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Chapter

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



Bring the Outrage

Attention Oceano, Guadalupe, Nipomo Mesa: The fight for your lives is about to happen at the Coastal Commission's meeting in Cambria

On July 9, the SLO Tribune printed an editorial headlined with the following question: "Nipomo Mesa has some of the dirtiest air in the nation. So where's the outrage?"

The editorial followed the issuance of a Notice of Violation of Rule 1001 — aka the Dust Rule — to State Parks' Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division by a fed-up SLO Air Pollution Control District the previous month. The OHMVR Division was found to be failing to implement agreed-upon measures for dust control at the Oceano Dunes and actively hindering air quality monitoring.

Sometime between September 13 and 15 (go to www.coastal.ca.gov and click on "Meetings," then "Monthly Agenda"), the OHMVR Division will be applying to the Coastal Commission for a Coastal Development Permit (CDP) for a five-year dust control plan at the Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area. Both the SLO APCD and the California Air Resources Board have pronounced the plan inadequate to solve the problem. Judging by Coastal staff's comments on the plan's Environmental Impact Report (see "On the Threshold of Insignificance," May), it is likely to be a lively permit hearing.

The solution to the problem was laid out by the SLO APCD in an August 7 letter to the Coastal Commission. The relevant text is worth reprinting in full:

"... We believe the type and general locations of dust control measures described by OHMVR in their CDP application and analyzed through the EIR is broad enough and provides sufficient flexibility to allow the Coastal Commission to grant the permit with the following important caveats:

1. The boundary of the proposed dust mitigation project area (Figures 2.8 and 2.9 in OHMVR's CDP application) contains a substantial setback from shore and excludes some northern riding areas. Such boundary limits preclude some of the most emissive areas in the ODSVRA from consideration for dust controls, as shown in OHMVR's own emissivity studies and on the CARB emissions modeling map (Attachment 1). Such exclusions are inappropriate without scientific evidence or modeling that demonstrates controls in these areas are not needed to

protect public health. Thus, the proposed project area should not exclude any highly emissive areas from consideration as possible locations for dust control.

2. The amount of mitigation proposed to be installed in a given year (40 acres of wind fencing and 20 acres of vegetation) is a self-imposed constraint by OHMVR that may not allow them to meet compliance with the emission reduction requirements of Rule 1001. Thus, the Commission approval process should consider the ability to install, in any given year, any amount of dust mitigation shown to be necessary by the CARB modeling and the APCD-approved PMRP, provided it complies with Coastal Commission requirements.

3. Studies conducted by the Desert Research Institute (DRI), under contract to OHMVR, have shown that vegetation is the most effective method of dust control; it is 90% - 99% effective at reducing sand flux, and is also the least costly control method over time, providing permanent rather than seasonal emission reductions. OHMVR's proposal to plant most of the new vegetation outside the riding areas is contrary to the data from the comprehensive scientific field studies performed by DRI at the ODSVRA, which clearly show the riding areas to be far more emissive than the non-riding areas (Attachment 2).

Planting vegetation outside the riding areas would be substantially less effective in reducing dust emissions than planting within the riding areas, especially in the most emissive riding area zones. To protect public health in the most timely and cost-effective manner, all

vegetation planting for dust control should occur within the most emissive riding areas shown in Attachments 2 and 3.

4. In addition to the wind fencing arrays proposed in the CDP application, the list of appropriate dust control measures in the permit should also include the ability to simply install perimeter fencing around certain highly emissive "hot spots..." The temporary perimeter fencing installed around the Snowy Plover Enclosure to prohibit riding in that area during the nesting season appears to be highly effective at reducing sand transport while it's in place. Such fencing could be installed quickly and cheaply in specific high emission zones and begin providing dust relief while more comprehensive control measures were under development."

The one thing the Coastal Commission must *not* do is hand State Parks a permit for their proposed program as is, allowing the OHMVR Division to continue to proclaim they are making eternal "progress" toward a goal with no sign of ever getting there.

TAKE ACTION

Come to the Coastal Commission's ODSVRA Dust Control permit hearing at the Cambria Pines Lodge on the hearing date and fill out a speaker slip for that item. Tell the Commissioners not to issue State Parks a Coastal Development Permit unless it includes the four provisions specified by the Air Pollution Control District. Prior to the meeting, email comments to kevinkhan@coastal.ca.gov.

The meeting will begin at 9 a.m.

Our Silent Assemblyman

On the Oceano Dunes, Senator Monning and Assemblyman Cunningham are a study in contrasts

In its July 9 editorial on the outrageous ongoing failure to clean up the air on the Nipomo Mesa, *The Tribune* called out the local elected officials who have been the least helpful in that effort: County Supervisors Lynn Compton and Debbie Arnold, and Pismo Beach Mayor Ed Waage.

Assemblyman Jordan Cunningham is apparently applying to be added to that list.

The editorial asked two pertinent questions:

"What about our two state lawmakers, Assemblyman Jordan Cunningham and Sen. Bill Monning? Have they demanded action? They could play a crucial role in ensuring State Parks follows through and, if necessary, in securing funds to make sure dust control measures are in place as soon as possible."

We can shed some light on those questions.

SILENT continued on page 5

Trump is Attacking the Central Coast

Tell the SLO City Council to fight back

The Santa Lucia Chapter of the Sierra Club is working with the Center for Biological Diversity to urge the San Luis Obispo City Council to pass a resolution calling on the Trump administration to halt new oil and gas drilling off our coast and ban fracking and other "well stimulation" techniques in existing offshore wells.

When President Trump signed Executive Order 13795 last April "implementing an America-First Offshore Energy Strategy," his intent was clear:

- End-run the Marine Mammal Protection Act and rewrite the current scientific understanding of the effect of loud underwater sound



The Trump Effect On June 29, the Santa Lucia Chapter and Los Padres ForestWatch hosted a town hall event at the SLO City Library on the Trump administration's assault on national monuments and national marine sanctuaries. Saying "I'm here exercising my First Amendment rights while I have them," P.J. Webb zeroed in on the fact that the primary thing the targeted sanctuaries are being reviewed for is "lost opportunity costs" — the dollar value of the oil and gas not allowed to be extracted from sanctuary waters. "And that's all they're looking at. The economic benefits of marine sanctuaries is not something they're paying attention to."

on marine mammals in order to expedite permits for offshore oil seismic surveys that can emit underwater sound at levels above 200 decibels.

- Prepare a rule "suspending, revising or rescinding" the current rule protecting the Arctic from offshore drilling.
- Reconsider the Well Control Rule, mandating the use of effective blowout preventer systems, and a host of other regulations in the name of easing "unnecessary regulatory burdens."
- And perhaps most ominously of all for California: "Conduct a review of all designations and expansions of National Marine Sanctuaries, and of all designations and expansions of Marine National Monuments under the Antiquities Act of 1906...designated or expanded within the 10-year period prior to the date of this order."

