



SIERRA
CLUB

Nov/Dec 2004
Volume 41, No. 10

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Fill out a postcard to save the Roadless Rule and our last remaining wilderness! Send by Nov 15!

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GENERAL MEETING

The Channel Islands Experience!
-- see page 2

November 16 @ 7:00 pm

No General Meeting in December. Happy Holidays!



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SANTA LUCIAN

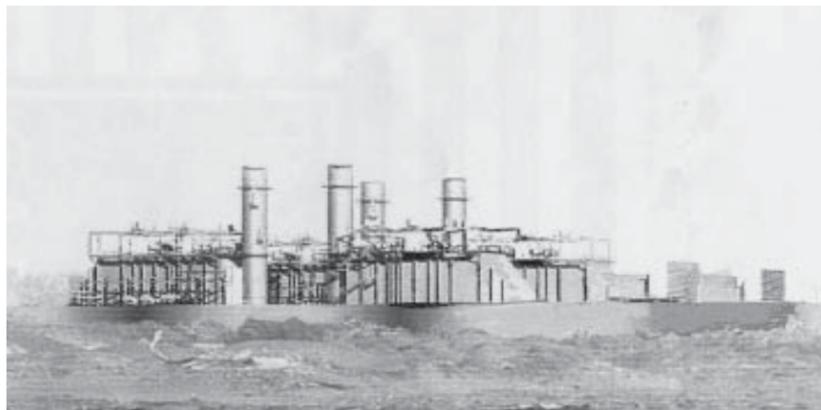


Protecting and
Preserving the
Central Coast

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

Fight the Power

Judgment Day Coming for Duke and the Morro Bay Estuary



The future is not yet written: We can stop another destructive power plant on Morro Bay.

by Jack McCurdy

Five years after Duke Energy unveiled its plans to replace the aging Morro Bay power plant with a new, larger and more environmentally damaging facility, the final decision in the state regulatory process has been set for December 2.

What's at stake: The future of the Morro Bay National Estuary, which would see up to one-third of its fish and crab larvae destroyed annually for the next 50 years if the new gas-fired plant wins approval (see "Stand Up for the Estuary," page 3).

Duke proposes to build a new plant next to the existing plant, erected in the 1950s, which would take about two years, and then remove the old plant, which would take about three years. Duke estimates the total cost at about \$800 million.

The December 2 decision follows the California Energy Commission's August 2 vote to license the proposed plant. The Water Board must now weigh the approval of a water discharge permit.

But while the CEC appeared to have its mind made up to approve the project design despite the assured destruction of billions of larvae and an evidentiary record that contradicted its decision (according to the CEC staff and the Coastal Alliance on Plant Expansion), at least some members of the Water Board have indicated they may not be sold on Duke's plan.

Neither were the California Coastal Commission, the California Department of Fish and Game and the National Marine Fisheries Service, all of which opposed use of water from the Estuary for cooling and supported

closed-cycle dry cooling, which uses no sea water. The board will be faced with reconciling Duke's project with requirements under new Environmental Protection Agency regulations for existing plants like the one in Morro Bay, particularly with respect to performance standards and monitoring of any mitigation programs aimed at offsetting the killing of marine life. It will be a new test of the EPA regulations, which were finalized only a few months ago.

Stupid Feasibility Tricks

There is no dispute over Duke's right to build a new plant on its 103 acres at water's edge in Morro Bay. Duke insists it must use once-through cooling, withdrawing water from the Estuary and discharging next to Morro Rock in Estero Bay. It has vowed not to build if dry cooling is the only cooling option it is given by regulators. Dry cooling, a form of closed-cycle cooling, employs a large bank of fans that use the sea air to cool fresh water recycled within the plant.

Duke and the CEC argue dry cooling is not feasible on the 20-acre site that Duke wants to use for the new plant because the dry cooling units would be too large. The CEC

continued on page 3

VOTE VOTE VOTE VOTE VOTE



There's
ANOTHER
Election
Happening

Your ballot for our Chapter's election for the Executive Committee is on page 4 of this newsletter. Express yourself; vote for the candidates whom you think are most capable of governing the Santa Lucia Chapter of the Sierra Club. Cut out your ballot, vote, and send it in to the chapter office. Do it today! Your vote must be received at the Chapter office by December 6.

For this election, the two candidates who receive the most votes will be elected to three-year terms. The next two candidates (receiving the 3rd and 4th highest number of votes) will be elected to two-year terms. This action will effectively stagger terms of office so some terms on the ExCom will expire each year. Starting with the November 2005 election, all candidates will be elected to three-year terms as decided in the new 2001 Bylaws.

IMPORTANT VOTING INFORMATION

- Mark your ballots for no more than 4 candidates.
- Cumulative voting is not allowed. (More than one vote for one individual)
- Vote only one ballot per member. A second ballot is included for two-member households.
- Deadline for receiving ballots is by 5:00 pm on 6 December 2004 at the Chapter office.
- Enclose your ballot in an envelope and print your name and Sierra Club member number on the envelope. Sign your name across the flap of the envelope. Thus:

Printed Name
Membership Number
Signature

Mail to: Santa Lucia Chapter Elections Committee, P.O. Box 15755, San Luis Obispo, CA 93406. Or you may drop it by the office at 1204 Nipomo St. between 10:00 am and 4:00 pm

Your membership will be verified, then the ballot removed and separated from the envelope.

ballot on page 4

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Santa Lucia Chapter of the Sierra Club
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San Luis Obispo, CA 93406

"Every good thing,
great and small,
needs defense."

—John Muir



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Cardholder Name _____

Card Number _____

Membership Categories INDIVIDUAL JOINT

INTRODUCTORY \$25

REGULAR \$39 \$47

Contributions, gifts and dues to the Sierra Club are not tax deductible; they support our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$7.50 for a subscription to Sierra magazine and \$1.00 for your Chapter newsletter.



SIERRA CLUB
FOUNDED 1892

F94Q W2500 1
Enclose check and mail to:
Sierra Club
P.O. Box 52968
Boulder, CO 80322-2968

Change of Address?

Mail changes to:

Sierra Club National Headquarters
85 Second Street, 2nd Floor
San Francisco, CA 94105-3441

or e-mail:
address.changes@sierraclub.org



Visit us on
the Web!

www.santalucia.
sierraclub.org

Outings, events, and
more!

Santa Lucia Chapter General Meeting

The Channel Islands
--a wonderful place for all to visit



Lying off the coast from Santa Barbara to south of Los Angeles, the string of eight Channel Islands has a powerful pull upon mainland observers. Sometimes they appear float above the water, sometimes they vanish in the fog, and on clear days they appear close enough to touch. Visit them, you'll be on "island time."

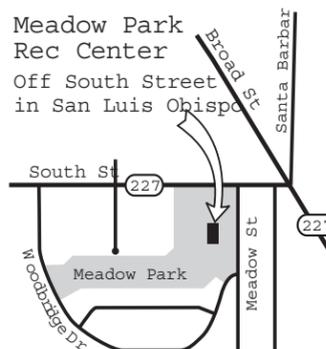
Because of their isolation, they maintain a plethora of endemic and endangered species and offer shelter to marine animals. However, many years of human influence have left their mark and introduced many changes. This program is about the northern Channel Islands. Courtesy of the Los Padres Chapter archives, we sail from Ventura to Anacapa Island, Santa Cruz Island, Santa Rosa Island, and San Miguel Island, with slides covering more than 50 years of exploration — an interpretive exploration of flora and fauna, geology, ranching history and research on and around the islands.

Our speaker, Rick Skillin, is Reserve Steward for the UC Sedgewick Natural Reserve in the Santa Ynez Valley. He is also chair of the Los Padres Chapter and active in the Great Coastal Places Campaign.

Sierra Club members, friends, and the general public are invited. Refreshments will be served.

Tuesday, Nov. 16, 7:00 p.m.
Meadow Park Rec Center
San Luis Obispo

Save the date!!



HopeDance

Coming in November and December

Hopedance Media, ("changing the world, one documentary at a time"), has an election-eve special double feature planned in SLO: *The Passion and Faith of George W.* and *The Hunting of the President*, the story of the plot to bring down the Clinton presidency. (Tentative).

If you missed it the first time in played SLO – or even if you didn't – be sure to catch it



now: *The Corporation* is coming back.

Also back by popular demand: *The End Of Suburbia: Oil Depletion And The Collapse Of The American Dream*.

All films are shown at the San Luis Obispo Library, Osos & Palm. Donations graciously accepted. Check www.hopedance.org or call 544-9663 for dates and times.

SANTA LUCIAN

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EDITORIAL ASST/LAYOUT

The *Santa Lucian* is published 10 times a year. Articles, environmental information and letters to the editor are welcome. The deadline for each issue is the 1st of the month prior.

Editor, *Santa Lucian*
c/o Santa Lucia Chapter of the Sierra Club
P.O. Box 15755
San Luis Obispo, CA 93406.
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Corrections: The Chapter does not yet have a formal Group in Paso Robles ("Chapter Kicks Off 20/2000 Campaign," September.

Santa Lucia Chapter

2004 Executive Committee

Tarren Collins tlclaw@fix.net
CHAIR

VICE CHAIR

Steven Marx
MEMBER

Eliane Guillot gelgu2003@yahoo.com
MEMBER

Sarah Christie
MEMBER

Tim O'Keefe okeefe@calpoly.edu
MEMBER

The Executive Committee meets the fourth Friday of every month at 5:00 p.m. at the chapter office, located at 1204 Nipomo St., San Luis Obispo. All members are welcome to attend.

