



SIERRA  
CLUB

April 2006  
Volume 43 No. 4

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COMING IN MAY:

**SLO and the New Energy Economy: A preview**

7 p.m., May 16, SLO Library



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# SANTA LUCIAN



Protecting and  
Preserving the  
Central Coast

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

## Sierra Club Names SLO a "Cool City"

Mayor, City Council recognized for seeking local climate change solutions

At the San Luis Obispo City Council Meeting on February 28, Mayor Dave Romero accepted a Sierra Club "Cool City" certificate honoring SLO's commitment to take local action to curb global warming.

Last November, following a City Council vote, Romero signed a letter in support of the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection agreement. By so doing, SLO joined more than 200 cities nationwide pledging to take action to re-energize their communities with proven local energy solutions such as cleaner car fleets, energy efficiency and renewable energy.

Since the U.S. Mayors agreement came into being in March 2005, 208 mayors representing nearly 42

million Americans have pledged to take actions to significantly reduce their cities' greenhouse gas emissions. (see [www.ci.seattle.wa.us/mayor/climate](http://www.ci.seattle.wa.us/mayor/climate)).

"Mayor Romero is to be commended for his leadership in addressing the city's global warming emissions," said Santa Lucia Chapter Chair Karen Merriam. "We look forward to working with the city to promote energy-saving solutions that meet the pollution reduction



Mayor Romero accepts his plaque from former City Councilwoman Jan Marx (center) and Chapter Chair Karen Merriam.

goals of the Mayors Climate Protection Agreement."

The Sierra Club has released the guide "Cool Cities: Solving Global Warming One City at a Time," a resource for citizens and local officials that explains the steps to be taken toward making cities "cool" and tells energy success stories from across the country — from hybrid

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COOL CITIES

Solving Global Warming One City at a Time

## Boston Tractless

Supervisors' denial of lots based on old map may help prevent sprawl

By Larry Lynch

The San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors reversed themselves on March 14 and denied an effort by Paso Robles-area landowners to create 13 lots based on an 1896 map of tiny Boston Tract lots.

County Planner Victor Holanda and County Counsel James Lindholm recommended denial on the grounds that existing records show only six legal lots within the ten acres where the landowners wanted 13.

The decision was hailed by Sue Harvey of Paso Watch as a great win for residents who are fighting runaway growth in open space surrounding incorporated cities.

Had the board acted otherwise and approved the map, Harvey said, it would have "set a very bad precedent that could have long-range devastating effects on the county's general plan and its attempts to

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## Diablo Canyon Permits Appealed to Coastal Commission

San Luis Obispo Mothers for Peace and the Santa Lucia Chapter of the Sierra Club have filed an appeal of the County permits granted to Pacific Gas and Electric Co. for the removal and storage of defective steam generators at the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant. Pacific Gas & Electric received permission from the County Board of Supervisors to go ahead with the project on March 7.

The project was approved with insufficient information on impacts and inadequate mitigation for them. This leaves the public with no alternative but to appeal to the Coastal Commission, the agency of last resort after bad calls by the County.

The building and land use permits would allow PG&E to construct seven temporary structures, a parking lot and permanent storage building in order to replace eight steam generators from the nuclear power plant. If not replaced, the

generators will fail by 2014.

The appeal notes that the County permits do not acknowledge and do not condition or mitigate the fact that these permits will allow the power plant to operate its two reactor units beyond the end of their license periods in 2021 and 2025. After sinking \$800 million into new steam generators to keep the plant running til the end of its license, it is highly likely that PG&E will apply to relicense the plant and thus continue its environmental impacts and public obstruction to coastal access through the year 2045. PG&E has already requested a feasibility study for license renewal.

The appeal notes that a project that results in prevention of coastal access for an extensive and indefinite period of time is a violation of the California Coastal Act, as is a project that does not minimize adverse impacts due to seismic hazards. The steam generator

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photo/Kevin Walsh

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

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Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

## Santa Lucia Chapter General Meeting

### The Challenges of Eating Sustainably

Join us on April 18th for an evening all about food! Is it possible to eat sustainably in San Luis Obispo County? We will ask community leaders in agriculture, farming, and transportation.

Taste test to compare locally grown produce and locally prepared foods with what is currently available in large, corporate grocery stores.

Watch "The True Cost of Food," while you snack. Door prizes from local businesses and growers!



Tuesday, April 18, 7:00 p.m.

Ludwick Center, Room A

864 Santa Rosa St. (corner of Mill)

San Luis Obispo

**Save the date!**

## Sierra Club members statewide defend Monterey pine forest

Two hundred Sierra Club members and our allies attended the March Coastal Commission hearing to help protect 17,000 threatened Monterey pine trees from being cut down for yet another golf course in Pebble Beach. The thirteen-hour hearing in Monterey was dedicated to a massive development proposal which could affect more than just the Central Coast, but California's entire threatened coastline.

More than the number of trees or the size of the development in Pebble Beach, at issue here is a key environmental protection concept at the heart of California's landmark coastal protection law, the Coastal Act. The Pebble Beach Company and its high-profile owners want to develop an area identified by Coastal Commission staff as Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Area or ESHA. Legally, a designation of ESHA should prohibit development of any kind.

The project would also require development on wetlands and land that had been previously set aside for "permanent" protection through conservation easements. If allowed by the Commission, the precedent set could have dire consequences for future conservation in other coastal communities.

Sierra Club has led the way in the fight to defeat this development which would require Monterey County's 21st golf course, a driving range, equestrian center, mansions and resort development. The developers claim that they are entitled to cut down all 17,000 trees because of the passage of a countywide initiative vote in 2001 which they cynically called the Forest Preservation and Development Plan. However Sierra Club's Coastal Director Mark Massara disputes their claim. "An



initiative passing is not by itself enough, if what the initiative called for is illegal." Massara continued, "People can vote to put a nuclear waste storage facility on the beach if they want, but if it isn't consistent with the Coastal Act, it can't be built."

Some Sierra Club members waited more than twelve hours for the opportunity to testify before the Commission. In spite of pouring rain and a very long day, forest protection advocates must have felt encouraged by the day's outcome. While no vote was held, the big victory for the coast was that no Commissioners disputed the Commission staff's designation that the forest deserves protection.

"The fact that the Del Monte Forest is the largest coastal forest of threatened Monterey pine trees left in the world is important," said Massara. "But the Commission is also well aware of the dangerous precedent that this development would set. If this massive project were to be approved, it would bankrupt the very concept of permanent protection anywhere on California's coast."

The final vote on protection for the 17,000 Monterey pine trees is expected when the Coastal Commission meets in Santa Rosa in June.

For more information on how you can help, visit [www.sierraclub.org/ca/coasts/hotbox/pebble.asp](http://www.sierraclub.org/ca/coasts/hotbox/pebble.asp) Or [www.savepebblebeach.com](http://www.savepebblebeach.com)

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*Outings, events, and more!*

# Dalidio on the Ballot: This Would be the Start of Something Bad

“Marketplace III” designed to skirt environmental review

You would think that, like any major development proposal, the third coming of the SLO Marketplace project — now under the name “Dalidio Ranch” with some p.r. cosmetics applied after its rejection by the voters of the City of San Luis Obispo — would be reviewed under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) to determine what its impacts would be to the land, air, water and wildlife and what the developer should be required to do to avoid or mitigate those impacts.

Think again. There’s a loophole in the CEQA guidelines that allows voter-approved projects to escape having to do an EIR for a project: A “project” is not a “project” when it involves the “submittal of proposals to a vote of the people of the state or of a particular community.” And only “projects” are subject to CEQA. City councils and boards of supervisors are subject to CEQA, and CEQA review must be completed before the council or board places a council- or board-sponsored measure on the ballot. The voters, however, are not subject to CEQA, and a council or board decision to place a voter-sponsored measure on the ballot is not subject to CEQA. Neither is voter adoption of an initiative measure.

That’s why the developer is collecting signatures to put the Dalidio project on the November 7 ballot.

In a March 12 story (“Dalidio project rife with questions”) the *Tribune* printed reassuring statements from a planning consultant that “implementing anything is subject to review,” and from Councilman Alan Settle to the effect that “[Dalidio] will have to persuade numerous federal, state, regional and local boards that the project will deal safely with water, sewage, traffic and air pollution.”

