



SIERRA  
CLUB

June/July 2005  
Volume 42, No. 6

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### GENERAL MEETING

"Environmentalism and the Open Space of Democracy," with **Peter Douglas**  
**Tuesday, June 21, 7 pm**  
- See page 2

#### Mark your calendar:

August 20: **Annual Picnic**



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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

## Let That Be Her Monument

### Marlene Braun Fought for Carrizo

San Luis Obispo County and the nation have lost a champion of the Carrizo Plain and all that makes it one of the planet's most unique and sacred places. Marlene Braun, a long-time Bureau of Land Management employee who embraced an all-too-uncommon approach to responsible public land management, served as the manager of the Carrizo Plain National Monument (CPNM) from 2001 until she took her life on May 2. The void she has left – both in our hearts and on the land – will be very hard to fill.

Marlene felt deeply about, and fought tenaciously for, thoughtful management and meaningful conservation of the Carrizo Plain. Her appointment in 2001 as manager of the then recently-designated National Monument opened a new chapter in the cooperative management of the area by the BLM, The Nature Conservancy, and the California Department of Fish and Game. Marlene embraced, nourished, and encouraged the partnership, and her dedication and commitment to the Carrizo inspired those who were honored to work with her.

The Carrizo Plain National Monument is California's best-kept secret – more than 250,000 acres of soli-

tude and isolation in a spectacular setting. Ringed by mountains, the Monument contains the last significant remnant of intact San Joaquin Valley grasslands and is home to the highest concentration of endangered and threatened species in the nation.

Long-time Carrizophiles all agree that the area has never looked better than it does right now, largely thanks to Marlene's efforts and her leadership of the partners' management decisions. Marlene fought long and hard to ensure that the CPNM Resource Management Plan (RMP) – the document for guiding future management decisions on the Carrizo – would not be rooted in BLM's traditional paradigm of managing public lands, first and foremost, for eco-



Marlene Braun

nomie return rather than for conservation.

That fight continues. The BLM will soon release a controversial draft of the RMP. Will that plan open the door for more cattle grazing, oil exploration, and other exploitive uses – even at the cost of the very resources the National Monument was designated to protect? Marlene relentlessly fought the good fight over the development of the RMP. She lost that fight when the powers that be at BLM lined up in opposition to her, rewriting the plan and gutting her efforts.

The Santa Lucia and Kern-Kaweah Chapters of the Sierra Club have made the Carrizo RMP a high priority and will be "rallying the troops" when the public review draft is released. It's will be up to the public to continue Marlene's efforts. Please be involved when the time comes.

Marlene Braun died protecting this land. We will see to it that her efforts were not in vain and that her spirit will one day be able to rest in peace.

### SLO Open Space Revisions Proposed Drastic Changes & Bad Outcomes Loom

By *Jodee Bennett*  
ECOSLO Board Member,  
Natural San Luis Docent

The General Plan is the master-planning document for the City of San Luis Obispo. It deals with everything from Housing, Energy, Circulation and Conservation to Open Space and Land Use.

The City periodically needs to update these elements to keep up with changing needs and technology. In doing so, it is vitally important to keep language that provides protection of our natural resources and quality of life.

As the city continues to grow outward and neighborhoods become more densely populated, protection of our existing and future open space is more important than ever. Preserving our natural open spaces as a refuge for wildlife and a place for people to escape to the

natural world is critical to our increasingly hectic lifestyles.

Meaningful protections of our natural resources are embedded throughout the existing 1994 Open Space and Land Use Elements. These protections have served our community well.

The Community Development Department is revising the City's Open Space, Land Use and Conserva-

*continued on page 5*

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great and small,  
needs defense."

— John Muir



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## Santa Lucia Chapter General Meeting

an evening with

### PETER DOUGLAS

Exploring the Open Space of Democracy and  
the "Death" of Environmentalism

One of the state's most prominent environmental leaders will come to San Luis Obispo on Tuesday, June 21, to discuss the state of environmental activism and democracy.

Peter Douglas, in the words the San Francisco Chronicle, is "the man who, more than anyone in California, represents the brains and the conscience of coastal conservation."

Marking his twentieth year as Executive Director of the California Coastal Commission, Douglas directs the policy and operations of the commission that annually takes several thousand planning and regulatory actions balancing the use and conservation of California's 1,100-mile coast, inhabited by more than 20 million people.

He has developed public education and outreach programs (Adopt-a-Beach, the Coastal Resources Information Center, California Coast Clean-Up), and heads a highly-skilled non-partisan staff that serves the public in implementing the California Coastal Act — negotiating complex settlements of coastal resource disputes and working with local governments and multiple state and federal agencies.

Don't miss this opportunity to hear and speak with Peter Douglas.

Tuesday, June 21,

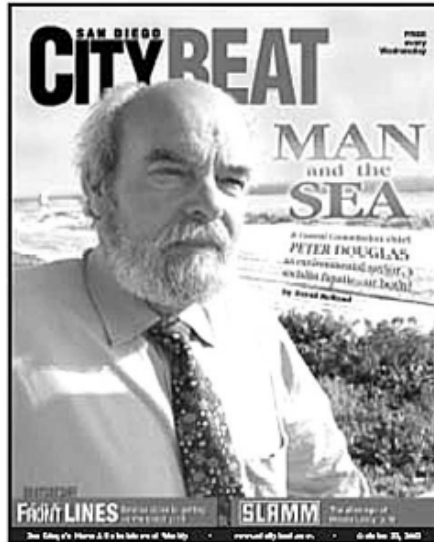
7:00 p.m.

Ludwick Center

864 Santa Rosa Street

(corner of Mill)

San Luis Obispo



## What Are We Being Called to Do?

By Karen Merriam  
Chapter Chair

Really I'm a very practical person. I like to build things; I like mowing my fields with my tractor; I like washing my dogs after they come in from a long day of gophering. I like playing hide-and-seek at seven each morning with the young owl whose parents chose my newly-erected owl box to call home.

So why is a practical person like me doing so much thinking about who we are as a Chapter — what we stand for — as a community of people who belong to The Sierra Club? Perhaps it is because we face together new issues and new decisions for which the old answers and strategies may no longer suffice.