California has four National Marine Sanctuaries. All ban oil and gas drilling, and all have undergone some form of expansion or boundary change over the last ten years.

Cities the length of the California coast are waking up to the need to stand up

TRUMP continued on page 5

50th Anniversary Chapter Celebration Committee

The Sierra Club is 125, and the Santa Lucia Chapter is turning 50! If you enjoy planning fun parties, lining up great entertainment, signing up sponsors and auction items, and preparing historical documents to show off the accomplishments of the Santa Lucia Chapter over the past 50 years, get on board now for a fabulous year of celebration in 2018. We need many hands to make a successful event. We need *you*. Call Karen at 440-2714.

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www.sierraclub.org/santa-lucia



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Sierra Club General Meeting

Climate Change: How Can We Change?
Wed., Sept. 20, 5:30-7 p.m.
 with Professor Lars Tomanek

While it seems at times an overwhelming challenge to solve the problems we've caused for our home planet, there are ways each individual can contribute to the solutions.

Dr. Lars Tomanek will introduce some of these solutions — technical and social — in the context of the scientific bases of the problems. By starting to tell the story of who we are as the species now in charge of planet Earth, we will be more successful in telling a motivating story for the future of generations to come.

Dr. Tomanek is Professor of Biology at Cal Poly. His research has focused on the environmental stress of marine organisms to help predict how climate change will affect their ecology. He has published over thirty research papers, co-authored the textbook "Biochemical Adaptation: Responses to Environmental Challenges from Life's Origins to the Anthropocene," and received several major research awards from the National Science Foundation.

*Meets at Ascendo Coffee, 974 Monterey Street, SLO.
 Free. For more info, contact: Bill Waycott, 459-2103.*



We have a new host for our bi-monthly member meetings: Ascendo Coffee, 974 Monterey Street, SLO, courtesy of owner Jonathan Stauf.

Meetings will be held the 3rd Wednesday every other month, from 5:30-7:30, beginning September 20, 2017. Ascendo will continue to serve beverages

and baked goods until 6pm as we have time to get together informally. After 6pm, the space is dedicated to our Chapter program.

All community members are welcome. We will leave Ascendo by 7:30pm.

We look forward to welcoming you to these informative meetings.

Activists: Just Like People, Only Organized

by Andrew Christie, Chapter Director

Once upon a time, we sent out an e-mail alert about a local proposed development project that would have had severe environmental impacts. We let the folks on our e-mail list know it was coming, what hearings were scheduled, and contact information for key elected officials.

We mentioned something about opportunities that would arise over the next few months to engage in the activism necessary to defeat the project.

This was a few years ago and I'm obviously hazy on the details, but I'll never forget one of the responses we got, from a gentleman who wished to inform us that he and his wife were deeply insulted at the implication that they would have any interest in being activists or engaging in any activity so disreputable as activism.

I was reminded of that gentleman's complaint as the Phillips 66 oil train terminal project approached its climactic denial at the SLO County Board of Supervisors last year — the climax of a drumbeat that began with the recommendation for denial by County Planning staff, followed by eight meetings of the Planning Commission that concluded with a vote to deny the permit, followed by the appeal of that denial to the supervisors — the project's most striking feature became ever more apparent: This was the most opposed land use proposal in the County's history.

To the casual observer, that may have seemed inevitable. The project would involve the Union Pacific main line, passing through the heart of dozens of communities virtually the length of the state. And for all those cities, counties and school districts facing the prospect of devastating derailments, spills, explosions and toxic emissions coming their way, there was only one permitting entity to whom they could voice their urgent dismay: the County of San Luis Obispo.

Hence, letters poured into SLO County from all over the state: dozens of city councils, county boards of supervisors and school boards pleaded with the

planners, commissioners and supervisors not to let this project happen to their communities. Additional comments from more than 20,000 individuals — a county record — overwhelmingly urging denial, were logged by the County Planning Department.

At the final Planning Commission hearing, a well-meaning commissioner was horrified by the project and appalled by the attempts of several of his fellow commissioners to wave away its potential impacts and turn a blind eye to the County's planning standards.

He also said: "Sometimes the 'public' is a special interest group with an agenda. Sometimes the 'public' is a group of neighbors. Sometimes the 'public' is just that. The public."

And: "These are not special interest groups. These are our fellow Californians."

And: "After tossing out the special interest group form letters and the nimbys, what remains is the balance of the citizens of this county who are not special interests or nimbys. They, and the people of the counties and cities represented by the letters we received from city councils and supervisors all up and down the Union Pacific Line."

He had decided one category of resistance was populated by people, and another category, the toss-out category, was populated by "special interest" activists and nimbys (aka neighbors).

And he seemed to believe that all those elected officials and school board members around the state rolled out of bed one morning and said "Hey, I think I shall do some research to determine if there's an oil train terminal being proposed in SLO County and if there is, I'm going to oppose it."

Nope. Activists did that. Up and down the state and all over this county, we fanned out and wrote, called, and met with those mayors, councils, supervisors and superintendents, testified at public meetings, and supplied draft resolu-

Local Sierra Club Membership Hits Record High

Thanks to a surge in new members, our chapter has recorded an all-time high in membership of 2,900 members in SLO County! This encourages our efforts to protect and preserve our precious environment. "This is one record high we can be excited about," said Karen Merriam, Chapter Chair of our local Santa Lucian Sierra Club. There truly is strength in numbers!

We wish we could personally thank each new member for joining. We value each and every member, new or otherwise. We encourage all of you to take full advantage of your membership by coming to events, going on outings, participating in letter writing opportunities and volunteering on campaigns. You can learn more about how to get involved and make a difference by checking out the website at www.sierraclub.org/santa-lucia or calling the Sierra Club office at 805-543-8717.

tions and statements of opposition. We laid the facts before local officials and let them know how to make their voices heard. In the South County, the Mesa Refinery Watch Group built a local organizing entity seemingly overnight that mobilized the Nipomo Mesa community.

We held community meetings, maintained contact lists, tabled at events, leafleted, knocked on doors, and made the project a constant presence on social media.

All of us were up against one of the nation's largest oil companies, their retained public relations pros, and tactics that included giving staff and managers at Phillips' Nipomo refinery multiple days off and putting them on busses to hearings of city councils, the county planning commission and board of supervisors, and putting up websites falsely touting editorial support from *New Times* and *The Tribune* ("See Phillips 66 PR Gets Fact Checked," Jan. 2016).

We organized because we knew that's what needed to be done to prevail against the project.

That's also why the Center for Biological Diversity, Communities for a Better Environment, STAND.org, Surfrider and the Sierra Club, after challenging the Phillips project every step of the way through the administra-

tive process, went on to intervene in the lawsuit the oil company promptly filed against the County for denying it a project permit. We're raising the funds needed to continue to fight Phillips in court.

That well-meaning planning commissioner chose to believe that the massive opposition to the project from cities, counties and school districts had sprung like Venus from the brow of Zeus and was therefore worth paying attention to, whereas thousands of people who put their names on the same postcard opposing the project or came to SLO to rally and testify against it were to be ignored — because that, clearly, was the work of activists.

