



SIERRA
CLUB

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In 2000, millions of commit-
ted environmental supporters
did not vote in the presiden-
tial election. In many states,
just a few hundred votes de-
cided the election.

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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



Voters' Guide

The Santa Lucia Chapter, Sierra Club California, or National Sierra Club have endorsed the following candidates because of their strong conservation ethic and commitment to improving our environmental future. Please be sure to vote November 2.

President: John Kerry



Photo by Kerry-Edwards 2004,
Inc. from Sharon Farmer

For anyone with an environmental conscience, the choice could not be more clear. As a senator, Kerry has been a leader on fuel and energy efficiency and against the Bush administration's attempts to allow oil drilling in the Arctic

National Wildlife Refuge, and has strongly opposed the nominations of anti-environmental candidates for judicial and federal agency appointments. He advocates removing the incentives in federal regulations and tax policy that encourage sprawl, and he favors restoring the Superfund Act's "polluter pays" trust fund to clean up hazardous waste sites. He promotes an energy policy that would reduce our dependence on oil and increase the amount of clean, renewable energy used to generate electricity.

U.S. Senate: Barbara Boxer



In her second term, Senator Boxer is the environmental point person on the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works, where she introduced the California Wild

Heritage Act to protect 2.5 million acres of wild public lands; introduced the Perchlorate Drinking Water Standard Act to require the EPA to set a Maximum Contaminant Level for perchlorate; and pushed to abandon the plan to build a nuclear waste dump at Ward Valley.

California Senate: Peg Pinard



First elected to the San Luis Obispo City Council in 1987, Pinard was elected Mayor in 1992, elected to the Board of Supervisors in 1996 and re-elected in 2000

with nearly 70% of the vote. It was under her leadership that the communities of Avila Beach and Guadalupe were cleaned up from the massive contamination left by Unocal, and mitigation funds for the contamination went to restoring the

community. She has gone to the mat with PG&E over security and radioactive waste storage issues at Diablo Canyon. With a little help from the voters in one of the most closely-watched races in the state, she can do the same in Sacramento.

San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors, 3rd District: Patricia Andreen



A governing board member for San Luis Coastal Unified School District and appointee to the Avila Valley Advisory Committee, Andreen has practiced law as a court of appeal staff attorney,

an advisor to county government, and a law professor. She may be one of the most qualified candidates ever to run for the Board, a body in desperate need of Andreen's philosophy of good land use planning as "a permanent part of the county's political makeup and economic vitality [that] must give due regard to protecting the environment and the property values of people who live here." Andreen has pledged to "approve appropriate visitor-serving facilities that accentuate — not deteriorate — the natural beauty that is at the heart of why people visit us here."

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Will We Be G.E. Free?

Measure Q: For All the Right Reasons

San Luis Obispo is one of four California counties that will be voting on ballot measures based on the ban on genetically engineered crops that passed in Mendocino last March.

There are two important things to know about genetically engineered crops or genetically modified organisms — interchangeably referred to as G.E. foods and GMO's — before you vote on Measure Q in November.

First: Genetically engineered crops ain't Mendel.

The promoters of G.E. like to say that the process is merely an extension of the age-old practice of cross-breeding plants to achieve desired genetic traits, as most famously practiced by geneticist Gregor Mendel. But this is not that. Biotechnicians break the DNA chain of an organism, insert a gene from another organism into a bacteria or virus, and use that to invade and alter the first organism at the cellular level. This breaching of the species barrier does not occur in nature. This is how GMO's earned the nickname "Frankenfood." Corporations manufacturing pesticide-resistant G.E. seed and the pesticides that go with them are fighting G.E. crop bans as well as the movement to label products containing genetically modified ingredients. "Unlabeled" means "untraceable," assuring avoidance of liability in future lawsuits over health problems and toxicity reactions due to consuming the manufacturer's genetically modified product.

continued on page 4

Making the Point on Hearst Ranch



In preparation for the September 15 hearing of the Coastal Conservancy on funding the Hearst Ranch Conservation Plan, Sierra Club staff and volunteers spent Labor Day weekend at William Randolph Hearst State Beach, strategically pitching camp (all driftwood-&-seaweed construction) at the unofficial public entrance to San Simeon Point, where we photographed people happily enjoying their legally guaranteed "prescriptive access" to the Hearst Corporation's property. We distributed declarations of access and videotaped testimony from more than forty people who all agreed that, no, in fact, they would *not* like that access restricted to less than 10 months a year, 100 people a day, docent-led tours only, etc., as a condition of the \$95 million deal to protect the ranch from development.

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

—John Muir



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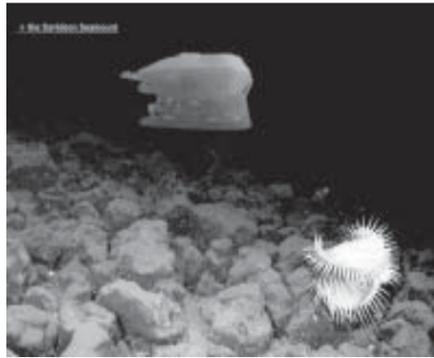
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Outings, events, and

Santa Lucia Chapter General Meeting

Davidson Seamount: A Natural Wonder in Your Backyard



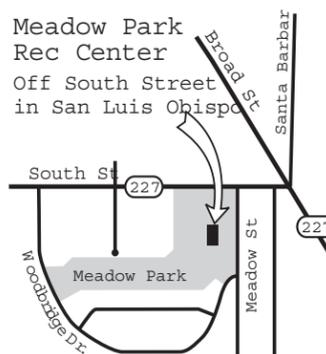
Learn about the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary and its efforts to preserve the Davidson Seamount, a 7,800 ft undersea mountain located 80 miles west of San Simeon, 4,000 ft below sea surface level. Davidson is one of the largest seamounts in the northeastern Pacific Ocean. Learn more about this huge

volcano and the ancient corals and sea creatures associated with it.

