

SANTA LUCIAN



Santa Lucia Chapter

**Jul./Aug. 2018
Volume 55 No.4**

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

Rep. Carbajal Goes to Bat for Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary

On June 7, the day before World Oceans' Day, Congressman Salud Carbajal announced his full support for the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary nomination process and wrote to Department of Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross, who oversees the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), to request that the agency act upon the pending application.



“Marine sanctuaries play an essential role in protecting California’s sensitive marine and coastal areas from further oil and gas development,” said Carbajal. “The protections of these biologically diverse marine areas also directly benefit our state’s \$1.9 trillion coastal economy, including our robust tourism and commercial fishing industries on the Central Coast. The nomination of the Chumash National Marine Sanctuary was the product of years of public engagement with local communities and I urge

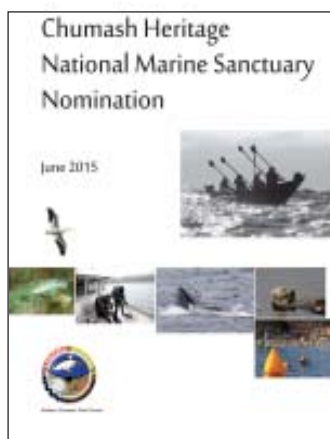


NOAA to move forward with protecting this unique area for future generations.”

The nomination was added to NOAA’s inventory of successful nominations in October 2015, the first step to become eligible for a national marine sanctuary designation. In order for the area to obtain sanctuary status, the site must go through the designation process, which includes drafting of a management plan and multiple opportunities for public comment and review.



Your Name Here Go to tinyurl.com/chnmcompetition to add your voice to Rep. Carbajal's and the thousands asking NOAA to begin designation of the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary.



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Save the Date

A Garden of Earthly Delights

Join us for the Santa Lucia Chapter's 50th anniversary celebration and annual fundraiser.

Saturday, October 27, 2018 2:30 - 5:30 pm

San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden

3450 Dairy Creek Road, SLO.

An afternoon of food, drink, live music, silent and live auctions, and exciting surprises. Come help us celebrate our past and present achievements and help us prepare for the challenges of the future.

For sponsorship opportunities, call 805-922-1460.

Mark your calendars now ~ watch for details in your next Santa Lucian

Sierra Club General Meeting

Santa Lucian • Jul./Aug. 2018

7 p.m. Wed., July 18

How Are We Managing the Ocean?

Cal Poly Professor Ben Ruttenberg studies the management of marine ecosystems. He has worked as a Research Fishery Biologist for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and a Marine Ecologist with the National Park Service Inventory and Monitoring Program. Tonight he'll talk about his current projects, how we try to manage our impacts on the oceans, and what we can do better. Plus: A Clair Tappaan Lodge slide show (see page 7).



Copeland Pavilion
3rd Floor, French Hospital
Med. Center 1823 Johnson
Ave., SLO
 Doors open at 6:30
 Program: 7-8 p.m.



Want to See Change at the Oceano Dunes? Don't be Shy

By Andrew Christie
 Chapter Director

For more than three decades, as environmental science and law have evolved, the California Department of Parks and Recreation has remained chronically out of compliance with the environmental protection requirements of their Coastal Development Permit and the Local Coastal Plan for the Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area.

At this point, it's clear that State Parks can't continue to operate the ODSVRA – a big chunk of environmentally sensitive coastal habitat — the way they have been, and that their current modus operandi is bringing a rising threat of litigation from groups like ours and legislation from Sacramento of the “if you won't take care of the problem we'll do it for you” variety.

So it's no surprise that at this historical moment State Parks has 1) finally embarked on a Habitat Conservation Plan, 2) finally semi-capitulated in its long fight with the Air Pollution Control District over reduction of the toxic dust from its off-road playground, and 3) hit upon the notion of a Public Works Program.

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Santa Lucian

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Santa Lucia Chapter

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The **Executive Committee** meets the second Monday of each month at 4p.m in the chapter office, located at 974 Santa Rosa St., San Luis Obispo. All members are welcome to attend.

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Community Choice Energy Update

The recent heart-breaking local election results mean that a reactionary majority on our county board of supervisors will continue on their mission of smoothing the path for the polluters and big developers who bankroll their campaigns, sticking it to the environment, and holding back the dawn of the renewable energy era on the Central Coast.

That last one, however, is not something that is actually within their power to do.

Here's why: In June 2017, the San Luis Obispo City Council adopted its 2017-19 Financial Plan, which identifies Climate Action as a Major City Goal. The goal includes the objective: "Assess and report the requirements to achieve the 'net-zero carbon City' target including feasibility analysis and implementation of a Community Choice Energy program" — the establishment of such a program being a provision of the city's Climate Action Plan,

included therein courtesy of the Sierra Club.

In January 2018, after the County Supervisors walked away from Community Choice, SLO Mayor Heidi Harmon sent letters to the County of San Luis Obispo and the Cities of Paso Robles, Atascadero, Morro Bay, Grover Beach, Pismo Beach, and Arroyo Grande signaling the intent of the SLO to "pursue forming a new CCE, in conjunction with other interested jurisdictions in San Luis Obispo County and/ or in PG&E territory of Santa Barbara County."

