



SIERRA
CLUB

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Marine Sanctuary for
SLO Coast
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*Protecting and
Preserving the
Central Coast*

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

Sierra Club and SLO Coast Alliance Cautiously Optimistic about December 2002 Hearst Ranch Conservation Framework

by Tarren Collins
Chapter Chair

Sierra Club and SLO Coast Alliance have expressed cautious optimism about a proposal from the Hearst Corp. to preserve at least a sizable portion of the Hearst Ranch but emphasized that many important details need to be revealed and analyzed before it can be deemed acceptable.

On Dec. 4, the Hearst Corp. announced that after its negotiations with The Nature Conservancy for a conservation deal had broken down, it had begun negotiations with the American Land Conservancy (ALC). On that date, the Corporation also presented a broad framework for conservation of the Hearst Ranch that included its agreement not to develop a resort on San Simeon Point. Subsequently, the Santa Lucia Chapter Executive Committee and the Board of Directors of the SLO Coast Alliance (SCA)—a coalition of 32 environmental groups of which the Santa Lucia Chapter is a member—adopted the following position statement in response to the Corporation's announcement:

"The Hearst Ranch is the crown jewel of the central coast. We have fought long and hard for protection of its precious natural, cultural and scenic resources, and welcome a conservation package that will permanently protect its 82,000 acres and provide public access to its 18-mile coastline.

"After reviewing the broad framework for conservation presented by the American Land Conservancy and Hearst Corporation, we are cautiously optimistic, and look forward to scrutinizing the conservation proposal in detail."

After the December announcement, the SCA Board met with representatives of the ALC and the Corporation to communicate our concerns about important details of conservation that have yet to be

revealed. We also noted that we are heartened that our many years of organized opposition to its development plans has resonated with the Corporation.

On Dec. 19, Roger Lyon, the Corporation's attorney, and ALC representative Kara Blakeslee presented the SCA Board with the following updated framework for conservation of the Ranch as proposed by the Corporation:

Hearst Ranch Conservation Framework
(December 2002)

MUTUAL GOALS:

- Protect natural and scenic resources.
- Permanently increase public access west of Highway 1.
- Ensure continued agricultural operations.
- Provide fair compensation for restricting development.

KEY ELEMENTS:

- Eliminate New Resorts: No golf course or resort development at San Simeon Point, no Visitors-Center hotel, no Equestrian Center hotel at Pico Creek and no new areas for resort development would be created.

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Coastal Commission Denies Duke Plant

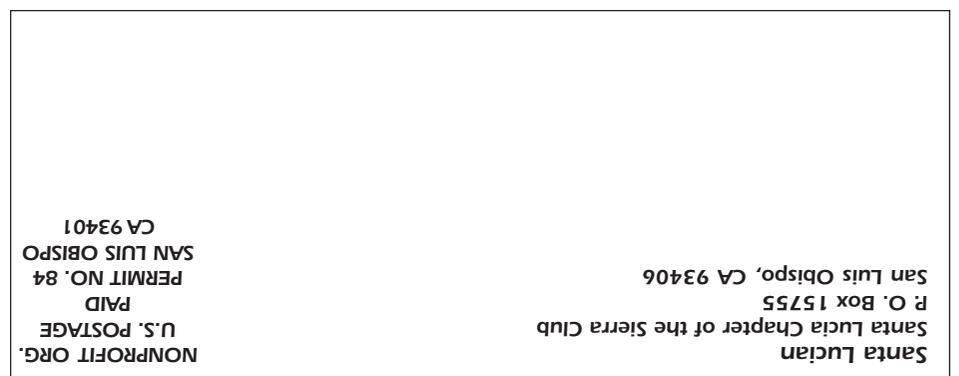
by Jack McCurdy

The California Coastal Commission has voted to oppose licensing of Duke Energy's proposed new power plant in Morro Bay, and now a final decision by the California Energy Commission is drawing near. After more than two years of reviewing the proposed replacement of the 47-year-old plant with a larger one with greater environmental impacts, a two-member committee of the California Energy Commission (CEC) is expected to issue a key preliminary decision in February. A final decision by the CEC would come several months after that, if the review stays on track.

In urging denial of a license for the plant, the Commission on Dec. 12 approved a 60-page staff report that found the plant would violate policies of the Coastal Act, which protect marine life in the Morro Bay National Estuary, an environmentally sensitive habitat area. It recommended dry cooling, which uses large fans to cool generators, thus diverting no water and having no harmful effect on the Estuary. Duke has vowed not to build the plant if dry cooling is required.

Contrary to Duke's claims that it would be "smaller, cleaner, better," the new plant would kill greater numbers of fish in more water pumped from the

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great and small,
needs defense."

—John Muir



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Outings, events, and more!

