

Vol. 20, No. 6 of 6

Dec 2020 - Jan 2021

# Condor Call

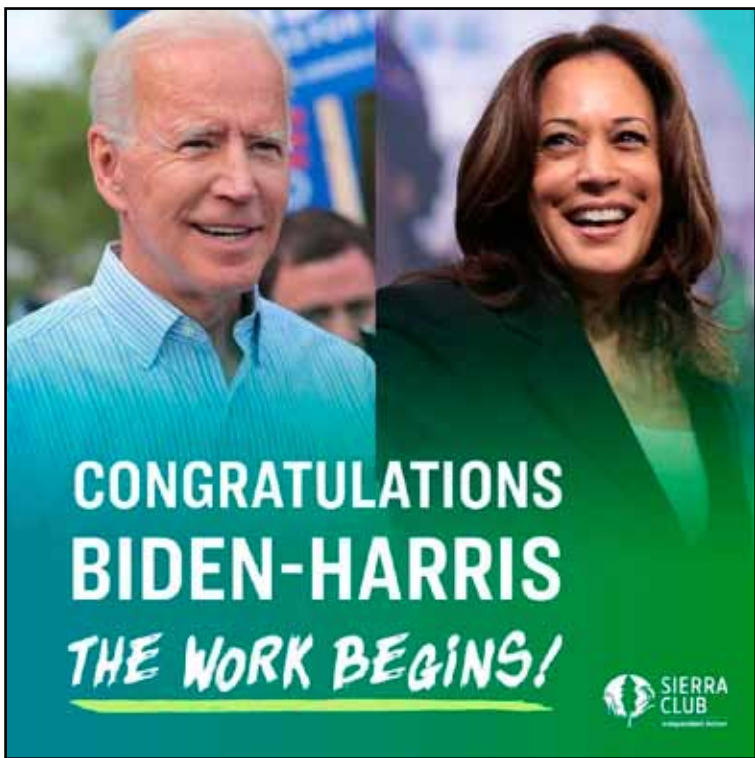
Journal of Los Padres Chapter Sierra Club  
Serving Ventura & Santa Barbara Counties



© Photo by David Auston courtesy of Gaviota Coastal Conservancy

Hindsight 2020 ... Foresight 2021 ... Chronicles ... Energy ... Habitat  
Pgs 1,5                      Pgs 4,5                      Pgs 1,4,6                      Pgs 2,3                      5,6,7

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National Sierra Club endorsed Biden/Harris and is already working with its Transition Team.



# The Hines Chronicles of environmental persuasion

*Editor's Note: This chronicle of Jim Hines (our vice-chair, Ventura Conservation Director, and lobbyist) was compiled from his emails to our Executive Committee. Starting from a pessimistic email of Oct 9, you will read about how his lobby efforts on the national front evolved. It starts off with an overview in late November and leads into the emails.*

**By Jim Hines**

My world today is not as in 2019 when I made numerous trips to lobby in the halls of power in DC, in 2020 I made zero trips. In 2019 I spoke face to face in front of 100 civic groups, organizations and community events. In 2020 I spoke to groups on Zoom, because of Covid my entire lobbying work was done from a computer and a phone in my home office.

My email list is now is around 6000 email addresses, so many people care and want to help, thank you, thank you for we are a nation of people power and I could not have done what I did in 2020 without your encouragement and support.

Oct 9: **No doubt** that you have seen on the news about the plot by a far-right wing militia group to kidnap Michigan Governor G. Whitmer. From my dealings with such groups, I can tell you these are not just isolated groups but are powerfully organized, well financed and have political power in the halls of power in DC.

My dealings with these groups center around my work to protect YOUR national public lands in the western U.S.

Nov 1: **Yikes, I was looking** at my work schedule and I have a meeting scheduled (remotely) with an Interior Assistant Secretary, Jeremy Carl. And it turns out that he writes articles about and speaks to groups about the importance of white supremacy.

Nov 4: **While the Presidential race** has yet to be decided, the President is wasting no time in putting people in charge of YOUR national parks and land units who will seek to dismantle those very areas cherished so dearly by the American people. Also have a meeting with BLM Director William Pendley, who is active in the armed patriot militia movement.

So, I will meet, listen, learn, bite my tongue, speak politely, and stay positive as I enter the swamp of the U.S. Dept of the Interior

Nov 5: **A report just released** by Interior shows NO National Park funding for the backlog of park maintenance projects in our region (actually the whole nation). Sierra Club and others worked hard to lobby to pass the Land and Water Conservation Fund, but the report has thumbed its nose at this bipartisan bill by listing no funding.

Nov 7: **Good Morning Friends:** It is a new day in America ...

I will no longer have to endure endless lectures from Trump Administration officials and have contentious meetings with anti-federal lands militia members. When it is safe to travel to DC again, I look forward to kinder, gentler, common sense science-based meetings with officials of the Biden Administration.

I happen to know a Biden staffer in the transition team for Interior; in a couple of weeks I will reach out to her with a list of actions we'd like to

*continued on page 3*

## Despite multiple crises in 2020---we persisted

**By Katie Davis, Chair**  
Los Padres Chapter

Sierra Club's Los Padres Chapter has protected our environment in Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties for more than 60 years. But we've never seen a year like this. No one has been left untouched by the multiple crises we face -- from the pandemic to the deterioration of our democracy to the climate disasters that are forcing people to flee their homes.

Through it all, our Chapter has continued to show up every single day and fight for our communities. I'm

## Giving Day is to Dec. 31

You may think #Giving Tuesday is over, but it isn't as the donation match for the Sierra Club goes all the way through Dec. 31.

