



SIERRA  
CLUB

January 2006  
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### GENERAL MEETING

Meet Rep. Lois Capps and Los Padres ForestWatch director Jeff Kuyper, Jan. 17

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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

## Ask Your Mayor to Cool Your City

It's time to make a renewable New Year's resolution

Everybody is in favor of increasing renewable energy and improving energy efficiency. And (almost) everybody now grasps the connection between cutting greenhouse gas emissions and curbing global warming, and more are coming to realize that the benefits of clean energy development include improved public health, reduced energy bills, enhanced energy security, more jobs and increased tax revenues for communities. Some people – generally the people who hold elected office – just need a little encouragement to demonstrate their commitment to achieving those goals.

That's why, last November, the Santa Lucia Chapter of the Sierra Club invited the mayors of Arroyo Grande, Atascadero, Grover Beach, Morro Bay, Paso Robles, Pismo Beach and San Luis Obispo to sign onto the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement.

Since the agreement was initiated by Seattle Mayor Greg Nickels in

Read: *Has Your Mayor Signed the Climate Agreement?* at [www.santalucia.sierraclub.org](http://www.santalucia.sierraclub.org)

February 2005, 194 mayors representing nearly 40 million Americans in 38 states have pledged to effect the energy, transportation and land use policies necessary to reduce global warming carbon dioxide pollution in their cities 7% below 1990 levels by the year 2012. Many of those cities have already achieved savings and seen improvements in their quality of life by aiming at that target – all because their mayors signed the U.S. Mayor's Climate Protection Agreement.

So far on the Central Coast, however, only the city of San Luis Obispo has agreed to take this step toward a common-sense energy future, three weeks after receiving our request.

It's not enough for your city to encourage a solar power component in new development or adherence to Green Building guidelines. It's about setting a target and measuring your progress toward it. That's what the Mayors Agreement does. Without it, your city's planning and policies can never be more than random actions with unknown effects.

Sierra Club's Cool Cities campaign is acknowledging the efforts of cities in every region of the country that have signed the Mayors Agreement

and begun formulating a comprehensive energy plan, putting into place practical, cost-effective local solutions for cleaner vehicles, energy efficiency and renewable energy.

"The 'cool cities' movement is catching on as news of these cities' successful energy solutions spreads," said Chapter Chair Karen Merriam. "They're saving the environment and saving money; they're improving their communities."

The Mayors Agreement is sitting on your mayor's desk, awaiting the stroke of a pen. You can provide the necessary encouragement to start the year off right. Tell her/him why it would be a good idea to sign the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement. It couldn't hurt to send another copy just in case they've misplaced the first one. Go to

[www.santalucia.sierraclub.org](http://www.santalucia.sierraclub.org) click on "Has your mayor signed the climate agreement?," and follow the simple instructions on how to help your city be part of the solution instead of part of the problem.

Sierra Club's Cool Cities Guide to Local Global Warming Solutions is on line at [www.sierraclub.org/globalwarming/coolcities](http://www.sierraclub.org/globalwarming/coolcities).

On no other issue are you likely to have a better opportunity to think globally and act locally. Your mayor needs to hear from you today!

### They're waiting to hear from you:

Mayor John P. Schoals  
154 S Eighth St.  
Grover Beach, CA 93433  
[gbadmin@grover.org](mailto:gbadmin@grover.org)

Mayor Tony M. Ferrara  
214 E. Branch St.  
Arroyo Grande, CA 93420  
[tferrara@arroyogrande.org](mailto:tferrara@arroyogrande.org)

Mayor Wendy Scalise  
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Atascadero CA 93422  
[wscalise@atascadero.org](mailto:wscalise@atascadero.org)

Mayor Janice Peters  
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Mayor Frank Mecham  
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[debmecham@yahoo.com](mailto:debmecham@yahoo.com)

Mayor Mary Ann Reiss  
760 Mattie Rd.  
Pismo Beach, CA 93449  
[mreiss@pismo beach.org](mailto:mreiss@pismo beach.org)

## Capps to Speak at Jan. 17 Meeting

Don't miss the Sierra Club's January 17th general meeting, featuring Representative Lois Capps. Our topic for the evening is "Energy Solutions & Healthy Communities."

Los Padres ForestWatch Executive Director Jeff Kuyper will give an update on oil drilling and expanded recreational vehicle use plans in the Los Padres National Forest.

The meeting will be held January 17th, 7 p.m., at the Ludwick Center, corner of Santa Rosa and Mill, San Luis Obispo. Refreshments served. Sierra Club general meetings are open to the public.



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COOL CITIES

Solving Global Warming One City at a Time

Santa Lucian  
Santa Lucia Chapter of the Sierra Club  
P.O. Box 15755  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93406

"Every good thing,  
great and small,  
needs defense."

—John Muir



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or e-mail:  
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[www.santalucia.  
sierraclub.org](http://www.santalucia.sierraclub.org)

Outings, events, and more!

# Duke Deserts Morro Bay What's Next?

By Jack McCurdy

After Duke Energy announced it was selling all its western U.S. power plants, a movement was launched to explore replacing the old Morro Bay plant with visitor-serving enterprises such as a marine museum, arts and cultural center, aquarium and restored habitat or a combination of these and other ideas.

The Santa Lucia Chapter petitioned for a new look at plans for the 107-acre plant site, inviting resi-

dents of Morro Bay and other interested citizens to come to the City Council meeting on October 24 to say whether they preferred a new plant or some other use of the site, known to constitute some of the most desirable real estate on the California coast. The Council heard two hours of public testimony overwhelmingly favoring uses for the site other than a power plant, heard the City Attorney's report acknowledging that virtually no one wants to see a power plant on the site, and appointed two Council members to an ad-hoc committee to explore funding mechanisms for the decommissioning of the plant (a committee you can join. See ad on page 5).

The hearing was the first time in the five years since Duke submitted its application to the state to build a new Morro Bay power plant that a majority of Council members agreed to reconsider its long-standing support for a new plant. It opens the door for possible purchase of the property, removal of the 50-year-old plant and redevelopment. It was also the first time that a range of alternative uses of the site has received serious attention.

It all happened quickly. On Sept. 13, with no warning, Duke announced it will sell its four power plants in California, located in Oakland, Moss Landing, Chula Vista and Morro Bay. The company said it had been losing money on its North American plants, including those in California, and keeping the plants would risk losing more money.

The revelation triggered articles in local newspapers and speculation about putting something else on the Morro Bay site.

Then proponents of a community discussion about alternative uses of the site converged on the City Council on October 10 and argued that the time was ripe for an investigation of other options. Council member Melody DeMeritt took the initiative and asked the Council to conduct a public hearing on the future of the property. Vice Mayor Betty Winholtz joined in support, and Mayor Janice Peters, a supporter of a new plant since Duke first announced it would build a new facility in 1999, acquiesced, creating a majority in favor of looking beyond a power plant.

Duke obtained preliminary approval of the Energy Commission last year to build a new plant, using water from the Morro Bay National Estuary in what is called once-through cooling, which kills signifi-

cant numbers of fish and crab larvae swept into the plant. But Duke, or any buyer intending to build a new plant, also needs a federal discharge permit from the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board. Twice during the past year, Duke has withdrawn from planned hearings before the Board on a new permit.

If a regulated utility like PG&E were to purchase the plant and seek to replace it with a new facility, it would



require approval of the California Public Utilities Commission, which could require further environmental reviews at a time when once-through cooling is being challenged by courts and other state agencies.



Starting point: Last October, Sierra Club convened a meeting between Supervisor Shirley Bianchi (off camera), Jack McCurdy of CAPE, Rep. Lois Capps' District Representative Greg Haas, Henriette Groot of the National Estuary Program, and Morro Bay City Councilman Melody DeMeritt to discuss the potential future of the Duke Power Plant site. (PhotoShop image, top, by Rob Schultz.)

## LNG in Morro Bay?!

Did you get this call?

Over the weekend of November 26, several residents of Morro Bay and Los Osos reported receiving a phone call from a polling firm. The pollster started out saying the call was a survey of opinions on energy issues – wind, solar, nuclear, etc. – but then, after a few general questions, got down to business, asking "How would you feel about a Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) terminal located in Morro Bay?" (LNG is extremely volatile, and could cause an explosion and fireball comparable to the destructive force of a nuclear bomb if accidentally ignited at a terminal facility.)

The pollster also reportedly asked: "If a National Marine Sanctuary were located 15 miles away, how would that effect your support for or opposition to an LNG plant?" (The Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary's southern border is at Cambria.)

"How do you feel about Chevron? Gulf Oil? PG&E?" etc., and "on a scale of 1 to 7, how would you rate these companies if they were to operate an LNG plant?"

"On a scale of 1 to 7, how do you rate the credibility of Mothers for Peace? The Sierra Club? The Environmental Defense Center? The California Coastal Commission?"

"If you don't support a land-based LNG terminal, how would you feel if the LNG tanker dropped anchor ten miles out, and the gas was ferried in?"

"How would you feel if a Cal Poly professor assured you an LNG terminal was safe?"

"What if PG&E assured you it was safe?"

"What if the SLO Chamber of Commerce assured you it was safe?"

What if, indeed.

## SANTA LUCIAN

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Jack McCurdy  
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### Santa Lucia Chapter

#### 2006 Executive Committee

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Cleve Nash  
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Katherine Wassenberg  
MEMBER cwassenberg@hotmail.com

Cal French  
MEMBER ccfrench@tcsn.net

John Ashbaugh  
MEMBER jbashbaugh@charter.net

Cal French  
COUNCIL OF CLUB LEADERS

The Executive Committee meets the fourth Friday of every month at 3:00 p.m. at the chapter office, located at 1204 Nipomo St., San Luis Obispo. All Sierra Club members are welcome to attend.

### Standing Committees

Political  
Sarah Christie  
Conservation  
Pam Heatherington

### Membership

Cal French ctheatherington@charter.net

### Acting Program Chair

Letty French lmfrench@tcsn.net

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Jan Marx janmarx@fix.net

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Rochelle Becker  
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### Activities

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#### Chapter office hours are

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## Executive Committee Elected

The Elections Committee reports the following results of the November Chapter election for 2006 Executive Committee (listed in the order of most votes received, and terms elected):

Katherine Wassenberg - 3 year term  
 Steven Marx - 3 year term  
 Cal French - 3 year term  
 Cleve Nash - 1 year term

Continuing members and remaining length of term:

Karen Merriam - 2 years  
 Jack Morrow - 2 years  
 John Ashbaugh - 1 year

New Executive Committee members were seated on December 16. The Committee elected Karen Merriam Chair, Jack Morrow Vice Chair, Catherine Wassenberg Secretary, Steven Marx Treasurer, and ratified the Chair's appointments of Jono Kincaid of Cuesta College Grassroots to the Conservation Committee.

## Hang on to Your Genes

By Olga Mandrussow  
 Sierra Club Genetic Engineering Committee

Imagine a biotechnology corporation coming into your region, discovering a native plant, artificially injecting genes from a completely different species into that indigenous plant, and then producing a new product for its pharmaceutical, agricultural, or industrial market. Does this corporation have the right to privatize and patent that product? Yes.

