



SIERRA
CLUB

June 2004
Volume 41, No. 6

Inside

Duke Update	3
Hearst 10-point Plan	4
Paddlers Corner	6
Classifieds	7
Outings	8

GENERAL MEETING

The privatization of water!
The final segment of our series on water.

June 15 @ 7:00 p.m.



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SANTA LUCIA

LUCIAN



*Protecting and
Preserving the
Central Coast*

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

All Nuked Up and Nowhere to Go

At the end of April, a state judge ordered the Diablo Canyon Independent Safety Committee to allow greater public participation and mandated the videotaping and broadcasting of meetings.

Pete Wagner, the Santa Lucia Chapter's late Conservation Chair, lobbied long and hard for the changes before his death last November. "A great deal of the credit for these important changes goes to Pete," said Rochelle Becker of San Luis Obispo Mothers for Peace. "When I read the judge's proposed order the first thing I wanted to do was call him, he would have been so excited. I miss him and thank him in my heart for all the time he volunteered on this petition and for so much more he selflessly gave to us all."

Becker spent the week of May 10 in Washington DC, lobbying Congress to establish oversight hearings on the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's failure to hold public hearings on the safety of nuclear power plants from terrorist attack. Her primary concern: the thirty-five million Californians at risk in the event of a terrorist attack at the Diablo Canyon nuclear plant.

She took with her a letter to lawmakers signed by Mothers for Peace, Greenpeace and the Sierra Club requesting a Senate Oversight hearing on the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's secretive formation of rules to address the threat of terrorism at nuclear plants without public notice or public participation. The NRC's refusal to allow public hearings regarding terrorism, acts of malice and insanity at the Diablo plant and its newly licensed high-level radioactive waste storage facility is the subject of an appeal at the 9th Circuit Court by the Mothers for Peace and the Sierra Club, supported by the County of San Luis Obispo and the Attorneys General of California, Utah, Washington and Massachusetts.

"There appears to be interest in a nuclear oversight hearing on the NRC's refusal to address issues of security in a post 9/11/01 world," Becker reports. "California senators and our local representative are closely scrutinizing their options and believe that their states – in fact all

nuclear reactor states – deserve to be protected in this era of growing hostility and vulnerability."

Federal preemption - a legal doctrine stating that only the federal government has jurisdiction over the siting and storage of nuclear materials - is cited by PG&E as a bar to both the SLO Board of Supervisors and the Californian Coastal Commission from weighing in on Diablo's plans for the on-site storage of nuclear waste. But preemption does not bar local and state government agencies from such actions as restricting the amount of spent nuclear fuel that can be stored at the site of a nuclear facility.

"Counties and states are willing to place their citizens at risk as they hide behind the preemption clause of the Atomic Energy Act rather than challenge it," says Becker. "It is time to take back the power to protect our citizens from aging reactors and growing high level nuclear waste onsite."

The Bush Administration meanwhile continues to signal its interest in reviving the moribund construction of nuclear power plants. It is pushing "Nuclear Power 2010," a grant program whose goal is to start construction on at least one reactor by that year. Last spring, three different consortiums, including Duke Power, Westinghouse, General Electric and Bechtel, applied for grants to build new plants.

"Nuclear plants are not safe — the industry will not build without government insurance," says Becker. "Nukes are not cheap - they only work with subsidies, from mining and construction to eventual storage. New nukes are not the answer, and yet we allow them to continue under the guise of reliability. At what cost? And with how many broken promises?"

The Long, Hearst Summer

by Tarren Collins, Chapter Chair

Evidence that the Sierra Club's concerns about the proposed Hearst Ranch conservation plan are being heard, and taken seriously, came at the May 5 meeting of the San Luis Obispo Council of Governments, where an initial \$23 million in federal funding was earmarked for a conservation easement over the Hearst Ranch land west of Highway 1.

At the meeting, before the deal is sealed and those appropriated funds are spent, we said that Sierra Club wants:
*A prohibition on private beaches or in-holdings west of the highway.

continued on page 4

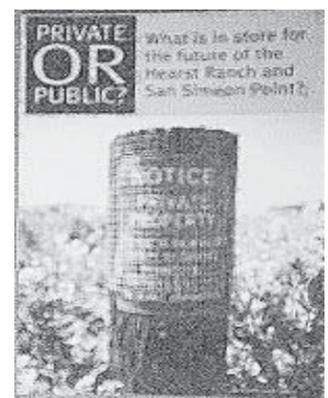


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continued on page 4

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

—John Muir



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Outings, events, and

Santa Lucia Chapter General Meeting

WATER FOR PROFIT

Water for Nature and People: The Story of Corporate Water Privatization.