Michele Roest is a San Luis Obispo native. She has a Master's degree in biology, with an emphasis on marine mammals. She is the southern region representative for the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, and has an office in San Simeon.

The public is welcome. Refreshments will be served.

Tuesday, October 19, 7:00 p.m.
Meadow Park Rec Center
San Luis Obispo



Save the date!!

Prop. 64 Is Hazardous to Your Health

by Bill Magavern

Big business lobbies have put an initiative on the November ballot to eviscerate citizens' ability to enforce environmental safeguards. Proposition 64, "Limitations on Enforcement of Unfair Business Competition Law," would leave California's air, water, food, forests and lands much more vulnerable to attack by polluters.

The Unfair Business Competition Law (UBCL) is a crucial tool to defend the environment from the unlawful practices of polluters. Unlike many federal environmental laws, most California statutes do not contain "citizen suit" provisions authorizing environmental organizations to enforce these laws, on behalf of the public, against other private actors. The UBCL is the sole remedy in these situations.

UBCL cases have:

- Stopped Oil Companies from polluting drinking water.
- Halted illegal clear-cutting in the Sierra Nevada mountains (in a case brought by Sierra Club).
- Cleaned up air pollution caused by oil tankers in the Los Angeles Basin.
- Protected Los Angeles children from lead poisoning.
- Blocked cruise ships from repeated dumping.
- Stopped diesel truck pollution.
- Forced bottled water companies to filter out arsenic and bacteria.
- Required warnings of pesticide dangers to children.

The initiative would block environmental enforcement actions like these brought on behalf of the public by community groups. Prop. 64 would limit actions only to government and certified classes of individuals who have lost money or property. With government's enforcement ability severely limited by budget constraints, private enforcement of the sort allowed by the UBCL is vital to protecting our health and resources.

Oil, auto and utility companies, along with other corporate donors wishing to avoid accountability for the damage they cause, have poured over \$10 million into a deceptive advertising campaign for Prop. 64. The American Lung Association, California Nurses Association, Consumers Union, Gray Panthers and the California Labor Federation have joined Sierra Club California and the state's other major environmental groups in a grassroots campaign against the measure.

Bill Magavern is senior legislative representative for Sierra Club California. More information on Prop. 64 is available at www.sierraclubcalifornia.org and www.electionwatchdog.org.

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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.

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Chapter Comments on Draft Plan “California Ocean Resources Management: A Strategy for Action”

TO: Terry Tamminen, Secretary, Cal/EPA
Mike Christman, Secretary for Resources

The Santa Lucia Chapter of the Sierra Club welcomes the development of a comprehensive ocean policy and management plan and would like to submit the following comments. We have been very active in coastal issues on the central coast for many years. Our most recent projects include review of the Hearst Ranch conservation plan, litigation over vehicular activity on Oceano Dunes, protection of snowy plover habitat, and participation on the Marine Interest Group, funded by the World Wildlife Fund to explore ways to protect and enhance central coast ocean resources.

We believe our coast is under assault; that we do not face an “emerging” crisis, as your report states, but a current, full-fledged crisis situation. Therefore, we support the draft plan of action for ocean and coastal management in California, as well as Senate Bills 1318 and 1319, and urge implementation as expeditiously as possible. Information abounds to support the need for comprehensive, coordinated ecosystem-based ocean management. It is time to take strong action to achieve all the goals set forth in the action plan, even as research continues to provide an increasingly solid scientific basis for appropriate action. The precautionary principle must animate every strategy, with strong enforcement to support each measure. Some specific observations and suggestions follow, based upon our experience with coastal resource issues and constituencies on the central coast.

First, recognize that the devil is in the details. While everyone claims to want protection of our ocean and increased abundance and diversity of aquatic life, views differ on how this objective meshes with the goal of supporting ocean-dependent economic activities. Some constituencies, for example, fail to heed the “Tragedy of the Commons” lesson, and would favor extractive and exploitative activities at unsustainable rates. We urge you to emphasize that the burden of proof that an activity will not harm ocean and coastal resources must be on the proponents of the activity, and that in the face of incomplete data, precaution must prevail. Proof that activities will not harm ocean and coastal resources must be on the proponents of the activity, and in the face of incomplete data, precaution must prevail.

Second, bear in mind that the most vocal special interests do not necessarily represent the wishes of all Californians, who strongly support ocean, coastal, and watershed enhancement. As in land use policy, compromise does not necessarily light the wisest path: once gone, valuable ocean resources may be lost forever, and defeats can be cumulative and permanent. Strength in following through on the action plan’s commitments will determine success. Stewardship in furtherance of the public trust must be backed by the ability and the will to enforce.

On September 2, the Sierra Club released the report “No Day at the Beach: How the Bush Administration Is Eroding Coastal Protection,” a comprehensive look at Bush administration policies that threaten the U.S. Atlantic and Pacific coasts, the Gulf of Mexico, and America’s Freshwater Coast, the Great Lakes.

The bipartisan Pew Oceans Commission report, “America’s Living Oceans, Charting a Course for Change,” and the Preliminary Report of the American Oceans Commission agree that our coasts and the oceans upon which much of humanity depends are in serious trouble. These reports aggregate the many warnings that have been made by scientists and coastal managers for decades.

Read them at:
www.sierraclub.org/coastalreport
www.pewoceans.org/oceans/index.asp
www.oceancommission.gov/documents/prelimreport

Third, the Sierra Club has been frustrated with the fragmentation, duplication, and confusion that stems from the multifarious and often uncoordinated enabling legislation and activities of myriad state and federal agencies. We strongly support immediate initiation of the cabinet-level California Ocean Council. We hope the Council will remain sleek enough to avoid being mired down in bureaucracy, and that expeditious deadlines for the development and implementation of each specific action are developed and adhered to.

