

# SANTA LUCIAN



**Santa Lucia Chapter**

**Mar/Apr. 2018**  
Volume 55 No.2

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



Carbajal, Gibson and Harmon.

## Officials Speak Out on Offshore Oil in SLO

Two weeks after conservative Supervisors Lynn Compton and Debbie Arnold ensured that the County would remain officially mute on the Trump administration's 5-year plan to open 90% of our coast to offshore oil drilling (See "Offshore Oil Finds Its Happy Place" at right), Rep. Salud Carbajal, joined by Supervisor Bruce Gibson, SLO Mayor Heidi Harmon, Morro Bay Mayor Jamie Irons, and Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council Chair P.J. Webb presented a united front across the street from the County Government Center.

*OFFSHORE continued on page 8*

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## Californians Say No to Oil Drilling

### But is the Interior Dept. really listening?

By Wendy Becktold, Sierra, Feb. 9, 2018

Kathleen Stelts spends a lot of time exploring tide pools. She's a docent with the Laguna Ocean Foundation in Laguna Beach, California. She likes to educate visitors about the delicate creatures they find on the rocks. "I tell the kids, 'See that crab? If you poke it, it would be like someone walking up to you and punching you in the face,'" she said.

When Stelts heard the news in January that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke was proposing to open up California's coast for oil and gas drilling, she felt like *she* had just been punched in the face. That's why on the morning of February 8, she woke up at dawn, piled into the car with four of her friends, and drove 400 miles north to attend the only public hearing in California about the plan.

The proposal seeks to make more than 90 percent of U.S. coastline available to oil and gas leasing, starting in 2019. The hearing on Feb. 8 was held in Sacramento, far from any beach, but hundreds of people from coastal communities throughout the state



Send your comments by March 8: [Savethecoast.org](http://Savethecoast.org)

Sarah Christie

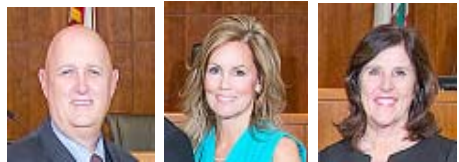
managed to show up anyway, hoping to be heard.

Before the hearing, a broad coalition of organizations and tribal groups including the

Sierra Club, the Center for Biological Diversity, Ocean Protectors, and Brown Girls

*SACRAMENTO continued on page 6*

## Offshore Oil Finds Its Happy Place



**What them worry?** As hundreds of local governments across the country filed protests against the Trump offshore oil leasing plan, SLO County Supervisors Peschong, Compton, and Arnold enforced a discreet silence on the largest proposed increase in offshore oil drilling in U.S. history at the Feb. 6 meeting of the board. See "This Island SLO" in the Feb. 15 *New Times* by Santa Lucia Chapter Director Andrew Christie, and the sequel, "Tight Little Island," page 6.

# Sierra Club General Meeting

Santa Lucian • Mar./Apr. 2018

Wed., March 21, 7 p.m.

*The Flora of SLO County*  
with David Keil

Come hear retired Cal Poly professor and premier botanist David Keil, speak on the extraordinary flora of San Luis Obispo County. A major contributor to the *Jepson Manual* and *Flora of North America*, Dr. Keil edited *The Wildflowers of San Luis Obispo* and is preparing the second edition of *Vascular Plants of San Luis Obispo County*.



**Copeland Pavilion, 3rd Floor,  
French Hospital Med. Center,  
1823 Johnson Ave., SLO**

Doors open at 6:30  
Program: 7-8 p.m.



## Want to Grow Pot?

### Here are the rules

The recently adopted Cannabis ordinance for San Luis Obispo County made numerous compromises.

One such compromise was the county's agreement with the state to make all licensing discretionary in order to bypass the California Environmental Quality Act at the initial stage of adopting an ordinance. This means that a stringent biological/environmental review will now be required for each project.

Items of review include but are not limited to water use, water runoff, pesticide use, and endangered species impact. An environmental review is likely to be complex and costly, and at least in some instances require a full Environmental Impact Report. The county will be required to consider the cumulative effect of cannabis cultivation in the Carrizo and surrounding areas. Review would not be limited to the environmental impacts of a single cultivation site.

This is an important aspect of the continued preservation of sensitive habitats such as the Carrizo Plain. California Valley is zoned Suburban Residential, and thus is not permitted for commercial Cannabis cultivation. However, Agriculture lands greater than ten acres in size may be permitted within the Carrizo Planning Area.

### Santa Lucian

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## Get Your Tickets for Our March 17 Chumash Sanctuary Event

As environmental threats to the Central Coast mount, now is the time to push for sanctuary

On Saturday, March 17, join us at Cal Poly's Chumash Auditorium for an afternoon of information, activism, and undersea wonders. Marine biologists and conservation advocates will discuss the protections that designation of the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary can bring to the Central Coast's marine habitat.

The highlight of the day will be a special video presentation by Holly Lohuis, a marine biologist with Jean-Michel Cousteau's Ocean Futures Society.

The event is free but you must register to attend. Go to [tinyurl.com/CalPolyChumash](http://tinyurl.com/CalPolyChumash) and secure your seat!

free tickets: [tinyurl.com/CalPolyChumash](http://tinyurl.com/CalPolyChumash)

**Now More Than Ever:  
Chumash  
Heritage  
National  
Marine  
Sanctuary**

March 17, 2018 Saturday 1:00 – 3:30 PM  
Cal Poly - Chumash Auditorium

Featuring:  
**Fred Collins**  
Northern Chumash Tribal Council  
**Heidi Harmon**  
Mayor of San Luis Obispo  
**Dan Haifley**  
Executive Director, O'Neill Sea Odyssey  
**Holly Lohuis**  
Jean-Michel Cousteau's Ocean Futures Society  
Special video presentation

Free Event – Free parking  
Tickets and more info @:  
[chumashsanctuary.org](http://chumashsanctuary.org)

Learn how we can protect the treasures of habitat and wildlife off the Central Coast

Logos: Sierra Club, Surfrider Foundation, Eco Slo, Environmental Center of San Luis Obispo County, AWC, LA Isla

## Will PG&E Make a Killing Off Diablo?



### 12,000 acres of prime coastal land is up for grabs

In all the controversy over the announced closure of the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant – how much sooner the plant could or should close, how much money the County will get, what will replace the power generated from the plant – little notice has been paid to what is likely to become one of the biggest land use

issues on the Central Coast: What will become of the 12,000 acres of pristine coastal real estate the company owns around the plant outside of its security zone?