Water is for fighting over - and one of the biggest battles is yet to come as private companies attempt to wrest ownership from local communities and water agencies. Our water supply has been community property, at least as most of us know it. Dale Stocking, chair of the Delta-Sierra Group of the Mother Lode Chapter of the Sierra Club, has been active in a grassroots movement to oppose the privatization of the Stockton, California, municipal utilities. Because of his involvement with the anti-privatization effort, Dale was asked to serve on the National Water Privatization Task Force (WPTF). His PowerPoint presentation, "Water for Nature and People: The Story of Corporate Water Privatization" was developed by the WPTF. Its purpose is to give an overview of how multinational corporations and some private investors are looking toward water as the next corporate gold mine. References will also be made to Vidler Company in Nevada and Cadiz in S. California.

The Sierra Club Board of Directors adopted a Sierra Club policy on Water Privatization and Commodification in November 2003 which was developed by the WPTF. The WPTF has also produced a Bottled Water Brochure for publicizing the detrimental effects the bottled water industry is having on our environment. When he is able to take time from the privatization issues, Dale enjoys fly fishing, backpacking and outings to the Sierra. He also has a day-time job as an orthodontist. Sierra Club members and the general public are invited to this vital, informative meeting. Bring your friends. Refreshments are served.

Tuesday, June 15, 7:00 p.m.

Meadow Park Rec Center

San Luis Obispo



Save the date!!

The Water Question

Members get the lowdown on our most precious resource

Here's a way of looking at California's water problems that you may not have thought of before: "Picture an old man with a full beard. There's a lot of hair, but it's very poorly distributed."

So spoke Susan Litteral of the Natural Resources Conservation Service, one of three water experts who addressed attendees at the Chapter's general meeting on April 18. All present learned about what's wrong (the unregulated pumping of ground water; California's rainfall now at its lowest three-year level since records have been kept) and what's right (keeping water on site — as with cisterns, not rain gutters, now mandatory in Cambria and Lake Tahoe — more reclaimed waste water, and more conservation) in the fight to keep the taps flowing and endangered species alive.

"Politically, we need to insist on conservation, not just development of new sources," said Atascadero water conservation manager and SLO Supervisor-elect Jim Patterson. "We need to use water better, use it longer, and with fewer environmental consequences."

See the General Meeting box above for details on the June 15 meeting, featuring the final presentation in our series on water.

Chapter Grants Fund Local Projects

The Santa Lucia Chapter recently award \$5,500 in grants in support of local conservation efforts.

We are funding a school organic gardening project and alternative to pesticides outreach program with the Environmental Center of San Luis Obispo, helping the Atascadero Land Preservation Society to protect open space in the Blue Oak woodlands — specifically the entrance to Stadium Park — and funding San Luis Obispo Mothers for Peace in their efforts to educate the community on the safety and environmental issues around PG&E's proposed expanded nuclear fuel storage facility and replacement of generators at the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Plant.

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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.

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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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Dark, Sticky, and Crude

(...or: the Bush Administration's environmental policies and what you can do about them)

by Andrew Christie

Five new oil wells off the Central Coast? The debut of offshore platforms off SLO?

Even though faced with an array of legal hurdles and the requirement to apply for the unlikely approval of the California Coastal Commission and the even less likely approval of voters for support facilities for the rigs, oil companies are heading this way again, forging ahead with a plan guaranteed to be vigorously opposed by a solid wall of environmentalists, elected officials, community groups, chambers of commerce, the tourist industry, the fishing industry, and all and sundry coastal-dependent users.

Who thought this was a good idea? Why, the Bush Administration, which also tried (and failed) last year to strip the Coastal Commission's authority over federal projects in state waters in order to facilitate oil and gas exploration.

Moral: If you want to keep offshore drilling off your shores, live in a swing state. The Bush administration bought back Florida's undeveloped oil leases in 2002. California? Sorry – can't make a deal.

Want to pin the tail on the elephant? Whether it's drilling, toxic waste, Frankenfoods, or our increasingly endangered species and un-clear skies, the target is large. Welcome to **Engaging Our Members**, a program that has developed tools and funding for Sierra Club members to gather in their own neighborhoods, have facilitated discussions among themselves, and discover ways they can become involved in helping to spread the word on the effects of the Bush administration's policies in their own back yards.

"The gatherings are structured to foster small group dialogues that get people talking and listening to each other," says Raphael Reyes of the Loma Prieta Chapter. "People at the gatherings are provided eye-catching, user-friendly materials, and asked to review them and discuss specific questions in their small group. It is unlike the usual Sierra Club membership meeting. These gatherings do not rely on an 'expert' to impart information to a room of onlookers. This engages the participants directly in dialogue, builds on their own knowledge and experience, and gets people talking to each other about the issues at hand."

