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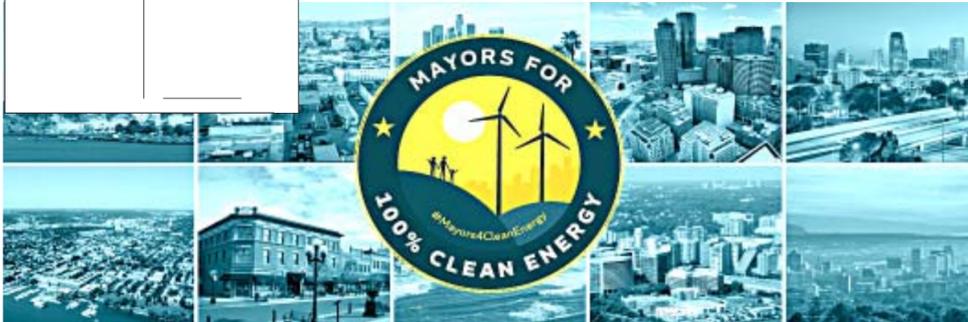
SANTA LUCIAN



**SIERRA
CLUB**
Santa Lucia
Chapter

June 2017
Volume 54 No.6

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



Where's Your Mayor?

Across the country, mayors are signing on to a vision of 100% Clean Energy

Local leadership on clean energy is more important than ever.

As we face unprecedented threats to vital climate, environmental, and pollution protections, mayors and local leaders are seizing the moment to lead the nation towards a healthier, stronger future by committing to 100% clean, renewable energy for all.

Mayors understand firsthand the threats to security and public health that families are facing across the country.

We are asking mayors to respond to this moment by signaling their support for clean energy and healthy communities. Transitioning to 100% clean and renewable energy — like energy efficiency, wind, solar and electrified transportation — will protect our kids and families from pollution,

create new jobs and local economic opportunities, and ensure that all people have access to affordable energy solutions.

That's why, along with our co-chairs pictured at right, the Sierra Club's Ready For 100 Campaign is launching Mayors For 100% Clean Energy, an initiative calling on all mayors, regardless of political party, from big cities and small towns, to support a vision of 100% clean and renewable energy in their cities, towns, and communities, and across the country.

Mayors have a powerful role in making 100% Clean Energy a reality, and a powerful voice to help us spread the message.

Whether you're a mayor, an activist, or would like to be a partner organization, you can take action now.



Mayor Philip Levine
Miami Beach, FL
CO-CHAIR



Mayor Jackie Biskupski
Salt Lake City, UT
CO-CHAIR



Mayor Steve Benjamin
Columbia, SC
CO-CHAIR



Mayor Kevin Faulconer
San Diego, CA
CO-CHAIR



Let's spell it out The People's Climate March in Santa Barbara began with a rally and human billboard at the city college football stadium, spelling out a "100% CLEAN POWER" message, photographed by an overhead drone. (See page 4.)

Meet the Mayors For 100% Clean Energy

At press time, these are the mayors supporting a vision of 100% clean and renewable energy in their cities, towns, and communities, and across the country.

The following mayors have pledged their support for a community-wide transition to 100% renewable energy:

- Mayor Heidi Harmon, San Luis Obispo, CA
- Mayor Eric Garcetti, Los Angeles, CA
- Mayor Suzanne Jones, Boulder, CO*
- Mayor Greg Lemons, Abita Springs, LA*
- Mayor Sam Liccardo, San Jose, CA*
- Mayor Mark Meadows, East Lansing, MI
- Mayor Greg Scharff, Palo Alto, CA*
- Mayor Helene Schneider, Santa Barbara, CA
- Mayor Steve Skadron, Aspen, CO*
- Deputy-Mayor D. Dwight Worden, Del Mar, CA*
- Mayor Ardeell Brede, Rochester, MN*
- Mayor Rick Krisman, St. Petersburg, FL*
- Mayor Bob Dixon, Greensburg, KS
- Mayor Rosalynn Bliss, Grand Rapids, MI*
- Mayor Drew Fixell, Tarrytown, NY
- Mayor Christopher Taylor, Ann Arbor, MI
- Mayor Phillip D. Kramer, Franklin Township, NJ

- Mayor Ethan K. Strimling, Portland, ME
- Mayor Cary Glickstein, Delray Beach, FL
- Mayor Tom Butt, Richmond, CA
- Mayor John Engen Missoula, MT
- Mayor Frank Bivona, Franklin Lakes, NJ
- Mayor Philip K. Stoddard, South Miami, FL
- Mayor Miro Weinberger, Burlington, VT*
- Mayor David Mejia, Alhambra, CA
- Mayor John A. Ostenburg, Park Forest, IL
- Mayor JoAnn B. Seghini, Midvale City, UT
- Mayor Peter Rustin, Tenafly, NJ
- Mayor Skylar Peak, Malibu, CA
- Mayor Dave Coulter, Ferndale, MI
- Mayor Nicola Smith, Lynnwood, WA
- Mayor Shelley Welsch, University City, MO

*Mayors of communities that have adopted goals to transition to 100% renewable energy community-wide no later than 2035.

Many of the mayors listed here are members of The Climate Mayors (the Mayors National Climate Action Agenda)—founded by Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti, former Houston Mayor Annise Parker, and former Philadelphia Mayor Michael Nutter—which is a group of 86 U.S. mayors in red states and blue states working together to strengthen local efforts for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and supporting efforts for binding federal and global-level policymaking. For more information visit www.climate-mayors.org or follow @climatemayors on Twitter.

If you're ready for your mayor to support 100% clean and renewable energy in your city, take action at sierraclub.org/ready-for-100 and ask your mayor to sign on to the Mayors For 100% Clean Energy letter now! Go to sc.org/mayors-action.

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www.sierraclub.org/santa-lucia



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MAYORS for 100% CLEAN ENERGY ENDORSEMENT



I, Mayor _____ of _____ support a goal of 100 percent clean, renewable energy in my city and across the United States.

I believe that a transition to 100 percent clean energy is good for my community: It will make us stronger, healthier, and more resilient; it will create jobs and new business opportunities; and it will allow us to become a more equitable society where everyone has opportunity in a thriving local economy.

Nearly 200 nations have agreed, for the first time in history, that the world must achieve 100 percent renewable energy by the end of this century. In the United States, action by local government is already

a significant driver of renewable energy growth because cities know firsthand that steps to reduce carbon emissions, clean the air, strengthen the economy, and improve lives.