In the spirit of giving thanks, we'd like to express our thanks to YOU! Your interest and support makes it possible for the Los Padres Chapter to protect our local wildlife like mountain lions and condors, stop big oil expansion in places like Cat Canyon, and gather together in nature on guided hikes that inspire and delight.

Thank you for believing in the power of our environmental work here locally in Santa Barbara and Ventura counties.

Please remember the Los Padres Chapter during the extended #GivingTuesday campaign as we celebrate the end of 2020 and a brighter future ahead.

All donations made through the end of December will be matched up to \$10,000! Please consider making your gift today at:

[www.SierraClub.org/donate/1000](http://www.SierraClub.org/donate/1000)

deeply proud of the way our donors and volunteers have responded to this unprecedented moment.

Thanks to donors like you, we celebrated some groundbreaking victories in 2020 and a generous donor has agreed to match your donations through December 31 to carry on our work in 2021 (see link below). Here are some of those victories:

~ You helped us stop over 700 oil wells proposed in Santa Barbara County,

~ Pass our region's first wind farm that will double renewable energy in Santa Barbara county,

~ Replace Oxnard's polluting power plants with 195MW of battery storage projects and prohibit oil companies from drilling next to homes and schools in Ventura County,

~ You also supported protection of mountain lions and sensitive habitats, and the 101-freeway wildlife overpass proposed at Liberty Canyon,

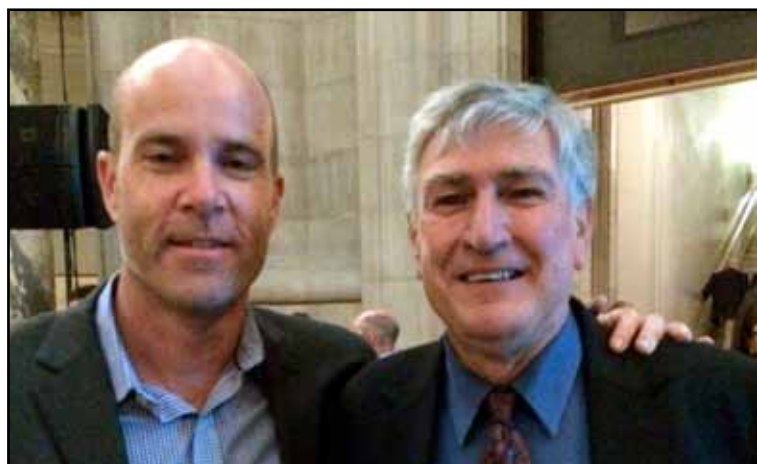
~ And even though in-person gatherings were scarce, you helped to mobilize volunteers to invest thousands of hours of service for our local environment!

As I look forward to 2021, the opportunities and challenges are clear.

Overall, fighting on the front lines of the climate crisis where we continue to press for all-electric buildings, all-electric fleets, electric-charging stations, battery storage, solar and wind projects and more bike paths. We will also demand cities set bold reductions in carbon emissions to protect our region from climate impacts, and vulnerable communities from life-threatening pollution.

Oil companies are still trying to increase their production -- Exxon is determined to restart offshore

*continued on page 2*



Jim Hines Chronicles took him to DC, the state capital and lots of other places to lobby. Here he is with Sierra Club's Executive Director, Michael Brune in DC. (Photo by Selfie, pre-Covid)

## Club has high rating

When Donald Trump was elected president by the Electoral College in 2016, donations to outdoor groups soared, clearly because of his disdain for environmental protections, according to Outside Magazine.

In an article, it guided its readers to the six best groups fighting for the environment, climate change, open space, and legal challenges. Sierra Club Foundation made the cut ... with a remarkably high score on the Charity Navigator score (94.8). The authors found that most were new donors.

The Sierra Club Foundation is the fiscal sponsor of the Club's charitable environmental programs. It promotes efforts to educate and empower people to protect and improve the natural and

human environment. The Sierra Club is the principal, though not exclusive, recipient of the Foundation's charitable grants.

Our top programs are: Beyond Coal, Chapter and Group Education Project and Our Wild America.

The percent of expenses spent on programs by the Foundation is 88.5 percent; Charity Navigator Score: 94.08.

Others who made the cut are the Environmental Defense Fund, The Nature Conservancy, Trust for Public Land, Natural Resources Defense Council and American Rivers.

To help out or learn more about programs, go to:

[www.SierraClub.org/lospadres](http://www.SierraClub.org/lospadres)

### COVER PHOTO

Since 1966, Gaviota Coast Conservancy has been dedicated to protecting the rural character and environmental integrity of the Gaviota Coast for present and future generations. (Photo by David Auston)

[www.photographybydavidaduston.org](http://www.photographybydavidaduston.org)

Donations welcome at:  
[www.gaviotacoastconservancy.org/donate](http://www.gaviotacoastconservancy.org/donate)  
[photographybydavidaduston.org](http://photographybydavidaduston.org)

### EAVESDROPS

"We recognized that the littering problem was getting out of control but that the community was eager to do their part to help, so mobilizing a safe volunteer response seemed like a natural solution."

~Ben Pitterle of Santa Barbara Channelkeeper which has organized the Watershed Brigade to serve as environmental stewards and help keep public areas litter-free.

