, contributing to a recent surge in cases. In fact, half of the new ISDS cases launched in 2014 targeted policies affecting oil or gas extraction. Additional potential clients for ISDS are not only private firms; they are also governments, and the climate. That is 24 times more area than that leased to oil and gas corporations with more than 10 million acres' worth of leases. This is a clear threat to efforts across the country to restrict fossil fuel activities, including these:

- Fracking: The TPP and TTIP would allow corporations to challenge US environmental laws and regulations that regulate the extraction and use of fossil fuels. This would create a loophole that would allow US companies to challenge US laws and regulations that regulate the extraction and use of fossil fuels.
- Gas and oil extraction on public lands: The TPP and TTIP would allow US companies to challenge US laws and regulations that regulate the extraction and use of fossil fuels on public lands. This would create a loophole that would allow US companies to challenge US laws and regulations that regulate the extraction and use of fossil fuels on public lands.
- Fossil fuel pipelines: The TPP and TTIP would enable governments to own or operate fossil fuel pipelines. This would create a loophole that would allow US companies to challenge US laws and regulations that regulate the extraction and use of fossil fuels on public lands.
- Fossil fuel infrastructure: The TPP and TTIP would allow US companies to challenge US laws and regulations that regulate the extraction and use of fossil fuels on public lands.

We strongly urge you to stand up for the climate, clean air and water, Indigenous peoples, property and cultural resources. For Indigenous nations and tribal citizens concerned about the climate, health and environmental impacts from fossil fuel activities, we must prevent any provision that empowers corporations to challenge government policies in extrajudicial tribunals.

**Conclusions:**

The TPP and TTIP would allow US companies to challenge US laws and regulations that regulate the extraction and use of fossil fuels. This would create a loophole that would allow US companies to challenge US laws and regulations that regulate the extraction and use of fossil fuels. We strongly urge you to eliminate this threat to U.S. climate policy by compelling firms to agree to ISDS procedures – or limit them to the federal government – in any new trade agreements.
By Sandra Beebe

Jack had a stellar career reporting in newspapers, magazines and television and radio. He was the author of two books. Jack never lived the life of a political maverick. He was active politically and thoughtfully focused on the potenti...
Taking Issue: Keeping nuclear power alive

problematic environmental coverage & commentary in our local media

April 4, 2016

The Honorable Bruce Rauner, Governor of Illinois
The Honorable Michael Madigan, Speaker, Illinois House of Representatives
The Honorable John Conklin, President, Illinois Senate
The Honorable Christine Radogno, Senate Majority Leader
The Honorable Jim Durkin, Minority Leader, Illinois House of Representatives
Mr. Robert M. Crane, Director, Guthner, Knox & Elliott
Mr. Mauricio Gutierrez, CEO, NRG

Dear Governor Rauner, Speaker Madigan, President Conklin, Attorney General Madigan, Minority Leaders Radogno and Durkin, Mr. Crane, and Mr. Gutierrez,

We are writing as scientists, conservationists and environmentalists to urge you to do everything in your power to keep all of Illinois’s nuclear power plants running for their full lives.

Illinois generates more zero-emissions electricity than any other state. Most of it comes from the state’s six nuclear power plants, which produce 95% of Illinois’s low-carbon generation. These plants are in their prime and could stay in service many more years and even decades.

Unfortunately, Illinois is at risk of losing one or more of its nuclear plants and with them the progress the state has made in clean energy.

IfClinton and Quad Cities nuclear plants were replaced by carbon-based emissions, it would immediately increase the equivalent of adding two million cars to the road. If they were replaced by coal, the carbon emissions would more than double.

The risk in conventional air pollutants from moving from nuclear to coal or natural gas will increase premature deaths.

Using the same methodology, Clinton and Quad prevented 18,640 premature deaths from coal pollution. And if their 60-year lives, Clinton and Quad nuclear plants will prevent between 2,450 and 5,474 deaths from coal.

The CCSD has failed to meet their legal obligations and has not complied with the County’s initial approval for the Emergency Coastal Development Permit, required to account for the unique conditions of the emergency.

The CCSD’s follow-up permit application for a regular Coastal Development Permit, for the facility has run afoul of “several problems associated with its use of an evaporation basin and blowers designed to handle the project discharge, and the Regional Water Quality Control Board has not yet authorized the discharge.”

The CCSD has not yet occurred. We have offered to assist in that review; however, the review is expected the County and CCSD to evaluate these concerns. We have yet to receive a reply.

We encourage all of you to find and reasonable solution to keep all Illinois nuclear plants running for many years to come.

Sincerely,

[List of environmental scientists and conservationists]

Commentary:

Comment [1]: “progress is to be shared with the rest of the nuclear forum,inoa forum, in a forum that meets today to discuss the Fossil fuels, which are required to global and important that solutions to the problems of the nuclear forum, which we knows to be the forum in which we know. [David Front, Director, NRG]

Comment [2]: “It is to be filed in the nuclear forum, not at the Fossil fuels forum. Fossil fuels are required to global solutions to the problems of the nuclear forum, which we know. [David Front, Director, NRG]

Comment [3]: “This is an issue. Nuclear plants are 100% efficient.” [We are permitted by regulation to release radioactive emissions into the environment. This could function if all the more permitted. Perhaps the authors mean “inconsistently with the CCSD’s emergency permit’s issuance on April 4, 2016.” [To satisfy the requirements for obtaining an emergency permit, the CCSD must show that it is necessary to maintain the safety of the nuclear facility in times of crisis.]

