



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

May 2011
Volume 48 No. 5



June is National Trails Month

Get out there for a good cause!



SIERRA CLUB
SANTA LUCIA CHAPTER



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Hike-A-Thon to Support the Work of Your Local Chapter

"Keep close to Nature's heart... and break clear away, once in awhile, and climb a mountain or spend a week in the woods. Wash your spirit clean." -John Muir

Celebrate National Trails month in June by getting out on our great local trails, supporting our local Chapter of the Sierra Club, and seeing what we're working to save, all at the same time.

How to get started:

Step 1: Download pledge forms from www.santalucia.sierraclub.org and choose a hike from the June issue of the *Santa Lucian* or visit the website at <http://www.santalucia.sierraclub.org/calendar.html> in June for a calendar and description of hikes and outings.

Step 2: Spread the word. Set a goal of how much you'd like to raise. Ask everyone you know – friends, family and co-workers will want to support you, but they won't know unless you ask. Carry your sponsor forms with you. Remember – sponsors don't have to participate, your support can come from near and far away.

Step 3: Make the ask. Approach small businesses where you spend your money, ask people in clubs you belong to and people at the gym. Use social networking, like FaceBook and Crowdrise.com.

Step 3.5: Donations are tax-deductable. To receive a tax deduction, tell donors they must make out checks to "The Sierra Club Foundation" and write "SLO Land Preservation Fund" in the Memo section.

Step 4: Track your progress. A minimum fundraising goal of \$100 per hiker is suggested, but any amount is welcome. People will be more generous than you think.
IT ADDS UP FAST - 4 people pledging \$25 each or 10 people pledging \$10 will get you \$100 for your hike.

Step 5: Hike and have fun! Invite your friends!

Step 6: Show me the money. Send donations to Sierra Club, P.O. Box 15755, San Luis Obispo, CA 93406 or drop it off any time at the Chapter office at 974 Santa Rosa Street, San Luis Obispo (use the mail slot in the front door).

If you have questions, email Kim at kimlramos@yahoo.com or call the Chapter at 543-8717.

DON'T MISS

May 24:

Local youth working to heal the earth

-see page 2



Please recycle

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Sierra Students Step Up

Jorge Montezuma briefed a meeting of Cal Poly's Sierra Student Coalition on the Sierra Club's Inner City Outings program in March. Check out the Coalition at www.ssc.org/.



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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.

Join today and receive a FREE Sierra Club Weekender Bag!



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INTRODUCTORY \$25
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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.

Enclose check and mail to: **F94Q W 2500 1**
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Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

General Meeting

Tuesday, May 24, 7 p.m.

Local Youth Working to Help Heal the Earth

If you are feeling glum about the health of our planet, come out tonight and be rocked by a high-energy and inspiring bunch of young activists. The teachers and students of Atascadero, Morro Bay, Paso Robles, and Templeton High Schools and the Sierra Student Coalition of Cal Poly will discuss their diverse projects to protect nature in our county.

Where: Steynberg Gallery, 1531 Monterey St., SLO. Info: Joe Morris, 772-1875.



Green up The Morro Bay High School Environmental Club in the house!

The Price of Cool

The April issue of *Men's Journal* boasts that eternal staple of magazine feature writing, the Best Places to Live story.

Under the banner "The 18 Coolest Towns in America" (presumably not just for men), there was San Luis Obispo, along with the notation of its "stratospheric levels of emotional well-being" as recorded in a Gallup poll, and the happiest-town-in-America title as bestowed by Dan Buettner in his book, *Thrive*.

And as is the case with most such profiles, it cited some specifics in support of these laurels, such as "Ordinances [that] keep development from creeping up the city's signature hillsides."

And as with most such profiles, the bird's-eye view left out the details. In all the descriptions of the coolest towns in America and how they got that way, there was very little indication of what has been required to keep those towns cool.

Four years ago, for example, the fact that "ordinances keep development from creeping up the city's signature hillsides" didn't mean much in the face of a SLO City Council headed by "Pavin' Dave" Romero that was determined to green-light four development proposals that would leap, not creep, up those hillsides and bust the city's Urban Reserve Line. Led by Johnson Avenue neighborhood residents, the community organized, rose up, and forced the City Council to relocate to the Vet's Hall to accommodate the crowds that showed up at the meeting at which the development proposals were heard. In



What lies beneath Without determined citizen activism, magazine articles about great places to live would have to greatly lower their standards.

the face of overwhelming testimony on future mudslides, water tanks, traffic jams and the destruction of the view, Pavin' Dave threw in the towel and had to vote against the develop-

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The Executive Committee meets the third Friday of every month at 2:00 p.m. at the chapter office, located at 974 Santa Rosa St., San Luis Obispo. All members are welcome to attend.

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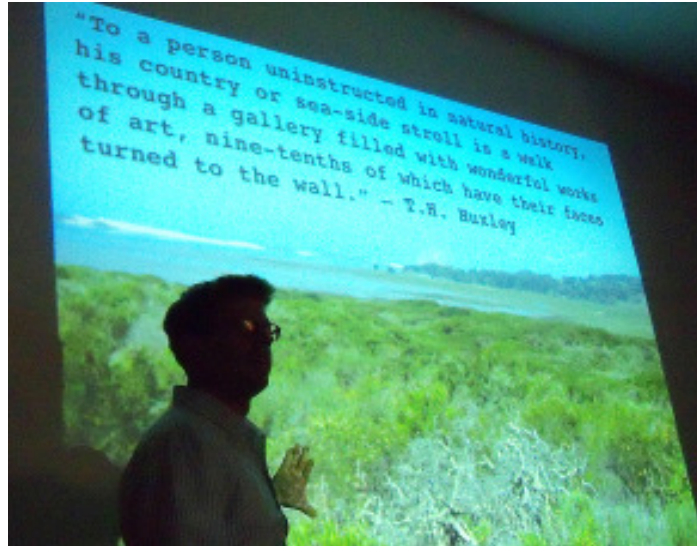
Outings, events, and more!

Guide to California's Trees: Our Gift to Donors

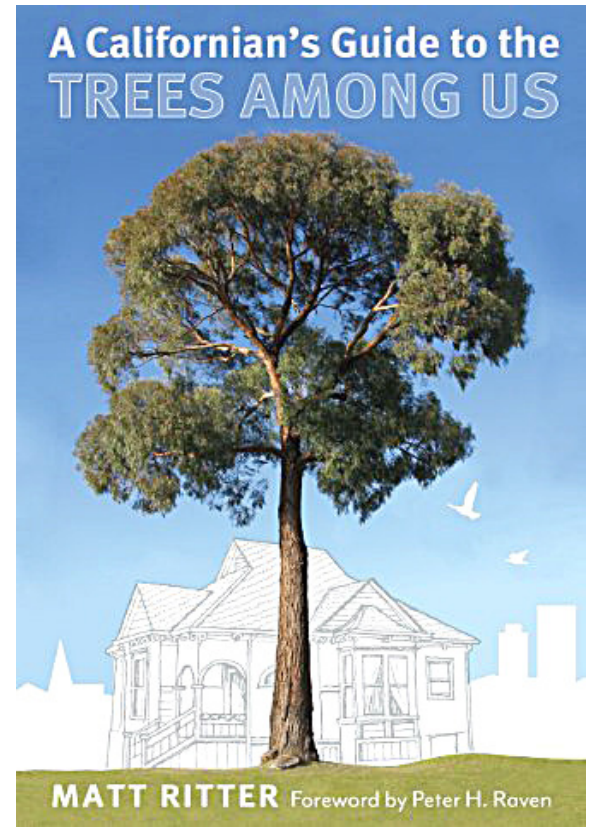
We bring the beauty of the natural world into urban landscapes by planting trees. California is blessed with a rich horticultural history, and an abundance of cultivated trees that enrich our lives with extraordinary color, bizarre shapes, unusual textures, and unexpected aromas.

