

SANTA LUCIAN

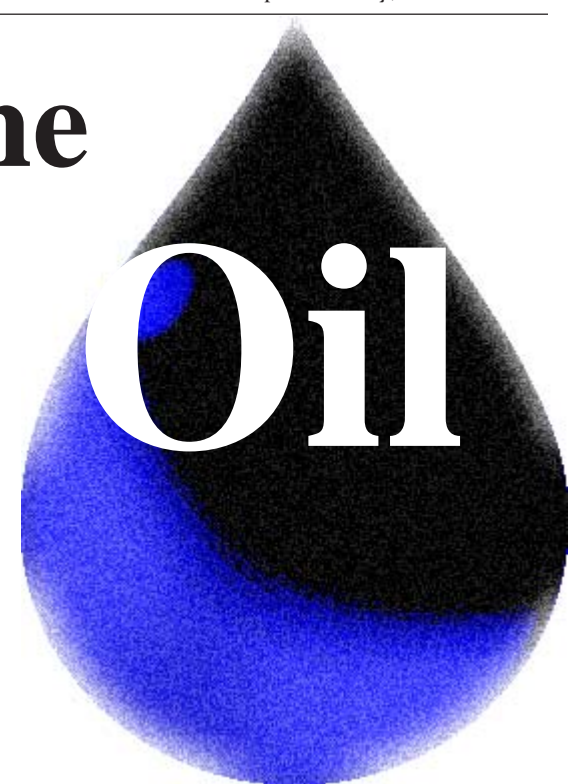


**Santa Lucia
Chapter**

**Mar./Apr. 2019
Volume 56 No. 2**

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

It's All About the



Fight Trump's Attack on California's Public Lands

The science is crystal clear that we can't afford new fossil fuel development if we are to keep global temperatures from rising above 1.5°C and avert the worst effects of catastrophic climate change. Now, Trump's Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is threatening to lift a five-year moratorium and open millions of acres of public land and mineral estate in California to oil drilling and fracking.

In late 2018, the Bureau of Land Management announced they were seeking comments on an Oil and Gas Resource Management Plan update for the Bakersfield Planning Area, encompassing approximately 400,000 acres of public land and an additional 1.16 million acres of Federal mineral estate in Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Tulare, and Ventura counties.

BLM continued on page 6

Coastal Oil Pipeline Project Advances

Santa Barbara County has announced public hearings for the Plains All-American Pipeline's proposal to build a coastal oil pipeline to serve offshore drilling platforms. It would follow the same route through Santa Barbara and SLO Counties as Plains' Line 901, the severely

corroded pipeline that failed in 2015, causing a large coastal oil spill and idling the offshore platforms it served. A Santa Barbara jury last year found Plains criminally liable

PLAINS continued on page 7

Goleta Opposes Proposal to Truck Offshore Oil

On February 19, the Goleta City Council voted to oppose ExxonMobil's proposal to restart its dormant offshore drilling platforms and truck the oil up California's coastal highway and across Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo and Kern counties.

ExxonMobil's offshore platforms in the Santa Barbara Channel have been idle since a coastal oil

GOLETA continued on page 7

Cat Canyon's Long Black Claws

On Jan. 24, the Santa Lucia Chapter filed comments with the Santa Barbara County's Department of Planning and Development on the Draft Environmental Impact Report for the proposed redevelopment of AERA's East Cat Canyon Oil Field

We're not in the habit of commenting on development project reviews in other counties, but in this case we had to make an exception: The DEIR is wholly focused on potential environmental impacts of the project on Santa Barbara County, even though quite a lot of those impacts would be coming to San Luis Obispo County.

The most deficient aspects of the DEIR's focus occurs in the sections devoted to Construction Personnel and Traffic and Produced Oil Transport. The vast majority of the traffic impacts from the vehicle trips discussed in these sections will occur in San Luis Obispo County, with a special concentration on Highway 46.

Highway 46 – as no one here needs to be told, but the consultants who prepared the Draft EIR apparently do — is one of the most dangerous highways in the state. So we told them.

Noting that "On March 31, 2017, a 69 year old Bakersfield man, Jesus Acebedo, was killed when he was hit head-on by a

CAT continued on page 6

Inside

Here's the Green New Deal	2
Sierra Club legal wins	3
Drilling to disaster	6
Classifieds	10
Outings	12

Sierra Club General Meeting

Wed., March 20
Copeland Pavilion, 3rd Floor
French Medical Center
1823 Johnson Ave., SLO
Doors open: 6:30 p.m.
Program: 7-9 p.m.

What do we want in a

For anyone who wants to learn more. Or bring your ideas for programs and policies. Participate in a panel discussion and Q&A. Help shape the bills being drafted in Congress and make it happen locally.

Featuring:
Carbon Free SLO
Indivisible
PRHS Progressives
Climate Reality



Green New Deal?

The Unreason of the Reasonable

By Andrew Christie,
Chapter Director

Last December, *The Tribune* printed a double-barreled attack on renewable energy and minimization of the economic impacts of climate change by conservative “climate skeptic” Jay Ambrose (“Climate change: Is being reasonable asking too much?”). It was the same old sales pitch, repeatedly refuted, with one slightly new element: The horrific costs of unchecked climate change will actually be insignificant if you squint at them in just the right way.

The article was the latest pivot in the new fall-back strategy for the “what me worry?” contingent as they continue to strike a pose as the reasonable “adults in the room” while trying to twist away from the implications of both the data and real-world events. To that end, Ambrose downplayed the IPCC Fifth Assessment Report’s “interesting views” on the costs of increasing wildfires, rising seas, crop failure, killer storms, blackouts and battered infrastructure.