Fourth, we support the identification and implementation of ecosystem management models, and urge you to look beyond California and even to other countries, such as New Zealand, for guidance. Within California, we were surprised that the report did not more strongly affirm the activities of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, which has vigorous leadership and conscientious local participation. We would hope that California does not carry its need to lead to the point of giving short shrift to the efforts of other states, countries, and the federal

government. In this regard, the Sierra Club supports southward extension of the Monterey Bay NMS to include the Davidson Sea Mount and the central coast between Cambria and Santa Barbara County, and we would like to know if this is compatible with the action plan, or if a marine protected area (MPA) in accordance with the Marine Life Protection Act would be your preference.

Fifth, we found it interesting that although the California Ocean Council has not yet been created, the action plan describes, in many cases, what the Council “will” do. In that spirit, we applaud the formation of the Council, and strongly suggest that it support the following timely positions and actions as essential for effective ocean and coastal management:

- * Integrate enforcement into all aspects of the action plan. For example, recommendation 10 advocates the establishment of limitations on pollutant discharges that are “plain and unambiguous” and contain identifiable indications of success or failure. Enforcement should be a prominent component to ensure the success of this recommendation. Similarly for watershed management and non-point source pollution control measures.
- * Describe plans for implementation the 1999 Marine Life Protection Act in more detail and provide strong leadership to local organizations with a demonstrated interest in protecting the diversity and abundance of marine life and the integrity of marine ecosystems. The draft plan mentions combining the development of a statewide Master Plan with a series of “focused regional projects beginning with...the central coast.” The Sierra Club would like to be actively involved in this initial effort.
- * The precautionary approach that is enunciated as follows in the draft action plan must be the animating mantra of the ocean management process: “[r]ather than assuming that exploitation should continue until damage has become clear, the MLMA shifts the burden of proof toward demonstrating that fisheries and other activities are sustainable.” Amen.
- * The Sierra Club supports immediate, strong and pervasive implementation of the Marine Life Management Act. While ports and harbors are a vital part of California’s coastal economy, the sheltered water they provide as nursery and other habitat must be prominently taken into account. We have found that some harbor masters press issues related to water depth and dredging in ways that are insensitive to the ecosystem impacts of their activities. Mitigation that is not of like kind or is in a different area from the impacts of port activity should not automatically be embraced as a substitute for impact avoidance or minimization at the site.
- * The consolidation and enforcement of fish and game laws, as well as the development of new regulations that address destructive gear and fishing practices and new technology in finding and catching fish must proceed immediately. The Sierra Club supports your discussion of fisheries, but must make the observation that while the fishing community stands to gain great benefits from sustainable ocean management, they often see marine species exploitation as a right instead of as a privilege that must respect the resource as a public trust.
- * Many types of “fish farms” pose grave damages to wild-species. A strong state position on farmed fish must be communicated to consumers and backed by strict permit requirements and enforcement.
- * Many coastal power plants are due to be upgraded and overhauled. The best time to put on environmental controls is when new facilities are being built or old ones modified, both with regard to cost-effectiveness and technical ease. The Ocean Council must recognize the extremely deleterious effect that once-through cooling at these facilities has on fish mortality in California and other marine life, and must strongly advocate dry cooling or closed-cycle cooling as the best available control technology. State agencies have been divided on this issue, and an immediate and fish-friendly policy decision will put an end to wasteful and time-consuming divisiveness. While cost of the technology is high, the public has shown strong support for ocean protection. If the Council determines subsidy is necessary and fair, innovative funding mechanisms for a portion of the cost should be explored.
- * The California Coastal Commission (CCC) has been the single most persistent and effective advocate of coastal protection. The Ocean Council must support continued vigor and involvement of the CCC in determining when, and under what conditions, power plants and other facilities should be located or replaced along California’s coast. Internecine squabbling between the CCC and the California Energy Commission, for example, has been costly and debilitating. The CCC must be allowed to participate in all coastal siting decisions.
- * Saltwater desalination is fraught with unresolved policy problems, including the growth-inducing impacts of large desal facilities and the precedent of private ownership of a public resource. The Sierra Club urges the Council to oppose further desalination projects along California’s coast until these issues and the environmental impacts of the facilities are thoroughly and publicly considered.

Finally, the Sierra Club would like to convey to you the final report of the Marine Interest Group (MIG), which met many times during 2003. While the laudable mission of the MIG was undermined in its execution by those constituencies more interested in extraction and exploitation than in conservation and sustainability, it is interesting to note that many of the shared hopes of the MIG complement the objectives of this action plan. Regrettably, the Minority Statement of member-at-large Leslie Krinsk was excluded from the report by the MIG’s facilitator. We enclose it with our comments because it highlights the importance of protection in the face of incomplete data (the precautionary principle), examines some of the conflicts likely to arise among diverse stakeholders, and emphasizes the need for strong regulatory measures and enforcement in the context of ocean protection and coastal management.

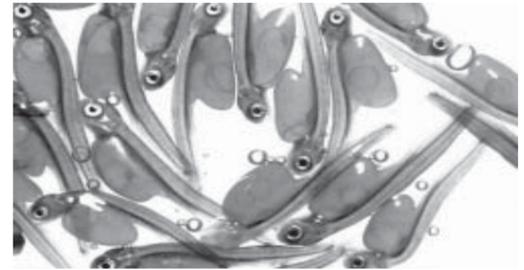
Ms. Krinsk and I invite any questions you may have about the Santa Lucia Chapter’s comments and concerns. Leslie also offers her assistance with the efforts of the Resources Agency, Cal/EPA, or the ocean Council-to-be. Thank you for considering our comments on this timely and important matter.