Join Us at the General Meeting

Find out why the Santa Lucia Chapter and many other environmentalists are working for expansion of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary to protect the San Luis Obispo County's coast. Michelle Roest of the Monterey Bay sanctuary staff along with Chapter Chair Tarren Collins and Executive Committee member Colby Crotzer will explain at the Chapter's General Meeting starting at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 15, at the Meadow Park Recreation Center. Join the dialogue on what promises to be one of the big environmental issues on the Central Coast in 2003. Refreshments will be served.



Executive Committee Election Results

Santa Lucia Chapter voters have elected four candidates to terms on the Executive Committee—two holdovers and two new ones.

Colby Crotzer, a teacher whose term on the Morro Bay City Council ended in early December, and Eliane Guillot, an experienced outdoors and hiking enthusiast, are the new members and were elected to four-year terms.

Winning reelection were Jim Empey, who serves as the Committee's secretary, and Peter Wagner, chair of the Conservation Committee. Wagner was elected to a four-year term and Empey to two-year term.

Crotzer teaches in the San Luis Coastal Unified School District and served two four-year terms on the Morro Bay Council. He is widely known in the environmental community. Guillot has been a Sierra Club member for 14 years and has been a local outing/hike leader since moving to this area in 2001.

Empey teaches advanced placement environmental science at Arroyo Grande High School and is chair of the science department. He will be serving his second term. Wagner, who has an extensive professional background in environmental research, has provided strong leadership of the Conservation Committee, particularly on issues such as proposed modifications of the Diablo Canyon and Duke Energy power plants and their environmental impacts.



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The Executive Committee meets the first Wednesday of every month at 6:00 p.m. at the chapter office. All members are welcome to attend.

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Coastal Commission Chair Election Results

by Tarren Collins
Chapter Chair

Your actions as Sierra Club members made a critical difference last month in winning the battle over election of the Chair of the California Coastal Commission that was waged by pro-development forces to undermine coastal protections and to compromise the independence of the Commissioners.

Although Sara Wan was not reelected—she withdrew before the vote—Mike Reilly was elected unanimously after Wan and other strong environmentalists on the Commission threw their support to him.

Your support for allowing the Commissioners to cast their votes for Chair without outside pressure or directives was very effective. Over a thousand letters, faxes, emails and phone calls were received by Gov. Gray Davis, Senate President John Burton and Assembly Speaker Herb Wesson in response to Action Alerts by the Santa Lucia Chapter and the Sierra Club's Great Coastal Places Campaign.

Our letters and outpouring of support showed Sara Wan how much we appreciate her courage and passion for coastal protection. Our support provided encouragement during the dark hours when she was subjected to efforts by some existing Commissioners to undermine the process that keeps the Commission independent.

In moving remarks at the Commission's Dec. 11 meeting in San Francisco when she announced she was stepping down as Chair and removing herself from consideration for reelection, Wan expressed to me her sincere appreciation for your outpouring of support and asked that her testimony be shared with you.

"It has been my pleasure and honor to have served as Chair, and I hope that I have made some small difference in what matters most, the protection of the coast. I would like to thank all of you who sent in letters of support for me and who have come here today. Your support for me has been overwhelming and leaves me humbled.

"I know that support comes for precisely the same reason that I have spent the last 15 years here at the commission, first as an activist, and then for the last seven years as a Commissioner—fighting to support the Coastal Act. I care most passionately about this coast, and I know that the people of this State do as well.

"This has also told me, in no uncertain terms, who really cares and what this is all about. This is not about me; it is about that which I care most passionately, the coast. I have chosen to support Commissioner Reilly because this program matters so much to me and I feel that he can carry on with a fair and open process.

"Your support also tells me that in my small way I have managed to accomplish things that may make some angry but that may help to protect and preserve this place for future generations. The Coastal Act was created because of a mandate from the people through an initiative, and it is still the strictest environmental law in the country and one we can be proud of.

"This commission has a duty and must have the courage to uphold that law. I believe that we will do just that because we have to, we must. There is too much at stake not to. Upholding the Coastal Act means protecting the resources of the coast. And while it does not mean running rough shod over private property rights it also does not mean making compromises or finding the easy solution.

"It means that when we consider property rights, we consider all such rights, including the property rights of the people who live adjacent to the area to be developed, the property rights of the community and uniquely, under the Coastal Act, the rights and interest of the State, the general public and future generations.

"I might also add, that in addition, there are the rights of all those other living things that we generally assume have no rights. To me they matter and must be considered and protected. This planet is unique in that it is the only planet that we know with certainly has life on it and life is sacred, all life, and man, who has the power to destroy, has as a result, a duty to protect and be a steward for all other life forms.

