



SIERRA
CLUB

May 2006
Volume 43 No. 5

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GENERAL MEETING

**SLO and smart energy:
A preview**

7 p.m., May 16,
SLO Library

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COMING IN JUNE:

**Our Legacy & Promise:
The Santa Lucia Chapter
2006 Awards Banquet,
Atascadero Pavilion,
June 10.**



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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's June 6 Ballot Endorsements

**Santa Lucia Chapter Endorsements
for County Races, 2006**

**SUPERVISOR, 2nd DISTRICT
Judy Vick**

In the Sierra Club, it has long been generally agreed that there is no such thing as a perfect candidate; that we must weigh the positives against the negatives, overlook rough edges, blind spots etc., if, on balance, we find that the candidate is viable and we agree more than we disagree with his or her beliefs and agenda.

Not this time. The unanimous recommendation of our seven-member Political Committee to endorse Judy Vick was made with no reservations. Her forthright positions, unswerving "unpolitical" answers to tough questions and grassroots appeal have lit a fire under the 2nd District race and marked her as the quintessential people's candidate. As a "self-made" woman with a distinguished professional career in the public sector as a therapist and counselor, the skills she has acquired there will clearly serve her well as a Supervisor. She will be an able advocate for our issues on the Board. The District is fortunate that this candi-



It's Vick: Our next 2nd District Supervisor (center) with campaign volunteers.

date has chosen to run in this election.

Bruce Gibson's many qualifications, contributions to the community and overall track record, with particular notice to his good work on the Cayucos viewshed ordinance, were noted approvingly by our Po-

litical Committee. Roger Anderson did not return a questionnaire or request an interview.

**SUPERVISOR, 4th DISTRICT
No endorsement**

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Energy Forum Takes Shape

A key message of the Sierra Club's "Cool Cities" campaign is that smart energy projects can make good financial sense and save money while simultaneously promoting clean energy. Lower energy bills, more jobs, and increased local revenues are hard to object to.

Locally, that message is now being heard. For the last few months, Sierra Club has been meeting with representatives from the SLO Chamber of Commerce, SLO Green Build, the Homebuilders Association, Coast National Bank, Cal Poly, the County Board of Supervisors and the Air Pollution Control District. All agree: It's time to get serious about smart energy on the Central Coast, on a large scale.

This ad hoc committee is planning an all-day regional Smart Energy Solutions Forum, to be held October 10 at the SLO Veterans Memorial Auditorium.

We have high hopes for this process and what could come out of it. Investments in renewable energy and hybrid fleets, energy efficiency, improving public transportation, making our cities more bikeable and/or walkable, curbing sprawl, increasing recycling and reducing waste are all on the table. Purchasing wind energy, solar roofs on all local schools, and cities committing



Not your usual eco-meeting: Cal Poly Architecture professor Margot McDonald, Turko Semmes of Semmes and Co. Builders & SLO Green Build, Santa Lucia Chapter Chair Karen Merriam, Gabriel Alarcon of Cienaga Energy Systems, Jerry Bunin of the Homebuilders Association, and Aeron Arlin Genet of the Air Pollution Control District - part of the ad hoc group that has been meeting at the Environmental Center of San Luis Obispo to plan this fall's Smart Energy Solutions Forum.

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photo/Karin 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.

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

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

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Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

Santa Lucia Chapter General Meeting

Smart Energy Solutions in SLO
A preview of this fall's regional energy forum

(Note change of venue!)

With skyrocketing gas prices and climate-related catastrophes in the news every week, we're all concerned about a cleaner energy future.

In our county, there are many opportunities for smart energy solutions that save taxpayer dollars and reduce global-warming pollution at the same time. Come find out what other cities are doing to make a difference, and how we can do our part right here.

Join us on May 16 as we come together for a preview of a major regional forum on smart energy solutions in San Luis Obispo. For more info, visit www.santalucia.sierraclub.org



Sierra Club California Energy Committee co-chair Ken Smokoska will speak at our SLO meeting on May 16.

Tuesday, May 16, 7:00 p.m.
SLO City/County Library
995 Palm St.
San Luis Obispo

Save the date!

Immigration, Trade and the Sierra Club

The debate you're not hearing

By Andrew Christie
Responsible Trade Committee

This spring, as immigration once again became the hottest political topic in America, the debate has again focused on higher fences and driver's licenses, amnesties and guest worker programs.

In a March 30 Viewpoint in the *Tribune* that specifically sought support for a state bill to deport undocumented convicted felons after they've served their prison terms, but which also made broad statements on immigration in general, Assemblyman Sam Blakeslee and Bob Shanbrom twice invoked the name of the Sierra Club, giving the appearance that we endorse their views on the issue (and prompting concerned members to call the Chapter office for clarification on the day their article appeared).

