



Nov./Dec. 2013
Volume 50 No. 10

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Don't Miss:

November 19

Conserving Snow
Leopard Habitat in
Southern Siberia

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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

Support Your Local MPA

Our Marine Protected Areas need you

The fight to establish Marine Protected Areas off the Central Coast was long and bruising. Many claimed that seeking to protect the state's most biologically productive and diverse marine ecosystems by creating reserves that barred or restricted fishing would not achieve the desired results – allowing fish to grow older and bigger undisturbed so they can make more little fish, producing more wildlife and biodiversity all round. The commercial fishing industry claimed MPAs would not work and would destroy commercial fishing.

Many a compromise was made, opposition was overcome, and the Central Coast MPA network was formally established in 2007. The network of 29 MPAs extends from Pigeon Point in San Mateo County to Point Conception in Santa Barbara County, covering 535 square kilometers of ocean. Six years later, the local fishing industry has seldom had it so good, and -- according to the Ocean Science Trust and California Department of Fish and Wildlife in a 2012 "state of the coast" report that published the results of baseline monitoring of the new Marine Protected Areas -- the MPAs work just fine.

The report found:

- In kelp forests, a range of economically important fishes, including cabezon, lingcod and black rockfish, increased in abundance in MPAs compared to similar locations outside MPAs.
- On rocky shores, numbers and sizes of protected black abalone and harvested owl limpets have increased

inside MPAs.

• Monitoring results from one of the oldest MPAs in the region, Point Lobos, indicate that this MPA is home to higher numbers and larger individuals of economically important fishes than neighboring reefs, and reveal the pace of change in temperate marine ecosystems.

The Department of Fish and Wildlife now wants to foster locally based, multi-member stewardship councils for cost-effective, transparent, on the ground (and in the water) implementation of California's Marine Protected Areas.

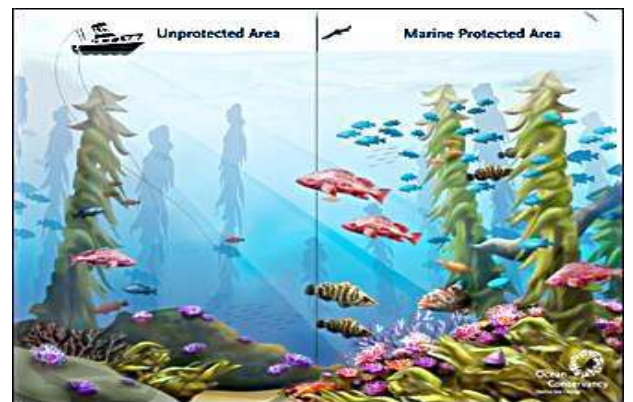
We agree. We've got a good thing going, and it will take a concerted effort by an aware and involved public to keep it going and make MPAs as effective as possible. Hence the MPA Collaborative Implementation Project (MPA CIP).

The Project is acting as a liaison between the Department of Fish and Wildlife and local communities to help

MPA Watch

Do you love walking along the coast? Would you like to be a part of making our oceans healthier?

The Otter Project is seeking volunteers for MPA Watch, a citizen monitoring program in support of Marine Protected Areas on the central coast. MPAs are similar to underwater parks in that they protect some of the most unique and richest coastal ecosystems the state has to offer. In order to preserve what's special about MPAs, some



foster a statewide network of county-based councils. These "community collaboratives" provide a localized, comprehensive approach to MPA implementation by bringing together local experts and authorities in the areas of education and outreach, enforcement, compliance, research and monitoring. CDFW is providing non-profits and local government agencies with the information, structure, support, and interagency communication to facilitate the creation of working MPA collaborative groups that are uniquely suited to each county's needs.

TAKE ACTION

MPA classifications differ in their allowed activities degree of protection. Go to www.dfg.ca.gov/marine/MPA and familiarize yourself with the location, boundaries, and proscriptions of our local Marine Protected Areas. If you see a vessel engaged in a prohibited activity in any these areas, call CAL-TIP at 1-888-334-2258 and report the vessel's registration (CF) number and the date, time and location.

MPA continued on page 8

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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.

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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**
Sierra Club, P.O. Box 52968, Boulder, CO 80322-2968



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

Sierra Club General Meeting

7 p.m., Tuesday, November 19

Wild Altai: Conserving Snow Leopard Habitat in Southern Siberia

Elizabeth Johnson has returned to SLO from Southern Siberia, where she camped in the mountains as a member of the first team of volunteers in the "Wild Altai" project, aimed at studying critical habitat and wildlife in the region. Hear the story of her trip, the region's indigenous Altai people and "the magic center of the earth."



Sacred space This Altai rock mound on the Kazakhstan border is an "ovoo" -- a prayer to the mountains, the umbilical cord to the universe.

Steynberg Gallery, 1531 Monterey St., SLO. Information: 543-8717

Democracy: Nice Idea, Let's Try It

Our democracy is under siege. Money is not speech and corporations are not people. Yet the power and influence of ideologically driven money in politics and corporate influence is unprecedented.

Simultaneously our fundamental democratic value of "one person, one vote" is under attack by a barrage of aggressive attempts to restrict access to the ballot box and undermine voting rights. We find ourselves in a political climate where, owing to the Supreme Court's disastrous Citizens United decision, wealthy corporate polluters and union-busters like the Koch brothers wield unprecedented and corrosive influence in the corridors of power.

As a result, citizen engagement with the political system is at an all-time low.

That's why labor, racial justice, immigrant rights, and voting rights organizations have joined with the Sierra Club, the Communications Workers of America, the NAACP, and Greenpeace in building the Democracy Initiative. Immediate goals include supporting voters' rights, combating voter ID laws, and curbing aggressive

use of the filibuster in the Senate. Our ultimate purpose is to restore fairness to our democracy.

As Sierra Club Executive Director Mike Brune said, "our seemingly separate problems are linked — and so are their solutions."

The Democracy Initiative seeks to

restore the core principle of political equality. Labor, civil rights, voting rights, environmental, good government and other like-minded organizations with broad memberships commit to build a movement to halt the corrupting influence of corporate money in politics, prevent the systemic manipulation and suppression of voters, and address other obstacles to significant reform, including the abuse of U.S. Senate rules that allow a small minority to obstruct deliberation and block action on legislation drafted to address the critical challenges facing our nation. Although we may never be able to outspend the union-busting corporate polluters, we do outnumber them. Through the Democracy Initiative, the labor and environmental move-



DEMOCRACY continued on page 4

Citizens Congress in SLO

The Citizens Congress will bring together in one room the representatives of the 52 different organizations working on campaign finance reform and overturning the Citizens United ruling, the authors of the eleven separate Constitutional amendments drafted to strike down Citizens United, and the leading voices for immediate legislative reforms to remove the corrosive influence of money from our elections. It is necessary to have a united front and that we approach this issue from outside of the normal legislative path.

That's the reason Citizens' Congress 2014, scheduled for three days in March 2014, in San Luis Obispo - noted as the happiest city in America and well outside the beltway. Local Citizens Congress organizers will sponsor a convention center, acquire hotel rooms and help to organize travel for Congressmembers. *Senator Tom Udall, Representative Lois Capps, and Harvard Law Professor Lawrence Lessig* will be among the attendees.

For more information, go to: citizenscongress2014.org



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The *Santa Lucian* is published 10 times a year. Articles, environmental information and letters to the editor are welcome. The deadline for each issue is the 13th of the prior month.

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Santa Lucia Chapter

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CHAIR

Pat Veasart (12/13)
VICE CHAIR

Linda Seeley (12/14)
SECRETARY

Patrick McGibney (12/14)
MEMBER

Lindi Doud (12/14)
MEMBER

Michael Jencks (12/15)
MEMBER

Victoria Carranza (12/15)

Cal French
COUNCIL OF CLUB LEADERS
Lindi Doud, Patrick McGibney
TREASURERS

The **Executive Committee** meets the second Monday of every month at 5:30 p.m., and the **Conservation Committee** meets the second Friday at 1p.m. at the chapter office, located at 974 Santa Rosa St., San Luis Obispo. All members are welcome to attend.