Twelve men and women who represent the Chapter in a variety of capacities met together Sunday, May 15, at my home to discuss our Chapter's priorities for the coming months. We talked, and walked, and ate wonderful food, and discussed our direction as a Chapter. What we discovered were our commonalities and our deep commitments. We discovered our combined strengths. We found that we could trust each others' genuine desire to assert and to respect our interdependence — with each other and with all aspects of our endangered environment. We

found relief in coming together; and we were frustrated that in that short time we couldn't articulate all the plans and strategies that we feel will help us do a better job to protect and preserve all that is precious to us. We ended our time together with our work only just beginning.

Our process and our efforts will continue. We intend to set clear priorities and directions for our Chapter. It's the only way to use our time, resources, and talents effectively and wisely. It would help if you would tell us what is most important to you as a member of this Chapter of the Sierra Club. If your neighbor were to ask you tomorrow, "What does your Sierra Club Chapter stand for? What do you, the Chapter, do?" how would you answer that question? When you figure that out - send your answers to me <kmerriam@digitalputty.com>. I really want to know. We need to be asking and answering these questions together.

Then I can go back to watching the hooded orioles who have a secret nest near my study window. I can walk out into my fields at night to hear the sounds of many lives singing in a great chorus. And I can be glad that we have talked together.

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### Santa Lucia Chapter

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VICE CHAIR

Cal French

MEMBER

John Ashbaugh

MEMBER

Cal French

COUNCIL OF CLUB LEADERS DELEGATE

The Executive Committee meets the fourth Friday of every month at 5:00 p.m. at the chapter office, located at 1204 Nipomo St., San Luis Obispo. All members are welcome to attend.

#### Standing Committees

##### Political

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## Change of Address?

#### Mail changes to:

Sierra Club National Headquarters  
85 Second Street, 2nd Floor  
San Francisco, CA 94105-3441

#### or e-mail:

address.changes@sierraclub.org

## Visit us on the Web!

www.santalucia.  
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Outings, events, and  
more!

# Dear Senator Maldonado: Where's SLO's Sanctuary?

State Senator Abel Maldonado has had a draft resolution sitting in his desk drawer since January. It's called "Assembly Joint Resolution to support the extension of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary to include the entire coast of San Luis Obispo County."

He he has not yet introduced it.

As the federal Minerals Management Service extends existing offshore oil leases off California and raises objections to the inclusion in the Sanctuary of the Davidson Seamount – a treasure house of biodiversity 90 miles west of San Simeon (see "Draft Plan for Monterey Bay Sanctuary Near") – on the grounds that doing so may impede future oil and gas exploration off our coast, the handwriting is on the wall and dripping down to the floor: Sanctuary is our only permanent protection from offshore drilling.

For fifteen years, San Luis Obispo has awaited this protection. That's how long it's been since multiple resolutions endorsing a "Morro Coast Sanctuary," a measure that would have resulted in an identical protected area, were passed by the city councils of virtually every municipality in the County. In one weekend in 2003, ECOSLO volunteers gathered more than 700 signatures in Morro Bay on a petition asking for an extension of the Sanctuary to include the waters of San

Luis Obispo.

Some local fishermen are opposed to the extension. Though it would have no impact on fishing, the simple fact that it represents an extension of federal regulation is enough to trigger opposition.

The only other opposing group is, of course, oil companies and oil companies' friends. They are standing alone against the overwhelming desire of local residents, long since expressed.

The joint resolution would not itself create an expanded Sanctuary, instead conveying the sense of the California Senate and Assembly supporting the concept and sending a clear message to the National Marine Sanctuary Program and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration before the next scheduled revision of the Sanctuary management plan.

But for that to happen, Senator



Senator



Sanctuary

NOAA/MBARI

Maldonado needs to take that resolution out of his desk drawer and bring it to the floor.

### TAKE ACTION!

Write or call Senator Maldonado and tell him you want him to introduce the Joint Resolution:

**Senator Abel Maldonado**  
**State Capitol, Room 4081**  
**Sacramento, CA 95814**  
**Phone: 916-651-4015**  
**Fax: 916-445-8081**

## Draft Plan for Monterey Bay Sanctuary Near

After nearly three years of public input, the National Marine Sanctuary Program is preparing a Draft Management Plan (DMP) and an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. The plan is expected to be released for public review late this summer. Public hearings will be held throughout the region and will present an important opportunity for citizen participation.

*continued on page 6*

### Whose Geese? Our Geese!

## A Hunt in the Middle of a City?

The City of Morro Bay is an official bird sanctuary, including about half the grassy island territory in the estuary that is a center of waterfowl hunting activity every winter. The Department of Fish and Game has jurisdiction over the other half.

Do shotgun pellets respect lines on maps? Do hunters know where the Dept. of Fish and Game's jurisdiction ends and the City of Morro Bay begins in the middle of the estuary? Do they point their shotguns away from that invisible line when a goose flies overhead?

Even if there were enough local wardens to enforce the hunt regulations (there aren't), and even if they were inclined to issue citations to their fellow hunters, friends and relatives (they're not), this is unenforceable.