Positive, bipartisan, community-driven solutions are possible and already happening in our community. I will continue to work with all stakeholders to transition away from dirty energy and implement local, affordable solutions like energy efficiency, solar, wind, and pollution-free electric transportation.

To join Mayors For 100% Clean Energy, please print and sign the statement below, and send a scanned copy to mayors4cleanenergy@sierraclub.org.

I hereby pledge to work with my community to realize a vision of 100 percent renewable energy in _____



Santa Lucian

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- Chuck Tribbey (12/19)
VICE-CHAIR
- Lindi Doud (12/17)
TREASURER
- Stephanie Gong (12/17)
SECRETARY
- Christine Mulholland (12/18)
MEMBER
- Sue Harvey (12/17)
MEMBER
- Marcia Alter (12/19)
MEMBER

Karen Merriam
COUNCIL OF CLUB LEADERS

The Executive Committee meets the second Monday of every month at 2:00 p.m. The Conservation Committee meets the second Friday at 1p.m. at the chapter office, located at 974 Santa Rosa St., San Luis Obispo. All members are welcome to attend.

- Committees**
- Political**
David Bouquin
 - Membership/Development**
Marcia Alter
Stephanie Gong
Nancy J. Cole
 - Conservation**
Sue Harvey

Nuclear Power Task Force
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Send your letter now

The Carrizo Plain National Monument is one of the crown jewels of America's public lands. But it now faces an unprecedented threat as the Trump administration seeks to revoke its protected status, placing this unique and fragile landscape at risk.

Residents of the Central Coast and beyond are speaking out and taking action so that the Carrizo Plain stays just like it is today — open, wild, and protected for everyone to explore and enjoy.

Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke is now accepting public comments as he reviews the protected status of the Carrizo Plain and more than two dozen other national monuments throughout the West.

Now is the time to let your voice be heard. You can submit a comment at savethecarrizo.org. Visit the site to learn more about the Carrizo Plain, the unprecedented attack on national monuments, and how you can send a letter to Secretary Zinke to let him know the Carrizo Plain is here to stay.



TAKE ACTION

Write a letter. Make a phone call. Make a difference, and let your voice be heard.

The public comment period ends on **July 10**. Send your letter today at savethecarrizo.org.

If you prefer the U.S. mail, send to:

Monument Review, MS-1530
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington DC 20240

Together we will ensure that the Carrizo Plain National Monument stays protected now and for future generations.

For more information:
#MonumentsForAll
tinyurl.com/savethemonuments



Gregory "Slobirdr" Smith

Santa Lucian Now Bimonthly



No need to call us next month and tell us you've missed an issue: With our July/August issue, the *Santa Lucian* will be going to bimonthly status, com-

ing to you in January, March, May, July, September and November.

The Executive Committee determined that this is the best way in which to keep a

print edition going for those of you who prefer print to pixels, while reducing our printing and (especially) postage costs and, above all, freeing up staff and

volunteer time and focus for all the other multifarious duties required of a Sierra Club chapter in these perilous times.



SIERRA CLUB

SANTA LUCIA

Dear Santa Lucia Chapter member,

In recent months, the number of Chapter members has increased to record levels. We are proud of the 2,666 SLO County residents who have chosen to support the work of the Sierra Club both locally and nationally.

As the largest grassroots environmental organization in the country (and in San Luis Obispo county), we have the opportunity and the obligation to stand firm against all efforts to de-value and degrade the quality of our air, water and open spaces.

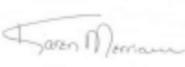
On Saturday, June 17, the Executive Committee of the Chapter will meet to discuss and draft a strategic plan that will guide the work of the Chapter for the next two years. To make this planning successful and relevant, we need your help. That is why we are inviting all Chapter members to meet and have a pot-luck picnic lunch with the ExCom to share your views of what issues should be our greatest priorities, and strategies to assure the resources necessary to address those priorities.

All-Members Chapter Meeting
Saturday, June 17, 10:00am-1:00pm
RSVP required - karen@karenmerriam.com

The meeting will be held at a home in the Edna Valley. Directions provided when you RSVP. Lunch will be potluck. Space is limited; early RSVPs are encouraged.

If you cannot attend, please send a brief note to karen@karenmerriam.com stating your view of which County environmental issues, in order of importance, you feel should be the Chapter's priorities over the next two years.

Thank you for your support and involvement in the Santa Lucia Chapter.



Executive Committee

Attention On Line Readers

What's the fastest, easiest, and best way to support the Santa Lucia Chapter?

Go to our website, santalucia.sierraclub.org, and click on the orange Donate button, then select a dollar amount in the "Monthly contribution" menu box. Then click on the yellow Donate button and let PayPal take you through the rest of the steps. A donation of \$20 a month puts you in the Cal French Circle as a sustaining monthly donor to the Chapter.

For those of you reading this issue on line, we've made it even easier. Clicking on the button below will take you straight to our donor page.

Be a sustaining donor for \$20 a month! Click here to sign up for an automatic monthly contribution.

▼
Monthly contribution



Sierra Club California Endorses Community Choice Resolution

Over the weekend of April 28 at the Sierra Club California convention at Rancho El Chorro, where the 13 Sierra Club chapters in California and our state chapter convene annually to consider resolutions and elect a state-wide executive committee, delegates voted to pass a resolution supporting Community Choice energy/aggregation programs that meet twelve essential goals:

- Prioritize the development of local renewable and distributed energy resources;
- Maintain transparency and inclusive participation of community stakeholders in its decision-making process;
- Provide competitively-priced electricity to customers;
- Achieve local governments' climate action plan and greenhouse gas reduction goals;
- Exceed the Renewable

Portfolio Standard and minimize the use of unbundled renewable energy credits;

- Use effective risk-management practices and long-term power procurement strategies to hedge risk using a diversity of energy suppliers, technologies and products;
- Balance clean energy development with protecting wild places and habitat by prioritizing investments in sustainably-sited renewable energy projects;
- Plan for long-term financial viability through Integrated Resource Planning, in-house fiscal management, transparent rate setting, and policies that build CCA financial reserves, prohibit the transfer of CCA funds to municipal general funds, and protect the municipal general funds from CCA program liabilities;
- Generate clean energy jobs, prioritizing union

jobs, community benefit agreements, and economic growth through local renewable and distributed energy development;

- Collaborate with community organizations to prioritize renewable and

distributed energy resources deployment and personal and community ownership, especially in disadvantaged communities;

- Improve public health in areas impacted by pollution from fossil fuel power

generation;

- Leverage local government land use authorities (in zoning, building codes, transportation, etc.) to support these goals.

