



Nov./Dec. 2011  
Volume 48 No. 10



## Inside

Stop Keystone XL	4
Our annual celebration	6
Label GE food	7
Yes, we need regulations	9
Classifieds	11
Outings	12

### Don't Miss

**Earth: the first billion years**

**Nov. 16**

-see page 2



*Please recycle*

This newsletter printed on 100% post-consumer recycled paper with soy-based inks

# 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

## The Road to Sanctuary

The time is now for National Marine Sanctuary protection for the Central Coast

In 1972, exactly one hundred years after the first national park was created, the nation made a similar commitment to preserving its marine treasures by establishing the National Marine Sanctuary Program. Since then, thirteen national marine sanctuaries and one marine national monument, representing a wide variety of ocean environments, have been established.

Many of our members are aware that a bill that would have created a Central Coast National Marine Sanctuary was before Congress in 1991. Another bill creating the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary passed; the Central Coast bill failed.

Ever since then, coastal activists have been trying to correct that oversight, which essentially made the Central Coast the doughnut hole in California's National Marine Sanctuaries. Four Sanctuaries protect coastal areas between the Marin Headlands

### Putting the Cart Before the Cow

**Will the Dept. of Fish and Game ever get it right on the Carrizo?**

When Los Padres ForestWatch and the Sierra Club successfully sued the California Department of Fish and Game to prevent the destruction of the Carrizo Plains Ecological Reserve by rampant, mismanaged cattle grazing ("Reserve or Feedlot?," Nov./Dec. 2009; "Lawsuit Halts Grazing in Carrizo Reserve," February 2011), the Department agreed to terminate the grazer's lease and prepare a long-delayed land use management plan to assure that such harms would never again be inflicted on this land entrusted to their care.

*COWS continued on page 5*



**87 miles to the left, please** The current boundary of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary stops off Cambria's Fiscalini Ranch. Let's move it to Point Conception.

and Hearst Ranch in Cambria, and the Channel Islands off Santa Barbara. But nowhere in between.

At this year's annual summit meeting of the National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Councils, representing all of America's National Marine Sanctuaries, there was an item on the agenda

titled "Sanctuary Designation and Expansion." Council chairs and representatives urged the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries "to work with partners, communities, etc. to identify and evaluate potential new sanc-

*SANCTUARY continued on page 5*

### Morro Bay Digs Deeper Hole

**One high-paid consultant and "alternative site study" later, the Morro Bay/Cayucos sewer project is still on the road to failure**

In November 2010, the Morro Bay City Council overrode the judgment of the city planning commission and the pointed critiques of dozens of citizens, several environmental groups, the County Public Works Department and the Regional Water Quality Control Board, and approved a woefully deficient plan for the new Morro Bay/Cayucos wastewater treatment plant. (See "A Tale of Two Sewers," January.)

The citizens of Cayucos and Morro Bay were promptly handed the predicted result: an epic fail. (See "Morro Bay and Cayucos Will Have to Do Better," April.) The most expensive public works project in the history of either community was immediately dismissed by The California Coastal Commission and returned to Mayor Bill Yates & co. for a complete re-do.

A Commission staff report spelled out in detail what the communities had to do to gain a Coastal Development Permit. The primary problem: an alternatives analysis that didn't so much analyze alternatives as it said, in effect, "yeah, we looked at some

other places, but this is the one we want — right where the current plant is, with an outfall pipe to dump the sewage into the ocean."

Morro Bay and Cayucos staff regrouped. By late June, trouble was obviously looming when they held a series of public workshops on the new Draft Rough Screening Alternatives Sites Evaluation. In our comments, the Sierra Club said "We are concerned that the City and the [Cayucos Sanitary] District may again be preparing an overly narrow alternatives analysis, essentially repeating the fatal flaw identified by the Coastal Commission." Specifically, the draft appeared to be "ignoring the requirement to include an evaluation of alternative designs and technologies as well as alternative sites, despite directives from the Commission and staff."

Those directives included the need to "coequally evaluate against the same evaluation criteria...alternative designs that incorporate the technology and infrastructure necessary to

*MORRO BAY continued on page 10*

NONPROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT NO. 84  
SAN LUIS OBISPO  
CA 93401

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



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.

**Add your voice to protect the planet. Join the Sierra Club today.**

Join today and receive a FREE Sierra Club Weekender Bag!



My Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_  
 State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone # \_\_\_\_\_  
 email \_\_\_\_\_  
 Check enclosed, made payable to Sierra Club  
 Please charge my  MasterCard  Visa  AMEX  
 Exp. Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_  
 Cardholder Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Card Number \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Categories    INDIVIDUAL    JOINT  
**INTRODUCTORY**     \$25  
 REGULAR     \$39     \$47

Contributions, gifts and dues to the Sierra Club are not tax deductible; they support our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$7.50 for a subscription to Sierra magazine and \$1.00 for your Chapter newsletter.

Enclose check and mail to: **F94Q W 2500 1**  
 Sierra Club, P.O. Box 52968, Boulder, CO 80322-2968



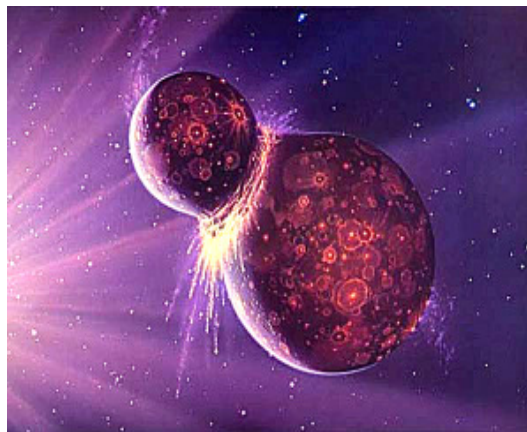
Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

## General Meeting

Wednesday, November 16, 7-9 p.m.

Bimonthly General Meeting: "Earth's First Billion Years!"

Cal Poly geology professor Dr. Scott Ohnston describes the violent transformation of our planet from a molten mass to one with oceans and the first life, and then how the moon's collision 4.5 billion years ago changed a helluva lot. Come and view slides of Scott's pioneering fieldwork in East Greenland and hold one of the 3.5 billion-year old rock fragments he brought back.



Steynberg Gallery, 1531 Monterey St., SLO. Info: Joe Morris, 772-1875.

## Lessons Learned from the Tortoise

by Kathryn Phillips, Director, Sierra Club California



I've been thinking a lot about the endangered California desert tortoises and wondering what lessons they might reveal. These very private creatures have been making news lately even though their natural approach to attention is more in tune with Greta Garbo's.

First there was the revelation that construction of the Ivanpah large-scale solar plant proposed in the Mojave Desert would wipe out nearly 550 juvenile tortoises. Then there was Governor Brown's wink-wink quip to a Fresno audience

that, by siding with large-scale solar development, he planned to take care of the tortoise. "We're going to give it a lot of shade," Brown said, according to press reports.

California desert tortoises have managed to adapt to some of the most brutal summer conditions on the continent and survive as a species for eons. Human activities ranging from off-road vehicles to mining and development have carved away their quiet home and their numbers have dwindled. Large-scale solar development, and a governor who seems bent on crushing environmental review, are just their latest challenges.

How, I wonder, do these terrapins manage to persist?

The answer is hinted at in Aesop's fables and is something that could help California environmentalists who are wondering how to recover from the last few months of the legislative session this year. We advanced some modest but important bills that included a shark fin ban, funding to keep oil spill prevention programs going, and a step toward more reliable funding for public transit, among others. But we had to tangle with the Governor's staff and Democratic legislative leadership to protect Californians' rights under the California Environmental Quality Act, and we lost some ground.

If it seems tempting to give up on the legislative process—and let's face it, it often does—then consider the keys to the tortoise's persistence: The tortoise is an incrementalist, slow, steady and persistent in its march. Its moves are strategic. It remains undistracted by flashy competitors who might take advantage of some temporary turn of events (e.g. a down economy) to get ahead. It knows what it must do and it keeps doing it until a window of opportunity opens up. In the end, it will win the race.

Now and when the legislature returns in January, we environmentally committed Californians need to keep pressing for policies that give us cleaner air, healthier waters, protected forests, and livable cities. Recommit to being strategic and persistent. Most of all, we can't allow ourselves to be dissuaded from our commitment by false claims that environmental progress and health protections hurt the economy. To the contrary, environmental protections bring more prosperity to the state. After all, everybody wants a clean environment, even the hares.