Not to worry, because: “We have a counter-assessment that the report’s estimates of the cost of all this

Santa Lucian

Andrew Christie
EDITOR

Lindi Doud
EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

Denny Mynatt
PRINT MEDIA COORDINATOR

The Santa Lucian is published six 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.

send to: **Editor, Santa Lucian**, Sierra Club, P.O. Box 15755, San Luis Obispo, CA 93406. sierraclub8@gmail.com

Santa Lucia Chapter

2019 Executive Committee

Sue Harvey (12/19) CHAIR
Carmen Bouquin (12/21) MEMBER
Chuck Tribbey (12/19) MEMBER
Heather Howell (12/20) MEMBER
Violet Sage Walker (12/20) MEMBER
Nancy Cole (12/20) MEMBER
Jennifer Bauer (12/21) VICE-CHAIR

Kevin O’Gorman TREASURER

Committees

Political
Violet Cavanaugh
Jennifer Bauer

Membership/Development
Heather Howell, Dani Nicholson

Conservation
Sue Harvey

Nuclear Power Task Force
Rochelle Becker
Linda Seeley

CA Conservation Committee delegates
Jennifer Bauer, Violet Cavanaugh

Council of Club Leaders delegates
Jennifer Bauer, Chuck Tribbey

Facebook Administrator
Kim Ramos

Bookkeeper
Sandra Cirilo

Outings

Bill Waycott

Webmaster

Monica Tarzier

Trail Guide

Gary Felsman

Chapter Director

Andrew Christie sierraclub8@gmail.com

Santa Lucia Chapter

P.O. Box 15755
San Luis Obispo, CA 93406
805-543-8717

**Office hours Monday-Friday,
1:30 p.m. - 7 p.m.**

**974 Santa Rosa Street
San Luis Obispo**



**SIERRA
CLUB**

EXPLORE, ENJOY, AND
PROTECT THE PLANET

The **Executive Committee** meets the third Wednesday of each month at 4:15 p.m. in the chapter office, located at 974 Santa Rosa St., San Luis Obispo. All members are welcome to attend.

Printed by University Graphic Systems Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo
Mailing preparation services courtesy of the Silver Streaks

Sierra Club Prevails in Antiquated Subdivision Lawsuit

SLO supervisors expected to rescind approvals issued in violation of Subdivision Map Act

The Fesler Family trust has asked the SLO County Board of Supervisors to revoke “unconditional certificates of compliance” it issued to the Trust that would have created land parcels based on a tract map recorded prior to the advent of modern day land use planning.

The request to the board to reverse their action was the result of a lawsuit filed by the Sierra Club’s Santa Lucia Chapter against the County last December in recognition of the fact that dozens of other land owners throughout the county possess similar antiquated tract maps.

In late 2017, the Dennis Fesler Ranch in rural Arroyo Grande requested unconditional certificates of compliance from the San Luis Obispo County Dept. of Planning and Building that would create twelve land parcels on their property, based on an antiquated subdivision map from 1905.

In January 2018, the County Planning Department replied that “Current case law holds that maps recorded in the unincorporated areas between 1893 and 1919 are not deemed to create parcels recognizable by certificate of compliance,” and that “we are required to deny your application for issuance of twelve unconditional certificates of compliance for these lots.”

Fesler appealed County Planning’s denial to the County Board of Supervisors. On October 2, 2018, the board majority, led by Supervisor Lynn Compton, decided to ignore their legal counsel’s advice and voted to overturn the decision of the Planning Director and uphold the appeal on the basis of findings written by the applicant’s attorney with

assistance from Supervisor Compton. The Sierra Club sued the County on December 27.

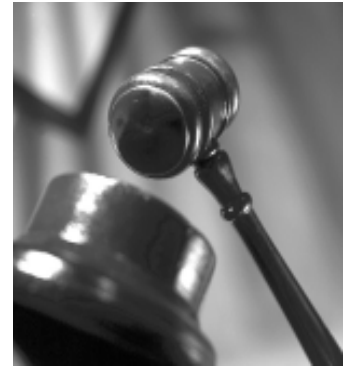
“When it took that vote, the board sent a message to all the other antiquated map holders that the County is willing to recognize their maps without regard to the law and the principles of land use planning,” said Santa Lucia Chapter Chair Sue Harvey.

“The goal of our lawsuit was to rescind the unconditional certificates of compliance and send a clear message to the supervisors and to anyone thinking of attempting the same shortcut to development

that this avenue is closed.”

On Feb. 14, the Fesler Trust asked the Board of Supervisors to rescind the certificates of compliance. The vote to rescind the Fesler Ranch certificates of compliance is scheduled for the Board’s May 7 meeting, on the consent agenda.

“The Real Party decided not to fight the case in court, and it’s easy to guess why,” said Babak Naficy, attorney for the Sierra Club. “Their action was in blatant violation of California’s Subdivision Map Act, and the justifications offered by Supervisors Peschong, Arnold, and



Compton were a distortion of the case law. I guess they hoped they could just get away with it. Not on my watch.”

“We are very pleased that we were able to block this attempted end run around the requirements of the county’s General Plan and check an arrogantly unlawful action by the board majority,” said Santa Lucia Chapter Director Andrew Christie.

Sierra Club Turns on the Lights at the EPA

On Jan. 7, a federal court ruled in favor of the Sierra Club that the Environmental Protection Agency must expedite the public release of approximately twenty thousand pages of emails, as well as calendars, for former coal industry lobbyist and acting EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler, Air Office head Bill Wherum, and 23 other political staff involved in Wheeler’s rollbacks of critical public health and environmental safeguards.