Steven Marx
TREASURER

John Burdett 805-544-7302
COUNCIL DELEGATE

Cambria Task Force

Jack Morrow jlmorrow@earthlink.net

Dalidio/Marketplace Task Force

Jan Marx janmarx@fix.net

Standing Committees

Political

Sarah Christie

Conservation

Membership ccfrench@tcsn.net
Cal French

Acting Program Chair

Letty French lmfrench@tcsn.net

Housing

Jan Marx janmarx@fix.net

Other Leaders

Speakers Bureau 805-781-9466
Ira Winn

Open Space 805-473-3694
Gary Felsman

Book Sales 805-543-7051
Bonnie Walters

Chapter History 805-543-2229
Jan Clucas

Publicity

Position open

Office Manager

Position open

Activities

Outings

Eliane Guillot gelgu2003@yahoo.com
Gary Felsman 805-473-3694

Canoe/Kayak jbeigle@charter.net
Jack Beigle 805-773-2147

Equestrian bdenneen@slonet.org
Bill Denneen 805-929-3647

General Information

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

Chapter Coordinator

santa.lucia.chapter@sierraclub.org
Andrew Christie 805-543-8717
Fax 805-543-8727

Chapter office hours are Monday-Friday, 10 am-2 pm

1204 Nipomo St., San Luis Obispo, CA

www.santalucia.sierraclub.org

BALLOT**Santa Lucia Chapter Elections November 2004**

Households with two members may return their ballots in the same envelope.

You must write your Sierra Club membership number(s) on the envelope. Do not write a membership number the ballot.

Households with more than two members may make duplicate ballots.

Mark an "X" in the box next to the candidate's name. Vote for no more than 4.

Order drawn by lot:

- | | |
|----------------|--------------------------|
| Sarah Christie | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Susan Harvey | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Karen Merriam | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Jack Morrow | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Larry Houlgate | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| John Burdett | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Do not write your name on this ballot. Put ballot in envelope, print your name and Sierra Club membership number on the envelope. Return to:

Elections Committee
Santa Lucia Chapter
P.O. Box 15755
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

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This ballot is for the second member of a two-member household

BALLOT**Santa Lucia Chapter Elections November 2004**

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Mark an "X" in the box next to the candidate's name. Vote for no more than 4.

Order drawn by lot:

- | | |
|----------------|--------------------------|
| Sarah Christie | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Susan Harvey | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Karen Merriam | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Jack Morrow | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Larry Houlgate | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| John Burdett | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Do not write your name on this ballot. Put ballot in envelope, print your name and Sierra Club membership number on the envelope. Return to:

Elections Committee
Santa Lucia Chapter
P.O. Box 15755
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

This ballot may be reproduced

Candidate Statements

Name: John Burdett
Occupation: Computer Systems Analyst, Cal Poly
Residence: San Luis Obispo

I have lived in San Luis Obispo since 1952 and have worked at the Cal Poly Computer Center since 1980. A Sierra Club member since 1964 (I was signed up by my parents as a junior member at age 12), I am a second generation Sierra Club leader.

I have served as Chapter secretary (1981,1989-1992), Chapter Chair (1982-1983), Council Delegate (1983-1987,1991-2004), Council Delegate alternate (1988-1990), as a Chapter delegate to the Southern California/Nevada Regional Conservation Committee (SCNRCC) (1984-2004), SCNRCC Coastal Committee Chair (1985-1986), and SCNRCC Treasurer (1993-1994). I received the Sierra Club California Founders award in 1999. My interests are photography, hiking, backpacking, geology, and astronomy.



Name: Sarah Christie
Occupation: Legislative Coordinator, California Coastal Commission
Residence: Creston, Sacramento

Residence: Creston, Sacramento

I am running for re-election to the Santa Lucia Executive Committee because I am proud to be a part of one of the most active and effective Sierra Club chapters in the state. As Chair of the chapter's Political Committee, I am honored to work with a diverse group of activists and community volunteers who see the value of applying environmental values into electoral politics.

Although we are one of the smallest chapters in terms of membership, we are one of the most active and well respected statewide. By building effective networks with Sierra Club California and the National Sierra Club, the Santa Lucia Chapter has been able to leverage resources and establish credibility far beyond our numbers. We have joined Mothers for Peace in a lawsuit challenging the safety conditions at Diablo Canyon. We have sued State Parks in an effort to uphold the Endangered Species Act at Oceano Dunes. We have helped fund the acquisition of blue oak habitat in Atascadero. We have partnered with the Chumash to protect Native American cultural sites. We have supported CAPE's miraculous challenge to the expansion of the Morro Bay Power Plant. And we have a long and successful history of opposing the Hearst Corporation's various schemes to develop San Simeon Point and the North Coast.



Name: Susan Harvey
Occupation: Business Owner, Infinite Functions, Inc.
Residence: SLO County near Paso Robles

I am a founding member and current President of PasoWatch, a 503c non-profit corporation, formed to monitor land use and environmental issues in the Paso Robles area.

PasoWatch, in partnership with the Environmental Defense Center, sued SLO County under CEQA for issuing a Negative Declaration for David Weyrich's 800+ acres Santa Ysabel Development. PasoWatch is assisting the Atascadero Land Preservation Society in the acquisition of oak habitat adjacent to Stadium Park in Atascadero with Oak Mitigation Funds received from Weyrich Development as a result of the suit.

I was a candidate for the Board of Supervisors in District 1 in March 2004. I am particularly concerned about land use and planning issues and their impact on the environment. I have spoken before local, county, state and federal agencies on land use, environmental, safety and habitat issues. As a representative for PasoWatch, I was a strong proponent for including important biological, access, and oversight improvements in the Hearst Ranch Conservation Plan.

I am pleased to serve on the Chapter's Political Committee with a group of dedicated and well-informed activists. In serving on the ExCom, I wish to participate in this Chapter's strong commitment to activism for the benefit of our community and the worldwide protection of our environment.

My family and I have been residents of the County since 1975.

Name: Larry Houlgate
Occupation: n/a
Residence: n/a

I would like to serve on the Santa Lucia chapter ExCom. I am a long-time member of the Sierra Club, have participated in many of the Club's national outings, and strongly support the Club's attempt to oust George W. Bush from the presidency.

There are two kinds of environmentalists - (1) those who believe that the environment is a means to the promotion of animal physical and emotional health and (2) those who believe that preservation of the environment is an end in itself. I am the former kind of environmentalist. Therefore, I believe that preservation of healthy air, water and sufficient open space for growing crops for human consumption and provision of food and habitat (wilderness) for non-human animals is our first obligation.

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Candidates

continued from page 4

I have been a two-time candidate for the California State Assembly, past co-chair of the Democratic Central Committee, and chair of the 33rd District Democratic Assembly Committee. I should make it known that in my last campaign for State Assembly, I was not endorsed by the Santa Lucia chapter though I supported the entire Sierra Club political agenda. My opponent, Abel Maldonado, had an anti-environment voting record. The reason for my non-endorsement was I supported the state plan to increase housing opportunities for low- and moderate-income people in San Luis Obispo I stand by that position. The rich are benefiting from growth restrictions now in place, enjoying nice views mountain and ocean views. I favor an alternative model, one that allows for affordable housing but also protects clean air, safe water, and ample habitat for wildlife.



Name: Jack Morrow
Occupation: Retired chairman, Media Golden West, Inc.
Residence: Cambria

I would be willing to serve as Secretary for the Santa Lucia Chapter ExCom which I understand has been an open position for some time.

I served on the Executive Committee of the Long Beach Group (4500 members) for several years, holding positions of Membership Chair & Secretary/Treasurer. I also represented the L.B. Group on the Chapter Forest Task Force and helped organize the Long Beach Inner City Outings program. In Cambria, I am co-leader of the Sierra Club Task Force to organize a program for water issues (desalinization, etc.). I am also on the board of directors of the East/West Ranch nature preserve in Cambria and serve as a docent for the Museum of Natural History in Morro Bay. I have led many Sierra Club outings in and out of state. My hobbies are hiking, camping, music, and writing, with my first novel soon to be published. I retired from my own business as Chairman of Media Golden West, Inc., a publishing and printing company.



Name: Karen Merriam
Occupation: Clinical Social Worker
Residence: San Luis Obispo

It's a great pleasure to offer my name in nomination for a position on the Chapter's Executive Committee. When I was new to the area in the early 1990's I joined the Santa Lucia Chapter in an effort to meet kindred spirits who treasure our environment, and to learn the trails into our beautiful wild places. I wasn't disappointed. I soon became a hike leader, and then, in 1995,

became a member of the ExCom. I served for two terms (four years) on the ExCom, much of the time as Secretary. I helped to establish a local office and staff for the Chapter, moving some of our work from living room floors to desks and shared spaces.

Because of my work as a K-9 Search & Rescue volunteer, my participation in Chapter activities decreased in the late 90's. However, my search dog "Babe" and I have retired from those responsibilities. I now volunteer for Hospice of San Luis Obispo County's Community Crisis Response Program, have just finished writing a book, and Babe naps.

The Sierra Club plays a key role in advocating for the public's environmental interests throughout our Chapter area and is committed to protecting and preserving our natural heritage, from the Dunes to the Morros to Machesna Mt. to San Simeon. My special interest in serving the Chapter is to help coordinate and bridge our Chapter activities with other local groups who share our interests and commitments.

This is a time when we must work together closely to achieve our common goals. Thank you for voting and for supporting your Chapter.

Help Plan Sierra Summit 2005



For those who plan a year in advance, pencil in September 8-11, 2005, when the Sierra Club will hold its first-ever national environmental convention and exposition in San Francisco.

Sierra Summit 2005 will bring together thousands of Club members and supporters and will feature three days of personal inspiration, networking, top keynote speakers, workshops packed with visionary ideas and practical how-to's, star-studded entertainment, and an exhibition hall of cutting-edge products and solutions for living well and caring well for our environment.

The summit steering committee is seeking ideas and volunteers. Got suggestions? Go to: www.sierraclub.org/sierrasummit.

Taking the Fall at Diablo Canyon



*Now how much would you pay?
Don't answer yet ...*

by Andrew Christie

At 10:15 a.m. on Tuesday, September 28, 2004, the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Plant site was shaken by a 6.0 magnitude earthquake.

It happened less than a week after a California Public Utilities Commission judge refused to allow testimony filed on behalf of citizen, consumer and environmental advocates on the risks of continuing operation of a nuclear plant located 2 1/2 miles from a major active earthquake fault.

The CPUC was in the process of determining whether it is in the best interest of PG&E ratepayers to replace the steam generators at the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Plant. This item was presented to the PUC by Pacific Gas & Electric with an estimated price tag of \$706 million. Chump change. In terms of the real costs of this action, which would extend the operating life of the Diablo Canyon plant by twelve years, the fine print was so fine, it was invisible.