A feasibility study for a regional Community Choice

Energy program serving San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and Ventura Counties and/or incorporated cities will be presented to the SLO County Board of Supervisors in the next few months.

On May 16, San Jose became the largest city in California to launch a Community Choice Energy program.



Silphium, a now extinct plant of the *Asafoetida* species, was the most famous drug of the ancient world. This painting depicts the weighing and loading of silphium at Cyrene, North Africa.

From a Laconian Kylix of the 7th Century B.C. in the Bibliotheque Nationale, Paris.



photo/Kevin Walsh

The First

Polluters

by Vicki León

Lead in the Med, Part 2: Sex, Silphium & Species Extinction

Why did lead become so ubiquitous in the ancient world around the Mediterranean? Simple. Lead was the plastic of Greco-Roman times. Easily processed with a low melting point, lead was malleable yet strong, useful alone or combined with other elements. And it was cheap. Back then, it seemed to be (like plastics in Mrs. Robinson's 20th-century once did) a "miracle" material.

Among the myths and deities that every Roman knew was a terrifying god named Saturn who devoured his children. His signature attribute was lead, but mere mortals failed to learn its darkest secrets.

Lead's drawbacks took a long time to become evident. Long-ago users had no way to test its safety or learn its toxic dualities. Roman mine overseers were clueless and frankly indifferent to the suffering of criminals (and enslaved youngsters) condemned to the mines, who inhaled toxic dust and fumes.

As lead use became widespread, women's health slowly took a nosedive as well. But no one attributed female problems to this useful material.

Studies have winkled out troubling statistics derived from female skeletons from Rome's ruling centuries. It's now thought that during a Roman woman's lifetime, she got pregnant six to nine times on average. But miscarriage and infant mortality rates were cruelly high; live birthrates, low. Since 90 percent of lead in an expectant mother's body can pass from the placenta to the fetus, countless infant deaths could be chalked up to its pernicious role. Even with live births, maternal lead poisoning could take a dreadful toll on the brain and organs of the developing child.

Surviving infants suffered a host of deficits, from mental impairment to later problems, such as rising rates of male

sterility. Only once did the problem—but not the source of it—get noticed. Augustus Caesar, Rome's first Imperial ruler, was deeply disturbed by low birthrates and the reproductive failures of patrician families. A multi-divorcee himself, he blamed it on the ease of divorce. Augustus tried influencing outcomes by official decree, offering



Fail Caesar Augustus tried to up the low imperial birth rate, but didn't grasp the problem.



to its modest cost and tangy taste, it won favor with nearly everyone, rich or poor. (As a bonus, garum added protein and spiciness to the bland Roman diet.)

To further stimulate patrician palates, gourmands such as author-chef Apicius made dishes laden with expensive spices fashionable. One of his gravy recipes called for generous amounts of

bonuses to aristocratic parents with multiple offspring—and penalties for those who failed to reproduce. His efforts flopped.

Lead's quietly malignant actions on female reproductive systems continued to impact in other ways. Some popular nostrums for birth control and abortion were lead-based. So were many mixtures used to treat cramps and other female complaints.

Remember that early clue to lead poisoning from Part One — the slow disappearance of the ability to taste one's food? That problem also led to a fascinating phenomenon: an Empire-wide food craze notable for its intensity—and its surprise ending.

First, some background. As the use of lead in cookware, goblets, and wine-making apparatus spread from Italy to the far-flung provinces of the expanding Roman Empire, decades of inadvertent lead consumption had effects on populations everywhere.

As taste buds failed to do their original jobs, strongly flavored sauces became a hit. The most popular? Garum, a fermented liquid made from anchovies. Like fish sauce in today's Asian countries, garum became the catsup of the Mediterranean world. Due

pepper, turmeric, caraway, cumin, ginger, and asafoetida root to whet diners' jaded appetites.

By the first centuries BC and AD, Rome had conquered huge stretches of Asia Minor, Europe, Egypt, and North Africa. On the African continent, among the most prosperous was lush Cyrene, founded by Greeks around 560 BC. Noted for its philosophical school, Cyrene got famous (and obscenely wealthy) from a one-of-a-kind plant called silphium, which locals gratefully immortalized on their coinage.

Silphium deserved the label "unique." A relative of celery and fennel, this odd-looking specimen of the genus *Ferula* consented to grow only on the limestone plateau nearest Cyrene's coast. Since the city's founding, the wily vegetable had been harvested in the wild by sharp-eyed natives.

Also called laser, silphium had multiple virtues. First, its juices and roots were urgently prized by women, since it surpassed all



No cigar *Silphium perfoliatum* is the pretty but powerless modern species of silphium.



Banquet scene, fresco, Herculaneum, Italy.

It's time for America to get smart about energy and be less dependent on dwindling oil reserves. We need to increase our use of clean, renewable energy sources like wind and solar power.

Add your voice to protect the planet. Join the Sierra Club today.

Join today and receive a FREE Sierra Club Weekender Bag!



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

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Outings, events, and more!

People's Climate March

200,000 people sent a message to the Trump administration



“We ask that he remove the coyote in the White House and replace him with the eagle.”

- Spirit invocation, Julie Lynn Tumamait, Chumash Barbareno Band

The People's Climate March on April 29 was a huge success, with over 200,000 people participating in Washington, D.C., and tens of thousands more taking part at over 370 sister marches across the country, pushing back on the Trump administration's policies and standing up for climate, jobs and justice.

On the Central Coast, the Sierra Club helped organize a Santa Barbara rally and march from Santa Barbara City College Stadium. The local themes for the day were persuading Santa Barbara County to deny the requests of multiple oil companies to drill 750 new wells, and persuade local municipalities to set a goal of 100% renewable energy by 2030 (see front page).



Before the march, Sierra Club Los Padres Chapter Vice Chair Katie Davis (left) rallied attendees at La Playa Stadium to sign post cards to the City of Goleta to commit to 100% renewable energy and to Santa Barbara County Supervisors to block new oil projects in the county. Al Gore's daughter, Sarah Gore Maiani, noted the current political ascendancy of climate change deniers, but “the climate doesn't care what we believe.”