## SANTA LUCIAN

**Andrew Christie**  
 EDITOR    sierraclub8@gmail.com

**Melody DeMeritt**  
**Thomas A. Cyr**  
**Steven Marx**  
 EDITORIAL BOARD

**Denny Mynatt**  
 PRINT MEDIA COORDINATOR

The *Santa Lucian* is published 10 times a year. Articles, environmental information and letters to the editor are welcome. The deadline for each issue is the 11th of the prior month.

send to:

**Editor, Santa Lucian**  
 c/o Santa Lucia Chapter, Sierra Club  
 P.O. Box 15755  
 San Luis Obispo, CA 93406.  
 sierraclub8@gmail.com

### Santa Lucia Chapter

#### 2011 Executive Committee

Melody DeMeritt  
 CHAIR  
 Steven Marx  
 TREASURER

Cal French  
 MEMBER  
 Greg McMillan  
 VICE CHAIR  
 Pat Veasart  
 MEMBER  
 Jono Kinkade  
 MEMBER  
 Linda Seeley  
 SECRETARY

Cal French  
 COUNCIL OF CLUB LEADERS  
 cal.french@gmail.com

The Executive Committee meets the fourth Friday of every month at 5:30 p.m. at the chapter office, located at 974 Santa Rosa St., San Luis Obispo. All members are welcome to attend.

#### Committee Chairs

**Political**  
 Chuck Tribbey  
**Conservation**  
 vacant  
**Membership**  
 Cal French  
**Litigation**    beckers@thegrid.net  
 Andy Greensfelder  
**Nuclear Power Task Force**  
 Rochelle Becker

#### Other Leaders

**Open Space**  
 Gary Felsman    805-473-3694  
**Calendar Sales**  
 Bonnie Walters    805-543-7051  
**Chapter History**  
 John Ashbaugh    805-541-6430

#### Activities

**Outings**  
 Joe Morris    dpj1942@earthlink.net  
**Canoe/Kayak**  
 open

#### Webmaster

Monica Tarzier    monica@tarzier.org

#### Chapter Director

Andrew Christie  
 805-543-8717  
 sierraclub8@gmail.com

#### Coordinator

Kim Ramos, Admin and Development  
 kimramos@yahoo.com

#### Assistant Coordinators

Marie Clifford - correspondence  
 Yvonne Yip - events & social networking

### Santa Lucia Chapter

P.O. Box 15755  
 San Luis Obispo, CA 93406

**Office hours Monday-Friday,  
 12 p.m. - 5 p.m., 974 Santa Rosa  
 Street, San Luis Obispo**

Printed by University Graphic Systems

## Change of Address?

### Mail changes to:

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

or e-mail:  
 address.changes@sierraclub.org

## Visit us on the Web!

www.santalucia.  
 sierraclub.org

Outings, events, and more!

## In Memoriam

We gratefully acknowledge receipt of donations from Denise Fouri, Jesse Arnold, and Mary and Jerry Lodge in memory of Karl Krupp.

Thank the Party of No Right: the environmental consequences of mercury pollution. Below: a victim of industrial mercury poisoning, Japan, 1956.



# Making a 2011 Donation?

## Thanks!...but do not wait until Christmas

Please think about including your Sierra Club chapter in your holiday giving. And when you do, there are two important things to keep in mind when you do:

- 1) Donations to the Sierra Club are *not* tax-deductible; donations to the Sierra Club Foundation *are*. To make a tax-deductible donation: Make out your check to "The Sierra Club Foundation," and write "Santa Lucia Chapter Fund" in the memo section.
- 2) All offices of the Sierra Club close for the holidays. The Chapter has to process your check here, then send it to the Foundation for deposit, so it's a good bet that **if you wait to mail your check until the week before Christmas, it won't be deposited until after New Year's**, turning your 2011 donation into a 2012 donation.

Mail your check to:

Sierra Club  
P.O. Box 15755  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93406

When to mail your check:



Now



Not now

(If you are over 70 and have an IRA, you can meet the minimum distribution requirement by making a tax-free charitable rollover contribution of up to \$100,000 directly from your IRA. Check with your tax advisor.)

# Congress Blocks Mercury Protections

## House leadership scores points for polluters, endangers public health

On October 13, the U.S. House of Representatives passed legislation that would block critical protections against toxic mercury and other dangerous chemicals and metals emitted by industrial boilers, which are among the nation's biggest and dirtiest sources of mercury pollution. Boilers are situated in and around hospitals, schools and communities across the country, exposing Americans to toxic mercury pollution, a known brain poison that threatens the development of young children.

The bill was the latest in a series of attacks waged by House Republican Leadership on public health protections and the Clean Air Act. "By passing H.R. 2250, the House has again voted to put polluter interests over the public's health," said Sierra Club Executive Director Michael Brune. "H.R. 2250 blocks toxic mercury protections that have already been delayed more than two decades and allows industrial boilers, some of the nation's biggest, dirtiest sources of mercury pollution, to

continue spewing toxic mercury into our air and water without limits. This action will create zero jobs, and serve only to advance the House Leadership's pro-polluter, anti-public health agenda." The Sierra Club applauds President Obama's commitment to veto these reckless bills. We urge the Senate to reject these attacks on public health. See "Taking Issue" on page 9 for an analysis of the pollution lobby's anti-regulatory spin, as it recently appeared in *The Tribune*.

# Coastal Commission Tells Army Corps to Shape Up or Ship Out

## Corps can't cut corners in Cambria desal saga

The determination of the Cambria Community Services District to commit residents to the world's most expensive form of water hit another snag in September when the California Coastal Commission told the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers that the supporting documentation the Corps had submitted in the effort to get a green light to drill desalination test wells on Santa Rosa State Beach was totally inadequate. In a ten-page Sept. 30 letter to the Corps' Thomas Keeney, the Commission told the Corps it needs to provide actual evidence that the project is consistent with the California Coastal Management Program, not simply claim that it is; stop contradicting itself and state the actual purpose of the project; include the results of water quality tests for the 100+ potential contaminants they said they were going to test for (not the fewer than 20 they submitted); and address concerns about chain-of-custody for core samples tossed into the back of a truck in open bags and allowed to sit unattended in Shamel Park. In February 2010, Keeney fired off a notorious internal e-mail to Army Corps staff that blasted the Sierra Club for underwriting the efforts of Lynne Harkins, a retired Cambria school teacher who took water samples from the area and sent them to a lab for mercury testing on her own after the Corps failed to do so. Keeney dismissed Harkins' efforts due to the "lack of chain of custody documentation" of the water samples.

# The Last, Best Hope for the Carrizo

## We need a vision

By Sue Harvey, President, North County Watch

*The birds have vanished into the sky,  
And now the last cloud drains away.  
We sit together, the mountain and me,  
Until only the mountain remains.*  
Li Po, 701-162.  
Translated from the Chinese by Sam Hamill



North County Watch and Carrizo Commons have reached settlement agreements with Topaz Solar Farm and California Valley Solar Ranch. As a result, when the permits for both solar projects expire several decades hence, tens of thousands of acres of land will be permanently protected for the numerous special species found only here. But much of that land will have to be restored to create suitable native habitat. An important aspect of both settlements is a provision for resources for "Visioning the Carrizo." The solar companies have committed money and in-kind resources for this process. This process will answer questions such as what does a Carrizo native grassland look like? The vernal pools, the natural watercourses? How will the native plants re-inhabit the land? The Carrizo is the last intact

remnant of the formerly vast San Joaquin Valley grasslands. According to The Nature Conservancy, it supports the highest concentration of threatened and endangered species in the continental United States. It is an important wildlife corridor connecting species in the Panoche Valley, west Kern and western San Luis Obispo. Indigenous peoples have inhabited the Carrizo for perhaps 10,000 years. Farming and ranching have dominated its history for the last two centuries. The establishment of the National Monument was integral to restoration of the Carrizo Plain. In his 1910 book, *The Painted Rock*, Myron Angel described the Carrizo: Through the eastern part of the county of San Luis Obispo stretches the Carrisa Plain... The Plain is a basin, a thousand

feet or more above the level of the sea, with drainage to the center, where a shallow lake is formed, in seasons of excessive rains, which is bed of salt and soda when dry, as is usual in such formations. The Carrisa is a grassy plain, formerly abounding in wild horses, elk, deer, and antelope in countless numbers, and myriads of migratory birds of the arctic in their season, feeding upon its herbage. In the bordering hills are ever-running rivulets of purest water, and a sparse growth of trees.... It can be difficult to look out upon the battlefield and see the possibilities for recovery. Our hope is that a visioning process will help all parties take the long view for the recovery of the Carrizo.

# What's That Smell? Keystone XL

By Michael Brune,  
Executive Director of the Sierra Club

Last summer, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said that her department would leave



“no stone unturned” as it prepared its environmental impact report on the Keystone XL Pipeline project.

But when the report appeared, there were unturned stones everywhere:

- No study of the consequences of a raw tar-sands oil spill or the difficulties of cleaning up the inevitable spills was done.
- No analysis of the clean-energy alternatives to the pipeline or of how extracting Canadian tar sands oil would affect their development.
- No serious assessment of alternatives to a route that crosses the Ogallala Aquifer (which underlies more than a quarter of our country's irrigated land).
- No study of how more pollution would affect Gulf refinery towns like Port Arthur, TX, already one of our country's most polluted communities.
- No analysis of the impact on wildlife, such as the lesser sandhill cranes that use Nebraska's central Platte River valley as a stopover on their migration north.
- An incomplete and faulty analysis of how extracting and burning tar-sands oil will affect climate disruption.