On April 24, the Morro Bay City Council committed to pursuing a Community Choice program with the City of San Luis Obispo operating

under a joint power authority (JPA) and providing service to accounts within member jurisdictions. SLO wants to operate

the program through a JPA with Morro Bay with the intention of inviting regional

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Volunteers Wanted

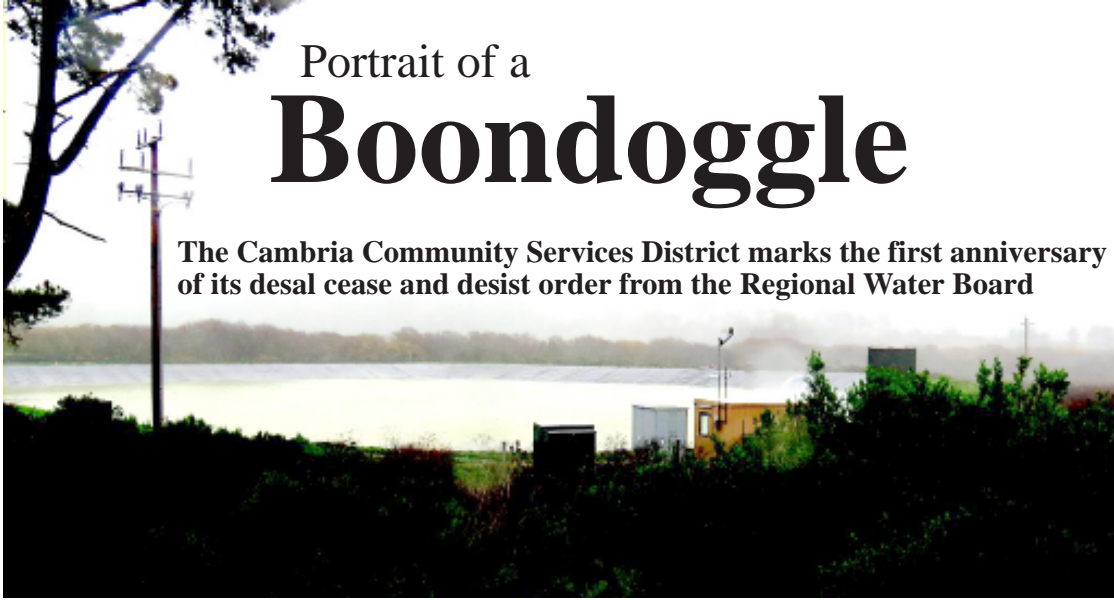
Development Coordinator: Work with the chapter executive committee to develop and implement an annual fundraising program based on conservation goals. 2 years experience with non-profit volunteer activities, project development, basic knowledge of spreadsheets and Word a plus.

Volunteer Coordinator: Work with chapter leadership to develop and implement programs for volunteer recruitment to support various chapter activities, programs and office functions. Good written, public speaking and organization skills.

Contact Chuck Tribbey at cltquest@gmail.com or (805) 441-7597.

In May, the California Office of State Audits and Evaluations sent a report to the San Luis Obispo Flood Control and Water Conservation District. The subject of the report was the current state of Cambria's Advanced Water Treatment (aka desalination) Plant and state grant money expended on it.

The audit focused on two items of concern: 1) The Cambria Community Services District had claimed and received \$113,603 in grant funds as reimbursement for work performed outside the grant period, and 2) the Cambria CSD has expended a total of \$4.3 million in state grant funds on the construction of a non-operational desal



Portrait of a Boondoggle

The Cambria Community Services District marks the first anniversary of its desal cease and desist order from the Regional Water Board

Defunct The Cambria CSD's desal evaporation pond was a shortcut to nowhere.

plant and has not demonstrated that the plant can produce the amount of water the CSD says it can.

One dry paragraph from the state audit provides a stark portrait of the outcome

of the CSD's strategy of getting a desal plant built by declaring an emergency and thereby avoiding such pesky niceties as the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report or a Coastal Development

Permit and undergoing review by the California Coastal Commission:

"Specifically, on July 13, 2017, the Regional Board adopted a Cease and

Desist Order No. R3-2016-007 (Order), which required Cambria to immediately cease use of the evaporation pond, a key

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National Drive Electric Week is Sept. 8-16

Kicking Gas

by Mary Lunetta and Gina Coplon-Newfield



National Drive Electric Week (NDEW), September 8-16, is a nationwide celebration held to heighten awareness of the widespread availability of plug-in vehicles and highlight the benefits of all-electric and plug-in hybrid-electric cars, trucks, motorcycles, and more.

Namely, they:

- are fun to drive,
- are less expensive and more convenient to fuel than gasoline vehicles,
- are better for the environment,
- promote local jobs,
- reduce our dependence on foreign oil.

Considering going electric? Come talk to owners who have successfully done so.

With each successive year (this is its eighth), National Drive Electric Week (NDEW) has demonstrated that not only are plug-in electric vehicles (EVs) just fun, but also that the public is starting to catch on. The Sierra Club and Plug in America recently put together a policy toolkit to help organizers and attendees urge policymakers to speed the transition to electric vehicles.

Last year, more than 100,000 people attended 279 EV promotion events in all 50 states — a first — with international

events taking place in Argentina, Australia, Canada, Croatia, Denmark, England, Jordan, and New Zealand.

From tailgate parties and electric bus rides to carpool karaoke — every event was unique, but most centered on giving the public a chance to kick the tires and see for themselves what it's like to sit in the driver's seat and experience instant torque first hand. At least 8,000 people took test drives at the events in all 30 fully electric and plug-in hybrids on the market today.

Policy-Makers Taking the Wheel

Since the pollution from our gas-powered cars and trucks accounts for nearly 30 percent of our nation's carbon emissions, the transition to zero-emission vehicles isn't negotiable, it's critical — and state and local leaders realize this.