Want to help? In the Santa Barbara region, email [Molly@SBCK.org](mailto:Molly@SBCK.org)

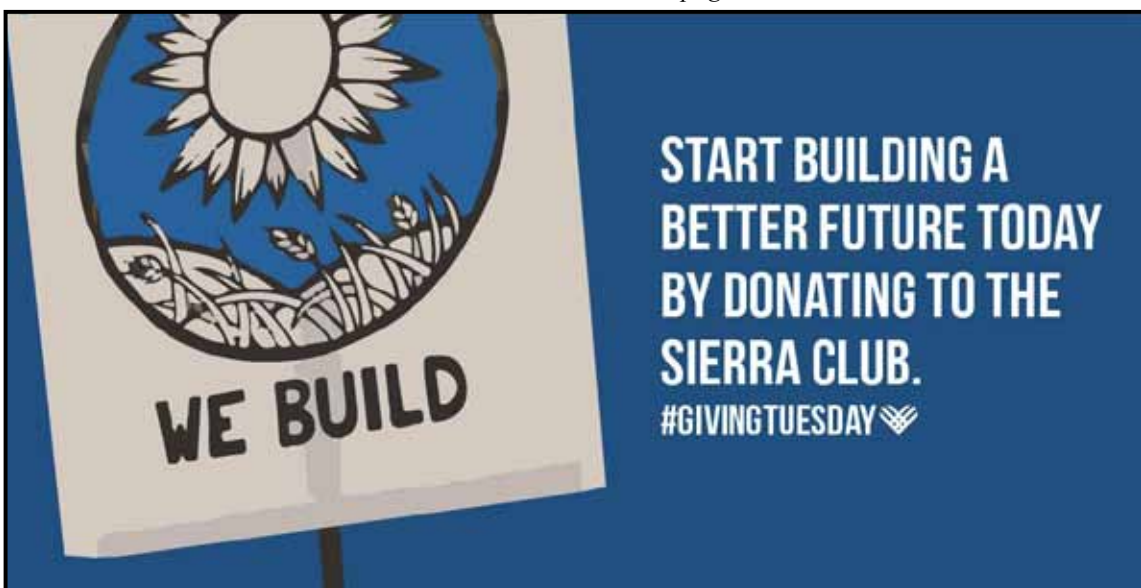
In the Ventura/Ojai area email: [Ben@SBCK.org](mailto:Ben@SBCK.org)

## Opportunity is knocking

Nominations are being accepted for two at-large seats on the Los Padres Chapter Executive Committee (ExCom) for the 2021-2022 period.

The Committee guides the operation of the Chapter, which serves Santa Barbara and Ventura counties. It meets monthly. If any Chapter member is interested, please send an email to any member of the nomination committee, listed below. The deadline for application is January 15.

Gerry Ching: [gching@cox.net](mailto:gching@cox.net)  
David Gold: [davidgold@aol.com](mailto:davidgold@aol.com)  
Martha Sadler: [marthasadler@yahoo.com](mailto:marthasadler@yahoo.com)



Just so you know, Giving #Tuesday goes all the way through December. It's a match too!

## Despite crises...

*continued from page 1*

oil that has been shut down since a devastating oil spill in 2015. Plains, convicted of felony negligence for that spill, seeks to build a new pipeline.

Protecting local wildlife and wildlands through passage of the Central Coast Heritage Protection Act, the Rim of the Valley Corridor Act, the Channel Islands WILD project, securing endangered species protections for mountain lions and fighting the leasing of public land and waters to oil and mining interests.

We need your financial support to protect Santa Barbara and Ventura counties because the Sierra Club is a volunteer-based action organization,

so your donations mobilize scores of your neighbors and friends.

Please join them to make a year-end or monthly contribution so we can seize the moments ahead

You invest directly in the Chapter's unique strength: Our people. As dedicated members and supporters, we know you are ready to use all the tools of democracy to protect our local environment and the planet overall. We have the power to protect our air, water, lands, and wildlife.

In these uncertain times, local action makes all the difference. Thank you for entrusting us with your dreams for a healthy, thriving Santa Barbara and Ventura region.

To donate, go here:  
[www.SierraClub.org/donate/1000](http://www.SierraClub.org/donate/1000)



**COMING SOON**

**TO A STORE NEAR YOU**

**DO NOT SIGN!**

**DON'T BE FOOLED**  
into signing Big Oil's new petition!  
They are spending millions to deceive the public.

Big Oil lost their  
**PERMIT TO POLLUTE**  
our air, land, and water.

**NOW THEY'RE TRYING TO BUY IT BACK!**  
*We can't let that happen.*

When Condor John was stopped by the pro-oil sign outside a market, he politely told the young petitioner that it was misleading, she argued (CJ didn't) and finally forcefully said "God Bless You" and turned her back. But it sounded more like an epithet than a blessing.

## Condor Call

[www.sierraclub.org/lospadres](http://www.sierraclub.org/lospadres) ~ All phone numbers 1-805 area code

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ADVERTISING: Contact Editor (above)  
DEADLINES FOR ALL ISSUES:  
Copy Deadline: 20th — Advertising Deadline: 22nd of month preceding publication.

**PUBLICATION SCHEDULE:**  
February/March, April/May, June/July, Aug/Sept, Oct/Nov, Dec/Jan  
SUBSCRIPTIONS: Free to members  
Non-members, \$15 per year. Contact Editor John Hankins

**Photos, news, tips always welcome!**

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Typography and production by Dan Fuller



All these logos represent our fellow advocates in the fight to transition from a petroleum to a renewable base for our energy. This was sent out to a recent letter in favor of updating antiquated Conditional Use Permits for oil drilling to better protect public health and the environment in Ventura County.

## ENERGY RAP

# Oilers fighting back...so are we

By Katie Davis

Chapter Chair

### DECLINE TO SIGN

If someone with a petition tries to corner you outside a shopping center in Ventura County, run the other way and not just because of the increasing risk of COVID.

The petition is an attempt by oil companies to make an end run around environmental review of their oil projects. The petition seems to be the brainchild of Aera Energy, the Exxon and Shell-owned, limited-liability oil company that has been successfully sued for polluting groundwater in Kern County and for chemical releases in Ventura County that caused hundreds of people to suffer health impacts such as burning eyes and irritated noses and throats.

