



April 2011
Volume 48 No. 4

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DON'T MISS

April 6 and 7:

City Repair's

Mark Lakeman

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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

Diablo: You're Done

Public Utilities Commission must deny relicensing funds if PG&E won't complete seismic study first

Send a letter to Governor Brown and CPUC opposing the relicensing of California's aging nuclear plants

By the Alliance for Nuclear Responsibility

The following letter is available at www.a4nr.org. Please "copy" the text, add or modify with any of your own personal comments, and click on the link provided to open the web site for e-mail to Governor Jerry Brown. On his web site, choose "energy issues/concerns" from the drop down menu, add your personal information, and then paste the contents of the letter. A4NR also provides a second link to e-mail the Public Advisor at the California Public Utilities Commission. In the "subject" box, type "A. 10-01-022 OPPOSE Settlement Agreement." We would appreciate if you also send a cc: to rochelle@a4nr.org

RE: RELICENSING OF CALIFORNIA'S NUCLEAR PLANTS

CPUC Application. 10-01-022 (Diablo Canyon)

Dear Governor Brown and CPUC Commissioners:

In light of the tragic events unfolding in Japan due to the earthquake, tsunami and nuclear meltdowns, we are gravely concerned about the seismic threats at California's nuclear power plants. As the Japanese have sadly learned, despite assurances from their regulators, the seismic risks were greatly underestimated. After the discovery of a new fault only 1800 feet from Diablo Canyon, which has yet to be independently studied, analyzed, and peer reviewed, there is no reason to delay fully implementing the studies authorized under AB 1632 for both operating

NUCLEAR LETTER continued on page 6

Bad timing is everything.

The March 14 issue of *Newsweek* – which hit the stands about a week before an earthquake and tsunami hit Japan on March 11 – published a gushing profile of Anne Lauvergeon, CEO of Areva, the French nuclear giant, entitled "Nuclear Powerhouse: France's most powerful businesswoman believes now is the time for the next atomic boom."

The article let us know that Lauvergeon, affectionately known as "Atomic Anne," is "the world's most effective proselytizer for nuclear energy." The profile ends with Atomic Anne proudly laying out the industry's p.r. strategy: "We have changed the dialogue with people. We have to not only speak but to listen, to understand their fears, their passions, their emotions.... When you are totally open, when you share with the people everything and accept all the criticism, you change the way people react."

And once you've deployed calm, logical expertise to assure all the fearful, passionate, emotional people that they needn't fret, then you press on with the task of expanding nuclear power's glowing future as a "clean energy." This is the other prong in Lauvergeon's two-



part p.r. offensive: "Nuclear isn't the only solution, but it is part of the solution."

Sorry, Atomic Anne, but it's not. "We can have a clean, healthy and prosperous world without nuclear energy," says Sierra Club Executive Director Michael Brune. "We should not subsidize dangerous and costly nuclear reactors that produce radioactive, highly volatile waste that remains dangerous for tens of thousands of years. Instead, we should

DIABLO continued on page 6



Prove it The stream of reassuring p.r. from PG&E has spiked since March 11. Agreeing to complete state-mandated seismic surveys prior to relicensing would be the utility's put up or shut up moment.

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

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Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

Dalidio's Way

For twenty years, Ernie Dalidio has tried to develop his land just beyond the city limits of San Luis Obispo. His various development proposals have been designed to reap maximum private profits, with minimum public benefit offered in exchange for the right to develop.

When SLO City residents rejected his development plan at the ballot box in 2005, Dalidio wrote himself his own zoning category and put Measure J on a county ballot, powered by a million-dollar p.r. campaign depicting him as a poor farmer struggling to protect his property rights from The System.

Unsurprisingly, county voters were happy to vote for Measure J, approving a project that was no skin off their noses, forcing the residents of San Luis Obispo to accept a project whose environmental impacts and economic burdens would be borne by the city, not the county. Measure J made Dalidio a special case: it set his development plan apart from the land use policies governing the city and the county and exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act, a plan that has not had and will never undergo an Environmental Impact Report, impervious to any need for future adjustments to accommodate new information or changes on the ground; no General Plan review, no staff analysis that might result in conditions of approval or reductions of impacts, no public hearings, no review by a Planning Commission, never to come before the Board of Supervisors.

In 1994, city planners called for half the Dalidio property to be preserved as open space in any approved development plan. But Measure J would pave more than two-thirds of the land under big box retail, hotel, and parking lot.

Now the City has approved an Agricultural Master Plan that affirms the General Plan's requirement that,



should Dalidio's property be annexed into the City, half of it must be dedicated to open space. It's a "just in case" plan, common practice for planners looking toward the future and likely candidates for annexation.

Annexation would give Dalidio access to city services, without which he'll have to build his own sewer plant, get city permits for roads, etc., to realize his development dreams.

The City's plan for open space angered Dalidio. He told city planners that 1) he had not been consulted (though the process had been publicly noticed and underway for 18 months before the plan was approved in March), and 2) he had no interest in annexation.

Which begged the question: what was Dalidio angry about? If he doesn't request annexation, the City's Master Plan will never apply to his land. Even the boosters who fully bought into the Measure J campaign's one-man-against-the-system spin are having trouble knowing how to root for this latest bout of shadow boxing.

Kudos to city planning staff and four SLO City Councilmembers who crafted an Agricultural Master Plan that provides a small lesson in the difference between public interest and unbridled private interest.

Instead of spending another twenty years being outraged at the suggestion that he should have to abide by the General Plan of the City of San Luis Obispo if he wants to develop in the City of San Luis Obispo, Dalidio could finally give that a try.

With Thanks

We were saddened to learn of the Feb. 17 passing of Meredith Whittaker, 83, who was active in building a stronger local environmental community for the Santa Lucian Chapter. Meredith is survived by her husband Ralph, also a longtime Sierra Club supporter in the field of energy policy. Memorials preferred to Hospice Partners of the Central Coast, SLO Botanical Garden, Another Mother for Peace, Heifer International and the Sierra Club.

The Santa Lucia Chapter has received a \$5,000 grant from the San Luis Obispo County Community Foundation. (SLOCCF). The Chapter will use the grant to help carry out its conservation campaigns and public outreach on environmental issues in the county in 2011.

The Sierra Club was chosen to receive the grant from more than 40 applicants, and is one of 13 recipients of grants from the Foundation this year totaling \$52,494.

The Foundation is a public trust that meets the changing needs and interests of the community. Its grantmaking program is made possible through the generous support of the SLOCCF Community Endowment and many donor funds held at the Foundation. In eleven years, the Foundation has given out more than \$16 million in grants to assist nonprofit agencies.



The Chapter also acknowledges the Marx Family Fund and the Jean and Andrew Greensfelder Fund for their recent generous donations.

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

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Sierra Club Eco-Grant Winners

The Santa Lucia Chapter of the Sierra Club has announced the recipients of mini-grants in the inaugural year of the Chapter's Local Youth Working to Heal the Planet program, which helps fund environmental projects at local schools.

Students and faculty sponsors in secondary school programs throughout San Luis Obispo County were eligible to apply for funding for student projects with a budget of up to \$350.

There are four grant recipients for 2011:

- **Atascadero High School.** The 120 students in the school's "GreenHound Academy" will create a sustainable organic garden on campus, with assistance from Madrone Landscaping. The produce will be used in the school's culinary arts program. They will use their

grant funds to purchase potting soil, seed packs and lumber.

- **Templeton High School.** Students in the Advanced Placement Environmental Studies program will use the grant funds for field trips to a local landfill and the Paso Robles Wastewater Treatment facility, and will conduct water quality testing to determine the effect of the treatment plant on the Salinas River. Students will then undertake small group projects designed to reduce solid waste or water usage in the community.

- **Morro Bay High School.** The school's Environmental Club will build a compost/vermiculture bin for the school garden that can accommodate food waste from the cafeteria. They will use the grant to purchase wood, worms, sawdust and a breathable landscape tarp, supplementing



Winning style The Morro Bay High School Environmental Club, above, and the Outside Now Nature Academy, right, are two recipients of the Santa Lucia Chapter's 2011 "Youth Working to Heal the Planet" grants.



the grant with additional funds from a community yard sale.