That's why NDEW has always been a springboard for state and local officials to check out and promote EVs as well as to announce pro-EV policies and incentives to accelerate the switch to clean transportation in their communities and to make buying or leasing an EV easy and affordable. During National Drive Electric Week, California lawmakers passed and Governor Jerry Brown signed A.B.134, a bill

that earmarks \$900 million in funding from the state budget to support various clean transportation, clean air, and alternative fuel initiatives, including EV consumer rebates that lower the cost of EVs for Californians. Reportedly, this is the biggest commitment of funding in any one year aimed at reducing air pollution in the state.

A record number of elected officials participated in Drive Electric Week last year, including mayors in North Dakota, Maryland, Kansas, Illinois, Iowa, California, and more. Washington Governor Inslee, New Hampshire Governor Sununu and Hawaii Governor Ige all signed proclamations for NDEW in their states, and in Massachusetts 19 mayors sent a letter to the state's Department of Transportation calling for a swift transition to zero-emission transit buses.

Dozens of mayors, state legislators, and other public officials spoke at the events, including Representative Paul Tonko of New York and Los Angeles County Supervisor Sheila Kuehl.

New EV Charging Stations Unveiled

The experience of charging in public is becoming easier and more streamlined as more public charging stations are made available, especially in

key destinations where people will be for extended periods of time, like shopping malls, sporting events, and colleges.

From California to Vermont and in states in between, cities installed charging stations during NDEW to help EV drivers plug in. At a press conference during NDEW, the Massachusetts Secretaries of Transportation and Energy & the Environment unveiled six new fast-charging stations along the Massachusetts Turnpike.

Charging networks are expected to expand due to the Volkswagen diesel settlement, which requires the automaker to invest billions in electric vehicles and infrastructure across the nation over the next decade.

National Drive Electric Week is organized at the national level by the Electric Auto Association, Plug in America, and the Sierra Club.

But it couldn't happen without the hard work of the local organizations and city captains who organize the events on the ground. We'd also like to thank our national sponsors, including Nissan, Lyft, ClipperCreek, Inc., and the California Air Resources Board.

As our federal environmental protections are under unprecedented attack from the current administration, the rest of the nation isn't giving up the fight to reach our climate goals, in part by kicking gas and making the switch to drive electric. National Drive Electric Week events are another example of cities, states, and individuals taking the lead on climate action.

Mary Lunetta is the campaign representative for the Sierra Club's Electric Vehicles Initiative. Gina Coplon-Newfield is the director of Sierra Club's Clean Transportation for All Campaign.

TAKE ACTION

Mindbody, Inc.
4051 Broad St., Suite 220
San Luis Obispo

Join us at the global h.q. of Mindbody for the kick-off event of National Drive Electric Week in SLO on Sept. 12 from 5 to 8 pm. We will be recognizing those who have pioneered EV adoption in the City of SLO by promoting workplace EV charging, including Mindbody, which has successfully implemented and expanded its workplace charging facilities. Keynote address by SLO Mayor Heidi Harmon, local Electric Vehicle pioneers, info tables with EV car and bike dealers, informational video, fingerfoods & beverages.

For more information, contact Barry Rands at bcrands@gmail.com, 805-704-1549.

Off to SPROG

The next generation, coming right up

Many of us are at an age where each passing year puts an increasing number of funerals and memorial services on our calendars, many of them for friends and colleagues with whom we've spent years in the trenches of activism, speaking truth to power, organizing, marching, protesting or otherwise defending what we love.

On such occasions, it's easy to succumb to a sensation that our ranks are dwindling and eventually there will be no one left to stand up and speak out, is it not?

As Dr. Carol Marcus said to Captain Kirk in *Star Trek II: The Wrath of Khan* (which some of you are old enough to have seen in a theater in 1982): "Let me show you something that will make you feel young, as when the world was new."

That would be the Sierra Student Coalition's Summer Program (SPROG), a grassroots organizing training designed and run by youth activists that teaches the organizing skills necessary to jump start and manage campaigns in our communities.

The week-long summer camp style leadership training, designed for ages 14-28, is described by many alumni as "the best week of my life" because it was the moment when they became bonded to a broader movement and community of peers committed to making change in the world. Graduates consistently become the next generation of activists that are confronting the challenges humanity faces in day-to-day life.

SPROG runs off the generosity of the Sierra Student Coalition and Sierra Club chapters across the country. No other program comes close to providing the comprehensive skillset taught at SPROG and preparing attendees to start meaningful campaigns and serve as effective leaders in grassroots organizations.

That's why the Santa Lucia Chapter and North County Watch largely underwrote the tuition and travel costs for Mason Seden-Hansen and Carmen Bouquin to attend SPROG West at the Sierra Club's Harwood Lodge in the foothills north of Los Angeles, July 8-15.



Future facing Carmen Bouquin and Mason Seden-Hansen.

You may have heard Mr. Seden-Hansen speak at the SLO March for Our Lives, or read the transcript of his comments in a group meeting with Congressman Carbajal in the Nov. 2017 *Santa Lucian* (to which Rep. Carbajal replied "I look forward to voting for

CCSD continued from page 3

component of the Plant, [due to] several regulatory violations that threatened water quality and the environment....

As a result, Cambria worked with the Regional Board to develop a plan to remediate the issues, which in December 2017 the Regional Board voted to accept. Cambria's plan involves ultimately abandoning the evaporation pond and modifying the Plant's water treatment process with a targeted completion date of August 2018. However, Cambria has not tested whether its modified Plant will be able to produce the requisite amount of water. As part of the grant agreement, Cambria must submit to DWR an annual Post-Performance Report...."