They are unhappy that the County recently closed a loophole that allowed unrestricted and unlimited new drilling without environmental review or compliance with existing law. So, they are gathering signatures to trigger a special election to overturn this county law that requires environmental review and disclosure of health impacts of oil projects.

A special election would cost Ventura taxpayers around a million dollars that we can ill-afford during an economic crisis.

BEWARE. Don't sign the petition. Spread the word.

### RAINING LAWSUITS

In addition to the petition shenanigans, oil companies have been raining down lawsuits on Ventura County's General Plan update which among other things, sets a 1500-foot buffer zone between oil drilling and houses and 2500 feet from schools.

Living next to oil drilling is dangerous and unhealthy, and buffer zones are needed to protect public health. It's the job of local government to set these kinds of rules, and their right and responsibility to engage in local land use planning. Indeed, they could outlaw oil entirely if they wanted to.

For instance, it's been illegal to drill in the City of Santa Barbara since the 1940s. However, the oil companies are now arguing that local governments don't have this basic right and only the state can regulate oil. This is a radical argument that seeks to overturn a 100+ years of jurisprudence and precedent. Let's

hope sanity and the basic right to local self-governance prevails.

### ONE CLIMATE

This year of record-breaking heat and historic wildfires that have burned 5.8 million acres on the west coast underscores the urgency of action on the climate crisis. Report after report warns we can expect more extreme weather events, crop losses, droughts and fires due to an unnaturally rapid rate of global warming.

"One Climate" is the name given to the various climate initiatives underway in Santa Barbara County, including: updating the General Plan to incorporate climate impacts; updating the Climate Action Plan with the goal to cut greenhouse gas emissions by 50% by 2030; improving opportunities for biking and walking in the county; and launching community choice energy.

The last of those, Central Coast Community Energy (formerly Monterey Bay Community Power) will roll out in PG&E territory in January and in SCE territory in October 2021. Another important piece of this -- setting an emissions threshold so that large new developments start mitigating some of their emissions -- was passed by the Planning Commission Nov.12 and will go to the Board of Supervisors in January.

"Through One Climate, we want to hear from the community how we can protect what we love, and make our county as prosperous, equitable and resilient as possible," said Gregg Hart, supervisors' chair. Learn more and sign up for the County's monthly

sustainability e-newsletter at:

[www.countyofsb.org/oneclimate](http://www.countyofsb.org/oneclimate)

### OFFSHORE NO MORE

With Joe Biden's win, the threat of Trump's plan to offer new oil leases in the Santa Barbara Channel has been forestalled. Meanwhile, cleanup of our oily ocean legacy proceeds.

An old leaking well on Summerland beach was capped in November and another is planned this Spring. Remnant oil and gas pipelines protruding from the coastal bluffs at Haskell's beach in Goleta were removed in November as well. In fact, the state has stepped in to do hazards removal work in Ellwood seven times in the past ten years.

In addition, trucks are hauling away 3000 barrels of oil from Goleta through mid-December to manage pressure from wells on Platform Holly off Isla Vista until it can be completely plugged and abandoned, a process delayed by COVID. That work is nothing compared to the deeper water platforms slated for removal, some of which weigh more than 30,000 tons and are in water over 700 feet deep. Heavy lift vessels and other equipment will have to be brought in from other parts of the world for those jobs.

Not all are yet slated for decommissioning. The three tallest and deepest platforms in the Pacific Ocean belong to Exxon and are located off the Gaviota coast. Those have been shut down since the 2015 oil spill and have a history of corrosion and leaks. Nonetheless, Exxon would still like to restart them and truck the oil along the 101.

That will be a fight in 2021.



The capping of these two polluting undersea oil wells should be finished by now. Thanks to Heal the Ocean and its supporters for persisting this be done.

# Hines Chronicles...

continued from page 1

see overturned. I also worked on bills with Kamala Harris as a Senator from California so it would be great if I could approach her.

Nov 10: **Biden Transition Team** announced that BLM headquarters will move back to DC next year without current Director William Pendley.

Nov 13: **I spoke with a Chief of Staff** to the House Committee on Natural Resources, learning Congress will convene on Jan. 3, 2021.

There is already an ambitious agenda of bills planned to undo all of the environmental damage done over the past four years by the Trump Administration.

Nov 14: **WHEW ...** what a whirlwind week for me.

So much good news, so much

encouragement and so much hope.

I spoke by phone with a staffer for VP Kamala Harris who assured us she is fully committed to advancing a national environmental agenda which will be far reaching in its protections for public lands, wildlife, clean air and water. On Day One the new administration will address the impacts of climate change and environmental justice.

So now off to garden chores and to enjoy the beauty of the Autumn flower beds in bloom and then out on the trail this weekend.

Nov 16: **I am beginning** to cross out Trump Administration contacts and filling them with Biden/Harris contacts.

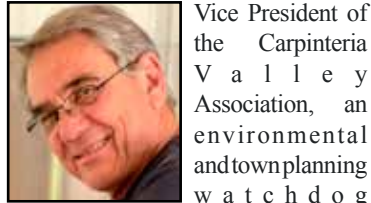
~ Compiled and edited by *Condor John*

# Two groups conduct election

## JIM TAYLOR

I have been a member of the Santa Barbara Group Executive Committee since 2016 and am currently serving as the Group's Treasurer.

