



SIERRA CLUB San Fernando Valley
Newsletter AUGUST 2014

Monthly Meetings-the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7:00pm
Reseda Park Rec. Hall, 18411 Victory Blvd. (Cross Street-Reseda Bl.)
(Near child's play area), Reseda, CA. There is a parking lot & street parking. If the Rec Hall parking lot is full, there is ample parking at the One Generation lot, directly east at 18255 Victory Boulevard

Call or Email for Information:
Joe Phillips 818 348-8884 recreationbyjoe@yahoo.com

Learn About Conservation Tips AT OUR SF Valley Sierra Club WEBSITE:
<http://angeles.sierraclub.org/sfvg/>

(See names, phone numbers and emails of our San Fernando Valley Management Committee in the sidebar)

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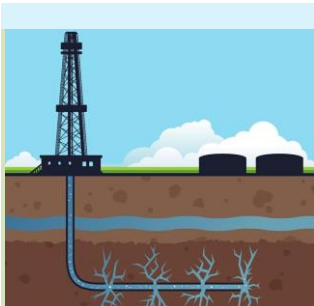
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FUTURE PROGRAMS



**The State of Fracking
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SEPT.16, 2014

Monthly meeting:
Alexandra Nagy is the Southern California Organizer at the Los Angeles branch of Food & Water Watch. She works both in Los Angeles and the greater Southern California region advocating for consumer health issues including food safety and the right to clean water as well as a statewide ban on fracking.

Join Us!



**Sierra Club
San Fernando Valley Program
(Address & directions are on letterhead above)**

**Program
Oil Dependence and the EV Solution**

AUGUST 19, 2014

Monthly meeting: Russell Sydney has been involved with the Sierra Club since supporting the Save the Redwoods effort and the work to expand Redwood National Park in the 70's. He has helped bring sustainable transportation to southern California for over ten years. He worked to organize efforts in Santa Monica and is now doing the same on the Central Coast. He was the principle organizer for the Sustainable Transport Club and has been the editor and principle writer of articles for their Newsletter since 2004 before Plug in America was founded.

Come and hear his talk "Oil Dependence and the EV Solution". Oil dependence is our shared dirty little secret. Learn why the EV Solution is one of the most promising ways we can recover from this addiction. Mr. Sydney, the author of "Energy and EV Secrets" will bring you up to date on how to make going beyond oil possible with the 12 steps to recovery from oil dependence.

There will be Q & As, socializing and refreshments

**For information please contact Joe Phillips at 818-348-8884
recreationbyjoe@yahoo.com**

Come and hear her talk: "The State of Fracking in California". Fracking is a controversial oil and gas production technique that has been linked to over 1,000 cases of water contamination, increases in air pollution/smog and earthquakes across the country. Fracking poses serious threats to public safety and health, the environment, and private property. In California, local communities including Los Angeles are taking a stand to ban fracking. The Sierra Club has also advocated for a moratorium on fracking.

Come and learn what you can do to help stop this dangerous practice of extracting oil and natural gas.

There will be Q & As, socializing and refreshments.



A Political Night at the Sierra Club

October 21, 2014

Monthly meeting: Barry Katzen our Political Chair will host "A Political Night at the Sierra Club". Come and hear our local candidates for Congress, Assembly and State Senate as well as candidates for other state wide offices. Candidates or their representatives will speak to the issues that we in the environmental community care about the most.

There will also be discussions on any Propositions on the Ballot of concern to the Sierra Club. Any Sierra



This is a picture of June Lake in the Sierra. Lakes like this are the source of the majority part of L.A.'s water but that is not sustainable. We need to have more local water sources. Come to our Water Forum and learn about Tthe situation up North and what you can do to make a differece.

Photo by Sierra Club member Gayle Dufour

Join us at The San Fernando Valley Water Forum

What: **The Future of Water and Water Rates in Los Angeles**

WHERE: Kaiser Permanente, 13652 Cantara St, Panorama City, CA 91402

August 9, Forum from 10 AM -1 PM

Join Food & Water Watch, Sierra Club, and The River Project for a discussion on where Los Angeles will get its water in the future and how we plan to pay for it. We will ask the question, "Where should LADWP invest ratepayer money?"

This forum seeks to build community support around prioritizing local water infrastructure, as water policy in Los Angeles needs to aggressively pursue local water supplies in the face of drought and climate change.

We hope to engage community stakeholders in the discussion about where we are headed as a city and how our water policy will impact LA ratepayers, our urban environment and the sustainability of Los Angeles.

This forum will take place in the Valley where water consumption rates are highest. The Valley also holds LA's largest groundwater basin, which is in dire need of remediation from decades of toxic pollution. LA stands at the crossroads. Whether we act to safeguard our water security for future decades to come or continue to rely on last century solutions depends on LA residents.

Club official endorsements will be made known. There will be Q & As, socializing and refreshments.

We need your help!

The Sierra Club relies heavily on its volunteers to carry out its Mission. Since you probably have a skill that we need and if you can spare a few hours a month, let us know.

Call Elaine Trogman 818 780-8345

Call Barry Katzen 818 341-8304



This is a picture of the remote Saddlebag Lake high in the Sierras. Lakes like this are the source of the majority part of L.A.'s water but that is not sustainable. We need to have more local water sources. Come to our Water Forum and learn about Tthe situation up North and what you can do to make a differece.

Photo by Sierra Club member Gayle Dufour

S.A.F.E Centers: Permanent Collection Centers

The following S.A.F.E. (Solvents, Automotive, Flammables Electronics) Recycling and Disposal Information is available

Northridge: Nicole Bernson

SAFE Collection Center

10241 N. Balboa Blvd.
Northridge, CA 91325

Hours of Operation:

Saturdays, and Sundays

9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m

[\(MAP/MAPA\)](#)

Sun Valley: RANDALL STREET

SAFE Collection Center

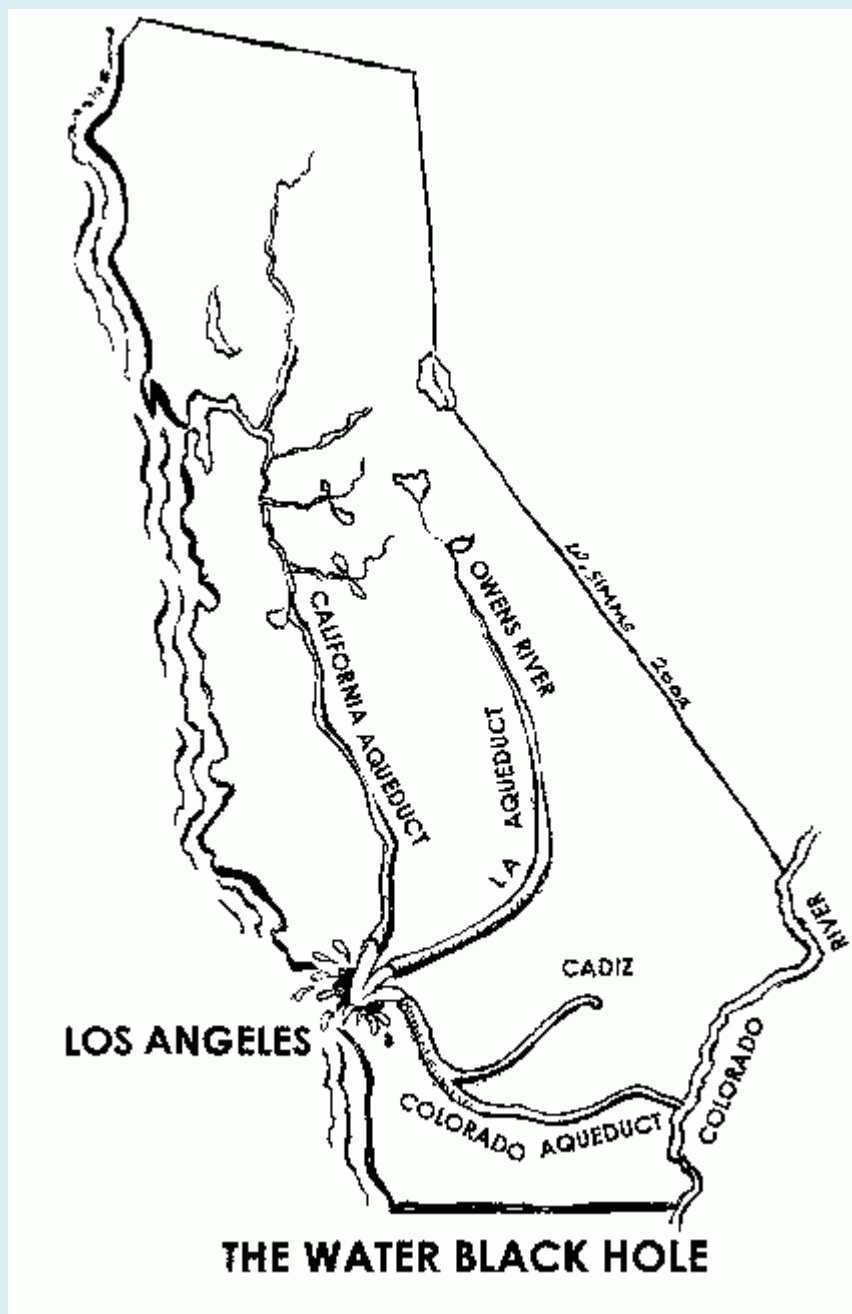
11025 Randall St
Sun Valley, CA 91352

Hours of Operation:

Saturdays and Sunday

9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m

[\(MAP/MAPA\)](#)



They accept:

paint and solvents; used motor oil and filters, anti-freeze, and other automotive fluids; cleaning products; pool and garden chemicals; aerosol cans; all medicine except controlled substances; auto batteries; household batteries.