After the rally, a thousand marchers headed for the beach (above). The SLO cohort was generally recognizable by their “Stop Oil Trains” signs.



Sarah Gore



Acting Locally is Acting Globally

A new Sierra Club study has shown that action at the state and local level – by towns, cities, and businesses – are critical parts of slashing carbon pollution and meeting our commitments under the Paris Climate Agreement.

The analysis shows that upwards of 60 percent of the reductions needed to meet the Paris commitment can be met through actions by local residents, elected officials and business leaders. In addition, huge opportunities are available to build on existing actions by businesses and local governments to further accelerate progress away from fossil fuels and towards an economy powered by 100 percent clean energy.

100% Clean Energy Bill Launched by Senators Merkley, Sanders and Markey

Two days before the People's Climate March on April 29, U.S. Senators Jeff Merkley (D-Oregon), Bernie Sanders (I-Vermont), and Ed Markey (D-Massachusetts) stood beside environmental advocacy leaders in Washington, D.C., to introduce legislation that would completely phase out fossil fuel use by 2050.

The 100 by '50 Act outlines an audacious plan to support workers and to prioritize low-income communities, while replacing fossil fuels with clean energy sources.

“If an asteroid were hurtling its way towards our planet, we'd do everything in our power to stop it. We must do no less to act on climate,” said Merkley.

Speakers at the press conference included representatives from 350.org, Indigenous Environmental Network, Oil Change International, Environment America, League of Conservation Voters, People's Action, Uprose, Demos, Progressive Change Campaign Committee, National Nurses United, Hip Hop Caucus, and Sierra Club.

“100 is an important number,” said 350.org Co-founder Bill McKibben. “Instead of making changes around the margins, this bill would finally commit America to the whole-sale energy transformation that technology has made possible and affordable, and that an eroding climate makes utterly essential. This bill won't pass Congress immediately – the fossil fuel industry will see – but it will change the debate in fundamental ways.”

The strategy is twofold: encouraging the electrification of vehicles, home heating, and other combustion-powered aspects of daily life on the one hand; and converting the power grid to zero-emissions energy sources on the other.

The 100 by '50 Act would put a halt to new fossil fuel infrastructure projects, such as TransCanada's Keystone XL pipeline and the Dakota Access pipeline, as well as fracking operations facing opposition from tribes and landowners. Instead of new fossil fuel infrastructure, the bill would invest hundreds of billions of dollars per year in clean energy – enough to create 4 million jobs.

“While fossil fuel billionaires supporting Trump's administration put profits before people, we now have a legislative roadmap to phase out this dirty industry once and for all,” said 350.org Executive Director May Boeve. “This bill deploys clean energy in communities that need it most and keeps fossil fuels in the ground. From Standing Rock to the People's Climate March, movement leaders have been calling for these solutions for years. This bill is proof that organizing works, and it's the beginning of an important conversation.”

We no longer care that you “believe in” climate change, because we know that not believing in it means you're an idiot. Instead, we're going to demand action actually commensurate with the problem, which is to say the kinds of things in the Merkley-Sanders bill: an end to new fossil-fuel infrastructure. A World War II-scale mobilization for clean energy. Jobs by the millions so that we repair the social fabric even as we're patching up the planet. Justice for those communities hit first and hit hardest by global warming.

- Bill McKibben

Protect Scenic 101 (PS 101)



Why Retire Billboards Along Highway 101 in SLO County?

Billboards detract from otherwise highly scenic attributes of Highway 101, the County's major travel corridor, and are a visual blight.

Tourism is vital to local economies. Scenic drives represent an important part of the tourist experience. Most billboards advertise services and products unavailable along the highway.

Billboards infringe on the highly valued open space that separates communities. Billboards are outmoded, having been replaced by electronic and print advertising technology.

SLO County tourism is competitively disadvantaged by this County being the only one on the Central Coast which has not retired its billboards. Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties retired their billboards. Monterey County has retired most of its billboards.

You can inform billboard advertisers of your response to their billboard ads and encourage the County Supervisors and SLO City Council to implement a program to retire billboards. Go to protectscenic101.weebly.com.

How to Give Thanks for Harmony Headlands

On April 23, newly minted Chapter Outings leader Nan Cole led 27 people on a hike of the Harmony Headlands

Midway through the leisurely 4-mile round trip just south of Harmony, hikers got to hear from Cal Poly researcher Maggie Jenkins on otter foraging behavior, and got a summary of the history of the land area from Ms. Cole.

It can never be stressed enough: pristine natural stretches of the California coastline may have been formed by the hand of God or Mother Nature, but it wasn't those estimable entities who kept them that way.

In the case of Harmony Headlands, this land exists in its natural state, and the public is able to enjoy it, thanks to the arrogance of a billionaire coastal scofflaw, a determined state resource agency, and the Sierra Club.

In July 2002, the land was Sea West Ranch, privately owned prime coastal real estate under imminent threat of development. The state and the American Land Conservancy had been working for four years on the effort to put together the funding to buy the land when Wendy McCaw, wife of the founder of McCaw Cellular and owner of the *Santa Barbara News-Press*, ran afoul of the California Coastal Act.

In order to get a Coastal Development Permit to expand her bluff-top estate just north of Santa Barbara, McCaw was required to honor a condition that was attached to the title of the house before she bought it: the dedication of a public walkway to ensure continued public access to the beach.

She reneged on that promise. After a protracted legal battle, with fines mounting by the day, McCaw threw in the towel and paid a \$460,000 settlement. The California Coastal Commission promptly placed that significant sum in the kitty toward the state's intended purchase of Sea West Ranch.

The final piece needed to make the purchase happen — demonstrable widespread public support — came the following year, when the Sierra Club's Great Coastal Places Campaign swung into action and organized the sending of post cards to Sacramento urging purchase.

The American Land Conservancy reported that it was the huge volume of Great Coastal Places postcards that resulted in the state finally providing the final pieces of funding needed for the purchase of the 750-acre property, which provided a crucial stretch of the Coastal Trail.

Today, all who hike out to enjoy the view from Harmony Headlands can say thank-you to the American Land Conservancy, the Coastal Commission, an intransigent billionaire's bank account, and the Sierra Club.

“The Coast is never saved; it's always being saved.”

- Peter Douglas, Executive Director, California Coastal Commission, 1985-2011



In Harmony Maggie Jenkins (top left), student researcher at Cal Poly Biological Sciences Dept., discussed her work on sea otter foraging with our April 23 outings group at Harmony Headlands.

