

SANTA LUCIAN



Santa Lucia Chapter

March/April 2020
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The official newsletter of the Santa Lucia Chapter of the Sierra Club ~ San Luis Obispo County, California

House Passes Wilderness and River Protections for the Central Coast

On February 12, the House of Representatives passed the Central Coast Heritage Protection Act, which will protect forests, shrub and grasslands, and wild rivers on California's Central Coast.

The bill was introduced in the House by Representative Salud Carbajal last year. If signed into law, it will protect more than 245,000 acres of wilderness, create two scenic areas encompassing 34,500 acres, safeguard 159 miles of wild and scenic rivers, and designate the 400-mile Condor National Recreation Trail.

The measure, supported by more than 500 civic groups and leaders,

landowners and inholders, businesses, elected officials, schools, farmers and ranchers, and recreation leaders, passed as part of a larger package of public lands conservation bills.

Many of the public lands protected with this legislation provide access to green space near developed communities, and are more accessible than national parks in the region. It is the product of years of discussion and negotiation involving business leaders, conservationists, elected officials, ranchers, mountain bikers, and other stakeholders interested in the use and well-being of these iconic lands.

"This is an historic opportunity to protect special places on the Central Coast, secure the first wilderness protection on the Central Coast in twenty years, and leave a legacy for our children and grandchildren," said San Luis Obispo Mayor Heidi Harmon. "Permanent protection of Central Coast public lands is key to our region's tourism industry, to



Feel the love Central Coast Heritage Protection Act sponsor Salud Carbajal got a valentine at the Feb. 14 Goleta press conference announcing the passage of his bill in the house.

March 11: Important Diablo Canyon Meeting

by Kara Woodruff, *Diablo Canyon Decommissioning Engagement Panel*

The Diablo Canyon Decommissioning Engagement Panel, will meet at 6 p.m. on March 11 at the SLO County Government Center to cover topics of critical importance to the decommissioning of the Diablo Canyon Power Plant and the future of the 12,000-acre Diablo Canyon Lands surrounding the plant.

We sincerely hope you'll be able to attend and speak up about topics important to this community.

On the issue of the Diablo Canyon Lands, we'll be hearing from SLO County and others about the permitting process to decommission the plant and whether we can ensure the conservation of the lands via that process as mitigation for the multitude of permits needed to close the

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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.

Ed Mainland: 1935-2019

by Jim Stewart, PhD, Co-chair, Sierra Club CA Energy-Climate Committee

Let us pause a moment to honor the passing of Ed Mainland, former co-chair of the Sierra Club California Energy-Climate Committee.

Ed was a warrior for the environment, without whom there might not be an Energy-Climate Committee. What I remember as one of Ed's most important achievements was his untiring advocacy in the establishment of the first successful Community Choice Energy program, Marin Clean Energy.

He was an excellent strategic planner and organizer. In 2010, he planned and co-led the Organizing Meeting for a Sierra Club California Clean Energy Solutions Campaign which formed the basis for our advocacy ever since.

He also co-wrote many successful policy resolutions for Sierra Club

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Invest in Renewables

In the face of declining prospects for fossil fuels and the vast potential for growth in renewable energy, what actions should both institutional and individual investors be considering? Scott Secret from the San Luis Obispo office of Natural Investments will be giving us a focused understanding of fossil fuel divestment strategies and reinvestment in alternative energy opportunities.



Plus: Local updates on GreenForce collaboration and the Green New Deal

Andrew Christie
EDITOR

Lindi Doud
EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

Denny Mynatt
PRINT MEDIA COORDINATOR



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

Santa Lucia Chapter

2020 Executive Committee

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 Heather Howell (12/20) SECRETARY
 Violet Sage Walker (12/20) MEMBER
 Stephanie Carlotti (12/20) MEMBER
 Carmen Bouquin (12/21) MEMBER
 Janine Rands (12/22) MEMBER
 Mila Vujovich-LaBarre (12/23) VICE CHAIR

The **Executive Committee** meets the third Monday of each month at 6:00 p.m. in the chapter office, located at 1411 Marsh St., Suite 204, San Luis Obispo. All members are welcome to attend.

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Committees

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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.**

**1411 Marsh Street, Suite 204
 San Luis Obispo, CA**

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March 3 is Election Day



Sierra Club publications containing electoral content may not be posted to a Sierra Club website unless the original publication was paid for by a Political Action Committee.

In Charge

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California and ensured they passed the CNRCC, as well as influencing national Club Energy policy. He also prepared the minutes for every one of the hundreds of weekly Committee meetings from 2008 to 2015. He died on Dec. 31, 2019, at the age of 84.