E-waste: computers, monitors, printers, network equipment, cables, telephones, televisions, microwaves, video games, cell phones, radios, stereos, VCRs, and electronic toys

Transportation limit for chemical related items:

It is against the law to transport more than 15 gallons or 125 pounds of hazardous waste to collection sites. Please pack your waste properly to prevent tipping or spilling of the waste during transportation

It is dangerous to throw compact fluorescent lights in the garbage. You can recycle the lights at HOME DEPOT

**SAN FERNANDO VALLEY
SIERRA CLUB
MANAGEMENT
COMMITTEE**

**Chair/Rep to Executive
Committee**
Barry Katzen
818 341-8304

Los Angeles is Like a Water Sponge

By Elaine Trogman

Los Angeles has many ways of getting water and there have been legal water wars started over how much water belongs to thirsty Los Angeles. The water comes from the Colorado River and 3 places in Northern California. Our city also gets some of its water from its underground aquifers. The largest one is in the San Fernando Valley but there are pollution issues with this aquifer.

Two of the places in Northern California are Mono Lake and the Owens River; the aqueducts go from there to LA. The history of how LA got that water isn't very pretty. The DWP is now reviving territories near the Eastern Sierra that were devastated by excessive LA water consumption.

In California there are heated debates regarding how much water should go to saving our environment, especially the fish population, and what portions should go to farmers and cities. The Sacramento Delta estuary near San Francisco supplies two-thirds of CA's water and it is at the heart of these debates. An estuary is a semi-enclosed coastal body of water with one or more rivers or streams flowing into it, and with a free connection to the open sea. As the fresh water flows into the estuary it acts as a barrier to keep the ocean's salt water from mixing with the fresh water. When the river waters are decreased more salt water blends with the fresh water, which makes it less desirable.

The Amazing State Water Project

Los Angeles is also tapped into the California State Water Project. (SWP). The SWP's main stem starts from Orville Lake in far No. CA to Lake Perris near Riverside in So. CA. It includes facilities that capture, store, and convey water to 29 water agencies. These facilities include: pumping and power plants; reservoirs, lakes, storage tanks; canals, tunnels, and pipelines. In some places they are not only providing water but delivering electricity at the same time. When water is needed, Lake Oroville releases water into the Feather River, which meets up with California's largest waterway, the Sacramento River. The Sacramento River and 4 other rivers then flows into the Sacramento Delta. It is at the Delta where it is pumped by the Banks Pumping Plant into the 444-mile-long California Aqueduct. There are side aqueducts that pump water to water agencies along the way but the main stem flows down hill through California mostly by gravity. This section of the California Aqueduct serves both the SWP and the federal Central Valley Project. The water flows through the central San Joaquin Valley farming region.

The gravity flow stops at the Edmonston Pumping Plant, where it is pumped approx. 2000 ft. up over the Tehachapi Mountains to So. California. The west part of the SWP ends at Lake Castaic in the Angeles Forest and the Eastern Part ends at Lake Parris near Riverside in So. California. The SWP provides irrigation water to farms in the San Joaquin Valley, and is a major source of supply for cities in Los Angeles, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, and other parts of southern California

The Sac. Delta's Importance to California

An article in the NY Times says that the Delta area "is so crucial because it provides two-thirds of the state's water supply. Its massive pumping system routes water to cities and farmers alike, but the pumps have drained the delta region and become a kind of killing machine for endangered salmon and smelt. Add to those concerns the likelihood of increased salinity [to our fresh water] as sea levels rise due to climate change, diminished snow pack in the Sierra and the possibility of a major earthquake destroying the delta's maze of 1,100 levees, and you get a perfect storm that could dwarf Hurricane Katrina as a natural disaster."

How LA Will Alleviate the Water Crisis

Environmental mandates to protect the resident Delta smelt and the salmon migrating through the region limit state and federal water operations. Southern California could have a portion of its water cut so that the wildlife in the Delta can be sustained. Because of this, LA is trying to collect more water from its local rainfall, use aquifers and underground storage and recycle waste water.

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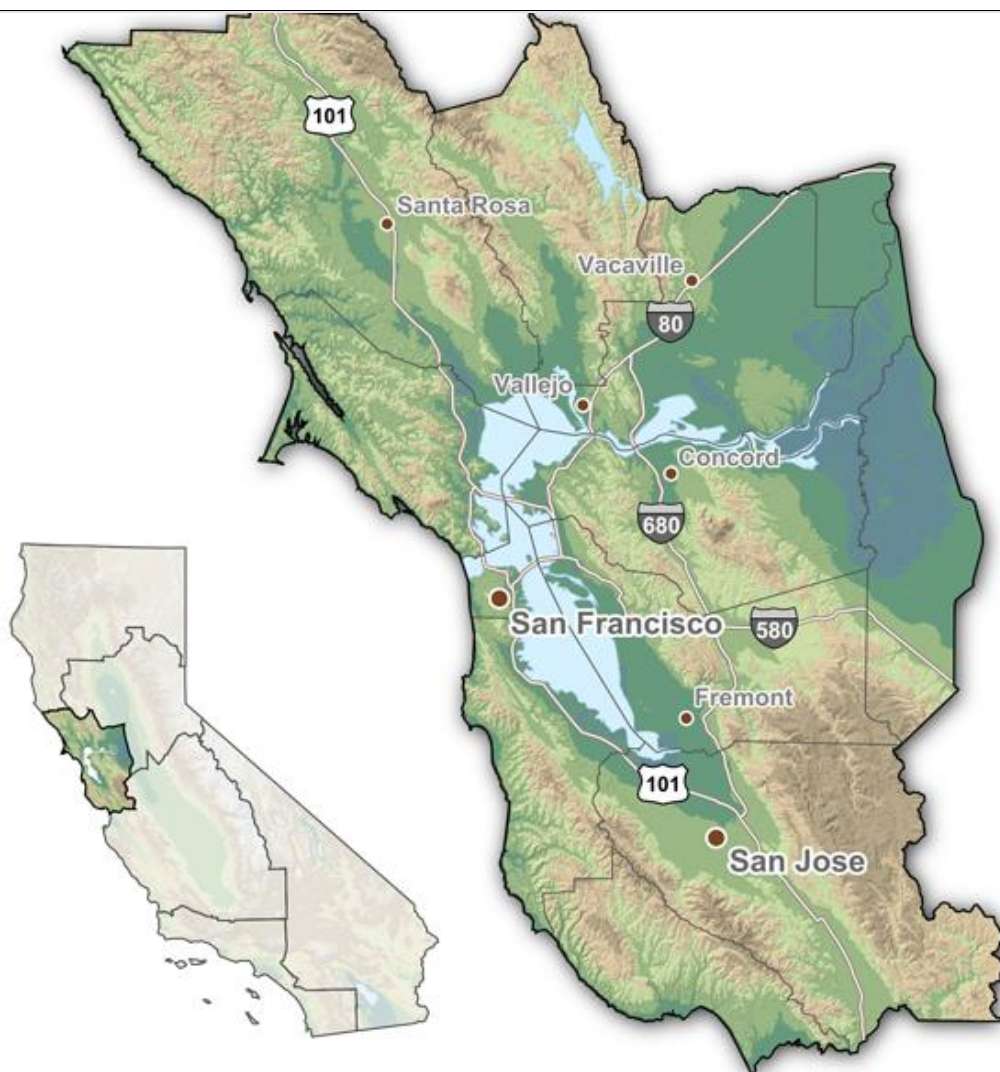
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Member at Large

Edith Roth 818-346-9692

Cartoonist

The Late Willis Simms



Map of Pacific Ocean leading into San Francisco Bay which then leads into Suisun Marsh and then to the rest of the the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta near Concord. This is the area where the controversial Bay Delta Conservation Plan could be adopted but the Sierra Club is challenging the Plan.