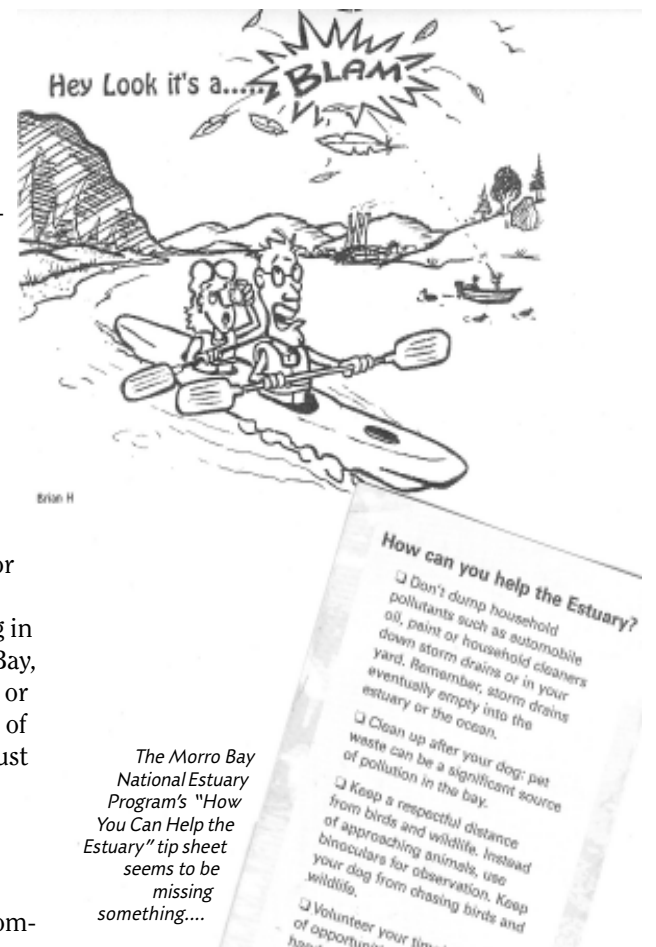
As an enforcement issue, a public safety issue, a tourism issue, and an

Solution: No Hunting Allowed. This is no longer a remote, largely unpopulated coast, nor are the increasingly stressed and harried waterfowl in our estuary the equivalent of millions of deer roaming the backwoods of Wisconsin or the Appalachians.

There is no hunting in San Diego's Mission Bay, La Jolla, Long Beach, or the Ballona Wetlands of Marina del Rey. So must go Morro Bay.

### TAKE ACTION!

Nine years ago, the community tried to put an



The Morro Bay National Estuary Program's "How You Can Help the Estuary" tip sheet seems to be missing something....

## Chapter Forms Litigation Committee

At its April meeting, the Chapter Executive Committee established a committee to consider support of public appeals challenging bad land use decisions.

The new committee will review planning decisions for compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act and assist neighborhoods seeking organizing and financial assistance in efforts to protect their quality of life from poorly planned, unsustainable development.

"San Luis Obispo County's essential character and ability to sustain all our residents – human and non-human – is under increasing pressure," said committee member Jan Marx, an environmental attorney who helped spearhead the successful effort to turn back the proposed Dalidio Marketplace development. "We look forward to advancing the Sierra Club tradition of protection of the land through enforcement of the law."



Morro Bay naturalist Mandy Davis (left) lays out grassy island hunt issues for state Fish and Game Commissioner Bob Hattoy.

environmental issue, this dog won't hunt. Shotgun blasts are not conducive to taking the stress off migratory species clinging to one of the last remaining forage & resting lagoons on the Pacific Coast.

end to this anachronistic and inappropriate hunt. In response, the National Rifle Association packed public meetings with hundreds of hunters from across the country and shouted down the voices of environmental sanity, bullying our citizens into silence.

That was then, this is now. The hunt is indefensible, out of place and out of time, overwhelmingly opposed by the people who live here.

Now is the time to make your voices heard. Come out to the June 13 meeting of the Morro Bay City Council and support a vote of the Council to convey to the Fish and Game Commission the Sierra Club's resolution to end the waterfowl hunt

in the Estuary:

**June 13, 5:00 p.m., City Hall Conference Room, 595 Harbor St., Morro Bay.**

Come out to the June 23 meeting of the Los Osos Community Advisory Council to support LOCAC recommending a hunt ban resolution to 2<sup>nd</sup> District Supervisor Shirley Bianchi:

**June 23, 7:00 p.m., South Bay Community Center, 2180 Palisades Ave., Los Osos.**

Read, print, sign & send us the hunt ban resolution on line at [www.santalucia.sierraclub.org/estuary/estuary.html](http://www.santalucia.sierraclub.org/estuary/estuary.html)

See Sierra Club's Andrew Christie and CAHRENE's Mandy Davis interviewed on the Morro Bay hunt on "SLO Issues", 6:30 p.m. Thursdays and Fridays, 10:00 p.m. Sundays, on SLO public access channel 2.

# Energize the Movement at our Largest

Registrations are coming in! The Sierra Summit will be the largest gathering held by the Sierra Club in its 113-year history, and will serve as an important milestone in the environmental movement. This four-day event-taking place September 8-11 in San Francisco will be a huge opportunity for attendees to explore, enjoy, and protect the planet through a fun and rich learning experience.

This is also a unique opportunity to energize the environmental movement at a critical time, and a chance for all people who enjoy the planet and are concerned about its

protection to support visioning the future. "This will be a rich experience for all of us," says Executive Director Carl Pope, "Good things happen when so many come together to shape the future. Through it, we will further build community and articulate hope and our values."

There will be a myriad of workshops on everything from "Backyard Organics" and "Eating Smart", to "Photography & Nature" and "Restoring the Wild." There will also be an exhibit hall filled with the latest environmentally sensitive technologies and Products, and Sierra Showcase will display the accomplishments of our chapters, groups and committees. Speakers will include one of the country's environmental champions and one of *Time* magazine's "Heroes for the Planet" for fighting to restore the Hudson River, Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. Other speakers include former Poet Laureate Robert Hass, chef Alice Waters, and professor George Lakoff.

The Summit will include the Sierra Club Strategic Direction Setting process which will be the most inclusive and extensive direction setting process the Club has ever had with 1,000 delegates from across the country. And as part of the pre-Summit preparation, all members are invited to participate in online discussions (see instructions below).

And of course no Sierra Club event would be complete without outdoor

activities, and there will be a number of hikes and other fun opportunities to get outdoors and socialize. It will be a great chance to network and learn with other Sierra members and leaders from around the country.

Everyone is welcome to attend, have fun and learn about the exciting ways to enjoy and protect the planet. To

register, go to [www.sierrasummit2005.org](http://www.sierrasummit2005.org) and either complete the form online or mail or fax it in. You can also call (301) 694-5243 or e-mail [scs051.attendee@expoexchange.com](mailto:scs051.attendee@expoexchange.com).

