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SIERRA CLUB
Santa Lucia Chapter

Oct. 2016
Volume 53 No. 9

The official newsletter of the Santa Lucia Chapter of the Sierra Club ~ San Luis Obispo County, California

Sierra Club Intervenes in Diablo Case at the PUC

When the news broke of the proposal to shut down Diablo Canyon, the *San Francisco Chronicle* editorialized, "Nuclear power is finished in California. ... Just as remarkable as shutting down the state's last reactors at Diablo Canyon is replacing the lost power with renewable energy."

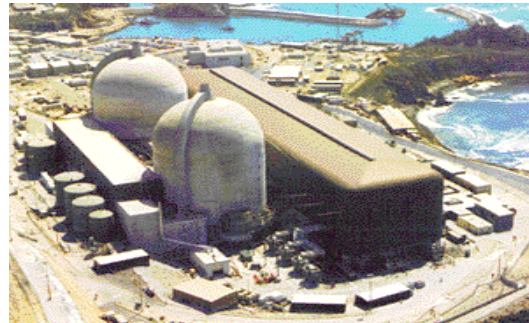
Or as the UtilityDive website put it, "One of the biggest tests of all time for renewable electricity was just proposed in California. It didn't get the attention it deserves because everybody called it the closure of the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant."

The Sierra Club is giving that test the attention it deserves in our protest of PG&E's application to the Public Utilities Commission to approve the proposal and recover costs from ratepayers.

In brief, the proposed GHG-free replacement energy plan for Diablo does not appear to facilitate additional and timely clean energy deployment and fails to ensure the conservation of the Diablo Lands -- more than 12,000 acres of undeveloped coastal land surrounding the plant. The Sierra Club is attempting to resolve questions on the terms of the Joint Proposal through data requests. Depending on the clarity of responses, our attorneys may require the opportunity for cross-examination in evidentiary hearings.

The PUC should require PG&E to analyze the impact of fossil fuel use and resulting greenhouse gas emissions upon Diablo's retirement as compared to a scenario where Diablo remains operational. While acknowledging that "if Diablo Canyon were retired in 2024 and 2025 and no other preparatory actions were taken, fossil fuel use would immediately increase substantially," PG&E has conducted no such analysis.

PG&E's commitment to a 55 percent Renewables Portfolio Standard by 2031



What it's about Replacing that (above) with these (below).



Don't See Your Favorite Candidate?

In order for a candidate to receive a Sierra Club endorsement, five things have to happen:

1. Candidates for local office must not have eliminated themselves from consideration by virtue of their records as incumbents or their public statements on key environmental issues.
2. Candidates have to make it possible for us to contact them, preferably by filling in the blanks for contact information when filing with the County Clerk's office or providing some means of contact on their campaign website.
3. They must agree to participate in the endorsement process.
4. They must return their questionnaire in time for our Political Committee to deliberate and make recommendations to our Executive Committee.
5. They must meet the strong environmentally protective criteria for a Sierra Club endorsement.

Every election cycle, we're surprised to see how many candidates don't make it past the second requirement. Among those who got all the way through the process this time, the toughest call of the year was Jan Marx vs. Heidi Harmon for Mayor of San Luis Obispo. Both are environmental champions, both are friends of the Sierra Club. In the end, we went with Mayor Marx for her encyclopedic grasp of land use policy and a years-long track record of standing her ground when the pressure's on to bust a city ordinance or gobble up open space. In a race for an open city council seat, we'd be likely to endorse Heidi in a heartbeat.

Good luck to all our endorsed candidates!

delays greenhouse gas mitigation for Diablo until six years after its retirement and is less than what will likely be needed to meet SB 32 greenhouse gas objectives. The timing of emission reductions matters. Deferred deployment of greenhouse gas mitigation reduces the likelihood of limiting future temperature rise to below catastrophic levels. To ensure the closure of Diablo will not hinder California in meeting its 2030 greenhouse gas reduction requirements, PG&E should increase its renewable energy procurement for 2024 from 40 to 50 percent, and its 2030 renewables procurement from 50 to 60 percent, with no changes to existing cost allocation methodologies for departing customers -- i.e. those opting in to Community Choice Energy Programs (see "How to Replace a Nuclear Power Plant," left).

California recognizes that energy efficiency -- cutting emissions by cutting the demand for energy -- is one of the best ways to get to a low-carbon economy. SB 350, the Clean Energy and Pollution Reduction

Act of 2015, requires a cumulative doubling of statewide energy efficiency savings by January 1, 2030. The Application appears to set weak standards for efficiency procurement that would allow PG&E to take credit for efficiency that would occur anyway under SB 350 and fund programs that are not cost-effective for PG&E customers.

The Application would create less consistent and less robust rules for efficiency procurement than what would be set at a separate PUC proceeding for procuring energy efficiency and does not appear to confer any significant advantages from early action.

In addition to the direct GHG impacts on the energy sector from the retirement of Diablo without sufficiently robust provisions for renewables and efficiency, significant indirect GHG impacts will result should PG&E turn its back on previous affirmations that it will ensure the 12,800 acres of land around Diablo is conserved rather than sold for development. At the

INTERVENE continued on page 5

How to Replace a Nuclear Power Plant

In our post-Diablo future, one program can replace both the energy the power plant generated and its role in the local economy

By random chance, on the day of the announcement of the agreement to retire the Diablo Canyon plant by 2025, two consecutive NPR headlines appeared on the KCBX website, reporting the day's news and the news from the day before.

They were:

June 21: *Plan to close Diablo Canyon: PG&E announces phasing out nuclear power in California by 2025*

and

June 20: *Community Choice Energy plan gets potential funding in Santa Barbara County.*

They were the equivalent of an image of a wave of the past receding as a wave of the future crests behind it. PG&E underscored the point in its press release listing the reasons for Diablo's pending closure, ending with this one: the potential increases in the departure of PG&E's retail load customers to Community Choice Aggregation.

Community Choice Aggregation -- aka Community Choice Energy, aka locally generated renewable power -- is PG&E's longtime up-start competitor, which, over the last decade and a

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Please recycle








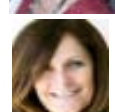
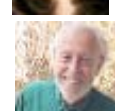

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Sierra Club Voting Guide

Nov. 8, 2016

We endorse:

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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	U.S. Senate Kamala Harris kamalaharris.org
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	U.S. Congress 24th District Salud Carbajal saludcarbajal.com
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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mayor, San Luis Obispo Jan Marx janmarx.com
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	City Council, San Luis Obispo Mila Vujovich-LaBarre milaforscitycouncil.com
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mayor, Morro Bay Betty Winholtz winholtzformayor.org
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mayor, Pismo Beach Sandra Neilsen sandraforpismo.com
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Cambria CSD Harry Farmer harryfarmerforpsd.org
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Cambria CSD Amanda Rice electamandarice.com

Ballot Measures:

YES
Prop. 56—Cigarette Tax to Fund Healthcare, Tobacco Use Prevention, Research, and Law Enforcement. Would increase the sales tax on cigarettes by \$2 per pack, and e-cigarettes would be taxed on an equivalent level. The tobacco tax has not been raised since 1998. Sierra Club has long supported reducing public exposure to air pollution, including pollution from cigarettes, and has supported cigarette taxes as a tool for smoking reduction. Cigarette taxes help increase the cost of smoking, discourage smoking and fund anti-smoking education.

YES
Prop. 58—California EdGE Initiative. Would overturn restrictions on bilingual education that were imposed in 1998 by Proposition 227. The California EdGE Initiative allows every student in California the chance to get the most appropriate language instruction and, therefore, become engaged residents who can effectively speak out for the environment and public health.