Consider: Ventria Bioscience wanted to grow pharmaceutical-producing rice (pharm rice) in California. This rice — genetically engineered

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## The Magic of Volunteers

By Kim Waldo  
 from The Lookout, newsletter of the Huron Valley Group, Michigan

At the beginning...  
 Arlen sat behind the participants around the table at the meeting. That's how he thought of himself;

'backup' for the heavy hitters, a sustaining voice when the weight of numbers became important. He wasn't a source of details, but he knew what he felt was right. All of his compatriots engaged in this debate about the best way to use the city's outstand-

ing natural places were more experienced, more knowledgeable, arguing for reality as opposed to grandstanding by the opposition.

But they were all volunteers, like him. People who cared about how

## Let's Review

(Some of) what we did in 2005

It's been an unquiet year in our little county....

In our efforts to save prime ag land and habitat, we supported **Save San Luis Obispo** in its successful ballot fight to defeat the massive Marketplace project and protect prime ag land in San Luis Obispo, and supported **Save the Park** in its ongoing fight to convince the County and the **State Parks Department** to protect both coastal laws and habitat in park units in Morro Bay and Los Osos.

Sierra Club joined with most of the County's **Advisory Committees** and a whole lot of other folks in telling the **Board of Supervisors** to eliminate the Transfer of Development Credit program and the proposed Rural Planned Development Ordinance before they end up "preserving" our agricultural land and open space right out of existence. In November, the Board put a 10-month moratorium on TDC's in South County while the RPD grimly clung to life. In December, we told the Board that adopting Napa County's amendment to the state Subdivision Map Act would mean we could abolish the antiquated lots being targeted for development and solve a lot of the problems that TDC and RPD don't or make worse.

Darn near **everybody** in Morro Bay and Los Osos told the **California Fish and Game Commission** at their annual regulatory review that **fifty to a hundred guys firing shotguns** in the estuary next door every year -- pretending they're in the wilderness and miles away from boaters, kayakers and places where people live and work -- doesn't make a lick of sense, and even less sense for the black brant goose, which is in decades of decline and doesn't really need that kind of stress halfway through a very long migration. Fish and Game didn't listen. We shall return.

After the **California Coastal Commission** finally persuaded the **Cambria Community Services District** that building expanded water tank storage within the regulations set out by the Coastal Act makes more sense than trying to whip residents into a hysterical frenzy over fears of fire and flood and attempting to circumvent the law, we had to convince the CCSD that threatening to subpoena and depose activists who agree with the Coastal Commission was not a good -- or democratic -- idea.

We helped persuade the **Regional Water Quality Control Board** to increase a fine assessed solely for reimbursement of staff costs that the Board was going to levy against two **L.A. land speculators** who denuded ranchland and choked a blue-line creek in Creston. The proposed \$50,000 in fines



went up to \$225,000, with \$100,000 applied to local watershed restoration projects. We helped the **County Parks Foundation** acquire a portion of those funds for purchase of BLM lands at the headwaters of the Salinas River.

We filed a Freedom of Information Act request with the **Bureau of Land Management** for all documents related to their management of grazing at the Carrizo Plain National Monument. We didn't get everything we wanted, filed a complaint, met with staff in their Bakersfield office, and

came away with what we needed to assess the BLM's upcoming Resource Management Plan.

We submitted comments on the Cambria Community Services District's thoroughly inadequate environmental

analysis of drilling beach wells for Cambria's proposed desalination plant.

Under the terms of our legal settlement with **State Parks** that resulted in more protected nesting areas and half a million dollars for plover protection at Oceano Dunes and in adjacent counties, we continued meeting with State Parks to monitor their progress in finding alternatives to recreational vehicles crossing the mouth of Arroyo Grande Creek, as this is not a great match with endangered steelhead and tidewater goby. We also participated in the structuring of Parks' public scoping meetings on the creation of a Habitat Con-

servation Plan for all their county units, as per our legal settlement.

Former Chapter Chair **Tarren Collins** convinced a Cambria rancher to file for a minimum use permit and a fee waiver for land that the **County Planning Commission** had first told him he could develop without a permit, then that he couldn't, then that he could.

If he'd gone with their last decision, it would've set a terrible precedent that would let developers turn environmentally sensitive habitat area into Swiss cheese all up and down the coast. Nice save!

We sent a delegation to the **Sierra Summit** in San Francisco, the largest gathering of Sierra Club members in history, and participated in setting the agenda for the future course of the Club's conservation work.

At the Chapter's request, the **Environmental Caucus** of the **California Democratic Party** endorsed our resolutions supporting expansion of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary and opposing the relicensing of nuclear power plants in the state.

With your support, we hope to do the same -- only moreso -- this year.

## Goals, Principles and Strategies of the Santa Lucia Chapter of the Sierra Club, 2006-2008

The members of the Executive Committee agreed in 2005 to adopt a strategic plan to guide the chapter for the next three years, understanding that events and re-evaluations may require revisions over time. The following are excerpts from that document.

The Santa Lucia Chapter accepts the Mission of the Sierra Club to:

- \* Explore, enjoy and protect the wild places of the earth.
- \* Practice and promote the responsible use of the earth's ecosystems and resources.

- \* Educate and enlist humanity to protect and restore the quality of the natural and human environment.
- \* Use all lawful means to carry out these objectives.

The Santa Lucia Chapter acknowledges certain basic principles that guide its activities:

- \* All parts of the earth's ecosystems are interconnected and interdependent.\* Diversity promotes health in the environment and in the Chapter membership.\* Positive relationships and alliances create opportunities for positive change.\* The heritage, traditions, and accomplishments of the

Sierra Club and the Chapter nourish and support its members and provide an important story to tell.

Goals & Strategies are responsive to the needs and resources of the Chapter. Specific Chapter goals and strategies are coordinated with Sierra Club National priorities and campaigns insofar as they reflect the consensus of Chapter members and available resources. Development and implementation of Chapter goals and strategies are the responsibility of the entire membership. Certain responsibilities are delegated to and

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## What “Sustainable” Isn’t

By Mike Zelina  
SLO GE Free

Jane Goodall has recently released a book *Harvest for Hope: A Guide to Mindful Eating* that provides a great overview of US agriculture and possible solutions. A central theme is buying organic - and encouraging local producers to go that direction. I hope everyone gets a chance to read the book or listen to her recent interview on *Democracy Now!* ([www.democracynow.org](http://www.democracynow.org)).

Over the last two years, agribusiness/biotech has been very busy hijacking the word “sustainable.” The “mono-crop” mentality will be justified even more in the future with the introduction of genetically engineered crops, vitamin-

enhanced products, oils higher in monounsaturated fats, etc. Teresa Campbell, Mark Phillips, and myself recently spoke at the Cal Poly Biotech 101 class. Much like chemical farming, students appear to be embracing this technology with little or no question.

Unfortunately, our local Farm Bureau is busily promoting genetically engineered crops as the future. In addition, the Central Coast Vineyard team just hosted a conference that featured the pro-GMO speaker Peggy Lemeaux. The first GMO wine yeast was released last November.

Will local vineyards be using this in production? Unless consumers say



“no” every chance they get, agribusiness influence over specialty crops -- and further loss of small farms -- is inevitable. While buying local is important, we must tell producers what we want (and don't want).

### Genes

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with human genes to produce lactoferrin and lysozyme — would be used as a pharmaceutical-producing crop. Dr. Michael Hansen, senior research associate at Consumers Union's Consumer Policy Institute, was interviewed by *The Scientist* regarding the potential spread of pharm genes into the environment. Dr. Hansen stated: “There are unanswered environmental and human health issues regarding the two proteins.”

Farmers are concerned with the potential contamination of their commercial crops, as well as lost markets. If a farmer's crop is contaminated by genetically engineered organisms, the farmer has no legal recourse. Even worse, the biotech

**“The U.S. Food and Drug Administration, under pressure from the biotechnology industry, has decided not to require genetically engineered foods to be independently safety tested or labeled. This decision represents a particularly egregious affront to food choice, as up to 60 percent of processed foods already have some genetically engineered ingredients that many consumers would like to avoid. The FDA's no labeling and testing policy was made even though the agency was aware that the genetic engineering of foods can make safe foods toxic, create new allergens, lower food nutrition, and create antibiotic resistance.”**

— *Fatal Harvest: The Tragedy of Industrial Agriculture* (Island Press, 2002)

## Dear Editor:

Enclosed is a copy of the Mission Statement and Goals of the San Luis Obispo GMO Task Force as mandated by the county Health Commission. Nowhere is there a statement or directive tasking them “with determining whether the County should support the labeling of genetically modified organisms, aka genetically engineered (GE) food...”

Including this entire Mission and Goal Statement in your next edition as well as a correction of the article [“What's Up with the GMO Task Force?,” October] would add clarity to the issue. One can only assume you did not have a copy of this information prior to including your article in the October 2005 *Santa Lucian*.

Robert A Robbins, M.D., D.D.S., FAAOHNS  
San Luis Obispo

### Andrew Christie replies:

The sentence with which Dr. Robbins takes issue is from my article reporting on the September 6 meeting of the Health Commission's GMO Task Force. Dr. Robbins also took issue with the following sentence: “The task force seemed uncertain as to its mission and reason for being” — both circled with yellow highlighter on a copy of the article that he enclosed with his letter.

He is correct: I did not have a copy of the GMO Task Force's mission statement at hand when I wrote the article — nor, evidently, did Dr. Robbins or any other member of the Task Force at their September meeting when a member of the public asked exactly what their task was supposed to be and general head-scratching ensued. It is gratifying to know that Dr. Robbins eventually located a copy of the Task Force's mission statement (“To provide the people of San Luis Obispo County with scientifically based information regarding the health implications of genetically engineered foods and crops”) and has presumably shared it with the other members of his Task

Force as well as with the *Santa Lucian*.

The first of the five listed goals implementing the Task Force's mission statement is “To gather reviewed scientific information on genetically engineered foods and...product labeling.”

Nevertheless, I agree that journalistic shorthand can often require clarification. In this case, clarification is also required by the context in which the GMO Task Force was created: the aftermath of Measure Q, the 2004 ballot initiative that would have banned the cultivation of genetically engineered crops in San Luis Obispo County. Though vastly outspent by the corporate disinformation campaign that assured its defeat, the measure gathered 49,910 votes. GE-free activists demanded that the County acknowledge and respond to obvious public concern and the environmental and safety issues raised by the measure's proponents,

and, if not ban GE crops locally, consider a requirement that GE foods be labeled as such before permitting them to be sold. The County Board of Supervisors created two GMO task forces, under the auspices of the Health and Agriculture Departments, to look into the matter and report their findings. The only action before the Board to which those findings would pertain is a request to endorse a federal labeling law for GE foods.

Thus, the GMO task forces were not created out of random curiosity or to gather data for the sake of data-gathering, but to aid the Board of Supervisors in a specific purpose. While the task forces are free to simply amass the specified information, file their reports and leave it at that, the entity that created them may not. The Board is supposed to consider the data presented and use it as the basis for an action.

industry has sued farmers when their farmland becomes the victim of gene flow! Organic farmers can lose their organic certification when genes carrying genetically engineered traits spread onto organic cropland.