- **Outside Now Nature Academy.** A private middle/high school program in San Luis Obispo that offers a curriculum emphasizing connections among the individual, society and the natural world, the Academy's seven middle and high school students will come to the aid of aspiring backyard gardeners throughout the county by using their grant money to purchase hydrofarm equipment, starter

pots and grow lights for use in growing 500 vegetable seedlings, transferring them to garden beds, and offering them for sale at public events. The proceeds will go toward the continuation of the program for the next growing season.

The Sierra Club began visiting high schools and providing guest lectures throughout the county last fall. "Teachers told us that a pressing need is finding seed money to undertake environmental projects," said Joe Morris, the Chapter's outings chair. "With the tight school budgets are taking, these kinds of programs are especially vulnerable." Morris took the idea of a mini-grant program to the Chapter's executive committee, who immediately approved it.

"Thanks to generous donors who pulled out their wallets when they heard about this program, we were able to fund every grant application we received," said Santa Lucia Chapter Chair Melody DeMeritt. "We're very pleased that the Sierra Club was able to step in to help out with these very worthy projects, and we hope to be able to fund even more of them next year."

The students and their teachers will be invited to report on the progress of their projects at the Sierra Club's general meeting in May.

We Are Wisconsin

And on April 4, We Are One



Two well-attended "Defend the Dream" events, part of a nationwide action to support working families, were held at the Sunken Gardens in Atascadero and outside the County Court House in SLO on March 15.

The events were organized by Moveon.org in solidarity with working families throughout America during the week that Wisconsin teachers, firefighters, police officers and other public employees lost their collective bargaining rights.

The San Luis Obispo rallies also focused on getting letters to Assemblyman Katcho Achadjian and Senator Sam Blakeslee urging their support for Governor Brown's tax extension plan in order to avoid drastic cuts to our public schools and health and social service programs.

Monday, April 4, has been designated a national Day of Action to stand in

solidarity with the workers under attack in Ohio, Wisconsin, Michigan, Indiana and elsewhere. In addition to the focus on workers' rights, the day will showcase how we are all part of one movement, and we are all under attack by the same flawed policies and corporate interests. Different groups - including faith, students, immigrant rights, civil rights and environmental groups - are planning events and actions under the common banner We Are One.

The website for the day is <http://local.we-r-1.org>

Defend the Dream - Atascadero, CA
by Robin Smith 23 hours ago



Santa Lucia Chapter chair Melody DeMeritt spoke up for working families at the Atascadero "Defend the Dream" rally.

Ill Advised

Teixeira gets cross-wise in south county

It wasn't quite the same thing as trying to get away with an illegal vote to banish collective bargaining rights for workers and smash labor unions, but last month one of our elected officials gave SLO our own Wisconsin moment.

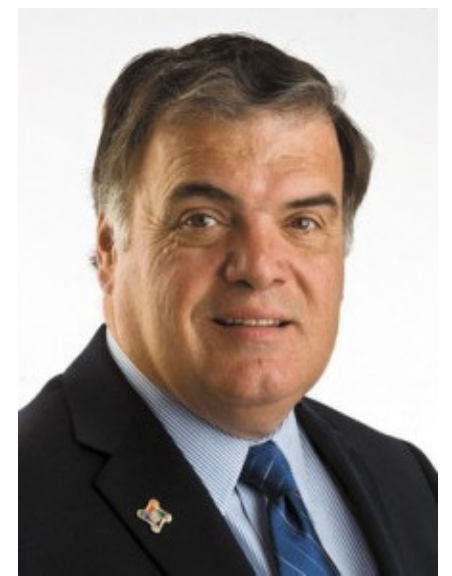
In 2010, when Paul Teixeira took Katcho Achadjian's former seat on the County Board of Supervisors, he was elected on the basis of the same "business first, environment last" credo that installed Katcho in the seat, from which he served those interests who kept him fed and groomed there for twelve long years.

So it's not hard to guess what motivated Supervisor Teixeira's sudden "streamlining" impulse last month to dissolve the two elected South County advisory councils in his district and replace them with a single body whose members would be selected by Supervisor Teixeira.

But for anyone who *did* find it hard to guess, KVEC's March 14 Dave Congalton Show cleared things up. "I could imagine there would be a lot of development that would be attempted," said SCAC Chairman Dan Woodson in answer to a question about what the consequences would be if Teixeira's plan was approved. "[If] he has appointed council members, they're going to go along with what he wants to do."

Then a caller from Nipomo phoned in to support Teixeira's move, saying "I'd like to see Teixeira appoint some positions there so that more development can happen."

Then a real estate broker called in



Oops Supervisor Teixeira

to accuse SCAC of being "the enemy of development."

If you think an advisory council is supposed to be mindful of available resources and appropriate limits to growth, then the SCAC has been doing a pretty good job. If, on the other hand, you think an advisory council is supposed to provide political cover for a supervisor when he votes for unsustainable development and delivers the goods to his political backers...then not so much. (Let's recall the stacked-deck, developer-orchestrated subcommittees and task forces that were the trademark of former Supervisor Jerry Lenthall when he was trying to grease the

Sierra Club: Next Generation

At their February 28 meeting in Cal Poly's Erhart Ag building, the Sierra Student Coalition discussed their participation in the Sierra Club's Inner City Outings program and Cal Poly's 2011 "Polywood" open house; FocusSLO, Cal Poly's week-long Earth Day celebration; attending Spring Break camp, a service trip with the Ventana Wilderness Alliance; and the campaign to expand the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary to include the waters of SLO.

SSC President Victoria Carranza, who galvanized the Cal Poly chapter of Sierra Students last year, is one of twenty Cal Poly students who will be attending Power Shift in Washington, DC, the weekend of April 15, where they will join 10,000 other students and leaders of the environmental and social justice movements in organizing campaigns to reclaim democracy, build a green economy,

and otherwise show DC what leadership looks like.

In a February organizing conference call for the event, Van Jones, co-founder of Green for All and the



They have the floor SSC President Victoria Carranza (left) confers with Kelly Allyn and Kevin Bertolero.

Ella Baker Center for Human Rights, told Power Shift's student leaders "It's your generation in the Middle East, and now your generation here in the United States, that's actually picking up the whole human family and carrying it into the new century.

"That is what you were born for," said Jones. "You guys were not born to be put on trial by the system, you were born to put the system on trial."

The Sierra Student Coalition is a network of high school and college-aged youth, with more than 250

chapters nationwide. Its mission is to train, empower, and organize members to run effective campaigns that result in tangible environmental victories and to develop leaders for the environmental movement.

Check them out at www.ssc.org.

Ill advised

continued from page 3

wheels for the development of the Dalidio Ranch, Fossil Pointe, and the Cayucos Viewshed.)

Teixeira announced his plan in the midst of SCAC's annual election, scheduled for March 21. As the *Adobe Press* reported: "They can go ahead and have the election if they want, but it's a moot point," Teixeira said, because supervisors' approval March 15 will immediately dissolve SCAC. He said SCAC will meet one last time March 28, when members will be given certificates of appreciation."

Teixeira delivered a your-services-will-no-longer-be-needed letter to Chairman Woodson and slipped a resolution onto the supervisors' March 15 "consent agenda" – the place reserved for non-controversial items to be passed without discussion at their weekly meeting – a resolution giving him the power to create an advisory council that would be unlike those in every other supervisorial district.

It was not to be. The Sierra Club joined with North County Watch and virtually every advisory council in the county in informing Mr. Teixeira that, according to the County's rules, citizens, not supervisors, had the authority to establish an advisory council; those councils are elected, not appointed; any proposal to amend

those rules should require broad public input and vigorous discussion, and would properly be the province of an amendment to the enabling resolution and rules, not heard without comment as an item on a consent agenda.

Facing a cascade of such correspondence in the days leading up to the meeting and the prospect of about four hours of public testimony delivering more of the same, Supervisor Teixeira withdrew his proposal.

After the meeting, in the lobby of the County Government Center, exultant advisory council members compared notes, exchanged phone numbers, and agreed it would be a good idea to establish closer ties and keep in touch with each other much more than they have heretofore.

Much as labor unions can thank Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker for serving as the most galvanizing organizing force they've had in decades, SLO county's advisory councils, and the vitality of the role they play in encouraging grass-roots citizen participation in land use decisions impacting their communities, can thank Supervisor Teixeira for doing the same.