YES
Proposition 59—Shall California's elected officials use their authority, including their authority to propose a constitutional amendment, to overturn Citizens United? The Sierra Club has long supported campaign finance reform as an important part of environmental protection. Although this action is advisory, it gives Californians an opportunity to express abhorrence of the Supreme Court ruling that gave corporations undue influence on candidates and ballot measures.

YES
Prop. 67—Referendum to Overturn Ban on Single-Use Plastic Bags. Do voters wish to keep the statewide plastic bag ban (SB 270) signed into law in 2014? A "yes" vote is a yes to a clean environment and an end to single-use grocery bags that pollute waterways, harm wildlife, and create a long-lasting litter problem. A "yes" will say no to big out-of-state plastic manufacturers who put this measure on the ballot to try to stop enforcement of the statewide ban.

YES

Wildlands Stewardship Campaign Kick-Off



by Holly Sletteland, Wildlands Stewardship Group

As many of our members know, the National Sierra Club offers dozens of service trips every year that provide an opportunity for members to give something back to the public lands that have given so much to them. But what if you can't get away for a few days or a week, but you still want to lend Nature a hand?

The Santa Lucia Chapter is forming the Wildlands Stewardship Group for people just like you who love spending time in our parks, preserves and open

space and want to do your part to keep them in good shape. You'll be working with other conscientious folks to help remove invasive plants, pick up trash, naturalize bootleg trails and plant native plants. And you'll be joining a network of Sierra Club volunteers working on service projects throughout the country to help sustain our public lands. You'll experience the satisfaction of knowing that you have made an important difference and that you have helped to heal a wounded world.

For our inaugural event, we've decided to focus our attention on helping native trees, which have been in the news a lot lately, and most of the news hasn't been good. We've heard about thousands of trees dying from drought, thousands more toppled by bulldozers at Justin Vineyards and tens of thousands burning up in the Soberanes and Chimney fires.

It's staggering to lose so many trees so quickly. We can't repair the damage overnight, but we can certainly help get the process

started. To that end, we're partnering with the City of San Luis Obispo to plant trees on Bishop Peak. We'll be planting Coast live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*) seedlings grown from acorns collected in the surrounding area and graciously donated by John Chesnut, John Doyle and Lionel Johnston. The planting will involve making gopher baskets, digging holes, covering the seedlings, watering, mulching and caging them to protect against browsing.

So grab a friend or come on your own and make a new friend at the kick-off on **Saturday, November 5th from 9a.m.-12p.m.** Long pants, layered shirts and shoes with closed toes recommended.

We'll have tools and supplies, but if you have gloves and/or a shovel, bring them along. We'll be working in small groups so we can trade off jobs and no one gets too tired. And we'll have drinks and snacks to keep us going. If we're lucky enough to have a light drizzle, we'll work through it. But if it's pouring rain (wouldn't that be nice!) we'll need to cancel.

We really hope you join us! If you have any questions or to RSVP, please contact Holly Sletteland at hslettel@calpoly.edu or 805.239.3928. The meet-up location will be announced by mid-October.



Hill on lakes SLO Natural Resources Manager Bob Hill briefed Club members on plans for dredging Laguna Lake in a way that will protect and enhance wildlife habitat at our July 27 general meeting. The city council voted on September 20 to further study of two potential dredging plans.

For Her Distinguished Service

Lois Capps receives Sierra Club Award

Every year, the Sierra Club honors exemplary individuals whose achievements help preserve the environment. These award winners embody John Muir's passion for the natural world.

Of some twenty different award categories, the Distinguished Service Award honors "persons in public service for strong and consistent commitment to conservation over a considerable period of time."

As that's an apt description of Representative Lois Capps, the Santa Lucia Chapter was proud to nominate her for this year's award, presented at an Oakland ceremony on September 10.

Lois has served in Congress since 1998. She sits on the Natural Resources Committee and is co-chair of the Congressional Na-



The winner is Sierra Club Executive Director Michael Brune (left) and Club President Aaron Mair congratulate Rep. Lois Capps on her Distinguished Service Award.

tional Marine Sanctuary Caucus and the Sustainable Energy and Environment Coalition, and honorary Vice-Chair of the LGBT Equality Caucus.

In 18 years in Congress, Representative Capps has been at the forefront of efforts to protect the environment as a champion of clean energy and a foe of fossil fuels. She has led efforts to protect consumers from shouldering the financial burden of cleaning up water pollution in their water supplies, and has introduced

legislation to permanently ban new offshore drilling off the California Coast in every Congress since 2006. In the wake of the Refugio Beach oil spill, the House passed an amendment she authored to push federal regulators to finalize enhanced safety rules for oil pipelines. She is a strong opponent of the environmentally disastrous Phillips 66 oil-by-rail proposal that would bring Canadian tar sands crude through California.

She introduced the California Coastal National Monument Expansion Act to add numerous California locations to the California Coastal National Monument (see "A Monumental Action," page 4). In 2015, she sponsored the Central Coast Heritage Protec-

tion Act, a sweeping vision to protect 245,500 acres of wilderness, create two scenic areas encompassing 34,500 acres, safeguard 159 miles of wild and scenic rivers in the Los Padres National Forest and the Carrizo Plain National Monument, and establish the Condor Trail. The Act would provide habitat for 468 species of wildlife and more than 1,200 plant species, including the San Joaquin kit fox, steelhead trout, California spotted owl, Smith's blue butterfly, arroyo toad, the California jewel-flower, and California condor.

And she has lent her invaluable support to federal designation of the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary, which will protect 10,000 square miles of marine habitat off the coast of Central California.

As she retires from Congress at the end of her current term, Lois Capps leaves a wonderful legacy for all Americans and to everyone who cherishes the natural world.

Thank you, Lois.



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Don't miss the scoop on Central Coast Power on page 6. Our clean energy future is now!

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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 13th of the prior month.

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MEMBER

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MEMBER

Patrick McGibney (12/17)

MEMBER

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COUNCIL OF CLUB LEADERS

The Executive Committee meets the second Monday of every month at 5:30 p.m. The Conservation Committee meets the second Friday at 1p.m. at the chapter office, located at 974 Santa Rosa St., San Luis Obispo. All members are welcome to attend.

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Printed by University Graphic Systems Cal
Poly, San Luis Obispo. Mailing services
courtesy of Silver Streaks.

Congress Gets a Message

Don't pass the TPP!

On September 14, the Sierra Club joined with 90 civil society organizations in a National Call-In Day of Action against the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP). In the lead-up to the day, we reminded our combined millions of supporters why the TPP is a bad deal for America, encouraging supporters to tell their congressional representatives to oppose the TPP in a post-election lame duck session of Congress.

As part of the national day of action, more than 13 million people engaged through a range of online and offline channels, with calls from every congressional district in the coun-



try. The efforts were designed to encourage Americans to call their Member of Congress while also directing extra attention at the 28 House Democratic Members who vote to "fast

track" authority for the TPP. Some key activities of the national day of action:

- * The Sierra Club, the nation's largest environmental group, made the environmental case against the TPP, encouraging all our members, supporters and volunteers to call their Members of Congress, especially those in key districts, and tell them to come out publicly against the Trans-Pacific Partnership. Ramming through an unpopular trade deal in the final days of the Congress would be a disaster for our climate. Though trade can significantly increase climate-disrupting emissions, the TPP text fails to even

mention the words "climate change."

The TPP would undermine efforts to address climate disruption and keep fossil fuels in the ground. It empowers multinational fossil fuel firms like TransCanada to use the investor-state dispute settlement (ISDS) system to challenge environmental safeguards in private trade tribunals. We reached out to hundreds of thousands of supporters to participate in the call-in, building on the more than 100,000 calls and messages Sierra Club members and supporters have already sent to Congress this year.

- * On social media platforms, an anti-TPP Thunder-Clap Action reached more than 1.6 million people via Twitter, Facebook and Tumblr on the morning of Sept. 14.