Tinkering with genetic codes, the fundamental building blocks of all life on the planet, is asking for trouble. The good news is that we, as residents of California, can stop this manipulation and patenting of genetic sequences derived from living things in our own locales.

Ordinances have been passed in several counties in California that prohibit the planting of genetically engineered crops. But when biotechnology corporations realized the power of local communities, they lobbied state lawmakers to introduce legislation preempting local control of seeds and plants, as well as rendering existing ordinances null and void.

A legislative showdown is underway. Late in the 2005 legislative session, preemption legislation was introduced, aiming to strip local regulation of food crops. These bills were stalled due to tremendous citizen opposition, but are slated to be heard again in the 2006 legislative session.

It is up to each and every one of us to make certain we retain our democratic rights to allow our communities to create a sustainable vision for our food supply!

Go to: [www.calgefree.org/preemption.shtml#Takeaction](http://www.calgefree.org/preemption.shtml#Takeaction)

### Additional Resources:

To contact your Legislator:

[www.leginfo.ca.gov/yourleg.html](http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/yourleg.html)

Took kit:

[www.environmentalcommons.org/local-control-toolkit.pdf](http://www.environmentalcommons.org/local-control-toolkit.pdf)

More info: [www.calgefree.org/resources/consumers.shtml](http://www.calgefree.org/resources/consumers.shtml)

Sierra Club policy:

[www.sierraclub.org/policy/conservation/biotech.asp](http://www.sierraclub.org/policy/conservation/biotech.asp)



# TDCs: Toying with Disastrous Consequences

## There are other ways to reward non-development

By Eric Greening

On November 22nd, the Board of Supervisors faced an audience most of whose members were ready to kill the present countywide Transfer of Development Credit Program (except for a few programs designed by and for individual communities) and start over (or not). But the Board, aside from a 10 1/2 month moratorium in the Santa Margarita/South Atascadero/Creston/Pozo area, and some ameliorative changes, kept the program alive despite its having created five times more lots than it has retired, every one of which has been an auto-dependent, non-smart-growth parcel of one acre or more in the unincorporated area.

The positive changes (no more receiving sites for development credits in the Agricultural Zone; removal of villages from the list of "cities" within 5 miles of which receiver sites must be used) have yet to take effect. All the Board did was start the processing of amendments.

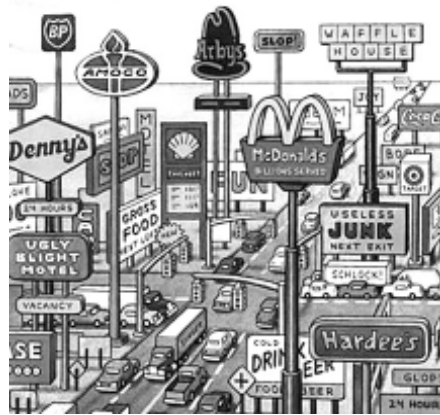
This program was originally intended to be a design tool to

compensate landowners for retiring development rights in remote areas while encouraging higher densities in urban nodes, consistent with smart growth principles. However, sending and receiving zones were never mapped, incorporated cities never agreed to participate, and the Board direction that the program be "incentive based and market driven" came to mean bargain rates for purchasing exceptions to the General Plan. The "market" is not the most sensitive design tool!

While the amendments in process may contain some of the program's worst abuses, the program is likely to continue to aggravate neighbors of receiver sites and promote sprawl. How would you like it if your neighbor could buy the right to violate your area's zoning by paying a few tens of thousands of dollars to amass profits an order of magnitude higher?

If we are to have a TDC program, we need to start over, with a clean slate. Why should the retirement of lots have to be balanced by the creation of lots anyway? The Cambria community program avoids this by allowing credit purchasers setback waivers instead of new lots. While this is not ideal either, leading to monster houses elbowing each other on small lots and threatening a potential firetrap, it shows that creation of new lots is not an inevitable consequence of a TDC program. Why couldn't a credit purchaser buy something that doesn't show up on the land at all, like quicker processing of a standard application. Preserve open space and you get to cut in line! That, too, could create resentment, but the consequence would be passing, not permanent.

Or if purchasers of TDC credits are to be rewarded with new lots, why not require the same for all new lots in standard subdivisions, and avoid violating the General Plan in the firstplace? Subdivisions are gifts from the public to a landowner, and retirement of inappropriate lots can be a way to pay the public back.



We have yet to examine what we could accomplish if we make a fresh start on a new TDC program; battles over the old one occupy the foreground of our consciousness. But the opportunity is there. The final part of the Board's action on November 22nd was to create a new TDC Advisory Committee. Membership categories will be decided at a future Board meeting, and then applications will be open. We need to do all we can to insure that this committee has room for fresh approaches and people serving on it who can think outside the box. Stay tuned!

# HopeDance

HopeDance FILMS in San Luis Obispo - all at the SLO Library on Osos & Palm. Information: [www.hopedance.org](http://www.hopedance.org), 805 544-9663.

Friday, January 13, 7pm.  
**Heart of the Beholder**  
Fundraiser for Americans United for Separation of Church and State and HopeDance FILMS.

Friday, January 20, 7pm, suggested donation of \$6  
**The Real Dirt on Farmer John**  
Back by popular demand!

Friday, January 27, 7pm, suggested donation of \$5  
**Soylent Green**  
Charlton Heston, Edward G. Robinson, Chuck Connors. Classic '70s eco-thriller.

Saturday, January 28, 3pm to 10pm  
ON THE ROAD FILM FESTIVAL - 3 films, plus short films and a light dinner for \$20.  
- **This Land is Your Land**  
- **Independent America: The Two-Lane Search for Mom & Pop**  
- **Red State Road Trip**

Friday, February 3  
**The Last Shangri-La: An Evening About Bhutan** with film and local Bhutanese Karma Dorji



## A Very Special Day on the Sandspit

By Jack Beigle

I have said many times that each of our outings is a special adventure. Our picnic on the Morro Bay Sand Spit is a perfect example. We launched 19 boats on a beautiful fall day. We had a clear sky and a moderate breeze, but it was a special day because we celebrated Bill Doose's 90th birthday. Bill has been canoeing with us consistently since we formed the Canoe/Kayak Section of our Sierra Club Chapter about 17 years ago. Bill is a strong paddler and very seldom misses an outing. He has taught many people the art of canoeing.

We all signed his "Happy Birthday Card" which had a picture on the cover of a man taking a nap on a low branch of a tree with a canoe paddle leaning against the tree and a canoe resting on the shore in the background. It was a very good likeness of Bill. We all shared at least one piece of a delicious birthday carrot cake.

Bill is truly a very special person. He is very safety conscious and always helpful on our outings. As we paddled back to the marina there was a bright, helium filled happy birthday balloon dancing in the wind above Bill's yellow 17-ft. canoe. In our hearts we all wished that we could be paddling as well as Bill on our 90th birthdays.

Check the outing schedule and join us on the water.



Heres' what we saw on Bill's birthday.

Mike Baird



## WANT TO REDEVELOP DUKE?

City and County residents are needed to draft strategic guidelines for assesssible alternatives to the Morro Bay Power Plant site. A dedicated working committee is required for this public process, intent on balancing

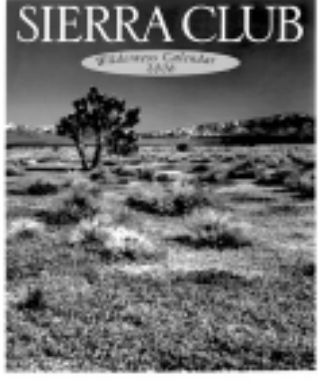
the needs of the City, the surrounding communities and a variety of environmental, design and economic concerns. Interested candidates should have time, patience, insight and a willingness to consider the views of others. The Morro Bay Power Plant Re-Use Ad Hoc Committee will meet on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday each month from 4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.; location to be announced. Applications may be obtained for these positions from the City Clerk's office at 595 Harbor Street, or by calling 772-6205 during normal business hours. **Closing date for submitting applications is Friday, January 13, 2006, at 5:00 p.m.**



## SIERRA CLUB 2006 CALENDARS

**Sierra Club 2006 Wilderness Wall Calendar**—Spiral bound, month-by-month format, featuring 12 majestic North American landscapes.

**Sierra Club 2006 Engagement Calendar**—Week-by-week format, featuring 57 spectacular photographs and "wire-o" binding.



10-15% off for Santa Lucian readers!

*The 2006 Sierra Club calendars are now available, and they are gorgeous. Your purchase goes directly to funding the Santa Lucia Chapter's efforts for our land, air, water, and quality of life in San Luis Obispo.*

<b>Wilderness wall (spiral bound, picture every month)</b>	cover	1-4	5 or more
	\$11.95	\$11.53	\$10.89
<b>Engagement (spiral bound, picture every week)</b>	\$12.95	\$12.50	\$11.81

- price includes tax and 10% discount (1 to 4) or 15% discount (5 or more).

For mail orders, write or call the Chapter office, p.o. box 15755, San Luis Obispo, CA 93406; (805) 543-8717. For in-town pick up, call Bonnie at 543-7051.

# Will BLM Do the Right Thing at Carrizo?

The State stronghold for threatened and endangered species is on the line

December 12, 2005

Mike Pool, State Director  
Bureau of Land Management  
California State Office  
2800 Cottage Way, Suite W-1834  
Sacramento, CA 95825-1886

Re: Preparation of EIS required for new Monument RMP

Dear Director Pool:

The Wilderness Society, Sierra Club, Defenders of Wildlife, California Wilderness Coalition, Los Padres ForestWatch, Center for Biological Diversity, Natural Resources Defense Council, Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility, and Western Watersheds Project are writing to express their concern with the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) intention to prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA), instead of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), as part of completing the new Resource Management Plan (RMP) for the Carrizo Plain National Monument. Some of the undersigned groups have previously sought to discuss this matter and convey the importance of completing an EIS in developing a management plan for this new national monument, but, to date, the BLM has not changed its position. Please be advised that failure to complete an EIS would be contrary to NEPA and the requirements of the BLM's own regulations, and it would invalidate the RMP process.

## 1. An EIS is required by BLM's regulations, guidance and NEPA standards.

All applicable law and guidance require BLM to prepare an EIS to accompany the new RMP for the Carrizo Plain National Monument. BLM has not identified any exceptions to these requirements.

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) specifically requires preparation of environmental impact statements for any major federal action significantly affecting the quality of the environment (40 C.F.R. § 1504.1). The Federal Land and Policy Management Act (FLPMA), as implemented through BLM's land use planning regulations (43 C.F.R. § 1601.0-6 "Environmental impact statement policy"), also requires preparation of an EIS.,,,

In *New Mexico Wilderness Coalition*, 129 IBLA 158 (1994), BLM sought to rely on its previous analysis of issues, alternatives and potential impacts related to the newly-created El Malpais NCA in New Mexico and declined to prepare either a full RMP or an EIS. Instead, BLM prepared an environmental assessment (EA). The IBLA held that BLM's regulations characterized preparation of an RMP as "a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment" and that, under NEPA, an "EIS is required for such action." 129 IBLA at 163. The same reasoning and legal requirements mandate that BLM prepare an EIS to perform a sufficient assessment of the potential environmental impacts associated with the new RMP for the Carrizo Plain National Monument.