A Californian's Guide to the Trees among Us by Cal Poly Plant Conservatory Director Matt Ritter features over 150 of California's most commonly grown trees. Whether native or cultivated, these are the trees that create wildlife habitats, mitigate pollution, conserve energy, and make urban living health-ier and more peaceful. Used as a field guide or read with pleasure for the lively prose, this book will allow readers to learn the stories behind the trees that shade our parks, grace our yards and line our streets. Rich in photographs and illustrations, overflowing with information, *A Californian's Guide to the Trees among Us* opens our eyes to a world of beauty just outside our front doors.

While supplies last, you can receive an autographed copy of the *Guide* as a gift for your donation of \$50 or more to the Santa Lucia Chapter. Write "TREES" in the memo section of your check, and mail to Sierra Club, P.O. Box 15755, San Luis Obispo 93406.



Words to live by Dr. Matt Ritter introduced his new book at the March general meeting of the Santa Lucia Chapter.



Dumb Lawsuit Fails to Kill Smart Growth

COLAB complaint hits judicial wastebasket

The Coalition of Labor, Agriculture and Business (COLAB), an ultra-conservative local lobbying group whose operating philosophy could be summarized as "pave it all and let God sort it out," has failed in a legal effort to increase sprawl, pollution, resource depletion and the profits of private development interests.

COLAB v. San Luis Obispo was intended to roll back the County's implementation of "smart growth" principles but was dismissed by San Luis Superior Court Judge Martin Tangemann in a tentative ruling issued on March 14. The Court noted that COLAB failed to substantiate any of the contentions that formed the basis of its complaint.

Filed in July 2009 after the County determined that the incorporation of smart growth principles into the General Plan would not adversely impact the environment, *COLAB v.*

SLO was essentially a mock environmental lawsuit, contending that, under the California Environmental Quality Act, the County's environmental study must be recirculated and a full Environmental Impact Report prepared so as to assess the potential impacts of revising the General Plan to implement smart growth principles.

In other words, the lawsuit claimed that the County should be required to determine at exhaustive length what the environmental impacts might be of creating walkable communities and directing development to urban areas with existing infrastructure, thereby preserving farmland and open space, instead of continuing with business-as-usual: encouraging more sprawl, more pavement, longer commutes, the loss of rural and agricultural lands, and much more air and water pollution. The Judge said no.

The way is clear for the County to go about the task of putting into practice the many good ideas that constitute smart growth. For residents who do not inhabit the misty extremist fringe, the concern should not be that the County might actually do so in the name of environmental sustainability, but that, in the name of bureaucratic inertia and baby-splitting compromise, they might not.

Information on smart growth is available from the National Center for Appropriate Technology at www.smartgrowth.org/.



Hey, Thanks!

As you can see by our front page, the Santa Lucia Chapter has been selected by the readers of *New Times* as "Best Friend of the Environment" in the paper's 2011 Best of SLO County Readers Poll.

Well played, *New Times* readers! We will strive to continue to be worthy of the honor next year.



Ta-daaa! Santa Lucia Chapter Social Networking Coordinator Noelle Cirisan ran over to *New Times* and picked up our award & gift bag when we got the call.

Taking Issue

problematic environmental coverage & commentary in our local media

“Is nuclear power safe?,” by Cecil Adams, “The Straight Dope,” *New Times*, March 31, 2011.

Summary: Mr. Adams attempts to answer the title question by taking on the worst case: Chernobyl. The definitive study *Chernobyl: consequences of the catastrophe for people and the environment*, by Alexey V. Yablokov, Vassily B. Nesterenko, Alexey V. Nesterenko and Janette D. Sherman-Nevinger (New York Academy of Sciences, 2009) has seemed to go largely unnoticed by the media when it was published, including Mr. Adams. Exerpts from the study and reviews by those who did notice it are here contrasted with Mr. Adams’s sunny perspective.



Next time meltdown is imminent, I'll walk to the podium and state confidently, "Folks, quit worrying. If history's any guide, not that many people are going to get killed."

The authors [of *Chernobyl: consequences of the catastrophe*] argued that the global death toll by 2004 was closer to 1 million and said health effects included birth defects, pregnancy losses, accelerated aging, brain damage, heart, endocrine, kidney, gastrointestinal and lung diseases. ‘

-- "In Chernobyl, A Disaster Persists," Reuters, March 15, 2011

Nuclear power basically has a bad PR problem stemming from the unfortunate multiple uses of fission technology. No nation has searing memories of the devastation caused by a coal bomb. Nukes, on the other hand ... 'nuff said. But even in the worst-case scenario, you're never going to get war-scale casualties from a reactor accident.

The two operating nuclear reactors known as Indian Point are situated in Buchanan, N.Y.—just 35 miles from midtown Manhattan. More than 17 million people live within 50

miles of these plants. Early fatalities from acute radiation sickness for those within the 10-mile evacuation zone would range from 2,440 to 11,500. Late cancer deaths, which would occur two to 60 years later, could range from 28,100 to a staggering 518,000 people in the 50-mile zone. The economic consequences of a meltdown would be stupendous. New York could be rendered virtually uninhabitable, with \$1 trillion or more in costs from attempts at decontamination, the condemnation of radioactive property, and compensatory payments to people forced to relocate temporarily or permanently. Add to that the extraordinary economic consequences if the world's financial capital were closed forever.

-- "The Manhattan Meltdown Scenario," Helen Caldicott *Newsweek*, March 28, 2011

Talk about blown opportunities. An astute nuke spokesperson might have said: "Look, [Chernobyl] was a five-star fiasco and the confirmed death toll is about the same as from 12 hours of U.S. traffic accidents. Is that an outstanding safety record or what?"

The authors [of *Chernobyl: consequences of the catastrophe*] systematically explain the secrecy conditions imposed by the government, the failure of technocrats to collect data on the number and distribution of all of the radionuclides of major concern, and the restrictions placed on physicians against calling any medical findings radiation related unless the patient had been a certified "acute radiation sickness" patient during the disaster, thus assuring that only 1% of injuries would be so reported.

--Dr. Rosalie Bertell, Global Research, February 12, 2010

Experts project an eventual 4,000 additional cancer deaths among the 600,000 people most exposed — i.e., an increase of a few percent beyond the 100,000 cancer deaths you'd expect for this group.

The doctors and scientists who have dealt directly with the catastrophe said that the UN International

Atomic Energy Agency's "official" toll, through its Chernobyl Forum, of 50 dead and perhaps 4,000 eventual fatalities was insulting and grossly simplistic. The Ukrainian Scientific Centre for Radiation, which estimated that infant mortality increased 20 to 30% after the accident, said their data had not been accepted by the UN because it had not been published in a major scientific journal.

- John Vidal, "Nuclear's green cheerleaders forget Chernobyl at our peril," *Guardian*, April 1, 2011

Thirty-one people died soon after the accident, most of acute radiation exposure, with perhaps a few more in the years since. More than 100 others suffered radiation injuries. Some 6,000 cases of thyroid cancer have been diagnosed in Ukrainians, Belarusians, and Russians who were under 18 at the time, many likely stemming from radiation exposure via milk contaminated with radioactive iodine. However, only 15 deaths had been reported as of 2005 -- thyroid cancer is readily treated.

The official position of the Chernobyl Forum (a group of UN agencies) is that about 9,000 related deaths have occurred and some 200,000 people have illnesses caused by the catastrophe. A more accurate number estimates nearly 400 million human beings have been exposed to Chernobyl's radioactive fallout and, for many generations, they and their descendants will suffer the devastating consequences.

-- *Chernobyl: consequences of the catastrophe for people and the environment*, Yablokov, Nesterenko, Nesterenko & Sherman-Nevinger

We now know that the number of people hospitalized for acute radiation sickness was more than a hundred times larger than the number recently quoted by the IAEA, WHO and UNSCEAR. Unmentioned by the technocrats were the problems of "hot particles" of burning uranium that caused nasopharyngeal problems, and the radioactive fallout that resulted in general deterioration of the health of children, widespread blood and lymph system diseases, reproductive loss, premature and small infant births, chromosomal mutations, congenital and developmental abnormalities, multiple endocrine diseases, mental disorders and cancer.

There's evidence of increased leukemia and cataracts among recovery workers who received higher doses, but no health effects otherwise.