In fact, nothing that would be usually subject to CEQA at the county

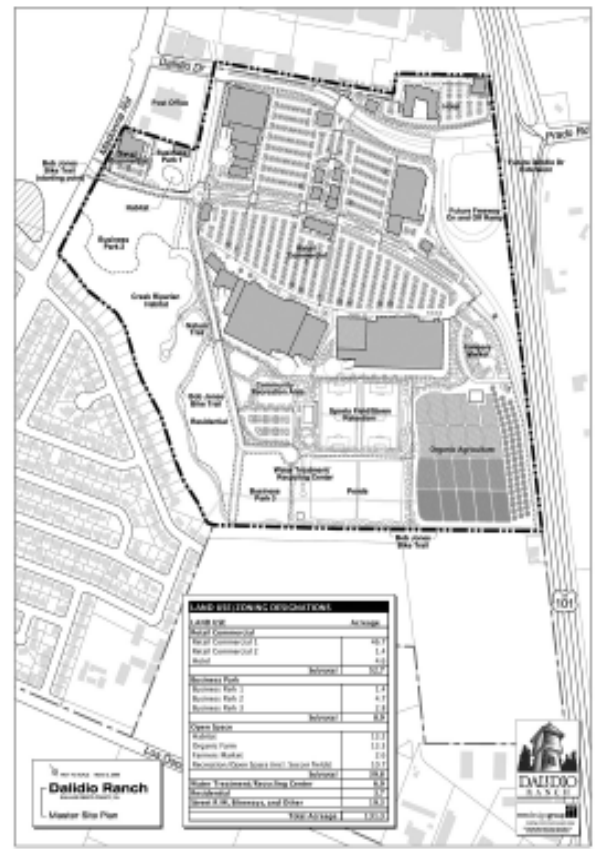
level would get that level of review. Other agencies, such as the regional water board, might indeed put some aspects of the project thru CEQA analysis when the developers go to put in their wastewater treatment component...but that would be *after* the whole project has been approved by the voters. With the project a done deal, approval of piecemeal components would be a fait accompli.

“The California initiative process is often misused by developers to push a project through without the usual legal safeguards, such as Environmental Assessments, etc.,” said Save San Luis Obispo’s Eugene Jud. “Through this misuse, they can torpedo any normal planning process and zoning in any incorporated city or non-incorporated area of the County.”

“Using the initiative process for a General Plan Amendment and a Development Plan is an end-run around public accountability,” said Life on Planet Earth’s Eric Greening. “Normally, the expertise of pro-

to their cities.”

Former City Planning Commissioner Richard Schmidt added “People countywide need to understand this is not about shopping. It’s about whether your home is safe from some developer doing the same thing with a steel mill, a hog farm, a race track, a high-rise office, a truck terminal, or any other obnoxious use they can get ‘approved’ for without even doing an envi-



**This is not about shopping. It’s about whether your home is safe from some developer doing the same thing with a steel mill, a hog farm, a race track, a high-rise office...**

fessional planners, traffic engineers, health specialists, fire and emergency response people, etc. is brought to bear on such a project, assuring conditions of approval that protect the public interest and mitigation of impacts. This process avoids all that.

“Folks in Nipomo and Paso Robles and Arroyo Grande need to understand that this is not the way to approve *any* project, because if it works for the Dalidio developers, others would try the same divide-&-conquer method to impose huge, locally unwanted, unconditioned, unmitigated projects in their areas, or on unincorporated land adjacent

ronmental impact report or obtaining zoning conformity.”

Do not sign this initiative. Tell your friends and opinion leaders in all incorporated cities and the unincorporated areas of the county of the threat to the community that the Dalidio Marketplace initiative repre-

sents, and write letters to the *Tribune*, *New Times* and also to local papers outside of San Luis Obispo. If you start a focus group in your community, inform Save San Luis Obispo (SSLO), POB 121, San Luis Obispo CA 93406.

## Toxic Subdivision Hits Roadblock

A developer’s plans to build two dozen residences on a toxic waste site in San Miguel encountered an obstacle when the County Planning Department’s staff report on the project came under heavy criticism from the Santa Lucia Chapter, Center for Sludge Information (CSI) and members of the public.

Chapter Conservation Chair and County Health Commissioner Pam Heatherington wrote the Planning Commission a letter about the EDA/Colin Weyrick project before the Commission met to hear the permit request, asking why the presence of the heavy metal cadmium, found on the site in excess of federally established safe limits, had not resulted in a requirement for a full environmental review of the project.

In public testimony at the Commission’s March 9 meeting, Santa Lucia Chapter Coordinator Andrew Christie pointed out that there was no indication in the staff report as to the origin of the cadmium, what the health effects of cadmium exposure are, to what extent it exceeded established safe exposure levels, whether it might recur after cleanup, and whether there had been any investigation of potential water table con-

tamination issues. Christie noted that the staff report’s recommendation to have a professional prepare a site remediation plan after the Commission approved the permit would not comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

Commissioner Bob Roos told Planning staff to come back with a report that would bring the project into compliance with CEQA. The item was continued to the Planning Commission’s May 25 meeting.

David Broadwater of CSI brought the project to the attention of the Regional Water Quality Control Board at its March 24 meeting, and suggested that the Board may want to review this project and related reports in greater depth than it has heretofore.

Broadwater pointed out that the concentration of Cadmium discovered is 67 times the average found in uncontaminated agricultural soils in California, but the extent and levels of contamination on the parcel isn’t yet known, and the possibility of surface and ground water contamination exists.

The Board indicated that it may take up the matter at a future meeting.

## Disagree and I’ll Call the Cops

Cal Poly students get an education in the 1st Amendment

By Andrew Christie  
Chapter Coordinator

When the head of the U.S. Forest Service comes to your school to talk about “The Future of Managing Fire in America’s Wildlands,” that might seem to you like a good opportunity to bring up the matter of the Bush administration’s policies on fire management in our national forests, and the implementation measures crafted by the Forest Service to administer those policies.

That’s what Cal Poly students thought when they heard about the scheduled March 6 talk by Forest Service Chief Dale Bosworth, the climax of an eight-week wildland fire studies seminar. The Progressive Student Alliance and Cal Poly Wildlife Club decided to hand out the Sierra Club flyer “Where’s the Fire, Mr. Bosworth?”

Our flyer makes the following points:

- \* The Bush administration’s Healthy Forests Initiative (HFI) is based on the false assumption that landscape-wide logging will decrease forest fires.
- \* This policy concentrates on reducing environmental protection, decreasing public involvement and increasing access to our National Forests and other federal

lands for timber companies.  
\* Real protection requires honest fuel reduction a quarter-mile around communities and involving the public and community leaders in long-term planning. Instead, the Bush forest policy promotes “thinning.” The logging of large, commercially valuable trees miles away from at-risk communities.

On the Friday before the scheduled Monday seminar, the Progressive put out a call to come to the seminar to distribute the flyer and ask Mr. Bosworth a few questions. On Saturday morning, PSA and the Wildlife Club received the following e-mail from course instructor Christopher Dicus, with a cc to the University Police:

“You are only allowed to hear this seminar (which is my class) as a personal courtesy to Cal Poly students and faculty. This is NOT a platform for any protest of any kind (again, this is my class), but is a time for learning and listening. If you or anyone else embarrasses the University, you’ll be asked to leave sooner than you can possibly imagine.

I hope that I make myself abundantly clear.”

- Dr. Dicus

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## Boston Tract

continued from page 1  
curb sprawl."

She credited Gordon Hensley, executive director of Environment in the Public Interest, with helping to prepare the case against the appeal by consistently submitting his arguments for the record.

The supervisors' final decision sets the stage for a thorough environmental review of any development proposed for land where antiquated tract maps of tiny lots were created more than a century ago.

The final March 14 vote came as the climax to a struggle by local residents who live around the Boston Tract, off 19<sup>th</sup> Street just west of the city limits. They were galvanized into action in November when the board, in an action spearheaded by North County Supervisor Harry Ovitt, tentatively approved the landowners' appeal on a 3-2 vote. Supervisors Jerry Lenthall and Katcho Achadjian voted with Ovitt that time around. Supervisors Shirley Bianchi and James Patterson supported the staff's recommendation that the appeal be denied.

The issue was set for final approval Dec. 20. Before that meeting, Mayor Frank Mechem of Paso Robles wrote expressing concern that the city had not been adequately notified about the issue. And neighbors of the project mounted an information campaign, meeting with city and county officials to emphasize the adverse impacts on traffic, public safety, water and storm runoff of a more intensive residential development in the area.

Given the questions raised, the Board voted to delay a decision until March 14.

At that point, the board's action came on a motion by Lenthall, seconded by Achadjian, to deny the appeal until it was reconsidered. That freed up the staff to come back on March 14 with strong reasons for opposition to the appeal.

Thomas D. Green, the attorney for the landowners, again tried to convince the board that the existence of the 1896 tract map, and the fact that some of the lots had been recorded as deeded and owned, proved the legality of hundreds of 25-foot by 100-foot lots.

But Supervisor Patterson urged the county counsel to repeat his position that the Boston Tract map as a whole could not be legal because it was never officially recognized.

That staff position states, "Only lots that were transferred by deed and separated from surround land at a time when deeds could transfer property of the size conveyed can be recognized as legal lots because The Boston Tract was not approved by the Board of Supervisors and its recordation does not create legal lots."

The landowners may sue to attempt to reverse the March 14 decision. Their immediate option is to begin planning a subdivision for all or part of the full 30 acres they own. That would require a thorough environmental review and, given the hilly terrain, probably mean much larger rural parcels.