## 2. Broader NEPA legal authority also supports the requirement to prepare an EIS with the Carrizo Plain National Monument RMP.

The NEPA regulations require preparation of an EIS when the proposed action may significantly impact the

environment (40 C.F.R. § 1501.4) and the definition of "significantly" (set out at 40 C.F.R. § 1508.27 and excerpted in part below) clearly requires preparation of an EIS with the Monument RMP. "Significantly" as used in NEPA and defined in the NEPA regulations requires considerations of both context and intensity....

The establishment of the new Monument and its management under a new RMP is very important in the context of the National Landscape Conservation System and in California, as shown by the many Monument objects listed in the Proclamation. Moreover, the impacts of the Monument RMP are of high intensity/severity due to the precedent-setting nature of creating a plan for the new

ment" and to support its decision to prepare an EA instead of an EIS. This approach is neither supported by the content of the existing plans nor in compliance with the Monument Proclamation. The lands of the Carrizo Plain National Monument are currently managed under the Caliente RMP (completed in 1997) and the Carrizo Plain Natural Area Management Plan (completed in 1996).

The Monument Proclamation requires the BLM to manage these lands in order to protect the Monument objects, which includes a wide range of aspects of this landscape....

Neither the Caliente RMP nor the Carrizo Plain Natural Area Management Plan were prepared for the express purpose of fulfilling the clear

plifying the different levels of protection and analysis involved in the two types of designations. ...

The Monument objects as identified in the Proclamation are not sufficiently identified and treated as priorities for protection in the current management plans, because these plans address, respectively, lands managed without restriction — by a Monument Proclamation — of the permissible range of multiple uses and an ACEC. The Monument Proclamation specifically directs BLM to "prepare a management plan that addresses the actions, including road closures or travel restrictions, necessary to protect the objects identified." The Carrizo Plain National Monument was created because the President determined that a new, formal designation was needed to protect the Monument objects and the Monument Proclamation specifically acknowledges the need for a new RMP to formulate appropriate management actions. Accordingly, the existence of other management plans cannot justify failing to complete an EIS for the new Carrizo Plain National Monument RMP.

As shown by the detailed discussion presented above, BLM cannot legally proceed to prepare an EA and must prepare an EIS in conjunction with the Carrizo Plain National Monument RMP.... We urge BLM to comply with its obligations by preparing an EIS.

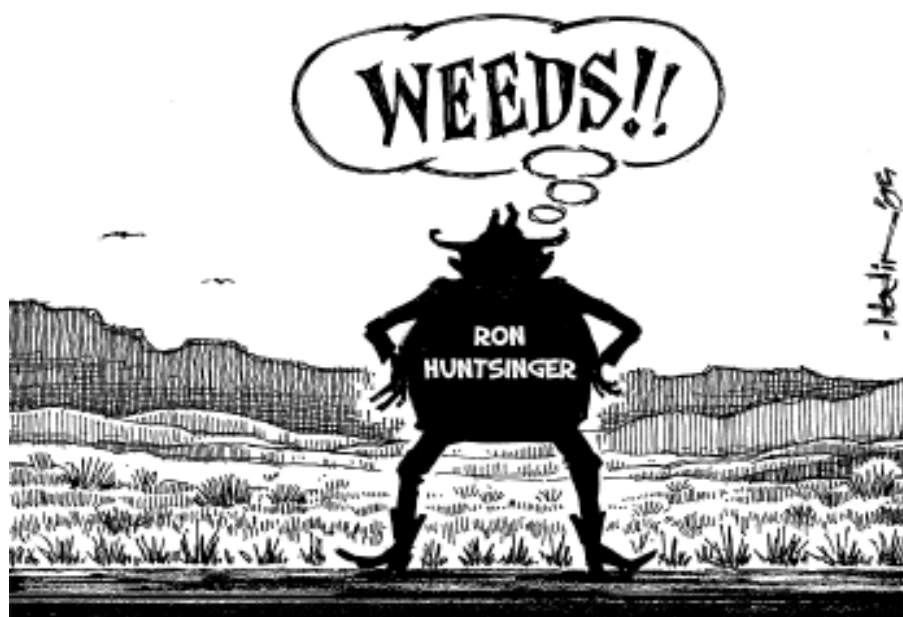
We are available to discuss our concerns further at your convenience. If you would like to talk with us or have any questions, please contact the undersigned.

Sincerely,

The Wilderness Society  
Geary Hund  
Desert and Monuments Program  
Director, California  
P.O. Box 72  
Idyllwild, CA 92549  
(951) 640-3398

## AND ON BEHALF OF:

Sierra Club  
California Wilderness Coalition  
Center for Biological Diversity  
PEER  
Western Watersheds Project  
Los Padres ForestWatch  
Sierra Club  
Natural Resources Defense Council  
Defenders of Wildlife  
The Wilderness Society



BLM Field Manager appreciates unique qualities of the 250,000 acres of the Carrizo Plain National Monument

Monument and also because of the special characteristics of the Monument objects, many of which are of the types specifically mentioned in the regulation (as excerpted above). Additionally, at least two of the issues to be addressed in the Monument RMP, grazing and oil and gas development, are highly controversial having been consistently singled out by the public for comment, both in the scoping phase of the RMP, and during the creation of the Carrizo Plain Natural Area Management Plan. ....

Since the new RMP for the Carrizo Plain National Monument will be based on the Monument Proclamation, the purpose and need for the RMP and the accompanying EIS would be guided by the new priority given to the Monument objects above other multiple uses. As a result, the environmental analysis accompanying the new RMP must also follow this special purpose and need, including the different legal requirements, and would necessarily generate a different range of alternatives. These requirements cannot be met without preparation of a new EIS.

## 3. The existing plans do not provide adequate analysis of the issues related to the Monument, provide adequate protection for the Monument objects or fulfill BLM's obligation to prepare a management plan for the Carrizo Plain National Monument.

In the scoping notice, BLM indicated its intent to rely on two existing plans to "provide a comprehensive management program which is believed to be appropriate for the new monu-

ment objectives and requirements of the Monument Proclamation. In general, RMPs (such as the Caliente RMP) are prepared to provide for the full range of multiple uses available on BLM lands (43 U.S.C. § 1732). While FLPMA recognizes that not all uses are appropriate in all places (43 U.S.C. § 1702(c)), the Proclamation identifies a more specific range of acceptable multiple uses for the Carrizo Plain National Monument, which focuses on protecting identified objects. ... In fact, the Carrizo Plain Natural Management Area Plan does not close the ACEC to oil and gas, mineral, or geothermal leasing and development while the Carrizo Plain National Monument Proclamation does — exem-

## For Marlene

By Anne McMahon

You may have been following the sad story of my friend Marlene Braun. She committed suicide last May at the Carrizo Plain National Monument. Many of us knew and loved Marlene for her tireless efforts and boundless dedication on behalf of the plants and animals of the Carrizo. A long-time employee of the Bureau of Land Management, she became almost one with the Carrizo — a place she had grown to love deeply during her three and a half years there as monument manager. That deep and passionate love for the place fueled her every decision and interaction with others.

She was empowered and emboldened at the prospect of overseeing a new approach to caring for the land she loved, but her passion and her management approach also put her at odds with some who held tightly to a different philosophy on managing the Carrizo. That clash ultimately led to her losing authority and control over completion of the as-yet unfinished Resource Management Plan, which will guide the management decisions affecting the Carrizo for years to come. That

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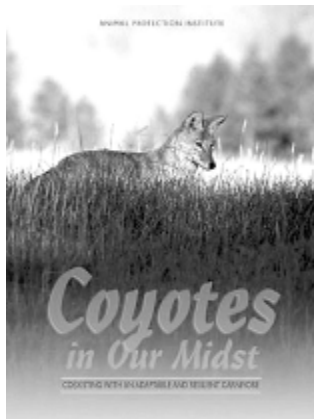
## New Educational Tool: “Coexisting with Coyotes” Door Hanger

The Animal Protection Institute is providing a tool to help communities coexist with coyotes and reduce conflicts.

Full of useful facts about coyotes and tips on how to keep them at a distance, how to keep domestic animals safe, and what to do if you encounter a coyote, API’s coyote door hanger will help educate and inform. The door hanger is available as a [free download to print out](#) or in a [pre-printed pack of 100](#) for \$6.50

Most often conflicts result from people providing coyotes (and other wild animals) with food. Whether intentional or unintentional, API’s Coexisting with Coyotes materials emphasize that wildlife feeding must be addressed immediately, since this can lead to habituation and ultimately the unnecessary killing of coyotes. “A Fed Coyote is a Dead Coyote” holds true and, nationally, thousands of coyotes are killed because of irresponsible human behavior. Unsecured garbage, pet food, free-roaming cats and dogs, fruit trees, livestock carcasses left out on the ranch, dirty grills, and fish ponds all attract the adaptable, intelligent, and omnivorous coyote.

In addition to the new door hanger, API has a number of tools to assist communities to learn to peacefully coexist with coyotes and other wildlife, including API’s new book, *Coyotes in Our Midst: Learning to Live with an Adaptable and Resilient Carnivore*. Issues covered include: Coyote Biology and Ecology, Traditional Management of Coyote/Human Conflicts,



Alternative Strategies for Managing Livestock Conflicts with Coyotes, Community Approaches to Conflicts, Conflicts with Coyotes at the Urban/Wildlands Interface, How to Create



### Your Wild Neighbors: Coexisting with Coyotes

If you are lucky enough to live near land that still supports wildlife, you may meet one of your neighbors, the coyote. By learning about local wild animals, we can coexist peacefully.

#### Facts about Coyotes

- Coyotes weigh 30-45 pounds and look like a tan, Shepherd-type dog.
- Coyotes occupy grasslands, forests, forests, agricultural lands, parks and the urban/suburban fringe.
- Coyotes may live as solitary individuals, as pairs, or in family packs and are active during both night and day.
- Coyotes help control rodent and small mammal populations.
- Coyotes feed opportunistically on a variety of small mammals, insects, and fruit, but prefer rodents and rabbits.