Comment [4]: “Clean energy is nowhere definite.” [And due to its "emergency water supply" the CCSD has failed to follow up with an application for a regular Coastal Development Permit. The facility has run afoul of “several problems associated with its use of an evaporation basin and blowers designed to handle the project discharge, and the Regional Water Quality Control Board has not yet authorized the discharge.”]
Trump’s Climate Denial Would “Negotiate” Away U.S. Leadership

By Khalid Pitts, Sierra Club Compass, May 23, 2016

As the entire world has seen by now, Donald Trump told Reuters this week that he is “not a fan” of the universal climate accord agreed to in Paris and that “at a minimum I will be renegotiating those agreements, at a maximum. And at a maximum I may do something else.”

There’s little ambiguity about what “something else” means—Trump is talking about bringing the U.S. out of an agreement adopted universally by essentially every country on earth.

Unfortunately, what Trump is really doing here is proposing to negotiate away American leadership.

What he said is not just unhinged; it would do irreparable damage to the United States and our role abroad. Building a physical or virtual wall around the United States is not a solution to one of the most pressing challenges of our time.

What’s more, the whole way he talks about climate change is essentially every country on earth.

What’s clear above all is that during this election, the choice is not simply between a president who ultimately becomes the Democratic nominee. At this critical time for our world, and that of our children and grandchildren, the stakes are quite high.

What he said is not just fundamentally reckless and a fundamental uncertainty.

That’s why Trump’s comments are not just wrong, he understands about constructing foreign policy.

Leading up to and following the Paris agreement, and with temperature rise on a continued march forward, climate change has become a top level diplomatic priority for nearly all leading countries around the world. A great many of our allies and largest trading partners see Paris as an essential crisis and will do anything possible to escape it.

Trump may have gotten his start in reality TV, but now it’s time for a dose of actual reality. Remember the fact that his agenda is simply wrong, Trump also doesn’t know what he’s talking about. The agreement is already heading into force, and the U.S. will not be able to withdrawal for four years after ratification. And there is no “renegotiating” the Paris agreement. You can’t get more than 190 countries to re-negotiate a deal they already agreed to and are implementing on ground levels.

Trump needs to hit the books. As with so many issues, he seems to have a fundamentally unclear lack of understanding about this agreement.

To put an even finer point on what he said in specific about China - that China would not adhere to its pledge - Trump fails to recognize the dramatic movement China has made to reduce its coal pollution.

To put an even finer point on what he said in specific about China - that China would not adhere to its pledge - Trump fails to recognize the dramatic movement China has made to reduce its coal pollution.

The earth, our families, and our children are already at risk. The question is how we respond to the climate crisis, other leading countries around the world are putting forward plans on how they will reduce their carbon pollution. What Trump is ignoring is that many new coal plants are already underway, China has recently built on its already strong and low carbon sources of energy. China has recently built on its already strong and low carbon sources of energy. China has recently built on its already strong and low carbon sources of energy.

Trump needs to hit the books. As with so many issues, he seems to have a fundamentally unclear lack of understanding about this agreement. What he said is not just fundamentally reckless and a fundamental uncertainty.

That’s why Trump’s comments are not just wrong, he understands about constructing foreign policy.

Leading up to and following the Paris agreement, and with temperature rise on a continued march forward, climate change has become a top level diplomatic priority for nearly all leading countries around the world. A great many of our allies and largest trading partners see Paris as an essential crisis and will do anything possible to escape it.

Trump may have gotten his start in reality TV, but now it’s time for a dose of actual reality. Remember the fact that his agenda is simply wrong, Trump also doesn’t know what he’s talking about. The agreement is already heading into force, and the U.S. will not be able to withdrawal for four years after ratification. And there is no “renegotiating” the Paris agreement. You can’t get more than 190 countries to re-negotiate a deal they already agreed to and are implementing on ground levels.

Trump needs to hit the books. As with so many issues, he seems to have a fundamentally unclear lack of understanding about this agreement. What he said is not just fundamentally reckless and a fundamental uncertainty.

That’s why Trump’s comments are not just wrong, he understands about constructing foreign policy.

Leading up to and following the Paris agreement, and with temperature rise on a continued march forward, climate change has become a top level diplomatic priority for nearly all leading countries around the world. A great many of our allies and largest trading partners see Paris as an essential crisis and will do anything possible to escape it.

Trump may have gotten his start in reality TV, but now it’s time for a dose of actual reality. Remember the fact that his agenda is simply wrong, Trump also doesn’t know what he’s talking about. The agreement is already heading into force, and the U.S. will not be able to withdrawal for four years after ratification. And there is no “renegotiating” the Paris agreement. You can’t get more than 190 countries to re-negotiate a deal they already agreed to and are implementing on ground levels.