What is the Bay Delta Conservation Project and Should the San Fernando Valley Care?

By Conner Everts,

Executive Director of Southern California Watershed Alliance

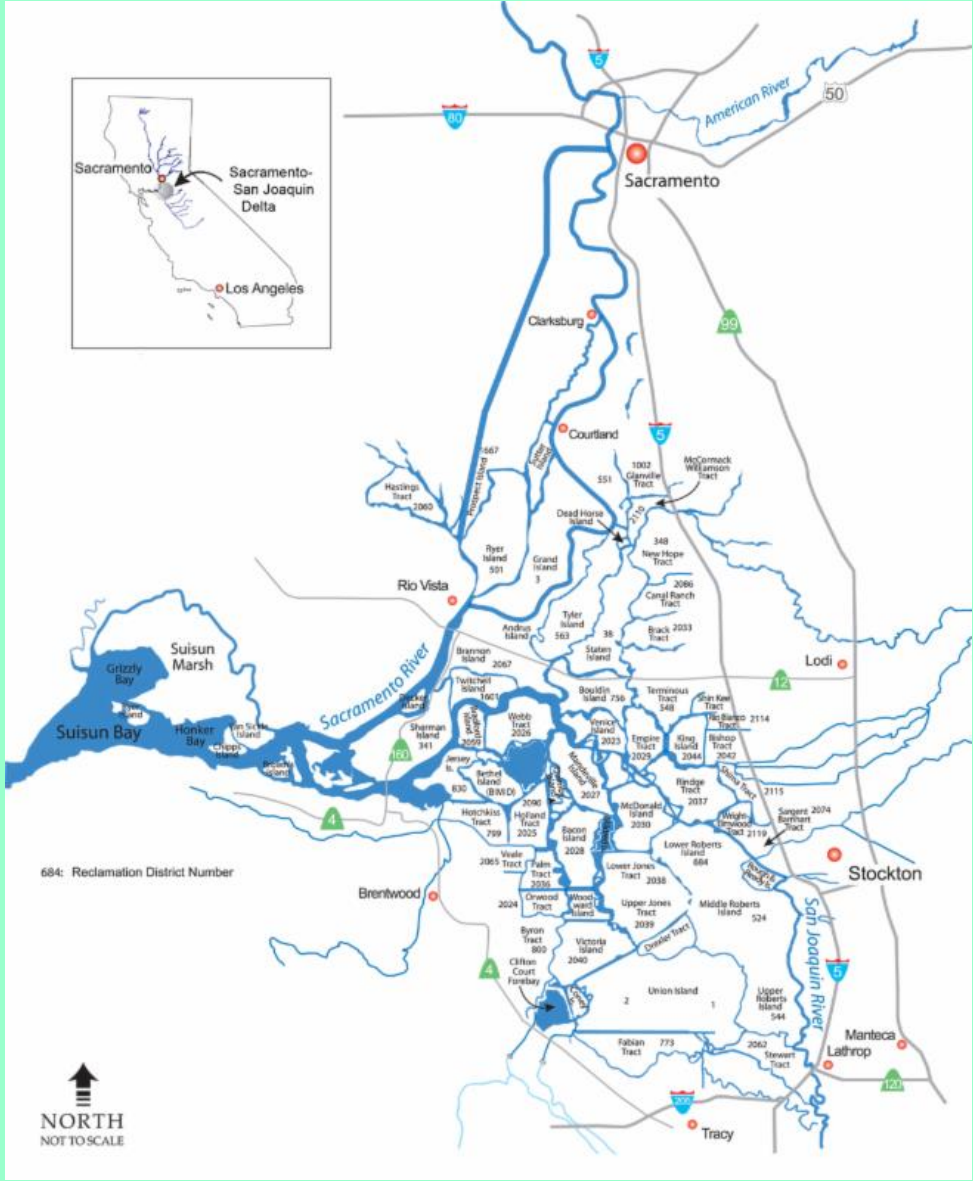
So, as we continue through a "Serious Drought", as the freeway signs say, there is the beginning of the realization that our water supplies are limited but according to recent reports water demand remains high. Particularly hard hit is the San Fernando Valley with hot temperatures, dry winds, and large lots with the accompanying high water bills from LADWP. Past droughts have produced reduced water use but now we are looking at record historic drought.

Perhaps it is the reassurances from LADWP and the big wholesaler the Metropolitan Water District that there is ample water supply in storage for 3 years or that an El Nino would save us. Other wishful thinking is that ocean desalination will save us from ourselves, it won't. The other engineering project that has most of the water agency's attention is the Bay Delta Conservation Project (BDCP), a massive plumbing project to bury 150 feet down two twin tunnels-40 foot in diameter, 30 miles long-under the collapsing Bay Delta estuary. This is to bring Sacramento River water directly to the massive pumps that send water south to big Agriculture, oil and possible fracking, and a smaller portion to southern California urban users. For those who remember, this is the latest reiteration of the peripheral canal that was voted down by the people with an initiative in 1982.

So while lawns die and LADWP raises the rebate for removing them and replacing with appropriate landscaping at \$3/square foot, outdoor watering is being restricted by the state. The BDCP cost keeps going up with estimates up to \$67 Billion while promises of water delivered keep going down. In fact, during drought we wouldn't use the BDCP tunnels but rather still rely on the fish killing pumps. Without commitments to pay for the controversial "conservation" restoration portion of the project nor Big Agriculture to pay their share of construction and planning, we are left with a distraction, that even at the best guesstimates puts off 10-20 years before completion.

So in the interim we need to look locally to clean up the aquifer underneath the SF Valley while reducing our water usage. Recycled water, stormwater when it rains with rainwater capture, and even greywater are cost effective solutions for now. Come to the Sierra Club sponsored water forum on the 9th of August. I will be speaking at the forum.

**Suisun Marsh leading to
the rest of the the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta**



Closeup of the Delta, notice the islands surrounded by canals.

Edmonston Pumping Station



Our water from the State Water Project comes approx. 400 miles from up north and it mostly travels by gravity until it reaches this spot in the Tehachapi Mountains. At that point a very large amount of energy (using 14 pumps) is expended to pump the water (approx. 2000ft) over these hills to Los Angeles & San Diego. The pipes are buried in the ground but you can see the Edmonston Pumping Station in the photo.

Take a virtual of this important pumping plant with links below:

(1) link below Amy takes us on a journey to top Oroville to San Diego bottom State Water Proj. in pictures

<http://www.caprado.org/articles/2013/10/07/californias-water-supply,-a-700-mile-journey/>

(2) Link & pictures of Edmanston (Tehachapi) plant

<http://mavensphotoblog.com/2011/08/27/the-big-lift-a-photo-tour-of-the-state-water-projects-pumps-at-edmonston/>



What's water got to do with energy? Everything!

*By Charming Evelyn,
Chair of Sierra Club Angeles Chapter Water Committee*

If you live in Southern California, you've probably seen the television ad with the hand turning off a light switch and exhorting you to "Flex Your Power."

Have you ever stopped and thought about that statement and what is implied beyond conserving electricity? Did it ever occur to you that it takes water to create energy, and energy to get that water to us?

Power plants, including nuclear power plants, rely heavily on water for cooling purposes. According to the Union of Concerned Scientists: "Cooling power plants requires the single largest share of U.S. freshwater withdrawals: 41%."

Water also is used to pump crude oil out of the ground, help remove pollutants from power plant exhaust, generate steam that turns turbines and flush away residue after fossil fuels are burned. To produce energy from oil and natural gas, water is used for drilling, completion, fracturing and refining. Water is a key element in biofuels too, vital to grow, refine and distribute such fuels.

How much water it takes to

Given all of this, it takes approximately 25 gallons of water to produce 1 kilowatt hour of electricity; 13 gallons of water to produce 1 gallon of gasoline; and 5 or more barrels of water to produce a single barrel of oil from mining oil shale. It takes more water to power homes and appliances than a family uses inside the home. Windmills and solar photovoltaic panels require much less water per kilowatt generated than coal, nuclear and other thermoelectric plants.

Almost 10% of total national energy use is devoted to extracting, moving and treating water. The amount of energy used to deliver water to residential customers in Southern California is equivalent to approx one-third of total average household electricity use.

Everything consumers buy requires water and energy to make. Electronics, cotton and paper are some of the most water-intensive products. The average American spends about \$1,500 a year on electronics, from computers to home entertainment systems. The water required to create your laptop could wash nearly 70 loads of laundry in a standard machine.

Every time you shave minutes off your use of hot water, you save energy and water, keeping more dollars in your pocket. One of the easiest, most effective ways to cut your energy and water footprint is by repairing leaky faucets and toilets, which also saves you money on your water bill.