The San Luis Obispo Mothers for Peace, Sierra Club, Public Citizen, Environment California, and Greenpeace contend the costs of replacement of expensive aging components will boost the price tag considerably. The utility has previously dinged ratepayers for \$4 billion in cost overruns at Diablo Canyon. If PG&E had been as candid in its application as it was in its 2nd quarter financial report, wherein it notes that "the operation of the Diablo Canyon nuclear power plant ... exposes the utility to potentially significant environmental and capital expenditure outlays," it would have had to ask PUC - and you - for some serious money; an amount so awesome in scope, none dare contemplate the possible number of zeroes that would have to be written in front of that decimal point. So the Public Utilities Commission has declined to contemplate it.

PG&E's application was rather lengthy, but with all the big words removed and a shot of truth serum injected, it would go like this: "Unlike the cost/benefit analysis performed for an entire project that is standard procedure for every other type of power generator that applies to the Commission, and absent a comparison of those full costs to the full costs of alternative energy sources, please consider only the

cost of replacing this single component. Do not look at the vast additional, extended operating costs we both know this action will trigger and the fact that as the plant ages it will only become more expensive to keep it running. We know that in asking you to approve this, we are asking you to engage in 'piece-mealing,' which is illegal under the California Environmental Quality Act, but we both know that we've got what you want, so let it slide."

What nuclear plant operators want from the PUC, nuclear plant operators get, especially since the energy crisis. For fear of being considered (no joke) "pro-blackout," the Commission majority has bowed low before the glow of the atomic pile, used your money to over-buy all the generating power they can get their hands on at any price, and stopped their ears with wax. This is necessary to avoid hearing unpleasant things. Things like the embrittlement and certain failure of the many other expensive plant components that will need to be replaced if new generators keep Diablo Canyon tottering along 12 years past the end of its designated life span; the additional operating costs stemming from the rejection of the proposed consent judgment with the State over EPA regulations violated by the plant's thermal discharge; and the costs of operating a long-term, ever-expanding high-level nuclear waste dump on the Central Coast - which, with the collapse of the proposed Yucca Mountain federal repository site plan, this now unquestionably is.

And then there's the cost of PG&E guessing wrong (again) on seismic hazards. "Ratepayers have an interest in avoiding nuclear accidents," says Rochelle Becker of the Mothers for Peace. "PG&E cannot guarantee that a larger earthquake won't result in a leak or some other disaster. It's time to start planning for safer and more cost effective electric generation than Diablo can provide." Becker noted that the danger goes far beyond the community of San Luis Obispo. "It is important to remember that the radioactive cloud from Chernobyl traveled over 6,000 miles. No one is exempt from this nuclear nightmare."

"By refusing to consider seismic issues or alternatives to Diablo, the

continued on page 7

Hearst Ranch: What Now?

The September 15 meeting of the State Coastal Conservancy on funding the Hearst Ranch Conservation Plan was essentially the end of the public review process for this controversial deal. In the lead-up to the vote, California Coastal Commission staff, the state Legislative Analyst's Office, the Environmental Defense Center and the Nature Conservancy provided thorough independent analysis of the deal, pointing up the critical deficiencies in the plan's terms of conservation, enforcement, and public access. More than thirty other local, state and national groups, the chair of the Joint Legislative Budget Committee, nine state legislators, the *San Jose Mercury News*, the *Sacramento Bee*, and eventually even the *Tribune* joined in the call for improvements in the terms of the conservation easement. The Sierra Club's Great Coastal Places Campaign coordinated the mailing and delivery of 2,000 postcards and letters to the governor and state agencies calling for the same.

But in the end, the Hearst Corporation received much — self-auditing; no direct state oversight; no Coastal Trail at San Simeon Point, Ragged Point or Pico Cove; the right to extract and sell water without a water budget, etc. — and the public got little (see the September 20, 2004, *New York Times*: "Hearst Land Settlement Leaves Bitter Feelings," www.nytimes.com/2004/09/20/national/20hearst.html). Adding in tax benefits and the profits from intensified agriculture, a hotel at Old San Simeon Village and the likely future sale of some or all of the permitted 27 luxury homes and homesites, Hearst will probably realize upwards of \$500 million in value from the deal.

virtually rushed the podium to successfully slap down one agency amendment after another and insist their client get everything it wanted and nothing it didn't — was a saddening sight. For the improvements that were achieved in a hostile climate, the Santa Lucia Chapter of the Sierra Club would like to thank every resident of San Luis Obispo and the state of California who sent a postcard to a state agency when we asked you to, made a phone call to the governor, came out to a hearing, testified, donated, or otherwise participated in the effort to help transform a bad deal into a good one.

That effort will continue. Like a greedy man gulping down vast quantities of food and drink without a thought to the condition of his head and stomach the next day, Hearst actually may have won too much for its own good. The laxity and loopholes the corporation demanded in the easement assures Hearst a rocky regulatory road when it moves to secure the easement's promises of development and resource extraction, but must prove its promises of wildlife and habitat conservation. Those promises will have to be measured against real standards, and tested in the land use permitting process. We'll be there.

Preserve Your Access to Hearst Ranch!

If you've ever hiked on the stretch of coast owned by the Hearst Corporation, you can be a vital part of the effort to preserve full public use of coastal trails and beaches, including San Simeon Point, Ragged Point, and Pico Cove, in a way that continues to preserve the natural resources of these areas. The public has used these trails and beaches for decades. Under

California law, public rights to use the beach, trails, and other areas of coastal lands used by the public may be protected by the courts. To establish permanent legal rights to use these areas, it must be shown that the general public has made extensive open use of the land.

You can help legally preserve the public's right to continue to access these wonderful areas:

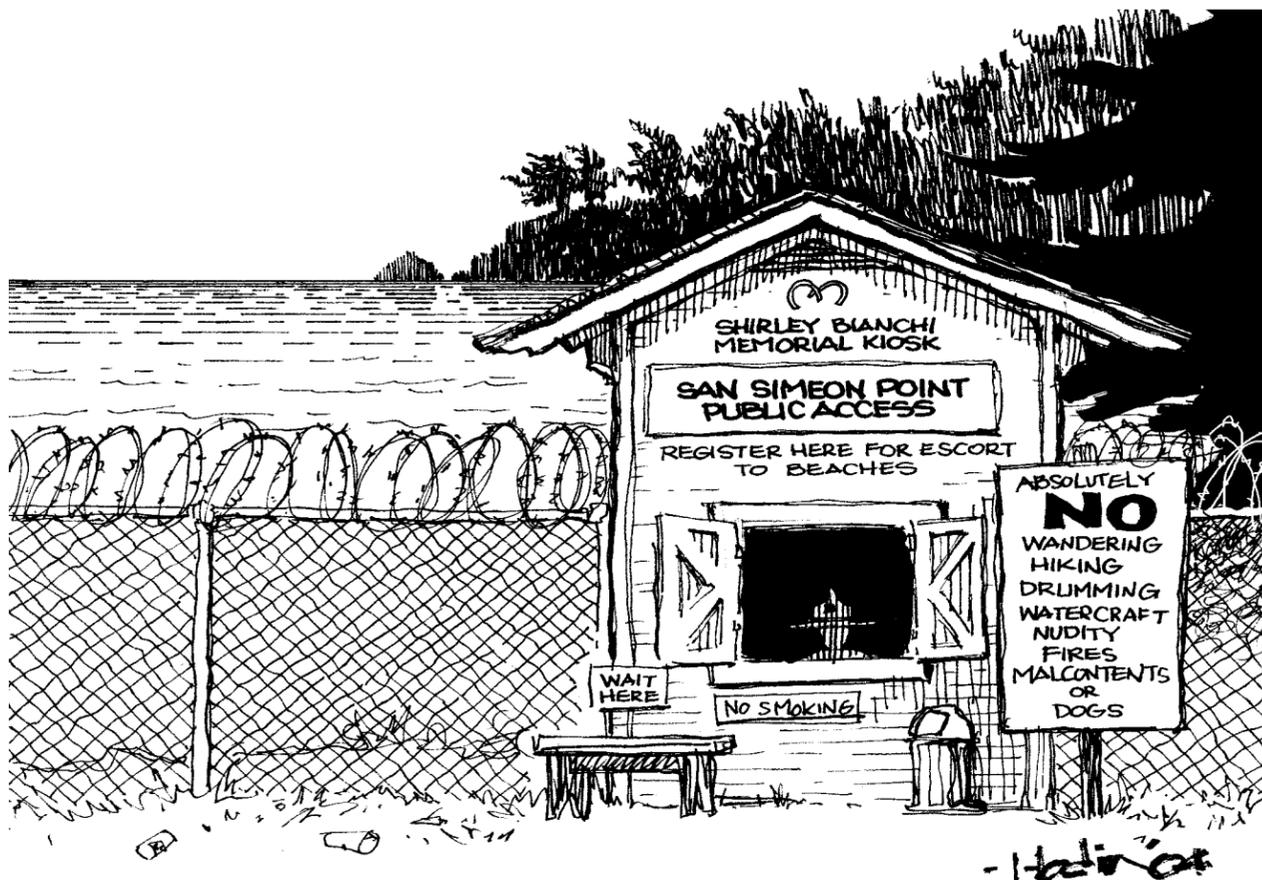
1. Point your browser to www.santalucia.sierraclub.org/hearst/hearst.html
2. Click on the links to "declaration" and "maps"
3. Print, fill out and sign the declaration and maps
4. Fax and/or mail them to the Environmental Defense Center:

Environmental Defense Center
906 Garden Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
FAX (805) 962-3152

Ask your friends and fellow users of these properties to complete and send in the declaration to the

EDC The more they have, from various users, the better their chances of success.

You can also help by providing photographs, slides, news and magazine clippings, travel guides, or other evidence depicting or mentioning use of these trails by members of the public over the years.



Russell Hodin

Public pressure and grassroots lobbying were responsible for what improvements did get made. Under that pressure, the State Coastal Conservancy and the Wildlife Conservation Board made approval of public funding for the conservation easement contingent upon review and approval of a Baseline Conditions Report and Monitoring Protocol by WCB staff and the Department of Fish and Game; the resolution of concerns in the application of viewshed protection standards for all structures (not just homes) that could impair the viewshed as seen from Highway One or Hearst Castle; clarification that Highway One viewshed protections apply to the alignment of Highway One as it exists at the time of establishing each owner homesite parcel; and incorporation of standards within the Monitoring Protocol to guide the California Rangeland Trust's determination regarding when there has been "impairment" of Conservation Values as defined in the East Side Conservation Easement.