“The law is clear: the EPA must produce these documents, it must do so quickly, and if necessary it must re-allocate staff to speed things up and lift the curtain on the toxic relationship between Trump’s appointees and the polluters they are supposed to be protecting us from” said Senior Sierra Club Attorney Elena Saxonhouse, one of the attorneys who litigated the case.

According to the court, Sierra Club provided “persuasive reasons for the urgency of its requests.” It noted that “If the Court were to adopt [EPA]’s plan, it would take over four years to complete the review, based on [EPA]’s updated numbers, a very far cry from making them ‘promptly available’ as required by FOIA.”

That urgency included the facts that the emails and calendars may expose “conflicts of interest” based on EPA staffers like Wheeler and Wherum’s “strong ties to regulated industries,” and the documents could help inform a response to EPA’s “rollbacks of dozens of the prior administration’s regulations.”

The Court also noted that, “some of the revelations that prompted the Administrator [Scott Pruitt] to resign in July 2018 came to light through the EPA’s response to [Sierra Club’s] earlier FOIA requests.”

“The Senate should not act on Wheeler’s expected nomination until we know exactly what he is up to behind the scenes. The revelations which FOIA’d emails uncovered about Scott Pruitt were unprecedented, shocking, and helped bring about his rapid downfall.” said Sierra Club Executive Director Michael Brune, “Now we await tens of thousands of emails between Andrew Wheeler, his industry-conflicted deputies, and the polluters they are supposed to be protecting us from. Given Wheeler and Wherum’s history of exclusively protecting polluter profits, we can only imagine what abuses these documents are likely to uncover.”

On Feb. 5, the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee approved President Trump’s nomination of Wheeler to take over the permanent position of EPA chief and moved his nomination to the full Senate.

EPA Takes a Dive for Dirty Water

Too many communities throughout the country can't access safe, reliable drinking water. The Trump administration's latest proposal would make that problem worse.

For more than 46 years, thanks to the Clean Water Act, we have made significant progress in making our water safer for swimming, fishing, and drinking, yet it's clear there is still much more to be done. But instead of doing more to safeguard our water, the Trump administration's Dirty Water Rule will turn back the clock to a time when fewer protections existed to safeguard people and wildlife from harmful pollution in our waters.

The administration's talking points indicate that the proposal would restrict which wetlands and waterways are protected under the Clean Water Act, such as excluding ephemeral streams and wetlands that are not "physically and meaningfully" connected to other jurisdictional waterways.

Drinking water sources are interconnected. Streams flow into larger rivers and lakes and wetlands are connected to watersheds. No body of water, no matter how small, is safe to pollute.

The Trump administration is putting the profits of corporate polluters ahead of the needs of our communities, businesses, and drinking water. Tell the EPA to withdraw this outrageous scheme to wipe out protections for water.

TAKE ACTION

Here is link to the Sierra Club's petition opposing the Dirty Water Rule: <http://tinyurl.com/nodirtywater>.

Stop Attacks On Endangered Gray Wolves



Attacks on the Endangered Species Act and the struggling wildlife it protects continue to mount. The future of gray wolf recovery is in jeopardy, as attacks on the vulnerable wolves continue.

Last December, the Trump administration went after gray wolves in every way possible. After passing HR 6874, a

horrible anti-wolf bill that would severely undermine the Endangered Species Act and our ability to defend wildlife in court, House Republicans tried to add the text of the "Manage Our Wolves" act as riders to the House's must-pass spending bill.

More than 46,000 of you called and emailed Congress



Notice of Public Meeting: Perfluoroalkyl Substances

Notice is hereby given that State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) present an informational item on March 6, 2019, consisting of an invited panel of Federal and State Agencies, and Non-Governmental Organizations. The goal of this informational item is to inform the Water Board and public of Perfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS), potential sources, and potential risks to drinking water. Panelists will provide updates on existing state & federal actions, as well as the Water Board's Action Plan.

Wednesday, March 6, 2019, 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Joe Serna Jr. - CalEPA Headquarters Building
Coastal Hearing Room
1001 I Street, Second Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Additional information on the public meeting is located on the State Water Board web site at: www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_info/calendar/.

Webcast information: Video and audio broadcasts of the public meeting can be accessed at <https://video.calepa.ca.gov/>.

PFAS are a group of man-made chemicals commonly found in metal plating (e.g., cookware). Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS) are fluorinated organic chemicals that are part of the PFASs group of chemicals.

In May 2016, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) issued a lifetime health advisory for PFOS and PFOA for drinking water, advising municipalities that they should notify their customers of the presence of levels over 70 parts per trillion in community water supplies. U. S. EPA recommended that the notification of customers include information on the increased risk to health, especially for susceptible populations.

Water Board staff will present a phased investigation Action Plan requiring testing of drinking water systems and site investigations at high risk locations.

Please direct questions about this notice to Annalisa Kihara at (916) 324-6786, Annalisa.Kihara@waterboards.ca.gov, or Daniel Newton at (916) 449-5596, Daniel.Newton@waterboards.ca.gov.

to get the anti-wolf riders out — and the riders were removed from the bill!

This was a great victory, but this is far from over. 2018 saw many attacks on vulnerable wildlife, and this administra-

tion isn't stopping; these struggling species are counting on you! We must continue to fight for strong wildlife protections and continued recovery.

TAKE ACTION

Thank you for all you did in 2018! Stay up to date on the fight to save the gray wolf and defending wildlife in 2019 by signing this petition:

addup.sierraclub.org/campaigns/take-action-to-protect-wolves

Learning Wilderness



Class in session Feb. 16 was day one of 2019 Red Cross Wilderness First Aid training sponsored by Sierra Club, held at Charter Spectrum offices in San Luis Obispo.