The report recommended that the County "require

you for President.") Mason was president of the Paso Robles High School Progressive Club until his graduation in June. He will begin attending UCLA this fall. Carmen is a Youth Board Member of Must! Charities and, pre-graduation, was a mainstay of the Templeton High School Environmental Club.

The investment made in the development of these activists will pay enormous dividends in the broader environmental movement.

Just in case you were wondering where the future is coming from.

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BOOKSELLERS
1016 Los Osos Valley Rd. Suite 10
Los Osos, California 93402 (805) 528-5565

Cambria to test whether the new Plant can produce the requisite 240 to 250 acre-feet of water over a six-month dry period and report the results of its testing to the District and [Department of Water Resources]."

In response, the SLO Flood Control/Water Conservation District went the Office of State Audits one better on the subject of how to handle its problem child:

"Although the CSD submits annual post-performance reports that summarize the actual performance of the facility, the District will request additional monthly reports from the CSD to monitor its compliance with the Regional Water Board's cease and desist order.... Upon modification of the facility and pursuant to the grant agreement and the District's related funding

agreement with the CSD, the District will direct the CSD to test and report to the District and DWR that the facility can achieve the benefits stated in the grant agreement."

We note the interesting choice of words ("...report...that the facility can achieve the benefits..."), and presume the Flood Control District did not mean to say that it is going to direct the CSD to report that the facility can produce the requisite amount of water whether or not tests ultimately show that it can't.

As we go to press, the CCSD is proposing large water rate hikes and heading for a hearing on its after-the-fact Coastal Development Permit later this summer, which may result in a requirement to move much of the facility and restore environmentally sensitive habitat area.

A Regional Water Board review of the progress of the project and the Cambria CSD's repair of its self-inflicted wounds, scheduled for June, was pulled from the Regional Board's meeting agenda in May. Water Board staff say they "intend to reschedule in early 2019."

PWP

continued from page 2

But old habits die hard. After 35 years of hostile intransigence, there should be no more benefit of the doubt accorded to State Parks. It should be assumed that the agency will use these multiple processes as another opportunity for misdirection and hand waving, with the end goal of claiming that what they should be doing is more or less what they've been doing because they've been doing it for so long. (This is the actual argument State Parks has deployed against the Coastal Commis-

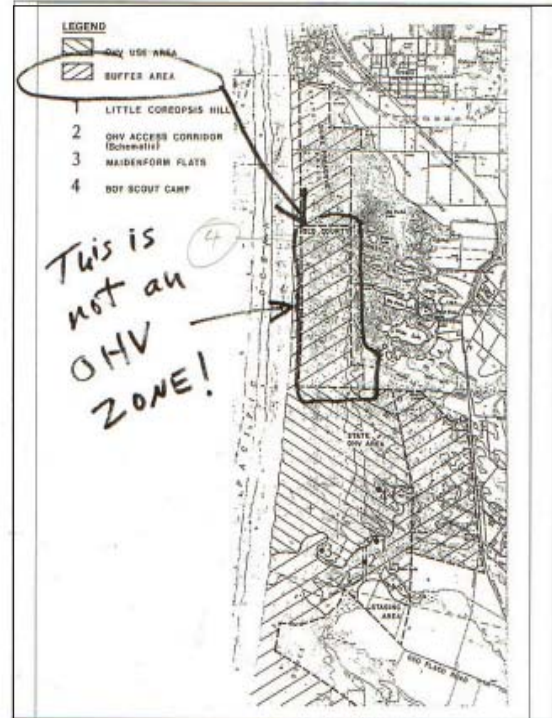
sion when told they need to designate less environmentally destructive access to the park, which they were supposed to do 18 months after receiving their Coastal Development Permit for an "interim" access and staging area in 1982.)

All should be mindful of State Parks' go-to move over the last three decades at the dunes: Invite all parties into a bureaucratic morass, convene hundreds of hours of meetings, produce reams of paper, and emerge with deals and compromises that

subsequently implode or otherwise become non-operational, leaving the status quo intact. Lather, rinse, repeat.

State Parks has always struggled with the fact that their operation of the ODSVRA must conform to the County's Local Coastal Plan (LCP), ultimately overseen by the California Coastal Commission. The Public Works Program is being proposed as a way to remove the Coastal Commission from its ongoing oversight role at the Oceano Dunes.

The Sierra Club spent years in court arguing against the belief of State Parks and the off-



Not going away The La Grande Tract.



Grand Jury Encounters Logic Problem

On June 12, the San Luis Obispo County Grand Jury issued a report on "the public health risk to residents of, and visitors to, the Nipomo Mesa and nearby areas caused by high levels of particulate air pollution."

After reviewing reams of data on the particulate matter (PM) dust hazard coming from the Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area, the grand jury noted that:

"State Parks has consistently maintained that while there is some contribution from off-highway riding activity, they believed it was not possible to quantify the exact amount attributable to the natural background component of dust or sand, or to the even larger amount that is caused by off-highway riding activity. Studies by the APCD, CARB, and by State Park's own contractor, Desert Research Institute (DRI) have provided convincing evidence that off-highway riding activity is by far the most significant contributor to PM2.5 and PM10 standards violations recorded at monitoring stations on the Nipomo Mesa and nearby communities."

But the report concludes with a shrug:

"Will the PWP ultimately satisfy riding enthusiasts' desire to replace every acre taken away by remediation with an acre for recreation somewhere else in the ODSVRA? The State Parks' PWP and time will provide the answer to that question."