"I am devastated to hear of the loss of Ed," said Michele Perrault, Sierra Club President from 1984-86 and 1993-94. "He was the most incredible and versatile volunteer on many levels, providing me

with day to day assistance as a Senior Fellow, pushing me to engage on a myriad of issues. He did the drafting of letters, minutes of countless meetings, testified, helped with international visitors to the Club, and engaged on working groups of the International Committee among his many activities."

"Ed was a huge support and mentor when I took on the chairmanship of the California-Nevada Desert Energy Committee," said Joan Taylor. "He understood the balance that can and should be struck when developing renewable

energy. Ed was so clear thinking and articulate — he was never afraid to "speak the truth to power" as he put it. I will miss him."

California Democratic Party Delegate Mike Bullock recalls "We met at a Democratic Convention about 11 years ago. He was at a small table in a hallway. We had a great conversation. I told him I was a member since 1971 and he told me about the Sierra Club and the Energy Committee. He invited me to call in. He helped inspire me to do a Sierra Club table at the next Convention. He

and Jim Stewart were game-changers for me and I was inspired to do resolutions.

He was smart and direct."

"We have certainly lost a great champion for the environment," said Angeles Chapter activist Joan Jones Holtz.



The Green New Deal Comes to California

By Kathryn Phillips, Director, Sierra Club California
Capitol Voice

A California version of Green New Deal legislation was introduced on January 7, the first day of this new legislative year.

At a Sacramento press conference, Assemblymember Rob Bonta described the California Green New Deal as a “bold transformation bill that addresses the existential threat of climate change while prioritizing equity throughout.”

Assembly Bill 1839 is authored by Assemblymembers Bonta, David Chiu, Ash Kalra, Eloise Reyes and Shirley Weber. Co-authors include Assemblymembers Todd Gloria, Marc Berman, Richard Bloom, Kansen Chu, Robert Rivas, Mark Stone, and Buffy Wicks.

The Asian Pacific Environmental Network (APEN) is sponsoring the bill. A coalition of environmental justice, environmental, social justice, labor and other groups have worked on its development, and Sierra Club California has a support position on it.

The bill as drafted provides a declaration of twelve principles that address climate change, education, social justice, racism, labor justice and health access. It also lists other findings that boost the notion that addressing equity



goes hand in hand with addressing climate solutions.

The bill also contains a section that suggests goals to be achieved to actualize the principles.

Generally, it lays a foundation for other future legislation that will advance the goals. The bill’s author has been developing amendments to help make certain California’s Green New Deal clears the legislature after hearings in policy committees.

Stay tuned to your email for more about how you can help move this bill forward.

Diablo

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plant – as well as the burden that we as residents of the Central Coast must bear in the decommissioning process, including the storage of radioactive nuclear waste that may remain on the central coast for decades to come.

We’ll also hear about the Tribal Lands Policy recently adopted by the California Public Utilities Commission. This policy may affect the disposition of the northern portion of the Diablo Canyon Lands and could result in the ownership of that land by tribal interests. While it seems fair to return the land to those it was stolen from

generations ago, this could have significant implications for the conservation of and/or public access to the land.

PG&E will be providing updates on its bankruptcy and related reorganization, the decommissioning trust fund, and the Request for Proposal process for future dry casks to store radioactive nuclear waste on site. As always, there will be public comment period.

For more information about issues relating to the decommissioning process, please see the Engagement Panel’s website at www.diablopanel.org/.

Or visit Facebook and like “Central Coast Conservation.” You will find the final meeting agenda and other details there.

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 happy to have you aboard!

Diane Reinert
Kris Roudebush
Jordon Moncrief
Gerald Clare
James Murphy
Ron Pigeon
Andy Madjedi
Patricia Wagner
Lauri Graham
Flávia Parotti
Frank West
GPS Peterson
Mike Guarino
Teresa Drew
Kathryn Gibbs
John Roady
Toni Decker
Dixie Van Buren
Toshiro Newsum



We Are On Meetup!