Charles Pierce, in an August 6 essay for *Esquire* — "It All Begins With the People in the Streets" — cited the most prominent recent example of the power of activism on the national stage with a dot-connecting summary of those hair-raising days at the end of July when health care for millions of Americans hung in the balance and a razor-thin vote made the difference between salvation and calamity:

"The primary force driving the events of Thursday night and Friday morning was the energy and (yes) persistence of all those people who swamped town hall meetings, who wrote, or called, or e-mailed various congresscritters to show them what real political pressure felt like. I remember watching town halls in Maine, to which people drove hundreds of miles to tell Susan Collins what they thought. Those people bucked up vulnerable Democratic senators so that Chuck Schumer could count on a united Congress.

"They brought pressure on Republican governors, too. People like Brian Sandoval in Nevada and John Kasich in Ohio were handed put-up-or-shut-up

Any group of people who band together to advocate for something could be called a "special interest group," but some get labelled that way and some do not. What are the selection criteria? That's easy, actually. In conservative politics, the phrase is only used to describe opponents.

- Robyn Benson, Public Service Alliance of Canada

ACTIVISTS continued on page 4

Santa Lucian

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 Marcia Alter (12/19)
 MEMBER

Karen Merriam
 COUNCIL OF CLUB LEADERS

The Executive Committee meets the second Monday of every month at 2:00 p.m. and 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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Las Pilitas Rising



Rejected in 2015 by the Board of Supervisors due to the overwhelming evidence of harms that it would do to the environment and the local community for little or no public benefit (see "Quarry Collapse Saves Town," June 2015), the proposal to develop a massive gravel quarry

behind Santa Margarita is heading back to the County Board of Supervisors.

It's easy to see the sole reason why the Las Pilitas Quarry proponents are coming back now: Frank Mecham's swing vote is gone, replaced by John Peschong's opposite-of-a-swing-vote.

In other words, the majority on the board of supervisors is composed of a clearly delineated hard-right faction that can be counted on to routinely champion industry over the environment and are a good bet to approve a poorly located project that compromises the health, safety, character, and livability of an entire community in the name of private profit.

This time around, project proponents are betting that when they expend the significant sum

required to pay for an environmental review and take their project through the planning process, they can bet on politics, not the facts in the record and requirements of the law, to win the day.

Some may respond to this turn of events by concluding that Santa Margarita is not their back yard, therefore this is not their issue. But even if you don't live in or around Santa Margarita,

the impact from the approval of this project would be felt countywide. All county residents, not just those with the deepest pockets, deserve accountability and representation from our Board of Supervisors. If facts and responsible planning principles take a back seat to political ideology in order to ram Las Pilitas through, this project may not be in your back yard, but no back yard in SLO County will be safe. The precedent set will find its way into your community next.

In the months to come, there will be opportunities to weigh in, whether in written comments on the draft Environmental Impact Report, testimony before the County Planning Commission, or on appeal to the County Board of Supervisors, where project proponents are obviously counting on a bank shot netting them three votes in the corner pocket.

Regime Theory, Take Two

Political scientist Clarence Stone is known as the father of "regime theory," which refers to the close cooperation between local government and private business interests, and the systemic power wielded by landowners and developers – known to sociologists as "the growth elite," accustomed to winning in clashes with coalitions advocating for neighborhood and environmental protections.

You can read about regime theory in a number of academic texts. Or you can just pull up the video of the May 12 [2015] Las Pilitas Quarry appeal hearing archived on the County's website, settle in for eleven hours or so, and behold that theory in action, and a rare instance in which the growth elite couldn't quite pull it off.

You will learn what those who were at that epic all-day hearing know: The people made the system work.

-- from "Quarry Collapse Saves Town,"
Santa Lucian, June 2015

Hi, Social Media and Website Communicators!

We need two or three volunteers skilled in website design and input, Facebook, Instagram and Twitter updates and postings, and folks who have ability and time to learn Salesforce marketing and database management tools available through Sierra Club training programs. This could provide a great addition to your resumé, and/or be a fun way to spend extra time (if you have that). Contact sierraclub8@gmail.com.



Step One Volunteers turned out last November to plant 50 oak seedlings and help Bishop Peak recover from drought-induced tree mortalities.

Folks Helping Oaks

Nature nurturers turned out on July 8 to support the new batch of oak seedlings seeking a foothold on Bishop Peak.

Planted last November in a joint effort by Sierra Club, ECOSLO and the City of San Luis Obispo, most of the plucky young oaks made it through the intervening eight months. Holly Stetteland, Projects Manager for Friends of the Fiscalini Ranch Preserve, reports:

"We had 13 people for the watering party. Even though it was a blistering hot day, we were able to wrap up in 2 hours. We've had a good survival rate – maybe 80%. I removed cages on about six that had outgrown them. I'm going to have a busy October, but I will try to arrange one more watering for that month. Then hopefully we'll get decent rains this winter and they can make it from there. Not exactly pampered, but it should be enough to get to 70% survival, which is respectable."

Docents Wanted



Friends of the Elephant Seal could always use more friends. Volunteer docents meet fascinating creatures on the beach at San Simeon and interesting visitors on the boardwalk, get continuing education, and receive the satisfaction of protecting the seals and helping visitors appreciate them.

Volunteer training dates:

Sat., Sept. 9

Advanced training dates:

Sat., Sept. 23

Sat., Oct. 7

Sat., Oct. 21

For more information, go to www.elephantseal.org, or call 805-924-1628.



photo/Kevin Walsh

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search: "Santa Lucia" and become our friend!

Outings, events, and more!

Save the Date! October 8, 2017....

First Annual City Farm San Luis Obispo--Fall Harvest Festival



Experience the bounty of Autumn and the beauty of San Luis Obispo's City Farm

Purchase organic produce grown onsite by independent farmers and by students at Pacific Beach High School

Meet the farmers and tour their four independent operations
 Participate in planting and harvest activities
 Enjoy fresh farm food and live music

Learn about and support local urban agriculture
 \$5 entrance fee

Sunday October 8 2017, 1:00-5:00 P.M.

Calle Joaquin Agricultural Preserve—1221 Calle Joaquin SLO
 [101 Freeway service road, just north of LOVR]



<http://centralcoastgrown.org>

How to Be a Sustaining Donor

PayPal makes it easy to make an automatic monthly contribution to the Santa Lucia Chapter of the Sierra Club!

Go to sierraclub.org/santa-lucia/donate.

Click on the red Donate button.

Pick your monthly amount -- \$10 \$20 \$35, \$50, other.

Click Donate, and follow the PayPal prompts.

Thank you!
 (Note: Donations are separate from annual membership dues and will not renew your membership.)

Monthly contribution



Is California Leading Our Lead-Free Future?