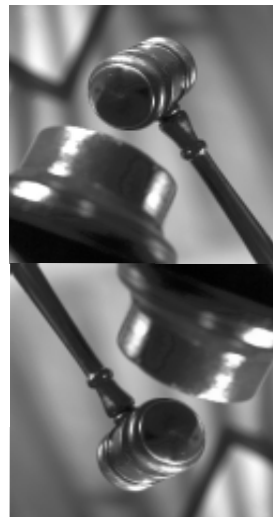
Once you accept the reality that State Parks and the off-riders will never accept – i.e. "off-highway riding activity is by far the most significant contributor" to hazardous air quality downwind of the ODSVRA, a reality brought about by the fact that the constant disturbance of any dune areas by vehicles exposes fine particles to the wind and makes them more likely to become airborne – you really can't pretend the demand that the riding area at the ODSVRA be reduced by not one square inch is a separate or ancillary issue. It is the central point, and the point

road lobby that the LCP's environmental protection policies somehow don't apply to the dunes. We prevailed on that point of


law and also won a ruling that any future permitted project at the Dunes would trigger State Parks' obligation to update its woefully outdated General Development Plan for the dunes to conform to the County's Local Coastal Plan.

And our Local Coastal Plan states that the La Grande Tract — 580 acres of County land in the middle of the park, ground zero for the ODSVRA's dust control problem — is supposed to be a buffer from the riding area. Parks has striven to ignore that designation for decades, but it now must be included in their Public Works Program, taking La Grande Tract off the table as a current riding area or future riding expansion area.

At the workshop on the public works program held in Arroyo Grande on May 22, I told the Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Rec-




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Grand Jury

continued from previous page

of collision between the demands of unfettered recreation and public health.

Within the confines of SLO County, it seems to be a rule of thumb that the farther away observers are from the Nipomo Mesa, the more likely they (and grand juries) will go fuzzy on the essential implication of this fundamental conflict.

But as far as the PWP and time providing the answer to the question “Will the PWP ultimately satisfy riding enthusiasts’ desire to replace every acre taken away by remediation with an acre for recreation somewhere else in the ODSVRA?,” the California Coastal Commission, with a firm grip on that point of collision and the stark priorities it presents, has already answered the question. And the answer is not just no, but hell no.

Commissioner Steve Padilla spoke for many of his colleagues on the dais at the Commission’s September 2017 hearing in Cambria on the permit for the dust control program:

“It’s like we have to weigh between the value of people’s right to recreate in a cool way, and abhorrent public health impacts. To me, I’m sorry, in my world, forgive me if you think I’m crazy, but it is ludicrous that that’s even a discussion.”

The Coastal Commission must approve the final drafts of both the dust reduction program and the public works plan for the ODSVRA. When they do, we trust they will maintain that grip on priorities and insure that this question remains a settled issue.

Playing into State Parks’ determined delusion that the riding areas of the ODSVRA are not the problem is a good way to ensure that the problem is

PWP

continued from previous page

recreation Division managers assembled at the dais that we can see why a plan that they believe will finally render their off-road playground immune to oversight would hold great attraction for them. (But, as the 2017-18 SLO County Grand Jury noted in its report on dust control at the Oceano Dunes, State Parks informally leases the La Grande Tract from the County, and the board of supervisors “has the authority to substantially eliminate the health risk to the residents on the Nipomo Mesa and in nearby areas by the act of terminating all vehicular recreational activity on the La Grande Tract of the ODSVRA. Remarkably, this can be done at the will of the Board of Supervisors and a stroke of their pens.”)

Local residents came up to the microphone as supplicants pleading that at least some portion of their beach be made safe for them by closing off one entrance and opening another, or to complain about the traffic, noise, and pollution that has stunted their community and ask if there could be slightly less.

It’s time to simplify. A public works program should do what State Parks says it

wants to do: reimagine management of the SVRA and put forward a different vision of vehicular recreation there. A public works program should convert the park to passive use, lower-cost visitor-serving recreation. Which is to say, the future of vehicular recreation at the ODSVRA is limited car camping.

The fire falls at Yosemite have been terminated. Dynamite fishing and bear baiting are relics of the past. It’s time to conform to environmental laws as they have evolved since the SVRA at Oceano Dunes was designated so that the park does not keep killing people, crushing endangered species, and giving us the distinction of the worst air quality in the nation.

We urge State Parks to read the writing in the sand and take this opportunity to gracefully transition vehicular recreation at Oceano Dunes to car camping only.

State Parks will hold public workshops on the development and evaluation of PWP concepts and the preparation of a preliminary draft throughout the fall and winter of 2018. Ask to be put on the mailing list at info@OceanoDunesPWP.com so you can attend or submit comments on concepts on their website.



Taking issue - Who speaks?

Problematic environmental coverage & commentary in our local media

“Petition aims to ban fracking in county,” Katlyn Leslie, *The Tribune*, May 7, 2018.

Summary: In the course of reporting on the filing of the petition signatures necessary to qualify a local anti-fracking initiative for the ballot in November, *The Tribune* quoted at length a “spokesman” for the out-of-nowhere Committee to Stop the Oil and Gas Shutdown in San Luis Obispo County, as though said spokesman and his committee represent a voice of local grass roots dissent opposing the measure to ban fracking and halt oil field expansion. Those grass roots turn out to be astroturf.