FARMGIRLS Summer camp





July 11-14, 2017 8am-12pm
 At Our Global Family Village City Farm, San Luis Obispo

Regenerative Agriculture - Permaculture Horticulture - Multicultural Food Culture

Farm Work - Planting, watering, weeding and harvesting
Playtime - singing, dancing, drama, skits, music making
Arts & Crafts - sculptures, painting, floral arranging
Nature Connection - circle way, hikes, cooperative games
Food Prep - chopping veggies for salads, fruit smoothies

\$150 per child. Serving ages 8-16. Sign up by June 30 at
 www.permaculture.us.com/farmgirls



About Oaks

A County information session on new Oak Woodland Ordinance will be held June 21 in Atascadero.

The Board of Supervisors adopted the Oak Woodland Ordinance on April 11. The ordinance went into effect today on May 11. The ordinance creates regulations on the clear-cutting of oak woodland in the unincorporated inland portions of San Luis Obispo County.

As a part of the next phase of outreach, County Planning will be hosting a Community Meeting at the Atascadero Library, on June 21 at 6pm. The meeting will include a brief presentation on the adopted Oak Woodland Ordinance followed by an extended Q&A session.

Against Dolphins



On April 25, the World Trade Organization (WTO) authorized Mexico to impose an annual \$163 million in trade sanctions against the U.S. for the dolphin-saving U.S. labeling program for tuna. The WTO ruled against the program in November 2015, calling it a “technical barrier to trade.”

The WTO is expected to further review the U.S. program this summer. If the WTO once again decides against the U.S., the U.S. could face trade sanctions indefinitely until the dolphin-saving label is altered or eliminated.

“The WTO’s decision threatens to punish U.S. families for the crime of having a label on tuna cans that saves dolphins’ lives,” said Ben Beachy, senior policy advisor for the Sierra Club’s Responsible Trade Program. “With renegotiation of NAFTA on the horizon, today’s decision serves as yet another warning that we need a complete replacement of these decades-old trade deals that prioritize corporate profits over good jobs, healthy communities, clean air and water, and protection for wildlife.”

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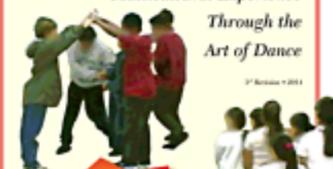
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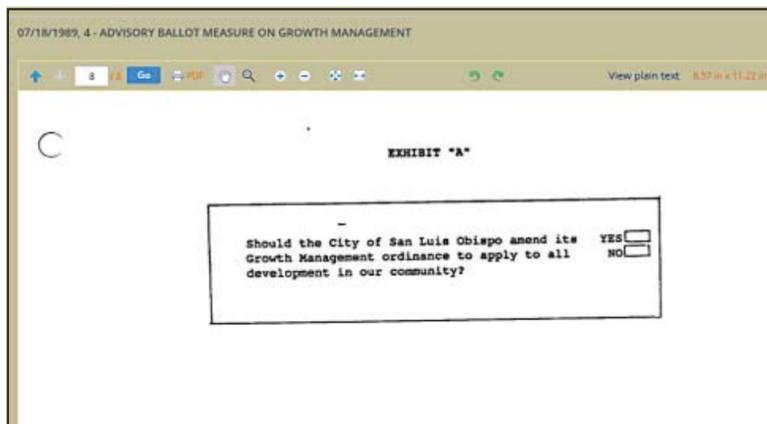
SLO's chronic math problem adds up to fast commercial growth in a city dedicated to slow housing growth

By James Lopes

As the traffic congestion on the streets of San Luis Obispo and Highway 101 crunches up, the public is being manipulated by the development industry to think that it isn't the fault of developers or city councils, but obstructive environmentalists and town planners who somehow have kept housing growth below the one-percent annual limit written into the city's land use plan. The problem isn't the housing limitation, which has generous exemptions and has never reached the one percent limit. It's the lack of any effective non-residential growth control.

The one percent housing limit has been in effect since the 1970s, when San Luis Obispo was a leader in the growth management movement, wanting to protect the sustainability of our transportation system, water supplies, air quality and open spaces. However, the ordinance has always had enough exemptions to not be a very effective program. It originally only applied to multi-family units, for instance, and it exempted very-low, low and moderate income housing and still does.

Pro-growth owners and developers of commercial properties persuaded city decision makers to forego any commercial growth limit in the original growth management program. By 1989, however, the city's land use plan was being updated, and it provided the forum for discussing whether the city's growth management program should include non-residential development. To test the public's interest, the City Council set up an advisory ballot measure asking voters, "Should the City of San Luis Obispo amend its growth management ordinance to apply to all development in our community?" The vote was 67 percent in favor. However, decision makers again backed away from setting



28 years down the road... SLO's citizens succeeded in getting an across-the-board 1% growth cap on the ballot in 1989. The measure passed overwhelmingly, but only after City staff made sure it was "advisory and directive to the Council, rather than mandatory." It's now forgotten.

some limit to non-residential growth.

In the area around the airport, land owners and developers were able to pressure the City to eliminate business intensity limitations and instead allow office parks where only less intense industrial and commercial service uses had been previously allowed. Airport area property owners threatened to "go to the County" to allow large-scale, intensive development outside City jurisdiction.

They crafted the Airport Area Specific Plan, pressuring the City to add large, vacant areas for commercial service/business parks into the City's general plan. The land planned for non-residential growth vastly expanded during years of this pressure, and with it the capacity for jobs. Without a commercial growth limit, City leaders allowed and encouraged a rapid increase in employees, causing housing havoc within San Luis Obispo and other communities, and congested streets and highways filling up with frustrated, angry commuters.

In 2012, City staff persuaded a state agency, the Strategic Growth Council, to provide a \$900,000 grant to update the land use and circulation elements (LUCE) of the

general plan, with the purpose of preparing a "sustainable" land use plan. Did the LUCE "update" inventory the residential and commercial land and calculate the potential disparities and resulting impacts to long-term sustainability? Calls to do so were unanswered.

However, some nod was given to the problem. The LUCE update concluded in 2014 with the City adopting a new policy to manage the growth of commercial development. But it did not set an effective limit that would curtail rampant commercial growth, nor was the new policy integrated with a "sustainable" plan addressing efficient transportation, air quality, water supply, or quality of life, which might reduce job growth.