The Friends of Wild Cherry Canyon was formed to protect a prime piece of PG&E's property that has been a particular target of recent pressure by the

## Welcome New Members!

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

### Transfers:

Andrea L & John Williams  
Deborah Alexzander  
Jana Slezakova  
Jill Tremblay  
Carola Bundy  
Susan Schlaikjer  
Tyler Conrad

### New members:

Alan Doctor  
Amanda Wood  
Andrea L & John Williams  
Ann Bernhardt  
Ann Rapp  
Cathy Manning  
Cindy Chambers  
David Boicourt

Deborah Alexzander  
Duk-Ki Kratavil  
Fay Bosler  
Ferris Jarvis  
Greg Thomas  
Hadley Klein  
Jana Slezakova  
Jeffrey Auerbach  
Jill Tremblay  
John & Roz Freeman  
John Dalbey  
Jolein Heinlein  
Kathryn Voice  
Lawrence Dubrul  
Liz Johnston  
Lynn Kamplain  
Maggie Browning  
Maria Page

Mark Shinbrot  
Howard Mainhart  
Carola Bundy  
Pamela Garza  
Peter Frith  
Sandra Giberson  
Sasha Szytel  
Savanna Cooper  
Scott Fisher  
Sherri Stoddard  
Shirley Holgate  
Susan Schlaikjer  
Toni Barnett  
Tyler Conrad  
Vicki Hotaling  
Wendy Knight  
Wolf & Rabbit Provisions

developer HomeFed Corp. The Sierra Club and FWCC made sure that the Diablo Canyon lands were introduced

into the formal proceedings at the Public Utilities Commission when PG&E submitted its proposal to retire the

plant. As a result, the Commission's administrative law judge

*DIABLO continued on page 4*

### Diablo

*continued from page 3*

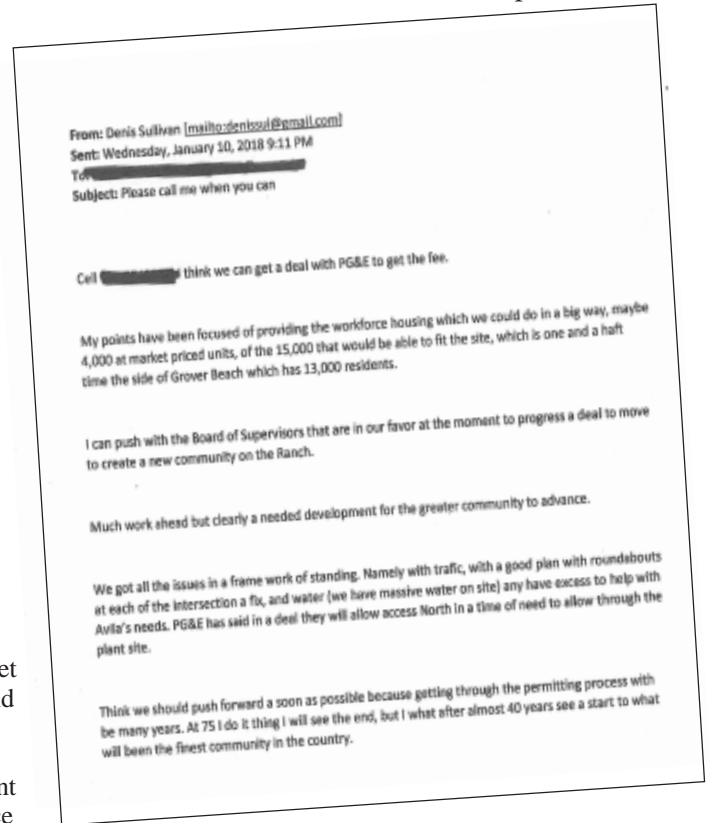
handed down a proposed decision in November 2017 noting that “While some of the land is owned by a subsidiary of PG&E, PG&E has committed to take no action with any of the lands and facilities, whether owned by the utility or a subsidiary, before completion of a future process including a public stakeholder process, and states that the parties will not be

*The Tribune* indicating that when it comes to the disposition of Diablo Canyon lands, PG&E is letting no grass grow in the space between shutdown and decommissioning. One month after the Public Utilities Commission approved the retirement of the plant, we learned that:

*The company will also move ahead with establishing a community engagement panel to get the public’s input into the decommission-*

power plant – Home Fed advisor Denis Sullivan sent an email to the company’s Wild Cherry Canyon project manager on the crucial issue of “fee title,” the transfer of land ownership that would make possible the development of Wild Cherry Canyon and any surrounding lands. Sullivan wrote, “I think we can get a deal with PG&E to get the fee,” and went on to describe a development almost twice the size of Grover Beach. In light of this communique, PG&E needs to answer a question:

Have they been in talks with a developer or their agents about a deal for the transfer of the Diablo Canyon lands, or taking any other action “with respect to any of the lands and facilities, whether owned by the utility or a subsidiary, before completion of a future process includ-

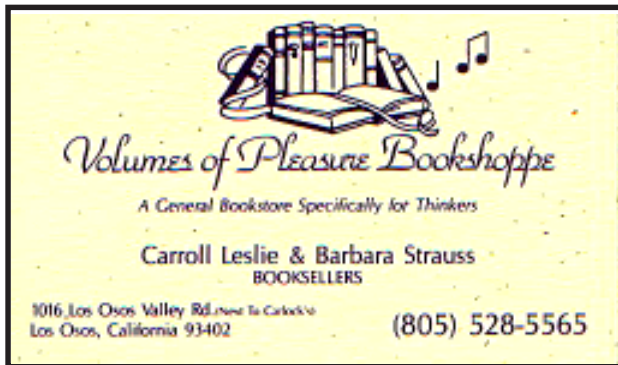


**Say what?** The Jan. 10 HomeFed email illustrated why “community engagement panels” are for those who can’t get deals.

ing a public stakeholder process,” with an aim of transferring fee title ownership of some or all of the lands held by PG&E or its subsidiaries, contrary to assurances made to the Public Utilities Commission and its Administrative Law Judge? Is PG&E convening a “commu-

nity engagement panel” with the intent of carefully gathering public input, then carefully disposing of that input in the nearest receptacle and proceeding with plans already made to sell off the priciest real estate on the Central Coast to the highest

*DIABLO continued next page*



prejudiced by excluding these issues from the current scope of this proceeding. PG&E is directed to abide by that commitment.”