Trump needs to hit the books. As with so many issues, he seems to have a fundamentally unclear lack of understanding about this agreement. What he said is not just fundamentally reckless and a fundamental uncertainty.

That’s why Trump’s comments are not just wrong, he understands about constructing foreign policy.

Leading up to and following the Paris agreement, and with temperature rise on a continued march forward, climate change has become a top level diplomatic priority for nearly all leading countries around the world. A great many of our allies and largest trading partners see Paris as an essential crisis and will do anything possible to escape it.

Trump may have gotten his start in reality TV, but now it’s time for a dose of actual reality. Remember the fact that his agenda is simply wrong, Trump also doesn’t know what he’s talking about. The agreement is already heading into force, and the U.S. will not be able to withdrawal for four years after ratification. And there is no “renegotiating” the Paris agreement. You can’t get more than 190 countries to re-negotiate a deal they already agreed to and are implementing on ground levels.

Trump needs to hit the books. As with so many issues, he seems to have a fundamentally unclear lack of understanding about this agreement. What he said is not just fundamentally reckless and a fundamental uncertainty.

That’s why Trump’s comments are not just wrong, he understands about constructing foreign policy.

Leading up to and following the Paris agreement, and with temperature rise on a continued march forward, climate change has become a top level diplomatic priority for nearly all leading countries around the world. A great many of our allies and largest trading partners see Paris as an essential crisis and will do anything possible to escape it.

Trump may have gotten his start in reality TV, but now it’s time for a dose of actual reality. Remember the fact that his agenda is simply wrong, Trump also doesn’t know what he’s talking about. The agreement is already heading into force, and the U.S. will not be able to withdrawal for four years after ratification. And there is no “renegotiating” the Paris agreement. You can’t get more than 190 countries to re-negotiate a deal they already agreed to and are implementing on ground levels.

Trump needs to hit the books. As with so many issues, he seems to have a fundamentally unclear lack of understanding about this agreement. What he said is not just fundamentally reckless and a fundamental uncertainty.
Sanctuary

Seven months after NOAA announced the new sanctuary, our grass-roots group of supporters came from a formal nomination for the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary.

NOAA rejected it, saying it lacked sufficient depth.

Eight months later, our unromantic minders informed us that version 2.0—about three times the size of the first one, with more than 100 square miles of support from academics, NGOs, businesses, and elected officials, and more than 600 local individual supporters. NOAA accepted it.

One key date I can remember exactly: January 6, 2016, the NOAA convened a public hearing at a town hall meeting to explain why the nation marine sanctuary proposal failed. It made no sense.

June 11, 2016

Mat Waley, Founder, Whitewater Foundation Channel

June 8 is World Oceans Day

Activities sponsored by other organizations

Thu., June 5, 5-7:30 p.m.—Tour of SLO Botanical Garden with a design presentation by Ken Haggard. Join the Green Building Alliance for a tour of the peaceful and picturesque SLO Botanical Garden. Schematic design was a joint venture of San Luis Sustainability Group and Habitat Studio, based on passive solar design, natural lighting, strawbale construction, and rainwater harvesting. 3450 Cabrillo Dr., SLO. Contact Kevin Huener, kevin@thegreenhouse.com.

Fri., June 6, 8-10 a.m.—Sanctuary Nature Hike. Join Andrea from Cuyama Valley Audubon Society on a guided nature hike to explore the sanctuary. Meet at Osos Creek trailhead at 8:30 a.m. for an easy 1-hour hike. RSVP to Andrea at Andrea.ottis2014@gmail.com.

Sat., June 7, 7:30-9 a.m.—Tour of SLO Botanical Garden with a presentation by Ken Haggard. Join the Green Building Alliance for a tour of the peaceful and picturesque SLO Botanical Garden. Schematic design was a joint venture of San Luis Sustainability Group and Habitat Studio, based on passive solar design, natural lighting, strawbale construction, and rainwater harvesting. 3450 Cabrillo Dr., SLO. Contact Kevin Huener, kevin@thegreenhouse.com.

Sun., June 8, 7:30-9 a.m.—Tour of SLO Botanical Garden with a presentation by Ken Haggard. Join the Green Building Alliance for a tour of the peaceful and picturesque SLO Botanical Garden. Schematic design was a joint venture of San Luis Sustainability Group and Habitat Studio, based on passive solar design, natural lighting, strawbale construction, and rainwater harvesting. 3450 Cabrillo Dr., SLO. Contact Kevin Huener, kevin@thegreenhouse.com.

Sanctuary

Seven months after NOAA announced the new sanctuary, our grass-roots group of supporters came from a formal nomination for the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary.

NOAA rejected it, saying it lacked sufficient depth.

Eight months later, our unromantic minders informed us that version 2.0—about three times the size of the first one, with more than 100 square miles of support from academics, NGOs, businesses, and elected officials, and more than 600 local individual supporters. NOAA accepted it.

One key date I can remember exactly: January 6, 2016, the NOAA convened a public hearing at a town hall meeting to explain why the nation marine sanctuary proposal failed. It made no sense.