Resources include postcards, discussion guides and other materials, as well as funding, training and a network of organizers to help make it happen for your group. If you come up with an idea for an attention-getting event that will further spread the word, more funding is available via a simple application to the Club's "Hitting them Hard" program.

Lead mobilizer of the Engaging Our Members Campaign for the Western U.S. is our own Cal French. If you want to find out more about how to get involved in EOM, contact Cal at ccfrench@tcsn.net or call 805-239-7338. Just leave a brief message on the machine, with your name, number, and best time to call.

Energy & Coastal Commissions Duke it Out

by Jack McCurdy

A potentially explosive dispute between the California Energy Commission (CEC) and the California Coastal Commission over their respective powers in siting power plants apparently prompted the Energy Commission to postpone what was expected to be a final decision on Duke Energy's plan to build a new Morro Bay Power Plant.

The May 5 hearing in Sacramento was canceled at the last minute after the Energy Commission received comments from the Coastal Commission, the Energy Commission staff and the Coastal Alliance on Plant Expansion (CAPE) that assailed the CEC's pending decision to license the new Duke plant.

The hearing was "postponed until further notice." Calling for postponement of action on the project, opponents charged that the proposed decision was illegal, would create new rules for power plant reviews that contain "grievous errors," would "almost certainly lead to legal challenges that would delay construction" of the project, represented a "power grab," and "ignores the substantial weight of evidence provided by scientific experts" against use of once-through ocean water cooling by a new plant.

The Coastal Commission accused the CEC of "inappropriate editing" of a key law cited to justify the CEC conclusions. It pointed to "an edited quotation of (a) section that purports to provide support for an interpretation of this provision that is entirely different than that which derives from a complete, unedited quotation." The CEC conclusion that the Coastal Commission has no substantive role in the project review "is only possible due to editing out key words and phrases...."

According to the Coastal Commission, the key factor in the dispute between the two agencies is the CEC's attempt to establish "a precedential decision...that the Coastal Commission has no role in the AFC proceedings." The CEC's own staff agreed with the Coastal Commission's assessment of the CEC's "seriously flawed" legal conclusions.

CAPE, a citizens group and intervener in the regulatory review of the case, called the CEC recommendation an "obvious power grab to become the sole and final interpreter" of environmental protections from power plant impacts, which has been partly the Coastal Commission's prerogative in the past."

The CEC chose to ignore the Coastal Commission's report, which found that the Duke project would violate the Coastal Act because of environmental impacts on marine life in the Morro Bay National Estuary and that mitigation measures were inadequate. Instead, the CEC was set to override the Coastal Act itself, a move the CEC staff, the Coastal Commission and CAPE contend violates state law.

"The sum effect of (the CEC's recommendation) is to allow the Energy Commission to reject the Coastal Commission recommendations simply because it disagrees with them," the CEC staff said in its final brief, maintaining that "the delicate balance" in state law between the dual authorities of the CEC and the Coastal Commission in the evaluation of project consistency with environmental protection statutes "should not be meddled with."

Any appeal of a CEC decision goes directly to the California Supreme Court. Although that Court has never accepted such an appeal, the pending CEC decision was seen as the type that could win a review for the first time because of the intra-governmental issue involved.

In its final brief to the CEC, CAPE pointed out that the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board, which must issue a discharge permit if the new plant is to be built, has indicated it will not hold its final hearing until September at the earliest. Thus, the CEC has ample time to correct the flaws in its decision before the water board acts, a sequence both agencies desire, it said. CAPE also argued that the CEC's final recommendation had become "stale" and to a large extent obsolete since the initial preliminary recommendation was issued a year ago by the Commission's Presiding Committee, which has conducted a three-and-a-half-year review of the Duke project. The recommendation was based on the status of the existing plant when Duke filed its application in 2000, a time when the plant was fully operational. The plant has now been virtually shut down for the past 15 months, which materially alters the comparisons between environmental impacts of the existing plant and a new plant. If the existing plant has less impact, it would be harder to justify licensing a new plant under state environmental laws.

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



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Ten-Point Plan & “Minimum Inclusions” for Hearst Deal



A good night: (left to right) Mark Massara, Director of Sierra Club Coastal Programs; Sierra Club regional representative Elizabeth Lambe; Santa Lucia Chapter Chair Tarren Collins; Sierra Club California Chapter Liaison Pat Veasart; and Environmental Defense Center chief counsel Linda Krop after the April 27 forum.

The Chapter's public forum on the Hearst Ranch Conservation plan, held April 27 in the community room of the SLO Library, saw the public debut of "Getting the Best Conservation Deal for the State of California: An Analysis of Minimum Inclusions for the Hearst Ranch Conservation Agreement," prepared by California Coastal Protection Network, California League of Conservation Voters, Sierra Club California, and the Environmental Defense Center.