#### Keeping Coyotes at a Distance

Coyotes are drawn to neighborhoods for two reasons: human encroachment into coyote habitat and availability of food, water, and shelter. The following steps can help prevent coyotes from being attracted to your home:

- Tightly secure garbage cans with bungee cords or rope. Store trash bins inside sheds or garages.
- Put garbage out the morning of pickup, not the night before.
- When composting, use well-secured bins. Don't add dog or cat waste, meat, dairy or eggs.
- Never leave or store pet food outside.
- Keep outdoor grills clean.
- Pick ripe fruit off trees and keep fruit off the ground.
- Keep bird feeders from overflowing.
- Fence vegetable gardens or use a greenhouse.
- Eliminate artificial water sources and fish ponds.
- Install motion-activated outdoor lighting and sprinkler systems.
- Fence your property or yard. The fence must be at least 6 ft. tall with the bottom extending at least 6 ft. below the ground and/or 1 ft. outward. Fences can be made more effective by cementing overhanging the top of the fence or by using electric strands along the top and bottom. Existing fences can be augmented with a Coyote Roller™ system for PVC piping that is free to spin around a tight wire, which makes it difficult for animals to pull themselves up and over.
- Clear bushes and dense weeds where coyotes may find cover and small animals to feed upon.
- Close off crawl spaces under porches, decks, and sheds. Also, trapping and relocating coyotes is not recommended (and is illegal in some areas/states). Disposition of females can cause orphaned juveniles to seek out pets, including small dogs and cats. Other coyotes are likely to move into the vacated area.

#### Keeping Domestic Animals Safe

Although primarily vulnerable to cats and scavengers, coyotes may view livestock, cats, and small dogs as prey while larger dogs may be viewed as a threat, particularly during nesting (Dec.-Feb.), breeding (April-May), and dispersal (Sept.-Oct.) seasons.



an Urban Coyote Coexistence Program, State Classification and Management of Coyotes

Coexisting with Wildlife brochures include Coyotes, Wildlife (small mammals and birds), Deer, and Geese.

You can help promote peaceful coexistence in your community by helping to distribute API’s Coexisting with Coyotes door hangers and other related materials. Visit their website at [or call 916-447-3085 x219](#).

For more information about API’s Coexisting with Coyotes program, contact Camilla Fox, API Director of Wildlife Programs at 916-447-3085 ext. 215, or [chfox@earthlink.net](mailto:chfox@earthlink.net).

efit special interests at the expense of ecosystems, wildlife habitat, wildlife, and future generations. What a legacy to leave our children and theirs! It’s every bit as shameful as the national deficit that the war in Iraq and tax cuts for the extremely wealthy have created.

As Marlene struggled during her last months with the disciplinary actions BLM had taken against her, she was working closely with Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER), an organization dedicated to helping whistleblowers. You can find out more about the ongoing struggles other public employees are facing at [www.peer.org](http://www.peer.org).

So what can we do? Let’s be sure that Marlene and all the other state and federal employees who continue to fight the public’s battle to protect the public’s lands are not forgotten. Please contact Senator Dianne Feinstein, Senator Barbara Boxer and your Member of Congress and ask

## Raptor Electrocutions: The Persistent Problem

By Bill Beaudin

After finding a dead sharp-shinned hawk under a power pole outside our rural home about four years ago, I commenced an investigation on the ongoing problem of raptor electrocutions. What I learned was that many power poles pose a serious risk to raptor populations, constantly killing the birds.

The problem is bad in the U.S. and apparently even worse in Mexico, home to some of our migrating hawks & eagles. Worldwide at least two species, “Spanish Imperial Eagles” and “Eagle Owls,” are in serious decline due in a large part to fatalities on power poles.

Existing federal laws including the Eagle Act, the Endangered Species Act, and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, for all of their good intentions, have failed to eliminate the problem of “at risk” poles. Tragically, these laws require neither fatality reporting nor the remedying of unprotected poles.

As one might expect, areas in the rural West with limited trees and high ridges dotted with power poles are prime locations for high mortality rates. Why, then, would special regulations not require poles in such areas to be retrofitted or buried, even if only a small percentage a year in high risk areas?

Rick Harness is an Environmental Specialist for EDM International, a Fort Collins-based utility construction company. An expert in the field of raptor electrocutions, Rick has consulted with utility companies in Colorado and elsewhere on the subject. He has produced a 27-minute video called “Raptors at Risk,” which every bird & conservation group should consider owning and sharing with their members. Be forewarned, however, that you will see a beautiful red-tailed hawk landing on a transformer for a common power pole and electrocuted within seconds. The effect is almost unspeakable. It cries out, however, to be spoken.

In writing this article, it is my intent to provide an overview on which to build. There are so many questions: How many defective at-risk poles exist and how many will be fixed each year? How many raptors are being killed annually here and elsewhere? How many utility companies have a dynamic and proactive policy with specific goals to eliminate the deaths of these magnificent and important birds? All unknown. What is known is that a lot of birds are being killed.

In completing his masters thesis, Rick studied reports from 58 utilities across the West, and compiled the following raptor mortality data for the period 1986-1996:

- 748 Eagles, including 118 Bald and 272 Golden Eagles
- 278 Hawks
- 14 Falcons, including 6 Peregrines
- 344 Owls, including 86 Great Horned
- 11 Osprey
- 18 Vultures
- 15 Unidentified raptors

Total- 1,428 birds  
Think this is bad? Consider that the numbers are likely grossly “under-reported,” because: 1) reporting is voluntary, 2) utilities’ uncertainty with raptor identification (e.g. not knowing that hawks are raptors, and thus reporting only eagles) and 3) empirical evidence that large numbers of dead raptors are often removed by scavengers and go uncounted. Factor in Canada and Mexico, where emphasis and laws differ, and we might imagine staggering numbers.

Federal laws do allow the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to assess fines on utilities for causing the death of raptors, but negligence must be proven. Suffice to say, it’s not a common penalty.

It is also safe to assume that the utilities know where each pole in their inventory is located. And they are likely aware of how many of these are at risk, and causing raptor

*continued on page 10*



## Marlene

*continued from previous page*

disempowerment proved so overwhelmingly despairing to her that she chose death over life.

Hundreds of column inches have been dedicated to her story in the *Los Angeles Times* (August 20, 2005), the *Billings Montana Outpost*, the *Santa Lucian* (“Let That be her Monument,” June 2005) and, most recently, in *New Times* (“Death on the Plains,” November 17). There are also various blogs and websites with information and comments about this tragedy.

While Marlene’s story may be unique, she was not alone. There are public employees fighting gallantly and tirelessly against all odds to protect our national forests and national parks and other public lands from the relentless efforts of the Bush Administration to open those lands up for unlimited grazing, timber-cutting, mining and other uses that ben-

them to look into Marlene’s death. Ask them to make it a priority to support those employees who are speaking out at their own peril to ensure public lands are protected, not exploited. It’s the least we can do.

Senator Barbara Boxer  
112 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington DC  
(202) 224-3553  
Web Form: [boxer.senate.gov/contact](http://boxer.senate.gov/contact)

Senator Dianne Feinstein  
331 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington DC 20510  
(202) 224-3841  
Web Form: [feinstein.senate.gov/email.html](http://feinstein.senate.gov/email.html)

A simple e-mail would do, but if you are so inclined a longer letter would be great. (If you are so inclined, you can also contact your House Representative – who can be found at:



Marlene Braun

<http://www.house.gov>. For those of you who live in another state, a letter to your senators would also be appreciated.)

## Sierra Club Hike to Save Monterey Pines & Coastal Protection Feb. 18

Monterey County is one of California's great coastal places, offering something for everyone – surfing, hiking, quiet and relaxation. The county boasts at least 20 golf courses where golfers can enjoy a day on the links as well as acres of rare and undeveloped forestland where nature lovers can experience California's rapidly disappearing "wild coast." But this balance, delicately preserved for decades, is at risk with a golf course developer's proposal to cut down 17,000 threatened Monterey pine trees to build what they have ironically named "The Forest Course."

Sierra Club, starting with John Muir, has worked for over 100 years to protect the Del Monte Forest -- the largest natural forest of Monterey pine's left in the world – and all the endangered plants and animals which call the forest home. Final decisions are expected soon, as the California Coastal Commission has scheduled a hearing on this development this spring.

Sadly, at risk here is more than the loss of one grove of trees – more even than the loss of one of the last stands of a tree which once covered our coastline. The threat here is one of statewide precedent. By allowing a developer to cut down these 17,000 threatened trees, decision makers could well be helping to cut down one of California's strongest environmental protection laws.

The California Coastal Act is unique among conservation laws because it respects Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Area (ESHA). According to this law, it is not just the frog or the bird or the flower that is worthy of protection, but the area in which the critter or tree lives. Our coastal protection laws are designed to protect the area, and in this case that means the forest.

The Del Monte Forest has long been considered Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Area, as the Monterey pines are threatened not only in themselves, but also as protection for the wildlife that depend on the trees for survival.

There is still time, however, to save this forest. This is why on Saturday morning, February, 18, 2006, Sierra Club Coastal Director Mark Massara will join outings leaders and Sierra Club members from throughout California to hike this beautiful and threatened forest. With this fun and easy hike, Sierra Club hopes to raise awareness of the importance of this forest. Join us for a fun morning and to learn the simple things that people can do to help protect this forest for future generations.

If you would like to receive more information on this informative hike, or to learn how you can help protect this forest and California's coastal protection laws, call 831-659-7046 or write to:

[savethecoast@sierraclub.org](mailto:savethecoast@sierraclub.org)



## Assault on Open Space Turned Back

### SLO Planning Commission's next decision due Jan. 18

After months of testimony and submissions by ECOSLO, Sierra Club and concerned citizens of San Luis Obispo, the City Planning Commission on December 14 voted to retain the City's strong existing protections for natural open space. In doing so, the Commissioners rejected the attempt by the Community Development Department to gut the policy and allow new recreational and commercial uses of land that the people of San Luis Obispo have overwhelmingly agreed should be protected.

That agreement was written into City policy in 1994 as the Land Use and Open Space Elements of the General Plan. For the last few years, City staff have been laboring over an "update" that would slash more than a hundred pages from the combined policies and redefine open space as something other than "land to be kept in a predominantly natural or in an undeveloped state"

At the meeting, Ira Winn, a retired professor of urban planning, commented "This proposal amounts to a

monumental destruction of open space, and yet I've heard nothing on television or the radio. I'm surprised."

Commissioners agreed to retain critical portions of the Land Use Element that had been marked for deletion, and also agreed that the most onerous amendment of the proposed Conservation and Open Space Element (COSE) was not necessary. COSE section 8.24.1 attempted to apply the less restrictive uses of the city's greenbelt to open space. The Commission retained the stricter Land Use Element policy, wherein greenbelt is greenbelt. Special thanks are due Commission Chairman Michael Boswell and Commissioner Orval Osborne for standing firm on the need to protect the City's natural areas.

Our concerted efforts have paid off, but we can't afford to relax yet. The Planning Commission will hold a special meeting on January 18, where they will turn from the Land Use Element to focus on the proposed changes in the Open Space Element.

Needless to say, for every resident of the City of San Luis Obispo who values his or her quality of life: Be there!

SLO City Hall, Council Chamber  
990 Palm St.  
Wednesday, January 18, 6 p.m.



ECOSLO Environmental Education Coordinator Miranda Leonard accepts the thanks of a grateful resident after the Dec. 14 Planning Commission meeting. It was delicious.

## Dinner with Sierra Club

Could we interest you in dinner and a meeting? The Chapter is looking for folks who would like to host or attend a 6 p.m. dinner in the company of those of like mind prior to our monthly meeting at 7 p.m., begin-

ning with our talk by Rep. Lois Capps the evening of January 17.