Questions have now arisen about that timeline and that commitment. A brief mention appeared at the end of an article in the Feb. 10 edition of

*ing process, including what should be done with the property and the surrounding lands.*

But it now appears that process may be moving even faster. On January 10 – the day before the Public Utilities Commission approved PG&E’s request to retire the

## Not Their First Rodeo

### The Diablo lands have always been PG&E’s biggest bargaining chip

In December 2006, the California Coastal Commission came within a whisker of requiring a conservation easement over 9,130 acres of the land outside Diablo Canyon’s security zone in exchange for a permit to replace the plant’s failing generators; a permit the plant needed to keep operating past 2014.

As the replacement permit would allow for the devastating impacts of the plant’s cooling system

*RODEO continued on next page*



# Put Oil and Water on the Ballot

## San Luis Obispo Groundwater Protection Ordinance

SLO County water activists are gathering signatures to put an initiative on the November ballot that would prohibit the exportation of groundwater outside the county. Volunteers are needed to help collect signatures to qualify the initiative for the ballot.

Most of SLO County is dependent on groundwater resources for our water needs.

The measure will protect all groundwater basins in the county, whether or not they are in overdraft, prohibiting the pumping of groundwater for export, transfer, or use outside the boundaries of any basin, including any water that is “percolated, infiltrated, stored, recharged, or otherwise placed into the ground water basin (including banked surface water).”

Help put this initiative on the ballot by signing the petition and collecting signatures. If you

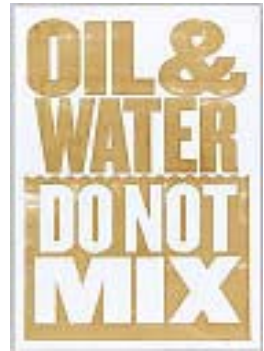
would like a few petitions to circulate among friends and family, or want to go all out and collect hundreds of signatures, contact Sue Harvey at 805-239-0542, [susan@ifsusan.com](mailto:susan@ifsusan.com).

## Ban Fracking and Oil Expansion in SLO County

Petitions are now circulating to prevent fracking and oil industry plans for a vast expansion of operations in our

county.

We are at a clean energy crossroads. As citizens, we have the potential to control local energy resources. And oil extraction practices, especially the “extreme oil” derived from steam injection, fracking, and the use of exotic chemicals and acids, pose threats to our surface and groundwater. The large amount of water used and the underground disposal of toxic water threaten water quantity and quality.



Go to [protectslocounty.org](http://protectslocounty.org) to learn more about the Coalition effort, upcoming events, and how to volunteer or donate. If you want to help gather signatures and you are a registered voter in SLO County, contact [terrieleivers@gmail.com](mailto:terrieleivers@gmail.com) and a city captain will be in touch with you.

## Diablo

*continued from previous page*

bidder, greatly cushioning the pain from the write-off of its non-viable nuclear power plant?

Another good question: Who are the County Supervisors that HomeFed execs know are “in our favor at the moment” and whom they can “push” to “progress a deal” for a project that local residents overwhelmingly rejected three years ago? How much “pushing” took place between Sullivan’s Jan. 10 email and our alert to the media on Feb. 22?

“Placing a new city on these pristine lands would be an environmental tragedy of the first order,” said Friends of Wild Cherry Canyon’s Kara Woodruff. “HomeFed’s profit motive is clear; any concern for the needs of the community is not.”

## Rodeo

*continued from previous page*

on marine wildlife to continue all the way to the end of its license period or beyond, the easement would have ensured that the land was never developed, conserving a significant portion of the Central Coast in perpetuity.

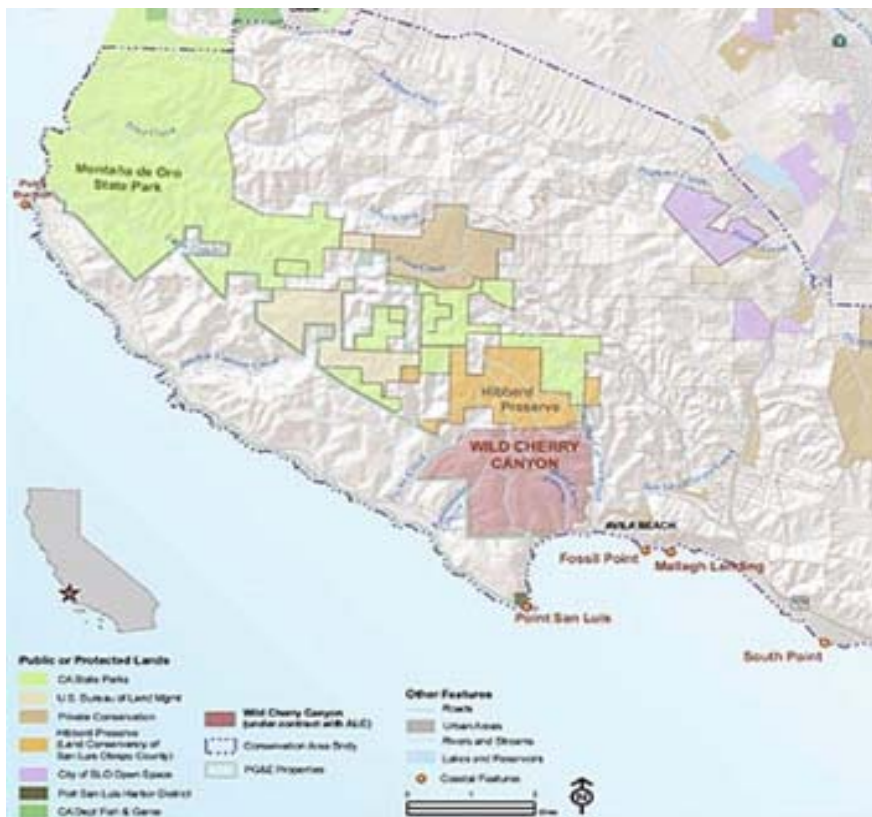
The Sierra Club made that argument when we appealed PG&E’s Coastal Development Permit to the Commission. Commission staff agreed and