--Dr. Rosalie Bertell, Global Research, February 12, 2010

Upshot: For 25 years, attempts to minimize the aftermath of the Chernobyl meltdown have been as persistent as the radiation that has rendered 1,700 square miles around the plant a dead zone. After the earthquake and tsunami that hit Japan and decimated the Fukushima Daichi reactor complex, minimizing the impacts of Chernobyl has become a growth industry. But:

- "Fukushima is not Chernobyl, but it is potentially worse. It is a multiple reactor catastrophe happening within 150 miles of a metropolis of 30 million people.... We still don't know the final outcome but to hear experts claiming that nuclear radiation is not that serious, or that this accident proves the need for nuclear power, is nothing short of disgraceful." (John Vidal, "Nuclear's green cheerleaders forget Chernobyl at our peril," *Guardian*, April 1, 2011).
- "It is very unfortunate that a section of writers and intellectuals who are vocal against climate change have seen fit to voice the same arguments being used by representatives of the nuclear lobby to defend a nuclear comeback. As a retrospective on the Chernobyl catastrophe easily brings out: one cannot trade one catastrophe against another; one can't exchange a climate catastrophe for a nuclear catastrophe." (Dr. Peter Custers, "Still No Escape from Killer Chernobyl," Inter Press Service, April 24, 2011).

Out of the Past

Two Cal Poly professors send words of wisdom across the decades

Excerpt from *Priesthoods and Power: Some Thoughts on Diablo Canyon*

from *Mapping American Culture*, University of Iowa Press, 1992

By Steven Marx



Encouraged by the federal government, which was eager to maintain American dominance over the international reactor market, the utilities assumed they could easily control the dangers and uncertainties of nuclear power. Demand for electricity was projected to grow indefinitely at a ravenous 7% per year, and liability insurance, which no private carrier would offer, was provided by Congress in form of the Price-Anderson Act, which absolved the companies from any financial responsibility for accidents.

By the late nineteen seventies, however, the vision had dissipated. Fundamental technical problems that should have been dealt with before any plants were built remained unsolved—problems like earthquake safety, what to do with worn-out reactors and the disposal of radioactive wastes. Of the more than two hundred nuclear plants ordered by utility companies, 180 had been cancelled, while the rest were plagued by construction delays, safety violations, objections of surrounding inhabitants, and financial losses, not to speak of hair-raising accidents. Rather than being reduced, the price of power had tripled, while demand actually shrank. Several companies went bankrupt while others defaulted on loans or skipped dividends to investors. The overall cost of the miscalculations was estimated as between \$100 to \$200 billion, to be divided among stockholders, ratepayers and taxpayers. Forbes magazine called the nuclear energy program “the largest managerial disaster in business history.”

Despite these mammoth setbacks, in 1980 the industry attempted to resurrect itself with a lobbying and public relations initiative dubbed “The Second Coming of Nuclear Power” which had the full support of the new Reagan administration. Tax incentives for alternate energy development and conservation were phased out and replaced with government subsidies for the expansion of coal and nuclear fired technology. The licensing procedures of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission were speeded up, the public was denied access to them, and the rapidly growing problem of waste disposal was declared solved with a report commissioned by Department of Energy. Produced by the Battelle Memorial Institute, this report recommended that all waste be transported to a central site called “the nuclear Stonehenge.” There it would be guarded by an “atomic priesthood” which would carry out a “ritual and legend” process to warn generations 10,000 years in the future of the danger of radioactive waste buried ...three thousand feet down, under a large triangular area bordered by raised mounds. At the center of the site, three twenty-foot tall granite

monoliths inscribed with warnings would stand on a concrete mat.... Because our language may be incomprehensible three hundred generations from now, the fatal danger located underground would be communicated by stick figure cartoons engraved on the monoliths. Other warnings might include a symbol resembling three sets of malevolent horns facing outward from a circle.... The “atomic priesthood” would reinforce these warnings with oral myths that threatened violators of the site with “some sort of supernatural retribution.”

As I marveled at this claptrap, another definition of the word, “power,” came to mind: political power. I saw the shamans and the utility priests both clad in the vestments of what C. Wright Mills called “The Power Elite.” Rather than mediating between the impotent human and omnipotent divine, these priests concentrated power diffused throughout nature and among all people into sacred spaces and private preserves, thereby rendering the rest of the world profane, and the rest of humanity powerless.

I learned that during the last two decades the utility priesthood’s drive to centralize power was threatened by the failures of nuclear and by the concomitant successes of alternative, independent, sources of electricity, including cogeneration, biomass, wind, thermal, and solar. Because government regulations made it illegal for utilities to boycott such sources, they accounted for 40% of California’s energy generating capacity by the middle eighties. As a result, a power struggle between the priesthood and its opponents has been taking place all over the country, in

federal, state and local governments and also in the streets and in wilderness areas invaded by transmission lines and saboteurs.

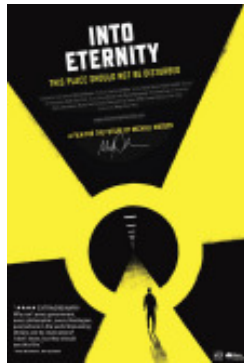
The power struggle is between what Langdon Winner has called a “political technology” supported by extremely tight security and authoritarian management that can force citizens to accept irreparable environmental damage and pay the astronomical costs of nuclear plants, and those who seek to develop decentralized, autonomous, local sources of power.

A sample of that opposing power, in its own way as impressive as the priestly energy that created Diablo Canyon, is the recent spectacle of decommissioning the Shoreham Nuclear Power Plant on Long Island, New York. After twenty years of opposition by local citizens who refused to accept its threat to their lives, their environment, and their solvency, and despite the continuous support of the

Reagan and Bush administrations, the \$5.5 billion plant was abandoned last June before it ever started up and was sold to the state for one dollar as scrap (*New York Times* 6/29/89).

I discovered also that a similar twenty-year power struggle between local citizens and a utility priesthood had taken place in my new home town of San Luis Obispo, but had led to an opposite outcome. In the county museum, documenting that struggle, I found a large archive collected by Mothers for Peace, the group that organized much of the resistance. Once again I saw that the real power was neither spiritual nor electric, but economic and political, that the plant was here against the will of those most affected by it because of the overwhelming money and influence wielded by the utility in Washington and Sacramento.

Among the clippings, I came across



a very down-to-earth and local explanation of how the plant arrived at its magical site. Back in the middle sixties, PG&E wanted to locate it in the Pismo Dunes, but in order to preserve that sensitive area, environmental groups agreed to approve an alternate unseen location. The owner of the Diablo property, a rancher named Marre, was eager to develop condos and a hotel on his holdings in Avila beach, so he offered the company a ninety-nine year lease on the 11,000 acres in return for their corporate guarantee of an open line of credit he could use to capitalize his project—the San Luis Bay Inn complex. A few years later, the project went belly up; PG&E sued to take full possession of the land as collateral for his bad debts, and Marre countersued, lending his support to the opponents of the plant.

Had the environmentalists not accepted the original deal or had Marre been prevented from pursuing his plans, that sacred spot would have remained an Indian graveyard.

In 1928 the conservationist governor of Pennsylvania, Gifford Pinchot, wrote:

We need not be surprised that the State and Federal authorities have stood in awe before this gigantic nationwide power monopoly, because beside it, as its creator, financial supporter, and master, stands the concentrated money power of the world....Therefore the electric power monopoly deserves the fullest public attention. The people ought to know what it is and why it is and how it affects them. All the facts about it ought to be publicly available either through government agencies or private effort. The people must learn to judge intelligently of its advantages and its evils. Everything about it should be investigated fearlessly and published fully, because we must learn to regulate and control it before it smothers and enslaves us.

Speech to Sierra Club Members, 14 September 1972

by Richard Krejsa



Before I start, I’d like to thank the Sierra Club Executive Committee over the past few years for keeping my name on your mailing list even though I’m not a member of your organization. I appreciate the information you have furnished over the years.

Tonight, I’d like to begin with a few words about the Supervisor’s race. This is no easy task for me, nor was the decision to run easy to make. The odds (against me) were fantastic at the outset and the headaches were also. Many considered it a foolish move on my part...