"This planet is too precious to be allowed to be destroyed if for no other reason that while man is far from endangered right now and is arrogant in his greed, when we have pushed most other life forms into extinction, we too will then be in peril. We must be strong, we must make certain that we leave for the future a planet that will still provide a hospitable place for life and on this commission, we must carry out our mandate—to save the most special place on this unique planet, the coast."

The Commission deadlocked 6-6 twice on whether commissioners Reilly,

Support for Desser Urged

by Jack McCurdy

Sierra Club members are urgently requested to contact Gov. Gray Davis's office and urge him to reappoint Christina Desser to another term on the California Coastal Commission. Desser is known on the Commission as a strong environmentalist who supported the reelection of Sara Wan as its chair. She is considered one of Davis' most effective Commissioners and strongest advocates for protection of California's coast.

The split vote over Wan's reelection revealed a divided Commission, and her presence on the Commission is needed now more than ever. You should call Gov. Davis' offices at 213-897-0322 or 916-445-2841, fax him at 916-445-4633, write to him at State Capitol Building, Sacramento, CA 95814, or e-mail him at governor@governor.ca.gov. Telephone calls, letters and faxes are considered the most effective.

Desser underscored her value as a Commissioner with these words about the role of the Commission at its December meeting:

"It is so interesting to me that people don't understand that the coast of California is besieged all of the time by people who would change it dramatically, and that that is the battle that we are fighting every single day, whether it is during a meeting, or whether it is in between meetings. "And, that is not to say that economic development, and the right to use your property, in a way that benefits ownership, should not also be maintained.

"It is so fascinating to me that the people of California, and the people throughout this country just assume that it is not even an issue, that this body really doesn't need to exist because the coast is safe. And, in fact, that is just not the case.

"So, again, I hope that for members of the media...will keep writing these stories...about the fact that (the coast) is a threatened resource, and like democracy, itself, its protection requires eternal vigilance."

Desser has practiced environmental law, has been a leader in environmental organizing and has served on the boards of numerous environmental organizations. Currently she is director of the Migratory Species Project, an environmental education program linking communities through the migratory species that pass through them.

General Meeting Agenda

One of the biggest environmental issues of 2003 on the Central Coast is certain to be the proposed expansion of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary to encompass San Luis Obispo County's coastal waters. Now's your chance to find out what sanctuary status would mean for our area.

To start off the new year, that will be the topic of the Santa Lucia Chapter's monthly General Meeting, starting at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 15, at the Meadow Park Recreation Center, located on Meadow Street off South Street near Broad.

The program will feature Michele Roest, outreach and education specialist for the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary; Tarren Collins, Chair of the Santa Lucia Chapter, and Colby Crotzer, a new member of the Chapter's Executive Committee, who has been a leading advocate for marine sanctuary status on our coast for years. Michael Osmond of the World Wildlife Fund, which has offered to help fund and organize support for a sanctuary here, has also been invited.

Roest, who is stationed in San Simeon and has bachelor's and master's degrees in biology, will provide an overview of the Monterey sanctuary's 10-year history, its operations and its purpose. One of 13 national sanctuaries, it is the largest, stretching from Marin to Cambria and covers 5,322 miles of ocean. It is home to one of the most diverse marine ecosystems in the world, including 33 species of marine mammals, 94 species of seabirds, 345 species of fishes, and numerous invertebrates and plants.

Collins will discuss the Chapter Executive Committee's support for expansion of either the Channel Island National Marine Sanctuary or Monterey sanctuary to include this county's coast, which was adopted several years ago.

In 1999, Crotzer helped lead an effort to encourage the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary to consider expanding northward to include our coast when that Sanctuary was undergoing a five-year review. Since then, as a member of the Morro Bay City Council, he has been an outspoken opponent of the Council's attempts to work against sanctuary status for the county.

With the support of the Monterey Bay sanctuary's Advisory Council, a stakeholders committee is being organized among residents and grassroots groups to explore sanctuary status for our coast.

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Hearst Ranch

continued from page 1

—Limit Old San Simeon Village to Julia Morgan's Vision: Permanently restrict any plans in Old San Simeon Village to new local and visitor-serving uses, including existing buildings and limited, historically consistent infill buildings inspired by Julia Morgan's recently rediscovered vision, with under 100 rooms.

—Provide Permanent Public Access to Coastline: New public access to include 18 miles of new California Coastal Trail running the length of the property on the West side of scenic Highway 1 and offering permanent public access to the coastline.

—East Side Conservation Agricultural Easement: Preservation of the working natural landscape of the historical agricultural operations which would ensure long-term viability of the ranch, while protecting the natural resources; and

—Reduce Potential Residential Development: Limitation of new owner home sites on the interior of the 82,000-acre Ranch to 27. Currently Hearst has 271 certified lots that would allow for more than 100 home sites. Hearst would agree to limit the number of new home sites to 27 and impose siting and access guidelines to avoid sensitive environmental and cultural resource areas. Hearst will respect existing public views. No new home sites would be located west of Highway 1.