Sincerely,
Tarren Collins
Chair, Santa Lucia Chapter of the Sierra Club
18 August 2004



The September-October issue of *Orion* magazine – “a forum for thoughtful and creative ideas and practical examples of how we might live justly, wisely, and artfully on Earth” – features the article “Taking Back the Beaches,” a history of the remarkable California Coastal Records Project (www.californiacoastline.org) and how Sierra Club activists like Mark Massara and Marcia Hanscom have used it to protect the coast.

Read it at:
<http://cla.calpoly.edu/~smarx/Nature/OrionArticle/OrionArticle.html>



Salmon alevin

Voters' Guide

continued from page 1

San Luis Obispo City Council: Christine Mulholland



Mulholland remains the slow-growth, quality-of-life candidate and the City Council's indispensable member. She has worked to preserve the existing character

of the city's neighborhoods and voted only for well-planned projects that reflect the vision of slow growth and sustainability – i.e. *not* the Marketplace project. (Once it has been defeated by referendum, Mulholland will work to have the City rezone the land into the Agricultural zone, where it belongs.) "I will continue to work to keep San Luis Obispo the unique and special place we all love."

San Luis Obispo City Council: Orval Osborne



As the founder of his own business (Creek Environmental Laboratories), with four years of experience on the City Planning Commission, Osborne has the dedication and vision to lead the City,

and values environmental sustainability, social justice and grassroots democracy. A supporter of New Urbanism (smart growth) as the land use pattern that results in the least consumption of resources and the highest quality of human environment, Osborne wants to expand the City's greenbelt and open space protection, energy conservation and recycling, and keep SLO from becoming "Anytown, USA."

Morro Bay City Council: Melody DeMeritt



A four-year member of the board of directors of the Coastal Alliance on Plant Expansion, DeMeritt will fight to protect the health of the Estuary and Morro Bay to assure

long-term fisheries. She is for stronger public and private tree ordinances, responsible growth, opening city government to citizen participation, and **accountability** for how public dollars are spent. She has vowed to stop the approval of massive buildings that violate city codes and ruin Morro Bay's small-town character.

Atascadero City Council: George Luna



A local environmental hero, Cal Poly math professor Luna served four years on the Atascadero Planning Commission and helped update Atascadero's current General Plan, which

has the long-term protection of the environment as a primary guiding criteria for public policy decisions. The former mayor and current city councilmember is also the president of the San Luis Obispo County Integrated Waste Management Authority, a 9-year member of the city's Finance Committee, a Commissioner Alternate to the California Coastal Commission, and serves on the North County Homeless Coalition. He received a California Relief Tree Hero Award in 1997 in recognition of his advocacy for

the protection of Atascadero's unique oak woodlands and creeks.

Atascadero City Council: Ellen Beraud



This city Planning Commissioner and Atascadero Land Preservation Society board member has gone far beyond hugging trees; from personally reporting tree ordinance violations to

participating in the purchase of five acres of outstanding Blue Oak woodlands adjacent to Stadium Park, Beraud is a champion of the urban forest. She also wants to make sure all planned developments include public benefits, such as open-space easements, pedestrian pathways, and/or roadway improvement. "Subdivision is an entitlement, not a right."

Los Osos CSD: Julie Tacker



Tacker is first-rate grassroots citizen activist and an example of how to become engaged with the life of your community. As president of

Concerned Citizens of Los Osos, she led the appeal of the Los Osos Wastewater Project to the Coastal Commission, and continues to advocate for a less costly, environmentally superior solution to Los Osos' sewer woes. She believes resources should dictate land use, which means development should not deplete water resources to the detriment of upland, riparian or wetland habitats.

Los Osos CSD: Lisa Schicker



Schicker's commitment to the preparation of the long overdue Estero Plan Update and Local Coastal Plan, and an acceptable Habitat Conservation Plan,

sold us. A skilled teacher, writer, speaker, researcher, and negotiator with degrees in Biology and Landscape Architecture, specializing in Coastal Ecology and Environmental Management, Schicker is clearly what Los Osos needs now. She believes her community must solve its wastewater problems, but not at the expense of drinking water and the protection of Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Areas; the uplands, wetlands and the Morro Bay National Estuary. "How the Los Osos sewer project strayed so far from its original environmental goals of innovative design, protecting the bay, a safe basin yield and low energy usage, is a convoluted tale," she says, "and the ending has yet to be written." Let's help her write it.

Propositions:

Prop. 59 = NO
Prop. Q = YES
Prop. 64 = NO



G.E. Food

continued from page 1

The technology is based on the belief that each gene controls a single trait, and that 98% of DNA is "junk DNA." But, over the last fifty years, scientists have come to realize that each gene controls or effects a number of different traits, and what we thought was "junk DNA" is crucial in the development of an organism but in ways we don't understand. The practitioners of genetic engineering essentially are dropping a ping-pong ball into a room full of mousetraps — extremely complicated and critical mousetraps. The wrong combination of reactions — an unforeseen, unstoppable chain of unintended consequences — could result in a global loss of food crops. This risk to biodiversity and food security is a documented phenomenon. Botanist Jack Harlan notes that genetic diversity is what "stands between us and catastrophic starvation on a scale we cannot imagine."

Second: Percy Schmeisser's fate awaits the farmers of San Luis Obispo.

While the spread of G.E. crops has meant increasingly heavy use of pesticides and declining yields, producing an altered version of products already produced in surplus (world hunger is a political product of maldistribution, not inadequate food production), the technology is designed to achieve a goal larger than increased sales of pesticides: namely, allowing the patenting of life by corporations, thereby cornering world markets in food commodities. The key to the industry's strategy is to be found nestled in the policies of the World Trade Organization. Therein, the agreement on Trade Related Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs) extends patents and trademarks to genes, cells, seeds, plants and animals. "TRIPs gives the patent holder a monopolistic right to prevent others from making, using or selling seeds," writes Vandana Shiva, founder of the Research Foundation for Science Technology and Ecology. "Seed saving by farmers has now been redefined from a sacred duty to a criminal offence of stealing 'property.'"