Our outings program regularly offers Red Cross Wilderness First Aid Training for outings leaders (and SLO Park Rangers, left) who want to extend their range from leading day hikes to overnight backpacking trips and feel confident in the wilderness knowing they can care for family and friends if something goes wrong. The February class was taught by Outings Leader Lisa Ludovici. A one-day lecture and written section is followed by a day in an outdoor setting to simulate the wilderness experience. Class size is limited to 10 participants. Red Cross Adult CPR/AED/First Aid certification is a prerequisite. Wilderness First Aid Certification is valid for 3 years.

A Grand New Deal

“A resolution from the US House of Representatives that proposes national, urgent action on climate change *and more*—well, we’re not used to that. A vast set of policies to fight climate change, prepare for its effects, address income inequality, and save working-class jobs, fronted by a brand-new congressperson with a national profile—Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, New York’s AOC? That’s new....

By pouring everything in those silos into one bin, the Green New Deal attempts to build a new coalition. It seems crazy. But really, it’s a last-chance amplification of smaller, incremental, hopeful changes already happening around the country—built into a broader vision for political change. Too wild? Maybe. As the dyed-in-the-wool hacks never say until after the balloons drop: Politics is the art of the impossible.”

- Adam Rogers, “The Green New Deal Shows How Grand Climate Politics Can Be,” *Wired*, Feb. 8, 2019.



Blue Heron

The majesty of that bird
Is in its stillness,
Magnificence of beak,
Beauty of one foot raised
For seemingly minutes.

Beak gleams in the sun
Head fixed North then East
For seeming hours.
A tiny rotation, then head turns
South then West
For seeming weeks.

If bird is thinking deeply,
Is contemplating fish
Below the rock on which it perches,
Seemingly for years,
We’ll never know.

A sound of wheel clatter
Breaks the stillness
And with a shriek of anger,
A honk of displeasure,
Bird lifts off, soaring
Above the rock, pond, fish
To bide his time on the rooftop
Waiting for seeming eons.

- Judith Bernstein

Expansion Is Incompatible with Climate Limits

A new study examines the urgent need for U.S. leadership to manage a rapid and just decline of fossil fuel production.

The study was released in January by Oil Change International in collaboration with: 350.org, Amazon Watch, BOLD Alliance, Center for Biological Diversity, Earthworks, Food & Water Watch, Friends of the Earth U.S., Greenpeace USA, Hip Hop Caucus, Indigenous Environmental Network, Labor Network for Sustainability, Oil Change USA, Our Revolution, People’s Action, Rainforest Action Network, Sierra Club, and Working Families Party.

Key findings include:

Unprecedented Oil & Gas Expansion: Between 2018 and 2050, U.S. drilling into new oil and gas reserves could unlock 120 billion metric tons of new carbon pollution, which is equivalent to the lifetime CO2 emissions of nearly 1,000 coal-fired power plants. If not curtailed, U.S. oil and gas expansion will impede the rest of the world’s ability to manage a climate-safe, equitable decline of oil and gas production.

Expansion Hot Spots: Some 90% of U.S. drilling into new oil and gas reserves through 2050 would depend on fracking; nearly 60% of the carbon emissions enabled by new U.S. drilling would come from the epicenters of fracking – the Permian Basin of Texas and New Mexico and the Appalachian Basin across Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Ohio.

Coal – Too Much Already: Given U.S. coal mining should be phased out by 2030 or sooner if the world is to equitably achieve the Paris Agreement goals, at least 70% of the coal in existing U.S. mines should stay in the ground.

These findings show that leadership is urgently needed towards a U.S. fossil fuel phase-out that aligns with climate limits, takes care of workers and communities on its front lines, and builds a more healthy and just economy for all in the process.

Key recommendations for what U.S. policymakers must do to show real climate leadership:

1. Ban new leases or permits for new fossil fuel exploration, production, and infrastructure;
2. Plan for the phase-out of existing fossil fuel projects in a way that prioritizes environmental justice;
3. End subsidies and other public finance for the fossil fuel industry;
4. Champion a Green New Deal that ensures a just transition to 100 percent renewable energy;
5. Reject the influence of fossil fuel money over U.S. energy policy.



Cat

continued from page 1

big-rig that crossed into his lane of travel on Highway 46 near Shandon,” The Ernst Law Group wrote “this tragic crash is yet another in a seemingly endless list of serious injury and fatal collisions on the Highway 46/41 roads between the Central Valley and the Central Coast. Large numbers of big-rigs and recreational vehicles often slow traffic, tempting drivers to attempt dangerous passes to get ahead of the slower moving traffic. These dangerous passing maneuvers often have serious consequences. Many drivers drive early in the morning or late at night increasing the risk of fatigued driving.”

On May 27, 2017, The SLO Tribune reported that “Six separate crashes on the Highway 41/46 corridor have cost six lives this spring.” The project proposes to traverse Highway 46 with an “average” of 198 tanker truck trips per day during peak project operation, a route that will include the “Cholame Y” intersection of Highways 46 and 41, aka “Blood Alley.”

The Final EIR must analyze and mitigate the hazards of these specific impacts. When doing so, it must correct for the “average daily trip” calculations in the DEIR (“531 average daily vehicle one-way trips per day” and “average daily heavy-duty truck trips would not exceed 28 one-way trips per day.”) These statements are useless in determining potential impacts, as there is no such thing as an “average daily” trip in the real world, only the real number of cars and trucks on the road on a given day. If 28 one-way trips is an average, by definition, it will be exceeded. The EIR must analyze and mitigate for the impacts from the peak number of vehicles estimated to be generated by the project.