Join us on hiking, backpacking, camping, and other outdoor adventures in and around SLO County with a click of your mouse button! Our activities also include outdoor skills training such as wilderness first aid, navigation, and outdoor leadership. You don’t have to be a Sierra Club member to be part of our Meetup Group. Go on the Meetup website, or download the app, go to “San Luis Obispo Sierra Club” and request to join. [meetup.com/San-Luis-Obispo-Sierra-Club-Meetup-Group/](https://www.meetup.com/San-Luis-Obispo-Sierra-Club-Meetup-Group/)

An Avila Event Complex: An Unprecedented Bad Idea

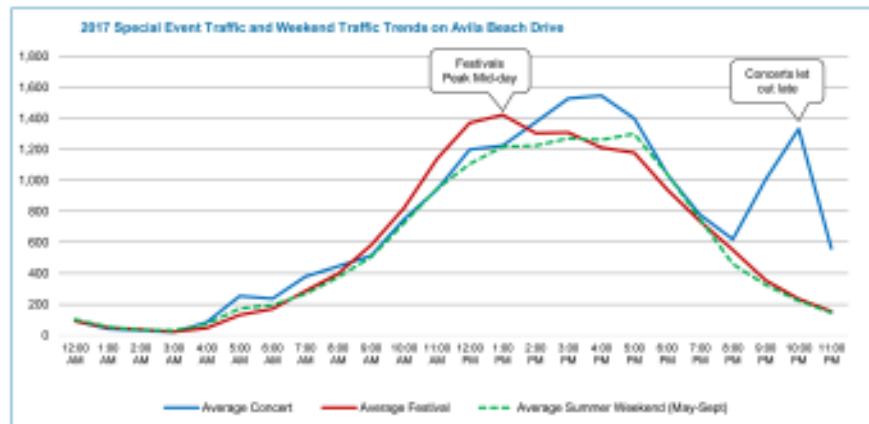
By Jim Miers, Surfrider Foundation San Luis Obispo Chapter, Save the Avila Coast Campaign Coordinator

Imagine if the Coachella Music Festival relocated to just outside the south entrance to Yosemite, and that was the only entrance to the park. The traffic from the 250,000 daily guests would severely impact park access and discourage many people from even trying to visit the park.

Access to the four miles of beautiful beaches and diverse coastal-dependent recreation along the Avila Coast is facing a similar threat.

The Avila Beach Golf Course is seeking two permits to create the largest beach-adjacent private event facility ever permitted in California. It would allow unlimited events with up to 1,000 guests, including multiple events on the same day at several different onsite venues. In addition, it would allow seventeen larger events every summer with up to 5,000 guests. This proposed permanent, multi-venue event complex borders the beach at Avila and the Bob

Special Event Traffic Trends



Festival attendance ranged from 1,000-3,500 people

Concert attendance ranged from 2,000-5,000 people



Jones Trail.

It is a bad idea to permit this large event facility at the edge of Avila Beach. There is a reason why no other local government on the coast of California has ever approved a permanent private event facility this

large adjacent to the beach. It defies basic principles of good land use planning.

SLO County's coast comprises less than 1/1,000 of the land area in the county and is the only place residents and visitors can engage in coastal-dependent recreation (i.e. something that requires the ocean or beach). Therefore, it makes sense to give coastal-dependent recreation priority over other land uses. Californians voted overwhelmingly to enshrine this concept into law when they approved the Coastal Act over forty years ago.

By contrast, there are hundreds of potential event sites in the remaining 3,600 square miles of the county with good freeway access.

Large events (especially those serving alcohol) should have access to a

nearby freeway via multiple feeder streets. The 300-foot ridges that surround Avila block access except through a gap adjacent to the SLO Creek Estuary. As a result, Avila can only be accessed via a three-mile long, two-lane road with blind curves and minimal shoulders. Is that the kind of event egress you want to drive when you've had a few drinks? The adjacent cliff and estuary ensure that it will never be practical to widen it.

TAKE ACTION

Urge the Board of Supervisors not to allow this or any other project that will impede access to the Avila Coast. Send an email to boardofsups@co.slo.ca.us/.



Too much Concert guests don't go to Avila to use the beach. Why not locate this inland and avoid traffic jams that impede access to the beach for those who want to use it?

Wilderness

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protecting endangered wildlife, and to preserving vital cultural and ecological resources.”

Last year, Senator Kamala Harris also introduced the Central Coast Heritage Protection Act in the Senate. The day after the bill passed the House, Senator Harris and Senator Dianne Feinstein reintroduced companion legislation – the Protecting Unique and Beautiful Landscapes by Investing in California (PUBLIC) Lands Act — that will protect public lands on the Central and North Coasts, and the



San Gabriels.

“Few places can match California’s beauty, in part thanks to the success we’ve had protecting our rich natural resources,” said Feinstein. “Our bill would build on that strong environmental legacy by safeguarding key portions of the San Gabriel Mountains, the Central Coast and Northern California’s forests and

rivers. Investing in public lands preservation will pay dividends for generations to come.”

The House bill would protect special places in the Los Padres

National Forest and the Carrizo Plain National Monument.

Los Padres National Forest, California’s second largest national forest, rises from the Pacific Ocean to over 8,800 feet in elevation and provides habitat for 468 species of wildlife, including the endangered California condor and the southern steelhead. The

400-mile Condor Trail would connect the southern and northern portions of the forest.