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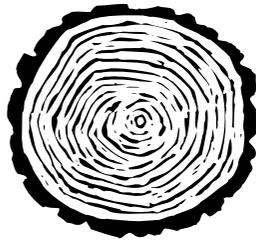
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After reviewing this framework, SCA board said it is encouraged, but cautioned that the public, as the buyer, has a right to know the details before passing judgment on it.

At press time, the Corporation and ALC were still negotiating many details yet to be revealed but had hoped to enter into an option agreement by Dec. 31, 2002, so that the conservation proposal might be considered for funding under provisions of Proposition 50, a \$3.4 billion state bond issue approved last November by California voters, of which \$950 million can be used for the purchase key stretches of land on the coast. But whether that took place was unknown at press time. Stay tuned.





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Peter Douglas Calls for More Active Environmentalism

by Jack McCurdy

The battle to save the environment in California and elsewhere is being lost, says Peter Douglas, executive director of the California Coastal Commission and one of the world's premier environmental leaders. Unless we get tougher, become more aggressive, and mobilize in collaboration with others and other groups, we face "committing social and environmental suicide," he told the second annual Ecosummit at Camp Ocean Pines in Cambria on Dec. 7.

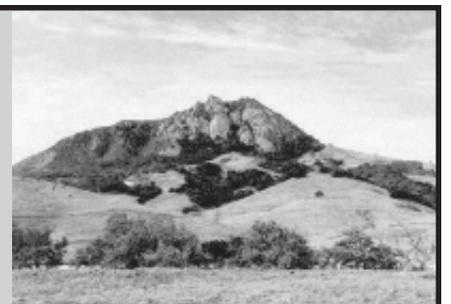
Douglas was blunt and uncompromising in his remarks to the gathering of county-area environmentalists, and coming from him, the message carried force. That's because of his experience and record: he co-authored the 1972 statewide citizens initiative that established the Coastal Commission, was a principal author of the Coastal Act that made permanent California's coastal management program in 1976, has headed the Coastal Commission staff since 1985 and received the first "Champion of the Coast" award at an international symposium on coastal zone management in 1995.

But Douglas emphasized that he was speaking as a private citizen and not in any sense for the Coastal Commission, the Commission staff or anyone else. Douglas said environmentalists are "losing ground" and recited a litany of failings as the reason: Ignorance and apathy ("our greatest enemy"), poor political organization, absence of unity, egos, multiple agendas, individualism, lack of vision, too willing to compromise, no strategic thinking, little participation in local politics ("local politics is where it's at"), fragmentation, lost our ability to talk plain and tough. On the last point, Douglas pointed out that sustainable development is the creation and goal of environmentalists, but developers have countered by promoting property rights. "People have rights, not property," he said. "Now they have come up with the 'taking' of endangered species. They're not being taken anywhere. They're being killed. We've got to take back our own language."

Douglas said environmentalism is handicapped by too much "fragmentation, groups taking on others instead of working together. Environmentalists eat their young." Egos "tend to get in the way of common cause," Douglas said. "I've seen more well-laid plans founder on the rocks of egos." He also mentioned the influence of "American individualism" that works against a "sense of collective well-being" for health care, education, the poor, housing as well as environmental protection. Many environmental activists also "are getting on in age and need to pay the mortgage, which makes them more cautious. Ask yourself, "Am I still willing to take risks?"

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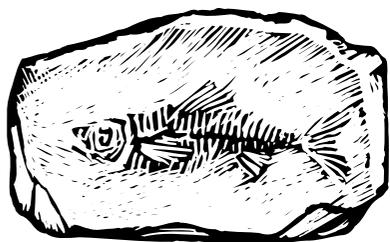
Duke Plant Denied

continued from page 1

Estuary, occupy more land area, increase ground-level concentrations of toxic smokestack emissions and increase the number of smokestacks from three to four, according to regulatory agencies' reports.

The Coastal Commission's recommendation is important because the CEC must concur unless it is deemed infeasible or more harmful to the environment. CEC staff reports have concluded that dry cooling would be feasible at the Morro Bay site and would have much less impact on the environment since it would use no water from the Estuary.

A contingent of residents, composed mostly of Santa Lucia chapter members, appeared before the Commission in San Francisco to support the staff recommendations. Mark Massara, coastal program director for the Sierra Club, spoke for the Chapter, whose Executive Committee has adopted strong recommendations for dry cooling and against use of Estuary water by a new plant. Massara said Duke's proposed plant would "suck the life and water out of one of California's most important estuaries in order to save a few bucks" in construction costs. It is a "clear signal of Duke's willingness to use California, our environment and our economy at every opportunity" for financial gain, he added.