Not Yet

By Vicki León

Here in California, we try not to feel superior to all those other, less fortunate states, but it's tough. We can't help ourselves. Thus at times we brag about our good fortune. We warble about our stunning scenery, our wilderness areas. We wax poetic about our mostly glorious climate. We revel in our progressive laws protecting the natural environment. Being green, we also pride ourselves on our attention to community health and welfare.

Therefore, it really stings when we're cruelly called on the carpet, as we just were this April.

As a researcher, I'd read copiously about our state's environmental disasters of the past, of course—and written about them. Lessons well learned, I thought. As we all thought.

I regret to report, however, that California still harbors a shocking long-term situation that is just now making headlines.

Our shameful secret? California has its own Flint, Michigan mess. Furthermore, our lead poisoning disaster has been poisoning more children, and damaging them more seriously, than Flint.

The other shock is geographic. Unlike impoverished Flint, the hotspot sources of lead contamination for kids lies in Southern California. The epicenter? The two census tracts of San Marino, a largely wealthy area of vintage Spanish-style residences, where homes reflect real estate values that average over two million dollars. Besides its turn-of-the-century historic housing, San Marino prides itself on promoting healthy lifestyles; in fact, the city doesn't permit fast-food chains.

According to Los Angeles County health data, however, over 17 percent of the young children tested in San Marino showed elevated levels of lead in their blood. To put this figure into perspective: during the height of Flint's water contamination crisis, 5 percent of Flint's youngsters tested that high for lead.

The news gets worse. In 323 neighborhood areas throughout Los Angeles County, more than 15,000 kids ages 6 and under likewise tested in the danger zone for lead poisoning. In 26 of those areas, the rate of elevated lead levels was



High and low Whether in the inner city (left) or enclaves like San Marino (above) the stealthy environmental crisis created by multiple sources of lead amounts to a silent public health crisis equal to or greater than the calamity that struck Flint, Michigan (below).

at least twice that of Flint. (Tests were administered by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health between the years 2011 and 2015.)

Upon learning recently about this crisis, the current mayor of San Marino ordered officials to investigate potential exposure sources. As it turned out, officials were largely unaware of these numbers due to the way in which the data had been gathered.

The new data was generated via an ongoing, nationwide probe by the Reuters news agency, which is investigating hidden lead hazards throughout the U.S. Begun in 2016, the Reuters survey has to date identified over 3,300 at-risk neighborhood areas in communities throughout the nation. Why had the existing lead-burden blood data not been circulated prior to Reuters' work? Why weren't we warned? Why didn't we know about the amount of lead being absorbed by little kids in Los Angeles County and elsewhere?

Reuters' research approach holds the key to these discoveries. Instead of producing broad-brush analysis of child populations across entire counties or even states, their tracking methodology pinpoints communities.

More details have emerged from the data

collected by Reuters. In San Marino, for example, given the age and sheer number of its beautifully kept homes, layers of old lead-based paint are probably the main culprit. (Some 80 percent of



Lead pipe cinch A lead water main in Washington DC

its dwellings are pre-1960, and lead-based paint was not banned until 1978. Other likely sources in San Marino, which has a large Asian population, include imports of food, medicine, and pottery from China that

may contain lead contaminants.)

Are there other culprits that contribute to the lead contamination of children? Yes indeed. One of the most ubiquitous may be home

renovation projects. One statistic suggests that up to one-third of lead poisoning cases can be linked to such activities. In the case of San Marino, its mayor is contemplating the development of ordinances on home renovations. If such ordinances became standard practice in Southern California, this could reduce lead exposure significantly, given L.A. County's population of ten million.

Another factor that exposes small children to dangerous lead levels is the decrepit housing often found in low-income zones, such as those in South L.A. The under-served popula-



tion in poor circumstances also tend to receive less medical care for their children. Doctors do not routinely test kids for lead contamination, although levels clearly show up via a simple blood test. Why, you ask, given our polluted world, and the growing number of nasty and toxic substances that kids need to avoid and evade, is the issue of lead so critical?

Precisely because lead is sneaky. It damages young, growing brains, actually lowering I.Q.'s, causing attention disorders and other problem behaviors. Lead dust from lead paint and other sources is ubiquitous and is readily found on the floor and in the dirt outside the front door. Tiny, nearly invisible particles of lead mix with household dust, coating toys and literally everywhere that toddlers explore

with their hands and mouths.

In a typical household where lead dust is present, in one to six months a child can absorb enough to raise blood-lead levels to a potentially dangerous point. If a toddler plays with (and chews on) a leaded toy for a month or more, he or she should be tested for lead.

Once in your body, lead is reluctant to leave; small amounts get excreted but most of it gravitates to your brain and bones.

All this alarm might seem to be overblown, but when it comes to lead, even a minute amount—especially in children's bodies—is toxic. Unlike some poisons, the harm lead does is irreversible. As the EPA stresses, there is no safe level of lead exposure. None.

As if these toxic items weren't enough of a challenge, infants and small children in Flint faced a further threat: their basic daily necessity, clean drinking water, was lead contaminated. The EPA is now urging all states to develop searchable databases for public use, which identify the homes and buildings that have been tested by utilities and what lead levels they represent. A few



states such as Illinois have already implemented such programs.

Working with our state government and with the Environmental Protection Agency, California can and should lead the way to an "unleaded" nation. To be truly green, we need to ensure that our youngsters grow to adulthood in a lead-free environment. We're going to need all their brainpower to combat the global warming challenges ahead.

Activists

continued from page 2

choices from their constituents. Perhaps the most significant Republican governor was Doug Ducey of Arizona, whom McCain repeatedly said he would consult before voting. Late on Thursday afternoon, Ducey came out strongly against the bill."

Locally, that kind of response to bad proposed projects and policies scored wins against the Phillips 66 oil train terminal and the Las Pilitas Quarry (see page 3). We'll need more of it to beat back the Trump administration's assault on public lands and environmental regulations, and its plans to expand offshore drilling and fracking in California (see page 1), as well as the Trump-inspired majority on our board of supervisors. If we're going to beat back the Las Pilitas Quarry plan (again) and the vast expansion of the Arroyo

Grande Oil Field at the expense of the groundwater, or become part of the energy future of California by establishing a Community Choice Energy program (see page 5), we will need to show those supervisors "what real political pressure feels like."

I commend to the attention of that sincere former planning commissioner—and to that long-ago irate gent, annoyed at receiving an invitation to become an activist to protect his community—the story of the Little Red Hen; she who planted seeds, harvested wheat, milled flour, and baked a loaf of bread, all without the assistance of her barnyard colleagues. It's supposed to teach children lessons about selfishness and sharing. A loaf of bread does not make itself or come out of nowhere. When you benefit from its essential sustenance, you can thank those who made it for you. And when you

pitch in and help, you will earn the fruits of your labor.

And it holds another lesson: While it did not occur to the duck and the pig and the horse that it might be in their interest to help the Little Red Hen make that bread, neither did they voice disapproval of the process of milling and baking. Even if they didn't grasp the connection between the need to make bread in order to eat bread, they were down with the whole bread thing. They did not disparage the concept of bread and bread-making.