For the Sierra Club, the central fact of forced migration is the one that has gone largely unstated in this debate: Corporate globalization and U.S. policies on trade have more to do with how many people cross our borders illegally than U.S. immigration policy or any potential reform thereof.

The exploitation of less developed countries in the economic globalization framework known as "free trade" has resulted in their financial and environmental impoverishment – both known to be primary causes of global overpopulation and increased migration. In 2002, the International Forum on Globalization noted that this framework is "promoted and enforced by international institutions and agreements such as The World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the World Trade Organization, the North American Free Trade Agreement and the proposed Free Trade Area of the Americas." Such agreements and institutions have brought about the loss of

local production for local consumption, triggering "instability of food supplies, hunger for millions of people, and devastating consequences for farmers, communities, and nature."

The Sierra Club recognizes corporate globalization and overconsumption as primary causes of human impoverishment, environmental degradation, and forced migration. (www.sierraclub.org/sierra/200411/immigrants.asp).

Blakeslee and Shanbrom advanced the argument that rising rates of migration from less developed to more developed countries have been a cause of environmental harm and resource depletion. This popular, oversimplified argument is often debated in terms of overpopulation vs. overconsumption, or U.S. immigration-driven population vs. global population. This creates a dramatic tableau of environmentalists vs. immigrants, a destructive exercise in futility that looks a lot like class warfare and serves the same purpose: Diversion from the real problem.

When the issue is correctly framed within the context of the global economy, we see that forced migration is an effect, not a cause, of environmental destruction.

When the focus of the debate is U.S. immigration policy rather than the nature of immigration, this reality is invisible. But lately, a consensus has begun to emerge. "At the turn of the millennium," reported Marcelo Suarez-Orozco in his presentation at the 2001 conference *Global shifts: U.S. immigration and the cultural impact of demographic change*, "we are witnessing intense new worldwide migration and refugee flows...largely structured by the intensification of globalization." The same year, the *Journal of Media and Culture* noted "The privileging of rich migrants over poor ones romanticizes

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The Executive Committee meets the fourth Friday of every month at 2:00 p.m. at the chapter office, located at 1204 Nipomo St., San Luis Obispo. All members are welcome to attend.

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Outings, events, and more!

Citizens of SLO County,

Very soon an initiative will probably qualify for the SLO County November ballot that presents a threat to the autonomy of local government and citizens' ability to influence it. If passed, this initiative would set two dangerous precedents with very serious, destructive and lasting consequences for communities throughout our County.

Please take a little time to consider the ramifications of this radical proposal for your town. At right is an essay which highlights these precedents and the threat they pose to local government as we know it. People who want to defend local control over community decision-making will be alarmed at this frontal attack, regardless of whether they're liberal or conservative or have a business or environmental agenda - everyone loses if this passes.

Please also think about becoming involved in a county-wide coalition being formed to defeat this initiative or finding someone from your town who will. Organizing meetings are already underway and members from outside SLO City are greatly needed. People from each town will be welcomed.

I'm sure you're very busy with irons already in the fire, as am I, but think you'll recognize how this initiative could destroy the efforts of many people to effect the decisions of their most accessible and representative levels of government. Please hand this article to people you know who would be concerned about this and possibly wish to become involved in this coalition.

Anyone interested in becoming involved can contact me (csi@thegrid.net), and I will pass along volunteer information to other organizers. Those who respond should include their town.

Thank You,
David Broadwater
Atascadero

May is Bike Month!

Support the bicycling community throughout the County

Bike Month is a national celebration of human-powered vehicle transportation encouraging people of all ages and abilities to ride bicycles to their destinations instead of driving.

SLO Regional Rideshare is introducing a unique way for businesses to take part in Bike Month this May. Businesses are encouraged to take

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Dalidio Ranch Initiative: An Obscene Affront to SLO County Democracy

By David Broadwater

I just received an unsolicited and unwanted letter in the mail and I'm livid, not because it's pornographic, but because what it proposes for the November ballot is obscene.

I live in Atascadero and would prefer to let the folks in San Luis Obispo and their representatives make decisions about land use in their neck of the woods. But Mr. Dalidio wants me to sign a petition so that every voter in the County can have a say about his development next to SLO City. By placing his initiative on the ballot, he also wants to have his project exempted from

your town's needs and desires could force you to surrender your autonomy.

Although I've read a little about the Dalidio project, I've remained a comfortably ignorant spectator, certain that those most affected would make the best decision. It's their business, not mine. As a registered voter (designated as "high propensity" by Dalidio's paid propagandists), I don't want to be required to study his project in enough detail to vote intelligently. Neither do I want voters from Nipomo, San Miguel,

For years, the initiative process in California has been criticized as divorced from its original purpose (providing the citizenry with a means to solve problems entrenched politicians won't address). The primary cause identified for the degeneration of this exercise in direct, bottom-up, democracy is the corrupting and abusive intrusion of moneyed interests (and their hired campaign workers, pollsters and PR consultants) for the narrow purpose of increasing their private profits at the public's expense. Mr. Dalidio's proposed ini-

The precedent that would be set could result in the unraveling of local representative democracy.