The Draft EIR omits to state the total number of daily truck

CAT continued on page 7

BLM

continued from page 1

This update of this Resource Management Plan is the first step in the process to allow new oil and gas drilling on public lands in California. Many of the areas that could be opened up for oil leasing are along the boundaries of Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, the Los Padres, Sequoia, and Inyo National Forests, the Carrizo Plain, Giant Sequoia, and Cesar Chavez National Monuments, several designated wilderness areas, national wildlife refuges, state

parks, city and county parks, private nature reserves, and other conservation lands.

Sierra Club submitted comments last fall calling on the BLM to not open up these public lands for expanded oil and gas development. We argued that a decision to open up the Planning Area to oil and gas development would threaten the water resources serving both the communities and the surrounding area, degrade already-poor air quality in the region, further industrialize the region, threaten the continued existence of sensitive species that rely on the area for their habitat, and make it impos-

sible to meet national and state greenhouse gas reduction goals. Quite simply, developing this area for oil and gas represents an unnecessary and avoidable risk that would threaten the area’s other important multiple use resources.

This spring we are expecting the BLM to publish their Draft Resource Management Plan, which will kick off a public comment period and several meetings across the region. Sierra Club will be partnering with many other organizations to call on the BLM to protect our communities and environment from expanded oil and gas drilling.

Goleta

continued from page 1

pipeline that served them failed in 2015. That caused a massive oil spill that blackened Santa Barbara area beaches and killed hundreds of birds and marine animals.

The company now proposes to transport that oil to processing facilities using up to 70 oil tanker trucks a day on narrow, winding highways and roads, all day and all night.

That will risk explosive crashes and oil spills along California’s Central Coast and the Santa Maria watershed.

The trucks’ annual cargo of 4 million barrels of oil would emit carbon pollution equivalent to burning two billion pounds of coal.

The San Luis Obispo City Council passed a similar resolution in January.

“We applaud the city of Goleta for standing up to ExxonMobil and protecting our coast,” said Linda Krop, chief counsel for the Environmental Defense Center, which represents Get Oil Out! and Santa Barbara County Action Network in fighting the proposal. “ExxonMobil’s proposal would expose the public to the risk of oil tanker accidents, increased air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions, and another oil spill on the California coast.”

“Opposition to offshore oil is at record highs in California, and that is particularly true here in Goleta, which was closest to the 2015 oil spill,” said Katie Davis, chair of the Sierra Club’s Santa Barbara Group. “During the Thomas Fire, when people were evacuating, a tanker truck accident shut down the 101 in Goleta. If this happened on the Gaviota coast, we would have no way around it.”

“ExxonMobil’s proposal to truck oil 140 miles threatens California’s highways and coastline,” said Blake Kopcho, an ocean cam-

paigner at the Center for Biological Diversity. “Allowing oil trucks to serve three decrepit offshore drilling platforms 24 hours a day is a double whammy. Californians want to end dirty drilling off our coast, not resurrect aging oil platforms and invite a steady stream of dangerous tanker trucks onto our roadways.”

Cat

continued from page 6

trips. Careful reading and calculation by the reader is required to determine the total to be derived from the statement that “21 trucks

would arrive with light crude and then return to Belridge with blend. Another 74 trucks would arrive empty from Belridge and then return to Belridge with blend.” This amounts to 190 truck trips per day during peak production in Phase II. The Final EIR should state this figure, and analyze and mitigate for the hazards of these impacts in both Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo Counties.

And, needless to say, if no satisfactory mitigations can be found, the project should be denied.



And then there’s this part The Cat Canyon Draft EIR needs to spend some time on Highway 46.

Plains

continued from page 1

for that oil spill near Refugio State Beach and the hundreds of marine mammals and birds that were coated with oil and died. Most of the offshore drilling platforms it served are being decommissioned, but Exxon-Mobil has been trying to restart its three platforms, proposing first to transport the oil



Greetings! SLO County residents gathered outside the South County Regional Center during Plains All American’s Jan. 29 “open house” on their proposed pipeline project.



by tanker trucks on local highways. “Plains Pipeline doesn’t deserve a second chance to spill oil along California’s coast. Californians want to end offshore drilling, not extend it with a new coastal oil pipeline,” said Miyoko Sakashita, oceans program director with

the Center for Biological Diversity. “Offshore drilling is a dirty and dangerous threat to marine life and coastal communities. It’s time for Plains Pipeline and Exxon-Mobil to pack it up and let Californians reclaim their coastline.” Oil pipelines regularly fail in California. Federal pipeline

Plains

continued from page 7

data shows there were 621 pipeline incidents in California from 1986 through 2014, causing 200 injuries, 48 fatalities and almost \$800 million in property damage. An analysis of federal pipeline data found failures are most common after 30 years and shortly after they're completed, due to faulty welds and other construction-related problems.

"Building this pipeline would lock in offshore drilling in California for decades, just like the Trump administration wants. But huge bipartisan majorities in

coastal states around the country oppose new offshore drilling," Sakashita said. "Let's reject efforts by Trump, Plains and Exxon-Mobil to force offshore oil drilling on future generations."

Plains' proposed 124-mile oil pipeline would ship the offshore oil to processing facilities in San Luis Obispo and Kern counties. The first public hearings on the project were held Feb. 27 in the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors hearing room, and Feb. 28 at the South County Regional Center in Arroyo Grande.



Brought to you by the Plains All American Pipeline Refugio Beach, 2015.

First State-of-the-State Delivers Half a Loaf for the Environment

By Sierra Club California

Governor Gavin Newsom delivered some good news and bad news for California's environment during his state-of-the-state address on Feb. 12.