The Carrizo Plain National Monument is home to Native American cultural sites and an incredible diversity of plant and animal life, including threatened and endangered species such as the Tule elk and Pronghorn antelope.

Local community members and visitors to the Los Padres National Forest and Carrizo Plain National Monument enjoy outstanding recreational opportunities, including hiking, camping, bird watching, horseback riding, kayaking, hunting and fishing.

L.A. Advances Cutting Carbon Through Procurement Policies

Directive adopts “Buy Clean” for state’s largest city

On February 10, Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti signed “L.A.’s Green New Deal: Leading By Example.” Joined by a diverse coalition of elected officials, environmental advocates, business leaders, and young climate activists for the signing of Executive Directive No. 25, the Mayor laid out a vision for a carbon-neutral Los Angeles and a commitment to environmental justice and equity.

The directive effectively adopted as city policy a state law designed to cut greenhouse gas emissions from building materials.

Through his directive, Garcetti has instructed the city engineer to adopt the guidelines of the Buy Clean California Act, which was passed by the legislature in 2017 and applies to state agencies. It establishes a process by which agencies will purchase from less polluting manufacturers

certain building materials, including steel.

The mayor’s directive also instructs the city engineer to study the use of building materials that actually sequester carbon and report back to the mayor’s office.

“Mayor Garcetti has taken an important step to cut climate polluting emissions from the stream of building materials that public money buys,” said Kathryn Phillips, Director of Sierra Club California. “Other cities have adopted resolutions supporting the Buy Clean California Act. But this is the first time a California city has strongly aligned its purchasing decisions with the act and its intent. Purchasing power is a strong tool for persuading industries to clean up their manufacturing processes. Los Angeles has a lot of purchasing power that is now going to be put to work to deliver more benefits to people and the planet.”



GreenForce: All Together Now

By Heather Howell, Development Chair and Secretary, Santa Lucia Chapter Executive Committee

On Feb. 2, 2020, the Santa Lucia Chapter of the Sierra Club, with co-sponsors SLO Botanical Garden and Ecologistics, presented the First Annual GreenForce Environmental Conference to 47 environmental leaders and individuals.

Organizations from SLO, Monterey and Santa Barbara counties came to the Garden. As the first event in a year-long proposed calendar, we are determined, through our shared actions, to have a continual presence for the environment in this critical election year.

The annual Bioneers Conference, brought to SLO County annually by Ecologistics, ended the day before GreenForce and served as the first round in a 1-2 punch to deliver meaningful action on the climate crisis and the Green New Deal.

Our GreenForce conference captured the excitement of Bioneers and ignited a commitment to shared actions among our local organizations to begin 2020 in full action mode. It was a successful work-party for strategizing and committing to our shared vision, brainstorming, and even scheduling events that day. If you want view the conference results or participate in the ongoing discussion, send an email to hrhvision@gmail.com to receive an invitation to Slack. Follow-up events will be in April and September, TBA.

"I'm so happy I got to see



Chenda Lor of SLO Botanical Garden, Heather Howell of Sierra Club, and Stacey Hunt of Ecologistics welcome attendees.



Leola McMillan facilitated.

the conference in action myself," said Sara Danta-Wyrens of the Sierra Club's Toiyabe Chapter (Nevada). "In just a few short hours, our table at least had a big plan in place, and I know we'll implement this plan."

"I enjoyed every minute of it," said Sandra Marshall,

Founder of SLO Earth Day. "It was great to see so many environment-related

groups together, face to face, in one place for the good of the whole. No egos, just great work."

The GreenForce collaboration will sound a heart-beat that will pound ever louder toward the November elections, with events throughout the county that demand earth justice & environmental sanity.



Carmen Bouquin led the discussion on environmental justice.

ODSVRA at D Minus 4 (+2)

At the July 11, 2019, meeting of the California Coastal Commission in San Luis Obispo, The California Department of Parks and Recreation promised to deliver to the Coastal Commission a Public Works Plan for the Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area one year from that date, with quarterly updates as the date approaches.

As you may surmise from our headline, that date, to the surprise of no one, has started to slip. The promised July 2020 delivery of the PWP will now happen -- until we hear otherwise -- in September.

In agreeing to await the arrival of that plan, the Coastal Commission suspended action on more than a dozen permit conditions that had been drafted to compel State Parks to end the chronic violations of its permit and the California Coastal Act at the dunes. Commissioners made it clear to State Parks that its draft plan will need to reckon with the changes that the Commission otherwise would have compelled via those conditions to their permit. Or at least, they thought they made it clear.