There's more, but you get the gist. How could the Department of State have gotten it so wrong? Keystone XL, after all, is a 1,700-mile pipeline that will do nothing for Americans except seize their land through eminent domain, expose them to catastrophic oil spills and toxic pollution, and make domestic gas more expensive — all so a foreign oil company, Trans Canada, can ship its tar-sands oil overseas from our ports.

Sorry to say, the answer is that this was government at its most tawdry. The Department of State allowed a former Clinton campaign staff member, working as a TransCanada lobbyist, inappropriate access to high level officials within the Department and hired a biased pro-oil contracting firm to do the actual evaluation and run public hearings.

The more Americans learn about Keystone XL and the big-money campaign behind it, the worse the whole thing smells. Whether or not to permit this travesty is still one of the most important decisions facing President Obama. It's time for him to clear the air, kill this Koch brothers-backed pipeline, and let the State Department get back to issuing passports and visas.

The Honorable Barack Obama  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20050

August 3, 2011

President Obama:

We are researchers at work on the science of climate change and allied fields. We are writing to add our voices to the indigenous leaders, religious leaders, and environmentalists calling on you to block the proposed Keystone XL Pipeline from Canada's tar sands.

The tar sands are a huge pool of carbon, but one that does not make sense to exploit. It takes a lot of energy to extract and refine this resource into useable fuel, and the mining is environmentally destructive. Adding this on top of conventional fossil fuels will leave our children and grandchildren a climate system with consequences that are out of their control.

It makes no sense to build a pipeline system that would practically guarantee extensive exploitation of this resource.

When other huge oil fields or coal mines were opened in the past, we knew much less about the damage that the carbon they contained would do to the Earth's climate system and to its oceans.

Now that we do know, it's imperative that we move quickly to alternate forms of energy—and that we leave the tar sands in the ground. We hope those so inclined will join protests described at [tarsandsaction.org](http://tarsandsaction.org).

If the pipeline is to be built, you as president have to declare that it is “in the national interest.”

As scientists, speaking for ourselves and not for any of our institutions, we can say categorically that it's not only not in the national interest, it's also not in the planet's best interest.

Sincerely,

James Hansen  
Research Scientist  
The International Research Institute for Climate and Society  
The Earth Institute, Columbia University

John Abraham  
Associate Professor, School of Engineering  
University of St. Thomas

Dean Abrahamson  
Professor Emeritus Energy & Environment Policy  
University of Minnesota

David Archer  
Professor, Geophysical Sciences Department  
The University of Chicago

Jason Box  
Associate Professor, Department of Geography  
Atmospheric Sciences Program  
Researcher at Byrd Polar Research Center  
The Ohio State University

Ken Caldeira  
Senior Scientist  
Department of Global Ecology  
Carnegie Institution

Peter Gleick  
President and Co-founder  
Pacific Institute for Studies in Development, Environment and Security

Richard A. Houghton  
Senior Scientist  
Woods Hole Research Center

Robert W. Howarth  
David R. Atkinson Professor of Ecology & Environmental Biology  
Cornell University

Ralph Keeling  
Director, Scripps CO2 Program  
Scripps Institution of Oceanography

Donald Kennedy  
President Emeritus and Bing Professor of Environmental Sciences, Emeritus  
Institute for International Studies  
Stanford University

Michael MacCracken  
Chief Scientist for Climate Change Programs  
Climate Institute

Michael E. Mann  
Professor of Meteorology  
Director, Earth System Science Center  
The Pennsylvania State University

James McCarthy  
Alexander Agassiz Professor of Biological Oceanography  
Harvard University

Michael Oppenheimer  
Albert G. Milbank Professor of Geosciences and International Affairs  
Woodrow Wilson School and Department of Geosciences  
Princeton University

Raymond T. Pierrehumbert  
Louis Block Professor in the Geophysical Sciences  
The University of Chicago

Steve Running  
Professor of Ecology, Director of Numerical Terradynamics Simulation Group  
Department of Ecosystem and Conservation Sciences  
College of Forestry and Conservation, University of Montana

Richard Somerville  
Distinguished Professor Emeritus and Research Professor  
Scripps Institution of Oceanography

Ray J. Weymann  
Director Emeritus, Carnegie Observatories  
Member, National Academy of Sciences

George M. Woodwell  
Founder, Director Emeritus, and Senior Scientist  
Woods Hole Research Center

## High School Students Take It to the State Department

Josh Lopez



**Whose world? Our world!**  
Tar Sands Students, a newly formed group of high school students who oppose construction of the Keystone XL pipeline, partook in its first action on October 6: a meeting with Assistant Secretary of State Kerri-Ann Jones.

## TAKE ACTION

### November 6th: Tar Sands Action Returns to DC

Exactly one year before the next election, Tar Sands Action will return to DC to encircle the White House and ask President Obama to reject the Keystone XL tar sands pipeline, live up to his promise to free us from the tyranny of oil, and remind him of the power of the movement that he rode to the White House in 2008.

To join the action in DC on the 6th, go to:  
[www.tarsandsaction.org/sign-up](http://www.tarsandsaction.org/sign-up)

Obama had mojo when he knew it wasn't about him, that it was about change. But when you promise change, you have to deliver. His last best opportunity may come with that Keystone Pipeline decision, which he can make entirely by himself, without our inane Congress being able to get in the way. So on November 6th, exactly one year before the election, we're planning to circle the White House with people. And the signs we'll be carrying will simply be quotes from his last campaign — all that stuff about the tyranny of big oil and the healing of the planet. Our message will be simple: If you didn't mean it, you shouldn't have said it. If you did, here's the chance to prove it. Nix the pipeline.

- Bill McKibben, 350.org

**Cows**

*continued from page 1*

Then DFG promptly turned around and prepared a new lease with the same grazer and said they'd get around to a management plan when they get to it. Instead of the public getting a comprehensive look at all of the management issues, we get a once-over-lightly Mitigated Negative Declaration by way of environmental review of a new grazing permit. DFG is piecemealing management of the reserve by failing to evaluate the impact of grazing on public access; failing to evaluate cumulative impacts of grazing operations on the reserve and on adjacent federal lands; failing to implement adequate monitoring; failing to conduct adequate surveys and consultation for a federally endangered species, the Kern mallow; and failure to mandate protections for other special-status plants from grazing impacts between emergence and flowering.

Acquisition of the 31,000-acre Chimineas Ranch by the people of California occurred in two phases. The State of California created the Carrizo Plain Ecological Reserve in 2001, adding the Chimineas to other lands held by DFG in the area and expanding in 2004. DFG was given \$12.7 million by voters via The Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Fund of 2002 (commonly known as Proposition 50). Fish and Game got more money from the Habitat Conservation Fund, which was established for the "acquisition of habitat to protect rare, endangered, threatened, or fully protected species."

This represents a substantial public investment.

State law requires DFG, through a public process, to develop a Land Use Management Plan — something DFG was supposed to do a decade ago. The plan must evaluate livestock grazing solely for its effectiveness or



lack of same in the context of overall management of the reserve to achieve stated management objectives.

Instead, Fish and Game, behind the public's back, authorized a grazing lease for a grazer who had basically strip-mined the property with cows.

Ten years have passed, we still don't have a management plan, and, absent the light that public review of the plan would shine on this property, DFG is again proposing to authorize grazing — this time with abbreviated environmental review and reduced public scrutiny — to accommodate the same grazer. State law does not stipulate hard deadlines for development of a management plan, but the intent is clear: conservation lands acquired with public funds and managed by a state agency must have a management plan, reviewed by the public, that complies with state and federal law, in order to protect resources.

The two big issues on the Chimineas are resource protection and public access. DFG has failed miserably on both counts. There is virtually no public access, and grazing practices have badly damaged a significant area of the reserve. Since the public has had little access and no opportunity to review a management plan, DFG is operating with very little public oversight.

The agency should not be approving more grazing on the Reserve before it has completed a land management plan and an Environmental Impact Report — the highest level of environmental review — for that plan.

The plan and the EIR should address the degree to which grazing is affecting, or is likely to affect, public access and other resources.

Making the decision now to resume grazing in advance of a completed Land Use Management Plan places constraints upon future development of the plan and on the future management of natural resources and public access. The public bought and paid for this land and are entitled to have say in its management.