urged that an easement be required as a condition of the project permit.

Unfortunately, the project came before the Commission during the brief window of time when PG&E sock puppet Katcho Achadjian was a sitting Coastal Commissioner. Katcho made a motion to delete the 9,000-acre easement from the proposed project conditions, claiming that the

DREAM Initiative — a 1999 county ballot measure that urged long-term conservation of Diablo Canyon lands — would suffice for the purpose. Commission staff pointed out that the DREAM Initiative was advisory, unenforceable, and did not compel PG&E to create a conservation easement.

Katcho batted this fact away and voted to strip out the easement, and a majority of the commissioners genuflected to the wishes of PG&E and the commissioner from the district (See “When Diablo Wins, You Lose,” Jan. 2007.)



## Sacramento

*continued from page 1*

Surf hosted a robust rally outside the capitol building. They were joined by assembly members Al Murat-suchi, Monique Limón, and Jim Wood; State Controller Betty Yee; and other elected officials.

One common theme among speakers was Zinke's announcement, shortly after the plan was published, that Florida would be exempt from offshore drilling. In her speech, Yee said to cheers, "Thank you for your concern for the beaches of Mar-a-Lago. Now please show the same concern for us."

Protesters chanted and waved colorful signs with messages like "Take a Knee for the Environment" and "I Like My Beaches Without Black Tides." A handful dressed up as sea creatures, and a lone polar bear wandered the crowd. Robin Knox and her daughter, Jessica, had traveled from Oakland to be there. As a young adult, Knox had held a city job that brought her out to the beach.

"What you see is different when you work there than when you just visit," she said. "You see trash. You see dead fish that were obviously poisoned by something in the water. That was a turning point for me."

Since then, she's volunteered regularly for beach cleanups. Two years ago, Jessica told her she wanted to take part in a local organization called Brown Girls Surf. "I

thought she was crazy, because I didn't know black people surfed," Knox laughed. The organization encourages women of color to take up surfing, and Jessica was attending the rally as one of their youth leaders.

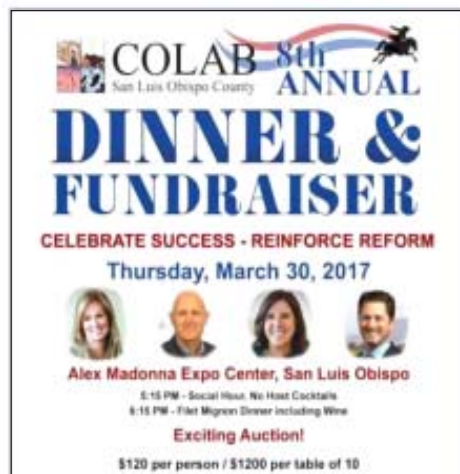
Opposition to the Interior Department's plan has been widespread in coastal states but particularly in California, where offshore drilling developments have been banned in state waters since 1969 and no new federal leases have been issued since 1984. According to a 2017 statewide

survey, 69 percent of Californians oppose any new off-shore drilling.

"You don't get to that number without support across party lines," Assemblyman Murat-suchi told *Sierra* just before the rally started. He is coauthoring legislation with assemblywoman Monique Limón that would prohibit any new infrastructure transferring oil and gas from federal waters back to land. "We're basically trying to take away the economic incentive for offshore oil drilling," he said. State senator

*SACRAMENTO continued page 7*

**California's business community is also galvanizing against the proposal. Many see oil drilling as a fundamental threat to a coastal economy that contributes nearly \$20 billion to the state's GDP and generates half a million jobs. Over 1,000 West Coast companies have launched the Business Alliance for Protecting the Pacific Coast, which is modeled after a similar alliance on the East Coast. Affiliates include the Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations, Klean Kanteen, North Face, Patagonia, and the Surf Industry Manufacturers.**



What is the B in COLAB? Compare and contrast the passage from the article above and the quote from COLAB at right.

## Tight Little Island

The SLO County Board of Supervisors – and the county's land, air, and water – have felt the lash of extremely conservative majorities before, but the current crop is a particularly tight group: Supervisor Peschong served as a consultant to the election campaigns of Supervisors Arnold and Compton prior to his own campaign – and they vote as a unit whenever possible, which is virtually always, except when Peschong has to recuse himself on any issue related to fossil fuels because his career fairly oozes petroleum.

As *New Times* reported one year ago:

"For Peschong, donations included a combined \$1,175 from Chevron's Philip Maysonave, Sempra Energy, and Vaquero Energy, as well as thousands from political consulting firms across the country that have contracted with oil or gas companies—similarly to Peschong's consulting company, Meridian Pacific Inc., which has contracted with Phillips 66. Among the donations from consulting firms was \$2,500 from FP1 Strategies in Washington, D.C., which, on its website, touts its role in a campaign to expand offshore drilling in the United States."

In short, these are perhaps the worst possible supervisors to be seated on the dais at the moment when the Central Coast is faced with the particular existential threat of the Trump offshore oil plan.