County and State laws requiring assessment of traffic, school, water, sewer, growth, fire, police and other needs and effects.

Consider the consequences of this precedent for your own neighborhood. Your ability to affect decisions that impact your community can be nearly obliterated by any deep-pocketed developer willing to buy petition-circulators, polling and PR firms and media commercials. The input of your advisory committee, services district, city council or planning department could be overridden in a perverse reversal of eminent domain. Masses of people largely ignorant and/or negligent of

San Luis Obispo or any other town voting on land use decisions in my neighborhood (unless it's to open a nuclear waste repository in town or something similar). That's our business, not theirs.

The precedent that would be set by the success of Mr. Dalidio's initiative could result in the unraveling of local representative democracy. The outlaw exemptions it would ratify would render land use decisions blind to their infrastructure, economic and ecological consequences. The ability of communities to plan for their futures would be plagued by unremitting uncertainty and instability.

tiative is another manifestation of this invasion of our grassroots political territory.

In the interests of representative government, informed decision-making and the integrity of our initiative process, I urge all citizens to contact their local representatives right now to inform them of this threat to their roles in land use planning. Ask them to oppose this initiative and recommend that citizens don't sign Mr. Dalidio's petition.

Regardless of the SLO-specific impacts of his project, his initiative is an affront to our community values and is, therefore, obscene as the law defines it.

Exchange Your Veggies

Squaring off against too much squash?

What will you do when all those tomatoes ripen?

Wish you could have had some of

those oranges now rotting on the ground down the street?

It's official: The Neighborhood Produce Exchange of SLO County is up and running. Check it out online

at:

www.neighborhoodproduce.org

Why feed the compost pile when you can feed your neighbors? Spread the word!

ESA Wrecking Crew Tries to Scam SLO

Last March, the City of San Luis Obispo received a request from the California Natural Resources Group and the Regional Council of Rural Counties to sign on to a resolution supporting "updating the Endangered Species Act."

The California Natural Resources Group is a front for the business, agriculture, forestry, mining, and construction lobbies. The Regional Council of Rural Counties supports "efforts...to balance species protection with the economic and social consequences that may result from such protection, including compliance costs," "streamlining" the California Environmental Quality Act, and "reassessing" the National Environmental Policy Act. They oppose "initiating requirements which would further increase the cost of Timber Harvesting Plans (THP's) or make the approval process more onerous;" believe that "the housing element law should be

revised to place a greater emphasis on obtaining financing and enabling production, rather than undertaking and satisfying extensive planning requirements." They support things like "extending the compliance date in rural counties for retrofitting diesel engines in public fleets and off-road equipment," and even, lord help us, "expeditious certification of electronic voting machines." (2005-06 Policy Principles and Legislative Priorities).

Had quick-thinking Councilwoman Christine Mulholland not checked with us for confirmation that the goals of these groups do NOT conform with the City's legislative platform, the Mayor might have signed this blandly worded resolution from the pollution lobby,

intended to "streamline" the Endangered Species Act, and endangered species, out of existence. Close one.



She smelled a rat: Councilwoman Mulholland's instincts spared SLO an embarrassing endorsement.



Yeah, right.

Taking Issue

problematic recent environmental commentary & coverage in our local press

“Manic for Organic”
Los Angeles Times, March 10, 2006

A scientific study has found that the nutrient content of industrial agriculture’s conventionally grown fruits and vegetables has dropped steeply over the last fifty years. Other studies have shown organically grown produce is nutritionally superior. The study was an attempt:

to quantify anecdotal reports of a trade-off between crop yields and concentrations of nutrients.

Bad news for industrial agriculture, which:

is aimed at boosting crop yields by using fertilizer, and genetically improved [sic] crop strains.... Are we sacrificing quality for quantity?

But, in fact, small-scale alternative agriculture beats Big Ag in taste, nutrition, and productivity.

“Small-scale integrated farms produce far more per unit area than large farms. Though the yield per unit area of one crop may be

lower, the total output per unit area for small farms, often composed of more than a dozen crops and numerous animal products, is virtually always higher than that of larger farms. Clearly, if we are to compare accurately the productivity of small and large farms, we should use total agricultural output, balanced against total farm outputs and ‘externalities’ (the environmental and human health impacts for which large industrial-scale monocultural farms allow society to pay), rather than single-crop yield as our measurement principle.

“Continuing to measure farm efficiency through single crop ‘yield’ in agricultural economics represents an unacceptable bias against diversification and reflects the bizarre conviction that producing one food crop on a large scale is more important than producing many crops (and higher productivity) on a small scale.”