## Bill Maher's New Rules for the Environment

On May 4, *Planet* Senior Editor Tom Valtin spoke with comedian and Sierra Summit speaker Bill Maher about his views on the environment.

**Planet:** *I assume from the fact that you're the featured entertainer at the Sierra Summit this September that you take more than a passing interest in the environment.*

**Maher:** Sure. I can't think of anything I worry about more. It's that little "wanting to live" clause in my contract, you know? All you have to do is read the paper and every day there's some bad news. It's either that the tuna are disappearing, or the ice caps are melting, or there's no snow on Mt. Kilimanjaro. It's just getting to a point where you can't ignore it. I asked Bobby Kennedy when he was on my show on Earth Day, when they put history on the clock of the day, how late in the day is it? Is it eleven at night? Is it two minutes to midnight? I don't know what has to happen to get people to wake up, but obviously something more than you or I are doing.

**Planet:** *One problem seems to be that people are ill-informed, even though they're bombarded with so much information every day. You're an entertainer, but you're also an outspoken progressive. Do you feel educating the public is part of your role?*

**Maher:** Yeah, and I bring up the environment as often as I possibly can without being such a bore that people turn it off, because then that doesn't serve anybody's purposes.

**Planet:** *In speaking with Charles Schumer last Friday, you said there are some very important issues—and the environment was the first example you cited—that the Average Joe just finds too byzantine and*

*boring to latch onto. How do we get people to pay attention?*



**Maher:** If you ask Robert Kennedy, he'd tell you that the big villain in this is the media. And I tend to think he's got a good point. The media's job is to make what's important interesting, and they have abdicated that responsibility. They fill their pages and their programs with tales of runaway brides and molesting pop stars, the sexy stuff that's easily graspable. That was part of my point to Schumer. People read and care about the things that are easily graspable. The tsunami's an example. Americans loved that story. Not the tsunami itself, obviously, but there was a sense that, "Oh, here's one that we can understand. Underwater earthquake makes big wave. I can get my head around that one." It was sufficiently far away, and of course, there was a supermodel involved, so it was the perfect storm of perfect storms.

**Planet:** *You probably recall that in the immediate aftermath of 9/11, one of the things President Bush urged people to do was to get out and go shopping, to demonstrate that we weren't going to let the terrorists disrupt our daily lives. But unlike during WWII, say, it seems that Americans aren't being asked to make any sacrifices so far*

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Be a part of the largest gathering of Sierra Club members in history!

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- Enjoy four days of fun, entertainment and personal inspiration

For registration and up-to-date information, visit [www.sierrasummit2005.org](http://www.sierrasummit2005.org)

For information on exhibiting or sponsoring, contact Noreen Burke, Exhibit Manager, at 312-541-0567 or email [info@correxpo.com](mailto:info@correxpo.com)

## Join our E-mail Alert List

Get notification of important upcoming meetings and decisions on issues of environmental concern for Central Coast residents. Send your e-mail address to [sierra8@charter.net](mailto:sierra8@charter.net) (Sorry, Santa Lucia Chapter members only.)

## Your Two Cents

As part of gearing up for Sierra Summit 2005, Sierra Club members are invited to join a discussion forum called "From Our Roots to the Summit," where they can be a part of envisioning the future of the Club. The discussion board threads are described (and managed) on the website below. All you need to do is sign up!

Make it a point to register, familiarize yourself with how the discussion board works, and plan to visit frequently as the conversations unfold. To participate, go to the page below and click on "register" at the top to have your password emailed back to you. <http://www.sierraclub.org/summitforum>

# Gathering Ever: Sierra Summit 2005

as our use of natural resources or reining in our consumption. We seem to be such a freedom-loving country that we almost don't want to take responsibility. What do we do about that?

**Maher:** That's a question that I've not found an answer for. I wrote a whole book about it after 9/11, called *When you Ride Alone, You Ride with Bin Laden*, and that was the theme of that book. It's a grafting of the idea of those WWII patriotic posters that got people to help out and get involved in the war effort. We created new ones for the war on terror, but some of them were just redo's of the old posters. There was one WWII poster that was imploring people to save gasoline, and it said "When you ride alone, you ride with Hitler." So riding with Bin Laden was just an updating of that. We got into that subject—sacrifice, asking people to make sacrifices—quite a bit in the book, and that was the whole idea: if your government isn't going to ask you and inform you, then I'll do it.

But obviously people need the call from the top. There's no substitute for a president making something an issue. And the sad thing about this president is that he's actually good at making something an issue. He's a very willful person. Nobody was asking for tax cuts when he ran for president. Nobody was thinking that we should invade Iraq when he proposed that. Nobody was asking that social security be put on the table right now. These are all issues that came out of this president's singular mind, and his willful mindset. If he turned that willful mindset toward the environment, toward conservation, toward asking people to make a sacrifice, the momentum that would bring to the table would be incalculable. But obviously it's not what he feels is important. Or he's just such a

corrupt #&\*@! that he doesn't care.

**Planet:** *The Sierra Club is opposed to Bush's environmental policies,*

*longer a place for him there. Christie Todd Whitman says in her new book that her party has been hijacked. Is there a place for environmentalists in the Republican Party these days?*

**“The problem with the left, and the Democrats, and environmentalists, is not that they're too hard on this president, it's that they're too easy on him.”**

*but we've found that when we criticize Bush personally, people aren't as receptive. How do we oppose the policies without criticizing the person?*

**Maher:** You're falling into the Al Gore-John Kerry trap, which is "Don't attack the president too much because it will offend his supporters." Who gives a #%! if it offends his supporters? This man needs to be attacked. You can't separate the man from the policy. He is the policy, OK? People need to know that he's a corrupt person, that he's selling his country and his countrymen down the river to pay back his friends in the energy industry. I would not hesitate to make this case at all. If people can't accept that, then I don't know what to tell you. The problem with the left, and the Democrats, and environmentalists, is not that they're too hard on this president, it's that they're too easy on him.