Co-sponsored by the Sierra Club's Great Coastal Places Campaign and the SLO Coast Alliance – representing more than 30 environmental organizations with more than 22,000 supporters – the public forum made it clear that while this deal is being negotiated with the State, the public must let the decision-makers know what they want to see in the deal.

After the main presentations, several members of the audience asked that representatives of the Hearst Corporation and American Land Conservancy, their negotiating partner, be given the floor. Chapter Chair Tarren Collins asked their representatives in the audience if they had any new details or information to impart and, if so, invited them to come up to the podium. As has been the case when asked for such information for the past year and a half, they declined to speak. (Afterward, Hearst boosters attempted to make hay with the local media by maintaining that Hearst reps had not been allowed to speak at the meeting.)

Sierra Club and the SLO Coast Alliance want the following written into the Hearst Ranch conservation agreement:

1. A transparent public review process prior to closure
2. Prohibit all private beaches
3. Preservation of the historic Mission San Antonio Trail (Portola, 1769) and public access to Fort Hunter Liggett
4. Ongoing public oversight and enforcement of easement terms
5. Easement language that prohibits intensified agricultural uses
6. Easement language that prohibits future subdivision of the ranch
7. Easement language that requires Hearst to rezone lands planned for intensive commercial development back to agriculture
8. Clear language that the purchase agreement and conservation easement do not imply development potential or entitlements
9. Strong standards that do not prejudice future State acquisitions
10. Strict cultural resource protection across the entire ranch.



Hearst

continued from page 1

*Change of the underlying zoning to Open Space or Resource Management or other designation that will achieve the goals of protection of resources and access.

* A condition requiring a third-party beneficiary to the easement — a public agency, thereby triggering a requirement for public input before any amendments can be made to the terms. While the law requires the easement to be “in perpetuity,” the only punishment for a violation is a tax penalty - “the cost of doing business” if Hearst wants to develop while claiming preservation for all time.

* A condition stating that money should not be spent unless the other funding agencies *and the public* agree to an overall deal.

There was an obvious effort made in the weeks before the meeting by the SLOCOG staff to address many of our questions and concerns. Some Council members explored our questions further with staff. At the meeting, Council member Tony Ferrara commented that he could relate to what we were saying, adding that he knew from personal experience that developers often promise things but never deliver.

The Coastal Conservancy, California Resources Agency, and the SLOCOG staff worked to provide assurance that this would not be a stand-alone deal, as previously planned, but would be contingent on the eventual fate of negotiations between Hearst and the State to conserve the rest of the Ranch. A full public process, with details to be released 30 days in advance of a public hearing, is now embraced as a “mainstream” idea — remarkable in itself.

Unfortunately, the Memorandum of Understanding negotiated (released on May 11) between Caltrans and the California Resources Agency falls short of that goal. We still have work to do to insure that Caltrans is bound by the same public disclosure requirements that the California Resources Agency has agreed to. Stay tuned....

On May 13, California Sierra Club staff Bill Allayaud and Pat Veasart attended the California Transportation Commission hearing in Sacramento to raise concerns about the Memorandum of Understanding and to ask for full public disclosure from all state agencies involved in negotiating for Hearst Ranch Conservation. The CTC acknowledged SLOCOG's vote to endorse the funding proposal and approved the funds. By the time you read this, the Federal Highway Administration may have finalized the appropriation, and the state Resources Agency, Hearst Corp. and the American Land Conservancy may have released the details of their negotiations and a proposed conservation agreement.

Coming up: Public hearings in July, held by the Resources Agency. As American Land Conservancy VP Jeff Stump commented after the SLOCOG meeting, there's “a long summer ahead.”

Thanks! ... Who Are You?

In addition to a great turnout, we got a great response to our mailing announcing the April 27 community forum. A lot of people sent in the card volunteering to write letters, sign a petition, make a phone call, or otherwise help to make sure that the deal to save Hearst Ranch is the best possible deal... but some of you sent in your generous offer of help without including your name or address. Might you be among that number? Could be? Drop us a note!

What can you do?

Go here to read the analysis of the minimum requirements for the Hearst Ranch Conservation deal:

www.sierraclub.org/ca/coasts/hotbox/hearst.pdf

Urge the governor and state agencies to negotiate the best deal possible for Californians. Go here to see a letter that you can copy and send to Governor Schwarzenegger:

www.sierraclub.org/ca/coasts/hotbox/hearst_letter.asp



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“Let Freedom Ring!”