— *Fatal Harvest: The Tragedy of Industrial Agriculture*, Island Press, 2002



“Some Pricey Pismo Homes in Jeopardy”
The Tribune, April 2, 2006

Homeowners and hoteliers are attempting to armor the coast, building seawalls to keep their bluff-top properties from sliding into the sea.

The Coastal Commission’s request that the City of Pismo not build any more structures that require shoreline protection is a good idea and it is the law as defined by the Coastal Zone Management Act. A very small number of people created the need for shoreline armoring. Armoring is a choice that mainly benefits beach front property owners. In our beach front community, less than one hundred property owners line the beaches used by thousands. Shoreline stabilization is carried out only when the front row of buildings are endangered. By preventing the placement of structures in the hazardous bluff erosion zone, the erosion problem would disappear, and the community would keep a beach. Property owners, while small in number, are able to simultaneously generate public sympathy for the plight of the buildings that they chose to perch precariously on the edge of the sea.

Despite a recent study that said bluff protection along Pismo Beach’s 5-mile stretch of coastline is “immediately needed,” less than one-third of property owners have built structures to protect their properties from erosion.

Shoreline hardening and sea walls damage and destroy valuable natural resources, access to public beach and tide-pool areas.

— Philip Teresi, Surfrider Foundation, San Luis Bay Chapter

In 1997, Gary Grossman, builder of 125 Indio, promised the city of Pismo, Surfrider Foundation and, I assume, Mr. Cavanaugh, that “in an imaginary worse case scenario, if the bluff fell at a rate of one foot a year, a seawall would not be needed for ten years.” I wonder what agreement he made with Mother Nature, because neither one kept their promise.

Walter Cavanaugh is the most recent private property owner to build a seawall in Pismo Beach -- and he spent big money in the process.... Cavanaugh declined to reveal how much he paid for a professional consultant or how much he spent to fight a lawsuit by the local Surfriders.

Mr. Grossman also committed to “consult directly with Surfrider Foundation before proceeding” should a seawall ever be needed. He didn’t.

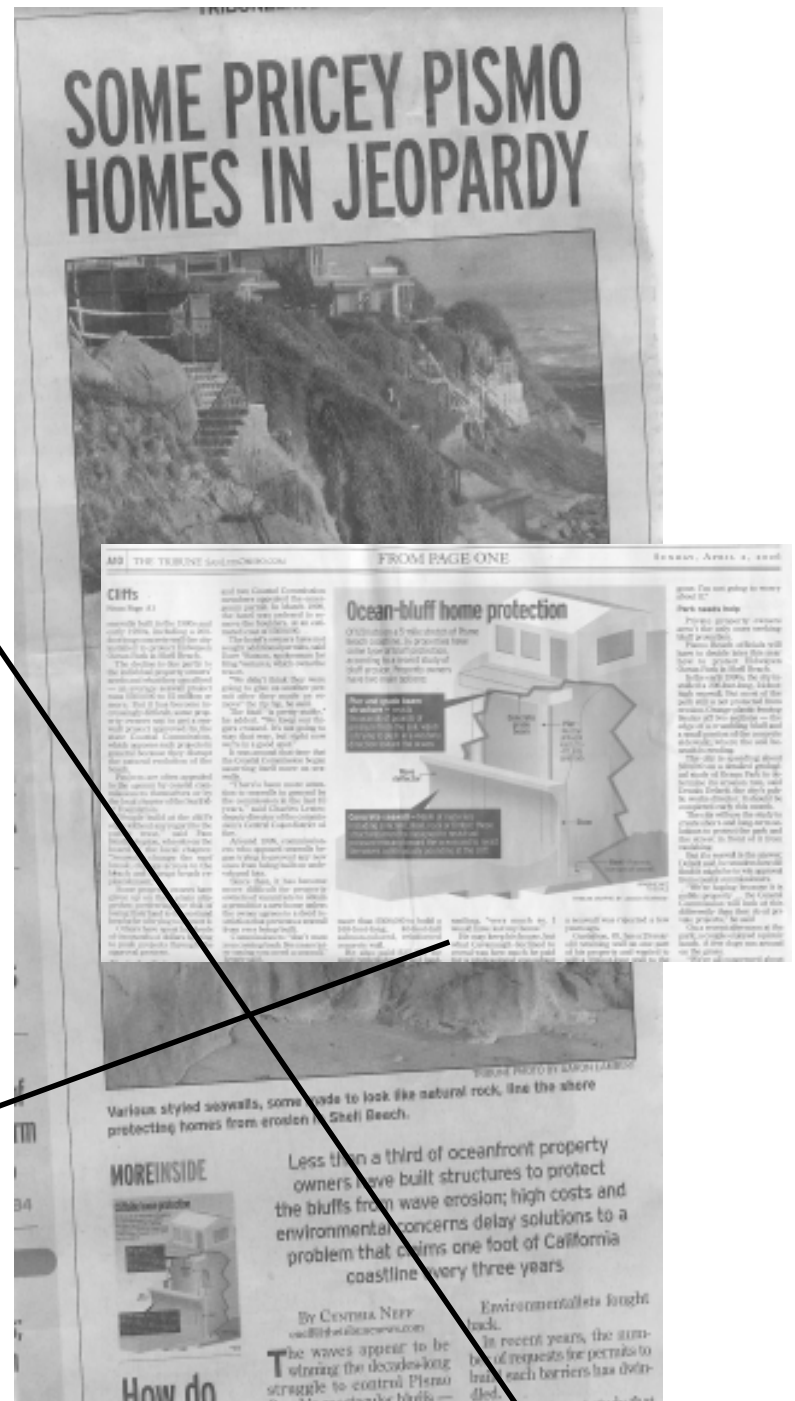
The Coastal Commission said “don’t build here.”