**Driving Through Bunny Land**

I call it Bunny Land  
 The name is sweet and the animals so precious  
 but traveling through it is treacherous  
 On early misty mornings  
 bunnies shoot out across the road  
 kamikaze rabbits on a mission  
 to zoom over to the shangri-la  
 of the bushes on the other side  
 They escape my car wheels by just a fraction  
 I creep along the lane  
 tense and alert  
 dodging and braking  
 praying earnestly I won't flatten another one  
 for that tragedy one dawn was nearly unbearable  
 I went from feeling cheery and joyful  
 to sobbing with remorse  
 It took me months  
 not to dread  
 the lovely morning drive  
 through Montana de Oro

Kalila Volkov

**Sanctuary**

*continued from page 1*

tuaries and address boundary expansions," as there is "a general recognition that it was time to look at potential new sanctuaries and reactivate the Site Evaluation List (SEL)."

This is opportunity, knocking. From Mill Creek in Monterey County to Point Conception, there is no such designation, despite the fact that this area is rich in the characteristics that meet the criteria for National Marine Sanctuary designation, including Chumash archaeological sites continuously occupied for 9,000 or more years, three major nutrient upwellings vital for near-shore marine ecosystems, 52% of the sea otter population in the Southern California range, a major elephant seal haul-out, 10% of California's vanishing coastal kelp forests, a coastal dune system, two estuaries, cetacean gathering areas and migration lanes, rocky intertidal regions with world-class fish biodiversity and densities, spawning

areas and nurseries, and activities attended by millions of visitors. There is no question of the value these waters hold. And as pressure grows to step up domestic offshore oil production, it will focus on this invaluable resource. This vulnerability has already led the Bureau of Reclamation — twice — to attempt pumping contaminated agricultural wastewater from the San Joaquin Valley into Estero Bay. Massive local resistance twice defeated this initiative, but the only way to ensure future protection is to designate these waters as a National Marine Sanctuary.

**You can help get this ball rolling**

Boundary expansion and the designation of new sanctuaries are on the radar of the National Marine Sanctuaries Program. Now they need to hear from *you* that you want to see the National Marine Sanctuaries Site Evaluation List (SEL) reauthorized and the borders of the Monterey Bay or Channel Islands Sanctuary expanded to include the waters of SLO.

For links to the Marine Sanctuary Alliance and *SLO Coast Journal* articles on the need for Sanctuary protection for the Central Coast, go to [santalucia.sierraclub.org/mbnms/mbnms.html](http://santalucia.sierraclub.org/mbnms/mbnms.html)

**TAKE ACTION**

COMMENT LETTER TEMPLATE (always best to use your own words):

Dr. Jane Lubchenco  
 Undersecretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere  
 1401 Constitution Avenue, NW  
 Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Dr. Lubchenco:

I urge you to heed the strong public support in San Luis Obispo County and Santa Barbara County, California, for Sanctuary protection of our shores and marine resources.

This is a special and unique ecosystem deserving of National Marine Sanctuary protection. Just a few of the features of these California central Coastal waters are major nutrient upwellings, kelp forest habitat, gray whale migration routes, abalone aquaculture, and the largest coastal dune habitat in California. This region is also home to the largest population of the federally threatened Western Snowy Plover, and its many miles of seabird nesting and marine mammal habitat are home to a substantial portion of the population of the threatened Southern Sea Otter.

Conferring sanctuary protection on the Central Coast will fill the gap between the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary and Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, while enhancing the protection of existing sanctuary waters, and bolster Ecosystem Based Management, minimizing hazardous impacts.

Given the positive public response to the recent addition of the Davidson Seamount to the MBNMS, providing sanctuary protection to the Central Coast will strengthen public support for the Sanctuary program locally, statewide and nationally.

I would like to see current sanctuary boundaries expanded to encompass the waters of California's Central Coast, and the Site Evaluation List reactivated with this region made a priority for its significance as a unique ecological and biological area.

Thank you for your attention to these matters,

YOUR NAME HERE

cc:  
 Dan Basta, Director  
 Office of National Marine Sanctuaries  
 National Ocean Service  
 1325 East-West Highway  
 Silver Spring, MD 20910-3282

U.S. Rep Kevin McCarthy  
 5805 Capistrano Avenue, Suite C  
 Atascadero, CA 93422

U.S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein  
 1 Post St., Suite 2450  
 San Francisco, CA 94104

Bill Douros, Acting Deputy Director  
 Office of National Marine Sanctuaries  
 1305 East West Highway  
 N/NMS, Room 11537  
 Silver Spring, MD 20910

U.S. Sen. Barbara Boxer  
 1700 Montgomery St., Suite 1748  
 San Francisco CA 94111

Supervisor Frank Mecham  
[fmecham@co.slo.ca.us](mailto:fmecham@co.slo.ca.us)

Bill Douros, West Coast Regional Director  
 99 Pacific Street, Bldg 200K  
 Monterey, CA 93940

Supervisor Bruce Gibson  
[bgibson@co.slo.ca.us](mailto:bgibson@co.slo.ca.us)

Paul E. Michel, Superintendent  
 Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary  
 299 Foam Street  
 Monterey, CA 93940

Supervisor Adam Hill  
[ahill@co.slo.ca.us](mailto:ahill@co.slo.ca.us)

Supervisor Paul Teixeira  
[pteixeira@co.slo.ca.us](mailto:pteixeira@co.slo.ca.us)

U.S. Rep. Lois Capps  
 1411 Marsh St., Suite 205  
 San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

Supervisor James Patterson  
[jpatterson@co.slo.ca.us](mailto:jpatterson@co.slo.ca.us)

# YOU'RE INVITED

## JOIN US ON SATURDAY, JANUARY 28, FOR A CELEBRATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL LITERATURE, MUSIC AND ART

*Readings from local authors*

*Book signings*

*A Plein Air art talk*

*Chamber music by musicians from the SLO Symphony*

*Dinner*

*Raffle*

*Silent auction*



Join us at the historic  
*Masonic Temple*  
859 Marsh Street  
downtown San Luis Obispo

### OUR FEATURED READERS:

#### Catherine Ryan Hyde

The author of *Pay It Forward* will be reading from her new, unpublished book of essays and present a multimedia show of photographs and films that she's taken while hiking, canoeing and kayaking around the County and in National Parks.



#### Vicki Leon

The author of *How to Mellify a Corpse* will be reading from her new book, *4000 Years of Uppity Women*.

Plus: Q&A, good food, great music, and an art exhibit and sale of superb local landscape paintings.



**1:00 P.M. - 5:30 P.M.**  
**ADMISSION \$75, \$35 STUDENTS.**  
**TICKETS ON SALE NOW**  
**SEATING IS LIMITED**

Call to reserve: 805-543-8717

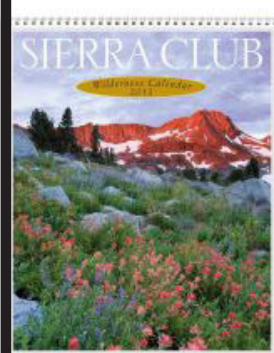
Send check to:  
Sierra Club  
P.O. Box 15755  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93406  
(Memo: "xx tickets, Sierra Club Benefit")



### Sierra Club 2012 Calendars

#### Now Available

Buy from the Santa Lucia Chapter and get 11% off!



Wall \$12.50  
Desk: \$13.50  
50 or more: 15% off

Call Bonnie to order:  
543-7051

# Is Bt Corn Safe For Human Consumption?

Evidence mounts against genetically modified organisms

By Jesse Arnold

In two separate tests, rats and mice fed corn genetically engineered to produce the pesticide Bt has shown harmful effects.

If genetically modified Bt corn was harmful to rats, it may also be harmful to humans.

French researcher Dr. Gilles-Eric Seralini at the University of Caen in France conducted tests on three strains of Monsanto Bt corn in which rats suffered signs of organ damage after just three months. He concluded that rats which ate the genetically engineered Bt corn had "statistically significant" signs of liver and kidney damage compared to rats given a non-genetically engineered diet. He felt these signs of toxicity and liver and kidney damage call for further studies to check for long-term damage.

A study commissioned by the Austrian Agency for Health and Food Safety conducted a long-term feeding study confirming genetically engineered Bt corn seriously affects reproductive health in mice. Feeding mice Monsanto's Bt corn led to lower fertility in the mice. Mice fed non-genetically engineered corn reproduced more quickly. Opponents of genetically engineered crops who have warned about this infertility link, along with other health risks, now seek an immediate ban of all genetically engineered crops to protect human health and fertility.

A study conducted at the University of Sherbrooke in Canada found the Bt toxin found in genetically engineered Bt corn in human blood samples for the first time. Set to be published in *Reproductive Toxicology*, the new study shreds the belief that Bt is broken down by the digestive system and instead shows that the toxin persists in the bloodstream.

The Canadian study evaluated 30 pregnant women and 39 non-pregnant women who had come to the Quebec hospital for tubectomy. Upon taking blood samples, researchers detected Bt toxin in a shocking 93% of maternal and 80% of fetal blood samples. Sixty-nine percent of non-pregnant women tested positive. All women in the study consumed a typical Canadian diet, which, as in the U.S., is riddled with genetically engineered materials and toxins. Bt toxin was detected even in unborn babies, showing the toxin is easily passed from mother to child.