The governor announced that he does not support the California Water Fix proposal for two giant, 35-mile tunnels to divert water from the San Francisco Bay Delta. However, he declared his support for a single tunnel—an alternative proposal that has not gone through any economic and environmental analysis.

Additionally, the governor announced he would be appointing E. Joaquin Esquivel, a current member of the State Water Resources Control Board, to chair that board. With this appointment, Newsom has chosen to not reappoint noted water policy

NEWSOM cont. on page 9

Unreason

continued from page 2

won't be overwhelming relative to GDP growth. According to analyses in the Wall Street Journal, even small growth will compensate for the damages and adjustments."

No doubt, the former residents of Paradise, CA, and the survivors of the next monster hurricanes will be relieved to hear this. To be clear, the IPCC report's estimates the economic cost from 2 degrees' Celsius warming to be \$69 trillion. As Eugene Linden, author of "Winds of Change: Climate, Weather and the Destruction of Civilizations" has written, "Even this figure might prove radically conservative." Linden also noted, without affixing a dollar cost, the prospect of waves of destabilizing immigration from areas of the world where it has become too hot to survive and mass starvation implied in the findings of "a number of studies [that] predict yield declines of up to 70% for vegetables if the world warms beyond 2 degrees Celsius." Ambrose characterizes this scenario thusly: He notes the prospect of "cows having fewer plants to chew," so "dairy products will de-

crease." He stops there, rather than draw out the implications of people also having "fewer plants to chew," because it's all about GDP, not starvation. And about that figure that "might prove radically conservative:" Indeed it might. As Climate Web put it in response to both the economic analysis in the Climate Assessment and the Wall Street Journal's "counter assessment," such efforts at forecasting are "not unlike hitting a dartboard bullseye from five miles away in a windstorm." Also: "These economic impacts ignore a large part of the economic impacts picture, focusing as they do on just a few economic sectors. Not included at all, for example, are the economics of the international and national security impacts of climate change for the United States, or the evolving climate change systemic risk literature which goes so far as to suggest that climate change could lead to an economic collapse long before 2090." Ambrose dissed solar and wind power because sometimes the sun doesn't shine and the wind doesn't blow. Google "Battery Storage Poised to Expand Rapidly" to

see just how creaky this aging argument has become. He made the inevitable pitch for nukes as the salvation of a warming planet. Per the Rocky Mountain Institute and the Nuclear Information and Resource Service, improving the efficiency of electricity generation from conventional power plants would cut greenhouse gas emissions by 47 percent, equivalent to the carbon reductions achievable by 800 nuclear power plants. One dollar invested in efficiency cuts seven times as much carbon as a dollar invested in nuclear power. A dollar invested in wind energy creates 2.3 times more energy and five times more jobs. The Ambrose article came down to this dusty and deeply confused recipe: No significant government action is necessary, build more (government subsidized) nukes, leave the free market alone to work its magic. Fortunately, a large and increasing number of people have a better idea. We hope to see you at our general meeting at the Copeland Pavilion on March 20 to discuss what we want in a Green New Deal.



Newsom

continued from page 8

veteran Felicia Marcus, a recent target of big agricultural interests.

On other topics, the governor said that he has convened a panel of bankruptcy attorneys and other experts to ensure that the state’s and public’s interests are protected as Pacific Gas & Electric goes through the bankruptcy process. “We will never waver on achieving the nation’s most ambitious clean energy goals,” he said.

The governor also reiterated his strong commitment to resolving the housing crisis. And like his predecessor, he took aim at the California

Environmental Quality Act, implying that it has been a barrier to housing development despite numerous academic and other studies suggesting otherwise. The governor committed to completing the high-speed rail project between Merced and Bakersfield, but pulled back on pursuing the full-scale rail project from Los Angeles to San Francisco that has stumbled as cost estimates have continued to escalate dramatically. He also announced the appointment of a new chair to lead the High-Speed Rail Authority, Lenny Men-

donca. Mendonca is a former senior partner at McKinsey & Company, a global management firm and a current economic advisor to Newsom.

“It’s heartening to hear the governor abandon the twin tunnels boondoggle,” said Kathryn Phillips, Director of Sierra Club California. “However, we are disappointed that he has removed from the state water

board Felicia Marcus, one of the state’s best and most even-handed leaders on water issues. We are also disappointed he is committing more resources—time, money, and attention—to a smaller tunnel proposal, rather than fully shifting the state water agencies’ attention to those things we know are needed and will work to build regional resilience: conservation, efficiency, recycling, stormwater capture, dam and reservoir repair and the like. It is good to hear the governor clearly commit to protecting the state’s clean energy goals.

“We support the governor’s commitment to resolving the state’s housing crisis, particularly the need for affordable

and homeless housing.

However, there is no evidence that jabbing at CEQA will produce the results he’s after. It’s more likely that the other routes he is taking—including forcing cities to address their housing obligations—will have the desired impact. Attacking CEQA plays well to certain audiences, as Newsom’s predecessor found, but doesn’t really solve the real barriers to more affordable housing. Those barriers include understaffed planning departments, lack of construction labor, high costs of land, crumbling urban infrastructure, and lack of supportive funding for below-market-rate housing.

“CEQA provides Californians with essential information about big projects, how they will affect communities and the environment, and encourages builders to look at cleaner, less environmentally damaging ways to do their projects. It’s a tool that encourages transparency and protects air and water quality so the state doesn’t have to intervene later to clean up pollution.”

Sierra Club California is the legislative and regulatory advocacy arm of the 13 Sierra Club chapters in California, representing more than 400,000 members and supporters statewide.