Making smart energy decisions can greatly reduce the pressure our demand for electricity places on our water supplies. Since every kilowatt takes gallons of water to produce, consider shifting to energy-efficient lighting and appliances. You will save water, energy and Mother Earth.

So the next time you walk out of or into a room not being used, and the lights or appliances are on, be a dear and turn them off!!

From your home, tune-in to the Angeles Chapter's WATER COMMITTEE

If you are interested in water issues in California, & especially So. Calif., we urge you to come or tune into the WATER COMMITTEE by phone. We have discussions within the committee and we, also, invite experts to speak to us.

The Water Comm. meets every month on the second Wed. at 7:00pm. If you can't make it in person then you can choose to tune-in from your home telephone or by video conferencing.

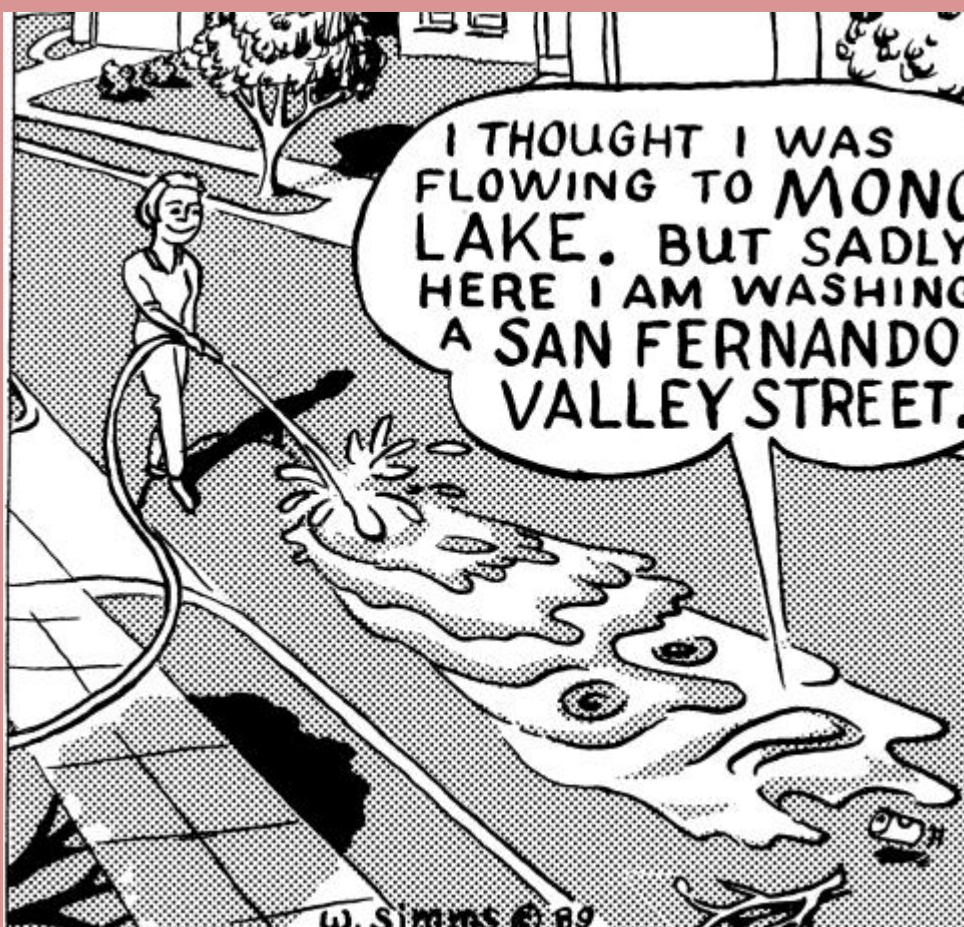
The no charge phone conference line is available at 1-866-501-6174 Code: 1000 400 1892.

[GoToMeeting video conferencing link \(no charge\)](https://www4.gotomeeting.com/join/124173903): <https://www4.gotomeeting.com/join/124173903>

GoToMeeting app. (iPhone®, iPad® or Android®)

Meeting ID: 124-173-903

Any questions for the Water Committee contact Charming Evelyn. If you want to personally attend the Water Committee, contact Charming for location. bcharmz@aol.com





Nut trees and oil drilling side-by-side
Picture by [Environment California](#)

Kern County Nut Trees and Fracking Oil Drilling Make an Unhappy Pair. (Water is used for both procedures)

By Elaine Trogman

California(CA) is the 3rd largest producer of oil just behind Texas, and North Dakota. Kern County, north but near L.A., has helped to make CA. the important oil producer that it is since most of CA's oil production is in Kern County. There are hundreds of oil wells and even their large city of Bakersfield has many oil wells. Sometimes fracking is used.

Fracking or hydraulic fracturing is done by shooting water at very high pressure and mixed with chemicals (sometimes secret chemicals) very deep into the ground to break up rocks and release gas and oil. In California, earthquake country, this could be problematic. Fracking can be done vertically and then horizontally. Per KALW, San Francisco Public Radio, "fracking a single well can require two to eight million gallons of water." There are many questions regarding how reasonable those allocations are considering that we are in a prolonged drought.

*KALW interviewed people in Kern County to find out what is happening there. As you can see in the picture above, in this area agriculture exists beside oil wells and fracking. Did you know that in California a farmer can own his land but not the mineral rights underneath it? That can be owned by somebody else and they can lease those rights to an oil company.

KALW interviewed farmer Tom Franz who is in that position. Tom said, "The fracking has started 10 years ago in this agricultural area where we're standing, just a mile or two from here," KALW mentioned, "Now, he adds, wells have been fracked in every direction around him. To Frantz, in places where agriculture thrives, oil and water don't mix." Tom is concerned about what a fracking spill or leak could do to the ground water. KALW says, "He's worried about spills above ground, too. In 2012 he videotaped a subsidiary of Occidental Petroleum illegally dumping black liquid into an open pit a few feet from trees. The act led to a fine of \$60,000. "See the article from CBS below:

[CBS interview of Franz](#)

According to the American Lung Assn., Kern County is the most polluted county in the USA. That distinction is not difficult to understand since both oil activities accompanied by benzene and methane, and farming with pesticide residue and intensive truck driving exist in Kern County.

Tom says, "The first time something shows up in our almonds: a little chemical, little benzene, little trace; no one's going to buy almonds from here anymore. We grow two billion pounds of almonds in a year right now. It's like a \$50 billion industry here in the valley. Fracking has the potential to wipe that out, to put a reputation on our product."

*Link to: [Fracking California View From Kern County](#)



his place where this deer is feeding could easily become a convenience store and if this happens this animal will lose its habitat. Keep these wild animals in their mountain homes and not on our city streets by attending this "Nature by Design"

Conference below:

(photo by Sierra Club hike leader Pixie Klemic)

P L A N

Public Land Alliance Network Nature by Design Conference

***Conference to save open space
and the animals that live there!***

Sat., October 18, 2014, 8:00 am to 4:30 pm

AT: King Gillette Ranch

26800 Mulholland Highway, Calabasas, CA 91302

Come and learn about the PLAN-Nature by Design conference that will build support to protect and provide wildlife corridors, animals and the habitat they depend on, preserve open space, and parkland. This can be accomplished by establishing a Public Land Alliance Network (PLAN) through environmental activists dedicated to preventing unchecked urban sprawl. The open space will include mountains, ridgelines, grasslands, watersheds, coastal land, and significant ecological areas. To protect these gains we need to educate youngsters and adults on the importance of open space issues. Come to the conference to hear ideas and how we can network together to accomplish these goals.

**Attendance: \$25.00 includes food & beverages:
Morning bagels & fruit; lunch sandwiches with beverages**

*Hosted by the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority
Sponsored by Santa Susana Mountain Park Association*

[For more info to attend PLAN & TO REGISTER go to this website](#)

The above activity is not sponsored nor administered by the Sierra Club. The Sierra Club has no information about the planning of this activity and makes no representations or warranties about the quality, safety, supervision or management of such activities. They are published only as a reader service because they may be of interest to the readers of this publication.



The Strange Disappearance of Bees

By Michael Stevenson

Most of us take for granted the bees that we see daily pollinating our gardens. But what some of us may not be aware of is the extent to which these hard workers also pollinate our crops. A Cornell University study has estimated that honeybees annually pollinate more than \$14 billion worth of fruits, vegetables and nuts in the U.S.

About one third of our food supply depends on honeybee pollination.