Worthy of note: These are the three favorite supervisors of the Coalition of Labor, Agriculture, and Business (COLAB). All have been feted at the right-wing lobby group's annual fundraiser (left). Compton and Arnold have asserted that they are not proponents of offshore oil drilling. Are they really breaking with their most enthusiastic backers over this issue? Here's an experiment for an enterprising reporter interested in giving Supervisor Compton a chance to shore up her my-record-is-clear offshore oil bona fides in her bid for re-election: Show her this quote from COLAB's 2/5/17 newsletter and ask if she agrees with each of these statements:

**"The Sierra Club and its local Santa Lucia Chapter promote [a Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary's] key benefit as being that oil, gas, and other kinds of mineral extraction activities are prohibited in Federal Marine sanctuaries. How stupid! If there were oil and gas offshore, you would think the County and others would support its recovery. Why would they slit their proverbial wrists over this kind of quackery? The royalties and taxes would help fix the horrible road and infrastructure deficit in the County (hundreds of millions). Of course new oil and gas development is already banned...."**

Agree or disagree, Madam Supervisor? And if you disagree, what specific actions do you propose to take in the fight to keep oil rigs off our shores and oil off our beaches?

**Sacramento**

*continued from page 6*

Hannah-Beth Jackson is introducing a companion bill in the state senate.

Other state officials have also come out strongly against the plan to drill offshore. Governor Jerry Brown has been a vocal opponent, and at least 26 cities and counties in California have passed resolutions against offshore drilling for oil and gas.

The day before the hearing, the State Lands Commission wrote in a letter to federal officials, “Given how unpopular oil development in coastal waters is in California, it is certain that the state would not approve new pipelines or allow use of existing pipelines to transport oil from new leases onshore.”

On Feb. 8, the California Assembly passed a joint resolution expressing its opposition to the proposed leasing plan. Assemblyman Jim Wood, who coauthored the resolution, said in a statement, “I represent more coastline than any other assembly district in California—300 beautiful miles of it to be exact. Our coastline is rugged, majestic, and

pristine, and it should stay that way.”

California’s business community is also galvanizing against the proposal. Many see oil drilling as a fundamental threat to a coastal economy that contributes nearly \$20 billion to the state’s GDP and generates half a million jobs. Over 1,000 West Coast companies have launched the Business Alliance for Protecting the Pacific Coast, which is modeled after a similar alliance on the East Coast.

Affiliates include the Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen’s Associations, Klean Kanteen, The North Face, Patagonia, and the Surf Industry Manufacturers.

Noah Oppenheim is the executive director of the Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen’s Associations, which represents over 750 fishing families and companies. “We’re fundamentally dependent on a sustainable seafood supply for our members’ livelihoods, and offshore drilling is a dire threat to those livelihoods,” he said in a phone interview. “We’re not just worried about drilling; we’re worried about all aspects of the oil economy.”

The Feb. 8 hearing

was among the first of 23 scheduled around the country over a 60-day comment period. The format of the event was unconventional: Rather than having the opportunity to speak from a podium, participants were expected to mill around the room and talk individually to Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) officials, who were stationed by poster boards detailing topics like “environmental scoping.”

Tables were set up in the corner of the room where participants could write their comments on paper or enter them online.

The frustration was palpable. “I came to give a public comment, not have a one-on-one with a BOEM employee,” one man was overheard saying. At times, groups of people erupted into chants of “Where’s the hearing?” The format of the meetings is actually a hold-over from the Obama administration, but the inability to make a verbal statement is feeding the sense that the BOEM doesn’t really want to hear what people have to say.

“It’s demoralizing,” says Izzy Goodman, a Sierra Club organizer who attended a hearing in Salem, Oregon. The decision to hold only one meeting per state, and to locate them only in state capitals, most of which are located inland, is not helping matters. “Clearly, BOEM officials are just doing the minimal that they need to do,” says Athan Manuel, the director of Sierra Club’s Lands Protection Program.

Oppenheim agrees. “If BOEM really wanted to engage with ocean stakeholders and hear from fishermen what the impact of oil drilling would be to their livelihoods, they would schedule meetings with the stakeholders themselves. They would go to ports. They would meet with their representatives, like us. They didn’t do any of that.”

As Thursday’s hearing wound down, Stelts was outside on the sidewalk with her



Sarah Christie

friends, their signs dangling by their sides. Was she glad she came all this way?

She paused. “Yes,” she said. “But inside was disappointing. . . . It doesn’t seem like they were really listening.”



The best sign in Sacramento “Krill, baby krill.”



Davina Shoumer

**Can You Hear Us Now?** On Feb. 3 at French Hospital’s Copeland Pavilion, the Sierra Club, Surfrider, ECOSLO, and the Coalition to Protect SLO County hosted the West Coast premiere of “Shore Stories,” six short films on the inspiring history of the fight against offshore oil in coastal states. Attendees picked up their “No Offshore Drilling” signs and used them four days later at the California Coastal Commission hearing in Cambria (top right). The Coastal Commission voted unanimously to oppose the Trump plan.

## Sierra Club California Launches Campaign to Protect Air & Forests from Waste Incinerators

Sierra Club California has launched an advertising campaign that aims to push back against growing pressure by waste incinerators to extend and expand their industry in one of the most polluted air basins in the country.

A series of billboards and online ads in Fresno and Sacramento note that trees, dead or alive, are an essential component of a healthy forest ecosystem. The campaign promotes the hashtag #IAmNotFuel and implores that California stop burning trees in incinerators to create dirty, polluting energy.

In 2015, Governor Brown signed an executive order requiring utilities to purchase a minimum amount of electricity from biomass incineration facilities that burn dead trees from California's forests. This executive order and subsequent legislation saved five old, non-economic waste incinerators in California that were slated to shut down due to high energy costs and competition from cheaper wind and solar facilities.

About three years later, the biomass incinerator near the Malaga neighborhood in Fresno is still burning 24 hours a day. The facility features outdated emissions controls and releases pollutants that are linked to chronic bronchitis, lung cancer and heart disease. Nearly 30 percent of Fresno's population is under the age of 18 and at least one in five students in local school districts



suffer from chronic lung ailments, such as asthma.