Election Results

continued from page 3

a Sonoma County supervisor, or David Potter, a Monterey County supervisor, would replace Wan, with commissioners appointed by Burton and two by Davis supporting Reilly. But the next day, on Dec. 12, Potter withdrew and Reilly was elected unanimously.

Without the outpouring of support by activists, Potter would have taken the chair instead of Reilly. It was only due to the political pressure brought to bear on the governor that two of his appointees were allowed to vote for Reilly instead of Potter, making the initial votes 6-6. Without the spotlight on the politics involved in this battle, Wesson and the governor could have easily gotten Potter elected on an 8-4 vote.

Housing Committee Formed

by Jack McCurdy

The Chapter's Executive Committee has decided to take an active role in the growing debate over state attempts to force a higher growth rate on cities in San Luis Obispo County. The Executive Committee on Dec. 18 took two important actions by: —Appointing a representative—long-time community planner and environmental activist Richard Schmidt—to the San Luis Obispo City Housing Element Task Force. —Establishing a Santa Lucia Chapter Housing Committee to develop positions on the local growth issue.

The issue primarily is how cities throughout the county should contend with the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) mandate to provide more housing units to accommodate future growth in California. HCD has established a goal of 18,000 new housing units to meet its target for this area's regional housing needs by 2007. The 18,000 units would be allocated among cities and areas of the county according to a formula.

The City of San Luis Obispo would be expected to provide 5,000 to 6,000 of those units over a five-year period, which would

go far beyond its General Plan's current annual growth limit of 1% per year averaged over a three-year period. Accommodating this kind of growth could mean exceeding growth caps, revising land use elements, changing zoning and amending general plans in some cities. But failure to meet the state mandate could result in local governments running afoul of state law and exposing them to lawsuits, according to a report of the San Luis Obispo Council of Governments (SLOCOG). However, complying with the HCD mandate also could produce citizen lawsuits.

The 18,000 units have been accepted by the San Luis Obispo Council of Governments but is being contested by others as being too large. The San Luis Obispo and Arroyo Grande City Councils have voted against it. Another question is where the additional growth should be directed, for example in rural areas such as the Nipomo Mesa or in north county, or within the urban boundaries of existing cities.

Schmidt was strongly recommended by Supervisor Peg Pinard through Carla Sanders, a Sierra Club member, and by Jan Marx, a former member of the San Luis Obispo City Council. A former historian and journalist, Schmidt teaches architecture at Cal Poly. He served for eight years on the San Luis Obispo City Planning Commission and played a major role in the last update of the city's General Plan, including revision of the housing element. He also has helped develop the city's housing element, a creek protection ordinance, and its first mixed-use zoning ordinance.

Conservation Committee Report

by Pete Wagner
Chair, Conservation Committee

Is there going to be a hard look at security protections at the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Plant that is open to public review? It looks bleak.

I attended a meeting convened by the San Luis Obispo County planning staff responsible for an environmental impact analysis of the PG&E proposal to build outdoor concrete and steel storage containers at Diablo for used nuclear fuel. One public speaker after another expressed deep concerns about a potential terrorist strike on the storage facilities. Our first concern is about the unprotected liquid storage pools at the plant.

County staff did not clearly explain how far they will look into the security issue, citing preemption by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). But the NRC has already ruled out a security analysis. The Chapter, as a co-intervener with Mothers for Peace in the regulatory review of PG&E's proposal, is both appealing the NRC decision and urging the County to thoroughly study the issue. But it remains uncertain who, if anyone, will analyze security at Diablo. The Diablo Canyon Independent Safety Committee (DCISC), a state body charged with overseeing the plant's operations, refuses to get involved in the security issue.

The Chapter Executive Committee's position, adopted last September, is that provisions for safeguarding the liquid storage pools from overhead attack should be enacted immediately. One of its six recommendations on the plant stated: At present the liquid storage pools appear to have virtually no protection from an overhead terrorist attack, nor has the FAA answered our inquiry about regulations or advisories covering overflights. The public should be told what measures, if any, are in place. Any shortcomings must be remedied independently of the decision on outdoor storage, because the liquid storage pools will remain in use whether or not the application is approved.

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A Day to Be Thankful

by Jack Beigle

I think it is good for us to have at least one day each year to remind us to be thankful for all of the good things that we enjoy here on the Central Coast. We celebrated Thanksgiving a week early by paddling to the Morro Bay Sand Spit to burn off a few calories and work up a really good appetite for that turkey dinner.

We launched nine boats on a warm, sunny morning, and the bay was as quiet as a millpond. Halfway across the bay the wind picked up from the southwest, creating a short wind chop. It slowed our progress considerably. The wind dropped when we reached the lee of the sand spit where we turned south. With the wind behind us it was easy paddling to lunch.