As some of you may have noticed bees are disappearing from our gardens. Scientists are calling this phenomenon "Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD)". This disorder occurs when the bees that inhabit a hive suddenly disappear, leaving behind only the queen, the eggs and a few workers. These missing bees are never found either dead or alive. This is highly unusual, since bees are highly social insects and never leave their eggs and the queen to fend for themselves. Beekeepers consider a loss of up to 20% of bees a year to be normal. But what is actually occurring is a loss of bees in the 60-80% range. This is unsustainable and without bee pollination, crops will fail and food supplies will be in short supply.

The exact mechanisms of CCD are still unknown. Several possibilities are being investigated including viral infection, mites, fungus, malnutrition, pesticides, immunodeficiency's, climate changes that include early springs and erratic weather patterns, loss of habitat, electromagnetic radiation from cell phone towers, genetically modified crops and beekeeping practices such as the long-distance transportation of beehives and the use of antibiotics. This is a complicated problem and most likely there is more than one cause. Several of the suspects relate to our mismanagement and pollution of the environment.

One particular pesticide, Clothianidin, could be playing a major role in the mass death of bees. This pesticide is in a class of insecticides that affects the central nervous system of insects, causing paralysis and death. One use is to protect corn against various soil pests. Since it is known that it is toxic to honey bees, extreme care must always be taken to avoid using it anywhere close to where pollinators may be present now or in the future. This is clearly not always possible so the best strategy would appear to be to ban it outright. The EPA is currently considering this option.

A report by the Research Council on the Status of North American Pollinators states that:

"Pollinator decline is one form of global change that actually does have credible potential to alter the shape and structure of the terrestrial world".

According to a quote attributed to Albert Einstein; "If the bee disappeared off the surface of the globe, then man would only have four years of life left. No more bees, no more pollination, no more plants, no more animals, no more man". Even if a scenario this drastic doesn't play out, at least the bee may serve as the "canary in the coal mine" warning us that unless we change how we treat the earth we are in for a rough ride in the future.

[SIGN SAVE HONEY BEE PETITION TO EPA](#)

[Learn about Honey Bees](#)



Youthful Skin Comes At Cost To Ocean Food Web **Time to eliminate plastic micro-bead exfoliants**

By Sarah "Steve" Mosko

The beauty industry hits hard on the importance of frequent exfoliation to keep skin looking younger and healthy. Spherical plastic micro-bead scrubbers, no larger than a half millimeter, have been introduced into hundreds of skin care products in recent decades, but scientists are discovering that the ocean food web, and maybe human health, could be imperiled as a result.

As babies, skin cells are replaced every two weeks, but by age 50 the turnover rate has slowed to six weeks or longer, fostering wrinkles and other unwelcome signs of aging. Products containing plastic micro-beads profess to speed up cell rejuvenation, and their popularity signals that consumers have bought into the promise of exfoliating your way to a more youthful look. Whether or not such products deliver on this promise, scientists have discovered that these innocent-looking plastic micro-beads are insidious little transporters of chemical pollutants into lakes, streams and oceans and maybe onto our dinner plates.

Micro-beads are usually made of polyethylene (PE) or polypropylene (PP), and like other plastics, they're thought to persist in the environment for a hundred years or more. They're added to facial scrubs, body washes, soap bars, toothpastes and even sunscreens and designed to be washed down the drain. However, micro-beads commonly escape waste treatment plants and pollute bodies of water, because the plants aren't designed to eliminate them or because wastewater is diverted directly to local waterways in heavier rains.

[Read the full article "Youthful Skin & the Environment"](#)

[Other Enviro. articles by Sarah Mosko](#)



This photo was taken in July 2013. President Asset Woolsey Canyon Estates-in the Simi Hills straddling both sides of Woolsey Canyon. This development covers 32 acres with a proposal of 14 large homes. Four oak trees are targeted for destruction. This is a crucial wildlife corridor between the Santa Susana Field Lab and the Chatsworth Nature Preserve.

Santa Susana Mountains-Simi Hills Under Siege!!

By Carla Bollinger, Santa Susana Mt. Park Assn (SMPA)/Sierra Club SFV

Urban Sprawl is spreading into the Santa Susana Mountains and Simi Hill, a Significant Ecological Area (SEA) and a crucial link in the Rim of the Valley Wildlife Corridor.

Once a panoramic view of sandstone outcroppings, backdrop to thousands of film westerns, the Simi Hills are now a litter-rama of mansions, fences, trailers, water tanks and cell phone towers. With each structure and road built in the Simi Hills and Santa Susana Mountains, habitat destruction threatens a crucial wildlife link connecting the Santa Monica Mountains, Los Padres Forest, Angeles National Forest and San Gabriel Mountains. The Chatsworth Formation of ridges, rocks, peaks, sandstone boulders filled in with chaparral are unique and visually stunning in dawn's golden light. Once homes are occupied, anti-coagulant pesticides, herbicides and other chemicals used by homeowners not only kill wildlife, the poisons become part of groundwater used for human's drinking water.

Slopes are unstable with high risks for new building and residents below the new developments. Simi Hills and Santa Susana Mountains foothills are subject to extreme Santa Ana winds that during seasonal drought fuel wildfires. Both slope stability and fires are enough reason for Ventura County and Los Angeles County planners to halt further building as well as the need to save this vital habitat-wildlife corridor. King of the Mountain isn't a child's game but destruction of an ecosystem and nature's unique vista by the powerfully privileged. City/county planners write about conservation, habitat resources, protecting watersheds in their long-term plans. Significant Ecological Areas (SEAs) are determined, but the erosion of protecting open space and wildlife areas is lost in one development after another that is approved. Oak permits to destroy Southern California "protected" oak trees are negotiated, instead of five oaks, only two will be chopped up in the euphemism of being "good stewards". It's time to stop allowing new construction before the Simi Hills and Santa Susana foothills are destroyed forever.

Panoramic view of sandstone outcroppings, sage chaparral, native plants, blue streams and creeks, wetlands, and vernal pools, riparian and oak woodlands are being destroyed by small and large developments. Of great concern are these developments.

Hidden Creek Estates--Porter Ranch in the foothills of the Santa Susana Mountains. The Los Angeles County Supervisors have approved this development of 188 homes with the City of Los Angeles reviewing for approval of sewer, electrical lines, street access, school, etc. This development will require massive hill grading in a natural landslide area riddled with seismic activity, destruction of riparian habitat located in the Browns Canyon and Mormon Canyon Creeks that feed the Los Angeles River. Protest of this development needs to be posted with the Los Angeles City Council members and Mitch Englander's office, because Hidden Creek is in his district.

President Asset Woolsey Canyon Estates-in the Simi Hills straddling both sides of Woolsey Canyon.

This development covers 32 acres with a proposal of 14 large homes. Four oak trees are targeted for destruction. This is a crucial wildlife corridor between the Santa Susana Field Lab and the Chatsworth Nature Preserve.

Mc Mansions are ruining the Simi Hills, the beautiful vistas of these unique sandstone formations, destruction of the chaparral and scrub oaks. These massive structures are choking the wildlife corridor between Santa Monica Mountains and Santa Susana Mountains. The east side of the Simi Hills above Lake Manor is under jurisdiction of Simi Valley-Ventura County

Carla Bollinger, Santa Susana Mt. Park Assn (SMPA)/Sierra Club SFV



Mormon Canyon, which will be affected by proposed Hidden Creek Estates

**Please contact your councilmember
and say that you don't want the Hidden Creek Estates in our
Simi/Santa Susana Mountains
(link for councilmembers' email address & more info. here
[LINK HERE FOR COUNCILMEMBER'S EMAIL AND MORE INFO.](#))**

**Environmentally Disastrous Gated Community
Given First City Green Light in Browns and
Mormon Canyon Core Habitat, Santa Susana
Mountains
(Hidden Creeks Estates Project)**

**By Paul Edelman of Mountains Recreation & Conservation Authority (MRCA)
(See helpful map links at the end of article)**

Hidden Creeks Estates is a Texas-based company's proposed luxury housing development that, if built, would eliminate more than 186 acres of core habitat from the Los Angeles River watershed in unincorporated Chatsworth. The proposed gated community requires extending four-lane Mason Avenue three-quarters of a mile through a mountainside (at a depth an 18 story building) into the wildest part of the Santa Susana Mountains above

Porter Ranch. The project would effectively extend urban development deep into Browns Canyon that anchors the 12,000 contiguous acres of public open space associated with Michael D. Antonovich Regional Park at Joughin Ranch. The project proposes to sandwich 188 homes and a private equestrian center on a 150-acre landslide complex between the two premiere perennial streams on south-facing slope of the mountain range. Stabilizing the site requires over 7 million cubic yards of grading (37,235 cy per house) and 3,000-foot-long by 350-foot-tall (35 story building height) fill slopes.