After all I had worked myself into a reasonable, respectable, and secure position at Cal Poly. And how brash even to become a candidate!

During my deliberations, I considered some of the things that I felt needed changing... Some of the things I would like to see accomplished by county government. Indeed,

as I think back, the list was long and idealistic... an almost impossible set of goals.

Yet, when I considered some of the fine people I have met and come to know in our county, I began to have the feeling that I was not alone and

that the goals were not all that impossible.

People like Harold Miozzi, Dorothea Rible, Ian McMillan, Elizabeth Roy, John Austin, Kit Walling, Jesse Arnold, Lee Wilson, Glen Holstein, Kathleen Jones, John Fleming, Shirley Sparling, Paul Baum, Ralph Baker, Charles Dills, Ray and Sonya Bracken, Wayne Williams, Jim & Kathy Larsen, Harry Woolpert, Roger Neudeck, Keith Gurnee, and also many others who are *not* associated with the Sierra Club. Indeed, I don’t think I’ll have to do it alone... the base of support is wide.

This all sounds very emotional and I guess it is. But I find it interesting that all of the people above, either collectively or individually, have been accused at one time or another of

Fukushima's *Fallout*

Would a potential nuclear disaster on our coast bankrupt California?



by Rochelle Becker, Executive Director
Alliance for Nuclear Responsibility

Fact: JP Morgan reports that the TEPCO utility company in Japan is facing nearly \$24 billion in property damage claims because of the earthquake-induced meltdowns at the Fukushima nuclear reactors. The Japanese government is even considering adding a new tax on the people to help raise money to cover the debt created by this nuclear disaster.

Fact: Here in the USA, the federal government has a pool of insurance money to cover nuclear disasters and it is capped at \$12.6 billion dollars -- only *half* the amount of the Japanese incident. Can you imagine trying to approve a *new tax* in California to cover the costs of a nuclear disaster? (Talk about having a "meltdown....")

Ignoring the economic risks of nuclear reactors located on earthquake faults could devastate California's tourism, agricultural, fishing and other invaluable industries. Who would visit our scenic coast or buy our agricultural products if there was a radioactive release in our state -- or even the mere perception of contamination? Check your personal insurance policy: there is no private insurance -- at any price -- to cover the loss of our homes or businesses.

The Alliance for Nuclear Responsibility takes action, and so do our allies. Last week, Congresswoman Lois Capps, state senator Sam Blakeslee and California Energy Commissioner James Boyd testified before

FALLOUT continued on page 9



Testimony of U.S. Representative Lois Capps before the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works, April 12, 2011

Chairwoman Boxer, Ranking Member Inhofe, and members of the Committee, thank you for holding this hearing and for the opportunity to testify.

I am here today because my congressional district includes the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant, which has become a central focus in the weeks following the Japanese earthquake, tsunami and subsequent nuclear crisis.

Last month, I called on the NRC to stay the license renewal process for Diablo Canyon until further

CAPPS continued on page 9

All rise At the County Board of Supervisors' March 29 meeting, speaker David Broadwater asked all in the audience in favor of the Board demanding that seismic surveys be completed before PG&E continues to seek a renewal of Diablo Canyon's operating license to please stand up. They did. On April 12, the Board complied.

PG&E Had Its Fingers Crossed

Join the campaign to halt Diablo relicensing prior to seismic studies



The Sierra Club is a co-intervenor in the ratepayer case at the California Public Utilities Commission on the funding of PG&E's application for renewal of its license to operate the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant. A broad public campaign to prevail upon the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the PUC to halt the rush to relicensing prior to completion of advanced seismic studies was launched at an April 16 rally sponsored by the Mothers for Peace in Avila Beach. See "TAKE ACTION" at right.

Here is some background information for your message to Governor Brown, Senator Boxer and Senator Feinstein:

- Current Diablo reactor licenses begin to expire in 13 years (2024 & 2025). The seismic studies will take 3 to 4 years.
- Recent USGS studies show that unknowns regarding this seismic zone include: the length and depth of the Shoreline fault, whether it runs under the plant or connects with the Hosgri fault, and the potential magnitude of forces unleashed in the event earthquakes are triggered on both faults simultaneously.
- PG&E claims its seismologists assess the magnitude potential of the Hosgri fault at 6.5. USGS seismologists set it at 7.3.

PG&E continued on page 10

TAKE ACTION

Ask Governor Brown & Senators Boxer and Feinstein to:

1. Back the SLO County Board of Supervisors, Senator Sam Blakeslee and Representative Lois Capps in calling for the cessation of Diablo Canyon relicensing until state-of-the-art seismic analyses on the faults near the plant are completed and independently reviewed.
2. Use the influence of their offices to pressure the NRC and CPUC to immediately suspend consideration of PG&E's relicensing applications until those studies are finished and reviewed.

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Boxer - Ph: (916) 448-2787 /
Email boxer.senate.gov

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Act now! E-mail each and follow up with a phone call to multiply the effect.

A few minutes is all it takes to support our elected representatives by urging these actions at both the state and federal levels.

Whether you or those you know are anti- or pro-nuclear or undecided, it makes no sense to consider extending PG&E's Diablo Canyon licenses for another 20 years while neglecting information we know is within our grasp.



April 14, 2011

The Honorable Alex Padilla
 Chair, Senate Committee on Energy,
 Utilities and Communications
 State Capitol
 Sacramento, California

RE: After Japan: Nuclear Power Plant
 Safety in California

Dear Senator Padilla:

Thank you for scheduling an informational hearing on California's old nuclear plants and earthquake risk in Sacramento today. This highly important topic deserves close attention from both legislators and the public.

You deserve credit for arranging a timely look at the situation of California's two major nuclear plants, particularly in view of the melt-downs and release of radioactivity at Japanese nuclear reactors. The media has reported that nuclear reactors in Japan will be vulnerable for some time from further ruptures and explosions, and spent fuel pools seem to be an especially acute risk. We cannot let this happen in California.

Sierra Club California has long pointed out the risks of "hot" radioactive spent fuel accumulating at these plants, much of which is not yet stored in hard casks. In 2006, we supported AB 1632 (Blakeslee 2006), which required the California Energy Commission (CEC) to assess the potential state and local impacts associated with on-site storage of nuclear waste at nuclear power plants. In 2007 Sierra Club California and others sponsored a bill, AB 1046 (Leno) that would have prohibited the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) from allowing an investor-owned utility to recover the costs associated with filing an application for re-licensing with the federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission until the CEC conducted the analysis required under AB 1632. However AB 1046 faced strong opposition from the utilities and utility

workers and failed to pass the Legislature. In 2008, the CEC completed its study and recommended that high-quality three-dimensional geophysical seismic reflection mapping should be conducted before the re-licensing of Diablo Canyon and San Onofre nuclear plants. As of today, this mapping has not been undertaken for either nuclear plant.

Sierra Club California is currently involved in a CPUC proceeding to stop funding for re-licensing of Diablo Canyon until state seismic studies of earthquake fault lines at or near the plant are completed and reviewed. California needs this crucial data about earthquake and tsunami risks going forward. We believe the CPUC should assert its legal authority to dismiss PG&E's request for license renewal funding until completion and independent review of new seismic studies. We do note, however, that this week PG&E did ask Nuclear Regulatory Commission to postpone re-licensing Diablo Canyon until the company completes in-depth studies of a recently discovered earthquake fault. Sierra Club California urges you and fellow legislators to join calls for a rigorous top-to-bottom safety analysis of these two plants on the California coast, especially Site Black-Outs. We hope that you and your colleagues will scrutinize earthquake emergency response plans of these facilities, if any, and look at their plans for containing, storing safely and disposing of long-lasting, dangerous radioactive wastes that constitute one of the plant's chief vulnerabilities.

We hope that you, as Chair of the Senate's Committee on Energy, Utilities and Communications, will continue to give strong support to clean renewable technologies, efficiency measures and conservation that can move us away from our risky dependence on nuclear power toward safer, more affordable, less complex, more efficient and less vulnerable forms of energy.