Instead the City set a limit of five percent in the growth of new non-residential floor area over a rolling five-year period. The policy gave direction to review commercial growth each year to determine if a 5% average over the previous five years was exceeded. That means that several years could have more than 5% growth, and all years could have 4.9% growth. This pace, in terms of ecology and planning, is considered to be exponential. At a lower 4% rate, existing non-residential

development would double in only 18 years if the city plan has capacity for the growth.

Showing the courage of its convictions, the 2014 City Council adopted an exemption from this limit for "manufacturing, light industrial, research businesses, or companies providing a significant number of head of household jobs." In reality, these are the business sectors which have grown the fastest. Retail development has almost stood still by comparison. And if it even occurred, no annual review has found the need to establish any limitations. The largest employers were not addressed; no policies were directed at encouraging growth at a pace consistent with housing growth in the city. The non-residential limit does not apply to major institutions outside the city, such as Cal Poly, Cuesta College and the California Men's Colony. These large employers have grown rapidly.

So one can wonder why a city would clamp down on residential development but then aim, in its economic development strategy, to continue to be the commercial center of the county and to promote intensive job growth. When Caltrans and regional transportation



planners repeat their mantra, "there is no foreseeable funding to widen Highway 101 to six lanes," one has to wonder if anyone gets it.

If this non-residential growth trend continues, it will overwhelm the City's interest in slow residential growth, which gave time to avoid running out of resources and infrastructure. The City will only be able to approve enough housing to accommodate, at most, half this job growth before it runs out of residential zoning. The LUCE environmental analysis concluded that the current jobs/housing imbalance of 1.6 to 1 will double to 3 to 1 at build-out of the land use plan and zoning. That is, the resource and transportation problems may also double from having twice as much land planned for non-residential uses as for housing.

With this large imbalance in capacity, the City's land use plan facilitates fiscal and physical impacts to city resources and infrastructure. Commercial growth typically uses more water and generates more traffic than residential uses. The plan intentionally accelerates the impacts of commercial growth beyond the ability of the City to control or avoid them in a timely manner. (How? The City Council voted for "overriding considerations" to legally negate any requirement to reduce these impacts to insignificance.)

If this non-residential growth trend continues, the

demand for housing will likely double. Without a local supply to fill it, this demand will drive regional housing prices even farther out of the reach of those commuters. These obvious problems were not seen by the 2014 City Council as an issue worth solving. We already have a housing shortage, but the LUCE land use plan did not address the gap in the housing supply for the existing 30,000-and-counting commuters. It did not seek to disperse the plan for future commercial growth to other county communities where these commuters may find and afford housing.

The combination of a very large vessel in which to pour thousands of jobs and an allowance to do so exponentially is worrisome. The city does not have the infrastructure or resources to accommodate unbalanced growth. And fast commercial growth will overwhelm the culture of the community.

Would it be a good idea to limit commercial growth with the same one-percent limit that is applied to residential growth? Sixty-seven percent of SLO's voters thought so in 1989; a similar number would probably support it now.

One percent residential growth versus five percent job growth is an equation that represents the interests of the development industry, but it's time to get parity and save our city.

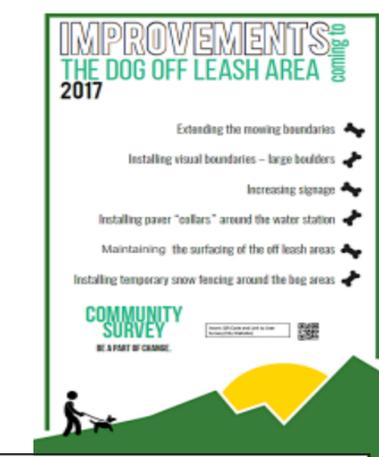
James Lopes is a retired community planner who served on the city Architectural Review Commission and is a past chair and current member of Save Our Downtown.

Down, Boy!

In late April, SLO City Parks & Recreation sent out a community survey on proposed improvements to the Laguna Lake Dog Off-Leash Area. If not for some sharp-eyed citizens, the survey would have gone out with a question under the heading "Future Improvements" encouraging residents to rank the prospect of "Allowance of dogs off-leash on adjacent Open Space Trail."

For the last 20 years, the City's Open Space ordinance has focused on the protection of wildlife habitat in open space reserves, allowing no domestic pets except "Dogs or cats when led by a cord or chain not more than six feet long," and providing that "Open space lands where public access is permitted shall be open to the public from dawn to dusk" — unless, of course, somebody slips a question into a survey with the purpose of creating demand and setting a precedent for that very thing, and staff prepares a recommendation for a "pilot program," and a majority of the City Council goes along — as just happened with the protective proscription against night hiking and biking in open space. (See "After Hours," *New Times*, May 18.)

After Parks and Recreation got caught trying to manufacture "public demand" for off-leash dogs in open space in a survey that would have been answered overwhelmingly by people who use the off-leash dog area at Laguna Lake Park, an online petition sprang up for off-leash dogs in natural reserves. (A number of people who walk their dogs on-leash are not supporting the off-leash dogs petition



7. Please review the following features and rate the priority for each should funding become available to make improvements. (Rank High = 1, Low = 7)

Future Improvements	Priority Ranking (High=1, Low=7)
1) All-Weather surface	
2) Clear Boundary Markers (e.g. fences, boulders or other boundary demarcations)	
3) Fenced Separation (e.g. keeping larger dogs separated from smaller dogs)	
4) Addition of Play Elements for dogs	
5) Shade Structure and/or Congregation Area for People	
6) Lighting	
7) Allowance of dogs off-leash on adjacent Open Space Trail	

because unrestrained dogs run up to their dogs.)

Parks and Recreation is determined to incrementally turn protected natural reserves into parks with a heavy recreation component. If they succeed, off-leash dogs will be degrading wildlife during new, expanded nighttime hours of use. (Although Parks and Recreation is undoing the City's protections for wildlife and habitats through lack of enforcement or bureaucratic support for degrading them, they are *not* proposing off-leash dogs be allowed in City Parks.)

If SLO residents wish to preserve the quality of life bestowed by the far-sighted generation that created the city's green belt, Open Space Ordinance, and Natural Resources program, certain eager entities will need to be kept on a short leash.

Lead

continued from page 3

competitors (lead included) as a reliable contraceptive and a safe abortifacient.