2019 Sierra Club Calendars - Last Chance!

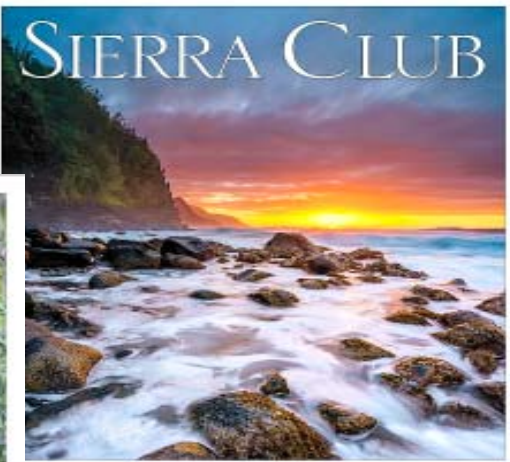
Accept no substitutes. Your desk will thank you. Your wall will thank you. Your friends and family will thank you. And when you buy direct from the Chapter, you support the Sierra Club’s conservation work in San Luis Obispo County. We thank you.

CLEARANCE!

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

free shipping!

Send your check to: Sierra Club
 P.O. Box 15755
 San Luis Obispo, CA 93406



WILDERNESS CALENDAR | 2019

Cambria and Cayucos Students Receive Forest Education

2018 was the fourth year that Greenspace – The Cambria Land Trust has partnered with the Harold J. Miossi Charitable Trust to connect students with nature. The Greenspace Environmental Education Field Program takes sixth-, seventh- and eighth-graders out into the Monterey Pine forest for enriched education.

Led by Greenspace founder and Monterey pine forest expert Rick Hawley and under the supervision of their Santa Lucia Middle School teacher, Danielle Narzisi, the students spend a day in Strawberry Canyon, Greenspace's 21 acres of rare Monterey pine forest.

During the course of the day, the students learn about the Monterey pine forest ecosystem. They learn how this species of pine propagates, analyze the forest soil for macronutrients, gather, identify and draw forest insects, and enjoy a reflective time just listening to the forest



This way! Greenspace founder and Monterey Pine forest expert Rick Hawley leads the Santa Lucia Middle School Environmental Education class into the misty forest.

with their eyes closed. Post field-trip visits to their classroom have the students making paper from scrap paper and using it to do "Poet-tree," telling about their forest visit in a creative way.

The Forest Education Program uses nature to teach vivid lessons about the relationships between the forest, its animals and plants. The goal is to instill in young people the desire to protect and enhance the Central Coast's unique Monterey pine forest.

Greenspace board members volunteer their time and talents. Educator Ann Cichowski and her husband, Robert Cichowski, Greenspace Education Program Coordinator and retired Cal Poly professor, along with local artists Sara Blair Field and Art Van Rhyn and many others lead the students through the forest and the many lessons it teaches.

"It's wonderful to see the kids put down their cell phones and get engaged in nature," Hawley said.


The goal of the program is to impress upon the students the importance of the relationships among all the plants and animals, large and microscopic, which support the forest ecology and foster a healthy forest.

The Forest Education Program is the result of a partnership between Greenspace and the Harold J. Miossi Charitable Trust, which supported the education program with a generous grant. Projects to protect the environment are one of its six program focus areas. The trust funds projects involving environmental science, green technology, promoting open spaces, sustainable agriculture, and land preservation.

"Greenspace plans to continue to expand our education outreach in the North Coast of SLO County," said Mary Webb, President of the Greenspace Board of Directors. "We very much look forward to our continued partnership with the Harold J. Miossi Charitable Trust."

Videos showing the students and the forest are posted on the Greenspace website, <https://greenspacecambria.org/>.

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


Volumes of Pleasure Bookshoppe
A General Bookstore Specifically for Thinkers
 Carroll Leslie & Barbara Strauss
 BOOKSELLERS
 1016 Los Osos Valley Rd. Suite 101
 Los Osos, California 93402 (805) 528-5565

Outings

continued from page 12

805 546-0317.

Saturday, March 30th, 8:30 am, Native Plant Field Trip to Shell Creek and Environs. One of the outstanding spring wildflower destinations in California. Meet at the Santa Margarita Exit Park and Ride at 8:30 am. Bring plant guides or plan to purchase one during the trip. Also bring adequate water, food, and dress in layers for the weather; a hat and sturdy shoes is advised. Contact Bill, 805-459-2103. Rain or threat of rain cancels.

Saturday, April 6th, 9:00 am, Willow Springs Trail off of Hwy 166. A 4.2-mile hike with scenic views of the Los Padres Natl. Forest back-country. 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 intersection of Hwy 101 and Hwy 166 (west on Hutton Rd., parking by Cuyama Lane). If meeting at trailhead, arrive by 9:00 am, go to Willow Spring trailhead off Hwy 166 on the south side, about 20 miles east of Hwy 101. Trailhead is 4 miles past Pine Canyon Fire Station. Exit on the right and park beyond the gate. Polite dogs on leash allowed. Contact Andrea, 805-934-2792. Rain or threat of rain cancels.

Saturday, April 6th, 2019, 8:30 am, Native Plant Field Trip to Carrizo Plain National Monument and the Temblor Range.

We will visit some of the best wildflower areas in the Monument, including some vernal pools, with an option to travel up into the Temblor Range. Meet at the Santa Margarita Exit Park and Ride at 8:30 am. Bring plant guides or plan to purchase one during the trip. Also, bring adequate water, food, and dress in layers for the weather; a hat and sturdy shoes is advised. Contact Bill, 805-459-2103. Rain or threat of rain cancels the outing.