Labeling genetically engineered crops is not required because Monsanto and the proponents of ag biotech don't want you to know what you're eating.

For information on buying non-genetically engineered food, go to: [www.HealthierEating.org](http://www.HealthierEating.org)

*Jesse Arnold has a degree in Ornamental Horticulture from Cal Poly. He has taught a course in organic gardening at Cuesta College, and is a hobby grower of Indian corn and sweet corn in Cambria.*

## TAKE ACTION

Now that we know that genetically engineered corn may not be safe for human consumption, isn't it time to ban it at local farmers markets. The people who need to get that message are:

**Peter Jankey**, Administrator, San Luis Obispo County Farmers Markets, P.O. Box 16058, San Luis Obispo, CA 93406. Phone: 544-9570.

**Sandra Dimond**, Manager, North County Farmers Markets, P.O. Box 1783, Paso Robles, CA 93447. Phone: 748-1109; email [Sandra@createabang.com](mailto:Sandra@createabang.com)

Consumers may also voice their concerns to any of the vendors at these markets. If you have any questions or suggestions, please call Jesse Arnold at 927-3096.

## GMO Statement: Arcata CA Farmers Market

The North Coast Grower's Association in Arcata, California, is opposed to the use of genetically engineered seeds and crops. We believe that GMO technology goes against the very foundations of sustainable agriculture.

GMOs are a strong component of industrial agriculture; they boast unsubstantiated promises of increase yields. In reality they increase the use of pesticides and show no increase in yield while increasing and consolidating corporate control of agriculture.

GMOs threaten the diversity of our seed base and the status of the world's seed seed banks.

GMO crops threaten family farmers by holding them liable under strict patent laws for pollen contamination that is uncontrollable and over which farmers have no control.

The agencies responsible for regulating agricultural biotechnology, the USDA, FDA and EPA have failed to properly monitor the technology.



## Make a Pledge to Gather Signatures This Fall!

### WANT TO HELP MAKE GMO HISTORY?

You can help get an initiative on the California 2012 ballot that will require the labeling of genetically engineered foods. Getting an initiative on the California ballot is a timed adventure. Once we get the language of the initiative approved by the state, we have **150 days** to gather **504,760** qualifying signatures. The experts tell us we should count on gathering **750,000 – 800,000** to make sure we have enough that make it.

We're organizing our signature gathering campaign now so that when we get the initiative back we are ready to start running. This is one of the ways in which our people power can get this to the ballot. We need people—lots of people—who are willing to put in some hours gathering signatures after being trained in how to get them (as we need to make sure that our efforts are effectively going to pass muster).

If you sign a pledge for **1000 signatures**, that means that you or a group you put together says you promise to get 50 signatures a week for 20 weeks. Or, on a good day in front of a Trader Joe's, you could spend three or five Saturday afternoons ensuring this gets on the ballot.

1000 signatures simply too much? We still need you! Every bit helps. Maybe you can commit to 500 in 20 weeks. Or less. Please, whatever you feel you can keep a commitment to, we need you. **Come join us and take a pledge to get GMO labeling on the ballot in 2012!**

### YES! I'LL TAKE THE PLEDGE TO GET SIGNATURES THIS FALL 2011!

**1,000 OR MORE SIGNATURES**

**500 OR MORE SIGNATURES**

**250 OR MORE SIGNATURES**

**100 OR MORE SIGNATURES**

Go to: [www.labelgmos.org](http://www.labelgmos.org)

illuminating9\_11



# The Planet, Moving



**It's a good kind of tired** The SLO bike run participants preparing to translate their actions into demands on Moving Planet day.

The Empower Poly Coalition, Santa Lucia Chapter of the Sierra Club, Central Coast Clergy & Laity for Justice and the SLO County Bicycle Coalition organized the September 24 Moving Planet Day climate rally in SLO – part of an international day of action that took place on September 24 calling for the world to go beyond fossil fuels and move the planet forward to a clean energy future.

After a bike run through the city and a Steynberg Gallery gathering, we delivered a letter with fifty signatures to the office of San Luis Obispo City Manager Katie Lichtig urging the city to accelerate its efforts “to create a complete connected network of bike paths throughout our city as a critical component of our local efforts to curb the impacts of global climate change.”

The letter called in particular for the completion of the city’s Railroad Safety and Bob Jones Trails as a local priority.

“Completing this path will lead directly to more people riding their bikes for transportation while simultaneously improving our economic and environmental health,” the letter read. “Any measure that will contribute to the goal of leaving fossil fuels in the ground is a measure that should be implemented immediately.”

The signatures on the letter were gathered at the Moving Planet bike run through the city and event at the Steynberg Gallery in SLO following. More than 2,000 Moving Planet events in 175 countries took place throughout the day, with hundreds of thousands of people putting the demand for climate action into motion while marching, biking or skating.

“The planet has been stuck for too long with governments doing nothing about the biggest problem we’ve ever faced,” said Bill McKibben, founder of 350.org, the international climate campaign that coordinated the global demonstrations. More at [www.movingplanet.org/](http://www.movingplanet.org/).



**Holding forth** Current Empower Poly Coalition President Victoria Carranza (left), Former President, Sam Gross and External Vice President Yamina Pressler.



**Above:** The Santa Lucia Chapter funded dinner at the Steynberg Gallery for the the intrepid, hungry bikers and hosted the local premiere of the educational TV series *Moving Beyond the Automobile*.

**Left:** SLO County Bike Coalition’s Brian Kurotsuchi and SLO County RideShare’s Morgen Marshall addressed the throng.





# Taking Issue

problematic environmental coverage & commentary in our local media

“We can’t afford new regulations,” by John Peschong, *The Tribune*, Sept. 25, 2011

**Summary:** *The Tribune* inaugurated its liberal-vs.-conservative Opinion page feature with a point/counterpoint on the question “Are environmental regulations killing jobs?” the conservative, John Peschong, late of the Reagan and G.W. Bush administrations, answered that question in the affirmative, citing many scary, official-looking numbers without bothering to cite his sources. So we tracked them down.

All responses below labeled “NRDC” are from the blog of Dr. Laurie Johnson, Chief Economist at the Climate Center of the Natural Resources Defense Council and formerly a professor in the economics department at the University of Denver. Her full text dismantling the industry reports used as economic justifications for Mr. Peschong’s anti-regulatory argument can be read at <http://switchboard.nrdc.org/blogs/ljohnson>.

By the EPA’s own estimate, the new rule [for smog regulations ordered withdrawn by President Obama] would have cost the economy \$90 billion a year.

Peschong here cites the upper end of a range of estimates and fails to mention that fact. Per the EPA, the costs of reducing ozone to a standard of 0.060 ppm could range from \$52 billion to \$90 billion --

numbers that are far from firm, which the EPA notes but Peschong does not. The other thing the columnist doesn’t mention, aside from the jobs created in the pollution control and abatement industry, is the value of mortality benefits and other health improvements of reducing ozone to 0.060 ppm which would range from \$35 billion to \$100 billion, according to the same EPA estimate. If you are going to take one high-end number from an estimate as a quantitative absolute, you have to take all of them the same way. Instead, Peschong reports a \$10 billion benefit as a \$90 billion deficit.

The odious new rule will impose billions of dollars in compliance costs and put at risk over 200,000 jobs. It’s estimated that in the paper mill industry alone, 36 mills across the country would close because of the new regulations governing boilers, resulting in nearly 90,000 lost jobs.

The American Forest and Paper Association (AFPA) just released a

‘study’ projecting massive job losses from the proposed standards. ... How is it AFPA estimates compliance costs for one industrial sector are more than twice as high as EPA’s estimates for all affected industries combined? Even worse, how is it that AFPA’s job loss estimate for one sector is almost 12 times as high as EPA’s for all affected industries combined?... Polluters’ sole aim in studies like this is to produce alarmist numbers and fear. We have seen this pattern time and time again from industry: every time EPA proposes new standards, it responds with hysterical prognostications. But they never come true, and they won’t here either. - NRDC



A recent study concluded [the EPA’s proposed cement plant regulation] would force the closure of nearly 20 percent of America’s cement manufacturing plants

This figure is from a study funded by the Portland Cement

Association. “PCA’s study is not credible: only a cursory examination reveals gross exaggeration of compliance costs and employment impacts, and an economic analysis that is fundamentally flawed—i.e. an analysis that is not based upon basic principles of economic theory and analysis. ... How is it that PCA estimates for compliance costs are almost 7 times higher than EPA’s? And the job loss estimates so negative relative to EPA’s modest projection of 350 net new jobs? Perhaps it’s because EPA is required to use established economic methodology, and justify and document all of its assumptions to economists at the Office of Management and Budget—ensuring independent review by the career economists that evaluate all government regulations. In contrast, PCA is accountable to no one.... No serious economist would consider PCA’s analysis credible; in fact, it is embarrassing.” - NRDC

Unfortunately, sensible regulations have lately given way to overreaching and burdensome environmental regulations that cost American jobs.