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Political

Michael Jencks

Conservation

Sue Harvey

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Cal French

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address.changes@sierraclub.org

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search: "Santa Lucia"
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Outings, events, and more!

This is Your Ballot for the 2014 Chapter Executive Committee

It's time for the Santa Lucia Chapter's annual Executive Committee election. All current members of the Santa Lucia Chapter are eligible to vote. If there is more than one Sierra Club member in your household, you may photocopy the printed ballot and mail both in the same envelope. The winners of this election will start their terms when the outgoing ExCom adjourns their December meeting. The newly-elected ExCom will then convene a brief meeting to elect board officers and set the monthly date for ExCom meetings held in 2014.



- Address the envelope per instructions on the ballot and sign and date over the flap of the envelope.
- Mail your ballot to our P.O. box address with sufficient time to arrive by the deadline, or drop it off via the door mail slot at the Chapter office at 974 Santa Rosa Street, SLO.

VOTING INFORMATION

- Vote for no more than 2 candidates.
- Ballots must be received by **5 p.m., December 5, 2013**, at the Chapter office.

Candidate Statements



Heidi Harmon

I am a long-term resident of San Luis Obispo coming from Pasadena 25 years ago to attend Cal Poly and living here ever since. I have developed a wide range of relationships in the community through my social, political and environmental involvements.

I am active in local Democratic Party politics and my primary environmental concern is climate change. I recently accepted an invitation to attend Al Gore's Climate Reality Leadership Training and was involved last year in the Keystone Pipeline blockade in Texas. I am actively working at the moment on two local movements, the SLO fracking ban, and the City of San Luis Obispo fossil fuel divestment campaign.

In addition, this year I founded the SLO Green Alliance, a group whose goal is the coordination of the diverse local environmental organizations into a united effort focused on the climate change crises. I strive to passionately engage politically while calmly developing consensus.

I hope I am most respected for my creativity, intelligence and organizational ability. I am lucky to be able to devote my time to environmental concerns and I would love to be apart of the local Sierra Club. Thank you for your consideration.



Greg McMillan

I am a 4th-generation northern San Luis Obispo County resident and a retired Building Contractor who specialized in energy efficiency and resource conservation. I built the first permitted Strawbale house in California. Now, on our acreage in the extreme north east section of our county, I produce grass fed beef on severely undergrazed land and tend my orchard to produce a small volume of Extra Virgin Olive Oil.

I was born into a family for whom an awareness of nature and the need to conserve it was a way of life. Both my father Eben and his brother Ian were pioneers in the conservation movement in central California. I took their philosophies to heart at an early age and try my best to keep the momentum they created alive.

I have had the honor to serve as the Chair of this Chapter for the last two years. During this period, your Executive Committee has grappled with extreme financial problems. Due to your support and the very hard work of staff and volunteers, we are on our way to solvency and the funds we need to continue the important work of our Chapter. I ask for your vote to allow me to help continue the work this Executive Committee has accomplished. Thank you for considering my candidacy.

BALLOT Santa Lucia Chapter Election - 2014 Executive Committee

Mark an "X" or checkmark in the box next to the candidate's name. Vote for no more than two candidates.

Members who subscribe to the electronic newsletter may print out this ballot. Households with more than two members may make duplicate ballots.

Do not write your name on the ballot.

Sign and date your envelope over the sealed flap.

Pat Veesart

Heidi Harmon

Greg McMillan

Place in envelope, sign the front of the envelope, and mail to :

**Elections Committee
Santa Lucia Chapter
P.O. Box 15755
San Luis Obispo, CA 93406**



Pat Veesart

I am offering myself for your consideration as a candidate for re-election to the Santa Lucia Chapter's Executive Committee because I care deeply about conservation. I have lived in San Luis Obispo County for 40 years and

have been active in many different conservation issues in many different capacities including as a former Chapter Executive Committee member, Chapter Chair, Sierra Club California staff member, Executive Director of ECOSLO, and as Planning Commissioner for both the City and County of San Luis Obispo.

I live on the Carrizo Plain National Monument in eastern SLO County, and am currently on the Board of Directors of Los Padres ForestWatch and working for the California Coastal Commission.

It has been exciting to watch the effectiveness of the Santa Lucia Chapter grow in recent years and to be a part of that as a member of the Executive Committee. I bring lots of experience to the table, but I also try to bring a "beginners mind" as well. I am open to new ideas and eager to learn new things. I welcome the opportunity to serve. Thank you for your consideration.

Making a 2013 Donation?

Thanks!...but do not wait until Christmas

We hope you include your Sierra Club chapter in your holiday giving. And if you do, please keep two important things in mind:

1) Donations to the Sierra Club are *not* tax-deductible; donations to the Sierra Club Foundation *are*. To make a tax-deductible donation: Make out your check to "The Sierra Club Foundation," and write "Santa Lucia Chapter Fund" in the memo section.

2) All Sierra Club offices close for the holidays. The Chapter has to process your check here, then send it to the Foundation for deposit, so it's a good bet that **if you wait to mail your check until the week before Christmas, it won't be deposited until after New Year's**, turning your 2013 donation into a 2014 donation.

When to mail your check:

Mail your check to:

Sierra Club
P.O. Box 15755
San Luis Obispo, CA 93406



Now



Not now

(If you are over 70 and have an IRA, you can meet your minimum distribution requirement by making a tax-free charitable rollover contribution of up to \$100,000 directly from your IRA. Check with your tax advisor.)

Dusty with a Chance of Goofballs

All things dunes and dusty have quieted down considerably at the Air Pollution Control District.

At their September 5 meeting, the APCD board was informed that the Environmental Impact Report for the dust control and monitoring project at the Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area should be completed by the end of the year.

Meanwhile, State Parks and the local off-road lobby asked the appellate court for a six-month stay of their appeal of their dismissed lawsuit, which they had filed in the hope of getting Parks out from under the obligation to reduce pollution emitted by the off-road playground.

It seems like only yesterday that certain dust-loving politicians of the APCD board were coming on like the local equivalent of the Congressional Tea Party Caucus. John Hamon, Roberta Fonzi, Ed Waage and Debbie Arnold -- led by Debbie Peterson, the local equivalent of Senator Ted Cruz -- once led the fight against the dust rule, and then the charge to repeal it, disputing what the science told them, finding anti-capitalist conspiracies thick on the ground, and championing the right of the SVRA to pollute to its heart's content in the name of regulatory freedom. It was the kind of enthusiasm that their federal counterparts have shown for killing off affordable health care and bringing on a government shutdown.

At the September 5 meeting, they may have finally gotten the message on where that road was leading, courtesy of Air Pollution Control Officer Larry Allen: If the Nipomo Mesa continues to log a growing number of "out of attainment" days, failing to meet even the low bar that is the federal standard for particulate matter pollution, the Environmental Protection Agency will require an EPA-approved attainment plan. And that will allow for federal enforcement of the dust rule. Federal jurisdiction will mean that citizen lawsuits can be filed under the Clean Air Act. Such will be the outcome if the APCD Board fails to enforce the dust rule.

It wasn't hard to read between the lines: If one is not a fan of local regulation, defying or attempting to

overturn the regulatory measures of a state agency is a good way to bring the feds down on your heads.

Oops.

But the APCD's dust rule fools, though quieter than they used to be, will not go gentle into that good night. Ed Waage tried to argue that the sand dunes closest to the Cal Fire dust monitor location are in the non-riding area, therefore the monitored exceedances of state and federal air quality standards are probably coming from that dune (providing support for Mr. Waage's cherished theory that as much or more dust is blowing off the non-riding areas and therefore off-road vehicles are not to blame for the problem, the conclusions of a peer-reviewed study by the premier experts in the field notwithstanding.)