**Planet:** *For much of the 20th century, protecting the environment was a bipartisan endeavor. But recently the GOP leadership, at least at the national level, seems to have turned its back on this tradition. James Jeffords, a moderate Republican who cared about the environment, felt he had to bolt the party in 2001 because there was no*

**Maher:** That's a great question. There should be, and there are—I mean, John McCain just made an appearance with Bobby Kennedy. I think he's on that page. I think any Republican who's not beholden to the Christian right is on that page. The Republican Party has been hijacked by this Christian wing of the party, and the problem is that pollution isn't mentioned in the Bible, so it's not really important to them. I'm sure you're familiar with the James Watt quote that I think says it all, about the environmental end is near. Use it or lose it—that was his attitude about the environment. You cannot argue rationally with religious people, so as long as this country is on this path toward theocracy, the environmental movement is greatly threatened. And it's going to be a self-fulfilling prophecy because the world will end—not because God came down, but because we actually destroyed it.

**Planet:** *On your Earth Day show, you said, "I hate to tell you this, folks, but gas doesn't cost too much; it costs too little." We've found when we make this argument, the rebuttal is often: "Oh, but that will hurt the poor the most." What would you say to that? What's your rationale for supporting higher gas prices?*

**Maher:** Not everything can be organized around the principle that poor people are hurt the most. It's something we should consider, and I certainly have sympathy for that argument, but the air is something we all breathe—rich, poor, and middle class. And for those of us who are aren't poor, well, if we don't like higher gas prices, maybe don't have a \$3 latte at Starbucks.

This country was able to accept the fact that smoking was something that could be overtaxed to discourage it because it's bad for us, but not gasoline. Somewhere along the line in the last 20 years we came to understand that smoking in public places was just intolerable, because it meant that you were befouling the air we all breathe, and if we all breathe it then you couldn't be so selfish as to dirty it up for everybody. Well, what about the bar that we call Earth? It's a big bar, and some people are smoking in it, and we all have to breathe the air. George Bush is like a selfish bar owner who's catering to his smoking clientele because they're very good customers.

**Planet:** *Given the dark times we're in, at least so far as the environmental policy coming out of Washington, D.C., is concerned, is there something that gives you reason for optimism?*

**Maher:** Yes, that Bush will be out of office in three years.

**Planet:** *In the century now starting to unfold, do you think the environment is going to be something people pay closer attention to?*

**Maher:** It's going to have to be. People are just going to have to wake up.

## Open Space

*continued from page 1*

tion Elements, condensing hundreds of pages into a 75-page document. This recent draft was done without input from a citizen's task force, unlike the 1994 Elements. It proposes abandoning many of the critical protections contained in the existing Open Space and Land Use Elements. For example, instead of preserving wildlife and natural habitats as the top priority of open space, as in the existing element, the Community Development Department's proposal lists public access and recreation as co-equal with the goal of resource protection and *above* protection of scenic resources!

The new draft also eliminates the word "passive" from the description of recreation that is allowed in our open space. Passive recreation is defined as such activities as hiking, bird watching, photography and nature study. In our current General Plan Element, passive recreation is the allowed use on Open Space land, while "active" recreation is the allowed use in parkland. In the new

draft, the City will open the door to more "active" recreation, defined as "...play fields (such as soccer or softball), school fields, community centers, tennis courts...golf courses and golf-related facilities, recreation resorts, and similar facilities."

### TAKE ACTION!

Contact the Planning Commission and the City Council and encourage them to keep our existing environmentally superior protections in place. View the documents at [www.SLOCity.org](http://www.SLOCity.org), attend the meetings and make comments (verbal or written or both), and support the organizations (ECOSLO and Sierra Club) that are tracking and providing input to the process.

**Without your help, we may see drastic and unwanted changes to the community and surrounding open spaces that cannot be reversed.**



at a glance

- WHEN** September 8-11, 2005
- WHERE** Moscone Center, San Francisco
- ENTERTAINERS/SPEAKERS** Ariana Huffington, Bill Maher, Robert Hass, George Lakoff, Bill McDonough, Ric Burns, plus many more still to be confirmed)
- WORKSHOPS/PANELS** Arts and the Environment (photography, poetry, painting, music, salvage art, and more) ■ Living Well (spirituality/religion, sustainable cooking, bikes and transit, and more) ■ Natural Heritage (birds and wind power, forest protection, urban nature, and more) ■ Outdoor Adventure (eco-tourism, backpacking with family, non-traditional allies, and more) ■ Visionary Solutions (reshaping the forces of globalization, leaving fossil fuels behind, restoration, and more) ■ Working Smart (framing the public debate, technology and organizing, nurturing new leaders, and more)
- EXPOSITION** 150 green and outdoor businesses, a cooking stage, a climbing wall, an on-site eco-house, "green" dollhouse, hybrid cars, more...
- OUTINGS** Day hikes in Golden Gate Park, trail restoration service trips, San Francisco Giants baseball games. (all accessible by public transit)
- DIRECTION-SETTING PROCESS** Gathering of 1,000 delegates, representing chapters, groups, committees, and other entities to set the direction of the Club for the coming years.
- DELEGATE BREAKDOWN** 1,000 delegates to be appointed or elected — 1 delegate from each group (totalling 300) ■ 4 delegates from each chapter (1 Council of Club leaders delegate, 1 senior volunteer, 1 activist under 30, 1 outing leader, totalling 272) ■ 163 "at-large" delegates from chapters, based on number of members ■ 285 delegates from national committees, boards, govcom, other entities. (For more on the delegate selection process, go to [dubhouse.sierraclub.org](http://dubhouse.sierraclub.org))
- SIERRA CLUBSHOWCASE** All entities invited to showcase their work, share their success stories in poster sessions.
- COST** (if you register by May 31): Members: \$260, leaders: \$200, delegates \$100
- TO REGISTER AND FIND OUT MORE** [sierrasummit2005.org](http://sierrasummit2005.org)

# Cayucos Loves That Dirty Water

The tertiary-stage treatment of waste water is the most technologically advanced method of cleaning sewage, producing an end product that can be recycled for use in landscaping and agriculture.