The take-home lesson for the Supervisor was provided some years ago by Winston Churchill: "Democracy is the worst form of government, except all those other forms that have been tried."

Fruit & Fumes

By Jesse Arnold

Last year, many people opposed the approval of methyl iodide as a soil fumigant for growing strawberries in California, but the state Department of Pesticide Regulation approved the highly toxic chemical anyway.

One of the letters of comment opposing approval was sent by the Central Coast Regional Water Resources Control Board. Executive

Officer Roger Briggs pointed out that past and present approved pesticides have been found to contaminate surface and groundwater, and "All of these finds also represent a chronic threat to human health." Methyl iodide is soluble in water and poses a high risk of groundwater contamination. Briggs concludes, "We are

FRUIT continued on page 7

Let Solar Sell: Update

Since releasing our report on the way-too-high fees charged by three local governments to allow businesses to install solar panels (see "Let Solar Sell, February), the Sierra Club has met with Jon Biggs, Community Development Director for Pismo Beach (permit fee: \$15,907), and heard back from Robert Perrault, City Manager of Grover Beach (permit fee: \$9,509) that the city's commercial solar permit fees are now under review.

Pismo Beach tells us they are likely to do a full-blown solar fee study in 2012. We have urged that Pismo's

residential PV permit fee also be lowered to between \$200 and \$500, as it is currently \$1,300, which is about \$1,000 over the cost recovery.

Charging more for solar permits than the reasonable costs to administer them is a violation of California Government Code Section 66014, which provides that fees associated with building inspections and building permits "shall not exceed the estimated reasonable cost of providing the service for which the fee is charged." The cost recovery limit for commercial solar PV permit fees is \$2,500. Charging more than that is a significant disincentive for switching to solar.

"We are offering to share a wealth of information on computing PV permit fees for cost recovery that I am confident will assist the cities in their efforts," said Kurt Newick, Global Warming & Energy Committee Chair for the Sierra Club's Loma Prieta Chapter.

Over the last five years, most of the 131 cities in the Bay Area have significantly lowered their residential solar permit fees due to the Sierra Club's efforts, which have since expanded to many other California counties.

Here is the web site with all the info on what cities in San Luis Obispo County charge for commercial solar permit fees according to our permit fee study: www.SolarPermitFees.org/sanluisobispo.html

Thank You, Water Board

By the Creek Dogs, Ralph Bishop & Daniel Diaz

In February, we followed up with the Regional Water Quality Control Board on the issue of agricultural drip tubing cut and discarded in Nipomo Creek (see "Caught in the Black Web," March 2008).

The community asked us to petition the Water Board to do what they could about the residual masses of tubing that have for years been left in the water courses about the town of Nipomo. The tubing has been

responsible for nitrate pollution and major flooding when large clumps lodge in culverts. We are pleased and thankful that the Water Board's provision of new rules concerning black tubing (see "Thank You, Provision #28," June 2010) has had noticeable positive



Here's the problem Nipomo Creek, circa 2008.

TUBING continued on page 9

Diablo

continued from page 1

invest in safe, affordable clean energy solutions like wind, solar and energy efficiency to power our future.”

Let us count the ways:

Portugal currently gets 45% of its electricity from renewable energy. If Portugal can do it, we can do it.

Iowa is already at 20% wind power, proving that it's possible for us to greatly increase the amount of energy we get from renewable sources.

Texas has more than 10GW of installed wind power – enough to power 2 million homes.

This is America. When history demanded it, we rose to the occasion – putting a man on the moon, curing diseases, creating advances. We already have the technology to produce alternative energy. We need to have the political will to think big and implement clean energy solutions on a large scale.

We often hear that even if we doubled production of the current amount of renewable energy consumed as a percentage of total energy produced, that only means doubling a small percentage, on the order of 2% increased to 4%. But big changes don't happen that way; they happen exponentially. Nearly every household in this country switched from VHS to DVD in just a few years. Old technologies get replaced quickly with better ones.

By contrast, the nuclear lobby assures us that a newer, safer, this-time-we-really-mean-it generation of reactors is, as the joke goes, just 20 years away... and always will be.

When the Diablo Canyon nuclear power plant opened 25 years ago, it was the focus of the U.S. anti-nuclear movement. Wikipedia sums it up:

* August 6, 1977: The Abalone Alliance held the first blockade at

Diablo Canyon Power Plant, and 47 people were arrested.

* August 1978: almost 500 people were arrested for protesting at Diablo Canyon.

* April 8, 1979: 30,000 people marched in San Francisco to support shutting down the Diablo Canyon Power Plant.

* June 30, 1979: about 40,000 people attended a protest rally at Diablo Canyon.

* September 1981: more than 900 protesters were arrested at Diablo Canyon.

* May 1984: about 130 demonstrators showed up for start-up day at Diablo Canyon, five were arrested.

And today, every media story and web bulletin on the unfolding disaster in Japan seems to end with a tagline reminding us that the United States has two nuclear reactors poking into the sea here on the other side of the Pacific Rim's Ring of Fire, next door to the San Andreas Fault and several other faultlines.

As Japan declared a state of emergency for three, then five, then six of the Fukushima reactors, cabinet ministers reluctantly conceded that perhaps a “possible partial meltdown may be underway” – but there is no health risk, no immediate danger, and the last-ditch emergency measure of dumping seawater into the reactor was “going smoothly” as 200,000 people were evacuated, a purely precautionary measure — PG&E was in the midst of gearing up to request the renewal of its operating license for Diablo Canyon, which, if granted, will enable it to continue operating for twenty years beyond the end of its rated lifespan. (Note: In its history, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission has never found cause to deny the

renewal of the license of a nuclear power plant.)

A nuclear entourage tags along with the NRC when they come to town. These folks stand up at the public meetings at the Embassy Suites, hold up a small, black pellet between thumb and forefinger and proudly announce that this is what nuclear fuel looks like; tout the tremendous amount of “clean” energy that it produces; proclaim that all of the waste from all the reactors in the country would only fill an Olympic swimming pool, cite the industry's allegedly excellent safety record, and so on.

Local representatives from the Chamber of Commerce, construction unions, the Farm Bureau and the Cattlemen's Association join in to thank PG&E for all the jobs Diablo Canyon provides, keeping the lights on, their generous support of local charities, and so on.

Then the PG&E and NRC experts stand up. They dismiss concerns about earthquakes, the spent fuel pools, terrorist attacks, operator error, the non-threatening nature of ongoing leaks of radioactive materials, and the nuclear industry's real safety record.

Never mentioned is the work of those rare nuclear experts who are independent of the nuclear industry, and have demonstrated that there is no safe dose or threshold for radiation exposure and that low-dose radiation is likely to lead to more health consequences and cancers down the line than a high dose.

It would be nice to think that, after Fukushima, we have now exited the

land of confident assurances. But, of course, we haven't. PG&E is still saying the Diablo Canyon plant was “designed to withstand the maximum credible ground motion,” a claim best considered in light of the *New York Times* story excerpted in the box at right.

So let's say it again: There can never be such a thing as a 100% safety record, it doesn't matter if you are right 99 times out of hundred if being wrong once means utter devastation, and the NRC should not keep handing out license renewals for aging nuclear plants like a farmer scattering feed corn.

Since 1974, the Sierra Club has been unswerving in our opposition to nuclear power as any kind of a solution to anything until the industry solves its own problems. We have opposed the licensing, construction and operation of new nuclear reactors due to issues of safety, waste disposal and proliferation.

Nuclear power advocates frequently like to tell us how wrong we are. Turns out we were right. As noted by Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders at a Senate briefing on the Japan catastrophe, “People think that a terrible event is unthinkable until the day after that event occurs.”

We support transferring the billions spent on nukes to energy conservation and efficiency, renewable power and a smart grid.

We reject the false dichotomy of coal vs. nuclear, as though the only options we have are coal-fired power

DIABLO continued next page



On March 15, Alliance for Nuclear Responsibility founder Rochelle Becker traveled from Grover Beach to Sacramento to testify on the vulnerability of California's nuclear power plants before a state Assembly committee. Later that day, Sacramento station KCRA interviewed state Senator Alex Padilla, who last fall lobbied for new nuclear plants in California. “It's safe to say that nuclear will probably not play a role in California's future growing energy needs,” said Padilla.

Nuclear letter

continued from page 1

reactor sites.