Allen corrected Waage, telling him that the monitor is measuring dust borne on winds blowing from the riding area on the La Grande tract, not from the nearest sand dune in the non-riding area. Waage continued to press his idea that the dust the monitor was monitoring was coming from the nearest dune in the non-riding area.

Allen finally pointed out that Waage's preferred dune "is mostly covered in vegetation," i.e. a highly unlikely source of blowing dust.

"Don't be argumentative," Waage replied.

OHV Division Deputy Director Christopher Conlin got up to mischief when he warned that "If you vegetate the La Grande tract [as a dust control measure], the plover will avoid it."

Actually, no. Per the Aquarium of the Pacific, snowy plovers "pick insects off low-growing vegetation" and "chicks use small clumps of vegetation as cover." Invasive European beachgrass is a problem for plovers because it grows too high and reduces the density of the invertebrates that plovers feed on, but native vegetation doesn't and is therefore just fine for plovers, according to the Bureau of Land Management's Arcata field office ("Native dune vegetation is...low lying and provides good visibility for spotting approaching threats").

Deputy Director Conlin failed to mention that in his remarks to the APCD Board.



Terry Lilley

Coastal Commission Taking Comments on Sea-Level Rise Policy

by the California Coastal Commission

Climate change is upon us, and almost every facet of California's natural and built environment is being affected.

Increasing global temperatures are causing significant effects at global, regional, and local scales. In the past century, average global temperature has increased by about 0.8°C (1.4°F), and average global sea level has increased by 17 to 21 centimeters (7 to 8 inches) (IPCC, 2013). Sea level at the San Francisco tidal gauge has risen 20 centimeters (8 inches) over the past century, and the National Research Council projected that sea level may rise by as much as 140-165 centimeters (55-65 inches) in California by 2100 (NRC, 2012).

The California Coastal Commission has drafted a document to help coastal communities prepare for the effects of sea-level rise and is now seeking comments on the Draft Sea-Level Rise Policy Guidance. The Draft Policy Guidance was released for public review on the Commission's website on October 14, 2013. After the January 2014 Commission meeting and close of the written public comment period on January 15, 2014, Commission staff will address feedback from the Commission members, agencies, local governments, and the public and will prepare a proposed Final Sea-Level Rise Policy Guidance document. The Final Policy Guidance will be brought back to the Commission at a future public hearing.

The economic impacts of sea-level rise in California could be severe. Many parts of the state's \$1.9 trillion economy -- including coastal tourism, commercial fisheries, coastal agriculture, and ports -- are at risk from sea-level rise. In addition to potential losses in revenue, the Pacific Institute estimates that \$100 billion worth of property is at risk of flooding during a 100-year flood with a projected 1.4 meters of sea-level rise. This property includes seven wastewater treatment plants, commercial fishery facilities, marine terminals, Highway One, fourteen power plants, residential homes, and other important development and infrastructure. Also, public beaches and recreational resources may be lost, and wetlands and other sensitive resources may disappear.

California must begin to take more proactive steps to address sea-level rise due to the significant impacts it may have on California's economy, natural systems, built environment, human health, and ultimately its way

of life. The Sea-Level Rise Policy Guidance is intended to help local governments, permit applicants, and other interested parties begin to address the challenges presented by sea-level rise in California's coastal zone.

Specifically, it provides step-by-step guidance on how to address sea-level rise in new and updated Local Coastal Programs (LCPs) and Coastal Development Permits (CDPs) according to the policies of the California Coastal Act. LCPs and the coastal development permit process are the fundamental land use planning and regulatory governing mechanisms in the coastal zone, and it is critically important that they are based in sound science and updated policy recommendations. The guidance also contains principles for addressing sea-level rise in the coastal zone; a description of the best available science for California on sea-level rise; specific policy guidance to effectively address coastal hazards while continuing to protect coastal resources; and background information on adaptation measures, sea-level rise science, how to establish future local water conditions in light of sea-level rise, links to useful resources and documents from other state agencies, and Coastal Act policies relevant to sea-level rise.

The guidance document is part of a larger statewide strategy to respond to climate change. California is working on a number of important initiatives to both reduce the state's contribution to global warming through the emission of greenhouse gases, and to reduce the impacts of a changing climate to California. The sea-level rise guidance is being coordinated with many of these other initiatives, including the 2013 update to the 2009 California Adaptation Strategy (Safeguarding California Plan), 2013 update to the General Plan Guidelines, 2013 update to the California Office of Emergency Services' State Hazard Mitigation Plan, and a number of other plans and programs that affect land use development patterns and the reduction of long-term risk exposure to coastal hazards.

The Coastal Commission will continue to participate in the coast and ocean group of a multi-state agency climate action team first established in 2008. The Commission also will continue to coordinate with other ongoing state initiatives through the

Democracy

continued from page 2

ments are showing our awareness that to build a fair economy and end climate disruption, we must use our people power to reclaim our democracy.

TAKE ACTION

Go to www.democracyforus.org. Your organization can sign on as an endorser of the Democracy Initiative.



No Sun, No Wind, No Problem

California kills last argument against renewable energy

By Evan Gillespie, Deputy Director, Sierra Club Beyond Coal Western Region Director, My Generation Campaign

On October 17, the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) finalized a decision requiring investor-owned utilities to build 1,325 megawatts of energy storage by 2020.

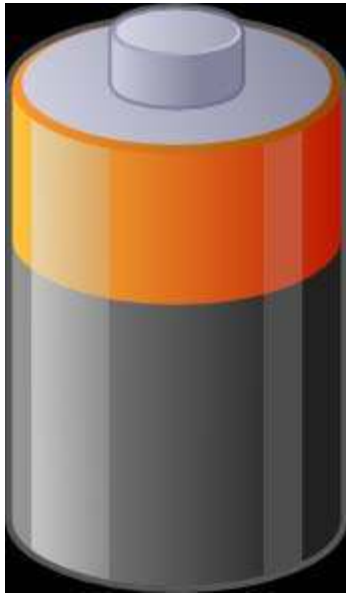
Much like the California Solar Initiative created a market for rooftop solar and is now driving rapid declines in the cost of rooftop solar across the nation, this mandate will create a market for storage that is

expected to, in the words of CPUC President Michael Peevey “tear down barriers that prevent cost-effective energy storage resources from competing and providing benefits to California customers, ratepayers of California utilities.”

Why is this ground-breaking? The sun doesn't always shine. Maybe you knew that already. This is a point routinely mentioned at the top of the list of challenges for wider deployment of clean energy (and too often blown way out of proportion by fossil fuel interests). But what's a state like California to do when it has clear goals to reduce carbon pollution from fossil fuels and scale up clean energy resources like wind and solar?

The challenge utilities confront with these clean resources is that, while highly predictable, they are nonetheless variable. In other words, we trust that every morning the sun rises in the east, sets in the west, and in California, provides dependable sunlight for the time in between. But, it is nonetheless variable in that the sun doesn't shine 24 hours a day. Grid operators balance lots of different energy generators simultaneously and throughout the day, of course, because we don't depend on one single location for energy generation. Nevertheless, a persistent question for power operators has been how to plug those gaps when the sun isn't shining.

Until now, the answer has been to build large and dirty natural gas plants. These natural gas plants “firm” the power being supplied by clean energy. “Firm” is utility-speak for filling the gaps in a solar project's power production as a cloud passes overhead or the sun sets. Essentially, the modern gas plant functions in similar ways as a battery, just with an asthma causing,



carbon spewing smokestack on top.

It's not really a secret at this point that the easiest way for a natural gas developer to get approval for a gas plant is to cite the need to balance the grid as more clean energy projects are built. The problem, again, is that while these plants do the trick from an engineering or grid operations perspective, they sure cost a lot of money. And they're dirty. Additionally, the benefit of

building clean energy also shrinks if it's facilitating new and dirty natural gas projects.