As we approach the date of the Coastal Commission meeting at which it is supposed to either approve or reject State Parks' plan for the future of the ODSVRA, the Santa Lucian is devoting space to a series of articles that examine the issues swirling around the longest running environmental problem on the Central Coast.

Oh, Is *That* What you Said?

The California Department of Parks and Recreation — in the grip of the Off Highway Vehicle Division, State Parks' controlling authority when it comes to the Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area — continued its struggle to comprehend the spoken and written word at the Feb. 13 meeting of the California Coastal Commission in Long Beach.

At the San Luis Obispo meeting in July 2019, after many hours of discussion, the Commission told State Parks they were not going to lower the boom via mandatory amendments to Parks' Coastal Development Permit because Parks agreed to instead address all the measures and permit conditions in its forthcoming Public Works Plan (PWP), a sweeping plan for future management of the Park.

Chief among those measures: The primary long-term goal of transitioning the Oceano Dunes away from OHV activities, which are fundamentally incompatible with the requirement of the California Coastal Act and the County's Local Coastal Plan (LCP), a finding reiterated in the staff report for that day's hearing at least half a dozen times.

The Commission also told State Parks it expected to receive quarterly updates on the progress of that plan, updates that should

include specifics, such as a timeline and milestones.

The following day, the Commission sent Parks a letter memorializing the outcome of that meeting. Commission

Chair Dayna Bochco reiterated to State Parks Director Lisa Mangat that State Parks "must respond to and address all of the concerns identified in this letter."

Over the next several months, several more letters followed with additional reiterations of that outcome, along with multiple Commission and Parks staff meetings.

In October, State Parks presented its first update. It was general, vague, and notably short on any details regarding those 15 short-term suspended permit conditions and any vision for a long-term OHV-free future at the Dunes.

Again, Coastal Commissioners requested specifics, with timelines and milestones.

In a letter dated Dec. 13, 2019, the Commission's Central Coast District Supervisor reminded State Parks senior staff that at the July meeting, the Commission had found:

"that continuing OHV use in dune [Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Area] is inconsistent with both Coastal Act and LCP provisions regarding the protection of sensitive dune habitats, and a PWP that



How about something slightly less unacceptable? State Parks' plans for the Oso Flaco Lake area of the Oceano Dunes are symptomatic of the overall problem with Public Works Plan. After being told by Coastal staff that intensive development of the undeveloped area was "going in the wrong direction," Parks has reworked the plan, but it's still a project that would convert agricultural land and proposes development that's not permissible in the Coastal Zone.

DUNES continued on next page

Dunes

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continues long term OHV use cannot be found consistent with the LCP. As the Commission identified in its action, including through the letter that provides the Commission’s direction to Parks that is dated July 12, 2019: ‘the problems identified in this letter are significant and fundamental inconsistencies with the Coastal Act and suggest that it is time to start thinking about ways to transition the ODSVRA away from OHV use to other forms of public access and recreation.’”

On Jan. 23, 2020, Parks Director Lisa Mangat wrote back, stating her agency’s belief that the Commission’s directive required them only to address “15 new conditions to the existing [Coastal Development Permit]...in its PWP development process” and that “the explicit direction and action of the Commission did not include phasing out off-highway vehicle use altogether at Oceano Dunes SVRA.”

Not surprisingly, at the Coastal Commission’s Feb. 13 meeting, Central Coast District Director Dan Carl reported to the Commissioners “We’ve been getting concerned about the progress.... We’re seven months away from ideally having a PWP hearing where the Commission is gonna either approve, or approve with conditions, or deny a PWP. We really need to have focus from all participants to make sure that we can actually hit that time frame. I think staff’s really concerned that we may not be able to get the PWP in a form that the Commission can review in September.”

“One of the key things ...has been the concept of exploring an alternative for less intensive use out there, including... looking at ways to transition away from OHV use. We identified that again for State Parks.”

Carl then submitted his entry for Understatement of the Decade: “Their intention isn’t to eliminate OHV use,” he said, so “we’re gonna run into that conflict” at the September hearing.

Wistful words came from the dais, directed at State Parks Director Lisa Mangat:

Commissioner Sara Aminzadeh said: “It’s unclear to me how progress is being made. [There are] a lot of references to things that you are looking at.... We’d like to see a lot more specifics about what is happening and when. It would be helpful to get more of a progress report than a response.”

Commissioner Caryl Hart said: “I really hope that at our next meeting we’re seeing some real movement to step away from the existing use and find a way to respond to the requirements of the Coastal Act.”