Other memberships include



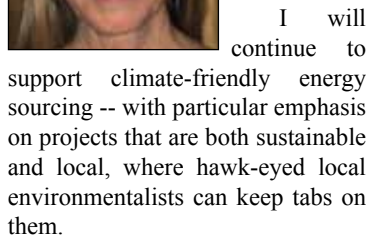
Vice President of the Carpinteria Valley Association, an environmental and town planning organization founded in 1964, and the Citizens' Advisory Council of the Air Pollution Control District.

I am a self-employed software developer who lives in Carpinteria and I closely follow South County politics and energy issues.

[jim@carpedata.com](mailto:jim@carpedata.com)

## MARTHA SADLER

I'm proud of the Sierra Club Santa Barbara Group's powerful advocacy in fighting new oil development and unsafe extraction methods.



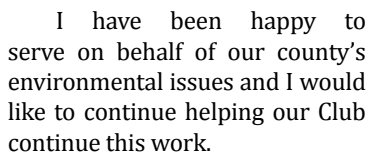
I will continue to support climate-friendly energy sourcing -- with particular emphasis on projects that are both sustainable and local, where hawk-eyed local environmentalists can keep tabs on them.

As ever, my heart belongs to the wilderness and its protection, from the mountains to the ocean. But maintaining connections to nature even inside the urban footprint, for people asked to live in increasingly dense built environments, is also one of my primary concerns.

[marthasadler@yahoo.com](mailto:marthasadler@yahoo.com)

## KATE MULLIN

I have served on the Los Padres Chapter's Santa Barbara Group executive committee since 2012. The Group is at the forefront of providing a voice for local environmental concerns and is a powerful advocacy for our natural resources.



I have been happy to serve on behalf of our county's environmental issues and I would like to continue helping our Club continue this work.

Foremost I believe that humans as a species must lower our carbon footprint. I am an avid proponent of increasing local bicycling for transport and making public transport the travel choice for everyone. Climate change is real and becoming increasingly problematic.

I am opposed to any fossil fuel extraction in the county. Rather we must get to 100% clean energy use. We must actively increase our renewable energy sources as well as decrease our fossil fuel use especially in the transportation sector.

Land must be kept wild to ensure there is enough space for wildlife and plants to flourish. Undeveloped land must be enjoyed responsibly by people knowing that we are there as guests.

Thank you for your consideration, Catherine (Katie) Mullin.  
[mullin@shelter-vet.com](mailto:mullin@shelter-vet.com)

## SANTA BARBARA GROUP MEMBERS ONLY VOTE

### Santa Barbara Group Executive Committee Ballot (See candidate statements this page)

NOTE: Only members of the SANTA BARBARA GROUP can vote for the candidates below. A 2nd box is provided for households with dual memberships who get only one *Condor Call*. You may photocopy or cut this ballot from the *Condor Call*.

Mail ballot by Dec 31 to: Santa Barbara Group, Sierra Club, P.O. Box 31241, Santa Barbara CA 93130

Vote for NO MORE THAN 3 (THREE) people, including write-in option if you wish

In alphabetical order:	1st member	2nd member
Catherine Mullin	_____	_____
Martha Sadler	_____	_____
Jim Taylor	_____	_____

Write in candidate if desired: \_\_\_\_\_

Enter your Sierra Club member ID # (from your *Condor Call* mailing label or membership card) \_\_\_\_\_  
(Number is only to ensure a valid confidential vote. It will not be tied to your name)

## CONEJO GROUP MEMBERS ONLY VOTE

### Conejo Group Executive Committee Ballot (No candidate statements available)

NOTE: Only members of the CONEJO GROUP can vote for the candidates below. A second space is provided for households with dual memberships who get only one *Condor Call*.

Print out and mail ballot before December 31, 2020 to: Conejo Group, Sierra Club, 643 Old Farm Road, Thousand Oaks, CA 91360

Vote for NO MORE THAN 5 (five) persons, including the write-in option.

In alphabetical order:	1st member	2nd member
Gerard Lynham	_____	_____
Elizabeth MacGovern	_____	_____
Ellen Sanders	_____	_____
Niki Stokols	_____	_____
Hugh Warren	_____	_____

Write in candidate if desired: \_\_\_\_\_

Please write in your Sierra Club member ID # (from your *Condor Call* mailing label or your membership card) \_\_\_\_\_  
(Number is only to ensure a valid confidential vote. It will not be tied to your name)

# Ojai cracks 'reach code'

By Jon Ullman

Chapter Director

In November Ojai, which reached a high temperature of 118 Fahrenheit last September, became the first city in SoCal Gas's territory to ban natural gas in new buildings (with a few exceptions like restaurants).

For a small city, it's a big deal. Ojai voted unanimously to join the ranks of 40 municipalities including San Francisco that are phasing out gas.

SoCal Gas is in a pitched battle to stop cities and counties in its Southern and Central Coast service territory from establishing electric "reach codes," building codes that "reach" higher than state codes. Santa Monica and San Luis Obispo had passed rules that incentivize all-electric over gas in new buildings, but the Ojai rule just mandated electric, and it was the first city in Ventura or Santa Barbara counties to pass a reach code.

The reason cities are passing reach codes is because gas is bad for your health and the climate, and cost-effective to include when building from scratch. Indoors gas releases

# Leaks reek but capped

Just in time for Election Day, comes the moment Heal the Ocean has been long waiting for: the capping of the two worst oil wells leaking off Summerland Beach, known as Treadwell and NorthStar.

On November 1, the Danny-C commercial dive workboat, captained by Danny Castagnola, arrived off Summerland near Treadwell, a leaking well 300 feet offshore. Commercial divers hired by InterAct of Ventura, under contract with the CA State Lands Commission, began working.

Three days later, the Curtin Barge from Long Beach arrived, loaded with all equipment necessary to cap the leaking well.