Cooks found multiple uses for silphium in the kitchen, most importantly in sauces, where it married with other ingredients to flavor-enhance them. Silphium had an exquisite quality that we might call umami today. As an exotic from faraway Africa, it likewise appealed to Roman snobbery, as well as its ability to revive lackluster tastebuds.

Thus silphium met two very critical needs of Roman citizenry, more especially the elites who could pay for it.

Recognizing a very good thing from the get-go, the Cyrenians had slapped a tight monopoly on silphium that endured for centuries. Naturally, everyone feverishly looked for alternatives by sampling silphium's relatives. None, including rotting-garlic-flavored asafetida, measured up, being mostly nasty to smell and taste.

In the first century AD, several interlocking events collided. As Rome's demand for silphium exploded, Cyrene was hit with a disastrous growing season. Worse yet, the



Hope it was tasty. Silphium exists today only in images because Nero ate the last one.

areas where silphium parsimoniously grew were overgrazed by sheep—then decimated by an ugly quarrel with native pickers, who angrily uprooted every plant they could find.

Cyrenian suppliers and exporters looked at each other in horror. No new crop? And how would they explain the shortfall to the likes of the current Roman emperor, a 18-year-old with a rep for gluttony? They were panic-stricken

as Imperial envoys arrived from Rome to collect their order. At the 11th hour, a local silphium bigshot dashed in, disheveled but triumphant. He presented the envoys with a single specimen, babbling that it would surely please, being as unique and rare as the Emperor himself.

And indeed it did. After inspecting his gourmet treat, the pimply young Emperor Nero unceremoniously devoured the sole surviving silphium on the spot—perhaps the first documented instance of the single-handed extinction of a species by a human being.

Of all the egregious misdeeds of Nero's matricidal, murderous but thankfully short-lived reign of 14 years, that has to be among the most heinous.

It's sadly unlikely that even the most savvy and dedicated plant sleuth of modern times could take on the task of combing its native soil for traces of the long-lost silphium. Now, where the Roman province of Cyrenaica and its five cities, including Cyrene, once stood in lavish, wooded splendor, is a war-torn, sandily forlorn country called Libya.

Please join me next month for our finale, Part 3: Lead In the Med: Rome Resisted—Our Shabby Score Card on Lipstick, Lead Paint, and Toxic Discards.

Classifieds

Next issue deadline is **June 16**. To get a rate sheet or submit your ad and payment, contact: Sierra Club, P.O. Box 15755, San Luis Obispo, CA 93406 or sierraclub8@gmail.com

Support our local chapter



We send out an appeal in March to each of our members, asking for contributions directly to our Chapter. These contributions really do make a difference to us, and are an important part of our Chapter's budget.

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Please be as generous as you are able—remember, these funds directly affect your way of life in your neighborhood.



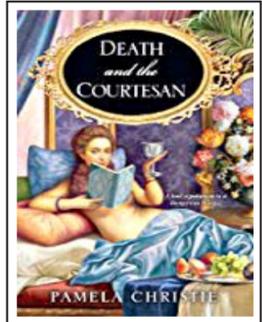
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Outings and Activities Calendar

Seller of travel registration information: CST 2087766-40. Registration as a seller of travel does not constitute approval by the State of California.

All our hikes and activities are open to all Club members and the general public. Please bring drinking water to all outings and optionally a lunch. Sturdy footwear is recommended. All phone numbers listed are within area code 805 unless otherwise noted. Pets are generally not allowed. A parent or responsible adult must accompany children under the age of 18. If you have any suggestions for hikes or outdoor activities, questions about the Chapter's outing policies, or would like to be an outings leader, call Outings Chair Bill Waycott, (806) 459-2103. For information on a specific outing, please call the listed outing leader.

Friday-Sunday, June 2th-4th, Bright Star Wilderness - Restoration Project

Bright Star is located in the eastern Sierra, south of Hwy 178. For this trip, we will be rebuilding a fence that was burned in the Erskine Fire in 2016. The fence was built to stop off-road vehicle trespass into the wilderness area. This project will be the beginning of a fence line that will extend across the corridor route to help protect this vulnerable burned area. Camping will be primitive; you will need to bring all the food & water you need for the weekend. Kate Allen, kj.allen96@gmail.com, 661-944-4056 CNRCC Desert Committee.

Tuesday, June 6th, 10:00 am, Shell Beach.

Meet at the intersection of Bluff Drive and El Portal (with Indio also intersecting.) PoleCats is a group dedicated to demonstrating the effective use of trekking poles. Directions: from Shell Beach Road, go west on El Portal until you reach the above intersection. Go right and park near the illegal gate. The hike will go up the fire road to the trail and then follow the trail for less than a mile, returning to the parking area. Less than two miles and about 200 feet elevation change. Dogs are not permitted. For more information, contact David Georgi, hikingpoles@gmail.com, (805) 458-5575. Rain cancels.

Saturday, June 10th, 8:30 am, Ragged Point to San Carporo Camp.

This hike is to a camp that sees little use possibly because of the distance to

get in to it and the amount of elevation gain and loss to trek to it. This is a strenuous hike of 15 miles and 3800 feet of elevation gain/loss. Expect to be out for possibly 9 hours depending on the group's energy. There is going to be poison oak in the last half mile before the camp and participants could stop before that section if they want. Most of this route is on dirt roads. Trekking poles are recommended. Dogs will not be allowed on this outing. We will meet at Washburn Day Use Area about 1.5 miles north of Cambria. Extreme heat

will postpone to a later date. Please contact the leader, Carlos Diaz-Saavedra at (805) 546-0317 if you are going.

Sunday, June 11th, 2-3:30 pm, Historic Walk of Old-Town, Cambria. Easy, guided stroll past Victorian cottages, 1880s storefronts, saloons, and Chinese temple in Cambria's East Village to learn the stories of its early pioneers. Families and children are welcome. Meet in front of Olallieberry Inn, 2476 Main St., Cambria. For more information, contact Joe Morris, (805) 549-0355.

Friday-Thursday, June 16th-22nd, Escalante Backpack. The first part of this 37-mile backpack covers 11 miles in Harris Wash, then 12 miles along the Escalante River, and finally 14 miles out 25 Mile Wash. The entry and exit washes have narrows, large alcoves, and side canyons that become slot canyons. Along the river, we will take day hikes to explore Choprock Canyon and Neon Canyon. Be prepared to get your feet wet - hiking may be easier in the river if the banks are choked with tamarisk. Trip requires a car shuttle, high clearance

Saturday, June 17th, Morro Mania: The Morros of SLO County!