Sincerely,

Jim Metropulos
 Senior Advocate
 Sierra Club California



“We’ve seen, a little over a month ago, an earthquake of magnitude 9 on a fault that was believed to only be capable of a 7.9. And we’re now in a situation where we have information on a Shoreline fault -- a new fault, in my district, next to my constituents -- and you’re telling me you’re just going to continue business as usual and not delay to get the information before you do your site safety review. And that’s unacceptable. Having just come from the U.S. Senate, where I heard the same double-speak from your boss, I’m very concerned that the NRC is not getting the message, and does not understand the importance of having a higher level of safety review regarding earthquakes, being sure you have the information before you check off the box.... The NRC, now that it has preempted and, under federal law, has taken away a safety role from the state of California, had darn well better do their job, and not finish that job, in terms of doing that safety review, until they get the data to make the right answers.”

- Senator Sam Blakeslee (right) to Troy W. Pruett (left) of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, at “After Japan,” the April 14 state senate hearing on the safety of California’s nuclear power plants. The NRC is proposing to complete its safety review of the Diablo Canyon plant in June, but it will take at least three years to complete the comprehensive seismic review of Diablo Canyon mandated by the state.

Krejsa

continued from page 5

being “emotional” when they come to the defense of some precious aspect of our county’s natural resources. We are accused of being emotional when we love, defend, and promote beauty. Yet, our accusers do not seem to understand that their own promotion, defense, and love of *profit* is also an emotional thing!

I’ll limit my comments tonight to two issues which, it seems to me, encompass many or perhaps all of the problems faced in our county: these issues are *growth* and *community*.

As a biologist, I have a special feeling and appreciation for growth and its complexities. I have spent hundreds of hours long into the night growing living things, but especially fish. I have fertilized eggs, watched the embryos form, helped wean the hatchlings to self-dependence, then to swim off on their own to become mature, to reproduce and continue the cycle. I have built up a reverence for life.

As one studies growth – no matter what the organism – we see that growth, as measured by an increase in quantity, is a phenomenon of juveniles and youth. The greatest growth occurs in the first few months or years of life.

As a juvenile approaches maturity, however, certain growth mechanisms are inhibited by hormones, and energy formerly expended towards growth in quantity of cells is now increasingly devoted to maintenance and repair of existing cells. While outward expansion is apparently stopped, an inward maturation, or growth in quality, occurs. New sets of checks and balances, mediated by hormones and other chemical messages, keep the organism healthy. Assuming that no catastrophe or inborn genetic abnormalities occur, the organism will exist through a full, mature life.

Of course, there are such things as cancer that, basically, is a matter of uncontrolled growth. Cancer is a growth of cells that ignores or is incapable of receiving (or which refuses to receive and interpret) the messages from adjacent normal cells. Such messages are vital to the continued existence and well-being of the entire organism. If cancerous growth continues unchecked, if the messages are ignored, the condition becomes pathological and the organism dies. All cells then, whether normal or cancerous, are put out of existence.

I think that there are many examples in civic life that parallel the

living organism, both healthy and cancerous. Let’s talk about that civic life here in San Luis Obispo County.

None of us here witnessed the birth or weaning of our County. Many of you, however, have experienced the period of its juvenile growth spurt, approximately from the mid 40s to the late 60s. In fact, one might say that our County is approaching maturity. Where else would you find an excellent historical pageant such as we witnessed last week? It was put on by the Bicentennial Committee, of which my opponent, Mr. Blake, was the Chairman. I publicly commend him for his fine civic performance.

As with any maturing organism, there must be signals, or hormones, which begin the slowdown of growth when maturity is approached. The County has not yet appointed any official “hormones” to perform this task but, as in all viable and healthy organisms, some individuals have appeared on the scene to perform the job that needs doing. But other people, not fully aware of the human need for new ideas, new concepts, and new solutions, refer to these courageous individuals as “emotional environmentalists,” as “pressure groups” or, more simply, “them!”

I would rather think of “them” as “Social Hormones” which signal a stage in our civic development and growth that demands a change of pace for the stability and well-being of the entire community organism. Once that stability is reached, we can then begin to increasingly devote our energies to taking care of problems which we have neglected or lost sight of during our period of rapid growth. I refer to such things as education, housing, welfare, natural resources, environment, people and community.

The greatest resource of this County is the people and their talents. The people want to be heard when decisions are to be made that affect the quality of their lives in that maturing community which we call our County. I promise you that they will be heard if I am elected.

In an interview published in the *Telegram-Tribune* on 7 February 1972, my opponent is quoted as saying that established commissions “are the only true advisory groups to the Board.” He believes that the Board of Supervisors should depend least on “independent sources or voluntary committees” which he dismisses as “pressure groups.”

On the contrary, I view that kind of “pressure” as entirely normal in a healthy organism. In our County, I believe that we’re seeing a true revival of a community spirit that is equally necessary for the effective operation

of government.

While we’re on the subject of community, I’d like to quote a few lines from E.H. Burnell, of the Center for Study of Democratic Institutions in Santa Barbara, who says: “Creating a community is not a matter of names and boards and master plans; it is a matter of human desire and necessity, effort and energy.” And furthermore: “Communities arise in response to man’s instinct for self-preservation; they are formed to insure survival.”

In the past year, but especially in the past few months, there has been what might be called an almost pathological pressure for expansive growth in our County. The result of all the activity of speculators for annexations, sub-divisions, and lot splits is that the average citizen is beginning to feel threatened. Citizens are beginning to rise up in self-defense against an uncontrolled form of growth. For self-preservation, they wish to fight off this cancer so as to insure their survival and that of a quality of life which they can pass on to their children and to future generations.

At least in one sense, this flurry of recent development proposals is a good omen for our County commu-

nity. The response of the organism, as I see it, is one of vigorous rejection of a foreign body. This is a sign of health, not of stagnation! By their very actions, the outside speculators and developers are unwittingly calling forth a strong sense of community from within the local people.

The people are no longer ready to accept the speculator’s view that zoning is a “right” that accrues in their property. Rather, we are witnessing the revival of the idea that zoning is a “privilege” that does not carry with it the right of the individual to develop his property in a manner damaging to the interests of the community. Or contrary to the common good!

I welcome this trend. Indeed, I envision environmental preservation as an established function of government. It is intimately related to the overall health, wellbeing, and education of our people. I pledge myself to ensure that, as a member of the Board of Supervisors, I would continue to apply this philosophy in all my actions.

If there are any of you in doubt as to where I stand on issues of vital concern to your organization, I welcome your questions. Thank you!

DON'T FORGET!

In March we sent out an appeal 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 our 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 - and remember, these funds directly affect your way of life in your neighborhood.

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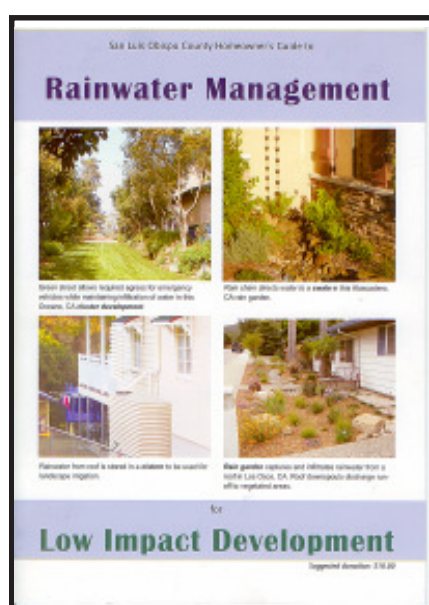
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You can get a printed copy for \$10 (mail check to Sierra Club, P.O. Box 15755, SLO 93406), or download for free at www.slogreenbuild.org/.

Muir's March to restore Hetch Hetchy Valley!

Join us as we walk in the footsteps of John Muir. From July 24-30, 2011, six groups of Muir's Marchers will be professionally guided on a range of treks across Yosemite. Departing on different days and following separate routes, they will all converge at Hetch Hetchy on July 30th for the Restoration Festival. Join us for 7 days, 4 days or 1 day and rally for the restoration of Hetch Hetchy Valley. Visit www.muirmarch.org, or call (415) 956-0401 for registration information.