Each pipe pile will be cleaned out and pumped full of cement, which will act as a barrier to migration of hydrocarbons.

The crews will then move closer to the beach, to NorthStar, 130 feet offshore, and repeat the process to cap that well which should be finished by the time you read this.

Shout-out to Heal the Ocean's Advisory Board member Harry Rabin of On the Wave Research, who has been working closely with the InterAct engineers to map out the operation, with Harry's topside and underwater pictures helping to locate the well infrastructure beneath the Summerland sand.

carcinogens like nitrogen dioxide, carbon monoxide, nitric oxide and formaldehyde into the lungs.

A recent study by the UCLA School of Public Health found that when a stove and oven are used simultaneously for an hour, acute exposures to nitrogen oxide (NO2) exceeds national and California-based ambient air quality thresholds more than 90% of the time. Fracked gas also contributes greatly to climate change bringing us record-breaking heat, drought and wildfires. Methane, the primary component of natural gas is one of the most potent greenhouse gasses with 28 times greater heat-trapping ability than CO2.

Michelle Ellison, Chair of Ojai's Climate Emergency Mobilization Committee, put it best: "Gas from buildings is the second largest source of emissions in Ojai, behind transportation, so an all-electric reach code for new construction is an important first step to begin weaning our community off of gas."

Unlike gas, all-electric homes can be powered by the sun and other renewables onsite or through powerlines. Efficient air cooling and heating systems called heat pumps are cheaper to operate than A/Cs and electric heaters. And once you've recouped the cost of installing solar on your house, your energy is free.

The Ojai decision is sure to have rippling effects. Ventura County this year passed a general plan that requires it to pass an electric reach code within three years, but it could just as easily pass it in a few weeks.

The City of Santa Barbara is expected to take up an all-electric reach code soon, making it the first in SB County, and dozens of other cities on the Central Coast could follow.

Sometimes unfortunate rumors are spread causing people to panic about losing their gas stove. Don't worry. If you love your gas stove, you can keep it. But you can personally switch to electric appliances now if you like. Electric induction stoves are amazing. These are not the old electric coil stovetops; they are precision devices that can heat up your tea in a fraction of the time it takes gas or coils.

In fact, there is nothing that gas can do that electric can't do better.

If you're SoCal Gas, you can't be happy about this. Thanks to Ojai and the 40 other municipalities in California that passed reach codes, the dam has cracked, and it's only a matter of time before a clean and efficient all-electric world comes barreling through. To learn more, go here:

<https://tinyurl.com/ApplianceEnergyOptions>  
<https://tinyurl.com/WhyGoElectric>



## All physical meetings suspended - we're online

### Group News

[www.SBSierraClub.org](http://www.SBSierraClub.org)

The public is welcome to our programs

### CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

~ Meets 4th Thursday 7pm of every month, via internet for now.  
Email Secretary Gerry Ching for the agenda: [gching@cox.net](mailto:gching@cox.net)  
~ Chapter website and blog at:  
[www.SierraClub.org/LosPadres](http://www.SierraClub.org/LosPadres)

### SANTA BARBARA GROUP

~ We meet 1st Tuesdays, noon to 1:30pm of each month. For details and to follow the South Coast area, contact:  
<http://www.sbsierraclub.org>  
<https://www.FACEBOOK.com/SBSierraClub>  
<https://TWITTER.com/SBSierraClub>  
<https://www.INSTAGRAM.com/SierraClubSantaBarbara>  
<https://www.MEETUP.com/SierraClub-SantaBarbara>  
<https://tinyurl.com/SBGGroupBlog>

### ARGUELLO GROUP

Our North County Group will keep you informed on our Facebook page:  
[www.facebook.com/SierraClubArguelloGroup](http://www.facebook.com/SierraClubArguelloGroup) ~Volunteers needed; your talents could make a difference. Call 350-0629 or:  
[RebeccaAugust@mac.com](mailto:RebeccaAugust@mac.com)

### VENTURA NETWORK

~ For board meeting dates, times and location email:  
[sierraclubventura@gmail.com](mailto:sierraclubventura@gmail.com)  
~ Get latest info about the western Ventura County group via Facebook and a blog:  
<http://tinyurl.com/VenturaSierraClubFB>  
<https://tinyurl.com/VenturaSierraClubBlog>  
~New MEETUP site for hikes, outings etc:  
[www.meetup.com/SierraClubVentura](http://www.meetup.com/SierraClubVentura)

### CONEJO GROUP

~ Events, outings and meetings will be sent to you if you sign up at [ConejoGroup@gmail.com](mailto:ConejoGroup@gmail.com)  
Otherwise, get all information on this eastern Ventura County Group from Hugh Warren, 341-6295 [mail@hkwarren.net](mailto:mail@hkwarren.net)  
[www.sierraclub.org/los-padres/conejo](http://www.sierraclub.org/los-padres/conejo)  
[www.sierraclub.org/los-padres/conejo/outings](http://www.sierraclub.org/los-padres/conejo/outings)

**CLIMATE WATCH**

# Trump roll-backs devastating

By Sean Cummings

As president-elect, Joe Biden intends to prioritize climate action more than any president before him. Quantifying the expected impact of Biden's presidency on climate change, however, remains difficult.

Will it be an uphill slog or quick and decisive? Well... both.

Trump has rolled back seventy-two environmental regulations; an analysis by the Rhodium Group found that allowing just the five most significant climate rollbacks to continue would have added 1.8 billion metric tons of greenhouse gases to the atmosphere by 2035. While Biden can prevent most of that, undoing rollbacks could take up to two years, allowing emissions to accumulate in the meantime.