Percy Schmeisser, a canola farmer in Saskatchewan, Canada, found out about the industry's strategy the hard way.

When canola seed genetically engineered to withstand Monsanto's Roundup herbicide drifted into Schmeisser's fields from a neighboring farm or a passing truck, Monsanto employees came onto his land, took samples of his plants, and declared he had stolen their patented seeds and must forfeit the profits from his crop sales. Schmeisser fought them all the way to the Canadian Supreme Court and showed he had no intent of taking or growing the seeds, to no avail: The genetically engineered seeds that had contaminated his fields were ruled to be Monsanto's property, period. Dozens more such legal actions have been filed by giant transnational corporations against farmers in the United States.

Placing the world's food security and the fate of farmers in the hands of the Monsanto Corporation clearly is not the way to go. The better way has long been known. To underscore the point, Sierra Club's National Sustainable Consumption Committee has launched the "True Costs of Food Campaign," a grassroots, community-based campaign to promote "low-impact foods" — locally grown, organic, and fetching a price premium for farmers two to seven times the price of their genetically engineered counterparts. But only so long as they remain uncontaminated by genetically engineered seeds and pollen.



Approaching the unknown: Big Agriculture is pushing GE crops at maximum speed, despite a complete lack of data on long-term human health effects and against mounting evidence of inevitable environmental disaster.
Photo by Jeff Vanuga - NRCS

Reporting from the BIO 2004 conference in San Francisco last spring, the New Zealand Herald said, "Investment in genetically modified food is drying up in the world's biggest GM market, the United States, because consumers in the rest of the world are not willing to buy its products."

Vermont recently passed a farmer protection act that will protect farmers from liabilities of genetic contamination. Last March, Mendocino County became the first in the nation to pass as biotech crop ban. Marin, Humboldt and Butte Counties will have initiatives on the November 2004 ballot. In just over six weeks, SLO GE-Free's all-volunteer signature gathering crew accumulated an unprecedented 12,104 signatures from registered voters in San Luis Obispo County, far more than enough to put Measure Q on the local ballot. This united effort is moving towards keeping California free of genetically engineered crops and assuring a future for local agriculture.

In November, you will have your chance to join the farmers, consumers, counties, and nations that are saying "no thanks" to the GE food, helping to illuminate for the edification of Monsanto, DuPont, and Archer Daniels Midland the blind alley they are trundling down in the name of unsound science.

The world really is watching San Luis Obispo. Tell a friend: Vote YES on Measure Q.

Cambrians Unite!

Jack and Bea Morrow are heading the Chapter's Desal Task Force to address the question of desalination in Cambria and develop policies for the Sierra Club. Anyone interested in participating, contact:

Jack & Bea Morrow
311 Wedgewood St.
Cambria, CA 93428
927-5785
jlmorrow@earthlink.net

Sierra Club Ballots Coming Next Month

There's more than one electoral contest happening next month — candidates will be running for several seats on the Santa Lucia Chapter's Executive Committee.

Ballots will appear in the next issue of the Santa Lucian. The Sierra Club is one of the only environmental organizations in the world whose leaders and policies are determined by a vote of the membership. So before you go to the polls on November 2 to exercise your rights as a citizen, remember to mark your Chapter ballot so you can exercise your right as a member!



HopeDance

“Take Back America” Film Festival

10 Films in 2 Days!

October 9 & 10

Saturday, October 9:

- 4:30-6 pm Bush’s Brain (80min)
- 6-6:30 pm Dinner with Shine Cafe (tempe tacos) & Pizza
- 6:30-8 pm Outfoxed (77min)
- 8-9:30 pm Hijacking Catastrophe (64min)

Sunday, October 10:

- 12:30-2 pm Before You Don’t Vote (24min)
There’s Something about W (40min)
- 2-3:00 pm Invisible Ballots (50min)
- 3:00-4:15 pm Seduction of War: Book Panel (70min)
- 4:30-5:45 pm Art of Resistance (28min)
Yes Men and Selling Your Votes to the Highest Bidder (25min)
- 5:45-6:15 pm Dinner
- 6:15-8 pm The Oil Factor: Behind the War on Terror

Bush’s Brain (80min)

Meet Karl Rove, the man known as “Bush’s Brain,” the most powerful political figure America has never heard of, the Wizard of Oz behind the curtain of today’s Presidential politics. As President Bush’s closest adviser, Rove has almost single-handedly shaped the policies of our nation. A brilliant tactician, ruthless opponent and savvy policy maker, he is also known as a clever dirty trickster when it comes to orchestrating political campaigns. Based on the best-selling book by journalists James Moore and Wayne Slater. Go to www.bushsbrain.net to see the trailer.

Hijacking Catastrophe: 9-11, Fear and the Selling of American Empire (64min)

“By helping us understand how fear is being actively cultivated and manipulated by the current administration, Hijacking Catastrophe stands to become an explosive and empowering information weapon in this decisive year in U.S. history.”

— Naomi Klein, author, *No Logo*

If you liked UNCOVERED, you will love this excellent documentary! For the trailer or stills, go to www.mef.tv.

Invisible Ballots: A Temptation For Electronic Vote Fraud (50min)

Does the “Black Box” (touch-screen voting machine) jeopardize the sanctity of the voting process? Governments are installing computerized voting systems with no paper record to verify accuracy, putting into service tens of thousands of machines that cannot be relied upon for accuracy or security from tampering. Elections already using these machines are often plagued by “glitches” and “technical problems” that only technicians working for the manufacturers can solve. If vote-counting becomes privatized, there may be no way to get it back. Directed by award-winning filmmaker William Gazecki who directed *Waco: The Rules of Engagement*, *Crop Circles: Quest for Truth*, and others. Trailer at www.invisibleballots.com.