Interested? Contact Meredith Whitaker at 594-1133, [rmwhit@charter.net](mailto:rmwhit@charter.net).

### Goals

*continued from page 3*

carried out by its Committees. An informed, engaged, and active membership promotes the basic mission, principles, goals and strategies of the national Sierra Club and the Santa Lucia Chapter.

### Committees

Committees provide the membership with an opportunity to actively engage with the Chapter and to influence and forward its goals and directions. The following committees are open to all members by appointment. Only the Executive Committee is elected.

**Executive Committee:** Meets monthly or as needed.

**Personnel:** sub-committee of the ExCom; Meets quarterly.

**Litigation:** sub-committee of the ExCom; meets quarterly.

**Budget, Finance & Development:** Meets quarterly.

**Conservation:** Meets monthly.

**Outings:** Meets quarterly.

**Political Action:** Meets quarterly.

**Nominations and Elections:** Meets quarterly.

**Outreach, Program & Membership:** Meets monthly.

**Awards & History:** Meets quarterly.

### Goals & Strategies

In order to address the following priority issues, our chapter must:  
\*Increase, energize, and mobilize Chapter membership. \*Support

Chapter Staff. \*Create local, state and national alliances and partnerships. \*Support environmental education, activism and advocacy. \*Reach out to diverse community groups and individuals. \*Create opportunities for discussion and dialogue concerning environmental issues.

### Priority Issues

(not listed in order of importance)

**Energy** \*Coordinate efforts to promote local & regional renewable energy alternatives.\*Support efforts of Mothers For Peace, Alliance for Nuclear Responsibility and CAPE.

**Environmental Justice** \*Identify and create partnerships to give voice to all who are affected by environmental destruction and degradation of living communities and ecological systems.

**Land Use** \*Create "White Paper" study and critique of County Land Use Planning. \*Provide Community workshops to educate public re: land use.\*Address issues of sprawl through land use planning process and enforcement.\*Support the work of SLO Coast Alliance to address Coastal land use issues.

**Marine Protection** \*Support efforts to expand Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary\*Support expansion of Marine Protection Area\*Coordinate

with Marine issues advocates\*Address issues related to offshore oil and LNG.

**Outings** \*Expand outings opportunities to reach diverse populations\* Broaden outings offerings to include differing modes.\*Encourage trail maintenance and creation.\*Provide education re: human-environment interdependence\*Partner with other conservation and outings organizations.\*Explore opportunities to fund-raise through outings.

**Sustainability** \*Promote awareness of and engagement in sustainable practices including agriculture, biodiversity, recycling, use of organic products, fuel efficiency, green building and products, etc.\*Promote awareness of issues related to GMOs.\* Partner with other organizations to promote sustainability.

**Toxins** \*Develop priorities re: toxic pollutants affecting this county: including pesticides, herbicides & rodenticides, air quality, oil spills, nuclear waste, wastewater contamination.\*Identify other local organizations addressing toxins. Develop alliances.

**Water** \*Continue work of the Desal Task Force\*Review and delineate major issues re: water quality and availability in County.\*Formulate Chapter position re: water use and re-use.

## Reef Check Docks on Central Coast

For more than six years and 90,000 nautical miles, marine biologists from Reef Check, one of the world's leading reef monitoring and conservation organizations, have sailed around the world on a unique and ambitious surf and marine science expedition. Their colorfully-painted ship, *Indies Trader*, is touring the West Coast for the first time to promote their mission – to find undiscovered surf breaks and study the health of remote reef ecosystems as part of Reef Check's global reef monitoring and conservation program.

Last year saw the launch of the California Rocky Reef Program on the Central Coast. "Reef Check California" is designed to become the state's largest volunteer reef ecosystem monitoring program with the goal of providing vital data to state and federal agencies. Volunteer citizen divers are being trained in Reef Check's California Program to monitor our local fish and shellfish populations. In 2006, the program will expand to include Southern and Northern California. The data collected by volunteer scuba divers,

*continued on page 10*



Volunteers

continued from page 3

outstanding natural features in the city would be treated, how they would be allowed to benefit the residents' quality of life.

After a while...

Arlen was greeted as a colleague (or at least co-conspirator) by the others, and he sat at the table. He had developed into an informed participant. Through listening (from the back row) and then informing himself through conversation and reading, he was able to speak knowledgeably on some phases of the negotiations. He had benefited from the mentoring of friends and acquaintances who had started earlier pursuing similar goals. He had learned that a volunteer could find support in most any endeavor. The beauty of volunteerism is that you can advance the things you are interested in.

Until finally...

Arlen called the meeting to order. As chair of the committee he was in an excellent position to influence how the city's natural features were used. His years of participation on the committee and related sub-committees had made him one of the most knowledgeable people in town about how and which natural features impact the public's quality of life.

He looked around the table. He saw other former back-row volunteers, who back then knew only what they thought was right, not how to prove it or make something happen. There could only be one explanation for how they had come so far: magic, volunteer magic.

This story, with slight variations, is biographical for many Sierra Club leaders. The magic of participation is available to all. Some take a bit longer to blossom. Some choose not to be up front leading, but contribute in other meaningful ways. Some lead for a while and then stop — it all adds up. The magic of volunteers is that they accomplish enormous change and enlightenment. Not by a profit-driven agenda, not by political ambition, but by regular folks who are interested enough to add their voice and hearts and hands and special talents for the common good.

# Taking Issue

- problematic recent environmental commentary & coverage by our local press.

"Give PG&E the Diablo Permits" *The Tribune*, Dec. 11, 2005

"...given local politics, we can already hear the howls of protest when the commission meets Jan. 12. That's too bad, because this is merely prudent planning on the utility's part in upgrading Diablo's energy efficiency...."

It's nothing of the kind. The survival of the facility and its lucrative relicensing down the road, not improved efficiency, is the raison d'etre of this project. The steam generators are not inefficient, they're defective. If not replaced, the plant must shut down in 2013.

This is an oft-repeated error about the proposed replacement of Diablo's steam generators, one that has been enthusiastically promoted by PG&E's p.r. flacks. The Environmental Impact Report for the project estimated that replacing the entire plant with a new alternative energy producer would cost \$1.2 billion. Replacing the defective generators to keep the 20-year-old nuclear plant running will cost (if the god of project cost overruns is kind) \$800 million. That represents a savings of \$400 million, NOT \$1.2 billion. The steam generator replacement project would have to be free to realize that savings. If you paid two-thirds of the cost of a new Prius to replace one defective part in your 1985 Ford Fairlane instead — and believed you'd incur no additional costs in parts replacement over the next decade — you would realize the same kind of "savings." When it meets on January 12, let's hope the Planning Commission exercises 20-20 vision where the Public Utilities Commission went blind.



"New, efficient generators mean \$1.2 billion in savings to customers over other forms of fuel-generated energy."

## A Nuclear Serenade

*The Diablo Canyon Warning Siren Singers greeted the Nuclear Regulatory Commission when Commissioners came to the SLO Embassy Suites for a public meeting on December 14, treating them to a little Nuclear Winter Wonderland ("We want to have a say on if we glow, man! We'll ask NRC to shut it down, Regulators tell us 'risk is low, man! But we'll hear your concerns when we're in town....'"). "We try never to pass up an opportunity for a little street theater when the NRC stops by," said Alliance for Nuclear Responsibility Board President David Weisman (left). At the meeting, Commissioners steadfastly maintained that the expanding nuclear waste dump at Diablo Canyon is temporary, despite the lack of evidence that the reactor's spent fuel rods are ever going anywhere.*



# True Ocean Protection Coming to Central Coast

One hundred years ago, Americans had the foresight to develop a national parks system to protect the health of the ecosystems and resources of these special places on land. Today, we all enjoy the natural beauty and recreational opportunities provided by our national parks - which have been described as "the best idea America ever had."

California is on the verge of adopting similar ecosystem protection for its ocean and coastal areas — starting with the Central Coast in 2006. Under the Marine Life Protection Act, California is required to set aside important areas of our coastal waters as marine protected areas to restore fish populations and protect ocean life. Areas that have been proposed for additional protection include Piedras Blancas, Point Buchon and Morro Bay.

### What are Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)?

A marine protected area is a place in the ocean that has been designated by law or regulation to protect and conserve marine life and habitats. In California, the term MPA includes areas with varying levels of protection:

- marine reserves, where all marine

- life is protected and no species can be fished or taken
- marine parks, where commercial fishing is prohibited and managed sport fishing is allowed
- marine conservation areas, where one or more community of species is protected

Under California law, these MPAs generally allow activities such as boating, diving and kayaking as long as no fish or marine life are taken.

### Why the Marine Life Protection Act?

By the 1990s, it was clear that California's ocean resources were in trouble. Some fisheries had already collapsed and our state's growing coastal population was increasing pressure on ocean wildlife and habitat. MPAs have been used as an ocean management tool around the world for many years and have been scientifically shown to help restore fish populations, protect marine habitat and enhance recreational opportunities like wildlife watching and SCUBA diving. Although California already had some very small marine protected areas, these areas covered less than 1% of the State's coastal waters and were far too small to be effective.

In response to the scientific consensus on the value of marine

protected areas, the California legislature overwhelmingly passed the Marine Life Protection Act in 1999. Scientists, divers, educators, fishermen and conservation organizations supported the MLPA, and public opinion surveys consistently show that Californians across the state support improved protection for the oceans and adoption of additional marine protected areas.

But that was 1999... why don't we have more MPAs today? Despite strong public support, implementation of the MLPA has lagged. In 2004, Governor Schwarzenegger announced he would commit his administration to getting the job done under a phased approach. The initial phase of MLPA implementation is focused on the California Central Coast — from Pigeon Point in San Mateo County to Point Conception in Santa Barbara County. Planning for the rest of coast will follow in coming years. The Governor's MLPA Initiative includes creation of a Blue Ribbon Task Force to advise the state, establishment of an advisory team of biologists, economists and other scientific experts, and creation of a Regional Stakeholder Group to provide local community input on specific areas to protect.

### Where are we now?

The MLPA Central Coast Regional Stakeholder Group, including divers, fishermen, conservationists, educators and local business people, met monthly in 2005 to develop recommended proposals for new and improved MPAs in the Central Coast Region. The MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force will review these MPA proposals in March 2006 and make recommendations to the state Fish and Game Commission. By the end of 2006, the Commission will then make the final decision on which areas of the central coast will be protected.

A coalition of educators, divers, conservationists and recreational fishermen worked together to develop a scientifically supported MPA proposal (known as Package 2). Package 2 provides strong protection for areas that are important to San Luis Obispo County residents and critical to fish populations, seabirds and marine mammals. Areas proposed for improved protection include Piedras Blancas, Cambria, Estero Bluffs, Morro Bay and Point Buchon. Package 2 significantly improves habitat protection on the Central

continued on page 10

**MLPA***continued from page 9*

Coast, enhances recreational opportunities and still leaves most of our coastal waters open for fishing. Other proposals developed by the Regional Stakeholder Group provide far less protection than Package 2 and may not meet minimum scientific requirements.