As hard won as the supervisors' March 14 vote was, it is only one milestone along the long road to realizing carefully considered growth in San Luis Obispo County.

This election year in Paso Robles, as in many cities across the county and at the Board of Supervisors, vacancies are opening up and pro-growth candidates are running for re-election. To tip the scales in favor of the environment, activists will need to locate and support candidates who consistently favor a much more considered approach to growth.

# Hope and Water in Pismo Beach

## Community action performs reality check on developer's fantasy water supply

In Pismo Beach, the Los Robles del Mar project -- 300+ homes on 182 acres of County land off Oak Park Boulevard, just south of Old Oak Park -- was supposed to be a done deal. The final Environmental Impact Report was completed ten years ago. The City of Pismo Beach was set to annex it, build the homes and pump ground water. All that remained was the blessing of Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO).

Then the Oak Park Community Group stepped in. They pointed out that annexation meant transfer of water rights, meaning the City would get to stick its straw into the Oak Park aquifer -- including Arroyo Grande wells -- and pump for the entire city to accommodate Pismo's future growth. In the project's Environmental Impact Report, the developer said the project would rely solely on state water, but now says the project will rely entirely on local wells. The developer's studies indicate this will have a negative impact on local wells, their projections indicate they will more than double the amount of water currently being pumped from the aquifer, and the City has not conducted any studies to determine the long term impact of taking water from the Oak Park aquifer.

In a letter presented at an informational meeting of LAFCO on March 16, the Oak Park group's hydrologist found that the project's assumed water sources were based more on hope than reality. The original estimate of the recharge to the aquifer and available to proposed wells seemed "unreasonably high," and "it appears as though the previous reports have overestimated the amount of water in the deep aquifer, potentially under-estimated the amount of pumping from the deep aquifer, and ignored the impacts on streams, springs, and wetlands."

The Commissioners asked staff to begin the process of developing a more comprehensive EIR on the water issues.

"We appear to have achieved much



Ignored impact: The Meadow Creek area, threatened by the excessive water pumping proposed by Pismo Beach development and annexation.

of what we initially were seeking - the reopening of the EIR process," said OPG's John Schwind. "We will need to solidify today's 'direction to staff' into an official LAFCO action."

The community group's next steps will include meeting with LAFCO on the Commission's next official action, evaluation of the City's poss-

ible fallback to use of State water, then switching to use of on-site wells once the project is annexed (i.e. "okay, we won't use the wells so let us annex," followed by pumping the wells because "it's our water right").

Information available at [www.oakparkcommunitygroup.org](http://www.oakparkcommunitygroup.org)

## Celebrate Bikes In Bloom: Be a Bike Wrangler



This year's Regional Rideshare's signature Bike Fest is scheduled for Thursday, May 18 from 5p.m. to 9p.m. at the Mission Plaza.

The lively event draws a huge crowd. We're looking for some hearty Bike Wranglers help make this event a huge success. New this year is the kinetic art show and commuter challenge.

Sign up to be a Bike Wrangler and you'll receive a FREE Bike Month T-Shirt. For more information contact:

Barrett Henson  
Bicycle Coordinator  
Regional Rideshare  
[bhenson@rideshare.org](mailto:bhenson@rideshare.org)  
781-1385

# Capps, Boxer, Feinstein Seek Protection from Offshore Drilling

In the face of a raft of congressional and administrative proposals to aggressively develop the oil and gas resources of the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS), Congresswoman Lois Capps has introduced a bill that seeks permanent protection for California's ocean and coasts. Senators Boxer and Feinstein have introduced companion legislation in the Senate.

The California Ocean and Coastal Protection Act would make permanent the annual Congressional moratorium on new oil and gas leasing and development of California's OCS. It would also repeal the proposed inventory of off-shore oil and gas resources. The bill does not try to address the buy back or retirement of the 36 active leases off the CA coast.

This is an important statement that

California will fight any incursions into the drilling moratoria that protect our fragile coasts. Capps, Boxer and Feinstein have indicated they will accept nothing less than permanent protection of the California coast.

Assemblyman Sam Blakeslee, a former Strategic Planner for Exxon, encourages federal legislation to permanently resolve the issue of the 36 active but undeveloped offshore leases adjacent to the Central Coast. "After careful consideration, I've concluded that the benefits associated with offshore drilling along the Central Coast are far outweighed by the risk to our environment and local economy," said Blakeslee.



Representative Lois Capps

# Eat This

## Genetically modified organisms lurk behind bad food bill

Media coverage of the National Uniformity for Food Act (H.R. 4167) noted that the bill overrides dozens of stronger state food safety laws in favor of weaker federal standards. It has also been noted that if H.R. 4167 becomes law, California's Proposition 65, the 1986 initiative that requires labeling of products which may cause cancer and birth defects, will be stricken from the books.

Much less noted: If the bill passes, it will bar cities, counties and states from any attempt to require that genetically engineered foods and foods containing GE/GMO ingredients be labeled as such. There can be little doubt that recent increasingly successful local movements in communities across the country to do just that have been the primary motivating force behind this bill, pushed by Big Ag and food corporations, to the mystification of several legislators who have confessed they are puzzled that the nation's major food companies would suddenly and so determinedly push a bill so blatantly opposed to the public interest and public health, and detrimental to the public image of those companies. Those lobbying for the bill included Kraft Foods Inc., ConAgra, Hormel Foods, Kellogg Co., Safeway Inc. and Target Corp.

February 28, 2006

### Comments to the GMO Task Force

#### Subject: National Academy of Sciences Report on the safety of GE food

By Mark Phillips  
SLO GE Free

The County Health Commission's GMO Task Force has conducted its first ever vote. On a motion by Professor Scott Steinmaus as acting chair at the February 28 meeting, the Task Force voted unanimously to prevent further public comment at the meeting.

The subject of the commentary was the bias of the Task Force and Professor Steinmaus.

During about 15 minutes of commentary, we were interrupted five times for a total of 4 1/2 minutes. Following is a portion of the statement we tried to read:

For several reasons I am disturbed by the suggestion made by [Task Force member] Michael Broadhurst and enthusiastically seconded by Scott that 75% of the report that this task force will issue should simply be to adopt the NAS (National Academy of Sciences) report on the safety of GE food.

It appears that this plan would render irrelevant the vast majority, if not all, of the hundreds of pages that have been submitted to this task force which provide the evidence for our concerns with this technology.

The NAS report does not address environmental concerns.

Looking at the list of the authors of the NAS report, Dr. Alan McHugen's name stands out as one I recognize.

Dr. McHugen was brought to Cal Poly during last year's Measure Q campaign and was portrayed as an unbiased scientist who would inform us, objectively, about the risks of GE technology. One thing the faculty of Cal Poly who arranged this forum failed to tell the audience is that Dr. McHugen has several patents involving GE technology. Some of us believe that this might influence his

Representative Lois Capps led the opposition to the National Uniformity for Food Act in the House and offered an amendment to the bill

that would have allowed states to keep or enact laws, like Proposition 65, that require disclosure of the risks of cancer, birth defects, reproductive health problems, and some types of allergic reactions. Her amendment was defeated by a vote of 161-259.

"I was also disappointed that the bill was rammed through the House without public hearings," said Capps, "which would have allowed opponents of the legislation, including a bipartisan coalition of 39 state attorneys general, an opportunity to make their case."

On March 8, the House passed H.R. 4167 by a vote of 283-139. It now advances to the Senate.

## SLO Green Build Educational Series Takes Off

SLO Green Build, the Central Coast Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, and local partners co-sponsored a March 15 kick-off of the SLO Green Build Educational series "Learn, Build, Save" at the Ludwick Community in downtown

### Cool City

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municipal fleets in Houston and Charlotte to energy efficient street lights and buildings in Salt Lake City and Scottsdale; and renewable energy investments in Waverly, Iowa and Columbia, Missouri. The guide is available online at [sierraclub.org/globalwarming/coolcities](http://sierraclub.org/globalwarming/coolcities).

"San Luis Obispo and other U.S. cool cities are proving that we can solve global warming one city at a time and move our nation toward a safer and more secure energy

## Cool It

The Loma Prieta Chapter's Cool It! campaign shares easy and affordable ways to reduce the environmental impact of your daily activities through clean, renewable energy.

The website includes a calculator that lets you identify your personal CO2 emissions, learn how to reduce them, and purchase renewable energy certificates.

Cool indeed! [www.cool-it.us](http://www.cool-it.us)

San Luis Obispo.

The purpose of the event was to inspire and inform professionals in the building industry as to the goals of the green build program, including benefits to their business.

## HopeDance

Most films are at 7 p.m. at the SLO Library unless noted otherwise. \$5 suggested donation. Check [www.hopedance.org](http://www.hopedance.org)

**Friday, April 7:** Two new Peak Oil films

**Sunday, April 9:** "The Celestine Prophecy" two screenings: 3 p.m. 5:30 p.m.

**Friday, April 14:** "The God Who Wasn't There"

**Tuesday, April 18:** "The Real Thing" — Coca, Democracy and Rebellion in Bolivia at 6:15 p.m.

plus "The Revolution Will Not Be Televised" — the overthrow & return of Hugo Chavez, at 8:00 p.m.