We ask that you instruct the CPUC to rescind the Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity for both PG&E's Diablo Canyon and SCE's San Onofre nuclear power plants, and allow them to operate conditionally only under the agreement by the utilities to immediately begin to fully comply with completion of the state-directed AB 1632 studies. These studies must be completed and independently peer reviewed by 2015, and any ability of the utilities to operate the facilities after that date will be contingent upon the results of the studies and analysis.

We cannot wait for a disaster like the one befalling Japan to strike before we act.

Please place this message in the official record of the proceeding and forward to all CPUC Commissioners.

Yours truly,

[Your name and address]

A Message from the Mothers for Peace

San Luis Obispo Mothers for Peace is monitoring information about the earthquake and tsunami in Japan and the effects on the many nuclear power plants there. We share the grave concerns for the people of Japan and for the planet as we contemplate the possible consequences of radiation releases. The devastation in Japan offers a vivid reminder of one of the many significant risks of nuclear power. The crisis requires us to scrutinize the safety of nuclear facilities in our own country - particularly those in seismically active zones. Since 1973, Mothers for Peace has been actively opposed to both nuclear power and weapons – both locally at Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant and globally. Aside from the seismic dangers, our concerns are many and include:

- o the implicit hazards of nuclear waste storage, in fuel pools and dry casks;
- o risks of terrorism;
- o aging systems and components;
- o human error in daily operations;
- o the high cost of production;
- o emergency preparedness

This tragic earthquake in Japan comes at a time when Pacific Gas and Electric Company is attempting to renew its license for Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant – extending its operation in the two units until the years 2044 and 2045. The plant and the radioactive waste it has produced since 1984 are located in an area riddled with more than a dozen earthquake faults. In its filing to oppose the license renewal, Mothers for Peace presented five contentions, four of which relate to the potential environmental impacts of earthquakes. More information regarding this litigation can be found at: <http://mothersforpeace.org/newsAndEvents/licenserenewalcontentions>

The world has ignored the warnings from Three Mile Island and Chernobyl. The catastrophe in Japan now reignites the debate regarding the viability of nuclear energy. Is it worth the risk? Mothers for Peace perseveres towards the ultimate safety plan: closed and decommissioned nuclear facilities.

Mothers for Peace invites you to join us in our efforts. Educate yourself by reading our website <http://mothersforpeace.org> and support our work with a donation. Take action through a myriad of websites with easy-to-access online petitions. Recommendations include the following:

Nuclear Information Resource Service www.nirs.org/
 Beyond Nuclear www.beyondnuclear.org/
 Union of Concerned Scientists [www.ucsusa.org/nuclear power/](http://www.ucsusa.org/nuclear_power/)
 NRDC <https://secure.nrdconline.org/>
 Sierra Club www.sierraclub.org/
 CREDO Action www.credoaction.com/campaign/say_no_to_nuclear/?rc=homepage

Future generations are counting on the collective action of caring people to preserve and protect our Earth.

Sometimes, scientists are blindsided by earthquakes because they occur along undiscovered faults. The deadly earthquakes in New Zealand last year; in Northridge, Calif., in 1994; and in Santa Cruz, Calif., in 1989 all happened along faults that scientists were unaware of until the ground shook. "It's shameful, but we've barely scratched the surface," said Ross Stein, a geophysicist with the United States Geological Survey.

- "Blindsided by Ferocity Unleashed by a Fault"
New York Times, March 22, 2011



Say what? Diablo Canyon VP Jim Becker.

"It is difficult to get a man to understand something when his salary depends on his not understanding it."

— Upton Sinclair

Fruit

continued from page 4

opposed to registering Methyl iodide as a fumigant given it is a known carcinogen, neurotoxin, and thyroid disruptor, has the ability to cause spontaneous abortion late in pregnancy, and its use as a fumigant poses risk of groundwater contamination because of its properties and the way it will be used-- widespread applications to strawberry fields. We urge you to reconsider registration."

The Department of Pesticide Regulation's own scientists opposed the approval of methyl iodide. So did five Nobel Laureates in chemistry and fifty chemistry professors who are members of the National Academy of Sciences.

Here in San Luis Obispo county, most soil fumigation is done in the fall, according to Deputy Agricultural Commissioner Janice Campbell. As of early March, she said that methyl bromide is still available for growers here, and no grower has applied for a permit to use Methyl iodide yet.

TAKE ACTION

Ask Governor Brown to rescind the approval of methyl iodide and end the use of methyl bromide:

Governor Jerry Brown
c/o State Capitol, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814
Phone: (916) 445-2841
Fax: (916) 558-3160

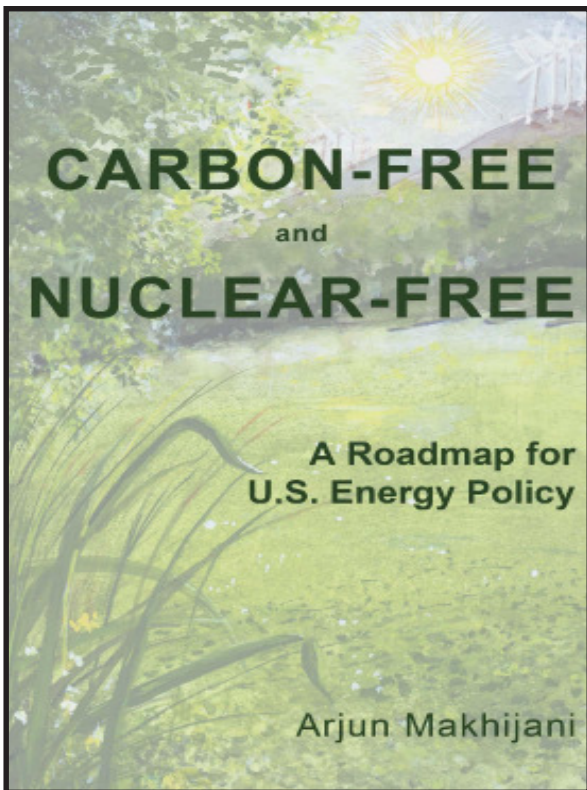
Diablo

continued from page 6

plants and their massive carbon emissions, or nuclear power and its promise of incomprehensible tragedy.

In the week following the Fukujima disaster, Arjun Makhijani, president of the Institute for Energy and Environmental Research, seemed to be on every cable news program, with good reason. If you have not read Makhijani's *Carbon Free and Nuclear Free*, it is available free on line at www.ieer.org/carbonfree/.

It is urgently recommended reading.



On March 12, as things were starting to go very wrong at the Fukushima reactor complex, the KSBY evening news anchor team brought on Diablo Canyon VP James Becker. Becker looked lost. He began nodding whenever either of the anchors spoke, as if eager to agree with anything they might be saying. He offered one standard sound bite after another -- "We always put safety first... The plant has been designed for earthquakes," etc. He had to be prodded -- twice -- before he would state that Diablo Canyon was built to withstand a magnitude 7.5 earthquake.

"Does that scare you," asked co-anchor Jeanette Trompeter, since the 9.0 quake that hit Japan was clearly "beyond what we've thought we could handle?"

"That is why we need to learn from it, um, so yeah, I mean, I mean we do need to learn from that," Becker replied. "We are not in the same location as Japan so we are designed for the earthquake faults that are closer in to us."

The anchor team gently ended the interview there.



Worth hearing On October 29, 2008, the Cal Poly chapter of the Sierra Student Coalition and the Alliance for Nuclear Responsibility brought *Carbon Free and Nuclear Free* author Arjun Makhijani to Cal Poly to speak on "California's Carbon-Free Energy Future: Options and Opportunities."

There Will be No End to Fukushima

On March 20 in a national conference call, Arnie Gundersen, former VP of a nuclear power plant and a 40-year veteran of the nuclear industry, briefed the Sierra Club's Nuclear Issues Activist Team on the long-term prospects of the unfolding situation at Fukushima.

He dismissed the industry's attempts to make this all about earthquakes and tsunamis. "It is about the single point of vulnerability," he said, a condition shared by all nuclear power plants. No nuclear plant has battery backup longer than eight hours. Any flood event could wipe out the service water used to cool the diesel generators, the failure of which triggered the cascading disasters at Fukushima. Once you lose power, you lose control, and all safety systems are disabled.