Several commissioners noted that 2019’s record six fatalities in the Park in one year is way too many. Commissioner Mike Wilson commented that if that happened in an amusement park, with a far higher level of use, that place would be shut down. And next time, please include the number of serious injuries in your report, not just deaths.

Finally, there was this:

“We will be addressing what a phase-out of off highway

vehicle recreation looks like” in late spring, said Parks Director Mangat. And: “We realize we have to be more specific.”

But there was also this:

“We’re driving towards a Public Works Plan that is consistent with the Coastal Act,” Mangat said. “So that is our goal. And I recognize that that’s a challenge, but we’re also really paying attention to the signals that you folks

may send, or to the staff, because it’s not our intent after this long process to jam you with something or surprise you that at the end of this process we start maybe having the robust conversation that perhaps we needed to have sooner about what exactly your comfort level is

in terms of your sense of what’s consistent with the Coastal Act. We recognize that that’s a challenge. We want to help get there and get to a product that’s, you know, consistent with the Coastal Act.”

State Parks obviously doesn’t like the words it has heard. The prospect of “a robust conversation” that will only come at “the end

of this process,” the hope to find a “comfort level” other

than the one that was explicitly stated months ago, and the search for a different meaning in the words it has heard – via a quest for other words or “signals” – continues apace.

The next update of the Public Works Plan for the Oceano Dunes SVRA and Pismo

Beach State Park is scheduled to be heard at the Coastal Commission’s April 15-17 meeting in Oxnard.



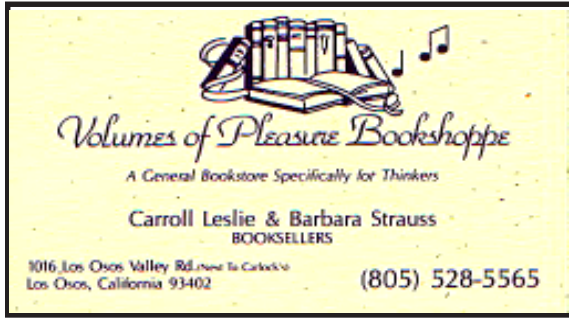
Aminzadeh: “It’s unclear to me how progress is being made.”



Groom: “Six deaths in one year is way too many.”



Mangat: “We’ll start maybe having the robust conversation that perhaps we needed to have sooner about what exactly your comfort level is in terms of your sense of what’s consistent with the Coastal Act.”



Outings

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Waxing Gibbous (almost full) moon hike. An easy out and back hike @ 6 miles and 300 ft. elevation gain. We will walk through oak woodland with amazing views of Morro Bay just as the sun sets and moon rises. Bring headlamp or flashlight, water and snacks. The Quarry trailhead is on South Bay Blvd. in Los Osos. From Highway 1 N take the South Bay Blvd. exit and go 1.5 miles, make a left into the parking lot. From Los Osos Valley Rd., take South Bay Blvd. 2.8 miles, go right into the parking lot. Dinner after for those interested. Sorry, no dogs allowed in this part of Morro Bay State Park. Contact/RSVP Lisa with questions. ludovici@yahoo.com, 310-864-4679.

Saturday, March 14th, 8:00 a.m., American Canyon to Buckeye Camp. Out and back in the Garcia Wilderness.

Strenuous 12 mile hike with 2000 ft. elevation gain. The condition of this trail is unknown because it is not easily accessed, but there will be some poison oak. We will cross a shallow section of the Salinas River. Minor creek crossings along the route. You may go part way as this is an in and out on the same trails. Bring lunch and water. Expect to be out all day. We must pass through a locked gate to drive to the trail head. Meet in Santa Margarita at Pacific Beverage Co. Rain or extreme heat will postpone. Behaved dogs on leash. For questions, contact Carlos at 805 546-0317.

Saturday, March 14th, 9:00 a.m., Adobe Springs Trail off of Hwy 166. A 5-mile round trip hike with views down the Cuyama Valley and chance of wild-flowers! Bring a hat, sunscreen, plenty of water, long-sleeve shirt, long pants, sturdy walking shoes. Carpool – meet at 8:30 am at intersection of Hwy 101 and 166 (west on

Hutton Rd., parking by Cuyama Lane). If meeting at trailhead, arrive by 9:00 a.m., go to Adobe Spring trailhead on the north side of Hwy 166, @ 21 miles east of 101, on the left. Polite dogs on leash. Rain or threat of rain cancels. Contact Andrea, 805-934- 2792.