This issue came to a head earlier this year when the CPUC postponed a decision on approving a new natural gas plant just outside San Diego.

During the Commissioners' comments that day, Commissioner Florio urged all parties to come together quickly to develop alternatives to natural gas plants. Florio explained “every member of this panel is a strong supporter of AB 32... We have to face reality. I strongly support San Diego's implementation of solar, but the sun sets every night. Energy drops off faster, and we need something to balance it.” So the question is, how can we seamlessly integrate huge amounts of clean energy onto the grid without making people sick or digging a deeper hole on climate change?

What's perfect about the timing of the decision is that this new policy unfolds just as the state is weighing its options regarding the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station. With the massive, 2,250-megawatt nuclear plant now retired, Southern California Edison (SCE) and San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E) have both requested another 500 MW of new natural gas. The CPUC storage decision, which guides SCE and SDG&E to purchase a combined 745 MW of storage, can help ensure that a smart combination of energy storage and local clean energy can cost-effectively eliminate the need for new natural gas plants.

A huge amount of credit goes to CPUC Commissioners like Carla Peterman, who oversaw the proceeding and ultimate decision. Utilities pushed hard in testimony to turn a requirement to build storage into an optional goal, but were turned back by the Commission and advocates from Earthjustice (who represented the Sierra Club) and the California Environmental Justice Alliance.

This is a game-changer in so many ways. It's impossible to justify the construction of any new natural gas project when cost-effective, clean alternatives exist. Technology and innovation, coupled with smart policy, are changing the game and put California at the cusp of rendering fossil fuel plants obsolete.

Think about that. With storage and clean energy now being built together, the endgame of a truly clean, modern electric system, completely free of fossil fuels, is within reach.

Amazing.



SIERRA CLUB
SANTA LUCIA CHAPTER

Chapter Wins Grant Support

With a \$5,000 grant from the Rose Foundation for Communities and the Environment, the Santa Lucia Chapter will continue to take action to curb climate change, restore the health of our oceans, and preserve wildlife habitat and ecosystems.

The Foundation awarded the grant to the Chapter for our advocacy work on protecting open space, agricultural land, and wilderness areas and reducing urban sprawl; advocating for National Marine Sanctuary status for the Central Coast; providing leadership in reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the county and supporting the development of local renewable energy resources and secure local food networks; and helping people to enjoy SLO County's special outdoor places and learn about the importance of their protection.

The grant marks the second year of support for the Chapter from the Rose Foundation, which also bestowed its Anthony Grassroots Prize on the Chapter earlier this year.

The Oakland-based foundation is a public charity that makes grants to community-based organizations and invests in youth leadership and environmental justice programs.

“We are extremely proud and grateful to have the support of the Rose Foundation,” said Chapter Chair Greg McMillan. “It is an honor to partner with them in our work.”

Trade is Good When It's Fair

By Michael Brune, Executive Director of the Sierra Club, and James Hoffa, general president of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters. From The Hill's Congress Blog, Sept. 20, 2013. <http://thehill.com/blogs/congress-blog/foreign-policy/323167-trade-is-good-when-its-fair>



It's been almost 20 years since the signing of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), and families and communities are still reeling from its consequences. Among the many flawed aspects of this trade pact, it gave weak protections for American jobs and for U.S. safeguards on air, water and the environment. Now President Obama has taken the lead in negotiating what would be the largest trade pact in history. For nearly three years, the United States has been engaged in trade talks regarding the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), which includes Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore and Vietnam.

As leaders in the environmentalist and labor movements, we're all for trade – as long as it's fair. That's why it's more important now than ever to make sure this trade pact is done right – or it shouldn't be done at all. To ensure the safety and health of all Americans, trade negotiators must put the interests of the people – not big

corporations – at the forefront of the trade talks.

Back in his first term, when President Obama proclaimed that America would join the TPP talks, we welcomed his commitment to deliver a “high-standard, 21st-century” trade agreement, with strong protections for workers and the environment. Environmentalists and labor unions alike have been eager to see a 21st-century trade pact that includes protections for working families and protections for our environment—not just the profit of transnational corporations.

Unfortunately, from what we understand about the direction of the TPP negotiations, the final deal will probably replicate the same flawed model of NAFTA, throwing workers and whole communities under the bus and letting foreign corporations take the wheel.

As the trade representatives from the United States and the 11 other coun-

TRADE continued on page 6

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6 Sierra Club Convention Report

The Sierra Club California Convention, held at Rancho El Chorro of the weekend of October 5, elected Vicki Lee to another one-year term as Sierra Club California Chair, plus California Executive Committee members Olga Bolotina (Oakland), Karen Maki (Menlo Park), Mary Ann Ruiz (Chino), Andy Sawyer (Sacramento) and Barb Williams (Fair Oaks).

Sierra Club President Dave Scott spoke and answered questions for 15 minutes, and engaged with California activists over the weekend. State Assemblymember Anthony Rendon was the keynote speaker. The California Nevada Regional Conservation Committee approved resolutions to oppose the Sites Reservoir, oppose raising the height of Shasta Dam, endorsing guidance for local planning documents in support California's GHG reduction targets, and an OHV license plate requirement.

Sally and Les Reid Award

At this year's convention, Sierra Club California bestowed the Sally and Les Reid Award on Paso Robles residents Cal and Letty French.

The award, given in recognition of an individual who has served the Club in the area of conservation, is named for two of our most distinguished and effective activists. In addition to serving on the Sierra Club Board of Directors, both Sally and Les were instrumental in developing the Club in a new area -- Sally with forestry issues in Southern California, and Les in developing connections with organized labor.

Cal and Letty have been mainstays of Sierra Club California since its inception in 1987 and before that of



President Scott "We are engaged in one of the great moral struggles of our time.... The largest impacts of climate change are going to be on the poor and people of color."

the Southern California Regional Conservation Committee. Cal, one of the founders of Sierra Club California, has been CNRCC Chair multiple years. For years they catered the meals for the meetings at San Luis Obispo. Cal also served on the national Conflict Resolution Committee.

Cal and Letty are also pillars of the California/Nevada Desert Committee and the Santa Lucia and San Geronio Chapters. Letty serves as the secretary of the California/Nevada Wilderness Committee.



Honored Cal and Letty French.



It took a village Save Price Canyon and the Sierra Club halted the Spanish Springs project.

Sierra Club Settles Spanish Springs Lawsuit

Controversial project's Environmental Impact Report rescinded

In a legal settlement filed on October 25, the Sierra Club agreed to dismiss its legal action against the City of Pismo Beach over the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the proposed Spanish Springs development. The agreement to drop the suit followed the City's revocation of the EIR for the controversial project.

Certification of the EIR was the basis for any future approval of a project development agreement and a prerequisite for the specific General Plan Amendments the project required. The Sierra Club's lawsuit alleged that the EIR failed to meet the California Environmental Quality Act's requirement that the impacts of new development on the environment must be adequately assessed and mitigated. The suit charged that the City's review of the project left the Price Canyon area's open space and wildlife at risk, and the impacts of the project on the region's water supply and traffic volume had been underestimated.

The Sierra Club sued after the City Council voted to approve the Spanish Springs EIR at its June 18 meeting. On September 3, seeking to avoid a vote by residents, the City Council voted to roll back the General Plan Amendments rather than put the issue on a ballot. The City Council revoked the EIR at its October 1 meeting.

"This marks a complete win for the environment," said Santa Lucia Chapter Chair Greg McMillan. "While our action probably will not by itself bring an end to the City's attempts to sprawl into the coastal canyons around Pismo Beach on behalf of developers, we believe it will buy time and breathing room for the citizens to bring forward a better vision of the

city's future and a higher level of protection for natural resources than city officials have been able to muster."

With both the amendments and the EIR now defunct, the City must wait at least twelve months before considering any revised version of the proposed development.