Lynne Levine and David Smith, who have travelled to Venezuela, will answer questions afterwards.

**Friday, April 28:** Two films about houseless people: "Bums Paradise" and "Takeover" (\$5; homeless people free.)

Intended for mortgage lenders, real estate brokers, contractors, architects, engineers, vendors, developers and others involved in the building industry, as well as employees of

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position on the matter.

He presented the standard corporate argument that GE technology is really just the same as traditional breeding. But then he went a step further and suggested that Measure Q might prohibit the grafting of one grape vine onto another.

I expect that everyone in this room realizes that grafting has nothing to do with genetic engineer-

ing.

Not only did Alan attempt to scare folks into voting against measure Q with this fallacious argument, but not one of the Cal Poly faculty that was assembled on the stage with Dr. McHugen at the time (including Scott, Dan Peterson, Jeff Wong and their dean) offered to correct this misinformation.

So the suspicion that the NAS report

might be at least somewhat political in nature is not entirely unfounded.

In reading the executive summary of the report, I noticed that the authors stress the importance of post-market surveillance but manage to essentially ignore the concept of labeling.

And while they do show a graph of

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## A Beautiful Day for Lunch on the Bay

by Jack Beigle

When we lived in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, canoeing and kayaking stopped in September and didn't start again until late spring. (The streams and lakes were usually frozen fall through spring.) One of the joys of the Central Coast of California is we can canoe and kayak all 12 months.

Winter storms can be a little challenging when we schedule our outings three months in advance. Every so often we hit the window between storms just right. Our last outing was a good example. We had rain for three days but it cleared Saturday morning and twelve hardy paddlers launched on a very low tide.



The tide was coming in and we had just enough water to clear the old oyster beds south of Grassy Island.

We took out on a sandy beach just below a steep dune that provided a nice windbreak for our lunch spot. After lunch and lots of great conversation, we climbed to the top of the tall dune. The views were fantastic! The air after the rain was crystal clear. The surf was breaking high on the breakwater. Morro Rock looked close enough to touch. Grassy Island was high and dry with flocks of birds feeding on the surrounding mudflats. The

town of Morro Bay looked brand new in the sparkling sunlight.

We all stood silently, looking in different directions and marveling at the simple, pristine beauty.

It was hard to leave that spot to walk back to our boats. The paddle back to the marina went quickly and we all brought back a boatload of good memories from this outing.

Check the outing schedule and join us on the water.

# Taking Issue

problematic recent environmental commentary & coverage in our local press

"Pesticides found in most U.S. streams  
J. Heilman, Associated Press  
*The Tribune*, March 4, 2006



Most of the nation's rivers and streams – and the fish in them – are contaminated with pesticides linked to cancer, birth defects and neurological disorders, but not at levels that can harm humans.

Alas for this attempt to reassure, pesticide exposure cumulative. Repeated low-level exposures build up impacts over time, and can aggravate existing medical conditions.

The 2004 report by Pesticide Action Network - North America "Chemical

Trespass - Pesticides in Our Bodies and Corporate Accountability" found that children, women and Mexican Americans shoulder the heaviest "pesticide body burden." A study published two days before this article appeared by researchers at the University of California found that newborn infants are as much 164 times more vulnerable than adults to a pair of common agricultural pesticides.

"Children are born with lower levels of our bodies' natural defenses against toxic pesticides," said Dr. Gina Solomon, a physician and senior scientist at NRDC. "Unfortunately, the officials responsible for keeping kids safe are ignoring the clear scientific evidence confirming that we need stronger protection for the most vulnerable among us."

Jay Vroom, president of CropLife America, which represents pesticide developers and manufacturers, emphasized that pesticide use by farmers, ranchers and others is strictly regulated by federal and state laws.

The EPA is currently the target of multiple lawsuits charging it with failing to protect children's health as required by law and demonstrated by science, due to EPA's establishment of new tolerance levels for several pesticides in dozens of different foods, including fruits, vegetables, milk, eggs, meat, cereal grains and

vegetable oils. In each case, the agency failed to apply a child-protection factor as required by the 1996 Food Quality Protection Act.

"People assume that pesticides on the market must be safe," writes PAN North America co-director Monica Moore, "or pesticide regulatory agencies would not allow manufacturers to sell them, reflecting a widely held but dangerously inaccurate understanding of these agencies' role."

"While the use of pesticides has resulted in a wide range of benefits to control weeds, insects and other pests, including increased food production and reduction of insect-borne disease, their use also raises questions about possible effects on the environment, including water quality," said Robert Hirsch, the USGS associate director for water.

One might discern more than trace levels of bias in a listing of five positive effects of a practice versus one potentially problematic aspect that merely

"raises questions" about "possible effects." But, in fact, the benefits of pesticides are largely to the \$35-billion-dollar-a-year agrochemical industry, which 60 years ago began telling farmers that they needed to develop a massive dependence on synthetic chemicals in order to go on doing what they'd been doing for millenia. Many of the destructive impacts have been thoroughly documented, but due to the nature of long-term exposure and the millions of potential combinations of thousands of different pesticides and chemicals circulating in the environment, the full extent and nature of their damage probably can never be known. Biologically based farming, alternative pest management and ecological agriculture have proven that there's a better way.

The *Tribune's* version of this AP story neatly deleted the following paragraph:

"Jay Feldman, executive director of Beyond Pesticides, a national research and advocacy group, said the data surrounding the nation's reliance on about 1 billion pounds of pesticides a year "shows an urgent need to strengthen policies at all levels of government and curtail pesticide use."

**"We have to learn where our food comes from, stop buying industrially produced food, and be ready to pay more for sustainably produced food. To put it simply, think organically, buy locally, whenever you can."**

- "Industrial Agriculture's War Against Nature," Ron Kroese, Land Stewardship Project

Visit the website of the Community Alliance with Family Farmers (CAFF), which mounts political and educational campaigns that are building a movement of people who foster family-scale sustainable agriculture: [www.caff.org](http://www.caff.org)

“The sky is not falling”  
The Straight Dope, Feb. 23, 2006  
SLO New Times

Columnist Cecil Adams maintains that “peak oil” – the imminent decline in global reserves of oil and increasing cost of extracting it – will not be that much of a problem because once all remaining oil reserves have been extracted from the Earth and consumed, we can move on to nuclear power.



The extraordinary growth of the industrialized nations since 1900 has been disproportionately fueled by a non-renewable resource that's now roughly one-half to one-quarter gone and that will cease to be a commercially practical energy source within the lifetime of many already born. You're thinking: We stand at the abyss. Not necessarily. Fact is, the U.S. has been here before and we got through it OK. ... [Adams goes on to point out that wood was the chief U.S. fuel source during the 19th century, but before every tree on the continent was cut down, wood burning was replaced by coal, and now nuclear power is likewise “waiting in the wings” to perform the same energy source switcheroo.]

“The limit on the use of fossil fuels will be dictated, not by

the amount of ‘reserves,’ but by the capacity of the atmosphere to absorb their combustion products.... The delayed costs of global warming resulting from the consumption of those fuels will be paid by our successors who are centuries and millennia in the future. According to the arithmetic of discounting from the present perspective, those decades matter very little, and those centuries and millennia matter not at all.” — “How Much is Too Much?,” Ernest Partridge, *Environmental Business Quarterly*, Oct. 1999.

At present consumption rates, the world will burn through three trillion barrels in 105 years—70 years if consumption increases 50 percent as predicted. Mind, that's the optimistic estimate. After that we're left with wind, solar, coal, biofuels, and yes, nukes. To be sure, people fear nukes and will resist till the last. But they'll come around when it becomes clear, as it will, that the alternative is to freeze in the dark.

“Devoting scarce resources to

shore up nuclear [power] takes away from the real climate change solutions – conservation, energy efficiency and renewables like wind and solar. Reactors cost \$4 billion or more each a decade ago and the price hasn't gone down. More reactors sends the wrong message abroad. The peaceful atom is a myth already exposed by the weapons programs of India, Pakistan, Israel, North Korea and Iran. Reactors at the beginning and the end of their lifespans are at their most dangerous, prone to breakdown and accident. Most of the 103 operating now are nearing the end of their cycles. Adding new ones doubles the risk of accident. Electricity is not the biggest problem. It's fossil fuel-powered vehicles. Adding nuclear won't address this or reduce these major green house gas emitters.”

-- Nuclear Information Resource Service, May 2005

And see below.