I would like to think that in recent months -- since last November, say -- the former planning commissioner and my email interlocutor have had time to reflect on their assumptions and are recalibrating them to fit the world in which we now find ourselves.

Perhaps they've learned that activism is good for you. And in truth, in times like these, it's all we've got.

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Tell SLO: Join 30+ U.S. Cities Committing to 100% Renewable Energy

As the Trump Administration turns its back on clean air and water, cities and local leaders are stepping up to drive the transition to healthy communities and a more vibrant economy powered by renewable energy. More than 30 U.S. cities and towns have now committed to transition entirely to clean and renewable energy, following city council votes establishing 100 percent renewable energy goals.

On May 8, San Luis Obispo Mayor Heidi Harmon signed on to the Sierra Club's "Mayors for Clean Energy" statement, joining 337 mayors across the country who have pledged to uphold the Paris Climate Agreement and "intensify efforts to meet each of our cities' current climate goals, push for new action to meet the 1.5 degrees Celsius target, and work together to create a 21st-century clean energy economy." (See "Where's Your Mayor?," June.)

It was a great first step. Now the City of SLO needs to adopt goals and set a date to get to 100% renewable energy. A good example is close at hand: On June 6, the Santa Barbara City Council approved the establishment of a community-wide goal of transitioning to 100% renewable electricity by 2030.

A Community Choice is Coming

Central Coast Power, the consortium of 27 local governments from Ventura to Monterey that are exploring the feasibility of a tri-county Community Choice Energy program (see "Get Ready, Get Set..." Feb.) has announced the study is completing a comprehensive peer review and will be shared with multiple jurisdictions in mid-September.

The Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors is expected to consider the results of the study on October 3. The study will be presented to other Central Coast jurisdictions after that date.

TAKE ACTION

Go to www.sierraclub.org/ready-for-100 or #ReadyFor100 for everything you need to send an encouraging message to the SLO City Council at emailcouncil@slocity.org



#ActOnClimate | #ReadyFor100

Silent

continued from page 1

A bill currently moving through the legislature – SB 249 – will reauthorize the State Off-Road Motor Vehicle Recreation Program before the current authorization and funding ends on December 31. Senator Monning and his staff have met with the Sierra Club and concerned Nipomo Mesa residents and expressed support for adding language to that bill to resolve the air quality problem at Oceano Dunes and to secure that funding.

In short, to answer *The Tribune's* question, our State Senator has given every indication of going to bat for his constituents on a bill that could literally save their lives. Our State Assemblymember appears to be another story.

On July 11, we wrote to Assemblyman Cunningham, urging him to support the amendment of SB 249 to protect the health of residents in the vicinity of any State Vehicular Recreation Area that is responsible for raising levels of particulate matter beyond state or federal safety standards, especially when

much of that impact falls on low-income minority communities downwind of the facility.

We received a polite acknowledgment of receipt from his district office the following day. The rest is silence.

SB 249 has passed the Senate and its first Assembly committee hearing. If it passes its next hearing, it will come to a vote of the floor of the Assembly by the end of September, hopefully with the necessary language included to finally bring relief to communities that are downwind from the ODSVRA and home to the worst air quality in the nation.

Assemblyman Cunningham is either working to get that crucial language included or he's not. When the bill comes to the floor, he will either vote for it or against it or abstain.

Since he has not been inclined to discuss his views and seems to be in need of encouragement to ensure that SB 249 does the right thing for his constituents, we urge everyone to contact his Sacramento and district offices via the web form and phone numbers at right. We also urge any enter-



Maybe he's just shy. Assemblyman Cunningham needs your encouragement.

prising local reporters to get the Assemblyman's thoughts on the subject.

TAKE ACTION

Contact Assemblyman Jordan Cunningham at <https://ad35.asmrc.org/> or: State Capitol, Suite #4102, Sacramento CA 94249 916-319-2035 or: 444 Higuera, Suite 100, San Luis Obispo CA 93401 805-549-3381.

Coastal Clean Up Sept. 16

Help clean up the coast by volunteering for the 33rd Annual Coastal Cleanup Day. The international cleanup, organized in California by the Coastal Commission and supervised in SLO County by ECOSLO, is held annually on the third Saturday in September. The event runs 9 a.m. to 12 noon on Saturday, September 16. You can choose among 30 different sites in the county, both coastal and inland waters.

Participants are encouraged to bring grocery bags for reuse, a bucket, and gloves. Cleanup sites will have some bags and gloves available. Close-toed shoes are recommended. Remember to bring your reusable water bottle.

Volunteers will pick up debris and track what they find with the provided data cards. Children will enjoy educational information at many of the volunteer check-in tables. The day will show children what they can do to eliminate trash and conserve the environment.

Participants are encouraged to register ahead of time online at ecoslo.org/coastal-cleanup-day or they can show up at one of the locations before 9 a.m. to sign up. Head to the site captain's table to check in for supplies and a data card.

For more information, contact Mary Ciesinski at ECOSLO, 805-544-1777.

"Coastal Cleanup Day is about much more than picking up trash. It's a chance for Californians to join people around the world in expressing their respect for our oceans and waterways. It's an opportunity for the community to demonstrate its desire for clean water and healthy marine life. And it's a moment to share with one's neighbors, family, and friends, coming together to accomplish something vital and worthy on behalf of our environment."



- California Coastal Commission

Trump

continued from page 1

this administration's plans to drag us backward into a pit of fossil fuels and away from a clean energy future, assuring the cooking of the planet.

TAKE ACTION

The people have the

power: We need dozens of California cities to force Trump to listen to them, and the SLO City Council needs to listen to you. If you are a resident of the City of SLO, we've made it easy for you: Before September 5, go to <http://tinyurl.com/noTrumpoil>, fill in your contact information (government website submission

forms generally will not allow submission of comments with blank fields) and click "send" to urge the city council to pass a Resolution Protecting Our Ocean and Coast from Offshore Drilling and Fracking.

For good measure, come to the September 5 City Council meeting to make your request in person.

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Santa Lucia Chapter

Tell The SLO City Council To Stand Against Trump's Assault On The Central Coast

President Trump has promised oil companies unrestricted access to oil and gas reserves under America's oceans, and their plan to dramatically expand offshore drilling threatens every ocean and coastline in the country. And with a noncommittal, on-offshore backing in the Pacific recently lifted by the federal government, marine wildlife and California coastal communities face the greatest threat of oil spills, toxic pollution, and more pipelines and offshore oil platforms.

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By taking action, you will allow us to provide communications from the Sierra Club. You can unsubscribe at any time.

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Please append a resolution to protect our coast from offshore drilling and fracking.

A Vigil for Charlottesville

The Sierra Club condemns this act of white supremacist terrorism in the strongest possible terms. Our thoughts are with those injured and killed and our hearts are with those who are peacefully speaking out to stop hate from gaining another inch in our country and those who are living in fear because of that hate.