State Parks won the authority to establish access-serving facilities west of Highway One, and hours of permitted public use on that land were extended beyond the half-hour before sunrise/half-hour before sunset closures in the plan's original draft. The restriction of 100 people a day to be permitted on San Simeon Point was defined as a number over and above the guests at Hearst's 100-room hotel to be built at Old San Simeon Village.

All this was achieved despite heavy pressure from hopelessly compromised local politicians and their allies who signed off on Hearst's vague, one-page framework two years ago and bought into Hearst's effective p.r. campaign to just do the deal, no questions asked. The political strong-arming and railroading necessary to get the unprecedented control, leeway and loopholes the corporation demanded — never more nakedly apparent than at the climax of the September 15 hearing, as corporate attorneys



Unsupervised existence on San Simeon Point

Sprawl I Want for Christmas

SLO Supervisors Tossing Holiday Gifts to Developers



Last August, *Newsweek* columnist Anna Quindlen wrote that concerns about drilling for oil in Alaska or global warming may resonate on the national political stage, but “if you asked many Americans what is most devaluing the quality of their lives, I suspect the answer would be that their surroundings look like Monopoly boards at the very end of a hectic game.”

Since the beginning of September, the San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors has been setting up that game board. They have approved quadrupling the development potential on agricultural lands by “re-interpreting” the ag cluster ordinance, brushed aside protections for endangered species and any plan for habitat conservation in the update of the Estero area plan, and moved closer to approval of the rural planned development ordinance, a subdivision scheme that guarantees the development of otherwise unbuildable parcels and increases residential development in rural areas (see “How to Fix It,” right, and “The Land Use Plan from Hell,” September issue).

The board has been in such a rush to lock in development at any cost before the coming of the new year and a potential shift in the growth-crazed board majority, it ignored the advice of its own attorney and violated the county’s general plan in order to accommodate developers seeking to make the Ag Cluster ordinance into a tool for even more sprawl.

San Luis Obispo is thus poised to become part of the national malaise. “In state after state, town after town,” Quindlen writes, “developers, and the officials who have given them a pass...have made their mandate clear: it’s not the long view of the natural world that motivates them, but the short-term goal of cash. It’s

the mindset of ordinary people that is harder to countenance. Many have the attitude toward development that we once had toward smoking: Sure it’s bad, but it won’t be a problem for me.”

In those beautiful places where “new homes are being built at an astonishing rate for city dwellers seeking peace and quiet,” notes Quindlen, “they seem curiously unaware of the fact that the old-growth trees and animals of which they are so enamored are being shoved aside by the homes they are building on former farm or forest land.”

Quindlen’s article was rare and welcome recognition at a national level that sprawl is “one of the greatest crises facing America at the beginning of the century.” The Sierra Club advocates development in existing urban areas, instead of open space at the edge of cities. Infill development of urban centers helps create vibrant communities and affordable housing.

“Sensible and ecologically sound development is possible,” Quindlen agrees, “but people have to seek and support it. Otherwise the hideous stretches of superstores and supermarkets that turn downtowns into ghost towns will begin to meet across the great suburban plain, and every former cornfield in America will have a name like Fox Run. Without the fox.”

Faced with the legacy of our current Board, legal action is likely to be necessary down the road in order to head off and undo the damage our elected officials seem intent on doing to San Luis Obispo. We hope we can count on the support of people who are interested in seeking and supporting sensible, ecologically sound development within a long-term view of the natural world instead of the short-term goals cherished by our officials and the developers who court them.

How to Fix It

Napa County was successful in securing an amendment to the state Subdivision Map Act that is effectively protecting its agricultural land from development.

Last July, San Luis Obispo’s County Planning Director invited the Santa Lucia Chapter to help fix the dire problems with the county’s Rural Planned Development Ordinance, a measure which, as drafted, would have the effect of accelerating the loss of agricultural land to development. Planning Director Victor Holanda asked that we help in determining “how the proposed ordinance could be modified, the process altered, and perhaps how some new concepts or approaches could be considered.”

Our suggestion: Scrap the RPD ordinance and adopt the Napa model – which reads, in part, as follows:

California Government Code, section 66451.22

(a) The Legislature hereby finds and declares that:

(1) The agricultural area of Napa County has become extremely important over the last 25 years as a premier winegrape growing region of worldwide importance and should thereby be protected from parcelization.

(2) The county has determined that because of the land’s extraordinary agricultural value as a winegrape production area and the fact that the county’s tourism industry entrusts its significant economic interests to its agricultural and open-space lands, the highest and best use for the agricultural land in the Napa Valley is for agricultural production.

(3) The full potential build-out of parcels not previously recognized in Napa County’s agricultural preserve and watershed areas could devastate the wine industry of California and Napa County.

(4) To adequately protect the value and productivity of the county’s agricultural lands, Napa County needs relief from the Subdivision Map Act’s implied preemption of local ordinances that may require merger of parcels that do not meet current zoning and design and improvement standards as well as the provisions that recognize parcels created prior to, or before, the current Subdivision Map Act.

(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the County of Napa may adopt ordinances to require, as a condition of the issuance of any permit or the grant of any approval necessary to develop any real property which includes in whole or in part an undeveloped substandard parcel, that the undeveloped substandard parcel be merged into any other parcel or parcels that are contiguous to it and were held in common ownership on or after the effective date of this act, whether or not the contiguous parcels are a part of the development....

diablo

continued from page 5

PUC is insisting we throw good money after bad and extend the life of this antiquated money-sink,” said Carl Zichella, Regional Staff Director for the Sierra Club. “A huge opportunity to both save money and advance the cause of renewable energy supplies for California is being missed.”

When it comes to nukes, excessive coziness between utilities and their regulators means the public stands to lose a lot more than money. The unacceptable risks of the nuclear fuel cycle and the insoluble problem of the disposal of its waste point to an urgent, obvious public policy decision as regards our failed 50-year experiment with nuclear power: The systematic reduction of

dependence on nuclear fission as a source of power, and the phased closure and decommissioning of commercial nuclear reactors.

Our regulators have proven largely incapable of making this policy decision, and are, in fact, going in the wrong direction. Through public interest groups, the public must make that decision for them.

UPDATE:

The CPUC has now decided to prepare an Environmental Impact Report for the steam generator replacement project. The Commission will consider potential environmental effects, mitigation measures, and alternatives to the proposed project.

New Bylaws Amendment Approved

The following amendment has been made to the Chapter bylaws: “An executive committee member after having served two full consecutive three-year terms shall not be eligible for reelection to the executive committee for a period of one year.”

Following Chapter Executive Committee approval in May, Gary Felsman shepherded this bylaws addition through the approval process of the National Bylaws Committee, which approved it on September 10, 2004. He has now posted it in the Bylaws which can be accessed on the chapter website.

The amendment restores term limits to our bylaws, which were omitted when the Chapter adopted the Model Chapter Bylaws in January 2001.

How Did Arnold Do?



Can we talk? Santa Lucia Chapter Chair Tarren Collins (right) and friend.

by Bill Allayaud, State Director
Sierra Club California

How did Arnold do on environmental bills in 2004? First let me give you a little background.

He came into office saying “the environment? That will be no problem for me” or something to that effect. He went on to say he believes that a strong economy and healthy environment are not in conflict, which are nice words to hear from a Republican leader. When a group of representatives from the environmental community finally got to meet with him on August 11th, he said “I am your friend”. I wonder how many groups he has said that to? But, I digress. He was a good listener as the various environmental advocates raised a variety of issues with him. On a few, he spoke out and agreed that these items should be priorities for the State.

Meanwhile, since he took office, he’s been piling up huge monetary contributions from corporations, has appointed a very mixed bag of people to high-up posts that affect the environment, has come out in support of Proposition 64, which we strongly oppose, hurt us on the budget last summer relative to getting more fees from polluters, and pushed the Hearst deal through the State agencies. Most recently, it has been revealed that his Department of Finance and the Public Works Board are holding up purchases of any new park land, despite the fact that the State has the money to buy such land using voter-approved bond money. So his intentions may be good, but his actions are not revealing him to be very “green.”

Another measure of how he is doing could be how much of his “Environmental Action Plan” he is implementing. This plan was devised when he was campaigning for Governor, its main author being Terry Tamminen, now Secretary of Cal/EPA. He was very busy with the budget, the March election (big bond measure), worker’s comp reform, etc. this year, so he didn’t get too far into the environmental issues. And, to be fair, this action plan was not intended to be finished in a year.

We can look for him to introduce some kind of major initiative about housing and land use

in his State of the State address in January. The hydrogen highway, one of his campaign promises, is not going away. Our hope is that he will become more of a leader next year, and make it “safe” for Republicans to support environmental bills.

By the end of August, the Legislature had put a number of environmental bills on his desk for signature. While there were no blockbuster pieces of legislation this year, there were some significant measures that we wanted him to sign. The result? A mixed record. Overall, his first year appears to be better than any recent Republican governor, but not as good as say Gray Davis’s first years as far as legislation is concerned.

So, your lobbying team in Sacramento will continue to work with his administration, push him to be true to his Environmental Action Plan, expand that Plan, and bring his party along on environmental issues. It won’t be easy, given his fund-raising proclivities, the pressure from his party, and the philosophy of some of his key advisors. But, as David Brower said, “politicians are like weather vanes; our job is to make the wind blow.” We are pursuing our lips....

Here is a summary of key bills that reached his desk. The author and our position is noted along with what the bill does an if he signed or vetoed it.