Gundersen served as an expert witness in the Three Mile Island investigation. Such events, he points out, all have a beginning, but they really don't have an "end." The Three Mile Island disaster has not ended, Chernobyl has not ended, and Fukushima hasn't ended, said Gundersen, and the "weeks or months" prognostications of the media are naïve. All of the damaged Japanese reactors will emit continuous radiation for months because containment has been breached. When possible, the reactors will be entombed in a giant cement sarcophagus, which is estimated to cost \$30 billion. The surrounding communities are likely to be uninhabitable for 20 years. If the reactor cores, containing plutonium, which has a half life of 250,000 years, melt through the bottom of the containment vessels, they will move laterally through the earth, threatening groundwater and aquifers.

The Nuclear Information Resource Service reported that Dr. Chris Busby estimates that the Fukushima disaster will ultimately result in 120,000 additional cancer deaths in Japan. On the west coast, NIRS advises everyone to cut back on milk consumption and, until we have readings from EPA radiation monitors on the fallout arriving from Japan, stay out of the rain for the immediate future. If you get caught in the rain, take a shower when you get home, and put your clothes in the laundry.

Not Reassuring

In 1981, *The Tribune* broke the story that PG&E decided not to seek more information about the Hosgri earthquake fault in 1967, when it was discovered 500 feet from the site of the planned Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant.

Seeking data about the fault could "possibly delay the project" and "would only complicate a contested hearing," said PG&E executives in a 1967 Atomic Energy Commission memo discovered 14 years later.



A Question of Power

A Question of Power, the documentary film on the years of efforts to prevent the original licensing of Diablo Canyon, may be ordered from www.dlbfilms.com/questionofpower.html

An 8-minute clip from the film can be viewed on YouTube, courtesy of the Alliance for Nuclear Responsibility. Go to YouTube and type in "Shaky seismic history at Diablo Canyon."



Cal's Trek

A 74 year old Sierra Club leader is walking across California for wildlife and a campaign to protect and connect wild places



On March 20, Cal French, a member of the Santa Lucia Chapter's Executive Committee and a resident of Paso Robles, began a seven-week trek across California – covering more than 500 miles from Laughlin, Nevada, to Morro Bay — to call attention to the need for protected wilderness lands.

“Aside from the personal challenge, I want to demonstrate by walking across them that the ecosystems from the Eastern Mojave Desert to the Pacific Ocean are linked together by public and conservancy lands,” said Cal. “Without the protections afforded by the Tejon Ranch Conservancy, the Wind Wolves Preserve, the Mojave National Preserve, and other public lands, plants

and wildlife would face a fragmented maze of development when they try to adapt to climate change. The public needs to know what a wonderful treasure has been saved.”

To highlight the need to protect wild places and connect them together, Cal and a rotating cadre of companions will trek from the Colorado River through the Tehachapi Mountains to the coast. The trek crosses some challenging landscapes, including 220 miles of desert.

“I see the desert as a demonstration of how nature can produce animals as resilient as desert tortoises, big horn sheep and kit foxes as well as colorful cactus flowers and 10,000-year-old creosote bushes,” said Cal. “My larger purpose is to show that someone can walk on public and conservancy land, avoiding roads and highways, over an area that still looks natural.

“It is through this personal connection with the land across about 530 miles that I hope to speak for the necessity of preserving and protecting what wildness remains. If this wildness is isolated, it will eventually die of starvation when connections are severed. Biologists have told me that the San Joaquin Valley kit fox population on the Carrizo Plain National Monument — through which the trek will pass — could die out unless it maintains connections with populations to the north and south of the Monument. Joshua trees in Joshua Tree National Park are starting to suffer from excessive summer heat; meanwhile, other groves of these picturesque spiny plants are extending west of the hottest deserts.”

Lesli Daniel, an organizer with Sierra Club California, said “As we prepare to launch the Sierra Club's Resilient Habitats campaign here in California, Mr. French's journey will help call attention to the essential role of protecting healthy natural systems.”



Calvin French

The Sierra Club's Resilient Habitats campaign is a national effort, which seeks to protect, connect and restore wild places as healthy natural systems, not isolated pieces, to create resilient habitats where plants, animals and people

continued on next page

The California Coast Resilient Habitat Campaign

Conserve & Protect California's Coast!

Sierra Club California has launched the California Coast Resilient Habitats Campaign (CCRHC) to address the effects of climate change on the state's coastal regions.

The campaign will focus on protecting, connecting, and restoring California's coastal habitats in order to allow our wildlife to adapt to their changing conditions. The most urgent issue facing us is the rising sea level (view maps: www.pacinst.org/reports/sea_level_rise/maps/). Even if we are able to successfully implement CO2 reduction measures, sea level rise has already been set in motion. We must now turn our attention to ways to adapt to this inevitability.

The initial focus of the CCRHC will be to foster the best planning and development policies possible at the State level through the Ocean Protection Council, California Coastal Commission, and Bay Conservation and Development Commission. These policies will influence State activities and work their way to the local level, where most land use decisions are made. In local communities, the CCRHC will show people how to protect shorelines using natural systems that protect and expand habitat. The campaign will look for areas that are ripe for positive shoreline protection policies to focus its efforts.

When the sea threatens property, the first response is often to build a seawall. Seawalls are both expensive

to build and maintain and destructive to habitats and beaches. The Pacific Institute estimates it would cost \$14 billion to armor California's coast against sea level rise and \$1.4 billion annually in maintenance costs. Seawalls cause the loss of beaches in front of and below the wall, create beach access issues, and do not support half the diversity of marine life that natural rocky areas support.

We have options. We can stop placing people and businesses in harm's way by not allowing development in projected flood plains. We can build natural habitats that act as wave breaks to lessen beach erosion, such as kelp forests and oyster beds. We can build dunes and establish vegetation barriers to protect shorelines. We can allow for the expansion of wetlands to assure that these important ecosystems don't drown and to provide flood buffers. And we can make choices to concede to

nature and plan retreat from the shore, which is often the most cost-effective and safest option.

As the campaign raises funds and grows, it intends to expand into key conservation area protection (marine sanctuaries, wildlife corridors, wetlands preservation and expansion), updating the State Wildlife Action Plan, and protection of the upland watershed to encompass issues such as water quality, inflow and fish barriers.

Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are needed to explore the potential for positive shoreline protection policies in local communities; to educate public officials, Sierra Club members and community members on the use of natural systems to protect the shoreline and wildlife habitats. If you are interested in getting involved, please call Lesli at 916-557-1100 x105.



Darrell Clarke, 2011

No more beach in Malibu? King tides event in Feb. 2011, a glimpse of sea level rise.

Good Read!

Sharon Janelle Smith, a SLO native and graduate of San Luis Obispo High School, has written *The Young Activist's Guide to Building a Green Movement and Changing the World*. Proceeds from the sale of this book go to the Earth Island Institute Brower Youth Awards Program.

Check it out at www.buildagreenmovement.org

Cal's Trek

continued from page 8

can survive and thrive in a changing world. Two of the ten main areas of focus for the campaign are in California: the California Coast and the Sierra Nevada.

"Cal's journey is an inspiration to everyone to explore, enjoy and protect California's amazing wild places," said Sarah Matsumoto, Senior Field Organizer with the Sierra Club. "With the threat of climate change, it will be even more important to preserve these natural systems so they will continue to provide us with pure drinking water, clean air, a thriving tourist economy and an unparalleled wild heritage to pass on to future generations."