Ten seconds on a search engine would have revealed to the Trib that Hanke is a former Vice President of Meridian Pacific, the national

political consultancy firm founded by the famously well-oiled John Peschong, which touts itself as a “full-service, strategic political consulting and public affairs firm...working in nearly every state to help our clients win at the ballot box and in the court of public opinion.” On his LinkedIn page, Hanke was -- and still is -- prominently listed as Senior Advisor to State Assemblyman Jordan Cunningham. This lends contrast and context to the impression that Hanke is an average Joe and concerned citizen who perhaps decided to get together with some friends who share a personal affection for the oil industry and volunteered to be the spokesman for the group.

“Please remove the Assemblyman’s name”

After Santa Lucia Chapter Director Andrew Christie pointed out all of the above in a May 11 blog post, Chris Finarelli, Assemblyman Cunningham’s chief of staff, contacted the Sierra Club on May 17 to insist that Hanke is not, in fact, Cunningham’s “Strategic Advisor” and to ask that this reference and Cunningham’s name therefore be removed from the blog post, since Rep. Cunningham had no connection with Hanke and therefore had nothing to do with

The Committee to Stop the Oil and Gas Shutdown in San Luis Obispo County protested the initiative’s broad reach on Tuesday, claiming it was an effort to stop all oil and gas production in the county. Spokesman Aaron Hanke also claimed the initiative would increase reliance on outside sources for oil. “This initiative is unnecessary and goes too far,” Hanke said.



this story.

After being corrected as to Hanke’s actual title of Senior Advisor, per LinkedIn, and asked if Hanke had previously served Cunningham in that capacity, Finarelli admitted that he had, but then insisted that Hanke’s past employment in the Assemblyman’s office was no more relevant to his current activities than “if he played football in college.” When asked who Hanke’s current employer is, Finarelli replied “I believe he works for Meridian

Pacific.”

When we filed an Open Records Act request with the Assembly Rules Committee, we learned that Hanke left his Assembly staff position on April 20 — eleven days before proponents of the anti-fracking initiative turned in 20,000+ signatures to the SLO County Clerk to qualify the measure for the county ballot, and two weeks before Mr. Hanke popped up in *The Tribune* as spokesman for the opposition.



Upshot: As of the 2017 state legislative session, Assemblyman Cunningham has been the recipient of \$47,800 in oil and gas industry money, including \$13,000 from Chevron, \$13,000 from Phillips 66, \$7,700 from California Independent Petroleum Association, \$4,500 from Tesoro Corp., and \$4,400 from Semptra Energy.* The only entities more generous to Rep. Cunningham have been the real estate industry and Republican political action committees. In the 2017 legislative session, Assembly Bill 1328 -- strongly opposed by the oil industry -- first came to a vote featuring robust requirements for disclosure of all chemicals used in oil industry activities to better protect Californians from those chemicals. Rep. Cunningham refrained from voting on the bill, giving the industry time to gut those protections.

Aaron Hanke’s path from Meridian Pacific to Rep. Cunningham’s office -- and now, apparently, back to his old, oil-soaked stomping grounds -- should be recalled whenever opposition is heard to the SLO County anti-fracking bill and the listener wonders who is really speaking.

*FollowTheMoney.org

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Free Solar Workshop: July 14 (Sat) 12:15–1:30pm

at the French Hospital in SLO.

Volunteer training session is 9am-noon.

Register: sunwork.org/events

sunwork.org

SunWork CA Contractor License #920732 (805) 550-5898 (650) 520-9918

Grand Jury

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never solved, as is apparent at several points in the Stipulated Abatement Order approved by the APCD Hearing Board on April 30.

There are two primary sites for monitoring equipment that measure how much dust is coming from the dunes. One is the Oso Flaco site – the control site, measuring the amount of dust emitted from a natural, non-riding area, which State Parks can't control. The other site measures dust from the riding area. The goal of a dust-reduction program should be to reduce the high levels of dust from the riding area to the equivalent of the low levels of dust from the non-riding areas over the four-year term of the reduction plan. If a Particulate Matter Reduction Plan resulted in the number of days on which dust emissions measured at the riding area exceeding state and federal standards are reduced to a level equivalent to the number of exceedances measured at the non-riding control site: Mission accomplished.

In an apparent genuflection to State Parks' refusal to admit what the data shows — that the riding area is the source of the high number of annual exceedances — instead of laying out this real-world goal, the abatement order sets itself up for failure by mandating an across-the-board 50% cut in all dust emissions. It does not require the necessary comparison between riding and non-riding area monitor data to bring down the high level of exceedances measured at the riding area to something like the low level measured at the non-riding area.

It also requires that a draft Particulate Matter Reduction Plan be submitted by State Parks next February that will lay out the manner in which it will

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An Inconvenient Park

By Jim Hines, Chair, Los Padres Chapter

Channel Islands National Park is a gem in the Pacific, America's Galapagos as they have been called. Home to plant and animal species found nowhere else on earth, the five islands were established as a national park in 1980, which is proposed for elimination in 2019.

These fragile island ecosystems are now an inconvenient national park set in the middle of a vast undersea oil field and at the center of an upcoming perfect political storm.

Channel Islands National Park and the surrounding Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary are the subject of numerous



Welcome New Members!

Whether new to the Sierra Club or new to San Luis Obispo, welcome all to the Santa Lucia Chapter. We're very glad to have you aboard!