AB 923 (Firebaugh) Support. This raises significant new money for the Carl Moyer program, helping to reduce emissions of dirty diesel engines. SIGNED

AB 2042 (Lowenthal) Support. Prohibits air pollution at the Ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles from exceeding baseline levels. VETOED

AB 2683 (Lieber) Support. Will repeal the 30-year rolling exemption that applies to the Smog Check and Smog Check II programs; therefore, cars built after 1974 will never be exempt from smog regulations. SIGNED

SB 1478 (Sher) Support. Makes numerous changes to the California Renewable Portfolio Standards

Program and the Renewable Energy Program. VETOED

SB 1648 (Chesbro - Sierra Club CA) Support. Reforms the management of Jackson Demonstration State Forest in Mendocino County. VETOED

SB 1369 (Kuehl - Sierra Club CA) Support. Increases the requirement for defensible space from 30' to 100' in the most fire-prone areas of the state. SIGNED

SB 391 (Florez) Support. Requires the perpetrators of pesticide drift poisonings to compensate the victims. SIGNED

AB 338 (Levine) Support. Requires CalTrans to use increasing levels of rubberized asphalt concrete made from recycled tires. VETOED

AB 1369 (Pavley - Sierra Club CA) Support. Bans sale of mercury-added thermostats for residential and commercial use after Jan. 1, 2006. SIGNED

AB 2901 (Pavley) Support. Requires the sellers of cell phones to take them back from consumers for recycling. SIGNED

AB 2093 (Nakano), AB 2672 (Simitian), and AB 471 (Simitian) Support all three. These bills tighten up regulations for cruise ships entering state water for air and water emissions. SIGNED all three

AB 2055 (Wolk) Support. Would strengthen the open space element in general plans, including emphasis on agriculture, urban parks, and habitat issues VETOED

AB 2476 (Wolk) Support. Would have the Delta Protection Commission look at land use impacts on key resource areas. VETOED

AB 2572 (Kehoe - Sierra Club CA) Support. Requires water meters to be installed in Central Valley cities not covered by last year’s bill, including the City of Sacramento SIGNED

SB 1459 (Alpert) Support. Restricts bottom trawling in State waters. SIGNED

AB 2600 (Laird and Leslie) Support. Creates the Sierra Nevada Conservancy. SIGNED

AB 2918 (Laird) This bill deals with desalination of seawater and power plants. I included it here because this particular bill was brought up at the CNRCC meeting Oct 2-3 in San Luis Obispo. Turns out we opposed the bill in its early form, but dropped opposition when it was amended to simply be a study. SIGNED

SIERRA CLUB CALIFORNIA was established in 1986 to represent the Sierra Club’s approximately 200,000 members and 13 chapters in California before the state legislature, state agencies, and the governor’s office. Visit our website at: www.sierraclubcalifornia.org. Please sign up to receive our web-based legislative action alerts at: <http://cal-legalert.sierraclubaction.org>.

Thank You, ARB A California Landmark on Greenhouse Gas

On September 24, the California Air Resources Board (ARB) approved a landmark regulation that requires automakers to begin selling vehicles with reduced greenhouse gas emissions by model year 2009.

ARB Chairman Dr. Alan Lloyd said, “This landmark decision sets a course for California that is likely to be copied throughout the US and other countries. Because of its forward-thinking approach, the ARB has established itself as the world leader in setting motor vehicle pollution control standards. Those standards have led to automotive technologies that dominate the way cars are built today and have significantly cut air pollution’s public health risk. This regulation will have the same impact.”

The regulation, which the ARB adopted after a marathon public hearing, results from legislation by Assemblywoman Fran Pavley (D-Agoura Hills) and passed in 2002. The historic regulation sets limits on the amount of greenhouse gas emissions that can be released from new passenger cars, SUVs and pickup trucks sold in California starting in model year 2009. The new regulation is based on a state of the art assessment of the various technologies and fuels that can reduce motor vehicle global warming pollutants.

According to ARB staff, the average reduction of greenhouse gases from new California cars and light trucks will be about 22 percent in 2012 and about 30 percent in 2016, compared to today’s vehicles. Costs for the added technology needed to meet the rule are expected to average about \$325 per vehicle in 2012 and about \$1050 per vehicle to comply in 2016. The ARB staff analysis concludes that the new rule will result in savings for vehicle buyers by lowering operating expenses that will more than offset the added costs of the new vehicles and provide an overall cost savings to consumers.

The adoption of this rule makes California the nation’s only state that has regulated motor vehicles for their contributions to global climate change. At least seven other states — New York, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Vermont, Connecticut, Rhode Island and Maine, as well as the nation of Canada — are expected to consider adopting the regulation for their use. If all of those states and Canada adopt the rule, the number of cars required to meet the rule will triple.

In addition to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, the regulation is expected to cut ozone-forming pollution by about five tons per day (TPD) by 2020.

The Air Resources Board is the department of the California Environmental Protection Agency overseeing all air pollution control efforts in California to attain and maintain health-based air quality standards.

Every Californian needs to take immediate action to reduce energy consumption. For a list of simple ways you can reduce demand and cut your energy cost, see the ARB site at www.arb.ca.gov. For an overview of renewable energy alternatives and the ways to put California on the path to a clean, safe and affordable energy future, see www.sierraclub.org/ca/energy.

Celebrating an Earth-Friendly Thanksgiving

This Holiday Season, Let's Think about Our Health, Our Children's Health and the Health of Our Planet



by the Sierra Club Sustainable Consumption Committee

It's the holiday season once again. In the over-stressed times we live in can we pause and do better to put thanks and love back into our holiday celebrations? The Sierra Club Sustainable Consumption Committee (SCC)'s True Cost of Food Campaign makes it clear that our choice of food, now more than ever during the holiday season, affects our earth, our health and what we leave as a legacy to our children and our children's children. Let's pause and think about where the food we eat came from and at what cost to the environment. Please choose plant based, organic and locally grown.

What is Eco-Cuisine?

In his book, *Eco-Cuisine: An Ecological Approach to Gourmet Vegetarian Cooking*, author Ron Picarski writes, "Ecology is an awareness of the interrelationships between living organisms and their environment. Eco-Cuisine is about the human diet and its relationship to our personal health and the natural environment. We must begin to look at food as a route back to nature and a way to understand our connections with natural cycles. We need to live in harmony with nature and within our biological boundaries that are part of that natural system."

A delicious cooked meal, especially if it's shared with friends and family, provides nourishment for the spirit as well as the body. Food that is locally grown by organic farmers is healthy for our communities and local economy. Respecting the earth and its animals when producing and eating food creates the harmony that we seek in relating to each other and our planet and allows us truly to celebrate in a way that honors our earth and each other. Historically, food was a celebration of life: Growing, preparing and eating the fruits of the field were once one of the strongest ties to community spirit.

As Sierra Club members, we can lead the way. This year invite your friends, neighbors and family members to a low-impact, cruelty-free Thanksgiving Day meal that is mindful of its origins and the connections that bind us all to a sustainable planet.

Eco-Friendly Recipe Ideas

(If you choose to offer a turkey to your family and guests, please avoid animal products from Confined Animal Feeding Operations (factory farms) and seek the "Certified Humane Raised and Handled" seal. For more information visit: www.certifiedhumane.com)

Tofu "Turkey" with Stuffing

Turkey:

- 5 pounds of firm tofu
- 1 pound of tofu for the "drumsticks" - optional

Stuffing:

- 2 tablespoons toasted sesame oil
- 1 large onion, chopped fine
- 1 and 1/3 cup celery, diced (about 4 stalks)
- 1 cup mushrooms, finely chopped
- 3 to 4 cloves garlic, minced
- 1/4 cup sage (may use 1/8)
- 2 teaspoons marjoram
- 2 teaspoons thyme
- 1 teaspoon winter or summer savory
- salt and pepper to taste
- 1 teaspoon rosemary
- 2 teaspoons celery seed
- 1/4 cup soy sauce or tamari
- 3 cups Pepperidge Farm Herb Stuffing

Basting mixture:

- 1/2 cup toasted sesame oil
- 1/4 to 1/3 cup soy sauce or tamari
- 2 tablespoons miso
- 2 tablespoons orange juice
- 1 teaspoon vegan mustard of choice

Mash tofu or mix well with hands. Be sure that all of the lumps are out. Line a 12" colander with wet cheesecloth over lapping the sides. Add the mashed tofu to the cloth covered colander, press down and cover with the overlapping sides. Place the whole thing in a large bowl. Cover the cheesecloth with a plate that fits inside the colander and place a 5 pound weight on the plate. Refrigerate and let sit for 2 to 3 hours.

When time is up, start the stuffing. Saute the onions, celery and mushrooms in the 2 tablespoons sesame oil. When soft, add the garlic

and all the rest of the stuffing ingredients, except stuffing, mixing well. Stir and cook for 5 minutes. Add herb stuffing and mix well. Remove tofu from fridge and take off weight, plate and top of cheesecloth. Hollow out tofu to within 1 inch of the sides and bottom, placing the tofu in a bowl. Place the stuffing inside the shell and pack in firmly. Cover with the remaining tofu and pat down firmly. Turn stuffed tofu onto a greased baking sheet, flat side down. Gently press on sides of "turkey" to achieve a more oval shape. If desired at this point, you may mold "drumsticks" out of one pound of tofu, and place on each side of the "turkey".

Mix up the basting mixture and baste tofu "turkey" with half of it. Cover the "turkey" with foil, and bake at 400 degrees for about 1 hour.

Remove foil, baste with all the remaining mixture except a few tablespoons and return to oven for 1 hour more, or until the "turkey" is golden. Remove from oven and use rest of basting mix. Using at least 2 large spatulas, move to a large plate. Serve with the gravy of your choice, if you wish, and cranberry sauce.

Zesty Cranberry Sauce

- * 2 cups fresh or frozen cranberries
- * 1/2 cup undiluted orange juice concentrate
- * 2 ripe pears, finely chopped
- * 1 medium apple, finely chopped
- * 1/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- * 1 teaspoon grated orange rind
- * 1/2 cup raw sugar or other sweetener

Combine all ingredients except sweetener in a saucepan, and bring to a simmer over medium heat. Continue cooking, uncovered, until cranberry skins pop and mixture thickens slightly, about 10 minutes. Add sweetener to taste if desired. Serve hot or cold.