- * Our Revolution, the post-primary movement of Sen. Bernie Sanders, sent out an email alert for the call-in day to their list of about six million individuals over the two days prior, asking recipients to sign a congressional petition against TPP with the goal of placing at

least 50,000 calls to members of Congress and their offices on the 14th.

- * Communications Workers of America (CWA) activists are engaged in multiple actions to reinforce opposition to the TPP. CWA members nationwide called their Congressmembers, focusing on Senate contests in battleground states. In South Florida, protests at the district offices of pro-fast track voters Senator Marco Rubio and Representatives Mario Diaz-Balart and Debbie Wasserman Schultz included CWA and other South Florida unions, Citizens Trade Campaign and community activists and members of the Labor Council of Latin American Advancement (LCLAA).

- * The AFL-CIO engaged its 12.5 million members through its State Federations and Central Labor Councils. It rallied more than 100,000 action takers around the call-in day, including more than 15,000 people who signed a petition opposing a lame duck vote

in the just two days in early September.

"Representatives are deciding now whether to support this toxic trade deal. This national call in day was designed to keep the pressure on," said Anthony Torres, Associate Campaign Representative for the Sierra Club's Responsible Trade Program. "As opposition continues to grow, its supporters are planning a last-ditch attempt to pass the trade agreement during the lame duck session of Congress after voters have gone to the polls in November. Unless we act now, one of the last acts of the Obama Administration may be approving the Trans-Pacific Partnership. For a President that has otherwise been a leader on climate issues, this would be an incredible disappointment."



Phillips 66: County Punts Again

On September 22, the County Planning Commission wrapped up hearing number seven – count 'em, seven – on the proposed Phillips 66 oil train terminal for the Santa Maria Refinery without concluding deliberations or reaching a decision.

The day-long hearing was like watching a group of men fumble around in the dark looking for their car keys. Commissioners asked questions they had asked over the previous six hearings and engaged in an elaborate discussion of the fine points of a score of

Valero Oil Co. failed in its bid to strike down the decision by the planning commission of the City of Benicia to deny their very similar oil train terminal project when the federal Surface Transportation Board issued a ruling that Benicia had full land use authority to issue a denial. Valero contended that the federal jurisdiction over railroads preempted the City's authority to deny the project. In its ruling, the STB reminded Valero – repeatedly – that it is an oil company, not a railroad, and federal preemption applies to railroads, not oil

communities matters."

Two days later, by way of contrast, it was business as usual at the San Luis Obispo County Planning Commission.

Phillips' biggest change in the proposed project – switching from five trains a week to three – still has not been properly evaluated. The company's stated purpose and need for the project is to access additional sources of North American crude oil. Phillips has provided no detail on how they might take on additional crude capacity despite the reduced project. By reducing the project

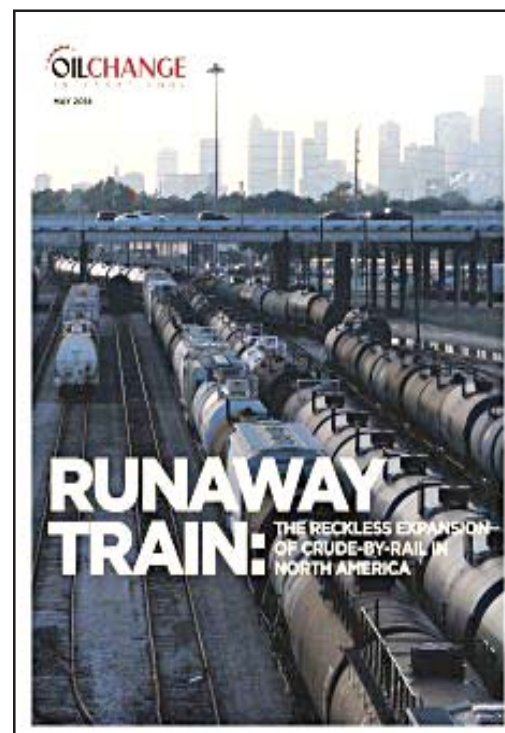
from five to three trains per week, how does Phillips plan to receive additional crude it expects from alternative sources? Will Phillips engage in alternative means such as truck delivery? If so, the significant local air

pollution and safety risks of this delivery alternative must be evaluated.

When the matter of the current level of trucked-in oil at the refinery came up, Environmental Consultant John Pierson tried hard not to call Phillips a liar, but he couldn't keep the incredulity out of his voice: "During the throughput increase project, Phillips told us 'We have no facilities to offload trucked oil,'" he said. "I mean, I have that letter. Phillips has never once

commented that this is something they can do or plan to do."

A project permit condition has been proposed stating that Phillips will only accept trains comprised of DOT 117 tank cars, considered the least likely to puncture and explode in a derailment. This condition



is disingenuous. Federal law governs the phase-in of these improved tank cars, not the County, that phase-in period will take years, and there are many caveats to the tank car fleet transition. Meanwhile, if deficient DOT 111 and CPC 1232 tank cars happen to show up at the Nipomo refinery loaded with volatile crude, will Phillips turn them away and send them back to their origin, thereby doubling the risk to local and California communities as these hazardous trains travel back through their communities?

There are numerous significant and unmitigable local impacts documented throughout the EIR, on the basis of which – without venturing into the murky waters of federal preemption – the Commission could and should have denied the project.

The long list of violations of the County's General Plan and the proposed destruction of Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Area at the site are detailed in the Final EIR and staff report, which affirm that the Project would result in significant and unavoidable impacts relating to Agricultural Resources, Air Quality and Greenhouse Gases, Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Hazardous Materials, Public Ser-

vices and Utilities, and Water Resources. To offset such impacts, the proposed Statement of Overriding Considerations is based solely on alleged economic benefits related to construction, operations, including maintenance of ongoing operations. It lacks supporting evidence and overstates potential benefits of the Project.

The Commission should not delay any further and should issue that denial to protect local residents, the local environment and economy, and communities throughout the state.

The Commission is scheduled to take another shot at it on October 5. Public comment is closed.



allegedly theoretical permit conditions (lighting, how high the berm should be, where the out houses should go, etc.) that they might attach to a permit if they eventually decide that they want to approve the project.

Two days before the hearing, two enlightening events occurred in the Bay Area that should have provided sufficient illumination for the commission to locate its backbone and deny the Phillips 66 project. The

companies. A few hours later, the Benicia City Council followed the wise course of its planning commission and issued a final unanimous denial of the project.

"I'm over the moon," Yolo County Supervisor Don Saylor told the *Sacramento Bee*. "The community of Benicia, in the crosshairs of history, made one of those decisions that will make a difference for the country. They stood up and said the safety of our



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Continuing coastal crisis

More Hot Water for Coastal Commissioners

On August 31, development interests succeeding in killing Senate Bill 1190 in the State Assembly, the measure that offered the best hope of reforming the Coastal Commission by banning the practice of “ex parte” contacts – private communications with commissioners that occur out of public view and guarantee full employment for unregistered lobbyists in the service of coastal developers.

The bill was sponsored by Sen. Hannah-Beth Jackson (D-Santa Barbara), who told the *L.A. Times*, “I am extremely disappointed that this bill will not be moving forward this year. I continue to believe that prohibiting ex parte communications is vital for restoring public trust in the Coastal Commission and leveling the playing field between big-moneyed interests and those without.”

Underscoring that point, a lawsuit filed two weeks before Jackson’s bill was defeated named five coastal commissioners — Chairman Steve Kinsey, Erik Howell, Martha McClure, Wendy Mitchell and Mark

Vargas – charging them with violating ex parte disclosure rules 590 times. Each violation carries a fine of up to \$7,500.