Surfrider Foundation said “don’t build here.”

Mr. Grossman promised not to put in a seawall.

Yet less than ten years later there is an enormous seawall at 125 Indio.

— Jan Marx



EcoSummit 2006

ECOSLO's fifth annual all-day networking session connecting individuals and organizations working on the diverse environmental issues on the Central Coast happened Sunday, March 26, in Cambria's Camp Ocean Pines.

Pat Veasart, Enforcer for the Coastal Commission, South Central Coast, and Sara Wan, longtime California Coastal Commissioner, were the day's keynote speakers.

Breakout groups took on Ag conversion and Open Space, Marine Protection, and Food and the Environment

Bill Denneen's Environmental Hero award — \$500 and a carton of fresh eggs from Bill's chickens — went to a completely surprised Jan Marx. "I am so honored," said said. "I will donate the money to ECOSLO. I will look at the plaque when I am feeling discouraged and remember this moment."



photo: Steven Marx



Pam Heatherington (left) gave Jan Marx the Environmental Hero award. Panel discussion on Engaging Young Enviros was chaired by John Beccia, with Jono Kinkade (Cuesta Grassroots), Chris Cameron (Camp Ocean Pines), Laura Lopez (ECOSLO), Mark DiMaggio (Paso Robles High School), and Rachel Aljilani.



Bike Month

continued from page 3

part in the Bike Art Window Display by decorating their company's window or use a prominent place in their building to represent a 'Bikes In Bloom' theme throughout the month. Rideshare is gathering local artists to join with businesses and organizations to create the displays.

"What a wonderful and colorful way for businesses to partner with local artists to entice people to stop by, visit and patronize their business as well as show support for a great program that benefits everyone," said Deborah Cash, Administrator for the San Luis Obispo Downtown Association.

"There are many ways for our community to take part in Bike Month. For businesses, Bike Art Window Displays shows a businesses support of bicycling as a fun, easy and friendly way to get around, which ultimately helps to reduce the demand of vehicle parking," stated Lisa Quinn, Program Coordinator for Regional Rideshare.

Businesses participating in the unique dressing of their windows will be recognized on a printed tour map and interactive website page.

The windows of the ARTery, an art supply shop in Atascadero, will feature the infamous "Tall Bike Posse" in a Bikes In Bloom theme. "The tall bikes the are a unique blend of endless summer meets spaghetti western," said Bill Mulder, Corporate Graphics Specialist from RRM and

member of the Bike Posse.

Winning displays will be selected by a panel of art jurors who will caravan in a Ride-On shuttle to participating businesses to view the Bike Art Window Displays. The winning Bike Art Window Display business or organization will receive:

- Recognition on the Main Stage at Bike Fest on May 18th
- \$1,000 worth of scheduled media on KSBY
- Business listed in full-page color "Thank You" advertisement in New Times.

Artists designing the window display will receive:

- Recognition on the Main Stage at Bike Fest on May 18th
- \$300 from the ARTery in Atascadero



Someday It Has to Quit Raining

By Jack Beigle

In California we really shouldn't complain about the weather. Our canoe outings have hit a very good average with the weatherman, but we do miss one occasionally.

April was rainy. When it rains, I still think about canoeing. (Actually, I think about canoeing when it isn't raining also.)

All of the newsletter readers that are canoeists and kayakers will understand my following haiku.

My canoe's calling
Whenever it quits raining
Please, take me dancing!

Check the outing schedule and join us on the water.

Energy

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to municipal green utilities could be in our immediate future.

The Sierra Club is working at the international, national, regional, state and local level to curb global warming by encouraging clean energy options and stopping polluting energy projects.

Our "smart energy solutions" priorities include promotion of renewables and efficiency; reducing oil demand (efficient/clean cars and other efficiency efforts); a halt to the coal rush and clean up of existing coal plants and air pollution; and preventing energy leasing and production on sensitive lands and waters.

Learn, Build, Save

The second event in the SLO Green Build Educational series entitled LEARN BUILD SAVE will be held at the San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden building at El Chorro Regional Park on May 17.