"The Pismo Beach city council bungled this project to an astonishing degree," said Babak Naficy, attorney for the Sierra Club. "They chose not to heed their citizens when they overwhelmingly urged the city council not to proceed. The Sierra Club repeatedly warned them about the deficiencies in the EIR, but they certified it anyway. The city was not indemnified by the developer because the city council approved the EIR and the General Plan Amendments without approving the project itself, as is normal practice. The developer himself asked the City Council to rescind the General Plan Amendments because the wording wouldn't pass legal muster. It's as though the council was trying to do everything wrong."

Environmental Impact Reports for projects of statewide, regional or area-wide significance are submitted to the State Clearing House, which maintains a database of environmental documents that is utilized by state agencies, local governments, and project applicants. The Sierra Club will notify the State Clearing House that the Spanish Springs EIR has been rescinded so as to ensure that all agencies are aware of its decertification and will not rely on its findings or conclusions in any evaluation of future projects proposed for the Price Canyon area.

This Power is Clean

On October 24, attendees at SLO Clean Energy's public workshop on Community Choice Aggregation got an eye & earful from Jamie Tuckie, Communications Director for Marin Clean Energy, about what's happened in the three years since Marin County established the first CCA program in the state and their customers stopped buying their electricity from PG&E.

MCE's 125,000 customers are getting more renewable energy -- more than twice as much -- as PG&E customers. Residential customers are paying about the same on average, and commercial customers are paying less than PG&E ratepayers. For an extra penny per kilowatt, customers can get 100 percent green power. And Marin's solar users on MCE's net metering program get a far better deal than PG&E customers: all customer-generated power, not just surplus generation, counts toward their credit, and they have the option of taking their credit in cash.

Sound good? Think we should have that here? Then read "Check Your City's Climate Action Plan" on page 9 and follow the handy instructions. And also check out www.slocleanenergy.org.



Trade

continued from page 5

tries meet in Washington this week, we wish to once again express our demands for this pact. Specifically, we expect that the final TPP text will require all 12 countries to respect the fundamental labor rights we take for granted in this country -- freedoms of speech and assembly and the right to organize -- and prohibit child and forced labor. Further, the TPP must ensure that all countries uphold and

strengthen their domestic environmental policies and obligations under multilateral environmental agreements to protect communities and our climate. These obligations must be enforceable by trade sanctions, through rigorous dispute settlement mechanisms.

Countries that have fought hard for their protections -- environmental, labor or otherwise -- should not feel threatened by big corporations. Unfortunately, we expect the TPP will

include provisions that allow foreign corporations to sue governments over just these types of laws and policies -- if the corporation feels the law undercuts its bottom line. Such investor protections are not only a fundamental threat to our democracy, but also to workers and the environment.

With our jobs, our access to clean air and water and our environment at stake, we deserve a say in the way these trade rules are being written. But relatively few, mainly corporate executives and trade representatives from member nations, have access to texts of the pact, leaving the public largely in the dark.

Making matters worse, the U.S. Trade Representative has requested "fast track" for this trade deal. Fast track is an outdated mechanism that would limit the role of Congress to casting "yes" or "no" votes on adoption of the trade pact, limit debate on important provisions and forbid

amendments. With fast track, Congress cannot do its job effectively to oversee trade negotiations and ensure the contents of our trade pacts promote the public interest. Congress should oppose fast track, especially for a trade pact as expansive as the Trans-Pacific Partnership.

Free trade agreements like NAFTA have only led to the outsourcing of American jobs, downsizing of our wages and loss of environmental protections. The Sierra Club, the International Brotherhood of Teamsters and hundreds of other organizations and allies want to make sure that, this time, trade negotiators put people before corporate interests while writing this deal. It's time to stop letting big corporations ship our jobs overseas and dump our wages, benefits and protections overboard along the way. We don't need any more free trade agreements; we need fair trade agreements.

Are You a Local Business Owner?

Support the designation of the Central Coast as the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary



The Chumash people are the first inhabitants of the central and southern coastal regions of California, and one of the few ocean-going bands among the First Peoples of the New World. Their ancient submerged sacred sites extend 13 miles offshore. More than a dozen coastal sites have been continuously occupied for more than 9,000 years.

Because of this cultural heritage, along with the most significant wetland system on the central coast, the highest coastal dunes in the state, magnificent kelp forests and corals, a major sea otter population, sea lion haul-outs, and three whale and porpoise feeding areas, the waters of the Central Coast deserve national marine sanctuary designation.

The Office of National Marine Sanctuaries will soon be evaluating nominations for new marine sanctuaries.

We are pleased to support the Northern Chumash Tribal Council in this initiative and are collecting names in support of this designation. This is your opportunity to have your business listed as an official supporter of national marine sanctuary designation for our coastal waters.

...for our coast

Oil drilling and ocean dumping are prohibited in Sanctuary waters. Monterey, Santa Cruz and the Channel Islands have this protection; San Luis Obispo does not.

...for our schools

To educate underserved segments of the population, a Sanctuary Foundation provides programs and materials geared to diverse multicultural communities. The Monterey Bay sanctuary has a special focus on developing partnerships with Spanish-speaking residents and visitors, the largest multicultural population in the Central Coast region.



...for our economy

All the communities served by the Sanctuary will benefit from its promotion of kayaking, diving, camping and wildlife and whale watching, and so will the local businesses that are the basis of our coastal tourism economy.

I support the nomination of the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary

Name _____

Business _____

Address _____

e-mail _____

mail to: santa lucia chapter of the sierra club ~ p.o. box 15755 ~ san luis obispo, CA 93406

Save the Rain

When in drought, harvest

San Luis Obispo - Coalition of Appropriate Technology's Guide to

Harvesting the Rain



Port San Luis Light House built in 1860 utilizes a concrete impervious surface to collect water which gravity feeds the underground concrete storage tanks.

This Los Osos residence captures rainwater from the roof with a downspout diverter. Harvested rainwater is used for landscape irrigation.

Rainwater from roof is stored in a slat-line cistern for use in landscape irrigation. Slat-line tanks are available in many styles with slim profiles for situations that cannot accommodate wider tanks.

A series of wooden wine barrels capture water for irrigation use in the dry season. Downspout and the overflow is directed to a rain-garden in the winter time.

Storage and Use

For San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara County

Suggested donation: \$10.00



Cam and Janeen Schiff (above), presented "Living Off Rainwater and the Philosophy of Design by Resource" on September 30 at the Morro Bay Vets Hall, part of an evening dedicated to the practices of large-scale rainwater catchment and introduction of a new guide to rainwater harvesting (left), the latest how-to guide from the SLO Coalition for Appropriate Technology -- SLO Greenbuild, Sierra Club and Surfrider. Hot off the press, and a worthy companion to our *Graywater Guide* and *Rainwater Management for Low Impact Development*. \$10 postage paid, while supplies last. Mail your check to Sierra Club, P.O. Box 15755, San Luis Obispo, CA 93406.

Letters

Send letters to The *Santa Lucian*, P.O. Box 15755, SLO 93406, or sierraclub8@gmail.com. Letters may be edited for space.

Big users have created the biggest part of the water "crisis" in Cambria. Who are they? The CCSD knows. CCSD reads the water meters. They know who uses 3 units or 12 units or 50 units. In 2002, CCSD published a graph that showed that 1/3 of Cambria water meter holders used 2/3 of the water. Those 1400 meters showed 13 or more units of water every two months. 80 of them used 50 units or more—3 million gallons every two months.

Do 1/3 of the meter users still use 2/3 of the water? The CCSD knows. But they have refused to update and publish the graph they created in 2002. Why?

Who are the biggest users of water in Cambria? The CCSD knows, and they are not telling. Why?

Elizabeth Bettenhausen
Cambria

MPA

continued from page 1

offshore and onshore activities (e.g. commercial fishing, tide pool collecting) are restricted to order to conserve the resources.