It's one of two options on the table for the upgrade of the Morro Bay-Cayucos Wastewater Treatment Plant, which – three decades after the passage of the Clean Water Act – is still pumping primary-treated sewage into Morro Bay. The two communities are just now putting together a plan to bring their discharge up to federally-required treatment levels. One plan would bring the plant up to secondary treatment – the federal minimum. An alternative plan would add tertiary treatment, with the potential of bringing all of the communities' wastewater up to that level.

Alas, Morro Bay City Manager Robert Hendrix and several directors of the Cayucos Sanitary District are adamantly opposed to including any

tertiary element in the plant upgrade, saying it would cost too much and would provide no benefits – apparently unaware that re-usable water is a scarce and valuable commodity on the Central Coast, and despite the fact that plant manager Bruce Keogh has said that a tertiary upgrade plan would be more likely to attract federal funding than a plan for minimal secondary treatment. In other words, the superior and more expensive plan is actually likely to cost Morro Bay and Cayucos less out of pocket. Hendrix and the CSD are also inclined to take a leisurely nine and a half years to get their waste water up to the minimal secondary treatment level.

But the opponents of tertiary treatment are not expressing their opposition publicly. On May 19, at a joint meeting of the Morro Bay City Council and the Cayucos Sanitary District, public testimony and the majority of Morro Bay's Councilmembers

expressed an overwhelming preference for upgrading the plant to tertiary treatment. But Cayucos succeeded in deferring a vote and sending the issue to a subcommittee, after which the plan will be voted on separately, not in joint session, by the Morro Bay City Council (clearly in favor of the tertiary option) and the Cayucos Sanitary District (largely opposed). Cayucos district officials and Mr. Hendrix did not care to make their anti-tertiary argument in front of TV cameras and with attorneys from the Natural Resources Defense Council and a cross-section of alert citizens and representatives from the Sierra Club, Surfrider, Central Coast Ocean Outfall Group and the Regional Water Quality Control Board in the room.

If you like the idea of a healthy marine environment and recyclable water

on the Central Coast, and a long-term vision of waste water treatment instead of a near-sighted one, now is the time to tell the Cayucos Sanitary District that grudging agreement to rise to the federally required dead-minimum level of waste water treatment and no better is **not** the way to take care of our coastal waters. Tell them Morro Bay and Cayucos need tertiary treatment, and they need it now!

## TAKE ACTION!

Write to:  
Board of Directors  
Cayucos Sanitary District  
P.O. Cox 333  
Cayucos CA 93430  
FAX: (805) 995-3673

## Serendipity Strikes Again

By Jack Beigle

Every outing is a different adventure, and our Margarita Lake outing was full of pleasant surprises.

The weatherman said that it would be clear, but it was overcast and cold. As soon as we launched our 12 boats the clouds started to part and the sun was warm as we paddled. The lake was full. It was flowing over the spillway for the first time in several years.

We noticed a large rock by the shoreline that had a small cave that



binoculars. He said, "I hate to tell you, but there are happy face stickers on those three eggs."

Somebody's April fools joke really gave us all a good laugh.

Several years ago we paddled up two small canyons that were cut by small creeks. At the head of each of these canyons was a beautiful waterfall. During the heavy rains of the 1998 El Nino, many large boulders fell, blocking access to the falls for the last seven years. This year, with the high water, we were able to paddle a circuitous course through the boulder gardens to view both falls. One of these canyons has a large rock face that comes down into the water. It is deeply eroded by rainwater. The cavities in the rock were interconnected and made an intricate rock sculpture inside the rock. We were able to paddle partway into the cavity and look up about 15 feet into the labyrinth.

On our way back to the marina we watched two golden eagles soaring with turkey vultures. A few minutes later an adult bald eagle flew by.

It was another exciting adventure with the unexpected joy of serendipity every few minutes.

Check the outing schedule and join us on the water.



we could paddle in partway. Above the entrance we saw a small cavity that was about 1 foot in diameter and 1 foot deep. In this cavity was a small nest with three eggs. While we were discussing that this was a very unlikely place for a nest, another paddler was checking it out with his

## Calendar of Events Chapter Programs and Planning

June 4 - 5	Sierra Club California Convention, Rancho El Chorro
June 8 5:00 pm	State Parks HCP Sooping meeting, Embassy Suites, SLO
June 2 4:15 pm	Conservation Committee Meeting
June 21 6:30 pm	General Meeting, Ludwick Ctr - "Activism and Democracy"
June 24 5:00 pm	Chapter Executive Committee Meeting
Aug. 20 12:00pm	Chapter Annual Summer Picnic

## Sanctuary

continued from page 3

The draft plan is a revision of the MBNMS's original management plan, adopted with sanctuary designation in 1992, and will focus on how best to understand and protect the sanctuary's resources and implement actions that will guide the MBNMS for the next five years. The majority of the action plans are grouped into four main themes:

- Coastal Development (e.g., coastal armoring, desalination, harbors and dredge disposal and submerged cables)
- Ecosystem Protection (e.g., special marine protected areas, Davidson Seamount, bottom trawling effects on benthic habitats, and introduced species)
- Water Quality (e.g., beach closures and microbial contamination and cruise ship discharges)
- Wildlife Disturbance (e.g., marine mammal, seabird, and sea turtle disturbance, motorized personal watercraft, and tidepool protection)

Each of the action plans address priority concerns raised by the public. Indeed, the action plans were developed based on an extensive public process conducted over the past 4 years and which included hundreds of people participating in a series of public "scoping meetings," stakeholder work groups and Sanctuary Advisory Council workshops and meetings.

This update of the sanctuary's management plan is part of a process known as the Joint Management Plan Review (JMPR) and involves not only the Monterey Bay Sanctuary but the Gulf of the Farallones and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries to the north.

The sanctuary program has produced a "Citizen Update to the Joint Management Plan Review" to help the public better understand the sanctuary management plan review process, how key coastal and ocean issues will be addressed and how citizens can make their voices heard. To access a copy or for updates on the JMPR, go to <http://sanctuaries.nos.noaa.gov/jointplan/> or call (831) 647-4217.