Sat-Sun March 21st – 22nd, 7:00 a.m., San Luis National Wildlife Refuge Hike – Kesterson Unit. (Multi-day car camp or hotel). Step into primordial California grasslands with an incredible diversity of native plants, grasses and birds. The Kesterson Unit is a hidden gem and sees very little human activity this time of year because it is one of the only units prohibiting auto tours: foot traffic only. About 9 miles of easy hiking trails, but its free-roam so we don't have to stay on the trails. Expect 9 - 12 miles of hiking on flat, even terrain, vernal pools, wildflowers and an abundance of birds and other wildlife. Time permitting, we may visit a smaller walk-in only unit. We'll set up at a small campground on the Merced River or San Luis Reservoir campground. Both can accommodate tents and RVs. Option to drive to Modesto for hotel accommodations. Optional Sunday hike at Great Valley Grasslands State Park. Sorry, no dogs. The Refuge is 181 miles and 2hrs 50 mins from San Luis Obispo. We will choose a meet point in SLO and plan at least one stop along the way. 8 Spots available. Contact/RSVP Lisa with questions, ludovici@yahoo.com or 310-864-4679 and let me know whether you'll be camping or staying at a hotel.

Sun. March 29th, 2 p.m., Historic Walk: Jazz-Age SLO to World War II. Where are the hotel where Hearst entertained his guests, the speakeasies of the twenties, the original French Hospital? Find out and much more on a guided downtown stroll of SLO. Hear stories of its

changing social life from the Model T years to Prohibition, Depression, and Pearl Harbor. About 1 1/2 hrs. Meet at corner of Marsh and Toro. Leader: Joe Morris, 805-549-0355.

Friday, Sat. & Sun., April 3rd, 4th, & 5th, Carrizo Plain National Monument. We may not have the splendor that we had in 2017 and 2019, but even in a dry year it is worth the drive. Loosely organized car camping and hiking event; join our group for all or part of the weekend. If Selby Rocks car camp is full, we'll stay at KCL car camp. Both are free. On Saturday we will rendezvous at Selby Rocks Camp at approximately 9 a.m. and car pool to a hike destination to hike. Leader has a white Ford Ranger pick-up with a silver shell on the bed. Car campers are responsible for your food and water. Water not always running at the camp. Rain will postpone. For more information and/or directions. contact Carlos at 805 546-0317.

Saturday, April 4, 9 a.m., High Mountain Rd. to Condor Lookout. Moderately strenuous, out-and-back 10-mile hike past wildflower meadows, chaparral, and mountain peaks to condo lookout station atop High Mt. Peak. Option to go part way and turn back early. Bring water, sun protection, snacks, dress in layers, wear sturdy shoes. Binoculars useful to spot a condor! From Arroyo Grande, follow signs to Lopez Lake. After crossing the dam but before entering Lopez Lake County Park, turn right on High Mountain Rd for 12.6 miles, (bearing right on Upper Lopez Rd. to stay on High Mt.) to second gate, parking area, and trailhead. High Mt. Rd. is easy on cars until this spot—no need for four-wheel drive. Alternatively, meet at the Ridge Trail staging area, just past upper Lopez Canyon/ High Mt. Rd junction at 7:30 to carpool in. For more info,

OUTINGS continued next page



Outings

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contact Leader: Andrea Ortiz at 934-2792 or kenya683@msn.com. Rain or serious threat of rain cancels.

Saturday, April 11th, 7 a.m. – 6 p.m., Pinnacles – Bear Gulch to High Peaks Loop. A moderate hike through California's newest and one of the most beautiful National Parks. Views, geology, natural history and a great time to see an abundance of wildflowers. We'll start from Bear Gulch, climb to the High Peaks loop trail, then back along the Reservoir Trail and through the Lower Caves. @ 9 miles, 1320 ft. elevation gain. High Peaks trail is steep and narrow and involves a bit of rock scrambling, including small steps carved into stone. Bring water, lunch, snacks. Waterproof boots suggested. 106 miles and 2 hours from San Luis Obispo. We will meet in the County for those who want to carpool. \$30 per vehicle charge for day use. Possible dinner after before the drive home. Sorry, no dogs. 12 Spots. Contact/RSVP Lisa with questions l.ludovici@yahoo.com or 310-864-4679.

Saturday, April 11th, 7:30 a.m., Santa Lucia Trail to Pimkolam (Junipero Serra) Peak. A spring hike to the highest point on the Central Coast. This is an out and back strenuous hike of 12 miles with 3,800 ft. of elevation

gain. Experienced and conditioned hikers only. Begins at Memorial Park (Indian Stations) campground. Trail ascends through oak woodlands and chaparral to a saddle, where we catch the summit spur trail through a pine forest to an old fire tower at the summit, 5,862 feet. Possibility of ticks and probably poison oak along the trail. Bring plenty of water, lunch, snacks, dress for the weather. Meet at Las Tablas ride-share parking lot in Templeton at 7:30 a.m., on south side of the road, west of Highway 101 after the Las Tablas exit (GPS: 35.5538N 120.7136W). We will carpool to the trailhead, @ 90-minute drive. Rain cancels. Please do not bring dogs. This will be an all-day adventure. Confirm with the leader. Call Bill, 805-459-2103.