However, such restrictions are only effective if people know about them and abide by them. The purpose of MPA Watch is to train volunteers to monitor human activity in and around MPAs to determine whether MPAs are being used as intended. Volunteers only observe and record activities – you are not expected to enforce any

rules. The data volunteers collect provides important information to state agencies, such as the Department of Fish & Wildlife, on how people are using coastal and marine resources and how to better manage them.

By walking along beaches in Montana de Oro, Point Buchon and Cambria, volunteers can combine their love of the coast while collecting valuable scientific data. For more info, contact holly@otterproject.org or visit www.otterproject.org.



Here's how Associate Biologist Christine Pattison and other state Fish and Wildlife staff convened an October 2 meeting at the Ken Norris Rancho Marino Reserve in Cambria to share the MPA outreach and partnership plan with local environmental groups and fishermen and discuss collaboration opportunities for MPA implementation projects in San Luis Obispo County.

Sea-level

continued from page 4

public review and adoption process for this guidance, to assure that the Commission's efforts to respond to sea level rise work in concert with the larger state strategy.

California must use the best available environmental science to conduct coastal land use planning and development. The State of California supported the preparation of the 2012 National Research Council's Report, *Sea Level Rise for the Coasts of California, Oregon and Washington: Past Present and Future*, which is currently considered the best available science on sea-level rise for California.

The guidance document provides a step-by-step process for incorporating sea-level rise and adaptation planning into new and amended Local Coastal Programs (LCPs). These steps can be tailored to fit the needs of individual communities and to address the specific coastal resource and development issues of a community, such as dealing with bluff erosion or providing for effective redevelopment, and urban infill and concentration of development in already developed areas. Coastal Commission staff will be available to consult

with local government planners during this process.

TAKE ACTION

Download the draft document at www.coastal.ca.gov/climate/SLRguidance.html. Send written comments on the Draft Policy Guidance by January 15 to:

California Coastal Commission
c/o Sea-level Rise Work Group
45 Fremont Street, Suite 2000
San Francisco, CA 94105
SLRGuidanceDocument@coastal.ca.gov

Oral comments will be welcome at Commission public hearings in November and December 2013, and/or January 2014.

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Check Your City's Climate Action Plan

And make sure it has these two things in it

The San Luis Obispo County Air Pollution Control District (APCD) and the cities of Arroyo Grande, Atascadero, Grover Beach, Morro Bay, Pismo Beach, and Paso Robles are almost done with a collaborative planning effort to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions consistent with the goals of Assembly Bill 32

The cities' draft Climate Action Plans are supposed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions while maintaining or improving the quality of life for residents and reducing costs for individuals and businesses.

The goal for all the cities is to bring Climate Action Plans before their City Councils for approval by January 31.

If you live in one of these cities, go to your City website right now, search for "Climate Action Plan," and make sure of two important things:

1. The plan refers to the need to comply with both California State Assembly Bill 32 and Executive Order S-3-05. Here's why: AB 32 set the goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 levels by 2020. The Governor's Executive Order S-3-05 requires an 80 percent reduction in GHG by 2050. Many local Climate Action Plans are shooting for the relatively easy 2020 target and ignoring the long-term measures that would be required to meet the bigger

2050 reduction. That's not allowed.

2. The words "Community Choice Aggregation" or "CCA" appear in the plan. Just about the most significant single greenhouse gas reduction measure available to every city in California is a Community Choice Aggregation program. This was offered to all five cities in a Climate Action Planning Toolbox prepared by the project consultant. It's looking like virtually none of them selected it. Take a look at mccleanenergy.com to see a CCA program in action in Marin County, then let your city council or planning commission know you want what they've got. The City and County of San Luis Obispo have included evaluation of CCA in their Climate Action Plans. Morro Bay has elected to participate in an inter-jurisdictional CCA feasibility study and appoint a representative to serve on a CCA Exploration Advisory Committee. Smart!

TAKE ACTION

Google "resolution no. 47-13 morro bay," take copies of it to the meeting of your city planning commission or city council when they will be deliberating on your Climate Action Plan, and urge

them to do what Morro Bay did.

Paso Robles planning staff will present a draft plan to their Planning Commission on November 12.

Arroyo Grande planning staff will present a plan to their Planning Commission and City Council sometime in November.

Atascadero's planning commission has recommended a plan that will head to the City Council for approval on December 10.

Grover Beach staff are completing an administrative draft plan and will present it to the planning commission, with a tentative date of January 21 for



presentation to the city council.

The cities of Morro Bay and Pismo Beach are also moving forward with draft Climate Action Plans that should be out for public review shortly; planning commission and city council meeting dates unknown at press time.



October 21, 2013

Via e-mail and FAX

To: The Paso Robles Planning Commission

Re: 10/22/13 meeting, item 2: approval of a Negative Declaration for the Draft Qualified Climate Action Plan

We urge the Commission not to recommend approval of the Negative Declaration, which would constitute a formal finding that the project will not have a significant adverse effect per CEQA Guidelines, Section 15071.

Approval should be withheld on the basis of this discussion of the Governor's Executive Order S-3-05, which appears at I-3: GHG Emissions Inventory and CAP Updates:

"At this time, the State has not created a mandate for further reductions beyond the 2020 target. It has identified a long-term goal for State agencies of reducing emissions to 80 percent below 1990 emissions levels by 2050 (in Executive Order S-3-05), but has not adopted the target and does not plan for meeting this goal. As such, this CAP does not identify a target beyond 2020."

The courts have rejected this argument as a rationale for not identifying GHG reduction targets beyond 2020 and failing to fulfill Executive Order S-3-05, as doing so constitutes a decision to ignore State policy and a failure to provide the public with adequate information about potential environmental impacts. The Climate Action Plan's proposed GHG emission reductions must show how Paso Robles will reduce its emissions 80 percent below 1990 emissions levels by 2050, not just the 2020 target, in order to be consistent with Executive Order S-3-05.

In revising the draft Climate Action Plan to achieve compliance with CEQA, the City may find that it needs to adopt additional GHG reduction measures. Community Choice Aggregation (CCA), a measure offered in the Central Coast GHG Planning Measure Evaluation Toolbox, can achieve substantial emission reductions.

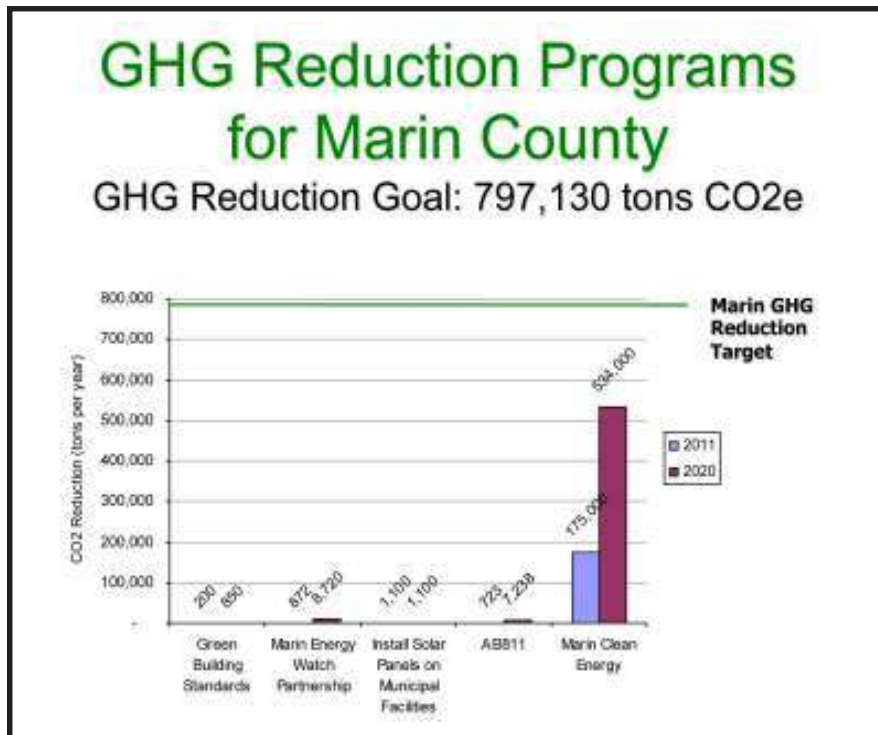
This is the text adopted by the County and City of San Luis Obispo, respectively, in their Climate Action Plans:

- The County shall "Evaluate the development of a Community Choice Aggregation program with the incorporated cities in San Luis Obispo County to procure up to 50% of the region's electricity use from renewable resources by 2020."
- The City shall "Evaluate the feasibility of a regional Community Choice Aggregation program to procure electricity from renewable resources."