No one who took to the streets of Charlottesville fueled by bigotry and brandishing the symbols of fascism that so many Americans fought and died to tear down has any claim on the mantle of patriotism.

Instead, it is more important than ever that they be called out for exactly what they are: vile and unacceptable racists preaching division and hatred that stands in opposition to the values of equality and justice that must drive our nation forward.

Hatred and racism have long played a disgraceful part of American history, but there can be no doubt that those who spew white supremacy feel empowered right now when they see allies in the corridors of power. These bigots must be condemned,



Standing together 1,000 people in Mission Plaza, SLO, August 16, 2017.

not coddled, and we are in solidarity with those elected officials, residents of Charlottesville, and people all over this country who are

speaking out for an America that pushes forward toward justice, not slides backward into hatred and fear.

-- Michael Brune
Executive Director, Sierra Club
August 12, 2017

Let me be blunt. I will come right out and say what our president won't: White supremacy has absolutely no place in our country and will not be tolerated in any form.

The racist and violent acts that occurred in Charlottesville last weekend at the hands of white supremacist and neo-Nazi groups were horrifying and indefensible. As a country of immigrants with a rich array of cultures, our history of diversity should be celebrated, not attacked.

Even more inexcusable is our president's failure to place blame solely where blame is due – on the extreme hate groups that perpetrated these acts.

I was proud to see constituencies across the Central Coast, in both Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo counties, come together and organize vigils condemning these hateful acts and standing in solidarity with Charlottesville.

Thank you for joining me in working together, speaking out, and taking a stand against hatred.

- Rep. Salud Carbajal
Aug. 15, 2017



Heather Heyer, 1985-2017

It's Time to Serve Your Chapter!

Please consider placing your name in consideration for election to the Santa Lucia Chapter Executive Committee.

This committee of 7 members administers the business of the Chapter. Three seats will be open in our November election.

We are looking for people with a strong interest and background in Energy issues, Finance, and/or Land Use Planning. We are committed to diversity in our Chapter representatives.

Contact Karen at 440-2714 if you are interested or want more information.

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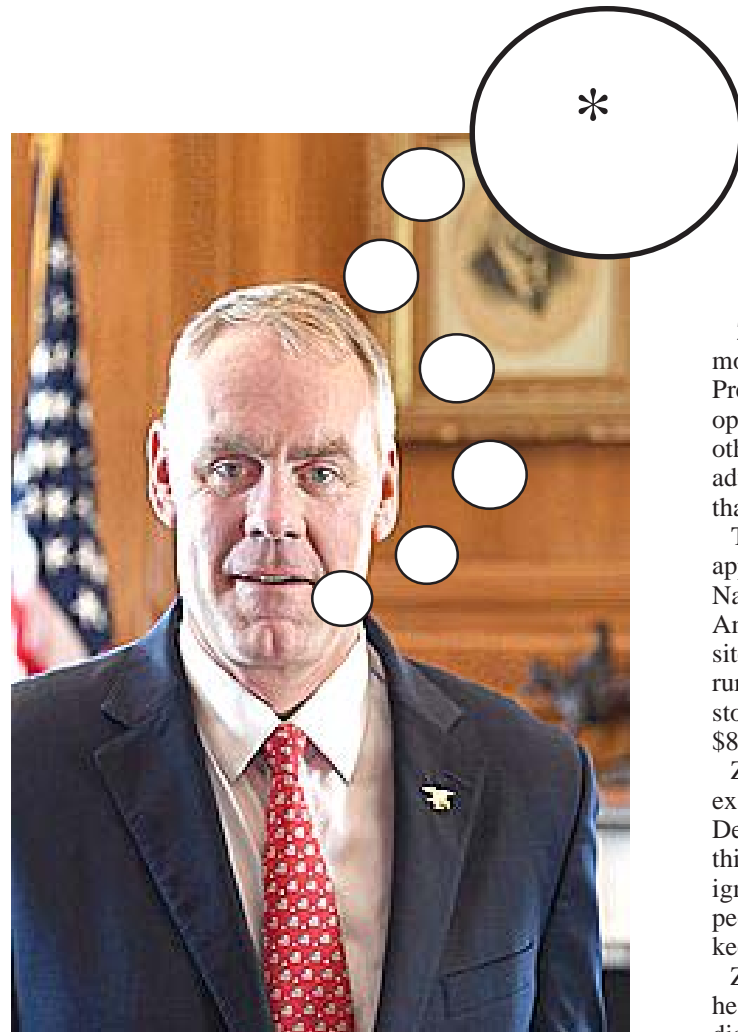
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On Zinke and Nothingness

The Interior Secretary's report on national monuments makes a non-debut



Still waiting A resident of the Carrizo Plain National Monument awaits word on her fate from Secretary Zinke.

On August 24, the date on which Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke completed his review of 21 national monuments – including the Grand Sequoia and Carrizo Plain National Monuments – and sent it to President Trump with his recommendations for their fate, the Interior Department released a vague summary announcing that fact and otherwise basically saying nothing at all.

Zinke is recommending “changes” to a “handful” of monuments. He coyly declined to tell the Associated Press “whether portions of the monuments would be opened up to oil and gas drilling, mining, logging and other industries for which Trump has advocated” (said advocacy being the stated reason for the “review”), and that was that.

The public deserves to see the recommendations approved by Secretary Zinke. National Monuments and National Conservation Lands are part of the fabric of America. They provide clean water to millions, contain sites sacred to Native American tribes, are critical to rural economies, offer opportunities for solitude, tell the stories of all Americans and help drive tourism and an \$887 billion outdoor recreation economy.

Zinke's performance on August 24 was another example of the lack of transparency the Trump Interior Department has shown and further makes the case that this process is a sham. The Administration's review has ignored science, the law, and the will of the American people, including over 2.7 million comments supporting keeping our national monuments intact.

Zinke never visited any of the California monuments he “reviewed” and failed to meet with any advocates to discuss the monuments.

Zinke's tight lips have reopened the discussion about a public lands selloff, even as he denies he wants to sell off public lands. (Secretary Zinke has a history of saying one thing and then doing another. As a Member of Congress, he voted for the initiative of Rep. Rob Bishop (R-Utah) proclaiming that public lands have no public value in order to facilitate selling them off to special interests.)

Secretary Zinke said he recognizes that the comments received during the monuments review process were “overwhelmingly in favor of maintaining existing monuments.” We hope that his recommendations reflect this. But who knows? Certainly not the 2.7 million Americans who took time out of their lives to participate in the process and were then left in the dark by Secretary Zinke and the Trump Administration.