Sunday, April 19th, Duna Vista Lookout Lopez Lake Hike. 7 miles. Hike #102 in "Day Hikes in SLO." 7:40 am meet-up in Strother Park, 1150 Huasna Rd. Arroyo Grande to carpool, or meet at 8am at the hike start: out of the Entrance station turn right and continue 1.3 miles on Lopez Drive. Go past Vista Lago and park on the right near the end of the road. Dana Vista is a 1,178 foot summit overlook. The hike crosses the peninsula that separates the arms of Lopez Lake, then climbs to the Duna Vista summit. Possibility of ticks, rattlesnakes, mountain lion and poison oak - dress accordingly. Bring water,



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- 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

sunscreen, snacks. Bonnie Ernst 805-801-6148.

Sunday, Apr. 19th, 9:00 am, Santa Rita Creek Rd. mountain bike ride. This will be an out and back ride of about 2 hours with a one-way distance of roughly 6.5 miles on a mostly unpaved road. Santa Rita Creek Road hugs Old Creek for several miles until it climbs out of the canyon for a spectacular view of North County. There is a steady elevation gain towards the end, leading up to the crest, where we plan to turn around. Bring your bike, helmet, other appropriate gear, and water/snacks. Meet at the corner of Old Creek Road and Santa

Rosa Park at 8:30 am and RSVP if you plan to carpool. Contact Bill, 805-459-2103. Rain or threat of rain cancels.

Sun., April 26th, 2 p.m. Historic Walk: Remarkable Trees of San Luis Obispo. On a downtown stroll, learn the story of SLO as told by 15 distinctive trees, including the pepper trees of Mission days, the eucalyptus of Victorian times, and ending with the Apollo 11 Moon Tree of 1976. Duration about 1 1/2 hrs. Meet at the corner of Broad and Monterey Sts. Leader: Joe Morris, 805-549-0355.

Sat, May 2nd, 8:30 a.m., Montana de Oro State Park Hike: Oats Peak to False Alan. Meet at Valencia Peak Trailhead. Strenuous hike @ 14 miles RT and 2,240 ft. elevation gain. Unique geology, plant life and wildflowers. Bring at least 2.5 liters of water, lunch and snacks. Lug-sole boots (not sneakers) recommended for the gravelly trails and potential rattlesnakes. Dogs not allowed on any MDO trails. Contact Lisa with questions, l.ludovici@yahoo.com or 310-864-4679.

Rita Creek Road, 3.8 miles from Hwy 1 in Cayucos, on Old Creek Road (GPS: 35.47250N 120.8558W). For carpooling from San Luis Obispo, meet at



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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 Chuck Tribbey, (805) 441-7597. For information on a specific outing, please call the listed outing leader.



Sunday March 1st 9:00 a.m., Rinconada Trail. We will hike to the summit, then head along the ridge to Hi Mountain Road & return to the Trail where it meets Hi Mountain Road. We will ascend to the Ridge again for a snack overlooking the Santa Lucias, then descend to the trailhead. About 5 miles with 1000 ft. elevation gain. Meet at the trailhead off West Pozo Road. Bring snack, water, non-slip shoes and dress

for the weather. Rain or threat of rain cancels. For more information, call Gary at (805)473-3694.

Saturday, March 7th 8:30 a.m., Salmon Creek Trail and Spruce Creek Trail to Dutra Flat Camp. Moderate to strenuous hike in the Silver Peak wilderness in southern Big Sur area. 8.4 miles with @ 2100 ft. elevation gain. After leaving the Salmon Creek trail

after 2 miles, we will hike through Spruce Creek Canyon up to a grassland before coming to Dutra Flat Camp, an old homestead. Possibility of ticks. Poison oak will be along the trail in places. Bring water, snacks or lunch, dress for the weather. Meet at the Washburn Day Use area of San Simeon State Park, on the right side of Highway 1 about 2 miles north of Cambria. We will carpool about 30 minutes to the trailhead. Dogs must be on leash. Rain cancels. For info, call Chuck at 805-441-7597.

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.

Quarry Trail, Morro Bay State Park. Celebrate the return of longer days with a

Saturday, March 7th 4 – 8 p.m., Almost Full Moon Hike

OUTINGS continued on page 10

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