The Oil Factor: Behind the War on Terror

This just-released film examines the link between oil interests and current U.S. military interventions. It includes original footage shot over a four-month period in Iraq, Pakistan and Afghanistan as well as many interviews with a large array of personalities including Bush administration officials. The documentary explores the various underlying motives behind George Bush’s so-called “war-on-terror” and offers insights as to why global terrorism is thriving and why the world is becoming a more and more unsafe place. “The Oil Factor” also makes a clear assessment of today’s global oil situation with sky-rocketing consumption and declining production. Their previous work has included award-winning *Hidden Wars of Desert Storm* and *Plan Colombia*. Go to www.freewillprod.com for a trailer and/or stills.

Outfoxed (77min)

The latest film by Robert Greenwald (did you know his in-laws live in Morro Bay?), “Outfoxed” examines how media empires, led by Rupert Murdoch’s Fox News, have been running a “race to the bottom” in television news. This film provides an in-depth look at Fox News and the dangers of ever-enlarging corporations taking control of the public’s right to know. The film explores Murdoch’s burgeoning kingdom and the impact on society when a broad swath of media is controlled by one person. Walter Cronkite, Jeff Cohen

(FAIR) Bob McChesney (Free Press), Chellie Pingree (Common Cause), Jeff Chester (Center for Digital Democracy) and David Brock (Media Matters) provide context for the story of Fox News and its effect on society. Former Fox News producers, reporters, bookers and writers expose what it’s like to work for Fox News. (“There’s no sense of integrity as far as having a line that can’t be crossed.”) To see the trailer, go to www.outfoxed.org/Clips.php.

Deep Dish TV presents: The Art of Resistance (28min)

Dissent amongst people in all areas of art and culture are a huge part of the dissent against the War in Iraq. From Michael Moore to Sheryl Crow to the Dixie Chicks to the Not In Our Name statement of conscience, many artists have responded creatively and with courage. This film shows the puppeteers, an interview with Mary Frank, a Middle Eastern Comedy show segment, Poems Not Fit for the White House, Lee Buric’s interview with Michael Franti of Spearhead about musicians who resist the war, Animation, Music, satiric photo montage by Larry Fink and more. For details go to www.deepdishtv.org/

Seduction of War Book Panel (70min)

Chris Hedges, correspondent, New York Times, author of *War Is a Force That Gives Us Meaning*; Samantha Power, lecturer, Harvard University, Public Policy, author of *A Problem from Hell: America and the Age of Genocide*; Anthony Swofford, Author of *Jarhead: A Marine’s Chronicle of the Gulf War and Other Battles*; Leo Braudy, author of *From Chivalry to Terrorism*; James Hillman, author of *A Terrible Love of War*. The authors discussed definitions of honor, group cohesiveness, the testing of masculinity, war porn and aggression and answered audience members’ questions.

The Yes Men: The Horribly Stupid Stunt (25min)

Posing as representatives of the World Trade Organization, Andy and Mike delivered shocking satires of WTO policy to audiences of “experts.” At an international trade law conference in Salzburg, Austria, they proposed a free-market solution to democracy: auctioning votes to the highest bidder. This short film is not to be confused with the feature film “The Yes Men.” Hilarious! Go to www.theyesmenmovie.com/ for the trailer.

Before You Don’t Vote (24min)

A critical and witty video that features fast-paced, cross-cut interviews with over fifty politically involved Americans you won’t meet every day. From widely diverse backgrounds, ethnic groups, ages, and ideologies, they comment honestly on our democracy’s past, present, and future. Realistic advice for the angry, apathetic, apolitical, and alienated about why we should participate even though politics and politicians are not what we want them to be. For details go to www.mediarights.org/search/fil_detail.php?fil_id=05999.

There’s Something About W (40min)

An election-year documentary that blends intelligent humor into a lively discussion of otherwise wonky issues. Hear the president’s promises contrasted with the actual changes that have taken place. Commentary by Molly Ivins, Paul Krugman, Al Franken, Kevin Phillips, Daniel Ellsberg, Bill Maher, MoveOn.org, Michael Moore, David Cay Johnston, Rock the Vote, Will Durst and others. Narrated by Peter Coyote and created by an all-volunteer collaboration of Bay area filmmakers and associates. For details go to www.somethingaboutw.org.

Order your 2005 Sierra Club Calendar Support your chapter!



The 2005 Sierra Club calendars are now available, and they are gorgeous. Your purchase goes directly to funding the Santa Lucia Chapter’s efforts for land, water, and our quality of life in San Luis Obispo.

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Wilderness wall (spiral bound, picture every month)	\$11.50	\$14.50

Engagement (spiral bound, picture every week)	\$12.50	\$15.50
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- price includes tax and 10% discount. 5 or more calendars get 15% off

Calendars can be mailed or picked up at Sierra Club office, 10-2, M-F (Andrew, 543-8717) or picked up in SLO any time (Bonnie, 543-7051)

Morro Bay Sand Spit Cleanup

by Jack Beigle

One of these days I hope to learn not to use the words "work party" in the outing notice for this worthwhile outing. It seems to limit the attendance. The paddlers that did join us were treated to a beautiful sunny day. We picked up enough trash and recyclable materials that it was worth the effort but the shoreline was relatively clean. The most frequently picked up items were fast food bags and wrappers.

After lunch we loaded all of the bags into our canoe and we paddled back to the State Park Marina like that slow boat to China. We had to unload the boat before we could lift it up the beach. It was a good feeling as we disposed of the trash and recycled the balance. It was another good deed well done.