Harvest Veggie Pie

- 3 large potatoes
- 1 sweet potato (or yam)
- 2 tablespoon soymilk (maybe more, maybe less)
- 1 tablespoon soy non-hydrogenated vegan margarine
- 1 1/2 cups of stock
- 2 cups of assorted fresh veggies
- spices (basil, salt and pepper to taste)

Basically, this is a "pie" with no crust and a mashed potato topping. Preheat oven to 375 degrees (F) Cook and mash potatoes adding soy milk and soy margarine to make it creamy and salt and pepper to taste. I also like to add lots of garlic! Make the "gravy" by boiling 1 1/2 cups of water and adding 3 veggie bouillon cubes and boil again for 10 minutes uncovered (this makes it thick and gravy like).

Chop and clean the veggies (I like to use carrots, broccoli, asparagus, snow peas, corn, and

peas.) Put chopped veggies in a round shallow backing dish (I like to use a ceramic type, I find it cooks better than metal). Pour "gravy" mixture on top and spread mashed potatoes so that all the veggies are covered by a mashed potato "cap". Bake for 20 to 30 minutes (or until the top of the mashed potato becomes crisp and golden). Cool and serve. Serves: 4

Apple Stuffed Acorn Squash

- 1 acorn squash
- 2-3 apples
- 1/4 cup brown sugar
- 1 pat of non-hydrogenated margarine
- dash of nutmeg
- dash of salt, optional

Slice the acorn squash in half, and scrape out the seeds and the strings. Place face down in casserole pan filled with 1/2 inch of water and place in a 350 degree oven for about 10-15 minutes. While the squash is steaming there, peel and slice the apples and mix in the brown sugar.

Take the squash out of the oven, place face up, and fill the cavities with the apple mixture, add a pat of margarine to each and top with a shake or two of nutmeg as taste dictates. Cover very lightly with foil, and bake until the apples and the squash are soft and cooked, approximately another 1/2 hour. Serves: 3-4.

Bulgar Pilaf

- * 2 Cups Bulgar Wheat
- * 1/2 Cup Raw Sunflower Seeds
- * 2 1/2 Cups Vegetable Broth
- * 8 Cloves Garlic chopped fine
- * 1 Bunch Scallions/Green Onions chopped fine (or 1 head leek chopped fine)
- * 1 Tbs Thyme
- * 1 Red Bell Pepper chopped fine
- * 2 Tbs Cold pressed Olive Oil
- * Sea Salt & Cayenne Pepper to Taste

In a deep covered saucepan bring the vegetable broth to a boil, add the bulgar and sunflower seeds, let boil covered for 5 minutes. Add the remaining ingredients, turn burner off. Cover and let sit for 20 minutes or until the liquid is absorbed and the bulgar is soft.

Corn Chowder

- * 1 tablespoon oil
- * 1 onion, chopped
- * 2 cups water
- * 2 stalks celery and 2 carrots, chopped
- * 2 17-ounce cans vegan creamed corn
- * 1 cup soymilk
- * 1 potato, chopped
- * 1-1/2 teaspoons garlic powder
- * 1/4 teaspoon nutmeg
- * salt and pepper to taste

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Thanksgiving Recipes

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Corn Chowder, cont'd.

Sauté onion in oil over medium-high heat until soft. Add water and chopped celery and carrots. Cook 10 minutes. Add creamed corn, soymilk, chopped potato, and spices. Continue cooking for another 10 minutes. Serve hot. Serves 5

Cheesy Potato Boats

- 4 large baking potatoes
- 1/2 small butternut squash
- 1/2 cup soy non-hydrogenated margarine
- sea salt and pepper

These potatoes really taste like they have cheese in them!! And the color of the squash makes it look like it, too! Place baked potatoes in preheated 450* oven. Do not wrap in foil, you want the skin to be tough. Bake for one hour. While potatoes are cooking, steam or boil the butternut squash until tender (steamed is better). Drain the squash.

Remove the spuds from the oven and cut in half. Scoop the guts out and put into a big bowl. Make sure that you leave about a 1/4" of potato attached to the skin. Add the cooked squash and margarine and a little sea salt, if you like. Mash it all together until you get the consistency of lumpy mashed potatoes.

Place skin halves on baking sheet and scoop mixture back inside each skin. Place bake in oven for 10 minutes. For crispy tops, coat top with melted soy margarine and place under broiler for 3-5 minutes. Serves: 4-8

Pumpkin Tofu Pie

- 1 29oz canned pumpkin
- 1 1/2 cups sugar
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 2 teaspoon pumpkin pie spice
- 1 16oz silken tofu (firm)
- 2 unbaked 9 inch pie shells

Mix together the pumpkin, salt, sugar, and pie spice. Blend or food process the tofu until smooth. Stir into the pumpkin mixture, and pour into the pie shells. Bake in preheated oven at 425 degrees for 15 minutes. Turn down the temperature to 375 and continue to bake for 45 minutes or until a toothpick inserted into the middle comes out clean. Makes: 2 pies

For more Thanksgiving Ideas and Recipes, visit these sites:

<http://www.newdream.org/consumer/index.php>
<http://www.gentlethanksgiving.org/about.htm>
<http://www.pcrm.org/health/Recipes/thanksgiving.html>
<http://www.vegan.com/current/thanks.html>
<http://www.tazarat.com/thanksgiving.html>

Eat Local, On Line

by Susan Coward

The Neighborhood Produce eXchange ("NPX") will be an online resource. Home gardeners will use the NPX web site to create a profile for themselves and register their excess produce. The information will go into a database which will be accessed by other members using the web site. The database will offer contact information, and will be searchable by various criteria, including neighborhood zone, produce category, growing method, and grower.

For example, a resident of the Old Town area of SLO could locate a source for tomatoes grown without commercial fertilizers within walking distance, while offering oranges and persimmons to others. Other items could also be registered, for example, seeds or plants to trade, cut flowers, etc. A volunteer will serve as Project Manager. The site will be a model for other communities, and details of the completed program will be made available to those interested in starting a similar program in their regions.

Participants may also choose to join scheduled backyard exchanges, where people bring their excess produce for trading. We hope all people will be able to assess the value of their goods to allow for fair exchange. However, if the initial month of the program shows flaws in this system, we will move to a script system with point values assigned to each product.

An online bulletin board will also be available for people to share ideas and information. The NPX will be a great way to meet neighbors, eat well, and have some fun contributing to a community project.

Volunteers are needed. Volunteers will receive acknowledgment online and in media releases, letters of reference, and sincere gratitude from other participants. Volunteer opportunities: Database design and building, web design, Public Relations & Outreach.

To volunteer or be put on the project update e-mail list, please contact volunteer project manager Susan Coward at 'susan@mrcoward.com'.

Buy Fresh, Buy Local!

Contact: Mary Ann Vasconcellos, 595-9653

Launch a Farm-to-School program

Contact: Liana Forest, 528-4510; bearforest@earthlink.net

Join the Slow Food movement!

Protect biodiversity and traditional foods

Contact: Mimi Kalland, 528-0355; mkalland@charter.net

Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education

Sustainable farming and ranching technologies protect the environment and improve rural communities. Funding sources for research and education initiatives. www.sare.org

The Best Recycling of All



Staples staffer Jared Plevak and assistant manager Sam Ansari await your donation at the Broad Street store.

Staples has a collection box for old cell phones, pagers, etc. The store makes a donation to the Sierra Club for each donated item. Spare our landfills from the onslaught of our disposable culture and keep the Club in the fight for a sustainable future.

Is There a Sustainable Garden in Your Future?



The Environmental Center of San Luis Obispo and the Morro Bay National Estuary Program sponsored free workshops on sustainable gardening this fall, educating both bay residents and landscape professionals on gardening methods that can maintain the health of the Morro Bay Estuary.

Principles of sustainable gardening include inputs, outputs, and the benefits of landscaping. To arrange for a workshop for your group, call ECOSLO at 544-1777.



Compost!



A compost pile must be of sufficient size to prevent rapid dissipation of heat and moisture, yet small enough to allow good air circulation. The minimum dimension to keep sufficient heat in the pile is 3 feet x 3 feet x 3 feet (1 cubic yard). The maximum

dimension to allow air to diffuse to the center of the pile is 5 feet x 5 feet x any length. Some composting bins add insulation to adjust for smaller size or forced air to compensate for larger size.

Go to www.digitalseed.com

Another Concert-Quality Outing

by Jack Beigle

It is always a pleasure to paddle in Morro Bay Estuary, but when you can paddle with friends, enjoy a good picnic lunch and listen to live music at a Mozart Festival Fringe Concert you have a very special outing.

The tide was full and the wind was at our backs as we paddled to Baywood. We beached our boats near the pier and sat on the sand with a good view of keyboard and a bodran drum. They few classical pieces.

Promptly at 1:00 the MC the tide was falling fast. All of the their takeout points. We launched the State Park Marina. We had to avoid the shallows off of Los Osos back. There is something people. We all drove off with songs



Check the outing schedule and join us on the water.

announced that the concert was over and kayaks and canoes had better paddle for and headed back into the wind, toward head out into the middle of the estuary to Creek. It was an invigorating paddle contagious about a group of happy in our hearts and smiles on our faces.

45th Annual Sierra Club Anniversary Dunes Walk

Come rain or shine, storm or a beautiful hiking day, our walk will take place. This is the 45th year, for the now famous Annual Anniversary Nipomo Dunes Walk of the Santa Lucia Chapter of the Sierra Club. This walk has annually celebrated the founding of our chapter on the first Saturday in January since 1961 (except when it falls on New Year's Day).

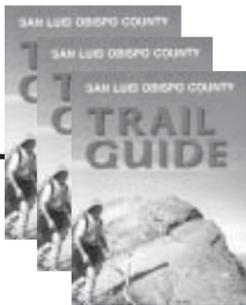
The leader of that first walk was a young environmentalist who was called "The Lady of the Dunes" due to her efforts to save the dunes from a PG&E plan to build a nuclear power plant in the heart of the fragile, scientifically rare natural resource wonderland at Oso Flaco. Kathleen Jackson Jones led this walk almost every year since 1961. This year we will walk with fond memories of Kathleen.

Come and help us celebrate our chapter's history at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, January 8, in the Oso Flaco Lake parking lot! Coming from the north, take Hwy.1 south from Pismo Beach, approximately 10 miles. As you drive down off of the Nipomo Mesa, watch for a sign on the right reading "Oso Flaco Lake Road," turn right and continue 3 miles. The road ends in the parking lot.