Join Andrea and Bill on the Sixth Anniversary Hike, a one-day ascent of the five publicly accessible Morros, near San Luis Obispo and Morro Bay. All five Morros can be hiked in succession (see schedule below) or selected to suit one's preferences and conditioning. Each has a beautiful but different vista—from city to oak woodland to grassland to seashore. Total round-trip distance for all five hikes is about 13 miles, with 3,500 ft. elevation gain. Bring plenty of water (store extra water in your vehicle), lunch and snacks, and dress in layers for changing weather. The day is likely to start and end cool, but be quite warm at mid-day. A hat, sunscreen, and sturdy hiking shoes are essential. Dogs are welcome except for Cerro Cabrillo and Black Hill (State Park properties). For more information, contact Bill Waycott, (805) 459-2103, bill.waycott@gmail.com. The plants, animals, and the geology of the area will be topics during the hikes.

7:30 a.m. Islay Hill, 2 miles, 500 ft. gain, moderate. The easternmost of the Morros, with views of five others. To trailhead, take Tank Farm Rd. east past Orcutt Rd, then south on Spanish Oaks Dr., then east on Sweet Bay Lane to end.

9:00 a.m. Cerro San Luis, 4 miles, 1,100 ft. gain, moderate. Has knockout views of SLO. Trailhead at the end of Marsh St., just before onramp to Hwy 101 south.

Lunch: 11:15 am to 12:00 pm, Throop Park, corner of Cerro Romauldo Street and Cuesta Drive, in SLO.

12:00 p.m. Bishop Peak, 3.5 miles, 950 ft. gain, moderately strenuous. Highest of all the Morros. From Hwy 1, go west on Highland Dr., then right on Patricia Drive. Park at trailhead on Patricia Dr. just before reaching Anacapa Circle.

3:30 p.m. Cerro Cabrillo, 2.5 miles, 800 ft. gain, moderately strenuous. 360-degree views from the Santa Lucia Mts. to coastline. Meet at Quarry Trail trailhead on South Bay Blvd, 1.4 miles south of Hwy 1 or 0.4 miles north of Turri Rd.

6:00 p.m. Black Hill, 3.0 miles, 650 ft. gain, moderate. Ocean views from Montaña de Oro north to San Simeon. From South Bay Blvd, drive into Morro Bay State Park on Main Street. Meet at the parking area on the north side of the road, next to restrooms opposite the boat marina, just east of the campground entrance.

How We Danced

Our May 6 Dancing for Democracy event at the SLO Odd Fellows Hall surpassed our expectations for fun, laughter, improved dancing skills, and making new friends. What a great evening!

Many thanks to dance leaders Billy Burke, Jane Hehnke, the Baile

Folklorico children's group, Jesse Arnold, and Sylvia Suarez, who demonstrated that we can all learn and enjoy wonderful dances from different heritages.

Props go out to the talents of our music coordinators, the Cimo brothers (awesome drumming set!), Charlie Kleeman on guitar

and vocals, and Tap It Brewing Co. and distinguished local author Pamela Christie for their donations of beer and wine for the evening. Last but not least, thanks to the uniquely talented Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary officers, for their soon-to-be-famous Otter Hop.

"I didn't know I needed this so much."

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vehicles best. Limit 10. Contact David Hardy, South Nevada Group, (702) 875-4826, hardyhikers@embarqmail.com. E-mail correspondence is preferred.

Tuesday, June 20th, 10:00 am, Three Bridges Oak Preserve, Atascadero.

Join us for a hike in this NEW Preserve in Atascadero. The hike distance is 3.5 miles with 680' elevation gain. The trail is mixed riparian grassland and blue oaks. It crosses Atascadero Creek and ends at an overlook of the city. Directions: From Hwy 101 in Atascadero exit on Hwy 41 West, pass San Gabriel Rd. In about half a mile, go over 2 bridges and

park on the right dirt lot. If you cross the third bridge, you have gone too far.

Walk across Hwy 41 carefully and enter at the gate. No dogs permitted. Poison oak is found along the trail. Wear sturdy shoes. For more information, contact Debbie Roller, (805) 610-0458.

Saturday, June 24th, 9:00 am, Montaña de Oro State Park, Hazard Peak via Barranca Trail.

Join the leader on this moderate hike in the backcountry of MDO S.P. The hike is an 8.9 mile loop hike with 1700 ft. total of elevation gain. We begin on Islay Road and hike to the Barranca Trail junction. We turn off on the Barranca Trail and follow it to the picnic table where we take a well deserved break. From there we continue to the East Boundary Trail and eventually the Hazard Peak Trail that will take us to the summit at 1076 ft. There are great views of the park and the coastline from the summit. There are risks of ticks and poison oak along the trails, but with care these can be avoided. Wear sturdy hiking shoes. Bring snacks or lunch and plenty of water. Dress in layers for

the weather. Meet at the Hazard Peak Trailhead which is 2.3 miles from the park entrance. There is a possibility of eats after the hike. Rain cancels. Dogs are not allowed on the trails in the park. For info, call Chuck @ 805-441-7597.

Sat.-Mon. July 1-3, Fourth of July.

Expect several dozen people at this event on the edge of the Black Rock Desert about 100 miles north of Reno. This will be a busy weekend on the playa as many Burning Man attendees use this as a "shakedown" trip. We normally camp on the edge of the playa and visit hot springs, see the Lassen-Applegate branch of the Emigrant Trail, talk with new visitors, and similar activities. And there are usually large fireworks! The Playa is flooded as of the end of April, future conditions will dictate July activities but it will probably be dry by then. There's normally a potluck one night. There will also be a lot of Ham Radio activity so if you have a license, bring a radio! Call for repeater frequencies. David Book KD7YIM, (775) 843-6443 Great Basin Group



This is a partial listing of Outings offered by our chapter. Please check the web page www.santalucia.sierraclub.org for the most up-to-date listing of activities.


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For further information contact:

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John Muir, founder of the Sierra Club, in Yosemite

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of a naturalist-docent assigned by the national park to help lead hikes, point out items of interest and give evening program. For more information contact leader: Joan Jones

Holtz; 626-443-0706; jholtzln@aol.com. To make a reservation send a \$100 check, written to Sierra Club, to leader, 11826 The Wye St., El Monte, CA 91732.