After beaching our boats we hiked across the open sand sheet toward the ocean side of the spit. We turned south and looked down into a deep, well-vegetated swale that was in vivid contrast to the bare sand sheet that we were standing on. We continued across the spit to the ocean and returned through the vegetated area to see the various dune plants that were still blooming in November. I was pleased to see that there was still water in the well, and the small animals were keeping their trail to it open.

When we returned to our boats we were all ready for lunch, which ranged from a simple peanut butter and jelly sandwich to a complete gourmet lunch. The wind picked up as we ate, but it was at our backs again as we returned to the marina with a clear view of the Morros ahead of us. It was easy paddling home, and it gave us time to give thanks for another enjoyable outing with good friends in our beautiful Central Coast environment. Check our outing schedule and join us on the water.



Proposition 20 Celebrations Scheduled

A coalition of groups including Sierra Club, California Coastal Protection Network, League for Coastal Protection and Natural Resources Defense Council are inviting the public to participate in a celebration of Proposition 20, the Coastal Protection Initiative, passed in 1972 that led to enactment of the California Coastal Act in 1976. The events will feature awards and ceremonies involving many of the key participants of those long-celebrated initial days of coastal protection progress in California.

Two events are scheduled. On Friday, January 24, 2003, you can participate at the Aquarium of the Pacific in Long Beach, at 7:00 pm. Or, on Saturday, February 1, 2003, you can join at the Monterey Bay Aquarium in Monterey, also at 7:00 pm. Both events include speakers and buffet dinner and cost only \$20.

For additional information and reservations, contact Melissa Jones at Sierra Club California at <intern@sierraclub-sac.org>. You can also contact Melissa at (916) 557-1100, ext. 110.

Information provided by Mark Massara in the Sierra Club's CoastWatcher, a publication of Sierra Club's California Coastal Program. CoastWatcher is a monthly Internet magazine covering news of the coast and proceedings of the California Coastal Commission.

Bush Signs Legislation Protecting Federal Land

President Bush on Dec. 19 signed into law Rep. Sam Farr's legislation designating 54,473 acres of federal land on the Central Coast as protected wilderness, which will shield this acreage from any new development.

"I am thrilled we've been able to expand the reach of nature in Monterey and San Benito counties," said Farr, D-Carmel. The legislation, known as the Big Sur Wilderness and Conservation Act of 2002, protects about 34,000 acres in the Ventana Wilderness of the Los Padres National Forest. The remaining 20,000 acres are divided between the Silver Peak Wilderness, southwest of Fort Hunter-Liggett, and at the Pinnacles National Monument Wilderness.

The act authorizes a \$5 million, five-year pilot program to help eradicate non-native and invasive plant species in the Big Sur region, such as pampas grass and French broom. This legislation will also aid in the recovery of endangered animal species in the region, including the California condor.

Douglas Talk

continued from page 4

From outside, environmentalism also is hampered by the high cost of resources to compete in elections, term limits, lack of political leadership, a "shackled and lazy" press, corporate takeover of government, court decisions and misuse of science-based policy, Douglas said. "Politicians seem to think they can't have vision and get elected," he noted. "Some think if people aren't flopping in the streets, there is no environmental emergency." But he said environmentalists can be more effective and urged:

—"Don't let the politics of fear distract us from fighting the war on the environment," citing drilling in national parks, the assault on clean air rules and weakening of clean water protections.

—"Make common cause" with other groups and build alliances to sustain the environmental movement on issues of "human and fundamental rights."

—"Work at capacity building" and sharing resources by "marshaling facts—knowledge and information are the best weapon."

—"Recruit and train new activists and build bridges to other grassroots groups."

—"Find new ways to "get people involved so they know what we are trying to save."

—"Be clear about our mission and stay focused on the environmental agenda."

—"Avoid the "institutionalization of compromise. It's not the job of activist groups to compromise."

Environmentalists need to be radical. We need strong hearts."

—"A "working summit" of environmentalists and organizations to chart a new "magna carta for environmental and human rights."

"The environment is never 'saved,'" Douglas concluded. "We must keep working. Never give up."



Conservation Committee

continued from page 5

A 20-member stakeholders committee is being organized to consider marine sanctuary status for the County coast. Membership is expected to be determined this month. The Executive Committee nominated Conservation Committee members Leslie Krinsk and Ross Pepper. Our position is that southward expansion of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary to include our coast is the only feasible course of action.

We also are presently considering a recommendation by former Executive Committee member Letty French to abstain from participating in the controversy over water management at Lake Nacimiento. Residents of Heritage Ranch and others have filed a lawsuit against the County of Monterey, which has plans to reduce the level of the lake.

Your suggestions on this or any other conservation issue are always welcome.



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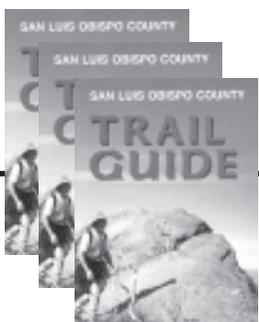
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A Will . . .