Classifieds

Next issue deadline is **Oct. 19**. 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

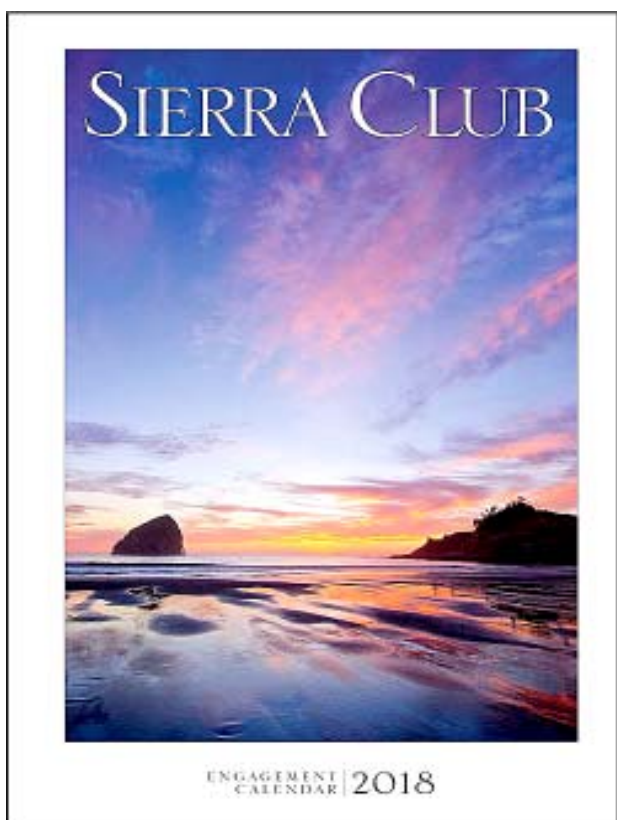
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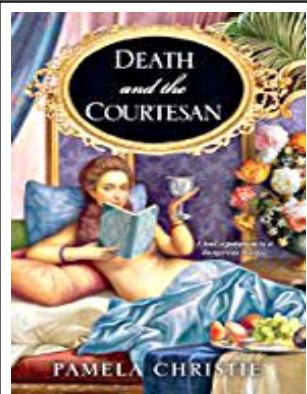


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Outings and Activities Calendar

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 Bill Waycott, (805) 459-2103. For information on a specific outing, please call the listed outing leader.

Saturday, Sept. 9th, 10am, Shell Beach. Meet at the intersection of Bluff Drive and El Portal (with Indio also intersect-ing). PoleCats is a group dedicated to demonstrating the effective use of trekking poles. Directions: from Shell Beach Road, go west on El Portal until you reach the above intersection. Go right and park near the illegal gate. The hike will go up the fire road to the trail and then follow the trail for less than a mile, returning to the fire road and back to the parking area. The hike is 1.5 miles, 100 feet elevation change. For more information, contact David Georgi, hikingpoles@gmail.com, (805) 458-5575. Rain cancels.

Saturday, Sept. 16th, 10:30 am, Morro Strand Beach. Less strenuous, 3.5 mile roundtrip beach hike, Morro Strand State Beach. This scenic hike will lead you through wetlands, sand dunes, onto the beach and ultimately to the base of iconic Morro Rock. The first of the Nine Sisters volcanic formations, this 576 ft. Morro is a sanctuary for Peregrine falcons. Morning fog; light jacket, waterproof footwear and binoculars. From Hwy 1, 2 miles north of Morro Bay, turn west on San Jacinto Street, then south through a small subdivision to the parking lot. Contact Jan Secord. (805) 602-0403.

Saturday, Sept. 23rd, 8:30 am, South half of Buckeye Trail Hike. Because of the Mud Creek Slide, the trail at the old Salmon Creek Station is as far north as we can access. We will hike to Buckeye Camp and beyond to the high ridge above Redwood Gulch. This is a strenuous hike with 2,800 feet of elevation gain in 9 miles. Poison oak, steep drops along narrow sections of trail and loose gravel on other sections. Trekking poles are worth bringing. We will meet at Washburn Day Use Area at 8:30 am, located about 1 1/2 mile north of Cambria on Hwy 1. Extreme heat will postpone to a later date. Contact Carlos (805) 546-0317.

Thursday, Sept. 28th, 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm, Yoga + Hike to High School Hill. Once at the top, we will do a 45-minute Vinyasa yoga practice. Excellent views of the region. Approximately 2 miles one-way, with a steep incline that will give you a good cardio exercise. 4 miles round trip with a 1,492-ft elevation gain. This hike is considered strenuous. Trailhead located at the end of Lizzy St., adjacent to the Adult School, with easy parking. Bring water and good walking shoes. No yoga mat required. Contact Nan Cole, cole.nancy.j@gmail.com.

Friday-Sunday, Sept. 29th

- Oct. 1st, National Public Lands Day. Join Northern Nevada outdoor groups for a volunteer project in the Black Rock Desert, about 100 miles north Reno. Current plans are for a project at Soldier Meadows Hot Spring. Most food provided, but you'll have to work for it! There's usually a work day and a play day. Contact David Book, (775) 843-6443 for more info. Sponsored by the Great Basin Group.

Saturday, Sept 30th, 8:30 – 11:30 am, Second survey of a rare plant habitat workshop, Los Osos. SLO Co. is home to many rare plant habitats, most of which have not been surveyed in many years. Join plant biologists Melissa Mooney and Bill Waycott of the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) for our second workshop. Work in teams to identify and record the dominant plant species within a 60-foot radius from a predetermined GPS point. Once up to speed, we will survey other rare plant habitats in the county over the next two years. Meet at the corner of Highland and Broderson. Bring a clipboard, sharpened pencil with a good eraser, if available a device that reads GPS locations, along with a hat, water, and snacks. For more information, contact Melissa at (805) 459-8099, mjmoon@charter.net.

Saturday, Sept. 30th, 9:30 am Gaviota Beach Back Country. This is a moderately strenuous hike from Gaviota Beach to the wind caves and radio tower above Hwy 101, returning by the same route. Glorious views of the Gaviota Coast and mountains, with fun scrambling around shallow caves in the rocks, @ 6 miles roundtrip. Wear layers and sun protection, bring water, good shoes for rocky parts. From the north: go south on Hwy 101 past Santa Maria and Buellton just beyond the Gaviota rest area. Turn right into Gaviota State Park entrance, but stay to the right, don't go into the park; follow the road around a turn and park at trailhead. Eats afterwards! Contact Andrea for more info and carpooling information. Kenya683@msn.com, (805) 264-4527.

Sunday, Oct. 1st, 2pm, Historic Walk San Luis Obispo: Jazz-Age SLO to World War II. Where are the hotels used by William Randolph Hearst to entertain his celebrity guests, the speakeasies of the twenties, the original French Hospital? Find out and much more on a guided downtown stroll of San Luis Obispo. Hear stories of changing city life from the Model-T years to Prohibition, Depression, and Pearl Harbor. About 1 1/2 hrs.

Meet at the corner of Marsh and Toro Streets. Contact Joe Morris, (805) 549-0355.