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# Classifieds

Classified ads are \$10 and are limited to 20 words. They are due by the last week of the month prior to publication (**next deadline is April. 18, 2005**). Please submit your ad and payment to:  
Sierra Club - Santa Lucia Chapter  
p.o. Box 15755  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93406  
sierra8@charter.net

## Local Government Meetings

- City of SLO--1st & 3rd Tues., 7:00 p.m.; 781-7103
- Arroyo Grande--2nd and 4th Tues., 7:00 p.m.; 473-5404
- Atascadero--2nd & 4th Tues.; 466-8099
- Cambria CSD -- 4th Thurs.; 927-6223
- Grover Beach--1st & 3rd Mon., 6:30 p.m.; 473-4567  
Grover Beach Planning Commission-- 2nd Tues.
- Morro Bay--2nd & 4th Mon.
- Paso Robles--1st & 3rd Tues., 7:00 p.m.; 237-3888
- Pismo Beach--1st Tues., 5:30 p.m.; 773-4657
- Los Osos CSD board-- 1st Tues. & 2nd Mon., varies
- California Coastal Commission-- 3rd Tues., varies
- SLO County Board of Supervisors-- every Tues.; 781-5450
- SLO Council of Governments; 781-4219  
SLOCOG Citizens Advisory Committee--1st Wed. every other month, 6:00 p.m.  
SLOCOG Board--1st Wed. every other month, 8:30 a.m.

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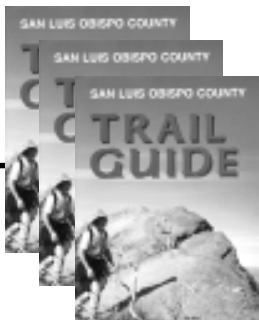
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**Co-Housing Community**

Newer home in Oak Creek Commons. 4 bdrms 2 bths, great kitchen, & low-maintenance landscape. Enjoy privacy along w/ benefits of a co-housing community. Includes 10 acres of pristine oaks, 4000 sq. ft. common house, pool & hot-tub. Some members of the Sierra Club live in this community. \$429,000. For more information please contact Christine McDonald of Prudential Hunter Realty at (805-441-5018)

## A Will . . .

. . . is a way to protect the environment as well as yourself. If you do not have a will, the state decides how your property and other affairs are handled. Decisions made now can later provide financial security for family, friends, and the Sierra Club. You may even direct your bequest to a specific Club program or your home Chapter.

For more information and confidential assistance, contact

**John Calaway**  
Sierra Club Planned Giving Program  
85 Second Street, 2nd Floor, San Francisco, CA 94105-3441  
(415) 977-5538.

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Local publisher (Cambria) has detailed strategies, programs.

[PowerFromSun.com](http://PowerFromSun.com)  
[HouseYourself.com](http://HouseYourself.com)

# Outings and Activities Calendar

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

## Hiking Classifications:

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

**Elevation Gain:** A = 500', B = 1000', C = 1500', D = 2000', E = 2500', F = 3000' or more.

**Wed., June 1, 8, 15, 22, 29. 5:30 p.m. Informal 1-2 hours hikes around San Luis Obispo.** Check Website at [www.santalucia.sierraclub.org](http://www.santalucia.sierraclub.org), or e-mail [gfelsman@onemain.com](mailto:gfelsman@onemain.com) for meeting location.

**Sat., June 4, 8 a.m., RED ROCK/GIBRALTAR DAM SWIM/HIKE:** Hike the high road to Gibraltar Dam, have lunch near Dam, and walk the river trail back. We will swim in one of the ponds on the way back (7 m rt, 500 ft. elev. gain). Bring lunch and plenty of water. Meet at the Lompoc Bowling Alley at 8am or the Park and Ride in Santa Ynez at 8:45am. Dogs welcome. Contact leader for reservations. CONNIE 735-2292 (AR).

**Sun., June 5th, 10:30 NIPOMO NATIVE GARDEN:** A celebration of: National Trails Day, Non-Mom's Day, Vasectomy Pledge Day and Bill's B-Day (ate ohh-no). A tour of garden and ancient oak followed by BBQ (Arnold the pig), music, a keg & festivity. Sort of a potluck but meat, beer, real plates and silverware (no plastic) provided. Call or e-mail a few days before for details: 929-3647

**SAT., June 11/12 SANTA MARGARITA LAKE DAY TRIP OR CAMPOUT** Our goal for this outing is to enjoy a leisurely paddling weekend at Santa Margarita Lake. We have reserved the Sapwi, Ecological Campsite on the north shore of the lake. We will all eat lunch at the campsite, then the Day Trip will return after lunch. Bring your boat and equipment, PFDs, camping gear, food and water. Phone Jack Beigle 773-2147 for reservation, park fees and details. ADVANCE RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED FOR THE DAY TRIP AND OVERNIGHT.

**Sat-Sun., June 11-12, Telescope Peak (11,049').** Climb the highest

peak in Death Valley with spectacular views of the highest point (Mt. Whitney) and the lowest point (Badwater) in the contiguous US. 14 mi rt, 3000' gain, moderate/slow pace, no tigers, but must be well conditioned. Hike Sat followed by potluck and campfire. Group size strictly limited. Send \$5 per person (Sierra Club), 2 sase, H&W phones, email, rideshare info to Ldr: Lygeia Gerard, 1550 N. Verdugo Rd. #40, Glendale, CA 91208; 818-242-7053. Co-Ldr: Bill Spreng; 760-951-4520. Crescenta Valley/CNCC Desert Com.

**Sat., June 18, 10:00a.m. CANOE OR KAYAK THE LAS TABLAS ARM OF LAKE NACIMIENTO.** The lake is full, bald eagles are nesting, and the scenery is glorious. We will paddle out to the main body of the lake and possibly beyond for a picnic lunch and then return by 3 p.m. Bring your own human-powered watercraft, PFDs, water, lunch, and sun protection—the usual stuff. Free launch and free parking at the leader's home. Put in 10:00 a.m. E-mail or phone the leader for more information and for driving directions to the launch site. Limit of 12 boats. Leader: Cal French, 239-7338 or [ccfrench@tcsn.net](mailto:ccfrench@tcsn.net)

**Sat., June 18, 9:00am: Three Hazards hike in Montana de Oro SP:** Enjoy views from the Ridge Trail and a beach walk on this moderate, 6 mi., 1100 ft. loop hike. We'll climb up Hazard Canyon to Hazard Peak, then descend to the ocean to Hazard Reef. Meet in MdO SP at junction of Pecho Valley Rd. and Sand Spit Rd. Park in dirt parking area at junction. Bob Schwartz, 441-9508, [rws\\_usa@yahoo.com](mailto:rws_usa@yahoo.com) (3C).