You can follow the trek on *Sierra* magazine's web site. Go to <http://sierraclub.typepad.com/explore/across-california/>

Trek Itinerary:

- 20 March: Start at Colorado River in Nevada north of Needles, CA.
- 25 March: Arrive at Hole in the Wall, layover a day
- 27 March: Leave Hole in the Wall
- 28 March: Arrive at Kelso Depot
- 30 March: Arrive Zzyzx, layover a day

- 01 April: Leave Zzyzx
- 02 April: Arrive Afton Canyon
- 04 April: Arrive Ft. Irwin Road/Starbright Mine Rd Jct.
- 06 April: Arrive at road north of Black Mountain Wilderness (35°12'55.48" N, -117° 8'13.14"W), layover a day
- 08 April: Leave Black Mountain Wilderness area
- 09 April: Arrive Highway 395 S. of Atolia (N35 18 28, W -117 36 41)
- 11 April: Arrive Jawbone Canyon BLM Station off Highway 14, layover a day
- 13 April: Leave Jawbone Canyon BLM Station area
- 14 April: Arrive jct. of Jawbone Canyon Rd./ Pacific Crest Trail at Mile 602 (northbound)
- 16 April: Arrive jct. of PCT at Highway 58/Cameron Road, mile 565.5 on PCT.
- 18 April: Arrive at mile 541-541.5 (water source) on PCT east of Tejon Ranch, layover a day
- 20 April: Enter Tejon Ranch
- 22 April: Arrive at Interstate 5, cross, enter Wind Wolves Preserve
- 25 April: Enter Carrizo Plain National Monument
- 28 April: Enter Los Padres National Forest
- 01 May: Finish at Morro Bay

Muir's March

Activists to march across Yosemite. Follow Muir's footsteps in rare guided trek as public momentum grows to restore Hetch Hetchy Valley

A fight led by John Muir about a century ago goes on as hikers prepare for the third annual "Muir's March" this summer to advocate for the restoration of Hetch Hetchy Valley in Yosemite National Park. The guided treks into scenic areas — rarely experienced by tourists — literally and figuratively follow in Muir's footsteps, and are open to anyone who can raise a minimum of \$90.*

Muir called Hetch Hetchy Valley "one of nature's rarest and most precious mountain temples." Despite his urgent pleas, in 1913 the federal government approved San Francisco's request to clear-cut and flood the valley for use as a reservoir. The decision horrified wilderness-lovers and helped spur the creation of the National Park Service and the international environmental conservation movement. Prior to its destruction Hetch Hetchy Valley was one of the most diverse ecosystems in the world and home to thousands of plant and animal species.

"The movement to restore Hetch Hetchy is gaining momentum as

more and more activists and nature lovers sign up to march together across the wonders of Yosemite. Muir's March underscores both the devastation of — and the hope for — this rarest of natural treasures," said Mike Marshall, executive director of the non-profit group Restore Hetch Hetchy. "Muir would be thrilled to see that we now have the technology to bring the valley back to life while still meeting San Francisco's water needs. Biologists, ecologists and botanists from all over the world are ready for one of the greatest environmental restoration projects in human history."

Participants in Muir's March choose among several scenic treks through Yosemite, each led by an experienced guide and varying in length from one to seven days. Hikers will enjoy stunning vistas, camaraderie, camp-

fires and stories. Space is limited, so participants are encouraged to sign up early. The treks will converge July 30 atop the O'Shaughnessy Dam for a rally and celebration. Hikers each raise \$90 or more to participate; funds will support a campaign to educate San Francisco voters and lawmakers and win their approval for the restoration project. Hikers and backpackers of all skill levels are welcome.

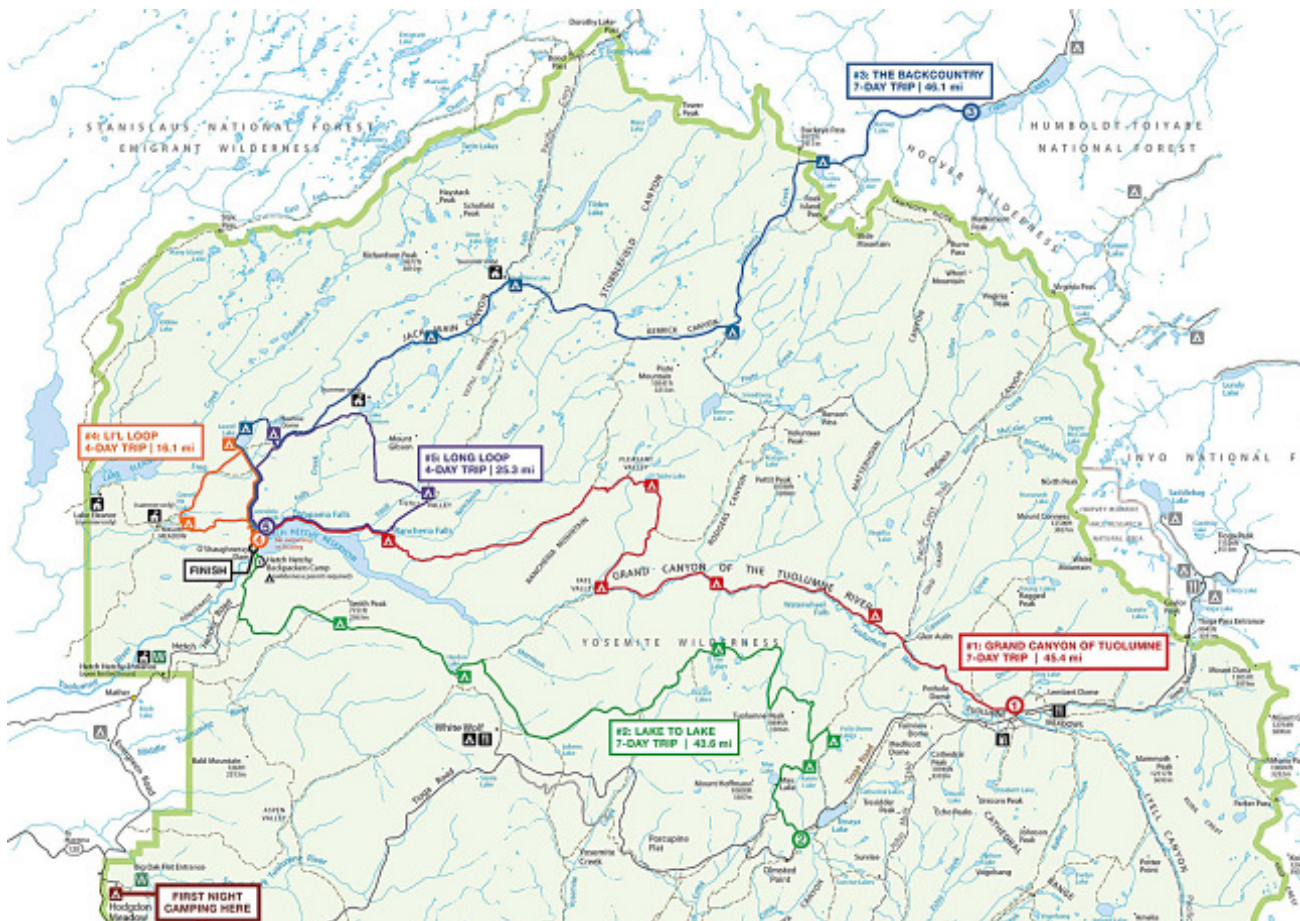
"This event will allow all who love nature to both walk in the footsteps of my great-great-grandfather and raise awareness and resources for the campaign to restore the Hetch Hetchy Valley," said Muir descendent Robert Hanna, who participated in the event in 2010.

The mission of Restore Hetch Hetchy is to return the Hetch Hetchy Valley in Yosemite National Park to its natural splendor while continuing to meet the water and power needs of all communities that depend on the Tuolumne River.

Prospective participants can register or get more information by visiting www.muirmarch.org or by calling 415-956-0401.



*Fundraising requirements vary according to hike length, from \$90 to \$2,100. Hikes are 1, 4 and 7 days in length.



Tubing

continued from page 4

results.

In Nipomo, decades of obstinate agricultural mismanagement appears to have been "scared straight." (The vast majority of Ag operators have a heritage of clean operations, and have not been impacted by the new rules.)

In the entire saga, the Water Board was the only entity that could legitimately claim to be a "Responsible Agency." In the Santa Maria Valley, where once you saw tubing everywhere — and in some fields, tilled into the soil — laborers are now carefully bagging up the tubing. Long trailers are parked perpendicular to irrigated rows where large empty spools roll up tubing out of the rows at the end of the growing season, similar to the way they were rolled in. Clean as a whistle!

But: for years there has been and continues to be one nagging problem of residual tubing in upstream channels. If there has been any "clean up" of black tubing upstream, it has been ineffectual. The tubing still exists and will end up being the community's responsibility. We did not know when high water would come but we knew it would come. The "When" arrived in January 2011. Since then the community has moved loads of tubing from the creek channels where able, just as we have year after year for a decade. While we take our responsibility seriously, this is getting old.