Our National Forests Are Not for Sale



Adopted in January 2001, the Roadless Area Conservation Rule was the result of the most extensive public comment process in history, spanning three years and 600 public meetings. During the rulemaking, the administration received a record-breaking one million public comments in support of protecting wild forests. To date, the Forest Service has received more than 2 million comments from the American people, overwhelmingly in favor of the strongest protections for these wild forests.

Now the Bush administration is determined to push ahead with a reckless plan to scrap the landmark law that protects 58.5 million acres of unspoiled national forest

lands from road building. The proposed new rule — available at www.roadless.fs.fed.us — would allow governors to petition the Secretary of Agriculture to "adjust" the management direction in each forest plan for every inventoried roadless area in every state.

Across the country, thousands of concerned Americans are standing up for the Roadless Rule. The Forest Service has been feeling the heat, and has extended the public comment deadline until November 15.

Take Action:

Write to Forest Service Chief Dale Bosworth and ask him to let the Roadless Area Conservation Rule stand as written in the January 2001 Record of Decision. Add that you oppose forest-by-forest decisions on logging, roadbuilding and other development. Be sure to add that you are making an official comment on the Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on Roadless Area Conservation. If you want to address your comments as answers to the Forest Service's "10 Questions to Help Guide the Decisions Process," go to www.roadless.fs.fed.us/xcomments.shtml.

Sample letter at:

<http://motherlode.sierraclub.org/SierraNevada/programs/SNGRoadlessletter.doc>

Send your comments to:
USDA-Forest Service – CAT
Attention: Roadless ANPR Comments
P.O. Box 221090
Salt Lake City, Utah 84122
e-mail roadless_anpr@fs.fed.us
fax (801) 296-4090, Attention: Roadless ANPR Comments.

Comments also may be submitted from: <http://www.regulations.gov>.

Douglas Gets Distinguished Service Award

At the Sierra Club's annual awards banquet in San Francisco on September 11, California Coastal Commission Executive Director Peter Douglas was given the Sierra Club's Distinguished Service Award.

Douglas, co-author of the 1972 citizens initiative that created the Coastal Commission, was nominated by the Santa Lucia chapter. We also provided supporting materials and coordinated letters of support for his nomination.

"Peter is one of the heroes of the environmental movement," said Chapter Chair Tarren Collins, who also chairs the Club's Great Coastal Places Campaign. "He has been the guardian angel and Zen master of the California Coastal Act, helping to save California's coast for more than 20 years as the Coastal Commission's executive director. And for more than 20 years, developers, angry conservative newspapers and reactionary governors have been targeting him, the Commission and the Coastal Act for doing their job too well. They've tried as hard as they can to get rid of all three, and they're still trying, but Peter's still there, the Coastal Act still stands, and we still have intact, undeveloped stretches of our magnificent coastline."

Douglas has been a prominent critic of both the Hearst Ranch Golf Resort plan that was ultimately denied by the Coastal Commission in 1998, and the current Hearst Ranch Conservation Plan, siding with the Sierra Club in recommending substantial fixes to the original draft plan's provisions for conservation, public access, and oversight.

Addressing attendees at the 2003 ECOSLO San Luis Obispo EcoSummit, Douglas said "There is no substitute for getting involved and making a difference [through local environmental activism.] There is no excuse not to. Activism is simply something you cannot *not* do, as trying and demanding as it might be. Nothing is more important to our environmental and social future. The Coastal Act is the people's law, and every time its threatened, it can be weakened. We can't do our work without your support and input."

The Sierra Club's Distinguished Service Award honors persons in public service for a particular action of singular importance to conservation.

Other 2004 award recipients included:

Ken and Gabrielle Adelman, Ansel Adams Award
Molly Ivins, David Brower Award
California State Senator Byron Sher, Distinguished Service Award
Stewart Lee Udall, Edgar Wayburn Award
Angeles Chapter, Electronic Communication Award
Ross Vincent, Environmental Alliance Award
Vicky Hoover, John Muir Award
David Simon, One Club Award
Greg Casini, William E. Colby Award
Roger Beers, William O. Douglas Award

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

Name _____

Address _____

YES, I want to support the work of the Chapter!

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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.

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Peg Pinard

Candidate for California State Senate District 15

Strong Environmental Advocacy.

Cleaned Up Avila Beach

After decades of leaking pipelines beneath the town of Avila Beach and Guadalupe Dunes, Peg Pinard **negotiated a settlement agreement with Unocal** requiring them to temporarily relocate Avila Beach residents, dig up the contaminated soil, and rebuild the town. The California Attorney General called the negotiation, **“perhaps the largest environmental settlement in California history.”**



Protected Coast and Open Space

Peg allocated part of the mitigation funds from the Avila Beach cleanup to **preserve thousands of acres of coastal hills and open space** known as Old Moray Ranch and the Irish Hills.

Advocating for Clean Air and Water

Peg has consistently supported alternative transportation and smart growth as a way to reduce traffic congestion and air pollution. She also fought to protect our rivers, streams and ocean from pollution.

VOTE! NOVEMBER 2, 2004

That’s why she’s endorsed by:



Please contact us at (805) 544-4734 or visit our website www.pegpinard.com if you would like more information or if you would like to further support Peg Pinard.

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.

Sun., Oct. 3, 9:30 am, MUSSEL ROCK: Meet at Guad. Beach. Dogs on leash OK at this time. See proposed parking lot. Bring binoc for the birds. Hike along spectacular Pacific. Confirm and details a few days before at 929-3647 or bdenneen@slonet.org
Wed., Oct. 6, 13, 20, 27, 5:30 pm, Informal 2-hour hikes around San Luis Obispo. Check web site at <http://santalucia.sierraclub.org/index/index.html>, or e-mail gfelsman@onemain.com for meeting location.