“Nuclear power industry has a slew of new plants on the drawing board”  
S. Powell and J. Holland, Hearst Newspapers  
*The Tribune*, Feb. 5, 2006

“Bush added...‘If you're worried about the environment, which I am, it seems to make sense that we use nuclear power. It's renewable and it's clean.’ ”

“Tony Blair's backing for nuclear power suffered a blow when the Government's own advisory body on sustainable development came down firmly against the building of a new generation of reactors. Despite the Prime Minister's well-known support for the nuclear industry, the

Sustainable Development Commission concluded that a new nuclear program was not the answer to the twin challenges of climate change and security of supply. In a hard-hitting report, the 15-strong Commission identified five “major disadvantages” to nuclear power:

- The lack of a long-term strategy for dealing with highly toxic nuclear waste
- Uncertainty over the cost of new nuclear stations and the risk that taxpayers would be left to pick up the tab;
- The danger that going down the nuclear route would lock the UK into a centralized system for distributing energy for the next 50 years;
- The risk a new nuclear program would undermine efforts to improve energy efficiency;
- The threat of terrorist attacks and radiation exposure if other countries with lower safety standards also opt for nuclear.”

— “Plan for new nuclear programme approaches meltdown after report,” *The Independent*, March 7, 2006

The nation's nuclear power industry, buoyed by support from President Bush and Congress, says it is charging ahead with plans to build the largest number of new generating plants in 20 years.

“But the sober reality of nuclear power is that the U.S. will move slowly and cautiously, at best, because Wall Street financiers and the nation's utility industry still have vivid memories of the legal, financial, and regulatory debacles that resulted from the building binge of the 1970s.”

-- *Los Angeles Times*, June 22, 2005

## GMO Task Force

continued from page 2

relative risk, this graph has no units and is essentially little more than an opinion poll. Its accuracy is debatable. Nonetheless, three of the four techniques deemed most likely to result in unintended effects are GE and the highest non-GE method (mutation breeding, chemical mutagenesis, ionizing radiation) has, according to Dr. Freese, fallen out of favor due to the high rate of unintended effects.

The other reason I have objections to adopting the NAS report as your own is that I believe there is a better way.

Your task is to gather information for the Board of Supervisors. Unless you simply want to dump a pile of articles on their desk and tell them to figure it out, you need to do some organizing of the data. But you should organize the data in such a way that it does not lead to criticisms of bias.

In figuring a way to do this, we

need to recognize that no one can prove that GE technology is safe, it can only be proven unsafe. Thus, 10,000 articles that seem to find no problem with the technology can be outweighed by a single article that does. Consider the number of studies done by the tobacco industry that found no link between cigarette smoking and lung cancer.

So here's the plan: Divide the report into chapters, each one dealing with a clearly defined area of concern. For example, contamination of organic and traditional crops by GE versions. Start by listing and discussing the articles that raise this concern and demonstrate it's potential (such as the study showing how far bentgrass pollen can drift). Then pair this objection to GE technology with a response that would attempt to show, citing relevant research, that this concern is unfounded.

In this way, both sides will have an

equal opportunity to present their data. And it will be organized in such a way as to be useful.

The following are some ideas for individual chapters for such a report format:

- 1) Required testing. Since many of us believe that there is little testing that is required of GE crops, a simple list of required tests should be made.
- 2) Validity of "Substantial Equivalence." Many of us doubt the usefulness or the proper application of this principle (see "GMO in animal nutrition: potential benefits and risks" by A. Pusztai and S. Bardocz, for example). These concerns would be followed by a response.
- 3) The arguments submitted by Scott critiquing Dr. Pusztai's research and Dr. Pusztai's response (should Scott agree to this offer).

## Disagree

continued from page 2

Professor Dicus has authored a number of reports in recent years with such titles as "Misguided Inaction Threatens Our Forests" and "Overbearing regulations: Rules could hamper forest sustainability," funded by such groups as the California Forest Products Commission, the Lumber Association of California & Nevada, and the California Forest Foundation, whose Board of Directors includes representatives from Sierra Pacific Industries, Sierra Forest Products, and Soper-Wheeler Co., a logging company.

Progressive Student Alliance co-director Abbie Livingston said "I am deeply disturbed and offended at the use of intimidation by this professor intended to keep us from doing what is entirely within our rights," and pointed out that, contrary to Dicus' assertion, the widely advertised lecture was open to students and faculty and the general public.

A few hours before Chief Bosworth's scheduled Monday visit, Cal Poly Provost Robert Detweiler contacted Professor Dicus, the Progressive Student Alliance president and their faculty adviser "to ensure that all individuals were welcome at this public address" and explain "that the free speech rights of all individuals would be protected."

It was too little, too late. Both PSA and the Cal Poly Wildlife Club had been intimidated; e-mail traffic that flew among the threatened students over the weekend made it clear that they believed Dicus' threat meant they were in danger of arrest. The Wildlife Club had warned its members to stay away or risk loss of their group's charter. Several showed up at the talk, but the provost's reassurance just hours previously could not have reached them all.

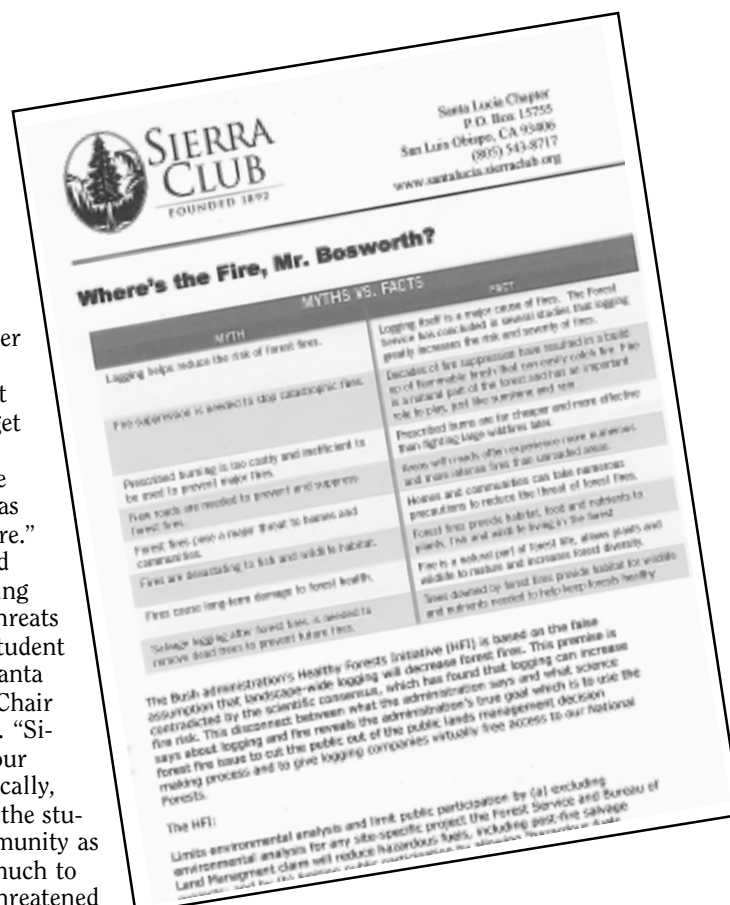
After the seminar, Dicus told Cal

Poly's *Mustang Daily* that he made no threat, and said of the students who showed up to hand out the flyer and attend the seminar without incident, "You get that when you open it up to the public. There was no problem there."

"I am worried about the chilling effect of such threats made against student groups," said Santa Lucia Chapter Chair Karen Merriam. "Sierra Club and our Chapter specifically, not to mention the students and community as a whole, have much to lose if we are threatened in this way when bringing corrective information and differing viewpoints regarding policies carried out on our public lands."

"It would be one thing if this were just one small incident, but I am concerned that it is part of a larger trend that we are seeing at the national level."

Earlier this year, faculty members at Oregon State University's College of Forestry tried to block publication of research by an OSU graduate student that undermined the Bush administration's wildfire logging policy by finding that logging hampers, rather than helps, forest recovery after a fire. The prestigious peer-reviewed journal *Science* published the paper in January despite the re-



Not part of the core curriculum: Our extra credit reading assignment for Chief Bosworth's audience.

quest by the OSU professors not to print it.

The Associated Press reported "the episode created concern that researchers at the respected forestry school face a backlash if they reach conclusions that clash with the timber industry and leading faculty. The College of Forestry gets about 10 percent of its funding from a tax on logging."

Los Padres ForestWatch Executive Director Jeff Kuyper assisted in the writing of this article

## So, how was the seminar?

Bosworth's talk was full of statistics that sided with his statements, and just enough concessions to make you think for a minute that they really do have good intentions. He rarely said 'logging', hardly ever said 'thinning,' and repeatedly told us how in past years fires have become worse and worse and there is dangerous potential for disasters. He even went as far as to say that one of the reasons for this is 'climate change.'

Most of the questions were challenges to statements that he made in his talk, and he either answered them without really saying much or not saying anything that wasn't already in his speech.

I was sitting behind a group of navy-blue uniformed Forest Service employees, and more than a few times they skeptically looked at each other and shook their heads after he made certain statements.