. . . is a way to protect the environment as well as yourself. If you do not have a will, the state decides how your property and other affairs are handled. Decisions made now can later provide financial security for family, friends, and the Sierra Club. You may even direct your bequest to a specific Club program or your home Chapter.

For more information and confidential assistance, contact

John Calaway
Sierra Club Planned Giving Program
85 Second Street, 2nd Floor, San Francisco, CA 94105-3441
(415) 977-5538.

Outings and Activities Calendar

All of our hikes and activities are open to all club members and the general public. If you have any suggestions for hikes or outdoor activities, questions about the Chapter's outing policies or would like to be an outings leader, call Outings Leader Gary Felsman (473-3694). For information on a specific outing, please contact the outing leader. Outings Leaders please get your outings or events in by the 10th for the next month's outings.

The **Morro Bay Natural History Association** (772-2694) and the **Nature Conservancy** (343-2455) hold many hikes as well, which are too numerous for us to list. Call for details. All our outings are open to the general public.

Hiking Classifications:

Distance: 1 = 0-2 mi., 2 = 3-5 mi., 3 = 6-9 mi., 4 = 10-12 mi., 5 = 12 mi. or more.

Elevation Gain: A = 500', B = 1000', C = 1500', D = 2000', E = 2500', F = 3000' or more.

Wed., Jan. 1, 9:30 a.m., Mussel Rock Hike. 19th Annual New Year's Day Hike. Start the year off in nature. Meet at end of West Main on the beach. Bring lunch, water, binoculars, inspirational readings. Dogs on a leash permitted. More info: 929-3647

Thurs., Jan. 2, 6 p.m., Sierra Singles and Others Planning Meeting and Dinner. All potential outings leaders are welcome to come out and enjoy good food and company while we plan for the next month's outings. Each month we go to dinner at various places throughout San Luis Obispo County. For more information call Steve, 543-6189.

Sat., Jan. 4, 9 a.m., 42nd Annual Sierra Club Anniversary Dunes Hike at Oso Flaco Lake. Come and take an easy or moderate walk on this 41st annual celebration of our Sierra Club's first official hike in the dunes. There will be hikes for all ages and fitness levels. In the Sierra Club tradition we will remember Kathleen Goddard Jones at the Oso Flaco Lake parking. Car pooling is advised as there is a \$4.00/car parking fee. For details call Jack Beigle, 773-2147.

Sun., Jan. 5, 9:30 a.m., Morro Bay Sandspit Walk. This walk will be about 10 miles round trip to the breakwater and back. Meet at the sandspit parking lot off Pecho Road in Montana de Oro State Park. Bring lunch

and plenty of water. Rain cancels.

Leader Steve, 543-6189. (4A)

Sun., Jan. 5, 9:30 a.m., Dana Adobe: A nature hike around Nipomo's historic landmark. Oak woodland, birding, and riparian habitat. An easy 2-mile hike of 2.5 hours followed by HD Thoreau from the DA veranda. Directions: East on Tefft from #101, south 1 mile on Oakglen to DA sign. Leader Bill, 929-3647, or <bdenneen@slonet.org>

Sun., Jan. 12, 8:00 a.m., Little Falls via Rinconada Trail. This is a chance to explore one of the waterfalls in the area. The hike is approximately 9 miles with 1900 ft. of elevation gain. We will ascend the Rinconada Trail to a saddle where we will enjoy views of the Santa Lucia wilderness. After descending to Hi Mountain Rd., we will connect shortly with the Little Falls Trail and continue the descent to Little Falls, which has a large pool. Bring water, snack or lunch, and appropriate footwear. Dress for the weather. There is possibility of wet stream crossings, poison oak, and ticks. Please note that this is an adventure pass area. Meet at Santa Margarita Beverage Co. in Santa Margarita. Join the leader for a refueling stop at Pozo Saloon following the hike. Rain cancels. For details, call Chuck at 927-3769. (3C)

Sun., Jan. 12, 9:30 a.m., Point Sal Hike. Meet at end of Brown Rd. Bring optional mountain bike for fast ride back down hill. The first 2.5 miles is uphill (1000 ft.). We'll stop a lot going uphill to botanize and solve all the planet's problems. Bring lunch, water, fit dogs that do not chase cattle, and a friend. Confirm just before event with Bill at 929-3647 or <bdenneen@slonet.org>

Sun., Jan. 19, 9 a.m., Valencia Peak Conditioning Hike. This is a 2-hour, 4.5-mile roundtrip hike with over 1200 ft. of elevation gain. Bring water, sturdy hiking shoes, and dress for the weather. Everyone is welcome, but this is a vigorous conditioning hike. It is intended for already fit individuals who want to maintain a high fitness level. It is not for those who want to get into shape, as they will be left behind. Meet at the Montana de Oro Visitor Center. Rain cancels. Leader Al, 534-0462. (3C)