"The last place that should be increasing waste incinerator activity is California," said Kathryn Phillips, director of Sierra Club California, the legislative and regulatory advocacy arm of the Sierra Club's 13 local chapters in California. "The California legislature has established goals to cut climate pollution and local air pollution and increase the amount of non-combustion, clean renewable energy we use. Waste incinerators undercut those goals even as they dirty the air."

Drought and beetle infestation have contributed to massive tree deaths in forests around California, with the most impacted areas in the Southern Sierra. U.S. Forest Service estimates are that 129 million trees have died.

## Offshore

*continued from page 1*

At the Feb. 21 rally, attended by over a hundred people, Mayor Harmon noted that at the time of the historic 1969 Santa Barbara oil spill, the year she was born, "This was not a partisan issue."

Supervisor Gibson called the Trump/Zinke plan "flatly unacceptable" and made use of a lone heckler shouting obscenities from the courthouse steps to point out that those who oppose the overwhelming majority of Californians on this issue "whine in the darkness alone" and can be ignored.

Rep. Carbajal pointed out that when Trump signed the executive order to expand offshore drilling, he also repealed the oil rig safety regulations that were put in place after the Deepwater Horizon disaster. Carbajal reminded the crowd that he has introduced the California Clean Coast Act in Congress, which would ban all future offshore drilling here, and urged all to go to the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management's website by March 8 to "tell them Californians are united on no offshore oil."

As we go to press, the Morro Bay City Council has scheduled a meeting to consider sending a resolution to BOEM opposing the Trump/Zinke plan. If it does, it will join a growing number of Central Coast cities, in contrast to three silent county supervisors.



## Travel Log: Hiking Chirripó, Costa Rica



TRAVEL LOG:  
HIKING COSTA RICA'S HIGHEST PEAK

Join the Sierra Club's Nan Cole as she shares  
her journey hiking up Cerro Chirripó.

ASCENDO COFFEE, 974 MONTEREY ST, SLO  
SUNDAY, APRIL 22ND AT 6:00PM - 7:00PM.  
ADMISSION IS FREE  
BUYING DRINKS ARE ENCOURAGED.



With nearly 10,000 feet of elevation gain and nine miles of steep, muddy terrain, Cerro Chirripó is not on the typical Costa Rica travel log. This strenuous climb is both difficult to reserve through the visitor restrictions of the park system and physically challenging, as the trail follows steep hillsides and valley walls. The payoffs are huge. If you time it right during the day at the right time of year, you can see both the Atlantic and the Pacific from the nation's highest peak. Join the Sierra Club at Ascendo in SLO, Sunday, April 22nd, from 6 - 7p.m. Admission free, buying drinks encouraged.



**Pot**

*continued from page 2*

**Pesticides.** Approved cannabis cultivation operations employing the use of pesticides shall also obtain the appropriate pesticide use permitting from the Department of Agriculture /Weights and Measures.

Pesticides and fertilizers shall be properly labeled, stored, and applied to avoid and prevent contamination through erosion, leakage, or inadvertent damage from rodents, pests, or wildlife.

**Pesticide use enforcement.** The following areas may be entered or inspected during business hours, or at any other reasonable time in order to determine compliance:

1. Fields, areas, structures, and greenhouses where pesticides are handled, stored or applied;
  2. growing crops and harvested commodities;
  3. equipment (including protective clothing and equipment) used to store, transport or handle pesticides;
  4. change areas and other facilities used by employees; and
  5. pesticides and tank mixtures thereof.
- Officials may inspect the pesticide-related records of growers, pest control businesses, and others during business hours.

**Water.** Cannabis cultivation will require a permit from the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board. Until the permitting process is in place, all cannabis cultivators shall adhere to the environmental measures outlined by RWQCB. Cannabis cultivation sites that require a land use

permit and are in a groundwater basin at Level of Severity III pursuant to the last Biennial Resource Management System report shall provide an estimate of water demand prepared by a licensed professional engineer or other expert on water demand, as approved by the Director of Planning and Building, and a detailed description of how the new water demand will be offset. All water demand within a groundwater basin at Level of Severity III shall offset at a minimum 1:1 ratio, unless a greater offset is required through land use permit approval. All water demand within an identified Area of Severe Decline shall offset at a minimum 2:1 ratio, unless a greater offset is required through land use permit approval. Offset clearance shall be obtained through a County-approved water conservation program for the respective groundwater basin, prior to the establishment of the use or receipt of Business License Clearance. Irrigation water supplies for cannabis cultivation shall not include water transported by vehicle from off-site sources.

On October 17, 2017, the State Water Board adopted the Cannabis Cultivation Policy and General Order/Waste Discharge Requirements for Cannabis Cultivation. The Policy includes requirements for surface water diversions and waste discharges from cultivation sites. In many cases, water rights can be obtained online through the Cannabis

General Order and Small Irrigation Use Registration Portal (Cannabis Programs Portal), a streamlined option for obtaining appropriate water right for surface water diverters to irrigate commercial cannabis crops.

**Air quality.** Cannabis cultivation sites located on an unpaved road shall provide, at a minimum, a mitigation plan for continuing dust control from the property frontage to the nearest County-maintained road. The plan may be modified to adjust for changed conditions or improve the effectiveness of the dust reducing technology. The plan and all modifications to the plan are subject to review and approval by the Review Authority.

There must be evidence of road maintenance provided by the County, State, special district, homeowners association or other organized maintenance, such as a road maintenance agreement. An agreement must be signed to support and not protest the formation of an assessment district or the creation of another funding mechanism.

Other supplemental information that may be required includes agricultural buffers, a botanical report, biological report, geologic report, archeological report, a fire safety plan, and a noise study. This information can be more clearly defined by obtaining a pre-application meeting with the County. Requests for meetings may be made at [www.slocounty.ca.gov/Departments/Planning-Building/](http://www.slocounty.ca.gov/Departments/Planning-Building/).



**What Smokey said** We can't promote individual vendors, but do a web search on "smokey forest fires defunded" and several purveyors will pop up, delivering this message in several different styles.

**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.

Contributions, gifts and dues to the Sierra Club are not tax deductible.