Cool

continued from page 2

ments he supported.

The year before saw the Sierra Club and SLO citizens engaged in a prolonged clash with the Community Development Department over a proposed "update" of the city's Conservation and Open Space Element that would have essentially gutted the planning element put in place in 1994, replacing that document — the result of a deep and broad public process — with a drastic, staff-driven revision that repeatedly failed to distinguish between the passive use of natural open space and the kind of "active recreation" and development appropriate to parks and sports fields.

Much wiggle room was written into the draft COSE. Commercial use of open space could be interpreted as sufficiently incidental or supportive of other uses and hence allowable. But when the citizens of SLO crafted the 1994 open space element, they did not do so in such a way as to leave it up to a 3-person majority of a future city council to decide that a particular proposed commercial use of open space might be sufficiently incidental, etc. In the 1994 document, no commercial uses of open space were allowed. The recreation allowed in open space was passive recreation, period. Homesites and urban services were allowed in the greenbelt, not in open space. The 2005 draft that staff attempted to ram through was open to all of those things that were wisely foreclosed eleven years before. Many had to fight to keep them that way and retain the protections for open space that were put in place in SLO's 1994 Open Space Element.

More recently, we have the example of the SLO City Council meeting of April 19, when the subject was consideration of \$4 million in budget cuts. It was a continuation from the previous week's meeting, where city staff first suggested that cost savings could be realized by eliminating the position of the Natural Resources Manager after the retirement of Neil Havlik later this year, or consolidating it with a now-vacant "frozen" Recreation Manager position in the Parks and Recreation Department.

In an April 12 letter to the city council, the Sierra Club was one of the first to tell the council that the office of the Natural Resources Manager was not the place to go cost-cutting. We wrote that while we appreciated the City's intent to craft a budget-balancing strategy that included a reduction of personnel costs, this particular action would realize a short-term savings at a serious long-term cost. In the City's administrative structure -- again, thanks to public pressure -- the Natural Resources and Economic Development departments are co-equal management positions, both recognized as equally essential to the quality of life of the citizens of San Luis Obispo and the future health and vitality of the city. In 1995, City staff

fought the designation of that co-equal status tooth and nail, trying every trick in the book to maintain their power base and the chamber of commerce status quo, including the deletion of the city council's "co-equal" directive from the minutes of a council meeting.

The public prevailed. The Natural Resources Program has successfully acquired and preserved open space and protected the city's natural resources for 15 years. In order to continue doing so, it needs to continue as a dedicated program, not be conflated with the operation and management tasks of the Parks and Recreation Department -- a very different department, with a very different official charge -- which would mean the Natural Resources Manager answers to the Director of Parks and Rec.

We were joined by many others in expressing these sentiments, and the proposal was withdrawn at the April 19 meeting.

The *Men's Journal* article was perfectly readable and factually accurate, but it was not reality. In its assessment of the other 17 coolest towns in America, there are occasional indications that the author knows that great places to live don't just happen and then go chugging along on the power of good vibes (Greenville, South Carolina, has "a group called Upstate Forever that keeps a watchdog's eye on open space and clean waterways"), but that message is not prominent. Land use fights don't make for sexy copy, and the function of *Best Places to Live* magazine features is to transmit good feeling and bonhomie, not to detail the confrontations with the powers that be. But those fights are often the only reason why those bike paths, undeveloped hillsides and natural open spaces exist.

If any of the readers of a *Best Places to Live* article are moved to pick up and move to one of those places, hopefully they soon learn what it takes to keep that place that way. Hopefully they will develop the willingness and aptitude to go up against rapacious development interests making candy-coated promises, local elected officials who have lost their way, and city and county staff whose primary focus is short-term revenue enhancement.

Hopefully, the citizens of all those towns will take their citizenship seriously, will never forget that keeping their towns cool will always mean clashing with City Hall and business interests, and that we will get the quality of life they fight for.

If they do all that, it will be no thanks to the *Best Places to Live* genre of magazine journalism and its determined editorial omission of reality, reinforcing a world view that erases the essential truth described by Frederick Douglass: "Power concedes nothing without a demand. It never did and it never will."

Someday it would be nice to see that particular truth become a staple of magazine journalism.

Capps

continued from page 6

studies demonstrate the plant's design and operations can withstand an earthquake and other potential threats.

Yesterday, PG&E asked the NRC to delay its license renewal application while it completes those studies. So today, in light of PG&E's action, I am renewing my request to the NRC to halt the relicensing process.

I do not make this request lightly. Last month, I again toured the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant.

Following that visit I was convinced of two things:

First, that the employees are committed to getting it right. And, second, that we're not yet there.

I am not alone in that assessment.

I am grateful to be joined today by my constituent, California State Senator Sam Blakeslee, who also represents Diablo Canyon and its surrounding communities.

State Senator Blakeslee will testify today both in his role as a state elected official and also as a scientist with a Ph.D. in seismic studies. I am confident that our shared assessment of the situation will offer the committee valuable, on-the-ground insight into the current and future landscape of nuclear power in California.

The bottom line is this:

We do not have the answers we need to confidently move forward in extending the licensing agreement of Diablo Canyon.

We should not move forward until we have those answers.

And, because the reactors do not need to be relicensed for more than a dozen years, we have plenty of time to find those answers.

Madame Chair, what happened so tragically in Japan offers us an opportunity to question -- and question again -- whether we are ready, whether we can handle the unthinkable.

The NRC had already determined that it is non-credible that there could be multiple catastrophes, such as an earthquake and a meltdown at the Diablo Canyon plant.

The NRC has maintained, and I quote:

"...the chance of such a bizarre concatenation of events occurring is extremely small. Not only is this conclusion well supported by the record evidence, it accords most eminently with common sense notions of statistical probability."

Yet, the unthinkable did happen in Japan -- an earthquake, tsunami and a nuclear accident, all occurring in sequence.

Clearly, a "bizarre concatenation of events" is not merely hypothetical. Madam Chair, let's be clear -- we know seismic uncertainty exists at Diablo Canyon.

In the early 1970s, while the plant was originally under construction, scientists discovered the Hosgri offshore fault less than 3 miles away, forcing a major redesign and pushing the project billions of dollars over budget.

In 2008, scientists discovered yet another fault. The Shoreline Fault, which lies less than a mile from the

plant.

The stakes were raised just last month when the NRC confirmed that Diablo Canyon was one of two nuclear power plants in the highest risk area for seismic activity in the entire country.

Clearly, we need answers to major questions.

Can this plant, including the spent fuel pools, withstand an earthquake and nuclear accident at the same time?

How long would the plant be self-sustaining in the event of such damage?

And, is Diablo Canyon's evacuation plan during an incident workable?

Many of us on the Central Coast remain concerned that the NRC has not taken action to answer these questions or address these warnings. So much so that the California Energy Commission has recommended -- and our state Public Utilities Commission has directed -- that independent, peer-reviewed, advanced



seismic studies be performed *prior* to applying for relicensing.

I agree with this assessment. That's why it is so important to halt the relicensing process. We need to take some time to get all the answers.

It's important to note that I'm not calling for Diablo Canyon to be shut down. I'm also not calling for PG&E to be denied an operating license. What I am doing today is asking that the relicensing process be halted until updated state-of-the-art seismic studies and 3-D seismic mapping are completed.

These studies must also be reviewed by third party, independent scientists. And they must be considered as part of the relicensing process. Failure to do so is unwise and irresponsible. It will feed public uncertainty about the oversight and safety of nuclear energy. And it could cost taxpayers billions of dollars to once again belatedly address issues that should have been dealt with beforehand.

That's why I am hopeful the NRC will work with all stakeholders to get the answers to the seismic questions, which at this point remain unstudied and unresolved, prior to the continuation of this process.

Once again, thank you for the opportunity to testify today.

Fallout

continued from page 6

Senator Barbara Boxer's Environment and Public Works Committee to discuss the seismic and nuclear dangers faced by our state, and the failure of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Read their testimony at www.a4nr.org/.