Please tell the MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force that you support improved protection of the Central Coast.

The MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force will be meeting in San Luis Obispo on Tuesday, January 31<sup>st</sup>, and Wednesday, February 1<sup>st</sup>. The meeting location and agenda will be posted at: [www.dfg.ca.gov/mrd/mlpa/meetings.html#brtf](http://www.dfg.ca.gov/mrd/mlpa/meetings.html#brtf)

Please take the time to come tell the Blue Ribbon Task Force what the coastal waters mean to you and why you support protecting them. The proposal developed by a broad coalition (Package 2) balances both the need for real protection and the desire to leave a large part of our coastal waters open to all activities. Tell the Blue Ribbon Task Force you support Package 2.

Visit CalOceans.org today to find out more about these upcoming meetings and how you can stay involved or call Kaitilin Gaffney at (831) 425-1363 or [kgaffney@oceanconservancy.org](mailto:kgaffney@oceanconservancy.org) for more information.

**What can I do?**

To put it simply, we need your help! With at least two competing proposals being presented to the Blue Ribbon Task Force, now is the time to let your voice be heard. The ocean belongs to all of us and it is our responsibility to protect the California coast. Ocean protection can't wait – statewide, fishermen are now catching less than half of what they caught in 1980 for many species and the average size of their fish are smaller. The character of our coastal communities depends on healthy and productive oceans. A meaningful network of MPAs is an investment in the future of these communities.

**Raptors***continued from page 9*

fatalities. So why don't they all identify these poles and fix a percentage of them each year and why is it not required of them? Cost, lack of concern, awareness, incentives, or laws with sufficient enforcement powers? All of the above?

In some cases, relying on utilities to report dead birds and to fix the problem is akin to putting the Fox in charge of the Henhouse. We need to consider what actions are required to change the existing inefficient, dysfunctional system causing so much harm to our raptor populations.

Consider reporting every dead raptor (even the bones & remains) that you find, and documenting:

- 1) The pole number (found on a metal tag).
- 2) Location- nearest address
- 3) The bird description (photos are great!)
- 4) The utility company involved (if known)
- 5) Your contact information
- 6) Copy the utility on your email/note if you can.

Relay this information the Field Supervisor at the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service office in Ventura.

**Reef Check***continued from page 8*

surfers, and fishermen will be made available on a website. Scientific analysis will be used to support better management of California's valuable reef ecosystems.

"This is a great example of how businesses and conservation organizations can work together to help solve pressing issues like the global reef crisis," states Dr. Gregor Hodgson, Founder and Executive Director of the Reef Check Foundation in Los Angeles. "The global expedition has provided our scientists access to remote reefs that are almost impossible to reach by conventional means. Unfortunately, we found that these reefs, like most others, are under pressure from human activities, especially long-distance fishing fleets. Sadly, the same over-fishing problems are affecting the rocky reefs in our own back yard here in California."

**REEF CHECK**

Dr. Craig Shuman, Reef Check California Program Director adds, "The rocky reefs along the California coast and off-shore islands are home to a diverse array of fish and invertebrates. Large stretches of our reefs lack consistent, organized monitoring and study. This program aims to fill data gaps in the existing monitoring network."

Now in its tenth year of operation, Reef Check Foundation maintains the world's largest coral reef monitoring and conservation program. International teams work with communities, governments and businesses to monitor, restore, and maintain coral reefs globally.

For more information about Reef Check, contact Scott Sheckman at 310-230-2371, or visit the website: [www.ReefCheck.org](http://www.ReefCheck.org)

One long-term solution is the creation of an electronic/online register, a "National Online Raptor Reporting System" (NORRS), which all citizens could easily utilize. Under this system, any individual finding a dead raptor files an electronic form. Copies are automatically sent to the appropriate USFWS agent and utility company. The incident would remain open until the at-risk pole is fixed or substantiated proof offered that the pole was not at fault. The final report would go back to the person who initiated the action and the agencies involved.

Utility company reporting should be mandatory, as should be fixing every at-risk pole. Otherwise, large numbers of raptors will continue to be electrocuted "on our watch." If we do nothing more than what is being done today, the consequences for raptors are fairly predictable. We can do so much better!

If you are interested in helping to find a solution to the raptor electrocution problem, or would like more information on the subject, please contact the author, Bill Beaudin at [sixshooters@prodigy.net](mailto:sixshooters@prodigy.net).

## Telling Our Story: "Sierra Club Chronicles" Launches

When two powerful politicians paved the way for the drilling of oil and gas in the Gulf Islands National Seashore off the coast of Mississippi, they did not expect opposition from a coalition of unlikely environmentalists who prefer a lasting tourist trade and pristine beach to temporary gain. Boy, were they ever surprised.

This amazing David vs. Goliath tale is just one of the seven true stories told in "Sierra Club Chronicles," a new monthly television series to be launched on January 12.

Produced by award-winning filmmaker Robert Greenwald ("Wal-Mart: The High Price of Low Cost," "Outfoxed") in association Sierra Club Productions, "Chronicles" captures the extraordinary efforts of people across America: ranchers in New Mexico, emergency medical technicians in New York City, fishermen in Alaska, neighbors of a chemical plant in Mississippi all united in common cause - the fight to protect their families, communities and the lands and livelihoods they love from pollution, corporate greed and short-sighted government policies.

"Sierra Club Chronicles" is seven half-hour episodes that will launch on Link TV on January 12. One new program will premiere the second Thursday of each month at 8:30 p.m. Eastern and Pacific Time through July 2006. Link Satellite TV can be found on DirecTV channel 375 and

Dish Network channel 9410. Please visit the series website for more information on all the episodes and ways to take action and get involved: [www.sierraclubtv.org](http://www.sierraclubtv.org).

"We're encouraging Sierra Club chapters and groups to hold house parties and screenings of each episode so that more members of our local communities can be made aware of the work we're doing around the country," said Adrienne



Bramhall of Sierra Club Productions. "If they keep an eye on the [sierraclubtv.org](http://sierraclubtv.org) website, they'll find all the materials they need to hold a successful event."

Following are summaries of each episode:

— Local efforts are focused on saving urban community gardens from being razed for development in New York. Some of these threatened gardens that have taken over brown spaces have existed for decades and feed hundreds every week.

— When two powerful politicians paved the way for the drilling of oil and gas in the Gulf

Islands National Seashore, they did not expect opposition from a coalition of unlikely environmentalists who prefer a lasting tourist trade and pristine beach to temporary gain.

— The DuPont plant in DeLisle, Mississippi, has been a toxic polluter for a quarter century and now is asking for more permits to emit toxins, despite a class action suit and evidence of health hazards to workers and residents and nearby oyster beds.

— In the West, the Bureau of Land Management has allowed increased drilling and allowing drilling practices that are killing ranchers' cattle. Now, a coalition of ranchers including Republicans and Bush supporters are fighting back.

— The Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach are among the biggest in the world. It brings trade, but also prob-

lems — local activists are exposing the harm the mostly Latino community is enduring including cancer and asthma from diesel emissions and other pollution.

— The terrorist attack on 9/11 was one of our country's most horrific moments, and the damage continues. Told there were no health hazards in the aftermath, many first responders are now afflicted and ignored by our government.

— The largest environmental disaster in our history - the Exxon Valdez. The spill killed countless wildlife and miles of irreplaceable coastline in a fateful moment. Sixteen years later the native fishing town of Cordova waits for a settlement, and for the fish to return. For information on hosting a screening, or to find out about other Sierra Club Productions films that are available for screenings and house parties, visit: [clubhouse.sierraclub.org/scp](http://clubhouse.sierraclub.org/scp).

**Two newer homes in Oak Creek Commons Co-housing Community**, Paso Robles, CA. Charming 2 story, 3 bdrm 2 1/2 bthhome/condo. 1600 sq. ft. w/ beautiful hardwood floors, tile master bath & views of oaks & mountains. Priced to Sell at \$379,900. Second home is a bright and sunny end unit with bed, bath & living area on lower level & 2 bedrooms & bath along with large family room on upper level, same great views & convenient floor plan. Drastically reduced to sell at \$369,900. Community offers 10 acres of Pristine Oaks to roam, 4,000 sq. ft common house, pool & spa. Located in the sunny Central Coast of California, 30 minutes from the Ocean. Some owner financing available or lease option. Email Christine McDonald of Prudential Hunter Realty at [cmcd4re@charter.net](mailto:cmcd4re@charter.net) or call (805) 441-5018.

# Classifieds

February issue ad deadline is **January 14**. To acquire a rate sheet or submit your ad and payment, contact:

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.

## Meeting Minutes

highlights from recent Chapter meetings

Executive Committee Meeting  
 November 18 2005

Meeting called to order at 5:00 p.m.  
 Present: Karen Merriam, Cal French, Eliane Guillot, Steven Marx, John Ashbaugh. Staff: Andrew Christie. Guest: Letty French. Absent: Jack Morrow

Cal read "Backwater Pond," a poem by W.S. Merwin; Steven read, "For All," a poem by Gary Snyder. Cal read a poetic proclamation of appreciation for Chair Karen Merriam and presented her with a drum that he and Letty brought back from Madagascar.

Karen mentioned that plans are proceeding for a fund-raising and awards dinner to be held June 10, possibly at a Vineyard or the Monday Club.

Chapter Coordinator's report: Andrew was elected liaison to National's Corporate Accountability Committee, moved by John, seconded by Cal. He will gather signatures at screenings of the Wal-Mart movie arranged by HopeDance and co-sponsored by the chapter. We are assisting Alliance for Nuclear Responsibility and Assemblyman Pedro Nava in drafting a bill opposing relicensing of CA nuclear power plants. We have contacted all Mayors in the county to invite participation in the "Cool Cities" Campaign. Steven has also contacted SLO City Council Members and Mayor and will follow up. All ExCom and chapter members are urged to participate in this initiative. We are urging Shirley Bianchi to publicly support expansion of the Monterey Bay National Sanctuary at the Marine Interest Group.

Lois Capps will speak at our General Meeting January 17. John agreed to coincide with the meeting of the SLO Democratic Club.

TDC program comes to Supervisors on November 22. Members are urged to attend or to ask their Supervisors to kill

the sprawl-inducing program.

Los Padres ForestWatch reports 19,000 National Forest acres are on auction for oil and gas lease. Andrew spent an hour on Congalton show to discuss oil leases in Carrizo National Monument. He was instrumental in getting this week's *New Times* story on Marlene Braun and possible extension of Monterey Bay Sanctuary.

Karen spoke with National Guard at Camp San Luis and to Supervisor Bianchi and Tom Slater about restoring public access to Cerro Romauldo, recently withdrawn. Tom has enlisted the help of Assemblyman Maldonado in negotiations with The National Guard. Superv. Bianchi has arranged a meeting with the National Guard and interested parties to try to resolve the issue.