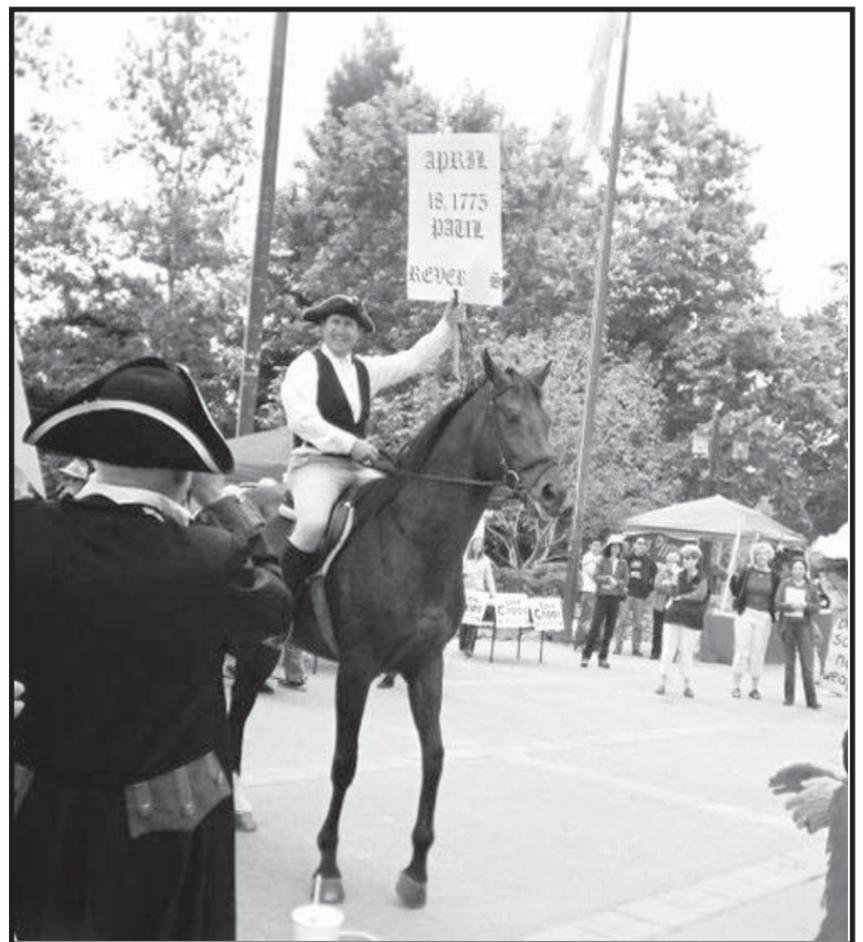
Patty Andreen (left), 3rd District candidate for the Board of Supervisors, at the "Let Freedom Ring!" rally.

A 21st-century Paul Revere rode through San Luis Obispo’s Mission Plaza on April 18 to commemorate the 229th anniversary of the midnight ride and warn the people about a new threat to liberty: The Patriot Act, now opposed by resolutions passed by over 200 communities and several state legislatures across the country.

The Bush administration’s policies are all of a piece: Environmentally destructive economic and energy policies based on increasing fossil fuel consumption guarantee more wars in oil-rich regions, which guarantee more domestic security measures that erode civil liberties and undermine the foundations of democracy.

The Sierra Club has opposed key provisions of the Patriot Act that weaken access to information necessary to protect the public from environmental risks. We have joined with civil liberties and other environmental groups to support the Restoration of Freedom of Information Act, which seeks to revive the flow of information vital in a democratic society and to shield whistleblowers protecting the public welfare.

The Sierra Club is providing funding and materials in support of creative ideas for public events highlighting the local consequences of the Administration’s energy and environmental policies (see page 3).



See You at GreenEarth!

The Santa Lucia Chapter will have a booth at San Luis Obispo’s first annual GreenEarth Festival — honoring and celebrating the pioneers and activists in the county who are working for a sustainable and socially just future – on Saturday, June 5, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., at the SLO Vets Hall. It is also a party, with food, drink, music, and dancing continuing on into the night, in addition to an opportunity to go to workshops and network with activists, business people and non-profits promoting local, sustainable, environmentally friendly goods and services.

It’s also a rare local opportunity to hear the extraordinary Kevin Danaher, co-founder of Global Exchange and the event’s keynote speaker.

See you at GreenEarth!

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Santa Margarita Lake Overnight

by Jack Beigle

How can we be so lucky? After several days of cold, high winds, Saturday was clear, warm and calm. The lake water level was very low but we had plenty of water to reach our campsite. It was interesting to paddle past little islands that are normally under 20 feet of water.

After setting up camp and enjoying our lunch we took a short hike to check out the spring wild flowers. The day warmed up and we spent the early afternoon reading in the shade of an old oak tree and listening to a flock of birds conversing in a tree on the far side of our campsite.