Gather at the Botanical Garden's new sustainable preview room at 6:00 to enjoy a self-guided garden tour and refreshments. At 6:30, join architect Ken Haggard to learn about simple design techniques that can enhance your quality of life while reducing your operating costs.

Rick Mathews, ime local Permaculture Master, will share ways to plant native landscape that help our homes remain comfortable all year-round while dramatically improving watering efficiency.

Please utilize public transportation. For schedules, go to www.slorta.org or call 541-2228. For San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden info and directions: www.slobg.org or call (805) 546-3501



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Endorsements

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Sierra Club California's Endorsements for Statewide Offices, 2006

GOVERNOR

(dual endorsement)

Phil Angelides (D)

Steve Westly (D)

Either Treasurer Angelides or Controller Westly would be the greenest governor California has ever had. Both candidates have made environmental protection a prominent theme of their campaigns, and both impressed Sierra Club volunteer leaders with their commitment to stewardship of our natural resources and public health.

Both endorsed candidates have used their current statewide positions in innovative ways to safeguard our state's air, water, coast and open space. Angelides has guided California's huge pension funds, CALPERS and CALSTRS, into green investments in smart growth and clean technology. Westly has taken on the auto companies on global warming and the power plants on marine life protection.

Sierra Club California asked both Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger and Green candidate Peter Camejo to engage in its endorsement process, but neither of them returned our questionnaire. Schwarzenegger has refused repeated requests to meet with Sierra Club representatives since taking office.

ATTORNEY GENERAL

Jerry Brown (D)

As the leader of the state's Department of Justice, the Attorney General plays an essential role in enforcing California's environmental and public health laws. Bill Lockyer, our Attorney General for the last 8 years, has not only taken enforcement action against many private polluters, but has also sued the Bush Adminis-

tration on numerous occasions for its assaults on our environment.

With Lockyer termed out, Brown is the best candidate for the job of lawyer for California's environment. Having served as governor for 8 years and as Oakland mayor for another 8, Brown would bring a wealth of executive experience to the job. As governor, he carried out earth-friendly policies in energy, transportation and river conservation.

Brown has pledged to "highlight the role of the attorney general as environmental steward and protector of California laws against federal pre-emption. I will also emphasize the seriousness of climate disruption. Finally, I will champion the state's responsibility to protect the people's common heritage of streams, lakes, marshlands and tidelands."

SECRETARY OF STATE

Debra Bowen (D)

One of the principal issues currently facing the Secretary of State is the problem of applying modern technology to voting procedure. As Chair of the Senate Elections Committee, Senator Bowen has been a very aggressive leader in fighting for safeguards to ensure that all votes will be accurately recorded and reported. Bowen is interested in serving as Secretary of State because of its importance to what she calls "the infrastructure of our democracy." She has been a strong supporter of Clean Money campaign finance reform, and is extremely well informed about the role and responsibilities of the office.

Bowen has been an environmental leader during her 14 years representing coastal Los Angeles in the State Legislature. She voted for 23 of Sierra Club California's 24 highest priority bills on the Senate floor over the last 3 years, and also played a key role in removing polluter-linked

appointees from environmental positions.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

(dual endorsement)

Liz Figueroa (D)

John Garamendi (D)

Jackie Speier (D)

The Lieutenant Governor sits on the State Lands commission, the Board of Regents and the Coastal Commission (non-voting).

Senator Figueroa has built a superb record in the Legislature, voting for 100% of Sierra Club California's most important bills on the Senate floor over the last 3 years, authoring bills to protect our coast and water quality, and serving as a stalwart on the Environmental Quality Committee.

Insurance Commissioner Garamendi has previously served in the Legislature, where he authored laws on clean energy and toxic cleanup, and as Deputy Secretary of the U.S. Department of the Interior, where he implemented the water reforms of the Central Valley Improvement Act and blocked the Ward Valley nuclear waste dump.

Senator Speier has distinguished herself in the Legislature, voting for 83% of Sierra Club California's highest priority bills on the Senate floor over the last 3 years and introducing a bill this year to counter the Bush Administration's attempt to roll back community right-to-know about toxic releases.

CONTROLLER

(dual endorsement)

John Chiang (D)

Joe Dunn (D)

The Controller sits on the State Lands Commission, the California Pollution Control Financing Authority, and the state pension funds.

Chiang has been elected twice to represent the Los Angeles area on the

Board of Equalization. He has consistently voted to uphold and rigorously enforce a series of "polluter-pays" fees that fund programs for electronic waste recycling, hazardous waste cleanup, and childhood lead poisoning prevention. He also advocated ocean and desert protection as a staff member for former Controller Gray Davis.

Senator Dunn has compiled an outstanding record during his two terms, despite representing a politically marginal seat in Orange County. Dunn voted for 100% of Sierra Club California's highest priority bills on the Senate floor over the last 3 years. A successful consumer attorney, he demonstrated his investigative ability by leading a hard-hitting Senate inquiry into the profiteering energy companies, like Enron, who abused California during the electricity crisis.