Conservation Committee: Excomm ratified two new members of the Conservation Committee, Holly Sletteland and Lynne Harkins. Jan Marx and others working on City of SLO's attempt to gut the Open Space Element of the General Plan. We are suggesting that the City should leave the Element alone and limit their revisions to the Energy and Conservation Element. The chapter will sign a letter of support to the Coastal Commission for efforts to make the Port San Luis Lighthouse more accessible to the public.

Next meeting: December 16, 5:00 p.m., for seating of new ExCom members and presentation of next year's budget. A party will follow for members to meet their new ExCom. ExCom members will provide refreshments.

Meeting adjourned 6:45 p.m.

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## 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.**

Environmental Center of San Luis Obispo County

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# Outings and Activities Calendar

All of our hikes and activities are open to all Club members and the general public. If you have any suggestions for hikes or outdoor activities, questions about the Chapter's outing policies or would like to be an 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.

**Sat., Jan. 7, 9:00 a.m., 46th Annual Sierra Club Anniversary Dunes Hike at Oso Flaco Lake.** Come and take an easy, moderate or long walk on this 45th annual celebration of our Sierra Club's first official hike in the dunes. There will be hikes for all ages and fitness levels. Meet in the Oso Flaco Lake parking lot and hear stories of the early days of our chapter. Carpooling is advised, as there is a \$5.00/car parking fee. For details call Jack Beigle 773-2147

**Sun., Jan. 8th, 9:30 a.m., Nipomo Creek Park:** Meet at this new park which is behind Adobe Plaza, a product of the Land Conservancy. 544-9096

**Sun., Jan. 15th, 9:30 a.m., Black Lake Canyon Reserve:** We meet at junction of Leguna Negra and Guad. Rd and go down closed Xenon Way, see euke-forest, oak woodland, Hoy Canyon, and new Land Conservancy property. 544-9096

**Sat., Jan. 14 Adobe Trail:** Moderate to strenuous hike on a trail through chaparral and oak-studded grassland (7 mrt, 1300 ft elev. gain). Bring lunch, water, jacket and sturdy shoes. Meet 8:45am in Santa Maria at the North SB County Government Center's easternmost parking lot. Rain cancels. JERRY 928-3598 (AR)

**Wed., Jan. 22, 9:30 a.m., Dana-Corrio Adobe:** Meet at the Adobe on So. Oak Glenn, tour the hillside and creek, talk about history and future. What happened to the Chumash? Call or e-mail Bill Deneen a few days before for details: 929-3647 or [BDeneen@SLONET.org](mailto:BDeneen@SLONET.org)

**Sat., Jan. 21st, 8:15 a.m., Big Sur Coastal Hike.** Not sure of the exact destination yet, but we may explore one of many areas in the Silver Peak Wildernes. Possibly Sur Sur Ranch, Salmon Creek, Cruickshank or the Coastal Traverse along the Buckeye Trail. A lot will depend on the weather and whether it is clear. The hike will be at a 2000-foot elevation

gain, and at least 6 - 10 miles. Bring lunch, water, dress for the weather. Possible eats in Cambria after. Meet at Spencer's Market in Morro Bay. Rain Cancels. Details call Gary at 473-3694 (3D)

**Jan., 22nd, 1 p.m., Cerro San Luis. Lemon Grove Loop:** Come Join the City Ranger of SLO for a hike on Cerro San Luis Lemon Grove Loop. Bring water, pants and sturdy shoes. Snacks will be provided. Meet at the Maino Open Space Area, at the Marsh and Higuera onramp in SLO. Call 781-7300, or visit the City's website at [www.slocity.org/parksandrecreation/parkrangers.asp](http://www.slocity.org/parksandrecreation/parkrangers.asp) for more information. Sponsored by the City of SLO

**Sat., Jan. 28TH, 8:30 a.m. Rinconada Trail to Big Falls.** Celebrate the reopening of the Rinconada trailhead by joining the leader on this moderate 9 mile hike to Big Falls. This is a great winter hike. The elevation gain is approximately 1700 ft. The views are fantastic from Hi Mountain Road and we should get to enjoy water at the falls by then. Meet in front of the Santa Margarita Beverage Co. at the east end of Santa Margarita. Bring water, lunch or snacks, and dress for the weather. There may be a possible refueling stop at Pozo on the return. Rain cancels. For details, contact Chuck at 441-7597

**Sat., Jan. 28th, 2 p.m., Surf Beach Walk:** 3 MRT northward. Cross Santa Ynez river outlet into the Pacific Ocean and walk northward 3 miles along beach until blocked by cliffs. Walk features tide pools and caves. Minus 1.6 ft. tide at 3:30pm. Meet at 2pm in Ocean Park parking lot approx. 1 mile west of signed right turn off West Ocean before it heads southward toward Surf Station. Dogs welcome. Always contact the leader; hike particulars can change. CONNIE 735-2292. (AR)

**Sun., Jan. 29, Lake San Antonio Eagle Watch;** Lake San Antonio is a great winter outing if we can schedule it between the rains. All we need is a little sunshine and we should have another super outing. We have always seen bald and golden eagles, ospreys, pelicans and many other birds on our outings at Lake San Antonio. Dress warmly in layers. Bring your boat and equipment, PFDs, windbreaker, warm clothes, lunch and binoculars. Phone Jack Beigle, 773-2147 for reservation, park fees and details. NOTE: If you would like to camp overnight Saturday, January 28th, ask me for camping information.

**JAN 29, 0930, Sun., COAST HIKE:** A 4 mile hike on coast. Exact location depends on who picks me (& dogs) up and where they want to go. Call or e-mail Bill Deneen a few days before for details: 929-3647 or [BDeneen@SLONET.org](mailto:BDeneen@SLONET.org)

**Thur., Feb. 2nd, 9:30 a.m. Nipomo Creek Park:** Meet at this new park which is behind Adobe Plaza, a product of the Land Conservancy 544-9096

**Sat., Feb. 5, 9:30 a.m., Black Lake Canyon Reserve:** We meet at junction of Leguna Negra and Guad. Rd and go down closed Xenon Way, see euke-forest, oak-woodland, Hoy Canyon, and new Land

Conservancy property. 544-9096

**Sun., Feb. 6, 11 a.m., SUPERBOWL ALTERNATIVE HIKE AND POTLUCK:** If bears, dolphins, and eagles sound like animals, not teams, join us as we hike Point Sal Road to our potluck lunch destination (5 mrt, 1300 ft. elev. gain). Bring a daypack with food to share, as well as a plate, utensils, and water for yourself. Meet at the Orcutt Long's Drugs parking lot at 11am. Always contact the leader. JIM 937-6766 (AR)

**Sat., Feb. 11th, 1 p.m., Surf Beach Walk:** 3 MRT northward. Cross Santa Ynez river outlet into the Pacific Ocean and walk northward 3 miles along beach until blocked by cliffs. Walk features tide pools and caves. Minus 1.6 ft. tide at 3:30pm. Meet at 2pm in Ocean Park parking lot approx. 1 mile west of signed right turn off West Ocean before it heads southward toward Surf Station. Dogs welcome. Always contact the leader; hike particulars can change. CONNIE 735-2292. (AR)

**Sat, Feb. 18th, 10 a.m., Birding In Morro Bay;** We will tour the Chorro Creek Delta to see how many shore birds we can find. Bring your boat and equipment, PFD, windbreaker, bird book, binoculars and a picnic lunch. Launch at Morro Bay State Park Marina, High Tide 12:37 PM 2.7', Low Tide 6:17 PM 1.5'. Details please call Jack Beigle 773-2147

**Sat, Feb. 18: HIKE TO SAVE THE MONTEREY PINES!** See page 8.

**May 20-27, VOYAGE OF THE GLACIERS.** Answer the call of the wild with your pioneer spirit as we explore the land John Muir said "was still in the morning of creation." Travel with your Angeles Chapter and Orange County Sierra Singles friends on the luxurious Sapphire Princess as we head north up the Inside Passage from Vancouver, Canada, to the Alaskan ports of Ketchikan, Juneau, and Skagway. View all the great maritime mammals and active tidewater glaciers with an onboard naturalist. Join us for onboard get-togethers and brisk hikes around the promenade deck. On ports of call days, go ashore and see the totem poles of Ketchikan, the Mendenhall Glacier in Juneau, the Klondike Gold-Rush Trail of '98 from Skagway

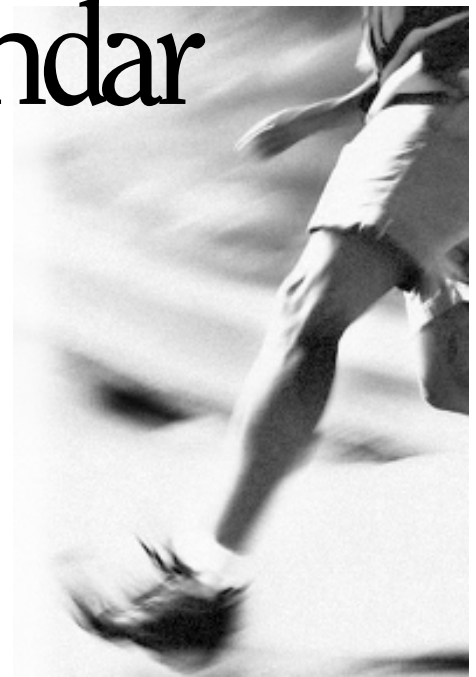


Photo by Joaquin Palting

or join the leaders on hikes and frontier saloon explorations. Cruise Glacier Bay National Park and College Fjord. After crossing the mighty Gulf of Alaska, we bid farewell in Whittier for transport to Anchorage and the flight home. Your cruise fare includes an astounding array of onboard facilities: ship stateroom, ocean transport, gourmet meals, quality entertainment, exercise opportunities and some beverages. Staterooms available from \$564 based on d/occupancy. Port charges, gov't taxes, transfers, tips, discounted airfare extra. Move fast, limited spaces in each category. Call Violet Calderon [vcalderon@montrosetravel.com](mailto:vcalderon@montrosetravel.com), Montrose Travel's Group Division, 800-301-9673 for a brochure and the best cabin choices or go online [www.montrosetravel.com/sierraclub](http://www.montrosetravel.com/sierraclub). A post-cruise extension will be offered to Denali Nat'l Park. For information on either the cruise or the extension, please send a sase or e mail to Cruise Coordinator: DONNA SPECHT, 22221 Wood Island Lane, Huntington Beach, CA 92646, 714-963-6345 e-mail [donnaspecht@juno.com](mailto:donnaspecht@juno.com) Co-Leader: ANA CADEZ (Angeles Chapter Fundraiser, Orange County Sierra Singles).

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

## CORRECTION

Thanks to our careful reader and past Chapter Chair Dorothea Rible, we are reminded that the proper name for "Madonna Mountain" is San Luis Mountain, or Cerro San Luis. We'll make every effort to call the mountain by its proper name in the future. Dorothea also caught an error in another "work party announcement" which incor-

rectly placed Highland Drive in the Irish Hills. It would be hard to know from our description of the Nov. 5 work party which side of town to go to! Fortunately there were phone numbers and website listings to check.

Our apologies for the confusion, and thanks to Dorothea for bringing these errors to our attention.