This is the season of opportunity to send someone up Nipomo Creek channel from the confluence of Haystack Creek. (On Delesaguas Creek, Hayashi and Sons, to their credit, have already fulfilled the responsibility of others). If we old Creek Dogs with our worn out knees can navigate these creek channels, there must be at least one young public employee who can spend a day designating such residual tubing as has not already flushed downstream before the vegetation re-grows.

We told the Water Board we understand the we the public can be a pain in the keister, but at least we are honest pains, and do not charge exorbitant consultation fees. The Creek Dogs are compiling a historical report concerning all aspects of our community's environmental struggle, including heart-wrenching profiles of those who were flooded out in 2001 and 2006; the most chilling by mothers whose children almost drowned in the night.

We thank the Water Board for their commitment to their mandated duties and consideration in mopping up the residual tubing issue in Nipomo Creek.

CEQA Killer

Qu'est-ce que c'est?

By Sierra Club California

What's Wrong with Senator Cannella's CEQA Bill

Opponents of California's environmental laws are trying to leverage the closed-door budget talks to eviscerate the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). A proposed bill by Senator Anthony Cannella was leaked to the *L.A. Times*. Below is a brief analysis of what's wrong with that bill. We urge the Governor and legislative leaders to use the transparent legislative process to discuss any proposed changes to California's landmark environmental laws.

Leaves Enforcement of EIR Requirements to the Attorney General

Only the Attorney General could enforce the EIR requirements of CEQA. No private enforcement of the EIR requirements would be permitted. If a state agency violates CEQA's EIR requirements, the Attorney General may be prohibited from filing an action against a client state agency, leaving the possibility of no CEQA enforcement against client state agencies.

Prohibits Comments After Close of Comment Period Even if the Project is Changed

Comments at a public hearing on a negative declaration and mitigated negative declaration presented after the close of the public comment period — even if the proposed project is completely changed after the close of the public comment period — could be ignored by the public agency and could not be included in any lawsuit challenging the negative declaration or mitigated negative declaration.

Requires a \$50,000 Bond from Anyone Challenging a Negative Declaration or Mitigated Negative Declaration

Individuals or organizations challenging a public agency's decision to prepare a negative declaration or mitigated negative declaration rather than an EIR would have to post a \$50,000 bond. This requirement would effectively preclude private enforcement of CEQA when combined with the requirement that only the Attorney General can challenge the legal adequacy of an EIR.

Restricts Recovery of Attorney's Fees

This proposal places restrictions on a prevailing party's ability to recover his or her attorney's fees for enforcing CEQA's requirements. These restrictions on recovering attorney's fees combined with the other provisions mentioned above severely restrict private enforcement of CEQA.

Eliminates Fair Argument Standard for Preparing an EIR

The proposal eliminates the fair argument standard, a fundamental precept of CEQA that requires the preparation of an EIR unless there is a high degree of certainty that a project would not have a significant impact on the environment.

Exempts Evaluation of a Refinery's Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Review of the cumulative greenhouse gas generation effects of development projects, including large industrial projects like refineries, would be

prohibited if the project is consistent with an unrelated, vaguely-described state or local plan addressing greenhouse gas emissions.

Restricts the Analysis of a Development Project's Cumulative Effects

The proposal would restrict the analysis of a development project's cumulative contribution to unhealthy air quality or water quality impacts, for example, by restricting the public agency's cumulative impact analysis to those projects approved or proposed at the time the public agency decides to prepare an environmental impact report, or 90 days prior to the circulation of an initial study. This provision of the Cannella draft bill combined with the elimination of the fair argument standard would effectively eliminate the existing requirement that public agencies evaluate a proposed development project's cumulative effect on the existing environment.

Expands the Existing Urban Residential Infill Exemption to Encourage Sprawl

Sections 1, 4, and 5 of the Cannella draft bill would redefine "infill site" and make other changes to existing urban residential infill exemptions in CEQA to include commercial development in urban areas and residential and commercial development in any "substantially developed" area of a county as long as the development project is consistent with the applicable local general plan.

This expansion of the existing urban residential infill exemption will encourage sprawl and the economic and public health costs associated with sprawl. Additionally, the expansion of the existing infill development exemption to include commercial and residential development in rural communities will frustrate the state's ability to reduce vehicle miles travelled in order to attain the greenhouse gas reduction goal established by the California Air Resources Board.

FITs

continued from page 5

power capacity this year as the U.S., even though its economy is only 1/5 that of the U.S.

California needs to get FIT.

Here's how

A Feed-in Tariff (FIT), or renewable-power payment policy, is a guarantee: if someone generates renewable energy, a utility will buy it at a fair standard price. A good FIT will drive the rapid, cost-effective growth of small to medium-sized renewables to produce local clean power. It will create legions of local green jobs and help reduce air pollution, while avoiding environmental damage and expensive new transmission lines. Our new governor, Jerry Brown, in his campaign's Clean Energy Program, called for 20,000 MW (about 16% of California's total electricity need) of new renewable energy by 2020. 12,000 MW of this is to be from small locally generated sources (also called distributed generation) directly connected to the local distribution grid. Importantly, he called for implementation of a FIT.

Last December the California Public Utility Commission (PUC) implemented a renewable-energy payment program that will help incentivize the installation of more renewables. This "Renewable Auction Mechanism"

(RAM) applies to projects up to 20 MW (other tepid FIT programs in California have limited projects to 1.5 MW. A bill approved in 2009 calls for 3 MW but has not yet been implemented) and is capped at a low 1,000 MW over two years, although the issuing judge indicated that the PUC would be open to increasing the duration and/or cap.

This program is a step forward, but the complications of competitive bidding essentially eliminate small generators, and the program cap is way too low.

All of California's various programs for the three large for-profit utilities providing 70% of California electricity only added 653 MW of new renewable capacity in 2010. Although things are starting to pick up, our progress pales in comparison to other countries throughout the world. We still cling to small, timid, incremental, underfunded, and ineffectively designed programs.

Hopefully, we are ready to step up and implement a proven policy—FITs—to really grow our renewable energy and become a true leader to the rest of the nation.

The author thanks Paul Gipe as the source for much of the information on international FIT progress.



Community Involvement

The Appropriate Technology Coalition Presentation: Mark Lakeman
Hosted by SLO County, National Estuary Program and Los Osos CSD

MARK LAKEMAN COMMUNITY ACTIVIST



Featured Presenter:
Mark Lakeman is the founder of The City Repair Project (501©3), which began in Portland, Oregon in 1996. He was the lead designer and originator of its major projects, including the Intersection Repair, T-Horse, and the annual Village Building Convergence, until 2008. Mark is also the founder and lead designer of Communitecture, Portland's most cutting edge grassroots sustainable architecture and planning firm. His newest initiative, Planet Repair Institute, is now in development.

The SLO Green Build Appropriate Technology Coalition presents: **Mark Lakeman**

Mark will be speaking on community education and action related to implementing the technology of water conservation. Increasing the standard of living without increasing the cost of living.

Two Events:

LOS OSOS:

When: **Wednesday April 6th**
Where: **South Bay Community Center
2180 Palisades Ave., Los Osos, CA**
Time: **6:00-8:30**

SAN LUIS OBISPO:

When: **Thursday April 7th**
Where: **Ludwick Community Center
864 Santa Rosa Street
San Luis Obispo, CA**
Time: **5:30-8:30**

For more information, contact Lana Adams, (805) 286-0072, admin@slogreenbuild.org www.slogreenbuild.org

AT COALITION:



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Classifieds

Next issue deadline is **April 15**. To get a rate sheet or submit your ad and payment, contact:

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ATTORNEY

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Outings and Activities Calendar

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

All our hikes and activities are open to all Club members and the general public. If you have any suggestions for hikes or outdoor activities, questions about the Chapter's outing policies, or would like to be an outings leader, call Outings Chair Joe Morris, 772-1875. For information on a specific outing, please call the outing leader.

Fri.-Sun., Apr. 1st-3rd, Carrizo Plains Outing. Join us on our annual pilgrimage to possibly another year of floral splendor in this special place. The plains are always worth seeing in the spring. Stay at Selby Rocks car camp, no charge, open to the public. Rendezvous there for a Saturday hike at 9 a.m., location TBA. Bring your own food, water, and sturdy footwear. Info: Carlos, 546-0317.