The down slope foundation of this grading is proposed on over nine acres of Porter Ranch Development Company-owned habitat mitigation land in Mormon Canyon. That landowner has never granted permission for such an incursion. The Final EIR and staff report make zero mention of this egregious breach of this decades-ago-required habitat mitigation. This riparian corridor must first be offered to the City of Los Angeles when Porter Ranch Development Company soon seeks to record one of the final tract maps of its 1,500-plus-acre 1980's approved project. It is imperative that public outcry prevent the City from granting permission to the Hidden Creeks project to conduct mass grading and drainage work on this future Department of Recreation and Parks open space that harbors an existing phenomenal trail and shaded perennial stream. Such an act would violate the public trust and interest at a magnitude never seen before.

Unfortunately, the project is plowing through the City approval process cloaked with a turnkey, active public park with ball fields. Besides the usual "we must sacrifice this expendable piece of the mountains for short term job growth pitches," the applicant's outreach espouses fire protection for existing Porter Ranch residents by locating the Hidden Creeks community as a sacrificial island of new development that would burn first. The local equestrian community is unanimously against the project. Nineteen local biology professors have signed a letter saying the project would result in unavoidable significant adverse ecological impacts to the Santa Susana Mountains ecosystem. Environmental groups such as the Sierra Club, SFV Audubon Society, Santa Susana Mountain Park Association and other conservation groups are opposed to this development.

In November the Citywide Los Angeles Planning Commission voted unanimously to recommend certifying the Final EIR and approving the project to the City Council. The Final EIR reenters the pre-California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) dark ages by concluding that 7 million cubic yards grading, extending a four-lane road three-quarters of a mile into core habitat, and eliminating over 400 native trees is a mitigatable biological impact. The Conservancy, the Chatsworth Neighborhood Council, and at least 19 PhD biologists are on record in strong disagreement. The Final EIR contends that the whole 150-acre landslide has to be excavated 100-feet-deep and put back in place in order to develop the site. The Texas developer full well knew that when they bought the land, which now happens to be zoned for just 33 homes. The environmental documentation for the Hidden Creeks Estates Project (ENV-2005-6657-EIR) is unforgivably flawed. How can grading more than 150 acres of the Santa Susana Mountains and Upper Los Angeles River watershed not be considered a significant impact?

The next step is a hearing in early 2014 before the City's Deputy Advisory Agency (DAA) to consider approval of the tract map (with grading dependent on Porter Ranch biological mitigation land). Given the clear, bright green light on the project from the City staff and Planning Commission, it is safe to say that Conservancy will be appealing a DAA tract map approval back to a hearing of the Citywide Planning Commission some time in 2014. Unless the Planning Commission reverses its unanimous support for the project, the next hearing would be before the Planning and Land Use Management (PLUM) Committee of the City Council. Because the project is an actual annexation from the County into the City, a final City Council vote is necessary.

There really could not be an ecologically worse or Planning 101 worse project than Hidden Creek Estates. Why the Citywide Planning Commission and Councilmember Mitch Englander think a gated 188-home community in the hydrological and ecological sweet spot of the southern Santa Susana Mountains is worth ruining the experience of 12,000 acres (costing millions of public dollars) making up the Antonovich Regional Park open space is beyond our comprehension.

links to area maps #1 & #2

http://www.smmc.ca.gov/pdf/attachment3683_Map%201.pdf

map #2 link http://www.smmc.ca.gov/pdf/attachment3683_Map%202.pdf

CONTACT YOUR COUNCIL MEMBERS AND TELL THEM YOU DO NOT WANT THIS EXTREMELY ENVIRONMENTALLY DAMAGING BUILDING PROJECT.

Please contact your councilmember

**and say that you don't want the Hidden Creek Estates in our
Simi/Santa Susana Mountains**
**(link for councilmembers' email address & more info. here
[LINK HERE FOR COUNCILMEMBER'S EMAIL AND MORE INFO.](#)**



Malibu Lagoon
Malibu Beach walk on Aug, 5, 2014
(see details below in Tues hike section)
Photo by Sierra Club member Gayle Dufour

THE RESTORATION PROJECT AT MALIBU LAGOON

THE RESTORATION PROJECT AT MALIBU LAGOON

By Elaine Trogman & George Watland

The restoration has been somewhat controversial with environmental groups on both sides. The Sierra Club has taken a position of being pro the Project.

HISTORY

The L.A. Times says "Malibu Lagoon has been through many incarnations, some created by floods and tides and others by human beings."

1920s In the western portion construction workers dumped dirt in the lagoon to build the Pacific Coast Hwy.

1969s The western portion was used as 2 little league fields.

1983 The Calif. State Parks removed the fields & created 3 tidal channels in an attempt to restore the lagoon. The job was not done well and the flow of water was slowed which created sediment & stagnant decaying organic matter since the water was not flushed out and pollution resulted. Per the L.A. Times, "The waterways became polluted and stagnant, and state officials advised that about 13 acres of the 32-acre lagoon area needed to be drained, dredged and rebuilt to meet basic water quality standards." dredging and grading would take a toll on the wildlife.

2013 The Malibu Lagoon was restored.

L.A. Times "Project officials say that new interpretive features such as a pathway that gets submerged by tides were designed to help families and students learn about the lagoon's ecosystem. Refashioned viewing areas, they say, will provide better opportunities for bird-watching. The reconfigured channels and removal of unnatural fill, Abramson said, will allow for natural flushing of the ecosystem."

(George) The Malibu Lagoon project provides a living lesson about ways to protect scarce wetlands

along the SoCal coast. The project began in 2012 and was designed to restore tidal water flow and native habitat that had been impacted by sediment and contaminated storm water flowing from urban areas that surround the lagoon. After much debate by Club activists and invited scientists both for and against the project, the Sierra Club Angeles Chapter Conservation Committee voted to support it. Since then, volunteers working with the Santa Monica Mountains Task Force have helped to pull invasive weeds to help newly planted native vegetation take root. Over the coming years, visitors can view for themselves how well the native habitat and native fish and wildlife populations are restored.

L.A. Times article:
[Malibu Lagoon Restoration](#)



Use link Below--

WATCH THE SHIPPING LANE PROBLEM!!

[shipping lane problem link](#)

This video tells the story of why our shipping lanes in So. Calif. need to be moved further away from where the biggest whales, the blue whales, are feeding on krill between the Channel Islands and the Calif. coast. Whales are killed every year from collisions with ships. They want the shipping traffic to go along the Navy's Pt. Mugu waters during the feeding season July through Oct.

[Stop ship strikes on blue whales in So. Calif.](#)

By signing this petition below and read the story of what is happening. [Petition stop ship strikes on whales](#)
(Petition is at bottom of link screen.)

MUST SEE!

INSPIRATIONAL WHALE RELEASE VIDEO

Use this link below:

[Young whale's thank you](#)

to watch a young whale being saved from drowning in fishing net and the beautiful acrobatics it does to say thanks!!!

HIKE & ACTIVITIES SECTION



Sierra Club Santa Monica Mountains Taskforce (SMMTF) is largely responsible for many of the major trails in the Santa Monica Mountains.



Mary Ann & Ron Webster are founding members of the SMMTF. When hiking on the Musch Trail in Topanga Canyon (and many other trails) you can thank them and their trail crews.

The SMMTF website is below:

The website is: <http://smmtf.org/>

To see the trail crew dates & Tues. hikes choose "Calendar"

The Trail Crew of the SMMTF still maintains a strong program of building and maintaining trails that support recreational use throughout the Santa Monicas and in adjacent parkland. They have a need for volunteers. Use the graphic below to sign up.



<http://smtf.org/volunteer.php>

(SEE REST OF NEWSLETTER ON NEXT PAGE)

**SEE MORE PICTURES IN HIKE SECTION
BELOW**



WEEKEND ACTIVITIES

COME TO OUR PROGRAMS AND PICK UP OUR SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES through JUNE 2014. The schedules have programs and hikes in the San Fernando Valley area.)

**See programs and hikes thru JUNE 2014 from our San Fernando Valley Sierra Club website. Use this link below to start:
<http://angeles.sierraclub.org/sfv/>**

CALLING ALL HIKE LEADERS OR TRAINEES FOR SATURDAY OR SUNDAY HIKES

**Help people who work to get exercise
and learn about nature.**

Call or Email Outings Chair

Joe Phillips 818 348-8884 recreationbyjoe@yahoo.com

Governor Brown Provides Help to Our Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park

*By Elizabeth Harris, Ph.D. of
Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park [Website for the park](#)*

On July 1, 2012, 70 of California's State Parks were scheduled for closure. Among the 70 was the Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park (SSPSHP) at the border of Los Angeles and Ventura counties. Its 670 acres include sweeping views of the San Fernando Valley, soaring transverse mountain ranges, sandstone cliffs, ancient rock formations, Chumash grinding and basins, vernal pools, seasonal waterfalls, and the rare and endangered Santa Susana Tar Plant. The California Parks Foundation provided stop-gap funding to avert the crisis, then an audit at the state revealed monies sufficient to support all state parks. In response to the scandal, Governor Brown placed a moratorium on state park closures for two years. One year remains on the governor's pledge to keep all state parks open.