TREASURER

Bill Lockyer (D)

For 8 years, Lockyer has been the greenest Attorney General in California history; he now promises to be the greenest Treasurer ever. The Treasurer can influence environmental policy through investment decisions of the pension funds, and through his leadership of the California Pollution Control Financing Authority.

SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

Jack O'Connell

Sierra Club's main interest in this position stems from our active involvement in environmental education, and O'Connell, the incumbent, has supported environmental education both in the classroom and in outdoor schools.

The endorsement decisions culminated a comprehensive process that included questionnaires, candidate interviews, and deliberations by four different committees of volunteer leaders.

Immigration

continued from page 2

globalization as corporate progress and ignores the immense human suffering it entails for the majority of the world's population.... These waves of internal migration also result in the movement of peoples across national borders in order to survive."

The Globalization Caucus at the United Nations World Conference Against Racism noted that "actions of transnational corporations, international development and financial institutions...heighten inequality among and within states, increase pressure to migrate, and impede efforts to fight racism and racial discrimination."

But word has not yet gotten around. While it's a given that over-consumption and waste is built in to the model of economic globalization, one seldom hears it acknowledged that forced migration is also a consequence of the increasing impoverishment of less developed nations, and therefore also directly attributable to the role of free-trade style globalization. At most, you may hear a vague comment that other countries should improve the lot of their citizens so they won't flee to the U.S. and the riches of the West, with no analysis of how that improvement should come about or exactly what is preventing it.

The economic engine of inequity that is driving both wasteful con-

sumption and forced migration produces the secondary problems of resource consumption, overpopulation and forced migration. Tackling the problem at its source means focusing our energies on a common strategy with a common goal: Eliminating the growing chasm between the winning and losing ends of the "free trade" equation. That means turning free trade into fair trade.

"Restricting immigration to the United States won't solve the environmental problems that force people to move in the first place, and the increasing numbers of illegal immigrants indicate that restrictions are more thumb-in-the-dike than viable policy," says Stephen Mills, director of the Sierra Club's International Program. "The Sierra Club's international efforts go to the headwaters, promoting environmentally sustainable livelihoods that keep forests and families healthy, while making polluting multinational corporations accountable and trade agreements fair."

Or as environmental legend and past Sierra Club President David Brower succinctly put it as he cast his sharp eye on the economic fallout and human costs from the North American Free Trade Agreement: "Rather than complaining about immigration from Mexico, the U.S. could stop causing it."

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Club Gets Key SLO Energy Element

On April 4, the San Luis Obispo City Council formally voted to update its Conservation and Open Space Element (COSE).

One key sentence of its many pages now reads as follows:

4.30.18: Accept the support of the County Air Pollution Control District in calculating emission inventories and the development of balanced strategies for addressing climate protection through development of model ordinances and guidelines designed to meet the City's goals.

The new policy was drafted by the Santa Lucia Chapter, submitted to the Planning Commission and accepted by Commission at its February 8 meeting, the last review of the draft COSE by the Commission before passing it on to the City Council for final review, amendment and adoption.

Encouraging local government entities to join and participate in this international program would significantly increase the amount of green house gas emission reductions that could be achieved locally. Staff will also provide technical assistance to local stakeholders and create an information clearinghouse to assist local initiatives.

Classifieds

Nov/Dec issue ad deadline is **May 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.

Meeting Minutes

highlights from recent Chapter meetings

Conservation Committee, April 4, 2006

In attendance: Lynne Harkins, Jono Kincade, Mandy Davis, Sue Harvey, Jan Marx. Staff: Andrew Christie. Guest: Karen Merriam.

Karen reported on a strategy meeting on extension of MBNMS. Leslie Krinsk has withdrawn her resignation from the Marine Interest Group until a decision is made on how replacements will be chosen.

Morro Bay Power Plant OTC Consortium hired Bill Powers to lobby the issue of once-through cooling. Jan suggested contacting all coastal chapters and Sierra Club California's legislative lobbyist.

Jono Kincade will meet with Mayor Tom O'Malley of Atascadero regarding Cool Cities. APCD's Larry Allen is making presentations at city council meetings on greenhouse gas reduction plan. Jono and Jessica Dom will meet with Paso Mayor Frank Mecham to discuss the Cool Cities resolution.

Sierra Club California has endorsed the Clean Alternative Energy Initiative, collecting signatures for the November ballot. It would tax oil extraction revenues and direct funds to renewable energy. We may ask about having a petition at the ECOSLO office for signatures.