Late in the afternoon we launched our boats to see if we could spot any wildlife. It wasn't long before a paddler saw a bald eagle directly overhead. The golden rays of the setting sun illuminated it. As it circled it looked down and watched us as we looked up watching it. The eagle was graceful and majestic as it soared out of sight. Just before we turned our boats toward camp we saw an osprey perched on a branch of a tree near the shoreline. It had caught a large fish and it was having dinner in the warmth of the setting sun.

The next morning as we were breaking camp two does casually walked through the inland edge of our campsite. They seemed very large and full bodied for deer. We found out later that they were probably elk. I was not aware that elk had been released in this area. As a final treat, when we were paddling out we saw a young fawn that was so busy browsing on a small shrub that it didn't notice us coasting by 15 feet away. It was a fitting finale for a great weekend.

Check the outing schedule and join us on the water.



Sierra Club's New Board of Directors--the 2004 vote

Director	Votes	
Lisa Renstrom	141,407	
Jan O'Connell	132,262	
Nick Aumen	123,332	Total returns by Internet: 45,559
Sanjay Ranchod	123,332	Total returns by mail: 126,016
David Karpf	110,756	Total returns by fax: 41
331 write-ins		Total returns: 171,616
14,257 unexercised votes		Total mailed 757,058
4,550 multiple marks [on invalid ballots because more than 5 votes cast]		Percent returned 22.67%

Sierra Club California Annual Convention

This year's convention of the Sierra Club's thirteen California chapters will be held at El Chorro Education Center, Rancho El Chorro, June 5-6. California EPA chief Terry Tamminen will address the Convention on Saturday. Events dedicated to the election of Senator Barbara Boxer and local environmental candidates will be held throughout.

Sierra Club California will also hold elections for its 11-member Executive Committee. The nominating committee had not announced candidates at press time. Additional nominations may be made from the floor if at least ten convention delegates have signed a petition in support of the nomination.

If you plan on attending and have not yet registered with Lori Ives, be sure to do so immediately (ivesico@earthlink.net).

Volunteer Opportunities Get involved!!

For more information call our office at (805) 543-8717 or e-mail us at santa.lucia.chapter@sierraclub.org

Newsletter Mailing Help. Come help with labeling and mailing our newsletter once a month. Call our office at (805) 543-8717 or e-mail us at santa.lucia.chapter@sierraclub.org

Political Committee Members. Come help the Club review proposed legislation, review the positions of candidates for various offices, and contribute opinions for recommendation to our Executive Committee. Contact Colby Concho Crotzer at colby@fix.net or at 772-9253.

Conservation Committee Members. The Sierra Club would love to have you join us on the many conservation issues in our local area and beyond. Currently we are concentrating on protection of the San Simeon Area, Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant Permit, Duke Power Plant at Morro Bay, National Estuary Program at Morro Bay, and the Marine Interests Group. See detail below. Call our office at (805) 543-8717 or e-mail us at santa.lucia.chapter@sierraclub.org if you want to help out.

Issues:

Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant, where we are co-intervenors with the Mothers for Peace on PG&E's application to the NRC to construct an outdoor site for storage of used nuclear fuel rods. We are Parties in the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board's hearings on PG&E's permit to continue to use ocean water for once-through cooling. We are also participating with the MFP in a petition to the California Public Utilities Commission to reconstitute the Diablo Canyon Independent Safety Committee in order to add public outreach to its responsibilities. We need people to read, analyze, attend meetings, and write letters.

Duke Power Plant at Morro Bay, where we are working with the Coastal Alliance on Plant Expansion on eliminating the high mortality of estuarine larvae and eggs that are sucked into the cooling water intake. We are urging the use of dry cooling which uses no estuarine water at all. This will likely end up as a statewide Sierra Club effort to eliminate once-through cooling for all new or reconstructed plants in California. Again, volunteers needed to read, analyze, attend meetings, write, and lobby.

National Estuary Program at Morro Bay, where we participate in key committees that deal with an extensive MBNEP program to reduce sediment input to Morro Bay, to monitor Bay water quality and marine life, and to educate the public. Interested volunteers can help out the program by signing up for field sampling in the Bay and tributary streams, and serving as guides in the newly formed museum.

Marine Interests Group, a recently formed body for which we serve on a Working Committee that is attempting to bring together all the marine interests on the central coast and create a long term program for protection of the coastal region along the lines of a marine sanctuary or equivalent organization. We need volunteers to attend its meetings and report to the Conservation Committee.

Membership, Programs and Special Events. We strive to provide quality information to our members and the general public. We are looking for individuals to help set up, coordinate and arrange up coming events with the Sierra Club. A sampling of events we need help for are; our monthly general meeting program, annual summer picnic, Creek Days, Earth Day Fair, SLO Botanical Garden Festival, Christmas in the Plaza, Farmers Market and many more. Call our office at (805) 543-8717 or e-mail us at santa.lucia.chapter@sierraclub.org if you want to help out.