Fri.-Sun., Apr. 1st-3rd, Golden Valley Wilderness Area Work Project. Work with the Student Conservation Association (SCA) in the Golden Valley Wilderness Area near Ridgecrest. Friday and Saturday are workdays; Sunday will be a hike in the wilderness area, where we might see wildflowers if it turns out to be a good year. Call or e-mail for more details: Leader, Kate Allen, kj.allen@wildblue.net, 661-944-4056. CNRCC Desert Committee.

Sat.-Sun., Apr. 2nd-3rd, Mojave Preserve Exploration. Meet Friday afternoon at the Sunrise primitive campground located on Cima Road, 11 miles from the I-15 on the left (just past the Teutonia Peak Trailhead, which is on the right). Saturday hike to Teutonia Peak, 4 miles round trip. Sunday we will go to Hole-in-The-Wall visitor center and hike six miles on the Barber Peak Loop Trail. For those who want to spend another night, we can camp at Midhills Campground. Fees are \$12 per site (\$6.00 with Senior Access Pass). Bring warm clothes, as evenings can be cold. Bring lots of water and food for entire weekend. For reservations, contact Carol Wiley at Desertlily1@verizon.net or 760-245-8734. CNRCC Desert Committee.

Sun-Sat, Apr. 10th-16th Escalante River Canyon. We will work with National Park Service Ranger Bill Wolverton on this ongoing Russian Olive eradication program. 40.5 miles of the Escalante River have been cleared. This project will clear more, using loppers, small handsaws, and herbicide. Meet in Escalante Sunday morning, caravan to the trailhead and hike in about 7 miles. Expect knee to thigh deep river crossings, and some bushwhacking. We work 4 days, dayhike 1 day and hike out Saturday morning. Participants must follow work-clothing requirements, provide their own food and gear on the trail, and travel expenses to the trailhead. For more information contact leader, Paul Plathe at 209-476-1498. Delta-Sierra Group.

Sat., Apr. 16th, 8 a.m. Machesna Mountain. Take a 12-15 mile hike, 3000 ft. elevation gain, through the Machesna Wilderness. Starting from American Canyon Campground, we will climb 1500 ft. to an open meadow and pond below Machesna Mountain itself. After lunch we will climb another several hundred feet to a ridge overlooking the Carrizo Plain, then descend to a lush green valley before ascending to our final rest stop. Plenty of wildflowers and pleasant weather are likely. Bring lunch, water, sturdy hiking shoes, and

plan to be out all day. Some of us may go to the Pozo Saloon after, if open. Meet at Pacific Beverage Company in Santa Margarita. This is not a beginner's hike. Limit 20 people. For details, reservations and meeting place, call Gary (473-3694) (5F). Rain or threat of rain cancels.

Sat.-Sun., Apr. 16th-17th, Birds, Flowers, And Fences in The Carrizo. This is an opportunity to explore and aid an outstanding and relatively unknown national monument. On Saturday, we will assist monument staff in removing fence wires to allow pronghorn antelope freer access to the range. Sunday is reserved for sightseeing. The views from the Caliente Mountains are spectacular; spring flowers may still be blooming; and the monument is known for the number and variety of raptors present. Contact leader Craig Deutsche, 310-477-6670, or craig.deutsche@gmail.com. CNRCC Desert Committee.

Sun., Apr. 17th, 1 p.m. City Walk of Victorian-Age San Luis Obispo. Easy guided stroll past 18 lovely century-old homes and churches in the "Old Town Historic District" of downtown SLO. See the homes of mayors, the newspaper editor, and the founder of Cal Poly and learn about the lives of the newly wealthy who transformed this city in the early 1900's. Duration about 1 1/2 hrs. Meet in front of Jack House, 536 Marsh St., SLO. Information: Joe Morris, 772-1875.

Sat, April 23rd, 10:15 a.m. Earth Day Celebration and Hike, San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden. The City of SLO holds its official Earth Day Celebration at this beautiful garden with many events and activities, including a Sierra Club booth. Hike the trail to Eagle Rock (2 miles round trip, 400 foot gain) with lovely vistas of several of the Morros and hills around the valley. Before or after the hike, you can view hundreds of Mediterranean-style plants in the Garden. A plant list will be available, and some species will be for sale at the Garden Shop. For 10:15 hike, meet at the Eagle Rock trailhead, parking at the end of the main road (Dairy Creek). Bring adequate water, snacks, and dress in layers for the weather; a hat and sturdy shoes is advised. For info, contact Bill at (805) 459-2103 or bill.waycott@gmail.com. (Jointly sponsored by SLO Botanical Gardens, California Native Plants Society, and the Sierra Club).

Sun., April 24th. 7:30 a.m. Santa Lucia Trail Hike. Spring hike to Pimkolam Peak (Junipero Serra Peak), highest in the northern Los Padres National Forest. This is a strenuous 12-mile hike with 3800 ft. of elevation gain, but very scenic, starting in a meadow with beautiful rock formations. The trail winds through oak woodlands and chaparral ecosystems to the peak in a pine forest at 5862 ft. The view from the top is fabulous. It should also be a good time for wildflowers. There is a possibility of ticks and poison oak.

Bring snacks, lunch, plenty of water, and dress for the weather. This is a difficult hike—not for beginners.

We access the trailhead by entering Fort Hunter Liggett. Everyone must bring a picture I.D. If you think you might be driving, bring your vehicle registration and proof of insurance. Meet at the Templeton rideshare, which is a parking lot on Las Tablas Rd. just west of Highway 101. We will carpool from there. It takes about 90 minutes to the trailhead. The road on the army base may be closed if there is too much rain. This is an all-day outing so plan accordingly. Please confirm with the leader so he can contact you if there are changes. For info, call Chuck at 805-441-7597.

Fri.-Sun., Apr. 29th-May 1st, Service Trip: Death Valley National Park. Come help with wilderness restoration in this beautiful and remote desert national park. Current plan is to work in Saline Valley and camp at Warm Springs. Subject to change depending on weather/road conditions. Meet Friday at noon and car-caravan to work areas and camping. Happy hour potluck Saturday night. Bring work gloves, camping equipment, and food for the weekend. Leader: Kate Allen, kj.allen@wildblue.net, 661-944-4056. CNRCC Desert Committee.

Island Hopping in Channel Islands National Park

Reserve early!

May 8-10; July 16-19; August 6-9; September 11-13; October 16-18

CA's Channel Islands are Galapagos USA! Marvel at the sight of whales, seals, sea lions, rare birds & blazing wildflowers. Hike the wild, windswept trails. Kayak the rugged coastline. Snorkel in pristine waters. Discover remnants of the Chumash people who lived on these islands for thousands of years. Or just relax at sea. These fundraisers benefit Sierra Club political programs in California. Cruises depart from Santa Barbara aboard the 68' *Truth*. The fee (\$590 for May and Sept & Oct.; \$785 for July & August) includes an assigned bunk, all meals, snacks & beverages, plus the services of a ranger/naturalist who will travel with us to lead hikes on each island and point out interesting features. To make a reservation mail a \$100 check payable to Sierra Club to leaders: Joan Jones Holtz & Don Holtz, 11826 The Wye St, El Monte, CA 91732. Contact leaders for more information (626-443-0706; jholtzhln@aol.com).



Sponsored by Other Organizations

Sat.-Sun. Apr. 2nd-3rd, VWA Trail Work: Big Pines Trail, Pat Springs. Strenuous 7-mile hike from Bottcher's Gap to Pat Springs. We will remove fallen trees and brush as we go. If the trail to Pat Springs is completely clear, we may be able to work out toward Little Pines on the Double Cone Trail. This is a great chance to enjoy the views of the Ventana from Pat Springs. Contact Leader for more details. Leader: Steve Benoit 394-4234 or trailcrew@ventanawild.org.

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

Sat., April 30th, 10 a.m. Maino Open Space trail/Lemon Grove Loop. PoleCats is dedicated to leading local Sierra Club day hikes and modeling the benefits of using trekking poles. 2.2 miles/400 feet elevation change. The trailhead is located off the Marsh Street onramp of southbound Highway 101. From downtown SLO take Higuera Street to the intersection with Marsh Street and proceed as if to take 101 South. Immediately after the freeway underpass, bear right into the parking lot. Confirm with David Georgi at 458-5575 or polecatleader@gmail.com for upcoming activities. Bipedes welcome.