Sun., Jan. 19, 9:30 a.m., Coast Nature Hike. See a remote area of dunes with botanizing, bird watching, and poetry. Confirm and details a few days before. Bill at 929-3647 or <bdenneen@slonet.org>

Sun., Jan. 26, Canoe/Kayak, Lake San Antonio Eagle Watch. Lake San

Antonio is a great winter outing if we can schedule it between the rains. All we need is a little sunshine and we should have another super outing. We have always seen bald and golden eagles, ospreys, pelicans and many other birds on our outings at Lake San Antonio. Dress warmly in layers. Bring your boat and equipment, PFDs, windbreaker, warm clothes, lunch and binoculars. Phone Jack Beigle, 773-2147, for reservation, park fees, and details.

Sun., Jan. 26, 9:30 a.m., Bicycle Nature Tour: Meet east side of parking lot at Pismo Pier, ride to Avila Pier via Bob Jones Pathway, and return by Pirates Cove with many nature stops and solving of world problems on the way. Must wear helmet. Confirm a few days before: Bill, 929-3647, or <bdenneen@slonet.org>

Sun., Jan. 26, 2 p.m., Cambria East West Ridge Trail. Meet at the Moonstone Beach Antiques shop off Route 1-last exit for Cambria. Go left at the light and then immediately right. Explore a new trail through meadows and a wooded area and return along the open bluff overlooking the ocean with one-of-a-kind benches. Take camera and windbreaker- About 1.5 hrs. Optional dinner in Cambria afterwards. Rain cancels. Call Eliane at 784-0532.

Sat., Feb. 1, 8:45 a.m., Oats Peak-Coon Creek Loop: Hike from Spooner's Cove Ranger Station along gradually ascending open ridge to lunch at Oats Peak. After lunch, we'll descend along a spur ridge through a canopy of oak woods through Coon Creek valley to the ocean. Loop may be finished by Bluff trail or roadway back to the Ranger Station (9 miles RT with 1500 ft. elevation gain). Meet 8:45 a.m. in Santa Maria at the North SB County Government Center's easternmost parking lot. Rain cancels. San Luis Obispo residents call for meeting time and place. Hikes are subject to change so always contact the leader. Jerry at 928-3598. (AR)

Sun., Feb. 2, 9:30 a.m., Kayak Oso Flaco Lake: Meet at lake with kayak, PFD, and mechanism to move kayak to lake. Bring binoculars for bird watching. Confirm 929-3647 or <bdenneen@slonet.org>

Thurs., Feb. 6, 6 p.m., Sierra Singles and Others Planning Meeting and Dinner. All potential outings leaders are welcome to come out and enjoy good food and company while we plan for the next month's outings. Each month we go to dinner at various places throughout San Luis Obispo



Photo by Joaquin Palting

County. For more information call Steve, 543-6189.

Sat., Feb. 8, 8 a.m., Santa Margarita Lake: See native oaks and wild roses as we hike the Blinn Ranch Trail to Sapwi Camp on the north side of the lake (9.2 miles RT, 600 ft. elevation gain). Bring lunch and plenty of water. Meet at 8 a.m. in front of the Pizza Hut in Lompoc. Hikes change, always contact the leader. San Luis Obispo residents call for meeting time and place. Connie, 735-2292. (AR)

Sun., Feb. 9, 9:30 a.m., Bicycle Guadalupe to Ocean: Meet at Dune Centre Parking lot with bike and helmet. An easy, educational tour of Guadalupe and then to ocean. Confirm a few days before at 929-3647 or <bdenneen@slonet.org>

Sun., Feb. 9, 10 a.m., Birding in Morro Bay. We will tour the back bay to see how many shore birds we can find. Bring your boat and equipment, PFD, windbreaker, bird book, binoculars and a picnic lunch. Meet at the Morro Bay State Park Marina.

Sat., Feb. 22, 7:30 a.m., Tentative Hike Lion Den or Bust. Come explore the Cruickshank Trail Bottom to top and back in the beautiful Silver Peak Wilderness. This is a 13-mile, 3000 ft. elevation gain and loss along the Big Sur Coastline. We will see great views of the coast range, redwoods, Sergeant Cypress and lots more as we hike this beautiful trail. This is a strenuous hike, and I can guarantee we will climb over a few trees, there will be some poison oak, and of course our friend the tick. Bring lunch, water, sturdy hiking shoes, and dress for the weather. Meet at Spencer's Market in Morro Bay and don't be late for this all-day hike. Dinner in Cambria after for those interested. Cambria residents call for meeting place and time. Details call Gary at 473-3694. (5F)