— Jono Kinkade, Grassroots, a Cuesta College Environmental Club and Surfrider Taskforce

## Green Build

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planning, building, facilities, and public works departments. Attendees heard from Mikel Robertson, owner of Green Goods and a member of the SLO Green Build steering committee; Jim Patterson, 5th District SLO County Supervisor; and Dennis Allen, builder and member of the Santa Barbara green program.

Robertson presented a history of green programs nationwide and in SLO County, the features of the SLO Green Build program and the many benefits to our community.



Patterson spoke to the need for leadership and commitment from our local government institutions and the benefits of working with SLO Green Build through the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) process. Allen spoke from his background as a conventional builder who has come to embrace green building practices and is helping to foster a viable local green housing market niche that is philosophically and professionally rewarding for him. He discussed the various green building groups working in Santa Barbara and the evolution of their local program.

For more information, go to [www.slogreenbuild.org](http://www.slogreenbuild.org)

## Writing on the Wall for CA Coastal Power Plants

Morro Bay, Diablo one step closer to long-fought cooling requirement

On February 9, during their bi-monthly meeting, the California State Lands Commission considered a draft resolution calling for the phasing out of antiquated and environmentally damaging "once-through cooling" technology, currently used in all of California's twenty-one coastal power plants.

Combined, California's coastal power plants are permitted to withdraw 16.7 billion gallons of seawater per day free-of-charge, causing extensive damage to coastal environments. Large quantities of aquatic life are killed when sucked into the power plants' cooling water intake pipes and again when heated water is discharged back into the natural environment. Alternative cooling methods are available that are far less damaging, technologically feasible and economically reasonable.

Commissioners Steve Westly and Cruz Bustamante spoke strongly in favor of the resolution which would bar the Commission from approving new leases or extensions for facilities associated with once-through cooling after 2020, but agreed to requests from industry representatives to postpone a final discussion and decision until the next meeting of the Commission, scheduled for April 17.

— The PCL Insider: News From The Capitol



# Water, Wind, Sun - Period

## PG&E is leaving something out of its ads

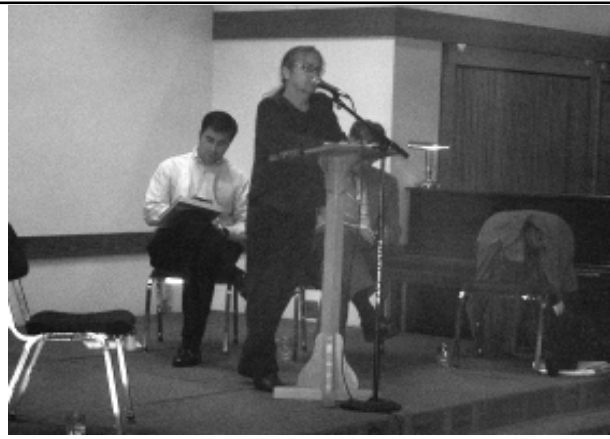
By Rochelle Becker  
 Chair, Diablo Canyon Task Force  
 Executive Director, Alliance for Nuclear Responsibility

You can't miss the ad. PG&E's message is on every television channel, running over and over: "Sun, water, wind... the future is renewable energy" at PG&E. Why, then, is PG&E asking for permission to charge its ratepayers \$19 million for a feasibility study to relicense the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Plant - far into the future? In Illinois, the full relicensing project - not just a feasibility study - cost \$14 million, so what's the story?

Midway through its license permit, Diablo Canyon has produced hundreds of tons of high-level radioactive waste and has obtained a license from the NRC to store its waste on site. If a license extension application is permitted, hundreds more tons will be produced and stored on California's seismically active coast for decades to come.

Phasing out the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Plant by the end of its license in 2025 would reduce the amount of radioactive waste stored on the state's coast. Phasing out a nuclear plant designed in the 1960's would reduce the likelihood that ratepayers will be asked to pay to replace very expensive aging components - again. Phasing out aging nuclear plants would reduce the threat of a radioactive release due to earthquakes, accidents, terrorism and equipment failure.

So let's encourage PG&E to actually do what it is pretending to do and make California's energy future non-nuclear. The Alliance for Nuclear Responsibility agrees that the future should be sun, water and wind. Please join us in working for legislation that would prohibit applications for license renewals in Cali-



On March 17, SLO First Presbyterian Church hosted Tom Jones, PG&E's Manager of Government and Public Relations, and the Alliance for Nuclear Responsibility's Rochelle Becker, in a discussion of the problem of nuclear waste, moderated by Cal Poly Earth Sciences professor and Presbyterian minister Thomas Ruehr.

"Allowing nuclear plants to go on generating more nuclear waste is like letting your kid go to the show if he promises to clean up his room later," said Becker, "except the mess they've made is much more dangerous than the one in your kid's room. We need to be responsible. That means you put money into solving the problem you have before you make that problem bigger."

fornia until a permanent safe solution to the long-term storage of high-level radioactive waste is a reality.

Read more about it at the Alliance for Nuclear Responsibility website: [www.a4nr.org](http://www.a4nr.org)

**Diablo**  
 continued from page 1

replacement project will also add decades to the impacts on the coastal marine environment from the plant's cooling water system, known to be killing sea life and degrading the near-shore ecosystem.

"Because the County did not consider the full impact of the continued operation of the plant, it did not properly consider appropriate conditions for the Coastal Use Permit," said Morgan Rafferty, Project Manager for Mothers for Peace.



Appellants are asking for three additional conditions to be attached to the permit: PG&E to buy back the approximately 2,000 acres adjacent to the plant leased to the Leucadia Corporation, farming on the coastal bluff to be converted to best practices and sustainable farming methods, and the entire 12,000 acres of the DCNPP property to be placed in a conservation easement in perpetuity.

The Leucadia lease buy-back would preclude potential development that would complicate an already difficult emergency evacuation scenario for the residents of Avila Beach. The farming changes could minimize chemical runoff into the ocean.

The Sierra Club and Mothers for Peace will also submit supporting information to the Commission regarding the consequences of "materials degradation" at nuclear power plants in light of indications that the spent fuel pool at New York's Indian Point reactor is leaking, and the disclosure last month of a chronic tritium leak into underground water and private wells by the Braidwood Nuclear Generating Station in Illinois.

Coastal Commission staff will review the appeal to determine whether the County's permits related to the steam generator project appear inconsistent with the Coastal Act and San Luis Obispo's Local Coastal Plan, thereby warranting a new hearing.



# Remembering The Children Of Chernobyl: It Could Happen Here

Commemorating the 20th anniversary of the world's worst nuclear accident

At 1:23 a.m. on April 26, 1986, two explosions ripped through the Unit 4 reactor of the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant in the Ukraine. The initial explosion destroyed the reactor block and adjacent structure. Nearby buildings were ignited by burning graphite projectiles. Radioactive particles swept across the Ukraine, Belarus, western Russia and eventually spread across Europe and the whole Northern Hemisphere.

Belarusian doctors identify the following effects from the Chernobyl disaster on the health of their people: 100% increase in the incidence of cancer and leukemia - 250% increase in congenital birth deformities -


1,000% increase in suicides in the contaminated zones - 2,400% increase in the incidence of thyroid cancer. The biggest health threat is caused by cesium contamination, which alters the heart and kidneys and increases the chance of innate diseases by influencing the hormonal relationship in the mother-fetus-placenta system. Changes in hormonal status in the mother/fetus system lead to lengthened pregnancy, complications during birth & developmental problems after birth.

On WEDNESDAY APRIL 26, 2006, 6 p.m. - 9 p.m.: Meet at the beach closest to the entrance of Diablo Can-

yon NPP for a ceremony led by Pilulaw Khus, Chumash Elder and Medicine Carrier, to remember those whose lives have been affected by the Chernobyl Nuclear Accident, especially the children. After the ceremony we will walk to the gates of Diablo Canyon for a candlelight vigil.

PLEASE CARPOOL TO THIS EVENT - FOR INFORMATION ON CAR-POOLING, CONTACT MOLLY JOHNSON - Cell 296-0524 or [mollypj@yahoo.com](mailto:mollypj@yahoo.com)

Sponsored by SLO Earth Day Alliance.



TSCHERNOBYL-APRIL 1986

RASPAD

EIN ÖKO-THRILLER

## Chernobyl Twenty Years Later

**Friday, April 21,**  
7pm in the SLO Public Library  
Suggested Donation of \$10

The Alliance for Nuclear Responsibility and HopeDance FILMS present

The film **Raspad**—A fictionalization of a true event, this is the story of the tragic nuclear power disaster that occurred in the Soviet plant at Chernobyl when it exploded and burned, spreading contaminants over half the surrounding countryside. This film is a "...riveting attempt to re-create the 1986 nuclear disaster at Chernobyl and to see it as a metaphor for the collapse of moral values in the social-political system that produced it. Raspad is Russian for collapse or deterioration." Vincent Canby for the NY Times

Associate Producer, Peter Almond (who has generously loaned us this film to be screened) will be here to speak.