Wind the tape back to before environmental regulations were passed, and we see that the opponents of the day, just like today’s climate obstructionists, made dire job loss forecasts. They never came true. Consider the following claim from a study sponsored by the U.S. Business Roundtable in 1990, typical of industry-backed studies of past environmental regulations: “Across the [1990] Clean Air Act Amendments titles studied...this study leaves little doubt that a minimum of 200,000 (plus) jobs will be quickly lost, with plants closing in dozens of states. This number could easily exceed one million jobs—and even two million jobs—at the more extreme assumptions about residual risk.” (Hahn and Steger, 1990). - NRDC

If a White House backed solar panel company that received over half a billion dollars in government loans could not be viable, it is dubious to believe in the hope of “green” jobs to replace jobs lost by extreme environmental regulations.

Careful oversight of public investment is a great idea -- including the loans the Department of Energy issued to Solyndra, and the \$557 billion in federal subsidies the U.S. government pays to the fossil fuel industry each year. Solar investments create seven times more jobs per megawatt than natural gas, nuclear or coal investments. Each dollar invested in solar projects by the Department of Energy leverages \$13 in private investment. Solar jobs are going up, and dirty energy jobs are going down. In the past year the fossil fuel electricity industry shrank by 2%, while the solar industry grew by nearly 7%. In the last two years, 27 new U.S. solar manufacturing facilities began operations across the country.

Survey results from the 1970s, 1980s, and 1990s have consistently found gross employment losses on the order of 1,000 to 3,000 jobs per year nationwide resulting from pollution control requirements. Relative to other reasons for job losses, these are practically invisible: every year approximately 9,500 layoffs result from adverse weather events, and over 450,000 from seasonal changes in employer demand for workers (U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 1995-1997 survey data). Contrast this to claims by opponents of environmental regulation (“millions” of job losses), and one can only conclude that the catastrophic job losses predicted by climate obstructionists are just plain wrong. - NRDC

Regardless of political party, we all share the goals of cleaner air, water and land.


Republicans are correct that environmental regulations cost money, and sometimes those costs are passed on to consumers. Yet they are oblivious to the public-health consequences of pollution and the economic costs of inaction. - “A GOP assault on environmental regulations,” *L.A. Times*, Oct. 10, 2011

Supporters of the EPA will argue that the jobs lost by environmental regulations are offset by new “green” jobs or jobs that are created as a result of complying with the regulations. However, the recent bankruptcy of California-based Solyndra that laid off over 1,000 employees refutes that argument.

Rather than hurting the economy, pollution standards improve society’s well being. EPA has four decades of experience issuing pollution standards that have delivered enormous net benefits. [Since the creation of the EPA in 1970, we have seen] an economy with a GDP three times its 1970 size, household incomes that are on average 45% higher, the creation of tens of thousands of jobs in the environmental protection industry. The Clean Air Act alone has saved millions of lives and prevented as many chronic illnesses, with benefits exceeding costs by more than 26 to 1 in 2010 alone. - NRDC

The solar industry is the fastest growing industry in America, with more than 5,500 companies employing more than 100,000 Americans. For every Solyndra, there are a dozen successful companies. SolarCity added more than 500 new employees in the last year, and expects to hire 300 more employees before the end of 2011.

**Upshot:** You are entitled to your own opinions. You are not entitled to your own facts. When the political friends of big polluters write opinion pieces based on inflated data from bogus industry studies that “no serious economist would consider credible” -- as if the numbers and “facts” deployed constituted legitimate support for a valid argument -- the public dialogue is polluted.



**SIERRA CLUB**  
SANTA LUCIA CHAPTER

**Now on Facebook**  
search: “Santa Lucia”  
and become our friend!

## Morro Bay

continued from page 1

accommodate both wastewater flows at build-out as well as reuse of reclaimed water” and give the Commission “clear and documented information about the costs and benefits of alternative project locations...including with respect to the manner reclamation for beneficial uses could be accommodated for each (for agricultural irrigation, landscaping, groundwater augmentation....”

There are other problems with the “keep it right where it is” scenario. The current plant is in a 100-year flood plain, beset by known seismic hazards and likely to be inundated by rising seas and significant shoreline erosion within the life of the plant. The mandated “thorough” alternatives analysis, far from counting any or all of these deal-breakers as eliminating the site from further consideration, rated the current plant site as the preferred location.

Commission staff warned Morro Bay and Cayucos staff of another problem with their preference for maintaining their sewer-plant-by-the-sea: inconsistency with requirements for recreational coastal access mandated in both the California Coastal Act and Morro Bay's Local Coastal Plan (LCP). Specifically: “The project would reduce the availability of scarce oceanfront land for potential public recreational purposes, and it could cause adverse impacts to nearby existing public recreational access opportunities due to both construction activities and operation of the new WWTP.” A project that would be in violation of an LCP does not get a Coastal Development Permit. That warning and this fact appear to have fallen on deaf ears.

The Commission also told the applicants their project must include a plan to recycle treated effluent, just as Los Osos was required to do.

Specifically:

“The Applicant must also provide a complementary, updated water reclamation feasibility study that explores all potential demand for reclaimed water, including for agricultural irrigation inside and outside of the City limits, and the way in which the project could be reconceived to dispose of treated effluent in this manner. The study must evaluate the feasibility of constructing infrastructure to accommodate such a water reclamation program, and it must evaluate the benefits of a water reclamation program, including potential benefits to stream habitats and water supply, potential revenue generation from providing such water to users and offsetting the need for purchased State Water credits, and the potential for elimination of the existing ocean outfall.”

Instead of an updated feasibility study laying out “the way in which the project could be reconceived,” the draft alternatives analysis includes a “Wastewater Disposal and Reclamation Discussion,” which essentially restates the issues in the above paragraph, extended over forty pages,

and relies on a 12-year-old study — the opposite of “updated.” The “clear and documented information about the costs and benefits” required by the Commission devolved into a statement that all the studied alternative sites could theoretically produce recycled water, but it would cost more.

The Coastal Commission had spelled out the problem, as the community spelled it out before the project went to the Commission the first time, but again community leaders seem not to have understood what they've been told. The steepness of the learning curve was indicated by this passage in the draft alternatives analysis:

*“In the preparation of this report, discussions with the RWQCB indicate that a salt management plan would be required to support permitting process for the WDR relative to salt and nutrient (namely nitrogen) loadings on the groundwater basin.”*

The Water Board had in fact told Morro Bay and Cayucos about this particular deficiency in the plan in October 2010. That fact was mentioned on the front page of the January 2011 *Santa Lucian* (“A Tale of Two Sewers”). Their project consultants informed Morro Bay and Cayucos in August 2011.

Once more, Morro Bay and Cayucos appear to be headed for a game of chicken with the Coastal Commission. The assumption seems to be that the Commission might suddenly decide it doesn't care about sea level rise, flood plains or coastal recreational access, and that they won't point to the regulatory writing on the wall for water recycling and the end of the road for wastewater ocean outfalls (Florida has prohibited the construction of new ocean outfalls, ordered the elimination of all existing outfalls by 2025, and required that a majority of the wastewater previously discharged be beneficially reused. But, hey: maybe the Coastal Commission will say it prefers dumping high-quality treated effluent in the sea rather than recycling it.)

Someone should spell it out for the staff and officials of the City of Morro Bay and the Cayucos Sanitary District: in sending back their deficient sewer upgrade plan, patiently listing everything that needed to be done to design a project in conformity with the Coastal Act — that is, everything Morro Bay and Cayucos should have included in their submission the first time around if they wanted to get a permit for their project — the Coastal Commission was being nice. They could have simply denied the permit. It's the difference between your teacher grading your paper “incomplete” and getting an “F.” The submission of a second deficient application is highly unlikely to produce the same or a better result.

The alternatives evaluation is a “rough screening,” which is now proceeding to a fine screening. Unless the refinements are drastic, the problems with this project will be beyond the power of the public and the Coastal Commission to fix, which means the stand-off between the environmentally progressive regulatory measures demanded by the Coastal Commission and the regressive resistance of local staff and elected officials may prove fatal.

## Sierra Club National Awards

Two congressmen and two people who have written extensively about global warming were among those receiving awards from the Sierra Club this year. Most of the awards were presented September 23-24 in San Francisco.

The Club's top award, the John Muir Award, went to **Bill McKibben**, who has authored 13 books and founded the international organization 350.org. McKibben's 1989 book, *The End of Nature*, is regarded as the first book for a general audience about climate change, and has been printed in more than 20 languages.

**Elizabeth Kolbert**, a former *New York Times* reporter, received the David R. Brower Award, which recognizes outstanding environmental reporting. Kolbert's 2006 book *Field Notes from a Catastrophe*, which was based on an award-winning three-part series for the *New Yorker*, is one of the most powerful commentaries to date on global climate shift.