**Sat., June 18th, Lopez Lake Twin Rivers** Meet at 9a.m. at the ranger station or carpool from the Halcyon Park and Ride (off US 101-in AG) at 8:15 to save on the park entrance fee; wear sturdy shoes and long pants. Bring plenty of water, lunch food to share and a pair of binoculars. The trail has a very varied setting (flowers in open areas, oak trees and wildlife) and leads to spectacular view of the Oceano Dunes. The lake has more water this year. Beginners can join for the first leg of the hike if they have their own transportation. For more details call Eliane at 473-0288 before 7 p.m.

**JUNE 19, Sun. 0930 KAYAK OSO FLACO LAKE.** Meet in OFL parking lot with kayak & PFD. Wheels available to get to lake. Bring binoc's for birding. I have an extra kayak but will need help loading. Call or e-mail a few days before for details: 929-3647.

**Fri-Sun., June 24-26, White Mountain (14,246) Carcamp and Hike.** Climb one of California's fourteeners, third highest point in the state. 15 mi rt, 3300 ft vertical gain. Moderate/slow pace, no tigers, but should be in good condition. Meet at Grandview Campground (dry) Friday night. Saturday morning we carpool to the trailhead, lunch at the top and

then return for happy hour pot luck. Sunday we will explore the two Bristlecone Pine Forests as time permits. Bring enough water for weekend, comfortable hiking shoes and clothes and a dish to share for happy hour. For more information contact Ldr: Kate Allen; [kj.allen@att.net](mailto:kj.allen@att.net), (661-944-4056). Antelope Valley Group/CNCC Desert Com.

**Sat., June 25<sup>th</sup>, 8 a.m. Hwy 1 to Silver Peak.** Come take a strenuous hike to the top of Silver Peak, or some other destination depending on the weather and your stamina. as this is a 13-mile hike with over 3000 foot elevation gain. You will see redwoods, oaks, cross a stream or two, and yes, there may be some poison oak, and of course a tick or two along the way. But this is beautiful country and well worth the effort. Bring lunch, plenty of water, sturdy hiking shoes, and dress for the weather. Meet at the Washburn Day use Area, in San Simeon State Park. Approx. 1 mile past the last light in Cambria. Details call Chuck, 927-3769.

**Sun., June 26, 0930 Black Lake Canyon** Meet at junction of Guadalupe Rd and Leguna Nigra, hike Xenon Way to Land Conservancy Property to Greenhart Canyon to proposed Cypress Ridge Development to Oak Woodland Habitat. My easiest hike. Call or e-mail a few days before for details: 929-3647.

**Sun., July 3, 8 a.m., Bishop Peak.** Join us for this 2-hour, 5-mile roundtrip hike with 1300 feet of elevation gain. Everyone is welcome, but beginners will fall way behind due to the fast pace and elevation gain. Meet at the trailhead in the 800 block of Patricia Drive in SLO. Leader: Al (534-0462) (2B).

**Sun., July 3, 0930 POINT SAL.** Meet at end of Brown Rd (which is 1.5 miles south of Guadalupe off Hwy #1) at locked gate, climb 2.5 miles to 'pass' and then decide what next: PS State Beach, Paradise Beach or return. Bring water, windbreaker and a lunch. Call or e-mail a few days before for details: 929-3647.

**Sat, July 9<sup>th</sup>, 8 a.m. Silver Peak Wilderness Hike.** Come take a hike exploring the Silver Peak Wilderness, we may explore Salmon Creek, Crucikshank, or the Coastal Traverse depending on the weather and those attending the hike. Bring lunch, water, and sturdy hiking shoes. Poison oak will be present along the trail. Meet at Spencer's Market in Morro Bay. Cambria Residents call for meeting place. Details call Gary 473-3694.

**Sun., July 10th, 8:30 a.m. Avila Beach - Bob Jones Trail** Meet at the Ontario road park and ride lot (Port San Luis exit); easy 1 hour hike -bring water and wear layers. Optional brunch in Shell Beach afterward. Call Eliane at 473-0288 no later than 7 p.m.

**Sat., July 16, 5:00 p.m. CANOE/KAYAK MORRO BAY DINNER PICNIC.** This is an evening paddle on the



Photo by Joaquin Palting

bay and a beach dinner picnic with friends. It should be a romantic evening for a gourmet picnic. Bring your boat and equipment, PFDs, windbreaker, warm clothing, flashlight and a picnic dinner. LAUNCH AT MORRO BAY STATE PARK MARINA Put in 5:00 PM Jack Beigle 773-2147.

## Free Camping at Limekiln State Park!

Limekiln State Park lies about 60 miles north of Carmel, bordering the Ventana Wilderness. Right now, it's offering free camping for those who join the monthly invasive plant eradication program (French broom, fennel, pampas grass, etc.) Work for 5 hours and camp for 2 nights; limited space available — eight people maximum. If you are unfamiliar with Limekiln, check the State Park website [www.parks.ca.gov](http://www.parks.ca.gov) under Limekiln.

Resident ranger Dave Garcia is a member of the Sierra Club's Yahi Section, an outings leader, and national service trip leader.

"We are a small park — 33 campsites with beach camping, creek camping or redwood grove camping," says Dave. "We are full seven days a week during the summer because it is such a spectacular park to visit and camp at. I will be pulling two campsites off reservation for volunteers who wish to join my eradication program. I hope the Santa Lucia Chapter will be able to assist me in helping to preserve California's natural heritage."

Call Dave for details at 831-667-2403.

**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.**