Also on our website you will find various ways to support our mission to work with California legislators and oversight agencies to protect ratepayers, the state's economy and our fragile coast. You can also copy and paste the action letters to the California Public Utilities Commission and Governor Brown.

The utilities and the media are hoping that the Fukushima disaster will fade into the background. We cannot let that happen. It is literally a risk we can't afford.

PG&E

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- The state Public Utilities Commission (PUC) requires analysis of the seismic zone around Diablo as a condition of relicensing.
- The California Energy Commission (CEC) recommended their completion before PG&E submitted a relicensing application to the NRC.
- PG&E has fought state regulatory requirements and recommendations for years by: objecting to including seismic studies in the PUC relicensing process, refusing to submit seismic data in a timely manner as requested by the PUC and CEC, disputing PUC authority to require that information during the relicensing process, and objecting to complying fully with state law (AB 1632) in supplying all required information to the PUC.
- On April 12, the SLO County Board of Supervisors unanimously called for a halt to PG&E's relicensing process until state-of-the-art seismic analyses of the nearby fault zone are completed and independently reviewed.
- State Senator Sam Blakeslee and US Representative Lois Capps have called for the same halt for the same purpose.
- On April 10, PG&E sent a letter to the NRC asking that relicensing be

"I was invited to a meeting of all the mayors in the county by PG&E last week.... They were explaining how safe Diablo Canyon was, and one of the reasons Diablo Canyon is so safe is that there just aren't that many people living close to it. I reminded the official that they were speaking to a group of people who have a responsibility for the health, safety and welfare of those people, even if there aren't that many.... There was a kind of callousness in that comment that I found disturbing."

- San Luis Obispo Mayor Jan Marx
County Board of Supervisors meeting, March 29, 2011



delayed pending the completion of the seismic studies. But an April 12 letter from PG&E's Washington law firm to the NRC declared that PG&E's prior letter meant no such thing: PG&E intends to continue the license renewal process all the way up to the final action – the decision on the issuance of the license – then pause to await the seismic study results.

- On April 14, the NRC said it had no intention of delaying relicensing to incorporate the seismic analyses into the relicensing process.
- Since the Japanese disaster, PG&E has publicly told the Board of Supervisors that it knows the Fukushima nuclear plant damage was caused exclusively by the tsunami, not the earthquake. But Japanese industry and government officials have found that cracks at the Fukushima and Onagawa nuclear plants were caused by the 9.0 quake and a 7.1 aftershock.

More Fukushima Fallout

Public Citizen, San Luis Obispo Mothers for Peace and the Sierra Club's Michigan and South Carolina chapters among the organizations urging the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to immediately suspend all licensing and other activities at 21 proposed nuclear reactor projects in 15 states until the NRC completes a thorough post-Fukushima reactor crisis examination comparable to the process set up in the wake of the serious, though less severe, 1979 accident at Three Mile Island.

The petitioners are also asking the NRC to supplement its own investigation by establishing an independent commission.

The petition seeks suspension of six existing reactor license renewal decisions, including Diablo Canyon, 13 new reactor combined construction permit and operating license decisions, a construction permit decision, and an operating license decision. In addition, the petition asks the NRC to halt proceedings to approve the standardized AP1000 and ESBWR reactor designs.

Available online at www.nuclearbailout.org/, the petition states that the needed NRC review should include a close look at "whether the March 11, 2011, Tohoku-Chihou-Taiheiyo-Oki earthquake and ensuing radiological accident poses new and significant information that must be considered in environmental impact statements to support the licensing decisions for all new reactors and renewed licenses."

The petition calls for the following:

- Suspend all decisions regarding the issuance of construction permits, new reactor licenses, combined construction permits and operating licenses (COLs), early site permits (ESPs), license renewals, or standardized design certification pending completion by the NRC's Task Force of its investigation of the near-term and long-term lessons of the Fukushima accident and the issuance of any proposed regulatory decisions and/or environmental analyses of those issues;
- Suspend all proceedings with respect to hearings or opportunities for public comment, on any reactor-related or spent fuel pool-related issues that have been identified for investigation in the Task Force's Charter of April 1, 2011, including external event issues (i.e., seismic, flooding, fires, severe weather); station blackout; severe accident measures (e.g., combustible gas control, emergency operating procedures, severe accident management guidelines); implementation of NRC regulations regarding response to explosions or fire; and emergency preparedness. The Commission should also instruct hearing judges who are considering contentions to permit the parties an opportunity to make arguments regarding the relevance of their concerns to the Fukushima accident.
- Suspend all licensing and related rulemaking proceedings with regard to any other issues that are identified by the Task Force as the subject of its investigation. The proceedings should be suspended pending completion of the Task Force's investigation into those issues and the issuance of any proposed regulatory decisions and/or environmental analyses of those issues.
- Conduct an analysis, as required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), of whether the March 11 Tohoku-Chihou-Taiheiyo-Oki earthquake and ensuing radiological accident poses new and significant information that must be considered in environmental impact statements to support the licensing decisions for all new reactors and renewed licenses. All environmental assessments should be published in draft form for public comment.
- Conduct a safety analysis of the regulatory implications of the March 11 Tohoku-Chihou-Taiheiyo-Oki earthquake and ensuing radiological accident. While emergency safety measures that arise from that analysis may be issued as enforcement orders, any long-term requirements should be issued as proposed rules, with appropriate opportunities for comment.
- Establish procedures and a timetable for raising new issues relevant to the Fukushima accident in pending licensing proceedings. The Commission should allow all current interveners in NRC licensing proceedings, all petitioners who seek to re-open closed licensing and relicensing proceedings, and all parties who seek to comment on design certification proposed rules, a period of 60 days following the publication of proposed regulatory measures or environmental decisions in which to raise new issues relating to the Fukushima reactor accidents.

The NRC was subjected to extensive criticism when it extended the license for the controversial and problem-plagued Vermont Yankee reactor just days after the Fukushima reactor disaster.

Attorney for the petitioners Diane Curran of Harmon, Curran, Spielberg & Eisenberg, LLP, said "NRC violated the law by re-licensing the Vermont Yankee reactor at the same time it launched an investigation into whether U.S. safety and environmental standards are strong enough in light of the Fukushima accident. The National Environmental Policy Act requires the NRC to learn and apply the lessons of Fukushima before it allows another reactor to operate. By establishing a Task Force and ordering the investigation of the regulatory implications of the Fukushima accident for U.S. reactors, the NRC has obligated itself to consider those implications in all prospective licensing decisions. We demand that the NRC establish a credible process for studying and applying the lessons learned from the Fukushima accident, in keeping with the precedent created after Three Mile Island."

Her Blue Vision

Judith Bernstein, a lifetime member of the Sierra Club and former member of the Santa Lucia Chapter Executive Committee, has been named as one of five winners in a national Sierra Club contest to attend the 2011 Blue Vision Summit in Washington DC.

Members of the national and international marine conservation community will meet May 20-23 to raise its profile and work toward the enactment and enforcement of national ocean policy and to address climate change impacts and Gulf of Mexico restoration. Setbacks in recent efforts for healthy seas such as the oil spill in the Gulf and ongoing and growing concerns over the collapse of marine wildlife and ocean acidification reinforce the importance and timeliness of this event.

Sponsored by the Blue Frontiers

Campaign, the Blue Vision Summits have aided some 2,000 "blue groups" working on ocean and coastal conservation but largely operating with little coordinated effort. The Blue Vision Summits are forums that have helped increase outreach to marine conservation groups, coastal communities, recreational ocean users, maritime workers, coastal tribes, public health advocates, marine science centers, elected officials and other potential constituents and allies. Check it out at www.bluefront.org/.

While attending the Summit, Judith will also be part of a daylong Sierra Club advocacy training. All contest winners pledged to take on a post-conference marine project. Judith will be working on the efforts to expand the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary that currently ends at San Simeon.

She promises to write an article on the conference and speak with interested people in the county about what she learns there. Look for it in a future *Santa Lucian*.



Classifieds

Next issue deadline is **May 13**. To get a rate sheet or submit your ad and payment, contact:

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ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER OF SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY

Outings and Activities Calendar

Seller of travel registration information: CST 2087766-40. Registration as a seller of travel does not constitute approval by the State of California.