The case against the commissioners, brought by the San Diego watchdog group Spotlight on Coastal Corruption, hinges on a provision of state law requiring that “No commission member, nor any interested person, shall conduct an ex parte communication unless the commission member fully discloses and makes public the ex parte communication by providing a full report of the communication to the executive director within seven days after the communication or, if the communication occurs within seven days of the next commission hearing, to the commission on the record of the proceeding at that hearing.”

The number of alleged violations per individual commissioner range from 42 to 75, with Pismo Beach City Councilman Erik Howell in the middle of the pack with 48 charged violations: “This Defendant conducted ex parte communica-

tions without fully disclosing them and making them public, within the time limits prescribed by law, either by providing a full written report of such communications to the California Coastal Commission’s executive director or to the Commission on the record at the next hearing.... This Defendant made, participated in making, or in some other way attempted to use his official position within the California Coastal Commission to influence at least one Commission decision about which he had knowingly had at least one ex parte communication that was not reported.”

Howell’s actions, per the lawsuit, leave him liable for civil fines of at least \$720,000. The suit also charges Howell with 96 separately punishable violations of the Coastal Act carrying an additional liability of at least \$2,880,000.

Prior to engaging in their illegal conduct, the lawsuit alleges, “Defendants received training on, were aware of, and therefore had actual knowledge of” the

requirements of the law, but “consciously disregarded the requirements of Sections 30324 and 30327 [of the Public Resources Code] based on the arrogant, corrupt belief that their ex parte conversations were none of the public’s business, at times using personal e-mail to conceal the conversations. Defendants’ repeated violations were not innocent oversights.”

Howell, who opposed SB 1190, is also the target of a separate lawsuit and an ongoing Fair Political Practices Commission investigation on related issues.

The amount of civil fines requested by SOCC could increase as more violations are discovered in the course of the litigation.

On September 22, an Orange County Superior Court judge handed down a scathing decision in another lawsuit, *Friends of the Canyon v. California Coastal Commission*, voiding a Coastal Development Permit approved by Howell and five other commissioners due to their failure to disclose ex parte communications.



Coastal Commission Seeking Stooze

After a notoriously developer-friendly gang of Coastal Commissioners (including, by a less than amazing coincidence, most of the folks described at left) fired the Commission’s executive director in February, they promised to restore trust in the Commission by conducting a thorough and inclusive search for a new executive director that would result in the hiring of a champion for coastal access and coastal protection and allay all the concerns raised by the Commission’s February action.

To the surprise of no one, that’s not how it’s working out.

The recruiting document posted on the Commission’s web site as the outreach for candidates is written in a way that will make the commission more developer friendly.

Go to www.coastal.ca.gov and scroll down to “Now accepting public comments on Executive Director Search Criteria.” Click on that and go to August 26, 2016, to read “draft recruitment materials: memo.”

It calls for a change in the “culture” of the commission to one of “customer service.” In other words, it considers developers its customers and its mission to be one of service, i.e. the Commission’s mission is to serve developers. It shows no concern for upholding the California Coastal Act or the role of the public in doing so. It does not include any requirements for maintaining an independent staff.

You can send a letter asking for changes to the recruiting document so that it does not seek to:

- Change the culture of the commission to be “customer” (developer) friendly.
- Fail to recognize that the function of the Commission is to uphold the Coastal Act and serve the public.
- Fail to provide direction to maintain an independent staff and allow that staff to function without being subject to “capture” by the commissioners in the majority.
- Fail to indicate that one of the things necessary is for the Executive Director to provide leadership that instills confidence in the staff and results in low turn-over.

Send your comments to:

Pam Derby, CPS Executive Search, at: resumes@cpsr.us



Howell



McClure



Mitchell



Kinsey



Vargas

A Monumental Action

On September 16, representatives of Senator Barbara Boxer, Congresswoman Anna Eshoo and Jared Huffman joined Congresswoman Lois Capps, Bureau of Land Management Director Neil Kornze, California Natural Resources Secretary John Laird and local elected officials at the Cambria Vets Hall to discuss additions to the California Coastal National Monument.

At the community meeting, they heard feedback from the public and local leaders on the management of outstanding public lands, including the Piedras Blancas Light Station Outstanding Natural Area in San Luis Obispo County, Lighthouse Ranch and Trinidad Head in Humboldt County, Rocks and Islands in Orange County, the Cotoni-Coast Dairies in Santa Cruz County and Lost Coast Headlands.

“I’m grateful that Director Kornze will visit these spectacular public lands and hear from the public on the proposed expansion of the California Coastal National Monument,” Senator Boxer said. “Adding these areas to the National Monument will increase protections for our coast, expand recreational opportunities, and boost the economy in local communities.”

“I am excited to welcome state and federal officials to Piedras Blancas in my district so that they can hear first hand about the broad support this proposed expansion enjoys,” said Capps. “The California Coastal National Monument is one of our nation’s greatest treasures. The proposed expansion, which includes the Piedras Blancas Light Station in San Luis Obispo County, is critical to protecting landscapes along the entire coast of California, while providing a greater visitor experience and expanded access to the existing monument. On the Central Coast, this expansion would ensure that the unique history and abundant natural resources we take pride in are protected for generations to come.”

Earlier this year, Senator Boxer and Representatives Capps, Eshoo and Huffman introduced the California Coastal National Monument Expansion Act, legislation that would provide lasting protection to multiple sites along the California coast while improving management and highlighting the historic, cultural, scientific and ecological significance of each location.

On February 11, Boxer sent a letter to President Obama requesting he use his authority under the An-



tiquities Act to expand the California Coastal National Monument.

The California Coastal National Monument was designated by President Clinton in 2000 and stretches the entire 1,100 miles of California’s coastline, protecting more than 20,000 small islands, rocks and exposed reefs between Mexico and Oregon. It preserves habitat for a variety of wildlife including seabirds, California sea lions and southern sea otters.

Senators Boxer and Feinstein, along with Congressman Mike Thompson, first introduced legislation in 2012 to expand the Monument to include the Point Arena-Stornetta Public Lands in Mendocino County. In 2014, President Obama included these lands as the first onshore addition to the Monument.

After the meeting, Capps wrote “Many participants supported the inclusion of Piedras Blancas in the National Monument and expressed optimism that this expansion would not only protect the land for future generations but also be a boon to the local economy and help to ensure the long-term management of the site. Given the strong support of elected representatives across California, as well as the positive comments from local residents, I am hopeful that we can achieve this goal this year.”



Worth it Left to right: Santa Lucia Chapter Chair Karen Merriam testifies in support of the expanding the monument at the Cambria meeting; the Piedras Blancas Light Station; outside the Cambria Vets Hall.



Intervene

continued from page 1

time of its passage, PG&E repeatedly expressed support for the goals of Measure A, the DREAM Initiative, a 2000 County ballot measure the overwhelmingly favored putting the pristine coastal lands surrounding the plant into a conservation easement before the plant closed. In order to ensure the conservation objective of Measure A is finally implemented,

PG&E must not, between now and 2025, sell the fee title to any of these undeveloped coastal lands. The Joint Proposal should be amended to include a commitment that these lands will be placed under a conservation easement and land interests will be transferred to a land trust or state conservancy.

Because it is silent on the subject, we are concerned by the statement of Chief Nuclear Officer Ed Halpin at PG&E's July 20 meeting

in San Luis Obispo that PG&E "has not made a decision on the future of Wild Cherry Canyon," an apparent contradiction of PG&E's public statements in agreement with the letter and intent of Measure A sixteen years ago, and inconsistent with the expressed wishes of the county's voters.

The Friends of Wild Cherry Canyon and Central Coast Wave Energy Hub have intervened in the PUC proceeding to advocate for

the conservation of Diablo Canyon lands. The Cities of San Luis Obispo, Pismo Beach, Paso Robles, Arroyo Grande, Morro Bay, and Atascadero have also filed as intervenors, requesting that "Decisions about future use should include consideration of ...options for the future use and protection of open space and marine resources, cultural resources, historic sites, and related facilities."