New

Eric Johnson
Renee Roeder
Sue Palmer
Rebecca Murphy
Dianne Henderson
Lia Applegarth
Monica Abendano
Stacy Rose
Cameron Parrett
Elaine Jordison
Judge Mike Cummins
Melissa Cummins
Diane Gregory
Erin Holohan
Bryce Aston
Martin Lang
Zhan Shi
Dede Janzen
Emily Franklin-Clark
Angela Vargas
Cheryl Storton
Mrs Gloria Hatley
Cheryl Barrett
Ami Manwaring
Margaret Montgomery
Rick VanBlair
David McBride

Ms Mary Ogle
Ms Lucy McConnell
Ms Diane Flores-Duffy
Ward Caldwell
David L & Erlene Albers
Pat Chaney
Kate Capela
Micheline Landseadel

Transfers

S Schultz and A Nicole
Gloria Fourie
Thomas Stevens
Marcelle Lunau
Michael Hart
Annet Dragavon
Deborah Shibley
Jim Miller
Vera Davis
Jeanne M Brown
Jana Slezakova
Linda Busek
Ralph Hyde

PARK continued on page 10

Park

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policy discussions in the executive office of the U.S. Dept. of the Interior. (Interior oversees the National Park Service and also oil leasing in federal ocean waters).

“What do we do about Channel Islands NP?,” they ask. Rearranging the boundary of the park to accommodate proposed drilling platforms is one of the topics discussed.

New senior management changes are coming to Channel Islands NP as the position of Superintendent is now vacant. Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke will now be allowed to place his person to run our national park, as he has with several other nation-al parks in the western U.S. (the most recent forced retirement was at Yellowstone), adhering to the Administration’s proposals to accommodate offshore drilling.

I am still not sure from my discussions with the Secretary whether his office will use internal administrative changes to Channel Islands National Park or go through congress. Rob Bishop (R-Utah), chair of the House Committee on Natural Resources, has been briefed on the internal proposals. The first of three bills is moving through Congress which would transfer all of the duties of the marine mammal protection program currently under science-based NOAA over to the politically driven Secretary of the Interior’s office. Federally protected whales and other marine mammals are one more inconvenience for the Administration’s plans for our offshore waters and national park.

Growing up here and spending time on the Channel Islands as a child (my father was friends with the former owners of several of the largest islands), I was so excited when congress designated the islands as America’s 40th national park in 1980. But I never ever thought I would see the day when a Presidential Administration would seek, in some form or another, to destroy Channel Islands National Park.

As best I can, I will continue ongoing discussions about this issue with the Secretary’s office, and when the time comes for public comment I will urge each and very one of you and your organizations to send a message loud and clear to the Dept. of the Interior that we do not want Channel Islands National Park changed in any way.



CCA

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jurisdictions to participate in future years

On May 15, the City of SLO issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) “for energy and technical services to support the development and ongoing administration of a local Community Choice Energy (CCE) program.” This implemented the City Council’s direction to draft a technical study and submit an implementation plan to the California Public Utilities Commission by the end of 2018 and get a program up and running in 2020.

The project will maintain the flexibility to support a municipal or multi-jurisdictional Community Choice Energy program, pending JPA progress with the City of Morro Bay.

Meanwhile, the SLO Climate Coalition is meeting regularly with the purpose of engaging stakeholders in

SLO’s major city goal of achieving the “net zero-carbon city” target and creating a Community Choice Energy

program -- one in which five more cities and a tardy County can participate. Speed the day.

TAKE ACTION

Go to <http://www.carbonfreeslo.org/> to sign up for email alerts. #CarbonFreeSLO.

Grand Jury

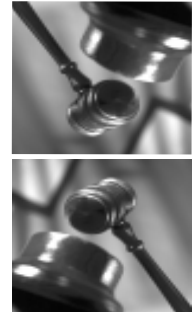
continued from page 9

attain state and federal air quality standards “as expeditiously as practicable.”

Without reciting the litany of 35 years of chronic delay and failure to meet the requirements of its Coastal Development Permit and the County’s Local Coastal Plan, let’s just say that asking State Parks to deliver a plan without a deadline is a bad idea. The APCD Hearing Board should have known that, and the grand jury should have required the closure of that “as expeditiously as practicable” loophole.

Kudos to the grand jury, however, for its recommendation that “the La Grande Tract shall only be used for non-vehicular camping or conventional recreational activity and that it not be used for any type of vehicular-recreational activity” if the Plan fails to meet its four-year goal.

Good idea. We would only point out that putting that recommendation into effect now, not four years from now, would be an even better idea.



Village Creek Plaza

- 168 **La Costa Grill**
(805) 474-8797
- 170 **Cutting Edge Salon**
(805) 481-3126
- 172 **Bend Chiropractic**
(805) 474-4747
- 174 **House 2 Home Interiors**
(805) 489-5233

168 - 174 Station Way, Arroyo Grande, CA 93420
Along Arroyo Grande Creek next to AG Post Office

Outings

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Senise, (805) 712-5248.

Sat., July 7th, 10:00 am, Morro Bay Historic Walk.

Guided stroll past downtown buildings, murals, and Embarcadero to uncover the town's beginnings from fishing village to World War II navy base. Meet in front of the Bay Theatre, 464 Morro Bay Blvd. No charge. Contact Joe, (805) 549-0355.

Sun., July 22nd, 8:30 am, Mountain bike ride, East Cuesta Ridge.

Meet at the East Cuesta Ridge Rd. parking area, east side of Hwy 101 at the top of Cuesta Ridge. We will ride along East Cuesta Ridge Rd. for about 7 miles (14 miles r/t), with a gradual 1,100 ft. elevation gain. Points of interested will be noted, including the rare Santa Lucia Manzanita and Knobcone Pine forest. Bring a mountain bike, helmet, adequate water, and snacks. No RSVP needed, and no dogs please. For more information, contact Bill, (805) 459 2103. Wed.-Sun.