Sat.-Sun., Oct. 9-10, Silver Peak Range Bristlecone Survey: Just east of the 14,000'+ White Mountains where the famous bristlecone pines reside lies the 9,300'+ Silver Peak Range. We've heard reports of bristlecones growing in certain high eastern cirques. The authoritative "Atlas of Nevada Conifers" has no solid data for bristlecones in the range. We'll explore the rugged area with two dayhikes; carcamping in between. With luck we'll be able to acquire herbarium specimens, photos, and map coordinates to document the rumored populations. If we fail, that's good data too! Contact Bob Ellis 510 525-8742
bobellisds@earthlink.net. *SF Bay Chapter/CNRCC Desert Com*

Sat., Oct. 9, 10 am, 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 7:59 am, 4.5' LOW TIDE 2:17 pm, 2.4' Jack Beigle 773-2147

Sun., Oct. 10, 9:30 am, PISMO DUNES PRESERVE: Meet at Melodrama in Oceano. Drive about a mile to a secret way to the most

spectacular dunes to a remote lake. Total distance about 4 miles. Slide down steep dune faces. Confirm a few days before at 929-3647 or bdenneen@slonet.org
Fri.-Sun., Oct. 15-17, CARRIZO PLAIN EXPLORATORY OUTING. Come explore a new area in the remote Carrizo Plain on Saturday. We will drive out Friday evening and stay at the house adjacent to the Visitor Center. You may sleep in the house or camp just outside. At approx. 9 am on Saturday, we will drive to the Southeast and explore the area around Padrone Canyon. The last two miles of this drive will be on a dirt road best suited to SUVs or trucks. Later that day we will return to the same house to stay another night and leave on Sunday. There will be no poison oak on the hike. Please bring drinking water, food and sleeping bag. Please contact Carlos ahead of time at 546-0317.

Sat.-Sun., Oct 16-17, Crescenta Valley/CNRCC, Mojave O: Mysteries of the Desert and Primitive Carcamp: Come with us to beautiful, remote Black Canyon north of Barstow to enjoy one of the finest displays of ancient Indian rock art on public land in the Mojave Desert. Our easy Saturday hike will take us to petroglyphs, Indian Caves, 19th century inscriptions and other desert mysteries. Saturday night potluck and campfire. 2wd drive OK. Sign up early; number of participants strictly limited. Send check for \$5 per person (Sierra Club), 2 SASEs, email address, H&W phones, rideshare info to Reserv/Ldr: Lygeia de Jesus, 1550 N. Verdugo Rd. #40, Glendale, CA 91208, (818- 242-7053), Co-Ldr: Bill Spreng.

Sun., Oct. 17, 9:30 am, BICYCLE GUADALUPE to OCEAN: Meet at Dune Centre Parking lot with bike and helmet. An easy, educational tour of Guadalupe and then to Pacific. Confirm a few days before at 929-3647 or bdenneen@slonet.org
Sat.-Sun., Oct. 23-24, Owl Canyon/Rainbow Basin Geology Weekend: Car camping field trip to explore one of the most amazing geological formations in the Mojave desert just outside of Barstow. Natural history and the effects of offroading will be the focus of the trip. We will also be joined by a geology expert from the BLM to explain the local phenomena and enjoy driving and hiking opportunities in the area. Potluck Saturday night. Bring your geology books, camera, and binoculars. For info and directions contact Ldr: Alice Kettering, hikerbiker@netzero.net, (661-269-9737). *San Gorgonio Chap/ CNRCC Desert Com*

Sat.-Sun., Oct. 23-24, Birds and Tamarisk Bashing: Owens Valley Carcamp. We'll keep our eyes open for birds while we remove that invasive alien from selected spots along the Owens River. The Owens Valley is always a hot spot for birds and we'll spend all our time looking for them, even while walking and at our campsite. We'll also see for ourselves the challenges of re-watering the Owens River. Mike Prather will be our local resource person; he'll share his intimate knowledge of his valley. Camp at Diaz Lake (fee area); short walks to working areas. Plan on arriving Friday night so we can start early Saturday morning. Bring day pack with binoculars and bird books, gloves and loppers and handsaws, food and camping gear. For reservation and more information, contact Leaders: Cal and Letty French, 805-239-7338, [<ccfrench@tcsn.net>](mailto:ccfrench@tcsn.net)

Sun., Oct. 24, COAST HIKE: To a remote area of Nipomo Dunes. Confirm a few days before at 929-3647 or bdenneen@slonet.org
Sun, Oct 31, 8 am, Rattlesnake Hill to Coon Creek Hike. This is a 6.5 mile 2.5 hour hike with a 600 foot elevation gain. Everyone is welcome, but beginners will fall behind due to the elevation gain of the hike. Meet at the Coon Creek Parking Area at the very end of Pecho Road in Montana de Oro State Park. Leader AL, 534-0462 (3B). **Note:** Daylight Savings time ends today

Sun., Oct. 31, 9:30 am, POINT SAL: Meet at the end of Brown Road. Hike 2.5 miles to 'saddle' and then decide: hike to ocean, point or turn around. Bring lunch, water, dogs that do not chase cattle, windbreaker and optional Mt. Bike. Confirm and details a few days before at 929-3647 or bdenneen@slonet.org
Fri.-Sun., Oct. 29-31, Celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the Mojave National Preserve: Camping will be at the Hole-in-the-Wall Group campground Friday and Saturday nights, with the celebration on Saturday night including potluck, campfire and surprise activities. Saturday will be a hike to Cima Dome, a unique feature of the park, and Sunday the hike will be from Midhills Campground to Hole-in-the-Wall (approx. 6 miles) through Wildhorse Canyon. More details will be available at a later date. If you are interested or want to reserve a spot for this great weekend contact Carol Wiley, earthlingwiley@webtv.net or 15457 Eto Camino Road, Victorville, CA 92394. *San Gorgonio Chap/CNRCC Desert Com*



Photo by Joaquin Palting

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*

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 dry-land 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*

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.