The film will be followed by speakers:

Angelina Galiteva - Executive Director-Strategic Planning, for the City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LA DWP)  
 and Rochelle Becker - Executive Director-Alliance for Nuclear Responsibility

**"Raspad" is rough and angry. It's about a world in which everything is fraudulent: happy marriages, filial loyalty, modern technology, governments that are empowered to serve the interests of the people.**

# “Leave it Alone”

State Parks gets message on former Hearst Ranch parcels

At a March 8 meeting at the Cambria Veterans Memorial Building — the first of four meetings that will lay the groundwork for the management of Hearst ranchland acquired by the state from the Hearst Corporation in 2004

— the California State Parks Department got a clear message from the public in answer to the question of what Parks should do with the land: As little as possible.

District Superintendent Nick Franco encountered the loudest applause of the evening when an attendee said that the best thing Parks could do with the land, which extends San Simeon State Park intermittently along an 18-mile stretch of coastline from San Simeon to Ragged Point, would be to “leave it alone.”

The consensus for very low impact use from the majority of attendees became emphatically clear as the meeting went on. Chapter Conservation Chair Pam Heatherington suggested a shuttle from Hearst Castle in lieu of parking areas on the land, no blacktop or hardscape west of Highway One, and no trails along the rim of bluffs to avoid erosion.

The Sierra Club is advocating the least visually intrusive public access possible, the dedication of a non-paved, pedestrian-only section of the California Coastal Trail, managed parking areas and managed beach access to protect wildlife and snowy plover nesting areas in order to keep as much of the “wild” in the wild coast as possible.

## An Arboreal Victory

State Parks' tree-killing curbed

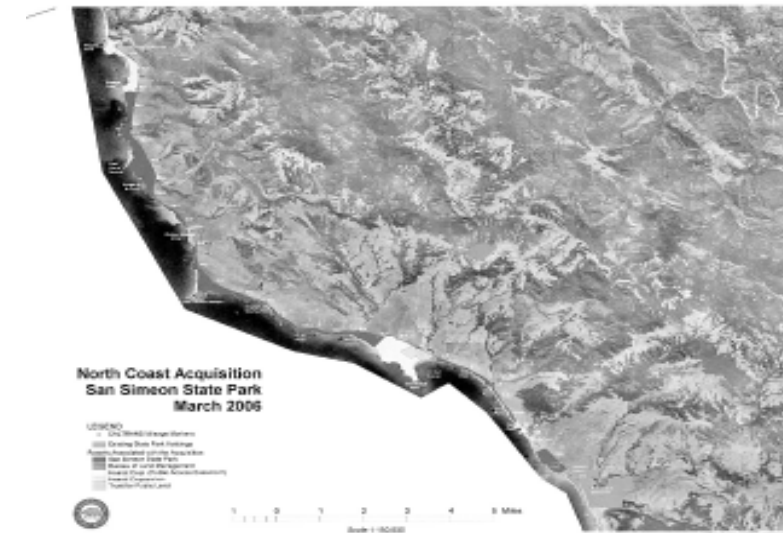
After 18 months of litigation, Morro Bay nonprofit Save The Park, with the support of the Santa Lucia Chapter, has prevailed in settlement agreements with the County of San Luis Obispo and the State Department of Parks and Recreation in a battle over the illegal cutting of trees.

The County charged with working behind the scenes with the Department of Parks to allow the Department to kill mature healthy pine, cypress and eucalyptus trees in coastal state parks without permits. The County Code and the California Coastal Act both require permits for the cutting or killing of trees over eight inches in diameter.

The suit came about as a result of the re-scaping of the Morro Bay Campground in Morro Bay State Park. It grew to encompass 5 of the 11 State Park units in SLO County.

While many trees were cut down and removed, others were girdled or poisoned and left standing. “The group of dead eucalyptus trees on the hillside just east of South Bay Boulevard between Los Osos and Morro Bay is an example of trees killed by the Department and left standing as if they had died naturally,” said Save The Park President Betty Winholtz.

The group's attorneys, Deborah Parker and Cynthia Hawley, said both the County and the Department of Parks broke the law by cutting and killing trees without permits, and both agencies admitted to breaking the law in the settlement agreements. From now on, when the Department wants to cut trees on public property, the community will be noticed and will be able to participate in the pub-



### TAKE ACTION

Make sure State Parks keeps getting the message; come and speak at one or more of these meetings on the management of the Hearst Ranch acquisitions:

Tuesday, April 11, at 7 p.m. at San Luis Veterans Memorial Building, 801 Grand Avenue, San Luis Obispo.

A meeting featuring agency presentations by State Parks, CalTrans, NOAA and the Bureau of Land Management will be held on Wednesday, May 10 at 7 p.m. at Cambria Veterans Memorial Building, 1000 Main St., Cambria.

State Parks will present a summary of findings from the process on Wednesday, September 13, at 7 p.m., at Cambria Veterans Memorial Building.

lic permitting process.

The Department of Parks claims that the trees were killed as part of a broad program to eradicate non-native trees and restore natural vegetation to state parks. Members of Save The Park point out that these trees have become part of the habitat needed by wildlife, and most of the trees cut were not threatening to choke or crowd out native species.

“We thank County residents for supporting our monarch, raptor, songbird, and small animal habitat: the trees,” said Winholtz.

A second lawsuit is pending in federal court concerning the endangered Morro Shoulderband Snail and its habitat.

Report unusual vegetation clearance activity in state park units to Save The Park. Financial support welcome. 772-5912, [winholtz@kcbx.net](mailto:winholtz@kcbx.net).

## Got Your Ticket Yet?

The 2006 Awards Banquet of the Santa Lucia Chapter of the Sierra Club is coming to The Pavilion at Atascadero Lake on June 10. Tickets on sale now; reserved seats and tables only. We'll see you there!

### Mark Your Calendars

Saturday, June 10, 5:30 p.m.

Special Guest: Lisa Renstrom, President of the Board, Sierra Club

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# Classifieds

Nov/Dec issue ad deadline is **April 14**. To acquire a rate sheet or submit your ad and payment, contact:

Sierra Club - Santa Lucia Chapter  
 p.o. Box 15755  
 San Luis Obispo, CA 93406  
 sierra8@charter.net

## Local Government Meetings

- City of SLO--1st & 3rd Tues., 7:00 p.m.; 781-7103
- Arroyo Grande--2nd and 4th Tues., 7:00 p.m.; 473-5404
- Atascadero--2nd & 4th Tues.; 466-8099
- Cambria CSD -- 4th Thurs.; 927-6223
- Grover Beach--1st & 3rd Mon., 6:30 p.m.; 473-4567  
 Grover Beach Planning Commission-- 2nd Tues.
- Morro Bay--2nd & 4th Mon.
- Paso Robles--1st & 3rd Tues., 7:00 p.m.; 237-3888
- Pismo Beach--1st Tues., 5:30 p.m.; 773-4657
- Los Osos CSD board-- 1st Tues. & 2nd Mon., varies
- California Coastal Commission-- 3rd Tues., varies
- SLO County Board of Supervisors-- every Tues.; 781-5450
- SLO Council of Governments; 781-4219  
 SLOCOG Citizens Advisory Committee--1st Wed. every other month, 6:00 p.m.  
 SLOCOG Board--1st Wed. every other month, 8:30 a.m.

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# Outings and Activities Calendar

All of our hikes and activities are open to all Club members and the general public. If you have any suggestions for hikes or outdoor activities, questions about the Chapter's outing policies or would like to be an outings leader, call Outings Leader Gary Felsman (473-3694). For information on a specific outing, please contact the outing leader. Outings Leaders please get your outings or events in by the 1st for the next month's outings.

## Hiking Classifications:

**Distance:** 1 = 0-2 mi., 2 = 3-5 mi., 3 = 6-9 mi., 4 = 10-12 mi., 5 = 12 mi. or more.

**Elevation Gain:** A = 500', B = 1000', C = 1500', D = 2000', E = 2500', F = 3000' or more.

**APRIL 2, 0930, Thurs., NIPOMO CREEKSIDE PRESERVE:** Meet at this new park behind Adobe Plaza which is a product of the Land Conservancy. It consists of about 200 native plants, stream restoration and riparian biome. Confirm a few days before at 929-3647, <bdenneen@kcbx.net>

**Wed., Apr. 5, 12, 19, 26, 5:30 p.m. Informal Hikes Return.** 2-3 hour hikes around the San Luis Obispo Area. Bring water, snack, and dress for the weather. E-mail gfelsman@onemain.com for meeting location.