SSPSHP is celebrating its 16th Anniversary

SATURDAY & SUNDAY ACTIVITIES

SATURDAY ACTIVITIES

TAKE A HIKE AT SEPULVEDA BASIN: Because of the plant destruction that was brought on by the Army Corp of Engineers, we are tentatively planning to conduct a public information hike around the damaged area each Sunday. If you are interested in the hike or if you are an interested hike leader please contact Joe Phillips at 818-348-8884 recreationbyjoe@yahoo.com

SUNDAY ACTIVITIES

NO JULY, AUGUST, OR SEPTEMBER SIERRA SINGLES/SFV ACTIVITIES

East Silverlake, Oct 26, 2014, Sun.

O: Sierra Singles/SFV, Strenuous--Join us for this walk through East Silverlake. Silver Lake, known as one of "the city's hippest neighborhoods", has many bars, night clubs and restaurants. But we're going into the hills. We're going to walk (climb) what may be LA's longest staircase, along with a zig zag staircase. Oh but the views are worth it both up and down. Don't worry we'll take lots of breaks. We'll feel this walk when we're finished. Dress appropriately, bring plenty of water. Rain cancels. Meet us at the Silverlake Reservoir basketball courts at 9am, corner of Silver Lake Blvd and Van Pelt Pl. Leader Sandra Tapia (slt91345@yahoo.com), co-leader Gerrie Montooth (818) 207-4473

Doh Dah Parade: Nov 15, 2014, Sat.

O: Sierra Singles/SFV Easy Doh Dah Parade: Known as the twisted sister of the traditional Rose Parade, Doo Dah began as a grassroots event in 1978 to gain national attention for its eccentric and, often, irreverent satire. The parade, which has spawned numerous off-beat replicants across the country, was named by Readers Digest as America's Best Parade, and was recently featured in the book 50 Places You Must Visit Before You Die! You never know what to expect. Join us, we meet at downtown Union Station at 10:15am to catch the Gold Line to Pasadena (\$). Dress appropriately, bring a chair and water. We'll walk about 1 mile from Gold Line to parade location. We'll head back downtown for lunch, optional. Check website for updates. Leader Sandra Tapia (slt91345@yahoo.com), co-leader Gerrie Montooth (818) 207-4473

Candy Cane Lane, Dec 20, 2014, Sat.

O: Sierra Singles/SFV Easy--Candy Cane Lane: Now, whether you celebrate Christmas, Hanukah, Kwanza or just the winter solstice, you have to admit that there is something magical about all the beautiful twinkling lights during that time of year. Whether you're a kid or an adult it's hard not to feel all warm and cozy inside seeing decorations during the dark, cold time of year. Come be a kid again, join us as we walk these few blocks (approximately 2 miles) and enjoy the season lights. Meet us at the corner of Corbin Ave and Oxnard St in Woodland Hills at 6:30pm. Dress appropriately, comfortable walking shoes and water. Afterwards we'll go for dessert to a nearby restaurant. Leader Sandra Tapia (slt91345@yahoo.com), co-leader Gerrie Montooth (818) 207-4473



Zuma Beach Walk 8-19-14

See writeup above in Tues. Section

Photo by Sierra Club hike leader Pixie Klemic

TUES. HIKES & ACTIVITIES

Moderate Easy Paced 4-6 Mile.

For all hikes, bring 2 qts water, lunch, lugsoles, hat, & sunscreen.

RAIN CANCELS. Possible \$3-\$9 park fee

Hike Leaders phone #

Nancy Krupa (818)981-4799, Pixie Klemic (818)787-5420, M. Vernallis(818)360-4414, , Marcia Harris.310-828-6670,

Charlotte Feitshans (818)818-501-1225, Peter Ireland 310-457-9783 (w)

Sandra Tapia 818.365-4571, Rosemary Campbell (818)344-6869,

Doug Demers(805)419-4094, Richard Pardi (818)346-6257.

Dotty Sanford 805-532-2485, Rita Okowitz 818-889-9924,

Virve Leps 310-477-9664. Reaven Gately (661)255-8873,

Mimi Knights (661)253-3414, Ted Mattock (818)222-5581,

Joe Phillips 818 348-8884, Stephen Beck 818-346-5759

Hikes sponsored by Wilderness Adventures

These hikes are included as a courtesy.

Tuesday, August 5, 2014 Malibu Beach Walk

O: (WA) Low tide beach walk at Surfrider Beach and past Malibu Lagoon into the Colony. Moderately paced 4 mile, no gain walk along beach (bare feet OK) Lots of birds. We'll see how the Lagoon is recovering from all the recent work. Meet 8:00 AM at Surfrider Beach parking lot - From 101 Ventura Fwy take Las Virgenes Rd/Malibu Canyon exit, go south to Pacific Coast Hwy. Turn left (E) and go 1 ¼ mile; after crossing bridge, either park on beach side of PCH between Adamson House and Pier or enter fee lot by Adamson house. Bring water, snack, hat, sunscreen. Rain cancels. Leader: PIXIE KLEMIC Asst: VIRVE LEPS

Tuesday, August 12, 2014 Cheeseboro Canyon: 7:30 AM

O: (WA) Moderately easy paced 6+ mile, 500' elevation gain in the lovely Simi Hills, first through ridge grasslands, then along an old ranch road following a streambed with lovely oak woodlands to Sulfur Springs. Meet 7:30 AM at trailhead. From 101 Ventura Fwy take Cheeseboro Rd exit, turn north on Palo Comado Canyon Rd then right on Cheeseboro Rd, and continue 1 mile to park entrance, turn right and follow road to second parking lot at end. Bring water, snack, lugsoles, hat, sunscreen. Rain cancels. Leader: RITA OKOWITZ Asst: PIXIE KLEMIC

Tuesday, August 19 Zuma Beach walk: 8:00 AM

O: (WA) Moderately easy paced 5-6 mile, no gain low tide beach walk along Zuma Beach past an estuary, the beautiful cliffs, sparkling surf, soft sands, and a chance to see how that sea wall is coming. Meet 8:00 AM at entrance to Westward Beach parking lot. From PCH and Kanan Rd., go north appx. ¾ mile and turn left into Westward Beach Rd (just before Zuma Beach), go ½ mile and park on side of road at end of road before lot. Bring water, hat, sunscreen, snack; sandals, tennis shoes or bare feet (!) OK. Rain cancels.

Leader: PIXIE KLEMIC Asst: VIRVE LEPS

Tuesday, August 26 Newton Canyon (W) / Backbone Trail: 7:30 AM

O: (WA) Moderately easy paced 5 mile, 800' gain, hike into Zuma Canyon on a scenic trail through oak woodlands and chaparral. Meet 7:30 AM Newton Canyon Trailhead. From 101 Ventura Fwy take Kanan Rd exit, go south on Kanan Rd appx. 8 mi. to paved trailhead parking area on west side just north of Tunnel 1 (3rd tunnel from 101 about 1¾ miles past Mulholland Hwy; 4 ½ mi. north of PCH). Bring water, snack, lugsoles, hat, sunscreen. Rain cancels. Leader: PIXIE KLEMIC Co-leader CHARLOTTE FEITSHANS

THURSDAY HIKES & ACTIVITIES

Thurs Moderate Paced

For all hikes, bring 2 qts water, lunch, lugsoles, hat, & sunscreen.

RAIN CANCELS. Possible \$3-\$9 park fee



Sierra Club THURSDAY HIKES & ACTIVITIES

Hike Leaders phone #

Nancy Krupa (818)981-4799, Pixie Klemic (818)787-5420, M. Vernallis(818)360-4414,, Marcia Harris.310-828-6670, Charlotte Feitshans (818)818-501-1225, Peter Ireland 310-457-9783 (w) Sandra Tapia 818.365-4571, Rosemary Campbell (818)344-6869, Doug Demers(805)419-4094, Richard Pardi (818)346-6257. Dotty Sanford 805-532-2485, Rita Okowitz 818-889-9924, Virve Leps 310-477-9664. Reaven Gately (661)255-8873, Mimi Knights (661)253-3414, Ted Mattock (818)222-5581, Joe Phillips 818 348-8884, Stephen Beck 818-346-5759

Hikes sponsored by Wilderness Adventures

These hikes are included as a courtesy.

Thurs Moderate Paced

For all hikes, bring 2 qts water, lunch, lugsoles, hat, & sunscreen.