Coming from the south, take Main St. in Santa Maria toward the ocean, turn right on Hwy 1. Drive slowly through Guadalupe (25 mph), cross the Santa Maria River and continue approximately 3 miles. Watch for a sign on the right reading "Oso Flaco Lake Road," turn left and continue 3 miles. The road ends in the parking lot.

Plans have been made for short, medium and long walks. Carpool if possible. There is a \$4 parking fee. Bring a picnic lunch, binoculars, a camera, if you wish, and warm, snug clothing (a woolen cap is good). The dunes may have winter breezes.

Call Jack Beigle for more details, 773-2147.



Get your Trail Guide today!

Only **\$14.95**. We pay tax & shipping!

Name _____

Address _____

City, State & Zip _____

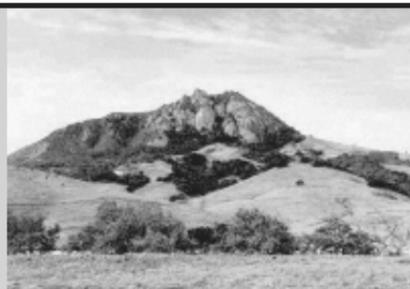
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Phone orders, call **Bonnie Walters at 543-7051**

Yes, I would like to help the Santa Lucia Chapter of the Sierra Club preserve precious lands on the Central Coast



by making a donation the Sierra Club Morros Preservation Fund, and/or SLO Land Preservation Fund.

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Classified ads are \$10 and are limited to 20 words. They are due by the first week of the month of publication (**next deadline is January 1, 2005**). Please submit your ad and payment to:
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P.O. Box 15755
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Make check payable to:

Santa Lucia Chapter of the Sierra Club

Donations to our chapter support our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying program, and therefore are not tax-deductible.

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 1st for the next month's outings.

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.

Sat., Nov. 6, Cerro Alto: Build up your pre-holiday calorie deficit on this moderate, 7.5 mile, 1700 ft. loop hike. Meet 9:45am at Cerro Alto campground, located off of Hwy 41, 8 miles east of Morro Bay, 12 miles west of Atascadero. Park at headquarters parking lot at end of campground road (parking fee or USFS pass required), or carpool at 9:30am from large dirt pullout on right past Miners Hardware as you leave Morro Bay on Hwy 41 (look for green Honda Civic hatchback). Break for lunch at the top. Rain cancels. Bob Schwartz, 441-9508, rws_usa@yahoo.com (3D).

Sat., Nov. 6, 10 a.m. CANOE/KAYAK MORRO BAY. Join us for a different day on the bay. This will be our second annual car rally type outing for canoes and kayaks. Bring your boat, equipment, PFDs, sunscreen and a picnic lunch. Meet at Morro Bay State Park Marina HIGH TIDE 6:05 A.M. 4.3' LOW TIDE 12:14 P.M. 2.8' Jack Beigle 773-2147

Sat-Sun., Nov. 6-7, East Mojave Primitive Carcamp at Kelso Dunes. Join us on this weekend of the dark moon to hike 1 mi, 700' gain to the top of beautiful Kelso Dunes where we'll enjoy the desert panorama and hear the booming caused by the grains of sand sliding together. During the day, we'll enjoy other desert hikes. Saturday night potluck and campfire. 2wd OK. Sign up early; number of participants strictly limited. Send check for \$5 per person (Sierra Club), 2 SASEs, rideshare info, H&W phones, email address to Reserv/Co-Ldr: Bill Spreng P.O. Box 129, Victorville, CA 92393-0129, (760-951-4520), Co-Ldr: Lygeia de Jesus. *Crescenta Valley/CNRCC Desert Com*

Sun, Nov. 7, 9:30 a.m., Pismo Dunes Preserve. Meet at Melodrama in Oceano. Confirm a few days before. Details call Bill at 929-3647 or <bdenneen@slonet.org>

Thur., Nov. 11, 9:30 a.m., Veteran's Day: Mussel Rock Hike. Meet Guad. Beach. Dogs on leash OK. Confirm a few days before. Details call Bill at 929-3647 or bdenneen@slonet.org

Sat., Nov. 13, 8 a.m., Alejandro Trail Work Party. Come help the forest service maintain the trails east of Santa Maria, by working on the Alejandro Trail. Bring water, lunch, gloves and the willingness to learn on this day. Meet at the Santa Maria Ranger Station. 1616 Carlottie Drive, Santa Maria. This is the Donovan road exit. Details call (528-7357)

Sun., Nov. 14, 9:30 a.m., BikeRide from Dune Center. Tour Guadalupe and then to Pacific. Confirm a few days before. Details call Bill at 929-3647 or bdenneen@slonet.org

Sat., Nov. 20, 9:00 a.m., Hike to Dutra Flat via the Salmon Creek and San Carpojo Trail. Join the leader on this moderate 8.4 mile hike to Dutra Flat campground. The elevation gain is about 1900 ft. Dutra Flat is the site of an old homestead and is marked by cypress trees. Along the route there are canyon views and views of Silver Peak. Be prepared for poison oak along the trail. Bring good hiking shoes, water, lunch, and dress for the weather. Meet at the state park Washburn day use area just before San Simeon State Park campground. There will probably be a refueling stop afterward at the Main St. Grill. For info call Chuck (927-3769).

Sat-Sun., Nov. 20-21, Carrizo Plain Service Trip and Carcamp. The Carrizo Plain National Monument is a beautiful and remote grassland. It is the home of 18 endangered species as well as pronghorn antelope which have been reintroduced to the area. There are many barbed wire fences in the area, a hold-over from failed dryland grain farms and ranches. Unlike deer, antelope will not jump a fence; instead antelope will simply run into the fence. Our job will be to help a wildlife biologist remove barbed wire fences. We will also have the opportunity to visit Painted Rock, a Native American pictograph site, and Wallace Creek, the classic example a stream offset by the San Andreas Fault. Limit 20. Contact Ldr: Wendy Van Norden, wvannorden@sbcglobal.net, (818) 990-9085. *CNRCC Desert Com*

Sun., Nov. 21, 9 a.m., 3CMB Work Party. Come join the CCMB as they continue to improve and maintain the Morning Glory Trail. Meet at the SLO Vets hall. Bring gloves, water, lunch or snack. Details call (528-7357)

Sun., Nov. 21, 9:30 a.m., KAYAK Oso Flaco. Meet at OFL with kayak and pfd. Confirm a few days before. Details call Bill at 929-3647 or bdenneen@slonet.org

Thur., Nov. 25, 9:30 a.m., THANKSGIVING to Black Lake. Confirm a few days before. Details call Bill at 929-3647 or bdenneen@slonet.org

Sun., Nov. 28, 9:30 a.m., CoastHike. Confirm a few days before. Details call Bill at 929-3647 or bdenneen@slonet.org

Sun., Nov. 28, 8:30 a.m., Oats Peak. Join us for the 2.5 hour, 6 mile rountrip hike with 1300 feet elevation gain. Everyone is welcome but

beginners will fall behind due to elevation gain. Meet at the visitor center in Montana de Oro State Park. Torrential rain cancels. Details call Leader Al at (534-0462) (3C)

Sun., Nov. 28, 9:30 a.m., COAST HIKE: To a remote area of Nipomo Dunes. Confirm a few days before at 929-3647 or bdenneen@slonet.org

Sun., Dec. 5, 9:30 a.m., Dana Adobe. Come explore the Dana Adobe on this easy hike. Meet at site on OakGlen in Nipomo. Confirm a few days before at 929-3647 or bdenneen@slonet.org

Sun., Dec. 5, 10 a.m., CANOE/KAYAK MORRO BAY SAND SPIT. A

winter paddle to the sand spit for a short hike and picnic lunch. Take a break in your Christmas shopping and join us on the bay. You can write your friends Back East and tell them about this outing. We usually get beautiful weather this time of year. A short business meeting will follow lunch to discuss future outings. Bring your boat and equipment, PFDs, windbreaker and a picnic lunch.

Sat., Dec. 11, 8:30 a.m., Crucickshank Trail to Alder Creek Camp. Come take a hike on the wild side as we explore the Silver Peak Wilderness, on the 10 mile hike with 2,400 foot elevation gain. Some rock hopping to get across a creek or two. But great views and good company. Bring lunch, water, sturdy hiking shoes and dress for the weather. Meet at the state park Washburn day use area just before San Simeon State Park campground. There will probably be a refueling stop afterward at the Main St. Grill. For info call Chuck (927-3769)

Sat., Dec. 11, 9 a.m., Cerro Alto Work Party. Come join the 3CMB as they work to improve the trails on Cerro Alto. Bring water, Gloves, lunch, or snack, tools if you have them. Meet at the Trailhead parking lot inside the campground. Details call (528-7357)

Sun., Dec. 12, 9:30 a.m., COAST HIKE: To a remote area of Nipomo Dunes. Confirm a few days before at 929-3647 or bdenneen@slonet.org

Sat., Dec. 18, Loop hike in Montana de Oro SP: Take a break from holiday shopping and enjoy views from the Ridge Trail and a beach walk on this moderate, 6 mi., 1100 ft. loop hike. Meet at 10:00 am in MdO SP at junction of Pecho Valley Rd. and Sand Spit Rd. Park in dirt parking area at junction. Lunch break on Hazard Peak. Rain cancels. Bob Schwartz, 441-9508, rws_usa@yahoo.com (3C)

Sun., Dec. 19, 9:30 a.m., KAYAK Oso Flaco. Meet at OFL with kayak and pfd. Confirm a few days before. Details call Bill at 929-3647 or bdenneen@slonet.org

Sat., Dec. 25, 9:30 a.m., Christmas Hike. Confirm a few days before. Details call Bill at 929-3647 or bdenneen@slonet.org

Sun., Nov. 28, 9:30 a.m., CoastHike. Confirm a few days before. Details call Bill at 929-3647 or bdenneen@slonet.org

Sun., Dec. 26, 8:30 a.m., Barranca and East Boundary Loop. Join us for this 2.5 hour, 6 mile roundtrip



Photo by Joaquin Palting

hike hike with 600 foot elevation gain. Everyone is welcome but beginners will fall behind due to the non-stop pace and elevation gain. Meet at the junction of Pechoi Road and the Dirt Road turn-off to Horse Camp 1/10th mile beyond the entrance sign of Montana de Oro State Park. Torrential rain cancels. Details call Al (534-0462)(3B)

Sat., Jan. 1, 9:30 a.m., NEW YEARS MUSSEL ROCK HIKE: Come take this 26th annual hike with Bill Denneen to the top of the highest dunes. Meet at end of West Main on the beach. Bring lunch, water, binoculars, inspirational reading. Dogs on a leash permitted at this time of year. It is out and back so you can turn around anytime. Confirm: 929-3647 or bdenneen@slonet.org

Sun., Jan. 2, 9:30 a.m., DANA ADOBE: Meet at site on OakGlen in Nipomo. Easy hike. Confirm a few days before at 929-3647 or bdenneen@slonet.org

Sat., Jan. 3, 9:00 a.m., 45th Annual Sierra Club Anniversary Dunes Hike at Oso Flaco Lake.