**Sat., April 8th, 8:00 a.m. Machesna Mountain Hike (Tentative).** Come take a 12-15 mile, with 3000 foot elevation gain, hike through the Machesna Wilderness. Starting from American Canyon Campground, we will climb 1500 to an open meadow and pond below Machesna Mountain itself. After lunch we will climb another several hundred feet to a ridge overlooking the Carrizo Plain. We will soon start our descent to a lush green valley, before climbing up to our final rest stop. We should have plenty of wildflowers, and pleasant weather. Bring lunch, water, sturdy hiking shoes, and plan to be out all day. Most of us will go to the Pozo Saloon after. Meet at Pacific Beverage Company in Santa Margarita. This is not a beginner's hike. Limit 20 people. For details, reservations and meeting place call Gary (473-3694)(5F)

**APRIL 9, 0930, Sun., DANA ADOBE HIKE** See riparian habitat, edge of Nipomo Dunes, invasive exotics and a few of the 94 species of birds that inhabit the habitat. Visit the newly acquired oak woodland biome and proposed wetland purchase to avoid the complete "losangelification" of the Nipomo Mesa. Dogs OK. Confirm a few days before at 929-3647, <bdenneen@kcbx.net>

**April 13-17, Black Cone Trail Backpack Work Trip.** Come join the VWA Trail Crew on the picturesque Black Cone Trail deep in the heart of the Ventana high country. We'll be lopping back brush from the trail corridor and repairing tread as needed, working each day from base camp at Venturi saddle. Participants must be in good enough physical condition to make the 10-mile backpack in to base camp from the trailhead, but the work schedule will be light to medium and so will be an excellent opportunity for first time

trailworkers to find out how they like it. For more information or to reserve a place on this trip, please contact trip leader Boon at <boon@ventanawild.org>. (Sponsored by the Ventana Wilderness Alliance)

**Fri-Sun., April 14-16. Panamint Mountains Service, Carcamp & Hike.** Improve the environment and learn the Surprise Canyon story. On Saturday we will join the BLM staff in tamarisk eradication. Families welcome. Possible Spring wildflower display and Easter egg hunt. Sunday will be a recreational hike. 2WD vehicles OK. Send large SASE, rideshare info, vehicle type, H&W phones, E-mail to Reserv.Co-ldr: Sue Palmer, 32373 Saddle Mtn Drive, Westlake Village, CA 91361, dotts333@adelphia.net, (818-879-0960). Ldr: Jim Kilberg, (310-215-0092). CNRCC Desert Com/Desert Peaks

**Sat. April 15th, 7A.M., MCPHERSON PEAK HIKE.** Come join our trip to a well known mountain in the Sierra Madre Range located near New Cuyama. It tops out at 5,749 feet. With clear views we will see the San Rafael Wilderness, the Caliente Range, the Cuyama Valley and possibly the Sierras. This 11 mile hike with 2870 elev. gain is moderately strenuous. This will be an all day excursion with the 170 mile round trip drive from S.L.O. Expected return time is approx. 8PM. We will meet at Santa Rosa Park in S.L.O., and at the Halcyon exit parking in A.G., and on the East side of the highway on Route 166. It is possible to stay at Aliso Campground the night prior to and/or the night after

miles with many stops. Confirm a few days before at 929-3647, <bdenneen@kcbx.net>

**APRIL 22, 0930, Sat., NIPOMO BOTANIC GARDEN** A tour of Al Naydol former garden—now Jeff LeNay's at 481 North Los Flores, Nipomo. Confirm a few days before at 929-3647, <bdenneen@kcbx.net>

**SUN., APR. 23, 10:00 A.M., CANOE/KAYAK MORRO BAY.** We will explore a bit of the bay at low tide. We will launch at Tidelands Park in Morro Bay to utilize their paved launching ramp and avoid muddy feet. Bring your boat and equipment, PFDs, windbreaker and a picnic lunch. LOW TIDE 1:55 P.M. -0.4' LAUNCH AT MORRO BAY TIDELANDS PARK BOAT RAMP, HIGH TIDE 8:26 P.M. 4.8'. Details Call Jack Beigle 773-2147

**April 23, 0930, Sun., KAYAK Osos Flaco Lake** Meet at lake with kayak and pfd. I have an extra kayak. Bring binos for all the birds. Confirm a few days before at 929-3647, bdenneen@kcbx.net

**April 30, 0930, Sun., COAST HIKE.** About 4 miles over dunes, dogs OK. Confirm a few days before at 929-3647, <bdenneen@kcbx.net>

**Sat, May 20, 10:00a.m., CANOE OR KAYAK THE LAS TABLAS ARM OF LAKE NACIMIENTO;** The lake is full, bald eagles are nesting, and the scenery is glorious. We will paddle out to the main body of the lake and possibly beyond for a picnic lunch and then return by 3 p.m. Bring your own human-



Photo by Joaquin Palting

done fire tower which can be climbed. This is an all day outing as the drive to the trailhead is about 1 1/2 hours. Tentative meeting place is the Las Tablas Park and Ride, on the West Side of Highway 101. From SLO take 101 north to Las Tablas Exit. Turn left, and the parking area is on the left, will carpool from there. Drivers should bring driver's license, auto registration, and proof of insurance which is required by Fort Hunter Liggett. Bring sufficient water, lunch, good hiking shoes, and dress for the weather. The trail may be brushy in places and there is a possibility of poison oak. No Adventure is needed. Please confirm with the leader. For info and confirmation contact Chuck at 927-3769. (5F)

**Sat., May 6, 8:45 a.m. ADOBE TRAIL:** Moderate to strenuous uphill hike through grassland, canyon, and oak-studded grassland (8 mrt, 1300 ft elev. gain). Bring lunch, water, jacket and sturdy shoes. Meet 8:45am in Santa Maria at the North SB County Government Center's easternmost parking lot. Rain cancels-trail can be very muddy. JERRY 928-3598 (AR)

**Fri., May 12, SUNSET/ MOONRISE HIKE AND POTLUCK AT HARRIS GRADE:** Walk along the ridge at Harris grade with a short strenuous climb at the end (4 mrt, 700 ft. elev. gain). Come and watch as the sun goes down and the full moon comes up a few minutes later. Bring a daypack with flashlight, food to share; as well as a plate, utensils, and water for yourself. Meet at the Lompoc Pizza Hut parking lot or the Orcutt Long's Drugs parking lot at 6:15pm. Hikes are subject to change, always contact the leader. JIM 937-6766 (AR)

**Sat-Sun., May 20-21 - Lone Pine Lake, Alabama Hills & Manzanar:** Join us at our beautiful creekside camp in the high desert near Lone Pine. On Sat, we'll hike a moderate 6 mi rt, 1600' gain from Whitney Portal to beautiful Lone Pine Lake, followed by happy hour, a potluck feast and campfire. On Sun, we'll taking a driving tour through the Alabama Hills on our way to the WWII Japanese internment camp at Manzanar with its moving tribute to the internees held there during the war. Group size strictly limited. Send \$8 per person (Sierra Club), 2 sase, H&W phones, email, rideshare info to Ldr: Lygeia Gerard, 1550 N. Verdugo Rd. #40, Glendale, CA 91208; (818-242-7053). Co-Ldr: Bill Spreng, (760) 951-4520. CNRCC Desert Com/Mojave Group.

## Support our local chapter

photo/Kern Klauer

We send out an appeal in March to each of our members, asking for contributions directly to our Chapter. These contributions really do make a difference to us, and are an important part of our Chapter's budget.

When you make a donation to the Chapter, you support the Sierra Club's work in your own backyard. You allow us to continue our work to protect wilderness and wildlife, to improve the quality of life in our cities, and to promote the enjoyment of nature.

Please be as generous as you are able—remember, these funds directly affect your way of life in your neighborhood.

Send in your reply envelope today! or mail to:

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the hike. We will have supper at the BUCKHORN in New Cuyama after the hike if you want join us. The little poison oak that we encounter is avoidable. The climb up can be hot, but the top can be cold and windy. Bring appropriate clothing, food and water. If hot weather is expected this will be postponed because of a lack of shade on most of the route. Adventure Pass is required at the trailhead. Please call if you want to meet at a site other than Santa Rosa Park or you have a question. Carlos, 546-0317. (4F)

**APRIL 16, 0930, Sun., TOUR de NIPOMO** Bicycle ride stopping at Park, Native Garden, Creekside Preserve, Dana Adobe, Temetate and High School. Meet at Nipomo Library. Less than 10

powered watercraft, PFDs, water, lunch, and sun protection—the usual stuff. Free launch and free parking at the leader's home. Put in 10:00 a.m. Email or phone the leader for more information and for driving directions to the launch site. Limit of 12 boats. Leader: Cal French, 239-7338 or ccfrench@tcsn.net

**Sat., May 6th, 7:00 a.m. Hike to Pimkolam Peak (Juniperro Serra or Santa Lucia).** Join the leader on this strenuous hike to the highest point in the northern Los Padres National Forest. The hike is 12 miles with 3800 ft of elevation gain. We will pass through several different ecosystems, including oak forest, chaparral, and pine forest. There are also some wonderful rock outcroppings near the trailhead. The view from the top is magnificent. On the peak is an aban-

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