Biden may also face uphill battles passing climate legislation through a likely Republican-controlled Senate, as well as a Supreme Court conservative majority that could stymie executive actions.

Still, many quick and impactful options remain available to build momentum for Biden's \$2 trillion

climate action plan, such as rejoining the Paris Climate Accords, bundling clean energy provisions with COVID-19 relief packages, cancelling Trump environmental rollbacks that haven't yet taken effect, and reinstating the Clean Air Act waiver permitting California to set its own stricter greenhouse-gas emissions standards for vehicles.

Recent local events add to the relief Biden's election may bring. The oil company TerraCore decided in early November to cancel its efforts to expand oil production in the Cat Canyon oil fields in northern Santa Barbara County, making it the last of three oil companies (the other two being PetroRock and Aera Energy) to abandon projects in the area. Altogether, the three had proposed 760 new steam-injection oil wells; the resulting emissions from both operations and oil products will now be averted.

Earth continues to make clear the need for progress: 2020 has seen a record thirty named Atlantic hurricanes, and a recent study in *Nature* indicates storms today persist

longer. Whereas a storm fifty years ago would lose 75% of its wind speed within twenty-four hours of landfall, storms today lose just 50%, allowing them to push further inland. Climate change may play a role, as warmer oceans provide more moisture to fuel hurricanes and sea level rise reduces the distance hurricanes must travel from the coast to inland regions.

Another recent study in *Science* suggests cutting fossil fuel burning alone won't suffice to slow new climatic developments like these: deforestation, fertilizer production, livestock, and other emissions sources within the global food system. If left unchanged, would still push us past 1.5 degrees Celsius of warming in three to four decades.

Implementing sustainable agriculture worldwide, a report in *Nature* says, could free up to 55% of global farmland without sacrificing yields. Returning just 30% to nature, it continues, could sequester half of all CO2 emitted since the Industrial Revolution while preventing up to 70% of predicted land species extinctions.



Remnants of the sneaky snowstorm at Pine Mtn, Nov. 10. "We've been seeing peak fall colors all dazzling in their fall bests," reported the Los Padres Forest Assn. (which provided the photo). Help their efforts here: [www.LPFA.org](http://www.LPFA.org)

**GREETINGS FRIENDS**

# It's winter time

By Jim Hines

*Greetings Friends!*

My footprints imbed themselves as I walked across a frosty meadow in my search for winter here on the Central Coast.

Winter is a season of delights, new bird species which overwinter here from the cold north, red berries of the native Toyon plants, creeks flowing after our recent rains and the joy of seeing the first snow in our high country all add a festive touch to our native ecosystems during the winter season.

It's a season for me to slow down, walk gently, touch lightly and observe what is around me and relish all of the positive goodness which flows from within.

Winter is not all about cold here on the Central Coast, for I can remember winter days in the 90s with Santa Ana winds blowing on Thanksgiving Day. We never know what the weather will bring, all of my friends who live in the eastern U.S. are chilly right now, my clothes for winter are one drawl of warm clothes and one drawl of short sleeves and shorts...preparing for Winter in SoCal is a guessing game.

Here in our climate even during winter we are busy in our yards and gardens, much to plant to give delightful cheer under the bare trees of Winter. Iceland poppies, pansy

and violas, sweet peas, snapdragons, stocks, calendula and primroses. In the cool season vegetable gardens go cabbage, lettuce, broccoli, cauliflower, Brussel sprouts, onions, spinach and edible peas.

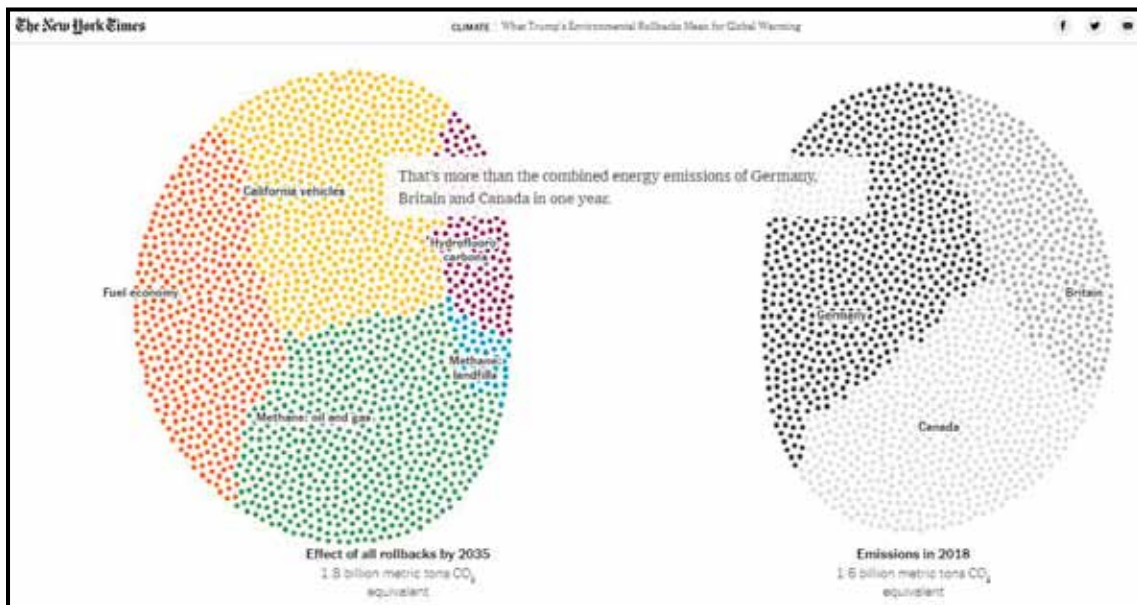
Take time to enjoy a walk on your favorite trail. Right now along several local trails I am seeing buds forming on native currants and gooseberries. And are those flower spikes forming on the red salvias? Yes, they are, and do I see the first of the native Brodiaea bulbs starting to emerge from the soil, yes I do.