It's time to make the DREAM initiative reality.



Not Party Time in Adelaida

On August 23, we sent comments to the County Planning Department on the draft Adelaida/Willow Creek Vacation Rental Ordinance.

The ordinance would make it possible to obtain a permit to hold events at a vacation rental. No events should be allowed at vacation rentals. While we support some level of events associated with active agriculture, vacation rentals are not an appropriate venue for events. There is a material difference between an ag operation planning and overseeing events and events planned and carried out by transient populations that utilize vacation rentals.

Permanent ag operations have a sizeable investment in the success of their ag operations and an investment in the welfare of the community. A transient population utilizing a vacation rental for an event has no such investment in the land or the community.

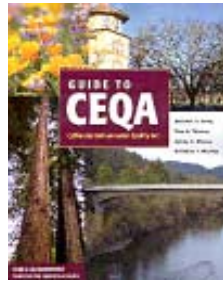
The "Purpose" section of the draft ordinance states that the Adelaida area has limited infrastructure, narrow roadways and challenged fire service. The entire ordinance area has a very high fire risk. The disastrous Chimney Fire directly adjacent to the proposed ordinance area sadly offers a graphic example of why temporary events should be banned at vacation rental sites. It would be impossible for events at a vacation rental to have the kind of oversight necessary to mitigate fire danger in a high fire risk area with "challenged fire service, narrow roadways, limited infrastructure." The ordinance should specifically ban Temporary Events.

Occupancy levels must be enforced. On-site parking must require vegetation-free, graveled parking areas that are adequate to accommodate the maximum number of vehicles likely to be on the property, including daytime guest parking.

The County Planning Commission will deliberate on the draft ordinance at its Thursday, October 13 meeting.



CEQA: This Law Has Done a Good Job



Developers' favorite bogeyman not the cause of housing crunch or economic harm

By Cesar Diaz, California State Building and Construction Trades Council legislative and political director, and Sierra Club California attorney and policy advocate Kyle Jones. From Capitol Weekly, August 30, 2016.

The California Environmental Quality Act has long been the punching bag of business interests and some policy makers. It has been blamed for everything from a dearth of affordable housing to a sluggish economy during financial downturns.

Yet, until now, precious little objective research has been conducted to understand the costs and benefits associated with this 46-year-old law.

Recently, the Rose Foundation for Communities and the Environment commissioned BAE Urban Economics to draft an objective report to dig into this sticky question.

Leveraging a combination of rigorous quantitative analysis, a literature review of past research, case studies and a review of recent legislative changes to the law, the report found little evidence of economic harm inflicted by this landmark environmental law.

In fact, the report found that CEQA has done a good job of helping California to grow in an environmentally sustainable way. The state is relying more on increased density to accommodate a growing population and less on agricultural land and open space to accommodate new housing than it has in decades past.

California is now the 11th most densely populated state in the nation, up from its ranking of 13th in 1970. Nearly one-quarter of the most walkable cities in the US are now located in California. It's difficult to justify claims that this law impedes environmentally-sensitive development with these facts at hand.

Since CEQA's enactment in 1970, the state economy has experienced both booms and busts. As the new report shows, this law should be assigned neither credit nor blame for either extremes. Looking at the state's strong recovery from the Great Recession again indicates the CEQA is an unlikely driver – either positively or negatively – in the state's economic picture. Our state has seen very strong job growth since 2012, ranking fifth in the nation on that metric.

It is also difficult to make any clear cause-and-effect argument between CEQA and the state's challenges around developing sufficient affordable housing.

According to the research in this report, California is near the top of all states in its rate of developing affordable housing unit per 100,000 residents in the nation.

Some could point to this statistic as evidence that every

CEQA continued on page 8

The California Solar Bait & Switch

By Robert Freehling & Andrew Christie

In July, a troubling article headlined "Why Home Solar Panels No Longer Pay in Some States" appeared in the *New York Times*.

The *Times* chose for its primary case study Elroy Holtmann of Lafayette, CA, who spent \$20,000 two years ago on a home solar array. Thanks to "net metering," which provides a bill credit to solar customers for the surplus power they feed back into the electric grid, it was going to save him money on charging his electric car, slash his monthly utility bill, and pay for itself in about twelve years. But then "the utilities regulators changed the equation."

California regulators granted PG&E permission to change Mr. Holtmann's rate schedule into one that will make solar customers in PG&E's service area "pay much more for the electricity they draw from the grid in the evening, while paying those customers less for the excess power their solar panels send back to the grid on sunny summer days. As a result, Mr. Holtmann's solar setup may never pay for itself."

Attempting to defend the changes, Michael Picker, president of the California Public Utilities Commission, said "People want choices, they want customized services...and how do you make that fair to everybody, because not everybody is moving as adopters at the same pace?"

This narrative effectively blames early adopters of solar energy as the ones who were being unfair. However, future adopters of rooftop solar were not the source of the complaint. It was the utilities and ALEC, the Koch brothers' legislative action organization, that have attempted—in some cases successfully—to paint solar customers as "unfair" in order to undermine net metering in states across the nation.

Regulators in California at least refrained from doing away with net metering altogether, but they made several big changes, one of them being pulling a rate schedule switch on hundreds of thousands of existing solar customers. This particular change was at best a questionable interpretation of the letter of the law, and it was certainly contrary to the spirit of the requirement in AB 327—the legislation that allowed the commission to make a number of changes to residential rates, including net metering compensation—to grandfather existing solar customers to allow a fair payback.

The California Solar Initiative doled out \$3 billion of subsidies for 3 billion watts of solar panels on customer roofs, with the goal of reducing the cost and scaling up the rooftop solar market in California. Participating customers kicked in about \$15 billion of their own money.

PG&E's big switch is unfair punishment of people who were following the state's energy and climate policies, volunteering to be leaders in helping to bring in new green technology, to help lower the cost and make solar energy more affordable for everyone else. We have seen similar abuse in Europe, punishing many people who dared to invest in solar energy, with payment cuts and retroactive solar taxes, and tens of thousands of solar installers callously thrown out of work as their punishment for bringing down the cost of solar by 50% to 75% over the past decade.

It is probably not a coincidence that this blowback arrives just as solar starts to get competitive with other energy sources.



Our Resilient Coast

On September 15, FEMA Region IX, the NOAA Office for Coastal Management, the California Coastal Commission, the California State Coastal Conservancy, and USC Sea Grant hosted a Coastal Resilience Workshop at the SLO County Vets Hall.

"Coastal resilience" has become a watchword for agencies and elected officials, to whom has fallen the task of essentially opening the second front in the struggle to curb climate change: Efforts to slash carbon emissions must continue and rapidly increase, but they must also prepare for the impacts that are now baked in the cake by current levels of atmospheric carbon – including sea level rise and storms of increasing frequency and intensity — and factor them into hazard mitigation planning,



This won't cut it The seawalls of Pismo Beach – and the idea of coastal development in the path of rising seas – have no future.

flood risk management, adaptation and land use planning.

As part of FEMA Region IX's Open Pacific Coast Study, federal, state, and

local partners are collaborating to convene interactive RiskMAP Resilience workshops the length of the California coast to learn more about the risks and hazards facing coastal communities, and share best available tools and resources.

At the workshop, participants from SLO county and city governments, local, state, and federal agencies, non-governmental organizations and academic institutions learned about the alignment of state and federal processes, models for considering flooding and sea level rise in Hazard Mitigation Plans and Local Coastal Programs, available federal and state resources that can support risk reduction, best practices from local community stakeholders who are leveraging resources to support resilience-building actions, and how to develop partnerships with federal and state agencies.