RAIN CANCELS. Possible \$3-\$9 park fee

Thursday, Aug 7, 2014 Parker Mesa Overlook: 7:30 AM

O: (WA) Moderately paced 6 mile hike, 1300 feet gain, in western Topanga State Park. Meet 7:30 AM at trailhead (from 101 Ventura Fwy take Topanga Canyon Blvd south to Entrada Rd, turn left (east) and continue to fork with Colina Drive (do not turn right on Colina Road), continue straight on Colina Drive until it meets with Waveview Drive, Trippett, and Entrada Rd, and park on street). Bring plenty of water, snacks, lugsoles, hat, sunscreen. Rain cancels.

Leader: TED MATTOCK Asst: NANCY KRUPA

Thursday, Aug 14 Upper Mandeville & Nike Radar Site: 7:30 AM

Upper Mandeville & Nike Radar Site:

O: (WA) Moderately paced 6 mile 1100 ft gain hike in upper Mandeville Canyon and to Nike missile radar site. Meet 7:30 AM at trailhead (from Ventura Blvd in Encino take Hayvenhurst Ave south about 1.8 miles, turn right (west) on Encino Hills Drive and continue about 1 more mile to beginning of dirt Mulholland Dr, or from 405 Fwy in Sepulveda pass, take Mulholland Dr, exit 61, west about 2 miles to end of pavement at Encino Hills Drive. On dirt Mulholland go about 100 yards west and park facing white posts). Bring plenty of water, snacks, lugsoles, hat, sunscreen. Rain cancels.

Leaders: NANCY KRUPA, REAVEN GATELY

Thursday, Aug 21 Top of Reseda: 7:30 AM

O: (WA) Moderately paced 5-8 mile hike, depending on weather, in northern Topanga State Park. Meet 7:30 AM at top of Reseda Blvd in Tarzana (from 101 Ventura Fwy take Reseda Blvd, exit 23, turn south and go 3 miles to Mulholland Gateway Park, and park along street below the yellow line, just outside fee area). Bring plenty of water, snacks, lugsoles, hat, sunscreen. Rain cancels.

Leaders: MIMI KNIGHTS, GARY ANDERSON

Thursday, Aug 28 Orange and Red Lines, Ed's Downtown: 8:00 AM

O: (WA) Ed Rosenthal will show us around his territory in downtown Los Angeles, visiting historic places as well as new developments. Meet 8:00 AM at the Sepulveda Orange Line ticket vending machines. Entrance to large free parking lot is on Erwin St, west of Sepulveda Blvd and north of Oxnard St. Bring water, hat, sunscreen, TAP card (or purchase for \$1) and money for bus/Metro (check www.mta.net/around/fares for latest info) and a cafe lunch. Contact a leader if you prefer to board elsewhere.

Leaders: MARGARET VERNALLIS, REAVEN GATELY

NON-SIERRA CLUB ACTIVITIES

(from here to the end of the newsletter)

The following activities are not sponsored nor administered by the Sierra Club. The Sierra Club has no information about the planning of these activities and makes no representations or warranties about the quality, safety, supervision or management of such activities. They are published only as a reader service because they may be of interest to the readers of this publication.

Reseda Neighborhood Council Bike Ride

Reseda program rides weekly in and around San Fernando Valley.

For info. contact:

Joe Phillips at 818-348-8884 recreationbyjoe@yahoo.com

King Gillette Ranch



King Gillette Ranch

See write-up on activities below

Photo by Sierra Club hike leader Pixie Klemic

COME AND ENJOY WHAT WE THE PUBLIC OWN-KING GILLETTE RANCH

King Gillette Ranch, home to some of California's newest preserved and protected open space. One of the most stunning locales in the Santa Monica Mountains, 588-acre King Gillette Ranch is situated in the heart of the Malibu Creek Watershed, by the confluence of five major tributaries, and adjacent to Malibu Creek State Park.

FEATURES

The King Gillette Ranch is open to the public every day from 8:00 AM to sunset. The features include a long eucalyptus alleé and grand entry, a large constructed pond, a formal courtyard and terrace, bridges, and lawns. Park features include Gillette's historic Spanish Colonial Revival style mansion. A short, somewhat steep hike from the parking area leads to a knoll with 360-degree views including the famous rock formations of Malibu Creek State Park. Other activities include strolling, bicycling, photography, and picnicking. Jointly managed by the National Park Service, the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority, and California State Parks, The Anthony C. Beilenson Visitor Center provides orientation to the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area, interprets the unique characteristics of the Santa Monica Mountains, and introduces visitors to the varied resources available to them.

HISTORY

This beautiful parkland has been a haven to people, plants and animals for thousands of years.

History The human history of this space begins with the Chumash, who lived in the areas for at least 9000 years; their village of Talopop is thought to be located nearby. In 1776, José Bartolome Tapia journeyed through the areas with the de Anza Expedition.

Razor baron King Camp Gillette bought the property in 1926. Gillette commissioned leading Los Angeles architect Wallace Neff to build him a "paradise on earth, California style." MGM movie director Clarence Brown (Anna Karenina, National Velvet) bought the property in 1930, following Gillette's death. Brown built a private airstrip for elaborate MGM "fly-in parties" that were attended by such luminaries as Clark Gable and Greta Garbo. In 1952, the director sold the ranch to the Claretian Order of the Catholic Church. In 1978 the site was purchased by Elizabeth Clare Prophet's the Church Universal and Triumphant, which in turn sold it to Soka University of America in 1986.

In April 2005, the site became a haven for all living things in perpetuity, when it was bought as public parkland by a partnership consisting of the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA), the National Park Service, California State Parks, as well as a number of other state and local agencies and some private contributions. King Gillette Ranch opened to the public in June of 2007.

WILDLIFE & PLANTS

This scenic parkland at the lower end of the Las Virgenes Valley is a haven for larger mammals of the Santa Monica Mountains. King Gillette Ranch supports a wide variety of wildlife, including eight "sensitive" species that inhabit the property. It is also home to several sensitive plant communities and many large specimens of Valley Oak. The broad meadows and low ridgelines serve as a wildlife movement corridor or hub in the geographic center of the Santa Monica Mountains range. Raptors and other birds forage and nest among the plant communities of valley and coast live oak savannah, grassland, coastal sage scrub, chaparral, riparian woodland, and southern willow riparian vegetation. Park features include Gillette's historic Spanish Colonial Revival style mansion and other structures that were part of the original landscape plan.

King Gillette Ranch Directions & Info.

From 101 Ventura Fwy take Las Virgenes Rd/Malibu Canyon exit, go south approx. 3.5 miles to Mulholland Hwy. Turn left on Mulholland and then right to enter the long eucalyptus alleé driveway for Ranch.

Parking

Visit the [King Gillette Ranch Visitor Center & Store](#) Free Parking for 2 hours
Other Ranch parking is \$7.00. (There is an iron ranger at the parking lot entrance where visitors can pick up an envelope and make their payments.) All programs and activities are free unless stated on the event write-up.

Allow time to visit the Visitor Center and Store then take a hike.

The visitor center is a very enjoyable experience with many hands on exhibits regarding the Santa Monica Mountains. There is, also, a fun short hike up a hill with great views in all directions. The photo above was taken from this hill.

King-Gillette Interpretive Programs & Misc

Mountains Recreation & Conservation Authority (MRCA) events at King-Gillette Park sponsors the events below:

These programs below are a project of the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) in cooperation with Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, California State Parks, and National Park Service. Come visit their visitor center at King Gillette Ranch.

If you have questions on these programs below call: (818) 878-0866 x228 RAIN CANCELS \$7.00 parking
26800 Mulholland Hwy. Calabasas, CA 91302

PROGRAM:

Tues, August 5th at 7pm

Evening Campfire

Come out to the park for a fun evening of songs, marshmallow roasting and a nature program. Follow signs to the outdoor amphitheater. 1.5 hours

King Gillette Interpretive Programs & Misc

Western National Parks Assn. events at King Gillette Ranch

Santa Monica Mountains Interagency Visitor Center & Store

26876 Mulholland Highway, Calabasas, CA 91302 Open 9 – 5 Daily

Event Info/Reservations: 805-370-2302 General Info: 805-370-2301

Questions for these events below contact Sophia Wong, Store & Events Manager
Western National Parks Association
Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area
King Gillette Ranch
26876 Mulholland Highway, Calabasas CA 91302
805-370-2302 direct/ 805-370-2301 general, 818-880-6550 fax
www.wnpa.org

Allow time to visit the Visitor Center and Store then take a hike.

The Visitor Center Store is operated by the Western National Parks Assn.

The visitor center is a very enjoyable experience with many hands on exhibits regarding the Santa Monica Mountains. There is, also, a fun short hike up a hill with great views in all directions. The photo above was taken from this hill.

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Sent out twice a month, it features the Club's latest news and activities.