In adopting similar language, Paso Robles would be well positioned to take advantage of significant future opportunities to secure the environmental and economic benefits of a CCA program and meet the requirement of the State of California for substantial GHG reductions through 2050.

Thank you for your attention to these matters,

Andrew Christie, Director
Santa Lucia Chapter



No contest This graph shows how much greenhouse gas Marin County has reduced via standard "climate action" measures and how much GHG it is on track to eliminate by 2020 via its Community Choice Energy program, the bar on the right.

rescheduled

NRC Waste Confidence: SLO Nov. 20

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission will be taking comments on what you think about their plan to store highly radioactive waste on our seismically active coastline for the next 300 years.

Wednesday, November 20, 6 p.m., Courtyard Marriott, 1605 Calle Joaquin, SLO
6 p.m.: Open House (an opportunity to talk informally with NRC staff members)
7-10 p.m.: Meeting

The NRC requests that you register beforehand if you wish to speak. You can register online at WCRegistration@nrc.gov, by phone at 310-287-9392, or in person at the meeting. Suggested comments and questions are posted at www.nirs.org/radwaste/wasteconfidence.htm and at <http://mothersforpeace.org>

If you do not wish to speak, come anyway! A large audience tells the NRC that we care and are holding them responsible for public safety.

Taking Issue

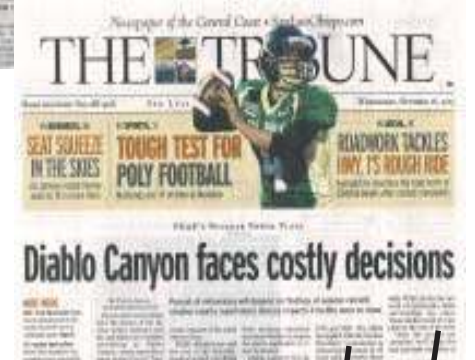
Reviewing problematic environmental coverage & commentary in our local media

NOW

Oct. 17, 2013

“PG&E to seek license renewals at Diablo,” “Diablo takes path to relicensing,” “County considers future without Diablo,” “Diablo Canyon faces costly decisions,” *The Tribune*, Nov. 24, 2009 - Oct. 17, 2013.

Summary: In November 2009, PG&E announced that they had filed for relicensing of the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. In January 2010, they applied for funding for the license renewal via the California Public Utilities Commission. In February 2010, the NRC held the first public meeting in SLO to discuss the license renewal process. The license renewal juggernaut was underway. Then a funny thing happened. Instead of Diablo Canyon being relicensed by now, as the NRC and PG&E’s calendars had anticipated, the license renewal is “on hold” at the NRC and PG&E’s request for funding has been dismissed by the CPUC after a successful intervention by the Alliance for Nuclear Responsibility. Now the headlines in the *Tribune* are all about doubt and uncertainty regarding the future of the Diablo Canyon plant. Four years later, the concerns raised by advocates in 2009—unresolved seismic issues and the elimination of once-through-cooling—are still the most daunting challenges facing PG&E’s relicensing effort. Events around the world—from Fukushima to Florida—have led to the closing of nuclear plants and all but buried the hopes of the “nuclear renaissance” that was being touted in 2009.



Oct. 16, 2013

The press conference announcing the renewal application featured a panel of speakers who talked about the importance of the plant to the county’s economy and the role of nuclear power in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and the nation’s dependence on foreign oil.

Tuesday’s board of supervisors’ discussion also was prompted in part by recent announcements that several nuclear power plants would be closing sooner than expected. The most important was the decision earlier this year to decommission the state’s only other functioning nuclear power plant, San Onofre in Southern California. ...Other nuclear power plants, including the Vermont Yankee plant, are scheduled for early shutdown due to a variety of economic factors and the need for expensive safety upgrades. One factor facing nuclear power in general is reduced wholesale prices of electricity caused by cheap natural gas prices.

The utility should at least wait until studies by several state agencies of the state’s electrical infrastructure are complete, said David Weisman of Morro Bay, outreach coordinator for the Alliance for Nuclear Responsibility, a group that opposes nuclear power.

While PG&E has applied to extend each license 20 years, the applications are on hold while PG&E studies a series of earthquake faults around the plant. PG&E officials have said the result of those studies could impact the utility’s decision to further pursue license renewal. PG&E already expects to spend \$50 million over the next three years to meet Nuclear Regulatory Commission requirements in the wake of the 2011 Fukushima Daichi plant disaster in Japan.

Plants like Diablo Canyon could be forced to replace once-through cooling with other types of cooling that use less water. PG&E will continue to work with state water officials to resolve the issue, Conway said. However, the company’s position is that the environmental damage caused by building cooling towers or other alternative cooling technologies would outweigh the benefits of shutting down the once-through system.

State water officials are reviewing possible requirements that Diablo Canyon make costly modifications to its cooling water system to reduce the damage it does to the ocean by discharging billions of gallons of heated water a day into the ocean that kills fish and crab larvae.

Faced with uncertainty over the future of nuclear power in general and the potential cost of seismic retrofitting at Diablo Canyon, county supervisors spent several hours Tuesday grappling with the economic impacts if the plant closed. Pacific Gas & Electric officials have said the cost of any federally-required seismic retrofitting would be a main factor in their decision whether to reopen its application to renew its license.
“After the studies are complete, we’ll study the data and make a decision on license renewal,” spokesman Tom Cuddy said after a San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors meeting Tuesday.

THEN

Nov. 25, 2009



Nov. 24, 2009



The decision to apply for license renewal comes after a \$17 million feasibility study by PG&E that lasted several years. More than half the nation’s 104 nuclear reactors have already applied for license renewal. The utility has spent \$1 billion on capital improvements at the plant in recent years, and that increases the feasibility of continuing to operate for 20 additional years, Conway said. The improvements include replacing the plant’s steam generators, reactor vessel heads and main turbines.

Upshot: Nothing guarantees that Diablo Canyon is immune from the market forces of other sources of cheaper energy or the emerging and unanticipated regulatory requirements that have closed other plants. San Luis Obispo County is now questioning whether it can rely on income and tax revenue from Diablo between now and the end of the current license in 2024/25, let alone extended revenue from a license renewal. And the need to find a final storage solution to the waste, which is the reason the NRC has put a hold on all license renewals and approvals, continues to be a vexing problem. What a difference four years—and the persistence and vigilance of ratepayer advocates—can make.

Classifieds

Next issue deadline is **November 28**.
 To get a rate sheet or submit your ad and payment, contact:
 Sierra Club - Santa Lucia Chapter
 P.O. Box 15755
 San Luis Obispo, CA 93406
sierraclub8@gmail.com

Les Kangas
 Solar Energy Consultant
 REC Solar, Inc.
 775 Fiero Lane, Suite 200
 San Luis Obispo, CA 93401



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Now that mantra can be yours, too, along with healthier soils, happier wildlife, and reductions in your water bill, thanks to the tips and techniques in **Rainwater Management for Low Impact Development**, a publication of the Appropriate Technology Coalition -- SLO Green Build, the Santa Lucia Chapter of the Sierra Club and the Surfrider Foundation, available for \$10 postage paid, while supplies last. Mail your check to Sierra Club, P.O. Box 15755, SLO 93406.