Governor Signs Key Climate Bills into Law

State sends strong signal of unwavering determined to address our most critical issue

On September 8, Governor Jerry Brown signed two linked bills that are designed to ensure that California continues moving forward on its commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

One of the bills, Senate Bill 32, by Senator Fran Pavley, codifies California's goal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 40 percent below 1990 levels by 2030. That bill follows on Pavley's 2006 legislation, Assembly Bill 32, which established California's commitment to addressing climate change.

A second bill, Assembly Bill 197, by Assemblymember Eduardo Garcia, double joined to SB 32, establishes greater opportunities for the legislature to be part of the California Air Resources Board's decision making on climate regulations. It also ensures more—and more transparent—reporting about emissions around the state, and requires the agency to consider the social costs of climate pollution when adopting rules.

(Double-joined bills require that both bills pass and get signed into law before either bill becomes effective.)

"The Governor's signing lays to rest the claim by the oil industry and other regulated entities that California's commitment to climate action is ephemeral, an artifact of a former legislative body," said Kathryn Phillips, Director of Sierra Club California. "California is fully committed for the long term to reducing the greenhouse gas pollution that is creating climate disruption worldwide. Nearly every legislative district in the state is feeling climate disruption's effects already."

Senate Pro Tem Kevin de Leon, Speaker Anthony Rendon, Senator Fran Pavley, Assemblymember Eduardo Garcia, and all the legislators who, with their votes, passed the legislation, and Governor Brown, who signed these bills, will be among those listed in history books as the heroes who bucked special interests and acted when action was most needed.

California Ocean and Coastal Amateur Photography Contest Announces 2016 Winners

The winners of the California Ocean & Coastal Amateur Photography Contest have been selected, and out of a pool of 700 photos, the first place winner is Los Osos resident Gary O'Neill for his close-up picture of crashing waves that he entitled "Ocean's Power."

He captured the shot using a long camera lens as he sat on a bluff near the Piedras Blancas Light Station, where he volunteers as a tour guide.

Mr. O'Neill retired to Los Osos with his wife after an agricultural career in the Central Valley, and is a member of several local camera clubs.

The judges also awarded 16 honorable mentions — check them out along with all the winners at mycoastalphoto.com.

The California Coastal Commission coordinates the contest with the Thank You Ocean Campaign and provides financial support from the Whale Tail License Plate Fund.



CCA

continued from page 1

half, has resisted every one of the giant utility's multi-million dollar attempts to kill it.

Instead of the utility model of coal, gas or nuclear-generated electricity sent over long-distance transmission lines from a power plant to a substation, Community Choice ultimately means renewable energy and local energy generation, a model that has now overtaken nuclear power in terms of megawatt-hour generation globally. A Community Choice program can replace Diablo Canyon's contributions to both the energy grid and the economy, and do so more sustainably, safely, and with genuinely clean power.

It's good that our elected officials are now saying — as we have been saying for years — that we must start to plan for a post-Diablo economy, but their follow-up tends to consist of generic economic nostrums. We're happy to remind any forgetful Supervisors that, in fact, they started to plan for that future exactly one year ago when they approved the County's participation in a regional feasibility study for Community Choice Energy, along with Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties (see "On October 6, Help the County Make the Right Choice," Oct., 2015). In February, every city in SLO County opted in to the feasibility study.

Long before, in a Viewpoint printed in the December 3, 2008, edition of the *Tribune*, Santa Lucia Chapter Chair Karen Merriam wrote that the state's Community Choice law in combination with California's other recent clean energy bills had "the potential to create a huge new market for renewable energy."

Eight years later, San Diego's fledgling Community Choice program has planted the flag for shifting to 100 percent renewable energy (read all about the precedent-setting plan in "The 100 Percent Clean

Energy Economy is Closer Than You Think" in the May/June issue of *Sierra*), and twenty California counties are in some phase of evaluation of a Community Choice program. Less than a year after starting their Community Choice Energy program, Marin Clean Energy customers were already reducing their annual greenhouse gas emissions by approximately 70,000 tons, the equivalent of removing nearly 12,000 cars from the road each year, and 27% of all their energy was coming from renewable resources. Sonoma Clean Energy saved its residents and businesses \$13.6 million in its first year of operation. Programs in Alameda, Humboldt and Santa Clara are scheduled launch in early 2017.

On its website, SLO Clean Energy notes that Community Choice Energy means "rate savings, local buildout through energy efficiency, feed-in-tariffs, and municipal projects," all of which adds up to "careers that are fulfilling, financially rewarding, can sustain families, and build a stronger more prosperous community."

Santa Barbara County Energy Choice puts it simply: "CCE creates a competitive market place, spurring innovation that benefits energy customers."

So no surprise that SLO Clean Energy editorialized in the *Tribune* in 2013 that a "Post-Diablo future need not be grim." The ability of Community Choice to "provide long-term electrical rate stability, local reinvestment of electricity revenues, local renewable energy and local jobs," they wrote, meant it should be incorporated into the Board of Supervisors' decision to "start planning for the day when, sooner or later, the Diablo Canyon nuclear power plant will no longer be with us."

Those pivotal moments were made possible by the fact that in 2010, thanks to the Sierra Club, the update

"Community Choice Energy: What Is the Local Economic Impact?," a case study prepared for policy makers in San José by Fosterra Clean Energy Consulting and released last month, found that "local economic benefit is directly correlated with local renewable energy investment. Under the scenario with the highest level of local solar deployment, this report projects more than 12,000 jobs will be created regionally from CCE activity, with an associated \$1.25 billion of incremental economic activity over six years, from 2018 to 2023. Using current deployment percentages by jurisdiction, San José could realize \$425 million of the total estimated economic impact within the city itself." (<http://climateprotection.org/community-choice-energy-local-economic-impact/>)

of the County's General Plan included a detailed strategy to "evaluate CCA for the ability to develop local energy resources," and the County's adoption of a Climate Action Plan a year later that, thanks to the Sierra Club, included the provision that the County "will consider developing a community choice aggregation program with the incorporated cities of San Luis Obispo County to procure up to 50 percent of the region's electricity use from renewable sources by 2020."