A group meeting with Dr. Steve Divincenzo to discuss labeling his Bt corn was arranged by Jono. He would support a countywide initiative to have GE food

labeled. He agreed to produce a booklet saying which of his produce are GE, organic and conventionally grown and make it available to his customers. It should be ready for next growing season. He is in favor of growers reporting to the Ag Commissioner that they are growing GE foods. Followed up the meeting with a letter confirming areas of agreement.

SLO City Council to decide on chapter 8 -- open space protections -- of COSE. Jan and Andrew will speak.

The chapter and Mothers for Peace have filed an appeal of the DCNPP steam generator replacement with the Coastal Commission. Two commissioners are also appealing.

We will remind DFG that they said last year they would meet in Morro Bay or SLO this year to discuss waterfowl hunt regs. The MLPA alternatives will be discussed at the Harbor Advisory meeting Thursday at Vets hall in Morro Bay. Mandy requested that people attend to support Package 2.

Sue agreed to serve on the County's TDC blue ribbon committee as the Chapter's representative.

Adjourned: 5:15.

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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.

Sat., May 6th, 7:00 a.m. Hike to Pimkolam Peak (Junipero 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 abandoned 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

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-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

May 20-27, VOYAGE OF THE GLACIERS. Answer the call of the wild with your pioneer spirit as we explore the land John Muir said "was still in the morning of creation." Travel with your Angeles Chapter and Orange County

Sierra Singles friends on the luxurious Sapphire Princess as we head north up the Inside Passage from Vancouver, Canada to the Alaskan ports of Ketchikan, Juneau, and Skagway. View all the great maritime mammals and active tidewater glaciers with an on board naturalist. Join us for on board get together and brisk hikes around the promenade deck. On Ports of call days, go ashore and see the totem poles of Ketchikan, the Mendenhall Glacier in Juneau, the Klondike Gold-Rush Trail of '98 from Skagway or join the leaders on hikes and frontier saloon explorations. Cruise Glacier Bay National Park and College Fjord. After crossing the mighty Gulf of Alaska, we bid farewell in Whittier for transport to Anchorage and the flight home. Your cruise fare includes an astounding array of onboard facilities: ship stateroom, ocean transport, gourmet meals, quality entertainment, exercise opportunities and some beverages. Staterooms available from \$564 based on d/occupancy. Port charges, gov't taxes, transfers, tips, discounted airfare extra. Move fast, limited spaces in each category. Call Violet Calderon (vcalderon@montrosetravel.com), Montrose Travel's Group Division, 800-301-9673 for a brochure and the best cabin choices or go online www.montrosetravel.com/sierraclub. A post-cruise extension will be offered to Denali Nat'l Park. For information on either the cruise or the extension, please send a sase or e mail to Cruise Coordinator: DONNA SPECHT, 22221



Photo by Joaquin Palting

Wood Island Lane, Huntington Beach, CA 92646, 714-963-6345 e mail donnaspecht@juno.com Co-Leader: ANA CADEZ (Angeles Chapter Fundraiser, Orange County Sierra Singles)

Fri.- Mon., May 26-29 - Lava Beds Backpack: The so-called Lava Beds are actually remarkable granite formations east of the Black Rock Desert in Pershing County, Nevada. We'll do an easy two-day backpack looping through some of these formations. For those wishing to stay over till Tuesday, we'll do a day hike on Monday to the top of nearby Dry Mountain. Limited to 12 people. Participants will be asked to write letters supporting Wilderness designation for the area. For more information or to sign up, contact John Wilkinson, jfwilkinson@sbcglobal.net, (408-947-0858). Loma Prieta Chap/CNRCC Desert Com

JUNE 4, 1100, Sun., NIPOMO NATIVE GARDEN A celebration of Summer, Native Plants, Non-MOM's Day, Bill's B-Day at Nipomo Native Garden with a tour of garden followed by potluck, BBQ at 1230. Everyone welcome. Confirm a few days before at 929-3647, <bdenneen@kcbx.net>

Aug 2-9, The Nature Corps Presents "Experience the Real Hawaii:" Since 1987, The Nature Corps has offered award-winning volunteer excursions in America's National Parks. Now, these multi-dimensional excursions allow you to experience Hawaii the way few will ever do! Go behind the scenes to see the real Hawaii and explore beautiful and rare habitat few visitors will ever see.

As part of this volunteer vacation you will help to save the endangered and rare flora in Hawaii Volcanoes National Park. The other half of the trip will be devoted to learning about and exploring the natural wonders of Hawaii. You will have an opportunity to visit spectacular waterfalls, lush rain forests, remote seacoasts, snorkel around coral reefs teeming with undersea life, view glowing lava as it cascades into a moonlit ocean. These outings are not physically demanding so feel free to bring your family or friends for a memorable vacation! Sign up now while space is still available. Reasonable Rates, family and friends welcome. For more information and reservations visit our website at www.thenaturecorps.org/vol-hawaii.htm or call (800) 77-4-PARK.

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All proceeds go to the Santa Lucia Chapter of the Sierra Club

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.