Sunday, April 14th, 8:30 a.m. Eastern SLO County. Come and explore one of my favorite places south and east of Pozo. We will use ranch roads, some cross country, possibly some muddy areas, as we explore this wonderful region. Hike will be 8 to 10 miles with 1,500 feet of elevation gain. Bring lunch, water, sturdy shoes and dress for the weather. Meet at Pacific Beverage Company in Santa Margarita, CA at 8:30 am. No dogs except with explicit prior permission by the hike leader. If permitted, the dog must be leashed at all times, as we are on a private ranch with cattle roaming the area. Contact Gary 805-473-3694. Rain or threat of rain cancels the outing.

Saturday, April 20th, 2019, 8:30 am, Field Trip to Caliente Ridge, Carrizo Plain Natl. Monument. We will drive through the Monument towards Camp Shelby and on to the top of Caliente Ridge (high clearance



vehicle recommended). Meet at the Santa Margarita Exit Park and Ride. Bring plant guides or plan to purchase one during the trip. Also, bring adequate water, food, and dress in layers for the weather; a hat and sturdy shoes advised. Contact Bill, 805-459-2103. Rain or threat of rain cancels the outing.

Presented by the SLO Botanical Garden

Saturday, March 23, 1:00-2:00pm. All About That Drip: Garden and Landscape Water Management at SLO Botanical Garden. UC Master Gardener will explain the water saving irrigation practices that are best for your location, your soil and plants. Followed by a tour of the SLO Botanical Garden. Info at slobg.org. San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden, 3450 Dairy Creek Rd. Donation \$5 Garden Members / \$10 public. Call 805-541-1400 x 303.



photo: Rain Bird


**The Sierra Club
Needs You!**

Become an Outings Leader

- Lead hikes and camping trips
- Introduce others to nature
- Explore the outdoors
- Make new friends
- Protect the environment
- Get healthy exercise

For further information contact:

Bill Waycott, Outings Chair
(805) 459-2103 or
bill.waycott@gmail.com



John Muir, founder of the Sierra Club, in Yosemite



A Will is a Way

Make a commitment to the next generation by remembering the Sierra Club in your will. Your support will help others preserve the intricate balance of nature.

Contact:
John Calaway
Director of Gift Planning at
(415) 977-5639 or e-mail:
planned.giving@sierraclub.org



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

photo: Dave Hicks

Sierra Club

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

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 84
SAN LUIS OBISPO
CA 93401

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.

Saturday, March 9th, 9:00 am, Adobe Springs Trail off of Hwy 166. A 5-mile round trip hike with views down the Cuyama Valley and a chance for 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 9:00 am, go to the Adobe Spring trailhead off Hwy 166,

about 21 miles east of Hwy 101, on the left (north side of Hwy 166). Polite dogs on leash allowed. Contact Andrea, 805-934-2792. Rain or threat of rain cancels the outing.

Tuesday to Thursday, March 12th to 14th, 2019, Afton Canyon Outing. Afton Canyon is in the new Mojave Trails National Monument and we will camp both nights in the camp ground near the Mojave River. We will meet on Tuesday at noon and hike up one of the side canyons in the afternoon. Wednes-

day we will hike the Afton Canyon to some interesting sites and Thursday morning hike to an area of hoodoos. Hike will be at a leisurely pace. For reservations contact Carol, 760-245-8734. Mojave Group/CNRCC Desert Committee.

Saturday, March 16th, 8:30 am, East Cuesta Ridge to Lopez Canyon Trail. From the west, Lopez Canyon trail is only accessible by going 4.6 miles up East Cuesta Ridge Rd. (Mt. Lowe Rd.) and because of

that, it gets little use. We will walk from the locked gate at Hwy 101 to the trail head and then go down into Lopez Canyon as far as we can without running into a lot of poison oak. In the past, we have hiked in 7.5 miles to Upper Lopez Camp. You may do just a portion of this route and turn around early if you desire. Carpool from SLO, meet at Santa Rosa Park at 8:30 am, or at the



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.

locked gate off of Hwy 101 at 8:50 am. Behaved dogs on leash are welcome. Rain will postpone to a later date. Contact Carlos,

OUTINGS continued page 11

Village Creek Plaza

168 La Costa Grill
(805) 474-8797

170 Cutting Edge Saion
(805) 481-3126

172 Bend Chiropractic
(805) 474-4747

174 House 2 Home Interiors
(805) 489-5233

168 - 174 Station Way, Arroyo Grande, CA 93420

Along Arroyo Grande Creek next to AG Post Office

Island Hopping in Channel Islands National Park

April 7-9, May 5-7, June 9-11, July 14-16, August 18-20, September 22-24, October 20-22. Join us for a 3-day, 3-island, live-aboard tour of the Channel Islands. Hike wild, windswept trails bordered with blazing wildflowers. Kayak rugged coastlines, Marvel at pristine waters teeming with seals and sea lions. Train your binoculars on sea and land birds and an occasional whale. Watch for the endangered island fox. Look for reminders of the Chumash people who lived on these islands for thousands of years. Or just relax at sea. Departs from Santa Barbara. \$730, includes assigned bunk, all meals, snacks and beverages. Kayaking overseen by our concessionaire; all hikes will be on trails, class 1 terrain. This is a fundraiser to support the Sierra Club political program in California. To reserve space, send a \$200 check, written to California Sierra Club PAC, to Joan Jones Holtz, 11826 The Wye St., El Monte, CA 91732. For more information contact leaders Joan Jones Holtz: jholtzhl@aol.com, 626-443-0706 or Wayne Vollaire avollaire1@gmail.com, 909-327-6825.