**Mail your contribution to**

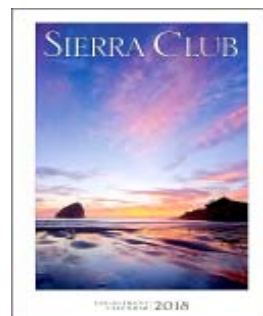
Sierra Club  
P.O. Box 15755  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93406

Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

**Last Chance - Clearance!**

**2018 Sierra Club Calendar**

**We have a handfull of these beauties left in the office, and ten months left in the year. We pass the savings on to you! When you buy direct from the Chapter, you support the Sierra Club's conservation work in San Luis Obispo County.**



wall calendar: ~~\$13.50~~ **\$9.00**  
desk calendar: ~~\$14.50~~ **\$9.00**

Make check out & send to:

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

**Outings**

*continued from page 12*

use of trekking poles. From Shell Beach Road, go west on El Portal until you reach the above intersection. Go right and park near the illegal gate. The hike will go up the fire road to the trail and then follow the trail for less than a mile, returning to the fire road and back to the parking area. 1.5 miles, 100 feet elevation change. For more information, call to confirm. Contact David, (805) 458-5575. Rain cancels and no dogs.

**Sat., Mar. 17th, 8:30 am, American Canyon to Buckeye Camp Hike.**

Out and back on the same trails, entirely in the beautiful Garcia Wilderness. A strenuous 12-mile hike with 2,000 ft. elevation gain. The condition of this trail is unknown because it is not easily accessed, but there will definitely be poison oak. We will cross a shallow section of the Salinas River at the beginning of this trek and some minor creek crossings later. You may go just part way, as this is an in and out on the same trails. Bring lunch and water. Expect to be out all day. We have to pass through a locked gate to drive to the trail head. Meet in Santa Margarita at the Pacific Beverage Co. Rain will postpone. Behaved dogs on leash welcome. Contact Carlos (805) 546-0317.

**Sun., March 18th, 9:00 am, Rinconada Trail Plant Walk.**

A plant walk on the Rinconada trail in Los Padres National Forest.

Starts in an oak woodland, then ascends into chaparral on a north facing slope, and to the ridge top with 360° views. Total distance 4 miles with an elevation gain of 800 feet and a total hike time of roughly three hours. Meet at the trail head, approximately 10 miles east of Hwy 101 on Pozo Road (3 miles beyond the turnoff for Santa Margarita Lake and 25 miles from San Luis Obispo). Carpooling is an option, meet at the Park and Ride, Hwy 58 exit and Hwy 101 at 8:30 am. Bring water and snacks. Sturdy shoes, sunscreen, hat, and layered clothing recommended. No RSVP needed. No dogs please. Bring paper and pencil to take notes and a camera. A plant list may be available at the beginning of the hike. For more information, contact Bill Waycott,

(805) 459- 2103. Rain or the threat of rain cancels.

**Sun., Mar. 18th, 2:00 pm, San Luis Obispo Historic Walk: Mission-Era Emigrants and Gold-Rush Renegades.**

An

easy, guided stroll past the Mission courtyard, three adobes, the old stagecoach stop, and other landmarks, to hear stories of the early days of old San Luis Obispo. Families and children welcome, no dogs please. Meet

under the clock at the corner of Monterey and Osos Streets. Contact Joe, (805) 549-0355.

**Sat., March 24th, 9:00 am, Adobe Springs Trail.**

A 5-mile round trip hike

**Outings**

*continued from page 10*

with views down the Cuyama Valley with a chance of beautiful wildflowers! Bring a hat, sunscreen, plenty of water, long-sleeve shirt, long pants, and sturdy walking shoes. Carpool – meet at 8:30 am, at the intersection of Hwy 101 and Hwy 166 (west on Hutton Rd., parking by Cuyama Lane). If meeting at trailhead, arrive by 9 am, go to the Adobe Spring trailhead off Hwy 166, about 21 miles east of Hwy 101, on the left. Polite dogs on leash allowed. Contact Andrea, (805) 934-2792.

**Sat., March 31st, 9:00 am, Salmon Creek Trail to Estrella Camp.** Join the leader on this moderate 6.4-mile hike in the Silver Peak Wilderness of southern Big Sur. There is about 1,600 ft. of elevation gain. The trail follows the south slope of the canyon and crosses Spruce Creek after 2 miles. There are ocean views down the canyon. After 3.2 miles, there will be a lunch stop at Estrella Camp on the Estrella Fork of Salmon Creek. We will return the same way. There may be ticks and there will be poison oak beside the trail. Bring lunch or snacks, water, and dress for the weather. Meet at the Washburn Day Use area of San Simeon State Park 1.5 miles north of Cambria. Rain cancels. Dogs on leash are allowed. If there is interest, we will stop for food after the hike. Contact Chuck, (805) 441-7597.

**Sun., Apr. 8th, 2:00 pm, Old Town Cambria Historic Walk.** Easy, guided stroll past Victorian cottages, 1880s storefronts, saloons, and the Chinese temple in Cambria's East Village, to learn the stories of its early pioneers. Families and children welcome, no dogs please. Meet in front of the Olallieberry Inn, 2476 Main St. Contact Joe (805) 549-0355.

**Sat., April 14th, 8:50 am, East Cuesta Ridge to Lopez Canyon Trail.** Because Lopez Canyon Trail is not easily accessed, and sees little use, we will walk Mt. Lowe Rd. (E. Cuesta Ridge) the 4.6 miles from the gate at Hwy 101. Depending on our energy level, we will go down the Lopez Canyon trail as far as we feel comfortable and then retrace our steps. In the past, we have gone as far as Upper Lopez Camp, which is approximately 7 1/2 miles. There is going to be some poison oak once you enter Lopez Canyon. Expect to be out all day unless you want to go part way up the road and depart before the rest of the group. We will meet at Santa Rosa Park at 8:30 am to carpool to the top of the Cuesta Grade. If you are from the north county you can meet us at the gate at the top of the Cuesta Grade at about 8:50 am. Bring your lunch and water. Behaved dogs on leash are welcome. Rain will postpone to a later date. Contact Carlos (805) 546-0317.