Chapter Fund Raising for Saving Special Places along the Central Coast. The Sierra Club has created The Morros Preservation and SLO Land Preservation Fund. In order for these funds to be most effective, we need help in raising money for different projects along the Central Coast. As funds are acquired, we can then offer local organizations grants or match much larger amounts. Call our office at (805) 543-8717 or e-mail us at santa.lucia.chapter@sierraclub.org if you want to help out.

Outings Leaders and Leader Assistants. The Santa Lucia Chapter is looking for individuals to help organize, lead and assist our current outings program. Help is needed for the Sierra Singles, Singles Coordinator, Canoe/Kayak Section, Sierra Campers with Kids, and our regular outings program. No experience is necessary, we will provide the necessary information and training to help you get started. Call our office at (805) 543-8717 or e-mail us at santa.lucia.chapter@sierraclub.org if you want to help out.

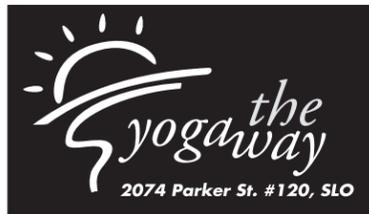
Trail Watch Volunteers – In this era of declining budgets, the Forest Service, State Parks, and County of San Luis Obispo continue to look to volunteers who travel many of the local trails surrounding San Luis Obispo. The volunteers coordinated through the Sierra Club or other trail organization may make reports on current trail and camp conditions or may be asked to help with building new trails or maintaining existing ones. If you would like to volunteer, help organize the Trail Watch Volunteers, or just be put on a mailing list for future events, call our office at (805) 543-8717 or e-mail us at santa.lucia.chapter@sierraclub.org More information is available on the Trail Watch section of the Chapter web page, www.santalucia.sierraclub.org/trailwat.html

Classifieds

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 June 1, 2004). Please submit your ad and payment to:
 Mariko Fujinaka
 1416 Vine St.
 Paso Robles, CA 93446
 mariko1@pacbell.net

Local Government Meetings

City of SLO--1st & 3rd Tues., 7:00 pm
 Arroyo Grande--2nd and 4th Tues., 7:00 p.m.
 Atascadero--2nd & 4th Tues.
 Grover Beach--1st & 3rd Mon., 6:30 p.m.
 Grover Beach Planning Commission--2nd Tues.
 Morro Bay--2nd & 4th Mon.
 Paso Robles--1st & 3rd Tues., 7:00 p.m.
 Pismo Beach--1st Tues., 5:30 p.m.
 Los Osos CSD--BOD--1st Tues. and 2nd Mon., may vary
 California Coastal Commission--3rd Tues., may vary.
 SLO County Board of Supervisors --every Tues.
 SLO Council of Governments: SLOGOC Citizens Advisory Committee--1st Wed. every other month, 6:00 p.m.
 SLOCOG Board--1st Wed. every other month, 8:30 a.m.



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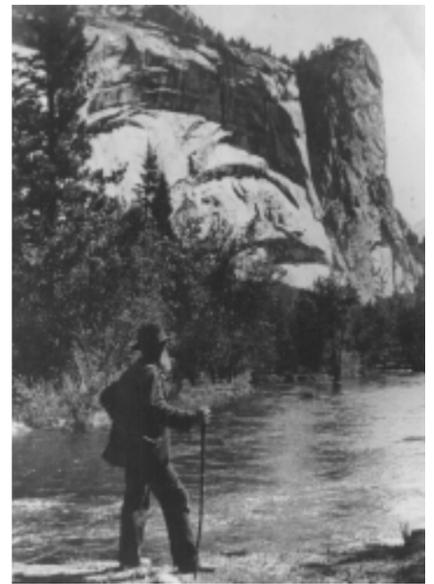
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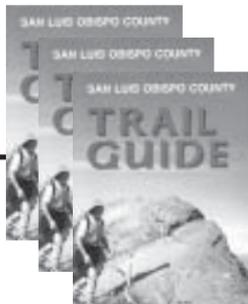
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Environmental 911

Here's an easy way to report on environmental concerns or to get information on issues affecting our ecology: Call 911! That's just a catchy title, though. The real number is... (drum roll):

(415) 977-5520 or environmental911@sierraclub.org

A Will . . .

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

For more information and confidential assistance, contact

John Calaway

Sierra Club Planned Giving Program

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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.

Wed., June 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, 5:30 p.m., 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.