Massachusetts Congressman **Ed Markey** received the club's Edgar Wayburn Award, which honors outstanding service to the environment by a person in government. Since being elected to Congress in 1976, Rep. Markey has been at the forefront of environmental campaigns, pressing for increased fuel efficiency standards for our cars and light trucks, defending the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge from proposed oil drilling, pushing for tougher clean air standards, advancing renewable energy and energy efficiency proposals, and authoring legislation to tackle global warming.

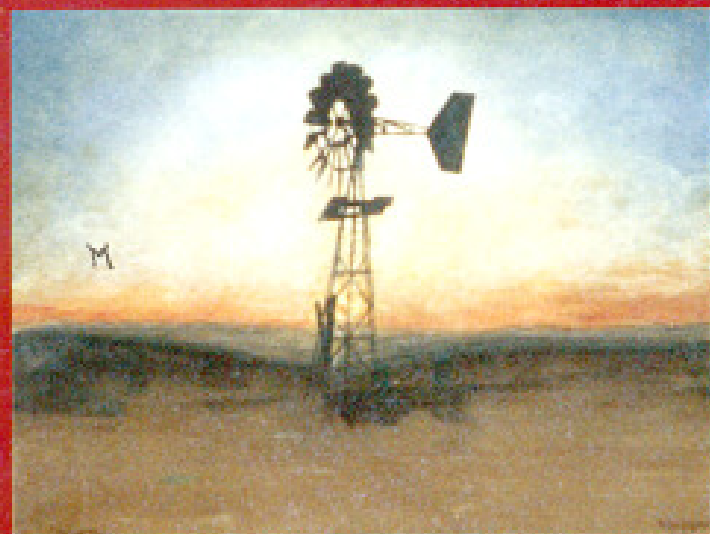
Congressman **Keith Ellison** from Minneapolis received the Distinguished Service Award, which recognizes individuals in public service for strong and consistent commitment to conservation. Rep. Ellison has been a strong supporter of the environment and environmental justice since was in the Minnesota state legislature. He has carried forward legislation to protect children from lead poisoning and to ban the use of the weed-killing agricultural pesticide known as atrazine due to its documented toxicity.

The Club's Ansel Adams Award, which honors excellence in conservation photography, went to **Ian Shive** of Los Angeles. Shive's 2009 book, *The National Parks: Our American Landscape*, highlights the rich diversity of the American ecological landscape and Shive has used it in a “wilderness diplomacy” project designed to promote cultural understanding worldwide by sharing images of America's national parks. Shive also has used his photos to remind lawmakers of the importance of preserving our outdoor resources and to address the environmental impact of the U.S.-Mexico border fence.

The Club's William Douglas Award, which recognizes individuals who have made outstanding use of the legal/judicial process to achieve environmental goals, went to **Sharon Duggan** of Oakland. Duggan has litigated on a broad variety of issues, including state and federal forestry, water quality, endangered species and environmental quality. She was the attorney for the Sierra Club and Los Padres ForestWatch in our recent legal action to protect the Carrizo Plains Ecological Reserve (see page 1). She is best known for her work on a series of cases involving the ancient redwood groves of the Headwaters Forest in Northern California. In a landmark 1983 case, *EPIC v. Johnson*, Duggan established that California state agencies must consider the cumulative effects of logging in a watershed on water quality, soils and wildlife habitat when reviewing logging plans. Since that victory, the Environmental Protection Information Center in Humboldt County has successfully enforced this ruling in nearly two dozen lawsuits to protect biodiversity, endangered species and the redwood ecosystem.

For information on all awards and the Sierra Club awards program, visit [www.sierraclub.org/awards](http://www.sierraclub.org/awards).

### FLYING M FARM PRODUCTS



### FROM THE RED HILLS

**2011 Crop Grass Fed Beef  
Estate Grown Extra Virgin Olive Oil**

Available Now-Delivery Available  
Please Get in Touch For More Information  
Greg and Linda McMillan

805-238-4820 [greg@flyingm.com](mailto:greg@flyingm.com)

USE IN AND FOR GOOD HEALTH

## TAKE ACTION

**6 p.m., Thursday, November 10**

The fine screening analysis of alternative sites will be presented at a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) meeting of the Morro Bay City Council and Cayucos Sanitary District. This is the last stop before the second try at the Coastal Commission, and the last chance for the citizens of Morro Bay and Cayucos to prevail upon their representatives to get it right. Check the website to confirm and get location: [www.cayucosd.org/JPABOARDMEETINGS.htm/](http://www.cayucosd.org/JPABOARDMEETINGS.htm/).

# Classifieds

Next issue deadline is **December 12**.  
To get a rate sheet or submit your ad and payment, contact:  
Sierra Club - Santa Lucia Chapter  
P.O. Box 15755  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93406  
sierraclub8@gmail.com

**Les Kangas**  
Solar Energy Consultant  
REC Solar, Inc.  
775 Fiero Lane, Suite 200  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401



Office: (805) 528-9705  
Cell: (805) 305-7164  
Toll Free: (888) OK-SOLAR (657-6527)  
Fax: (805) 528-9701

**SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE INVESTING**



**NATURAL INVESTMENTS LLC**  
Financial Advisor  
**SCOTT SECREST AAMS®**  
(805) 235-3031

San Luis Obispo, California  
www.naturalinvesting.com

Fee-only Sustainable Investment Advice

Natural Investments, LLC  
An investment adviser registered with the SEC

**slosolstice.com**  
green directory



**Be smart... be green!**  
CONTACT us... to be SEEN!  
ph: 805-473-5064 or email: Solstice222@aol.com

**Helmholz Consulting**  
**Business Computer Networks**

PHONE: (805) 547-0293  
E-MAIL: dave@helmholz.net

Providing personalized computer service to businesses in San Luis Obispo county



**Mac VanDuzer**  
Broker Associate  
TOLL FREE: (800) 767-0095  
OFFICE: (805) 927-1511  
FAX: (805) 927-1599  
CELL: (805) 909-7630  
MacVanDuz@aol.com



555 Main Street  
Cambria, CA 93428

**GREEN HOMES**  
A portion of any commission donated to the Sierra Club

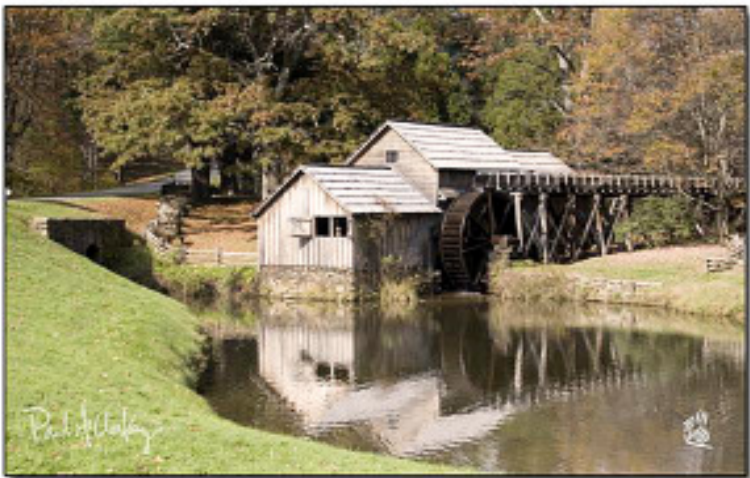
Pismo to San Simeon

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




Contact:  
John Calaway  
Director of Gift Planning at  
(415) 977-5639 or e-mail:  
planned.giving@sierraclub.org

Explore, enjoy and protect the planet




"Autumn Reflections - Old Blue Ridge Grist Mill"  
Blue Ridge Parkway, N.P.S.



"Painting With Light"  
**Paul J. McCloskey • Photo-Paintings**  
"Sacred Light - Sacred Lands"

P.O. Box 13013 • San Luis Obispo, CA 93406  
805.235.3001

Connect on  www.facebook.com/paul.j.mccloskey  
www.paintingwithlightstudio.com

© 2004-2011 Paul J. McCloskey - All Rights Reserved

**CYNTHIA HAWLEY**  
**ATTORNEY**

**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**  
**LAND USE**  
**CIVIL LITIGATION**

P.O. Box 29 Cambria California 93428  
Phone 805-927-5102 Fax 805-927-5220




**Stew Jenkins**  
**Lawyer**

Trust & Estate Plans  
Prenuptial Agreements  
Domestic Partnerships

1336 Morro Street ♦ San Luis Obispo ♦ 541-5763

**LAW OFFICES OF BABAK NAFICY**  
Babak Naficy - Attorney at Law



1504 Marsh Street  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401  
ph: 805.593.0926 • fax: 805.593.0946  
babaknaficy@sbcglobal.net

# 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. Please bring drinking water to all outings and optionally a lunch. Sturdy footwear is recommended. All phone numbers listed are within area code 805 unless otherwise noted. Pets are generally not allowed. A parent or responsible adult must accompany children under the age of 18. If you have any suggestions for hikes or outdoor activities, questions about the Chapter's outing policies, or would like to be an outings leader, call Outings Chair Joe Morris, 772-1875. For information on a specific outing, please call the listed outing leader.