LAW OFFICES OF BABAK NAFICY
 Babak Naficy - Attorney at Law



1504 Marsh Street
 San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

ph: 805.593.0926 - fax: 805.593.0946
babaknaficy@sbcglobal.net

Outings and Activities Calendar

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

All our hikes and activities are open to all Club members and the general public. Please bring drinking water to all outings and optionally a lunch. Sturdy footwear is recommended. All phone numbers listed are within area code 805 unless otherwise noted. Pets are generally not allowed. A parent or responsible adult must accompany children under the age of 18. If you have any suggestions for hikes or outdoor activities, questions about the Chapter's outing policies, or would like to be an outings leader, call Outings Chair Joe Morris, 549-0355. For information on a specific outing, please call the listed outing leader.

Sat., Nov. 2nd, 9 a.m. Morro Bay Hills Hike 7-mile hike, 1600 ft. gain, exploring hills above Morro Bay to the summit of Cerro Alto, then descending via W. Cuesta Ridge Rd. and Boy Scout Trail to cars. Bring snacks, water, and dress for the weather. \$5 Adventure Pass parking fee if no Golden Age or National Parks pass. Stop at Taco Temple for dinner on way home for those interested. Meet at Cerro Alto Campground Day Use Area, off Hwy. 41, 8 miles east of Morro Bay. Leader: Gary Felsman, 473-3694.

Sat.-Sun., Nov. 2nd-3rd. Carrizo Plains Explore/Serve Weekend. Saturday, car camp in Monument, modify fencing to increase mobility of pronghorn antelope. Sunday either Caliente Ridge hike or tour of popular areas in the plains. Leader: Craig Deutsche, craig.deutsche@gmail.com or 310-477-6670. CNRCC Desert Committee

Sat., Nov. 9th, 8:30 a.m. Cruickshank Trail Work Help cut and remove overgrowth along a popular trail. We will climb 700 feet, then work 3/4 to 1 mile in. Come for a few hours or stay longer. Bring gloves, loppers, hand clippers, pick hoes, or other useful tool. Wear clothes that can get dirty and closed-toe shoes. Bring lunch and water. Good chance of some poison oak on the trail. Possible camping at either Lower or Upper Cruickshank Camps, check with leader. Rain postpones event to a later date. Call Carlos, 546-0317, if you are interested.

Sat., Nov. 9th, 10 a.m., Estero Bluffs State Park Hike. 3-mile rt walk, crossing a short beach, then along cliffs above a rocky coastline. Many pelagic and shore birds, so binoculars a plus. Meet at parking lot on Rt. 1, across from San Geronimo Rd, one mile north of Cayucos. Leader: Vicki Marchenko, vmarchenko57@gmail.com or 528-5567.

Sat.-Mon., Nov. 9th-12th, W. Utah Exploration. Visit Western Utah's Mountain Home Range and San Francisco Peaks, being considered as new wilderness areas under BLM plan. Help in documentation and enjoy car camping with central commissary over Veteran's Day weekend below pinyon-pine covered desert peaks and darkest night skies. Option to meet on Friday eve. Contact Vicky Hoover, 415-977-5527 or vicky.hoover@sierraclub.org CNRCC Wilderness Committee

Sat., Nov. 16th, 10 a.m. City Walk: Storybook Houses of 1930s San Luis Obispo. Guided stroll past a dozen daring, delightful, Disneyesque cottages in SLO, explaining their unique architecture and the thirties era that inspired their designs. Meet at corner of Chorro St. and Murray Ave. Info.: Patty Andreen, 550-1890

Sun., Nov. 17th, 10 a.m. Sycamore Springs Trekking-Pole Hike. 2-mile hike, 600 ft. gain, to model the benefits of using trekking poles. Meet at entrance to Sycamore Springs Resort, 1215 Avila Beach Dr. Confirm beforehand with Leader: David Georgi, 458-5575 or hikingpoles@gmail.com

Wed., Nov. 20th, 10 a.m. Sandy Ridge Hike Three-mile hike, 700 ft. gain, ascending through oaks and tunnels of manzanitas to a eucalyptus grove bordering Montana de Oro and with views of mountains and coastline. Directions: From Los Osos Valley Rd, turn left on Bayview Hts. Drive, go half-mile and park off the road on right near a marked dirt berm across from Bay Vista Lane. Leader: Vicki Marchenko, vmarchenko57@gmail.com or 528-5567

Sat., Nov. 23rd, 10 a.m. Gibraltar Reservoir and Canyon Hike. Moderately strenuous, six-mile hike from Paradise Rd to Gibraltar Dam in loop to see fall colors, Los Padres mountain vistas, river pools, and rock formations. Creek crossings if previous rainfall. Bring hat, water, sunscreen, and dress in layers. Directions: from Hwy. 101, take Rt. 154, left on Paradise Rd. for 10 miles to road end. Meet at restrooms close to parking lot entrance. \$5 Los Padres Day Use fee. Leader: Andrea Ortiz, 934-2792, or 264-4527, kenya683@msn.com for more information and carpool plans.

Sat., Dec. 7th, 8:30 a.m. Ragged Point—Mount Mars Exploratory Hike. Strenuous 12-mile, 2400 ft. gain hike to high point of scenic range. Poison oak likely toward end of route. Bring lunch, water, and hiking shoes. Going part of the hike is OK since return is on the same trail. Meet at Washburn Day Use Area, 2 miles north of Cambria. Leader: Carlos Diaz-Saavedra, 546-0317

Sat., Dec. 7th, 10 a.m. Canoe/Kayaking in Morro Bay. Launch boats at canoe put-in, off Pasadena Dr, between Baywood Way and Santa Ysabel Ave. We will head across bay to Morro Bay State Park, park the boats, and walk across dunes to ocean side for picnic lunch and beach combing, then head back same way (one mile total walk), for total trip time of about 4 hrs. Bring lunch, water, and a life jacket—a must. Participants need to confirm at least 48 hrs. in advance with Leader: Vicki Marchenko, 528-5567, vmarchenko57@gmail.com

Sat., Dec. 14th, 9 a.m. Cerro Alto Anniversary Hike. 7-mile, moderately strenuous loop hike to Cerro Alto summit, 1800 ft. gain, with great coastline views. Return via eucalyptus grove and the Boy Scout Trail. Bring water, snacks, and dress for the


weather. Some poison oak probable on the trail. Directions: Off Hwy 41, 8 miles east of Morro Bay or 12 miles west of Atascadero, enter Cerro Alto campground and drive to the end of the road. \$5 parking fee if no National Parks or Adventure Pass. Rain cancels. Probable stop in Morro Bay for eats after hike. Leader: Chuck Tribbey, 441-7597

Sun., Dec. 15th, 10 a.m. Sycamore Springs Trekking-Pole Hike. 2-mile hike to model the benefits of using trekking poles. 600 feet elevation change. Meet at entrance to Sycamore Springs Resort, 1215 Avila Beach Dr. Confirm beforehand with Leader: David Georgi, hikingpoles@gmail.com or 458-5575

Sun.-Thu., Dec. 29th-Jan 2nd. Holiday Service in Carrizo Plain NM Celebrate end of year by service to pronghorn antelope in National Monument, a vast grassland with antelope, tule elk, kit fox and diverse bird life. Welcome hike on Sunday, then 2 1/2 days modifying barbed-wire fencing and a full day of hiking and exploring. Use of accommodations at ranch house. \$30 covers four dinners and New Year's morning breakfast. Information: contact Leader, Craig Deutsche, craig.deutsche@gmail.com or 310-477-6670. CNRCC Desert Committee.



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.




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John McE, leader of the Sierra Club, in Yosemite

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