Th.-Wed., June 10-16, Paria River Backpack. Finest narrows in the world, brilliant red rock, lots of wading. Limit 10. BLM fee \$40 per person. Send \$20 deposit check made to Sierra Club and \$40 check for BLM fee made out to David Hardy at Box 99, Blue Diamond, NV 89004, hardyhikers@juno.com, (702-875-4549). Contacts by e-mail preferred. *Toiyabe Chap/ CNRCC Desert Com*

Sat., June 12, AVILA BEACH TRAILS: We will start on the Bob Jones Bike Trail, go to the bluffs and cave, make a loop past beautiful houses, and see great ocean views (7 mrt, 600 ft. elev. gain). Meet at Lompoc Pizza Hut at 9 am. Bring lunch and water. CONNIE 735-2292 (AR). San Luis Obispo hikers call for meeting time and place.

Sat.-Sun., June 12-13, Telescope Peak (11,049"). Climb the highest peak in Death Val-

ley with spectacular views of the highest point (Mt. Whitney) and the lowest point (Badwater) in the contiguous U.S. 14 miles rt, 3,000 ft. gain; moderate/slow pace but must be well-conditioned. Hike Sat. followed by potluck and campfire. Group size strictly limited; send \$5 check (Sierra Club) (refundable at trailhead), 2 SASE, H&W phones, e-mail address, rideshare info to Ldr: Lygeia de Jesus, 1550 N. Verdugo Rd. #40, Glendale, CA 91208, (818-242-7053). Co-ldr: Bill Spreng. *Crescenta Valley Group/Mojave Group/ CNRCC Desert Com*

Sun., June 13, COAST HIKE: To a remote area of dunes with



Hikers on a recent trip to Caliente Mountains, an area currently under study for a proposed wilderness. Photo courtesy of Gary Felsman.

Chumash midden, coreopsis, flowers at their peak. Confirm a few days before at 929-3647 or bdenneen@slonet.org

Fri.-Sat., June 18-26, 5th Annual Ruby Rendezvous. One of the most enjoyable group trips and mountain ranges in the West. Join Cowgirl poet/humorist Merrily Wright and friends and a growing list of Ruby devotees for a week of day hiking, car camping and off trail backpacking. June 18-21: Car Camp/Day Hiking. June 23-25: Wilderness Backpack/Peak Bagging. Participate in part or all. Share fees aprx. \$80p/p. Carshare from Bay Area. Contact Ldr: Allen Tatomer, allentatomer@hotmail.com, (925-439-0434). *SF Bay Chapter/CNRCC Desert Com*

Sat., June 19, 11:00 a.m., CANOE/KAYAK BAYWOOD FOR LUNCH. This leisurely paddle leads you to the Baywood Pier where you can enjoy an inexpensive lunch in Baywood or bring a picnic lunch and eat on the pier. Our paddle back to the marina always burns up a few of the calories. Bring your boat and equipment, PFDs, windbreaker, binoculars and lunch money or picnic lunch. Put in 11 am. Jack Beigle 773-2147

Sun., June 20, 9:30 a.m., 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.

Sun., June 27, 9:30 a.m., 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 a few days before at 929-3647 or bdenneen@slonet.org

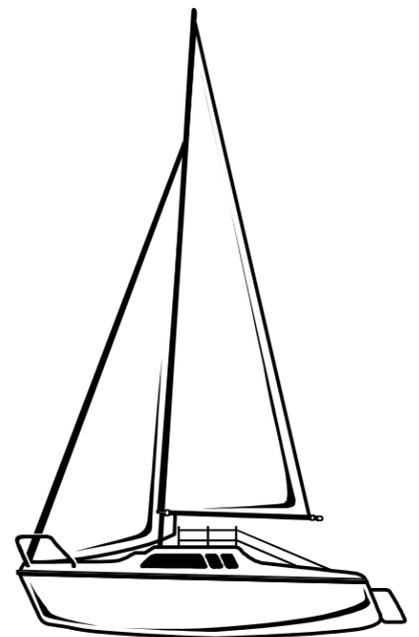
Sun., July 4, 8 a.m., Hazard Peak. Join us for this 3 hour, 6 mile roundtrip hike with over 1,000 feet of elevation gain. Bring water, sturdy hiking shoes, and dress for the weather. Everyone is welcome, but beginners will fall behind due to the elevation gain of the



Photo by Joaquin Palting

hike. Meet at the junction of Pecho Valley Road and the Horse Camps dirt road turnoff, 1/10th of a mile beyond the entrance to Montana de Oro. Do not meet at the Ridge Trailhead, as we will be hiking the back route to the peak. Leader Al (534-0462) (3B)

Sat., July 10, 5:00 p.m. CANOE/KAYAK MORRO BAY DINNER PICNIC. This is an evening paddle on the bay and a beach dinner picnic with friends. It should be a romantic evening for a gourmet picnic. Bring your boat and equipment, PFDs, windbreaker, warm clothing, flashlight and a picnic dinner. LAUNCH AT MORRO BAY STATE PARK MARINA. Put in 5:00 p.m. 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.