Aug. 8th-12th, Central Nevada Backpack: Twin Rivers Loop, Arc Dome.

This area has been described as one of "deep, rugged canyons, high bald peaks, elk and wet feet." The trip begins on the North Twin River, near Carver, about an hour's drive northeast of Tonopah, at an elevation around 6,300 ft. After arriving

at the trailhead, we hike in 2 or 3 miles to our first camp. The next day we hike another 5 miles and camp. On day 3, we do a day hike (bring a day-pack) to the top of 11,773 ft. Arc Dome, 12 miles r/t with 4,100 ft. elevation gain. Day 4 sees the start down South Twin, with a camp after several miles. The last day is the hike out. 6 miles, 3,000 ft. elevation gain with backpacks. Limit 12 participants. Contact David H., (702) 875-4826, hardyhikers@embarqmail.com (email preferred). Southern Nevada Group/CNRCC Desert Committee.

Sat.-Sun., August 11th-12th, Perseid Meteor Shower in the Black Rock Desert.

Another fun trip to the Black Rock Desert about 100 miles north of Reno. This should be a good weekend for the Per-seid Meteor shower since it's the dark of the moon and the Black Rock is a really remote area. We'll be camped mid-playa and will probably visit nearby hot springs plus have a potluck Saturday, but expect a pretty large group. Bring food and water, but we'll have portapotties. No campfires! LNT. Leader is very familiar with the area. Sign up after Aug. 1st with David, (775) 843-6443. Great Basin Group/CNRCC Desert Committee.

Sun., August 12th, 8:30 am, Poly Canyon and Stenner Creek loop.

Meet on the Cal Poly campus, at the corner of Village Dr. and Truckee Rd. The hike is 8 miles with an

800 ft. elevation gain. The hike will proceed up Poly Canyon and return via Stenner Creek Rd., passing through oaks and grassland. Bring water and snacks. Sturdy shoes, sunscreen, hat, layered clothing are recommended. No RSVP, dogs OK. For more information, contact Bill, (805) 459 2103.

Sat., August 18th, 9:00 am, Point Sal, Paradise Beach, Mussel Rock and Rancho Guadalupe Beach.

This hike takes you to some of the most beautiful coastline in Central California. Paradise Beach sees few people because it is situated a considerable distance from paved roads. This is considered a moderately strenuous hike with 1,200 feet of elevation gain in 11 miles. We will walk North from Brown Rd. to West Main St. There will be a car shuttle. Meet before the locked gate at the end of Brown Rd., approximately 4 miles from

Route 1. For more info contact Carlos, (805) 546-0317.

Sat., August 25th, 9:30 am, Paso Robles Historic Neighborhood Walk.

A guided stroll past century-old Victorian homes and 1890s churches to explore city's pioneer heritage. Meet at Spring and 10th Streets. No charge. Leader: Joe, (805) 549-0355.

Sat., Aug. 25th, 9:30 am Gaviota Beach Back Country, Santa Barbara Co.

A moderately strenuous hike from Gaviota Beach to the wind caves and radio tower



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



John Muir, founder of the Sierra Club, in Yosemite

For further information contact:

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

A Will is a Way

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

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

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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.



Fri.- Sun, July 6th-8th, Black Rock Desert, Nevada - "2nd Fourth of July."

Another fun trip to the Black Rock Desert about 100 miles north of Reno. This will be a smaller group, but expect several dozen people camped on the edge of the Playa. This is a busy weekend on the Playa as many Burning Man attendees use this weekend as a "shakedown cruise" for Burning Man. This

may be a "second 4th of July," with big fireworks and bright lights. There's usually a potluck or Dutch oven cookoff on Saturday. We'll also visit hot springs and the Emigrant Trail! Bring food and water, we'll have portapotties. LNT. Leader is very familiar with the area. Sign up after June 24th with David, (775) 843-6443 Great Basin Group/CNRCC Desert Committee.

Sat., July 7th, 9:00 am - 11:00 am, Salinas River exploration and family fun.

Come explore the Salinas River bed in Atascadero. We will walk in and through the river, exploring the animals, insects, amphibians, and plants that live here in our backyard. Approximately 1-2 miles, not strenuous. We will meet at the Walgreen's parking lot, south side (corner of El

Camino Real and Curbaril Ave.) at 8:45 am to car pool. We will depart for the river at 8:55 am. Wear a hat, shorts, and water-resistant shoes - NO FLIP FLOPS PLEASE! Bring drinking water. Sorry, no dogs this time. Call

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.

OUTINGS continued on page 11

Island Hopping in Channel Islands National Park. July 15-17; August 19-21; September 23-25; October 21-23. Join us for a 3-day, 3-island, live-aboard tour of the Channel Islands. Hike windswept trails bordered with blazing wildflowers. Kayak rugged coastlines, marvel at pristine waters teeming with frolicking seals and sea lions and an occasional whale. Watch for the highly endangered island fox. Look for reminders of the Chumash people who lived on these islands for thousands of years. Or just relax at sea. All cruises depart from Santa Barbara. \$675 cost includes assigned bunk and all meals. A park ranger/naturalist will help lead hikes and give evening programs. Kayaking overseen by our concessionaire; all hikes on trails, class 1 terrain. This is a fund-raiser to support the Sierra Club political program in California. To reserve space send a \$100 deposit to "California Sierra Club PAC" to Joan Jones Holtz, 11826 The Wye St., El Monte, CA 91732. For information: Joan Jones Holtz: jholtzhl@aol.com; 626-443-0706. Wayne Vollaire: avollaire1@gmail.com; 909-327-6825.

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