All our hikes and activities are open to all Club members and the general public. If you have any suggestions for hikes or outdoor activities, questions about the Chapter's outing policies, or would like to be an outings leader, call Outings Chair Joe Morris, 772-1875. For information on a specific outing, please call the outing leader.

Saturday, May 7th, 9 a.m., Bishop Peak including Felsman Loop.

Celebrate Mother's Day weekend with a walk through the diverse plant communities in one of our most popular Morros, Bishop Peak. Total distance is 6 miles with an elevation gain of 1,000 ft., taking about 3-3.5 hours. Start on the north side, walking through oaks and grasslands with stunning views of the city, then transition to the south side through a diverse chaparral landscape with views of Laguna Lake, the Irish Hills, and the Pacific Ocean. Meet at trailhead on west side of Patricia Drive in San Luis Obispo, between Patricia Court and Anacapa Circle. Bring adequate water, snacks, and dress in layers for the weather; a hat and sturdy shoes are advised. Info: call Bill Waycott, 459-2103, bill.waycott@gmail.com. The plants, animals, and the geology of the area will be topics during the hike.

Saturday, May 14th, 9 a.m. Over the Top, Cerro San Luis. Meet at the parking lot/restrooms (dog park) at Laguna Lake for a walk up and over Cerro San Luis. We will go at a moderate (not slow, not fast) pace but there are a few steep uphill and a rocky section during this hike. Boots are recommended. Round trip is approximately 5 miles, 2.5-3 hours, depending on how long we spend enjoying the views of most of SLO. For more information call Mike Sims at 459-1701 or email msims@slonet.org. Rain cancels.

Sat-Sun, May 14-15th, Lone Pine Lake & 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

Sponsored by Other Organizations

Saturday, May 14th, 1-3 p.m., "Do You Think Bats are Scary?"

Acquaint yourself with a friendly bat from Pacific Wildlife Care and learn what bats do and don't do at the San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden. Bat conservationist and rehabilitator Melinda Alvarado of PWC, will present a slide show and feature live, tame bats for viewing and discussion. Myths, superstitions and misperceptions about these highly beneficial mammals will be discussed and replaced with factual learning about the importance of bats as insect controllers, pollinators and seed dispersers. Come with questions and curious



minds. Lecture is \$5 for Garden members and \$10 for non-members. Membership available onsite. April-October County Parks charges \$3 parking and day use fee. After the presentation, from 2-3p.m., enjoy a docent-led tour of the SLO Botanical Garden from 2 to 3 p.m. Children can create a bat related art project and nocturnal science project. Donations appreciated. For more info call or email: 805.541.1400x304, collinsworth@slobg.org.

The San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden is located on 150 acres in El Chorro Regional Park off Highway One between Morro Bay and San Luis Obispo. When the master plan is complete, the Garden will be the only one of its kind in the United States exclusively devoted to the ecosystems and plants of the five mediterranean climate regions of the world. Through its programs and facilities, the Garden fosters an appreciation and understanding of the relationship between people and nature and encourages a sense of stewardship toward the natural environment.

potluck feast and campfire. On Sun, we'll caravan to Manzanar, the WWII Japanese internment camp to visit the museum with its moving tribute to the internees held there during the war. Group size strictly limited. Send \$8 per person (Sierra Club), 2 large SASE, H&W phones, email address,

rideshare info to Ldr: Lygeia Gerard, P.O. Box 294726, Phelan, CA 92329, 760-868-2179. CNRCC Desert Committee.

Sat., May 21st, 10 a.m. City Walk: The Mill St. Historic District. An easy, guided stroll through neighbor-

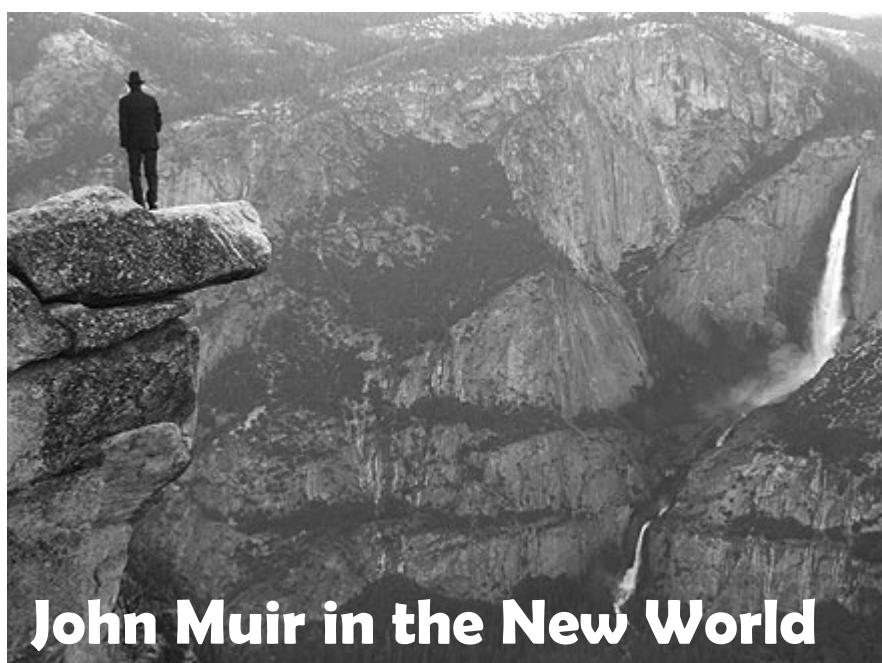


This is a partial listing of Outings offered by our chapter. Please check the web page www.santalucia.sierraclub.org for the most up-to-date listing of activities.

hood of splendid century-old homes to reveal SLO in the era of Hearst, WW I, and the twenties. Learn the stories of the rich and the not-so-famous who shaped the city of today. Time about 1 1/2 hrs. Meet at corner of Monterey and Johnson Sts., SLO. Info: Joe Morris, 772-1875.

Tues., May 24th, 7-9 p.m. Bimonthly Meeting: "Local Youth Working to Heal the Earth!" If you're feeling glum about the state of the planet, come get rocked by a high-energy and inspiring bunch of young activists. The teachers and students of Atascadero, Morro Bay, Paso Robles, and Templeton High Schools, and the Sierra Student Coalition of Cal Poly will discuss their diverse projects to protect nature in our county. Location: Steynberg Gallery, 1531 Monterey St., SLO. Info: Joe Morris, 772-1875.

May is Bike Month! This month-long annual event is spearheaded by Rideshare and powered by dedicated and energetic volunteers in our community who like to have fun and ride bikes. Rideshare is actively seeking leaders to be a part of Bike Month 2011. View the calendar at www.rideshare.org or sign-up for the e-newsletter to get the latest info.



John Muir in the New World

As a champion of the American wilderness, John Muir -- naturalist, author and founder of the Sierra Club -- believed that it was our responsibility as citizens to protect the natural world. Watch the new PBS documentary on his amazing life and environmental legacy, *John Muir in the New World*, at www.pbs.org/wnet/americanmasters/.

Island Hopping in Channel Islands National Park

Reserve early!

May 8-10; July 16-19; August 6-9; September 11-13; October 16-18

CA's Channel Islands are Galapagos USA! Marvel at the sight of whales, seals, sea lions, rare birds & blazing wildflowers. Hike the wild, windswept trails. Kayak the rugged coastline. Snorkel in pristine waters. Discover remnants of the Chumash people who lived on these islands for thousands of years. Or just relax at sea. These fundraisers benefit Sierra Club political programs in California. Cruises depart from Santa Barbara aboard the 68' *Truth*. The fee (\$590 for May and Sept & Oct.; \$785 for July & August) includes an assigned bunk, all meals, snacks & beverages, plus the services of a ranger/naturalist who will travel with us to lead hikes on each island and point out interesting features. To make a reservation mail a \$100 check payable to Sierra Club to leaders: Joan Jones Holtz & Don Holtz, 11826 The Wye St, El Monte, CA 91732. Contact leaders for more information (626-443-0706; jholtzhln@aol.com).