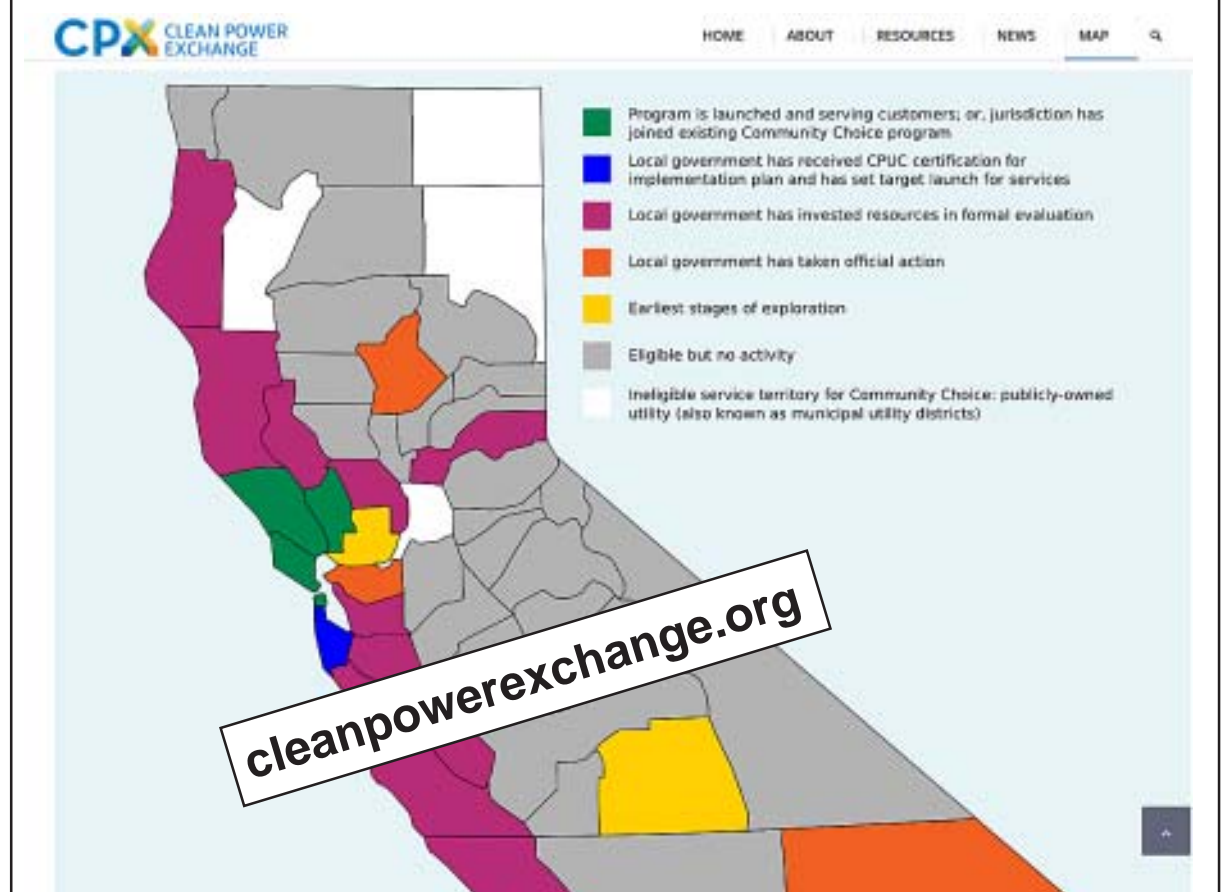
Central Coast Power

Following the County's vote to join Santa Barbara and Ventura in funding a Community Choice Energy feasibility study last October, regional governments formed Central Coast Power, a consortium dedicated to empowering our community with the choice of how and where our electricity is created and enhancing the sustainability and economic vitality of the tri-county region. All 27 jurisdictions in the tri-county area served by PG&E and Southern California Edison are included in the feasibility study. An

California CCA: An Interactive Map

This map shows the evolving development of Community Choice in California. It includes information for all 58 counties and all 482 incorporated cities in the state. The colors (in our on line edition) represent one of six levels of program development, in addition to those that are ineligible because they are served by a municipal public utility or Irrigation District.

To learn about the progress of Community Choice, go to cleanpowerexchange.org/california-community-choice/ and click on any county and its respective cities. Note that most counties have a mixed composition of program development among their cities. Each county is assigned the color that represents the level corresponding to most of the county. Click on the cities for more detail.



cleanpowerexchange.org

After the Starfish Are Gone*

By Judith Bernstein

Farewell to glorious purple arms
(And burnt orange, yellow, crimson).
Farewell to crabs, anemones, tight-lipped mussels.

Still waves, though acidic, will roll in
Sands spit, blow holes blow
And children with pails and shovels
Will build castles of sand.

When is a forest not a forest?
When millions have died of drought,
Beetles, fragmentation.
When pine trees and junipers have gone
The way of the dodo (soon to be joined
By panda, panther, polar bear).
Another question: if 66 million trees fall
And there is no one to bear witness,
Are they really gone?

But palm trees may thrive in northern tropics
And perhaps tall saguaro cacti will replace
Towering redwoods and douglas firs,
Parrots occupy woods where owls once flew.

And yet.
For us who remember, a void, an absence,
Ghosts.
Is Earth, bereft of half its species,
Still our planet, our home?

* On learning that in the next half century, 50% of all species alive today could be extinct and that 66 million trees in California forests are dead or dying

Classifieds

Next issue deadline is **October 16**. To get a rate sheet or submit your ad and payment, contact: Sierra Club, P.O. Box 15755, San Luis Obispo, CA 93406 or sierraclub8@gmail.com

SLO Swap-O-Rama-Rama 2016
 November 12th,
 Guild Hall (Formerly Grange Hall)
 2880 Broad St, San Luis Obispo
 1:00-5:00pm

This internationally known event encourages community recycling of unwanted clothing through artistic reuse. The event will include various do-it-yourself workshops including: basic sewing, repurposing a T-shirt, a children's craft table and more. Each workshop will be taught by local artists. The event is sponsored by Soul & Oak, a business that offers home craft and tea parties for individuals and businesses. All proceeds will go to support the Santa Lucia Chapter of the Sierra Club.

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CONVENE – COLLABORATE – ACT

The 3-day **Deep Ecology Collaboratory** takes place October 21-23, 2016 at the Rancho El Chorro Conference and Retreat Center, which sits on a beautiful 250-acre nature reserve in the heart of San Luis Obispo County. Participants will address the biodiversity crisis, overpopulation, and globalization through the lens of Deep Ecology principles.

Topic Leaders Include:
Robert Gifford – professor at University of Victoria, BC Canada, environmental psychology researcher
Matt Ritter – author, editor, and professor of botany at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, CA
Derick Jensen – author of *Deep Green Resistance: Strategy to Save the Planet*
Stephanie Mills – lecturer, activist, and author of *Whatever Happened to Ecology?*
Dave Foreman – activist, author, and co-founder of Earth First! and The Wildlands Project
Eileen Crist – educator, author of *Images of Animals*, and editor of *Gala in Turmoil*
William Ryerson – founder and President of the Population Media Center
Joe Bish – Director of Issue Advocacy at Population Media Center
Jerry Mander – Program Director at the Foundation for Deep Ecology
Bill McKibben – author, educator and founder of 350.org
Kelly Sorenson – Executive Director of Ventana Wildlife Society

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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. 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, 549-0355. For information on a specific outing, please call the listed outing leader.

Sat., Oct. 8th, 9 a.m. Stenner Springs Trail to West Cuesta Ridge. Moderate fall hike, 9 miles rt and 2,400 ft. gain, near SLO. We will take the Stenner Springs Trail to Shooter's Trail to West Cuesta Ridge, looping around Morning Glory Trail, all with great views of Cal Poly and valley to the coast. Possibility of poison oak. Bring water, snacks or lunch, and dress in layers for weather. Meet at end of Stenner Springs Rd, the first right turn past Highland Dr when leaving SLO north on Hwy One. Leader: Chuck Tribbey, 441-7597.

Sun., Oct. 9th, 2 p.m. Historic Walk: SLO's Secret Past. A guided exploratory stroll to discover the original site of the Mission, the 1860s stagecoach stop, home of SLO's first millionaire, the last remaining city gas light, and other hidden landmarks in the historic core of San Luis Obispo. Duration about 1 1/2 hrs. Meet at NW corner of Nipomo and Dana Sts. Leader: Joe Morris, 549-0355.

Sat., Oct. 15th, 9:30 a.m. Guadalupe/Paradise Beach. Moderate, six-mile hike along pristine Guadalupe Beach to Mussel Rock and beyond. Duration about 5-6 hrs. Bring water, lunch, windbreaker,

hat, and dress in layers for varying weather. Eats afterward for those interested. From Hwy 101 in Santa Maria, take Main St./Hwy 166 to end at Guadalupe Beach. Meet near interpretive signs and picnic tables. Rain cancels. Leader: Andrea Ortiz, 264-4527 or kenya683@msn.com.

Sun., Oct. 16th, 10 a.m. Eagle Rock Trekking-Pole Hike. Two-mile trekking-pole hike, 400 ft. elevation gain, to demonstrate effective use of trekking poles. Meet at Eagle Rock trailhead by going to locked gate past Botanical Gardens, across Hwy 1 from Cuesta College, in parking lot to left. In summer, there may be a small admission fee. Leader: David Georgi, 458-5575 or hikingpoles@gmail.com.