Come and take an easy, moderate or long walk on this 45th annual celebration of our Sierra Clubs first official hike in the dunes. There will be hikes for all ages and fitness levels. Meet in the Oso Flaco Lake parking lot and hear stories of the early days of our chapter. Carpooling is advised, as there is a \$4.00/car parking fee. For details call Jack Beigle (773-2147)

Sat., Jan. 8, 9:00 a.m., 45th Annual Sierra Club Anniversary Dunes Hike at Oso Flaco Lake.

Come and take an easy, moderate or long walk on this 45th annual celebration of our Sierra Clubs first official hike in the dunes. There will be hikes for all ages and fitness levels. Meet in the Oso Flaco Lake parking lot and hear stories of the early days of our chapter. Carpooling is advised, as there is a \$4.00/car parking fee. For details call Jack Beigle (773-2147)

This is a partial listing of Outings offered by our chapter.

Please check the web page at www.santalucia.sierraclub.org for the most up-to-date listing of activities.

Duke

continued from page 1

staff, with 30 years of expertise in the field of power plant design, testified that Duke deliberately proposed units that are too large to be feasible. Although the units Duke proposes would be able to cool at average temperatures of 85 degrees in Morro Bay, the CEC staff documented that the temperature in Morro Bay exceeds 84 degrees only three per cent of the time. Smaller units would do the job just fine.

Duke and the CEC argue that the units would be “disproportionately costly,” that is, unreasonable in terms of the benefit (avoiding killing marine life). Duke estimated the cost at \$200 million. The CEC staff and a Water Board consulting firm estimated the cost to be in the \$50 million range because the size of the units should be smaller than Duke contends.

About \$110 million of Duke’s \$200-million estimate, according to Duke testimony, would go to moving supporting facilities around the existing plant to allow it to operate, generating electricity and producing revenue while the new plant is being built with dry cooling units. But two units of the old plant have now been shut down because they are too costly to operate, and the remaining two units are expected to cease operating by the time you read this. If the plant is mothballed, as is now likely, there will be no revenue stream or operating plant to protect, hence no \$110 million expenditure needed, and more than half of Duke’s estimated cost disappears.

More is More

All the agencies, including the water board staff, agree that a new plant would cause a significant adverse impact on estuarine marine life, ranging from 16% (as per the CEC) to 33% (as per the marine scientists consulting to the regulatory agencies). The CEC staff concluded that combined with other stresses on the Estuary, such as heavy metals from old upstream mines and bacteria from boating inhabitants, there would be a significant cumulative impact.

The long-term degradation of the Estuary from all these sources is not known. Under federal law, significant impact requires mitigation, or compensation. However, under state law, the standard consists of whether the new plant would have more or less impact than the existing plant, measured in water use. If a new plant would use more water, it would have to address the marine impacts either by installing closed-cycle cooling or compensating for the loss in some other way.

For comparisons, the baseline water use for the existing plant was established at 387 million gallons a day (mgd) during 1996-2000. Testimony during the CEC hearings established that the new plant would run about 90% of the time and use about 429 mgd. But Duke promised only to use 370 mgd as an *annual average*, which would be less than the existing plant and therefore allow the use of unmitigated once-through cooling.

But, as CAPE demonstrated, Duke could run the plant at a 90% level or higher for 10 months, shut down for two months, not exceed 370 mgd as an annual average and still exceed 387 mgd for 10 months of the year, thereby causing a greater impact requiring mitigation, including possibly dry cooling. The CEC ignored that fact and found that 370 mgd average would be less than 387 mgd under the state standard.

Duke has proposed what is called a habitat enhancement program (HEP), which is a kind of restoration plan that the law allows under certain circumstances to compensate for the loss of marine life. The water board staff also supports HEP and wants Duke to pay about \$12 million to buy and improve habitat mainly upstream from the Estuary to limit sedimentation of the Estuary and maintain water volume for fish.

But the CEC staff provided testimony showing that HEP is not proven technology, which the law requires to ensure that the impacts from once-through cooling will be adequately compensated for.

The CEC staff analysis of HEP said it consists of six “‘representative’ projects, not actual projects that will, in fact, be implemented. In addition, these representative projects are based on assumptions that do not provide any level of certainty that the projects will be successful.”

Thus, the CEC approved HEP as the mitigation for the killing of up to 33% of the crab and fish larvae in a state and national Estuary without knowing what the actual contents of HEP will be.

The city of Morro Bay and the Energy Commission say the dry cooling units will exceed noise limits and will interfere with views. The CEC staff concluded that noise levels can be reduced to levels of insignificance using “super-low noise fans” and visual impacts rendered insignificant through landscape and design.

Although the environmental — and particularly the biological — effects have received the most attention during the four-year regulatory review since Duke filed its present application on Oct. 23, 2000, air quality is also a major issue. Duke proposes to increase the number of smokestacks from three

at the existing plant to four at the new plant and reduce their height from 450 feet to 145 feet.

As a result of lower stack heights, lower exhaust velocity and lower temperatures of emissions, health risks will increase because emissions will not be dispersed as far from the populated area of Morro Bay as is the case now. Ground-level concentrations of particulate matter will increase by 60%, as will almost every other pollutant in the central area of Morro Bay.

As the EPA reports, particulate matter can result in respiratory diseases such as asthma and even premature death (www.epa.gov/air/urbanair/pm/hlth1.html) because there is no known safe level of particulate matter.

Duke has been spinning stories and juggling numbers to avoid dry cooling and mitigation. The California Energy Commission has decided all the impacts on the environment and human health are worth a new, highly destructive power plant on Morro Bay. We must hope the Water Board decides otherwise.

Club Endorses Chapter Resolution on Coastal Power Plants

California Sierra Club has joined the statewide Coalition for Closed-Cycle Cooling, which the Santa Lucia Chapter’s Executive Committee endorsed last year. The Coalition opposes use of seawater for cooling coastal power plants (“once-through” cooling) because of the heavy toll this takes on marine life and the environment. Closed-cycle cooling is the far superior environmental alternative.

At its October 4 meeting at Rancho El Chorro, the Club’s California Nevada Regional Conservation Committee (CNRCC) voted unanimously to adopt a resolution submitted by the Chapter “to encourage and convince state regulators and decision-makers to make protection of our marine environment a top priority by requiring closed-cycle cooling for coastal power plants.” CNRCC has primary responsibility for determining Club policy on California conservation issues.

The Coalition, founded by the Coastal Alliance on Plant Expansion, has also been joined by the San Diego Health Coalition with more than 30 groups, and the SLO Coast Alliance with more than 20 groups. The Coalition was founded primarily to marshal support for requiring closed-cycle cooling for the proposed new Duke Energy power plant in Morro Bay, but the Coalition will oppose use of seawater for cooling at other proposed new and replacement plants elsewhere along the coast.

Here is the resolution endorsed by the CNRCC:

WHEREAS, regulatory agencies and marine scientists have determined that large new and replacement power plants along California’s coast would kill billions of young fish, larvae, eggs and invertebrates as well as in some cases damage ecosystems of fragile bays and estuaries, if allowed to destroy marine life in ocean water diverted into plants for cooling,

WHEREAS, estuaries and bays are resident and nursery habitat for fish stocks on which the commercial and sport fishing industries depend, are the source of about 75% of the fish and shellfish that are commercially harvested and supply the seafood industry, which has annual sales of more than \$800 million a year,

WHEREAS, relatively new technology called “closed-cycle” cooling, which uses no sea water for cooling, would eliminate power plant impacts on ocean resources by removing the need to use “once-through” cooling, which depends on coastal waters for cooling the plants,

WHEREAS, closed-cycle cooling is feasible, cost effective and far superior to alternative measures that would compensate for killing fish with habitat restoration plans, according to California Energy Commission and California Coastal Commission reports,

WHEREAS, support for closed-cycle cooling as a prevention strategy to avoid marine impacts before they are allowed is growing across the nation, marked by a federal appellate court decision in early 2003 which resulted in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency requiring all newly-designed plants to use closed-cycle cooling,

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the California Nevada Regional Conservation Committee supports the efforts of the Coalition for Closed-Cycle Cooling to encourage and convince state regulators and decision-makers to make protection of our marine environment a top priority by requiring closed-cycle cooling for coastal power plants.

Stand Up for the Estuary on Dec. 2

Sierra Club members and other supporters of protections for the Morro Bay National Estuary from a new Morro Bay Power Plant are encouraged to express their views to the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board, which is scheduled to make a final decision on the Duke Energy project on Dec. 2.

The board’s hearing begins at 9:30 a.m. at their offices at 895 Aerovista Place in San Luis Obispo, adjacent to the airport. Public comment has been scheduled near the end of the meeting, which is expected to last all day. No specific time has been set for public comment. Each speaker will be limited to three minutes.

You may also or alternatively submit written comments, which will be made part of the administrative record. The deadline for receipt of letters by the board is Nov. 10. They should be sent to:

Regional Water Quality Control Board
895 Aerovista Place, Suite 101
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401.

You can read a sample letter to the board on the Santa Lucia Chapter’s web site at www.santalucia.sierraclub.org/duke/duke.html.

Please speak out either in person or through a letters to support the preservation of one of the West Coast’s last estuaries and a jewel of the Central Coast.