Saturday, Oct. 7th, 11am to 4pm Yin Yoga + Hike to Oats Peak. Join this hike along Coon Creek. 45-minute yin yoga class on the peak. Poses are held for long durations of time. The aim is to find stillness set in beautiful scenery. A rigorous 7.5 mile hike, with a 1,900 feet elevation gain. About 4-5 hours including yoga. No mat required. Bring water and bag lunch. Meet at the end of Montana de Oro access road (Coon Creek trailhead), 3.8 miles from MDO entrance sign. Contact Nan Cole, cole.nancy.j@gmail.com.

Saturday, Oct. 7th, 8:30 am to 11:30 am, Work Crew, Old Prospector Trail, Irish Hills, SLO. Due to the high rainfall levels received last winter, a lot of brush has grown into this trail. We will be using loppers to remove branches of Ceanothus and other chaparral plants, then cache the pieces off the trail. Meet in the Costco parking lot, adjacent to the gas station. From there, we will walk to the trail with a pair of loppers. Total distance 3 to 4 miles. 500 – 700 ft. elevation gain. Use a small backpack for water, snacks, and sunscreen. Wear sturdy shoes, bring gloves, hat, layered clothing, as needed. Contact Bill Waycott, (805) 459-2103, bill.waycott@gmail.com.

Sunday, Oct. 8th, 10am, Shell Beach. Meet at the intersection of Bluff Drive and El Portal (Indio intersecting). PoleCats is dedicated to demonstrating the effective use of trekking poles. From Shell Beach Road, go west on El Portal until you reach the Indio intersection. Go right and park near the illegal gate. We will go up the fire road, then follow the trail for about a mile, returning to the parking area. 1.5 miles, 100 feet elevation change. For more information, contact David Georgi, hikingpoles@gmail.com, (805) 458-5575. Rain cancels.

Saturday Oct. 14th, 10:30 am, Fiscallini Ranch, Cambria. Less strenuous. This trail along the coastal bluffs is less than 2 miles and fully accessible. For those participants who wish to explore further into the woods, an extra 1-mile leg is optional. One leader will stay with those preferring to remain along the bluffs. Another will proceed on the Preserve's upper trail through wooded area (a shuttle via the south side of the Preserve is an option), then meander down a gradual downhill with wide open vistas, returning to starting point. To reach north side of the Preserve:

Take Hwy 1 to Cambria; at the 4th traffic light, take a left onto Windsor, past Moonstone Beach Drive. Pass Shamel County Park, take another left, park at dead end. Bring binoculars. Unique benches made from natural elements provide rest stops. Wear layers. Hike leader Jan Secord. For details on optional access to upper trail, contact Eliane Wilson at (805) 748-7815.


Saturday, Oct. 14th, 9:30am, Easy Family-Friendly hike to Oso Flaco Lake and Beach. Walk through beautiful riparian habitat, over the lake on a boardwalk, through the dunes to the beach, a 4 mile roundtrip. Wear layers and sun protection, and bring water. Directions: Take Main Street/Hwy166 exit west from Hwy 101 in Santa Maria, drive west about 8 miles to Hwy 1 in Guadalupe, turn right/north and drive about 3 miles to Oso Flaco Lake Road. (Oso Flaco Lake Road can also be accessed from Arroyo Grande by driving south on Hwy 1 directly.) Turn west and drive to the end of the road and park in lot. There may be a \$5 parking fee per car. No dogs allowed. Contact Andrea Kenya683@msn.com, (805) 264-4527.

Saturday, Oct. 21st, 8:30 am, Salmon Creek Trail to Spruce Creek Trail to Dutra Flat Camp. Join the leader on this autumn hike to Dutra Flat Camp in the Silver Peak Wilderness of southern Big Sur. This is a moderate hike of 8.4 miles with about 2200 ft. of elevation gain. The hike begins at the Salmon Creek trailhead and after 1.9 miles we will turn south on the Spruce Creek Trail. There are good views of Silver Peak along the trail. After hiking out of Spruce Creek Canyon we will cross rolling grasslands to Dutra Camp. There is a possibility of ticks and poison oak, especially in Spruce Creek Canyon. Bring water, lunch, hat and sunscreen, and dress for the weather. Meet at 8:30 am at the Washburn day use area of San Simeon State Park which is about 1 1/2 miles north of Cambria on Hwy 1. We will carpool about 35 minutes from there to the trailhead. We will stop for food after the hike if there is interest. Contact Chuck (805) 441-7597.

Sunday, Oct. 22nd, 2-4pm, iNaturalist Workshop, San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden. Have you ever thought about keeping track



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:

Bill Waycott, Outings Chair
(806) 459-2103 or bill.waycott@gmail.com



John Muir, founder of the Sierra Club, in Yosemite

of your nature observations in an organized way, or sharing your observations and photographs taken in nature with a group of like-minded people online? Would you like to make meaningful contributions to scientific research? iNaturalist (www.inaturalist.org) is the place to get started. Join us to discuss how to use the iNaturalist website and mobile applications, what the options are, and how to customize your iNaturalist account for your personal interests. Will combine hands-on classroom and field work. In preparation, please sign up for an iNaturalist account online and create a profile. If you plan to use your mobile device(s), download and install the mobile app(s). After the classroom component, we will visit the garden to use iNaturalist in real-time. Led by Michelle Torres-Grant and Bill Waycott of the California Native Plant Society. SLO Botanical Garden, Chorro Regional Park, off Hwy 1, across from Cuesta College and adjacent to the Dairy Creek Golf Course.

ration in Death Valley National Park. Join us as we continue the clean-up of a grow site in this beautiful national park. We will hike about 3 miles up a rugged canyon to gather and carry out the trash left behind in an illegal grow site. Participants should bring an old backpack if they have one. Sturdy trash bags will be supplied to protect packs. Details on meeting time and camping location have not been finalized. Potluck Saturday night. Contact Kate Allen, kj.allen96@gmail.com, (661) 944-4056.

Sunday, Oct. 29th, 2pm, San Luis Obispo Historic Walk: the San Luis Cemetery. Guided stroll past gravesites of famous pioneers like Angel, Murray, and Sinsheimer and Civil War vets, plus the "potters' field" for indigents and the landmark pyramid. Hear the compelling stories of the 19th-century founders of San Luis Obispo. Duration about 1 1/2 hrs. Meet in south parking lot, adjacent to the pyramid, 2890 S. Higuera St. Contact Joe Morris, (805) 549-0355.

Friday-Sunday, Oct. 27th - 29th, Wilderness Resto-

Island Hopping in Channel Islands National Park 2017

September 24-26, October 22-24

Join us for a 3-day, 3-island, live-aboard cruise to California's Channel Islands! Hike wild, wind-swept 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 highly endangered island fox. Or....just relax at sea! All cruises depart from Santa Barbara. The cost, \$650, includes an assigned bunk, all meals, snacks and beverages plus the services of a naturalist-docent as-



signed 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; jholtzln@aol.com. To make a reservation send a \$100 check, written to Sierra Club, to leader, 11826 The Wye St., El Monte, CA 91732.

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