**Sat., Nov. 5th, 8:30 a.m. Beginner's Bird Walk, Oso Flaco.** Can't tell a goose from a grouse? Then come and learn the great fun of birding, colored with Audubon Society experts Jennifer Moonjian and Maggie Smith, in the Oso Flaco Natural Area. We'll follow the boardwalk trail through riparian, dune, and shoreline habitats to look for fall migrants and overwintering birds. Scopes and some binoculars provided if you don't have your own. Wear sturdy shoes and layered clothing. Kids with parents welcome. Meet at the Oso Flaco parking lot. \$5 parking fee charged, though limited free parking outside the gate is available. Rain cancels. Info.: Joe Morris, 772-1875.

**Sat., Nov. 5th, 9:00 am, Rinconada Trail.** Hike to Bell Mountain via Rinconada trail in Los Padres National Forest, arriving at ridge-top with 360o views from Paso Robles to N. Santa Barbara County. Total distance is 5 miles, elevation gain of 800 feet, and total hike time of 3 hours. Meet at trail head, approximately 10 miles east of Hwy 101 on Pozo Rd. (3 miles beyond the turnoff for Santa Margarita Lake). A sign marks to turn off from Pozo Road on the right hand side. Bring adequate water, snacks, and dress in layers for the weather; a hat and sturdy shoes are advised. For info, call Bill at (805) 459-2103, [bill.waycott@gmail.com](mailto:bill.waycott@gmail.com). Plants, animals, and geology of the area will be topics during the hike. This is a joint hike with the California Native Plants Society.

**Sat., Nov. 12th, 8:30 a.m. West Cuesta Ridge Hike.** Explore the far reaches of Stenner Creek drainage as

we hike to the top of West Cuesta Ridge via Shooters, traverse along road to the Botanical Area, then return via Morning Glory Trail to starting Point. This is a moderately strenuous 8-mile hike with 2000 foot elevation gain. Bring water, snack and dress for the weather. Meet at the Cal Poly Ropes Course Parking Area on Stenner Creek Road, about 2 miles from Highway 1 heading towards Morro Bay. Details: call Gary (805) 473-3694. Rain Cancels.

**Wed., Nov. 16th, 7-9 p.m. Bi-monthly Meeting: "Earth's First Billion Years!"** Dr. Scott Johnston, a popular Cal Poly geology professor, describes the violent transformation of our planet from a molten mass to one with oceans and the first life, and then how the moon's collision 4.5 billion years ago changed a helluva lot. Come and view slides of Scott's pioneering fieldwork in East Greenland and, hold one of the 3.5 billion-year old rock fragments he brought back. Conservation news will begin the meeting. Location: Steynberg Gallery, 1531 Monterey St., SLO. Info.: Joe Morris, 772-1875.

**Sat., Nov. 19th, 10:30 a.m. Cerro San Luis Picnic Viewpoint.** 4-mile, 1000 ft. gain hike to view geographical wonders of the area from succession of the Nine Sisters to Laguna Lake and also enjoy potluck picnic. Bring a serving for 5 people to share, your own plate, utensils, and water. Dress appropriately for the weather and moderately rocky trail conditions. Meet in Maino Open Space parking lot at base of the mountain. Take Marsh St. and turn off into parking lot on right, immediately

before getting onto Hwy 101 South. Info.: Franca Rossi, 831-229-9062. Asst.: Joe Morris, 805-772-1875.

**Sat., Dec. 10, 9:00 a.m. Anniversary hike on the Cerro Alto long loop.** Join the leader on this moderate 7-mile hike which has about 1900 ft. of elevation gain. We will begin at the Cerro Alto campground and ascend to Cerro Alto Peak. From there we will descend through the eucalyptus grove and finish by coming down the Boy Scout trail. From the top of Cerro Alto there is a wonderful 360 degree view which includes the coastline. Bring water, lunch, or snacks, and dress for the weather. There is a possibility of poison oak. To get to the campground, travel about 7 miles east of Morro Bay on Highway 41 or about 10 miles west of Atascadero on Highway 41. Turn onto the road where you see a campground marker. Go to the end of the road. There is a \$5.00 parking fee. There is a strong probability of eats at Taco Temple following the hike. Heavy rain cancels. For info, call Chuck @ 805-441-7597.

**Sat., Dec. 17th, 10 a.m. City Walk of San Luis Obispo: Jazz Age to the Fifties.** Where is the hotel where Hearst entertained his guests, the location of the red light district in the twenties, the USO dance hall for GIs after Pearl Harbor, and the original French Hospital? Find out and much more on a guided downtown stroll past historic stores, theaters, and hotels. Learn about SLO city life from years of the Model T to Prohibition and World War II, starting with a visit to building designed by Frank Lloyd Wright. Meet at corner of Santa Rosa and Pacific Sts., SLO. Rain cancels. Info.: Joe Morris, 772-1875.

**Thurs-Mon, Dec. 29th, 2011-Jan. 2nd, 2012, Holiday Service In Carrizo Plain.** Once again we return to the Carrizo Plain to celebrate the end of the year and to offer service to

## Outings Sponsored by other organizations

**Sweet Springs Nature Preserve.** The Audubon Society, which manages Sweet Springs Nature Preserve in Los Osos, has received a grant to work on pathways and restoration. Volunteers are needed on the second Saturday of the month from 9-12 to help with watering, weeding, planting, etc. More info at [www.morro.coastaudubon.org](http://www.morro.coastaudubon.org).

## Ventana Wilderness Alliance Trail Crew Opportunities

Volunteers are needed for work in the Ventana and Silverpeak Wilderness Areas. Rain Cancels. [daveknapp@ventanawild.org](mailto:daveknapp@ventanawild.org). Switch to Carrizo after rain begins in earnest. E-mail: Betsy MacGowan [bmacgowan@hotmail.com](mailto:bmacgowan@hotmail.com), for info.

**Nov. 4th-7th Carrizo Trail Esperanza Trail work.** Needs assistant E-mail leader [daveknapp@ventanawild.org](mailto:daveknapp@ventanawild.org) for info.

**Nov. 9th-17th Cone Peak CMH ACE hitch on Cone Peak project.** E-mail: Mike Heard at [heard@pobox.com](mailto:heard@pobox.com) for info.

**Nov. 11th-13th Puerto Suello Robert B Trail salvation on Puerto Suello.** E-mail: Robert Barringer [rob.barringer@gmail.com](mailto:rob.barringer@gmail.com), for info.

**Nov. 12th-13th, 19th, 20th Marble Peak bmac Trail work camp at willow springs.** Rain Cancels - switch to Carrizo after rain begins in earnest E-mail: Betsy MacGowan, [bmacgowan@hotmail.com](mailto:bmacgowan@hotmail.com), for info.

**Nov. 23rd-Dec 1st Cone Peak CMH ACE Hitch on Cone Peak project.** E-mail: Mike Heard at [heard@pobox.com](mailto:heard@pobox.com) for info.

**Dec 2nd-5th Carrizo Trail Esperanza trail work.** E-mail David Knapp at [daveknapp@ventanawild.org](mailto:daveknapp@ventanawild.org) for info.

**Dec. 3rd-5th Marble Peak bmac Trail work camp at willow springs.** Rain Cancels - switch to Carrizo after rain begins in earnest, Betsy MacGowan, [bmacgowan@hotmail.com](mailto:bmacgowan@hotmail.com), for info.



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

the pronghorn antelope in this National Monument. Lying between Bakersfield and San Luis Obispo, this vast grassland is home to pronghorn antelope, tule elk, kit fox, and a wide variety of birds. A welcome hike Dec. 29, two and a half days of service modifying barbed wire fencing, and a full day for hiking and exploring are planned. Use of accommodations at Goodwin Ranch is included. Limited to 14 participants, \$30 covers four dinners and breakfast on New Year's morning. For more information, contact leader: Craig Deutsche, [craig.deutsche@gmail.com](mailto:craig.deutsche@gmail.com) (310-477-6670).

**Fri-Sun, Jan 20th-22nd - Death Valley National Park Wilderness Restoration.** Come help restore wilderness values in this beautiful and remote desert area. We will work with Death Valley Wilderness Coordinator Charlie Callagan on a project in one of the parks many wilderness areas. Past project have included re-landscaping former OHV routes that are now in wilderness, trail repair and cleaning up around historic cabins. Work will start on Friday afternoon. Happy hour potluck Saturday night. Leader: Kate Allen, [kj.allen96@gmail.com](mailto:kj.allen96@gmail.com), 661-944-4056.

Gary Felsman



After enjoying the October 11 Bomber's Run in hike El Chorro Regional Park.