Sat.-Wed., Oct. 15th-19th Panamint City Backpack and Backcountry Cabin Assessment. Backpack to assist in assessing state of backcountry cabins in Death Valley Nat. Park. Not a beginning backpack. Meet Saturday evening at Chris Wickt camp and backpack up Surprise Canyon to Panamint City on Sunday. Monday and Tuesday, we work with NP volunteer to examine condition of cabins. If we finish early, time to explore this interesting historical area. There is water in the canyon, but it requires a hike to get it and it must be filtered before

drinking. Be prepared to carry all food and equipment you need for the trip as well as some of the tools we will be using. Contact Leader: Kate Allen, kj.allen96@gmail.com or 661-944-4056. CNRCC Desert Committee.

Sat., Oct. 22nd, 9 a.m. Driving Tour Along Santa Rita Rd., Templeton to Cayucos. This field trip visits one of the most beautiful SLO County areas on a road following a gentle, winding cliff draining toward the Salinas River, leading to the ridge top, then continuing to Whale Rock Reservoir at Cayucos. A profusion of fall color should be out enroute, and plants endemic to this area will be identified and discussed. For carpooling, meet at Santa Rosa Park in SLO at 8:30 a.m. Tour starts 9 a.m. from Trader Joe's parking lot, at Vineyard Drive off Hwy 101. Tour will last about 3 hours.

Sat., Oct. 22nd, 9 a.m. Reservoir Canyon Exploration. Seven-mile hike, 1700 ft gain to Reservoir Canyon summit for great views, then traversing ridge to a secret spot for snack, finally descending canyon for return trip to trailhead. Bring water, snack/lunch, non-slip shoes, and dress for the weather. Trailside poison oak may be present. Meet at Reservoir Canyon trailhead at end of Reservoir Canyon Rd. More

information, contact Leader: Gary Felsman, 473-3694. Rain, threat of rain, or rain previous day cancels hike.

Sat.-Sun., Oct. 22nd-23rd. Death Valley Area Ghost Town Extravaganza. Celebrate Halloween with desert ghosts of California's past, camping near historic ghost town of Ballarat. Saturday hike led by historian Hal Fowler to Lookout City ghost town, returning to camp for Happy Hour and potluck feast, then a midnight visit to Ballarat graveyard. Sunday tour of Ballarat town itself before departure. Send \$8 per person, check payable to Leader: Lygeia Gerard, P.O. Box 721039, Pinon Hills, CA 92372. Phone: 760-868-2179. Mojave Group/CNRCC Desert Committee.


Tues., Oct. 25th, 10 a.m. Los Osos Reserve Native Plant Walk. Scenic, 1.5 mile, 75 ft. gain, walk under canopy of ancient oaks to learn of local native plants. Meet in parking lot of Los Osos Oaks Reserve, on Los Osos Valley Rd, across from Eto Rd. Leader: Vicki Marchenko, 528-5567 or vmarchenko57@gmail.com.

Sat., Oct. 29th, 8:30 a.m. Trout Creek to Stony Creek Meadow. Strenuous, twelve-mile hike, 1500 ft. gain, along Trout Creek and Stony Creek drainage. Some poison oak likely

trailside. Please note: trailhead is about 6.5 miles from Pozo Ranger Station, on a dirt road rough in places that requires high-clearance vehicles. We will meet in Santa Margarita in from of Pacific Beverage Company. Extreme heat or rain will postpone trip to another weekend. Leader: Carlos Diaz-Saavedra, 546-0317.



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.




The Sierra Club Needs You!

Become an Outings Leader

- Lead hikes and camping trips
- Introduce others to nature
- Explore the outdoors
- Make new friends
- Protect the environment
- Get healthy exercise

For further information contact:

Joe Morris, Outings Chair
Sierra Club, Santa Lucia Chapter
(805) 549-0355
djp1942@earthlink.net



John Muir, founder of the Sierra Club, in Yosemite

Activities sponsored by other organizations

Sat., Oct. 8, 1:30pm-2:30 p.m. Backyard Bee Keeping.

Learn about backyard beekeeping with local Sue Hulsmann. Meet live bees in a closed observation hive, and learn all about the process of keeping a healthy, happy hive. Info at slobg.org/bee. San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden, 3450 Dairy Creek Rd. Cost: \$5 for Garden members / \$10 for public. 805-541-1400 x303.



Sun., Oct. 9, 1-3:30 p.m. Kids' Garden Fresh Cooking Class.

Kids learn how to grow, harvest and cook with seasonal produce straight from the Children's Garden! Join Cal Poly Health Ambassadors and learn how delicious good food can be. Info and registration at slobg.org/kids-cooking. San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden, 3450 Dairy Creek Rd. Cost: \$5 for Garden members / \$10 for public. 805-541-1400 x303.

Tues., Oct. 25, 12-2 p.m. Succulent Pumpkin Workshop.

Learn how to make your own festive succulent-topped pumpkin for the holidays. All materials are provided and bring one home to enjoy! Info at slobg.org/pumpkin. San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden, 3450 Dairy Creek Rd. \$45 for Garden members / \$50 for public. 805-541-1400 x303.



Island Hopping in Channel Islands National Park

Oct. 23-25. Join us for a 3-day, 3-island, live-aboard cruise to the Channel Islands. Hike windswept trails bordered with blazing wildflowers. Kayak rugged coastlines. Snorkel in pristine waters teeming with colorful fish. Swim with frolicking seals and sea lions. Look for unusual sea and land birds. Watch for the endangered island fox. Or just relax at sea!

All cruises depart from Santa Barbara. \$650 cost includes an assigned bunk, all meals, snacks and beverages plus the services of a naturalist-docent assigned by the national park to help lead hikes, point out items of interest and give evening program. For more information, contact leader: Joan Jones Holtz; 626-443-0706; jholtzhl@aol.com.

To hold a reservation, mail a \$100 check to Sierra Club, and send to Joan Jones Holtz, 11826 The Wye St., El Monte, CA 91732.



CEQA

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state is doing a poor job in creating sufficient housing for those most in need, and that is almost certainly true. But what it shows is that even states with very weak environmental regulations do no better in addressing the need. It is misleading to argue that removing environmental review for affordable housing would inevitably

increase housing supply. Moreover, all communities – including the least advantaged among us – deserve robust environmental protections where they live. Governor Brown's proposal to eliminate environmental review for affordable housing projects is therefore extremely misguided.

This report also shows clearly that there is no litigation crisis under CEQA. Fewer than one percent of

all projects that go through the environmental review process are confronted with litigation. The number of CEQA lawsuits filed each year has remained stable since 2002. Given the state's tremendous population growth over that same period, the fact that the number of such lawsuits has not seen a corresponding increase is notable.

Whatever developers say about the high cost of completing an Environmental

Impact Report, these expenses are a tiny fraction of build-out costs. Four case studies in the report, CEQA in the 21st Century, show that the cost of preparing an EIR ranges from 0.025%-0.5% of a project's build-out.

CEQA may be a convenient bogeyman for developers and others, but the data simply do not bear out the argument that it is a major factor in development or economic patterns in California.

LA COSTA GRILL

Happy Hour 4-6PM

Ta Corona

\$2.50 EACH

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(next to Arroyo Grande Post Office) www.costagrill.com

In Deepest Borneo

At our Sept. 21 general meeting, retired Cal Poly Professor Randy Knight enthralled the audience at the SLO City Library with his slide presentation of his 2011 trip to Borneo with the Sierra Club's National Outings program, the program's first venture into Borneo.

In addition to showing us some of the most beautiful rainforest preserves on earth and the amazing diversity of wildlife, Randy delivered a sobering message of deforestation from hardwood logging and palm oil plantations, located just behind a "beauty screen" lining the banks of Borneo's rivers to keep the devastation out of sight of tourists.

For info on the Club's global destinations, go to sierraclub.org/outings/adventure-travel.