**Sat., April 14th, 10:00 am, Shell Beach.** Meet

at the intersection of Bluff Drive and El Portal (with Indio also intersecting). PoleCats is a group dedicated to demonstrating the effective use of trekking poles. Directions: from Shell Beach Road, go west on El Portal until you reach the above intersection. Go right and park near the illegal gate. The hike will go up the fire road to the trail and then follow the trail for less than a mile, returning to the fire road and back to the parking area. The hike is 1.5 miles, 100 feet elevation change. For more information, call to confirm. Contact David, (805) 458-5575. Rain cancels and no dogs.



**Sat., April 21st, 7:30 am, Santa Lucia Trail to Pimkolam (Junipero Serra) Peak.** Join the leader on this spring hike to the highest point in the northern Los Padres National Forest. This is an out and back strenuous hike of 12 miles with 3,800 ft. of elevation gain. This is for experienced and conditioned hikers only. The hike begins at Memorial Park (Indian Stations) campground. We hike across a beautiful meadow with wonderful rock formations. The trail ascends steadily through oak woodlands and then chaparral to a saddle, where we catch the summit spur trail. As we approach the summit, we enter a pine forest and eventually arrive at an old fire tower at the summit at 5,862 feet. There is a possibility of ticks and there will probably be poison oak in places along the trail. Bring

plenty of water, lunch, snacks, and dress for the weather. Meet at the Las Tablas ride-share parking lot at 7:30 am, in Templeton which is on the south side of the road, just west of Highway 101, after taking the Las Tablas exit. We will carpool to the trailhead which is about a 90-minute drive. Rain cancels. Please do not bring dogs on this hike. This will be an all-day adventure so plan accordingly. Confirm with the leader if you are interested in going on this hike. For info and confirmation, call Chuck, (805) 441-7597.

**Saturday, April 28th, 9:00 am, Willow Springs Trail.** A 4.2-mile hike with scenic views of Los Padres Natl. Forest backcountry. Bring a hat, sunscreen, plenty of water, long-sleeve shirt, long pants, and sturdy walking shoes. For carpool, meet at 8:30 am, at the inter-

section of Hwy 101 and Hwy 166 (west on Hutton Rd., parking by Cuyama Lane). If meeting at trailhead, arrive by 9 am, go to Willow Spring trailhead off Hwy 166, about 20 miles from Hwy 101. Trailhead is 4 miles past Pine Canyon Fire Station. Park on right beyond the gate. Polite dogs on leash allowed. Contact Andrea, (805) 934-2792.

**Sun., Apr. 29, 10:30am, Laguna Lake Community Trail Run + Yoga.** Join hike leader and yoga instructor Nan Cole on a Community Trail Run + Yoga Class at Laguna Lake Park. An easy run with views of Laguna Lake, Cerro San Luis Obispo and Bishop Peak. We'll meet at the restrooms left of the entrance, run a 1.5-mile loop and practice a one-hour Vinyasa-style practice on the grass. Bring water and yoga mat. For more information, contact Nan at cole.nancy.j@gmail.com.

**The Sierra Club  
Needs You!**

**Become an Outings Leader**

**Saturday, May 5th, 8:00 am – 12:00 pm, Sierra Club New Outings Leader Training.** If you are interested in becoming an outings leader on the Central Coast, this training is for you! The leader training starts with a 4-hour class at the Sierra Club office, located at 974 Santa Rosa Street, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401. We will go over the guidelines and handbook issued by the Sierra Club. To be certified, in addition to this 4-hour class, you will need to complete a basic First Aid course, as well as create and lead a provisional hike along with one of our current outings leaders. To enroll in this class, please contact Bill Waycott, bill.waycott@gmail.com, (805) 459-2103, at least one week prior to the class start date.

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

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# Outings and Activities Calendar

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

All our hikes and activities are open to all Club members and the general public. Please bring drinking water to all outings and optionally a lunch. Sturdy footwear is recommended. All phone numbers listed are within area code 805 unless otherwise noted. Pets are generally not allowed. A parent or responsible adult must accompany children under the age of 18. If you have any suggestions for hikes or outdoor activities, questions about the Chapter's outing policies, or would like to be an outings leader, call Outings Chair Bill Waycott, (805) 459-2103. For information on a specific outing, please call the listed outing leader.



**Sat., March 3rd, 8:30 am, Eastern SLO County.**

Come explore one of my favorite places east of Pozo.

This outing is exploring the front country of the Avenales Ranch for those that don't know.

We will use ranch roads, some cross country as we explore this wonderful area.

Hike will be 8 - 10 miles with 1,500 ft. of elevation gain. Bring lunch, water, sturdy

shoes. Dress for the weather. No dogs please as there will be cattle. Meet at Pacific Beverage Company in Santa Margarita, CA. Contact Gary (805) 473-3694.

**Sun. March 11th, 9:30 am, (less strenuous outing) Lompoc.**

Meet at Halcyon Park&Ride in Arroyo Grande, off Hwy101, southbound exit. A simple direction to Lompoc will be

given. Hike at leisurely pace on a 3-mile loop in La Purisima Mission State Historic Park.

Small parking fee w/ senior discount. Well trained dogs allowed on leash. Bring water, sturdy shoes, a snack to share. Free 45-minute post hike guided tour of the historical site optional. Estimated return time to Arroyo Grande is 3 pm.

Contact Eliane, (805) 748-7815.

**Sun., March 11th, 10:00 am, Shell Beach.**

Meet at the intersection of Bluff Drive and El Portal

(Indio also intersecting). Pole Cats is dedicated to demonstrating the effective

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

*OUTINGS  
continued on  
page 10*

**Rootamental  
SIGNS  
for CHANGE  
"Your message handpainted"  
Call (805) 549-9764**

**Island Hopping in Channel Islands**

**National Park. April 8-10; May 6-8; June 10-12; July 15-17; August 19-21; September 23-25; October 21-23.**

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