Birds abound here during the Winter season; I saw a large number of osprey at Lake Casitas recently and when will the first wood stork arrive from the cold north?

Deer are out in the meadows seeking to browse, they look so sleek in their winter coats. I love to sit and watch deer, such gentle creatures.

So what new will I find on our trails this winter season... a mountain lion in winter, that rare wood stork overwintering from the north, early blooming native shrubs such as white ceanothus... I do know that the clear crisp weather of winter will fill my senses with wonderful feelings of powerful joy.

Allow the winter season to delight you, to challenge your senses, to amaze you and to calm you.  
~ For the wild, Jim



**SIGHTINGS**

# We may be on Zoom, but we have room to roam

By John Hankins

Yep, we're still on Zoom and can't yet do public outings, but that doesn't mean our members and outdoor friends aren't getting out there, just in small and safe private groups. We're hoping that will change in 2021.

We're still in full mode via our activism and some limited outdoor events, like clean-ups and non-native plant eradications. Please join us; see Group News box on page 3 for contacts and links where you can get involved. While we are not now conducting those free outings, we encourage all to go outside on your own.

If you'd like to donate (it helps a lot and the money stays here at home), do not turn the page and forget, but go directly to:

[www.sierraclub.org/donate/1000](http://www.sierraclub.org/donate/1000)



Congratulations to Elisabeth "Liz" Lamar, the Ventura Sierra Club's new Chair. She's a long-time activist and here she is (center) at a Democratic Convention in 2015. Meanwhile, a standing ovation to Nina Danza who has been chair for many years, but she's not going anywhere. You'll find her on clean-ups, plantings, events, activism and on the trail with her Geologist husband, Jim Danza.

Nov 23: **We recommend** a wonderful documentary on the importance of soil produced by Rebecca and Josh Twitchell of Ojai which features many of our Ojai Valley Activists. We hosted the world premiere of the film last month, see it here: [www.kissthegroundmovie.com](http://www.kissthegroundmovie.com)

Nov 12: **Wildling Museum** in Solvang conducted a Zoom meeting with our vice-chair Jim Hines "on cloud nine with great news to share about the Biden Transition Interior Teams positive response for the environment." He also shared Sierra Club's work to protect the Los Padres National Forest and Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary, and the push to create a wildlife corridor across Hwy 101 in the Gaviota area.

Nov 7: **Annual Summit** with the theme "Beyond November: The Future of Green in the Golden State," featuring as keynote speaker Betty Yee, CA Controller. Sierra Club California' summit also included the club's national and state political directors, and experts on energy, water and open space.

Nov 3: **We celebrate** a great oil victory, the last of the major Cat Canyon oil projects were withdrawn that would add over 700 new wells. This has been an issue we've fought for years.

Oct 27: **No Uranium mining** is likely in the Los Padres National Forest just north of Lake Casitas, said our vice-chair Jim Hines. He was told by the Trump uranium broker via a phone call that it "has no interest in mining for uranium in the national forests of southern California" because deposits are too small to be viable.

**EAVESDROPS**

"The Sierra Club gets results."

~ Conservation Chair Jim Hines in a report to our chapter about our partners and collaborators, noting "more are reaching out to the Sierra Club as climate change, wildlife protection and public lands threats are of major concern to many."

Oct 22: **Water Talks** participation and co-sponsor by our Sierra Club of a webinar "to make sure that everyone has enough clean, safe water." Host was Friends of the Santa Clara River at: [www.FSCR.org](http://www.FSCR.org)

Oct 15: **Ojai Valley Legal Defense Fund** honored Jim Hines for his work in protecting the Ojai Valley, presenting him with a copy of its newly published tabletop book 'Our Ojai'. Jim is our Los Padres Chapter's vice-chair and Ventura County Conservation Chair. He grew up in Ojai. "I am so honored," Jim said.

Oct 13: **Energy Code** issue for city of Ojai was strongly supported by our Sierra Club in a letter to the council, which approved it unanimously. The "Reach Code" revision would mean "Ojai will join a wave of cities... in declaring that fossil fuels must be phased out of our homes (and businesses)" and shift to electrification. It affects only new buildings; a draft ordinance will be presented soon. (See story pg 3)

Oct 11: **Report Card** on CA legislature, which "underperformed when it came to the environment. Just 25 bills advancing environmental protection made it to the governor's desk, about a quarter of the usual number," said Kathryn Phillips, director of Sierra Club California. Read about it here: <https://tinyurl.com/2020CAreportcard>

Oct 9: **Los Padres National Forest** reopened except for Monterey Ranger District (due to Dolan Fire). Extreme fire restrictions remained in place. Stringent fire restrictions are still in place at least to the end of the year. Beyond that, check the situation here: [www.fs.usda.gov/main/lpnf/home](http://www.fs.usda.gov/main/lpnf/home)

Oct 7: **Invalidate the BLM** actions made under Acting Director of Bureau of Land Management William Pendley based on a judge's ruling that he was serving illegally. That request was sent to Interior Secretary Bernhardt by the Sierra Club and about 30 other environmental groups. Issues included fracking

**EAVESDROPS**

"This is a very big deal... a very big, big, big deal."

~ Reaction to Phillips 66 deciding to shut down its Rodeo refinery near San Francisco to repurpose it for renewable energy sources and to shut down its Santa Maria transfer facility, both of which are critical for virtually all local oil production. Statement from Errin Briggs, SB County's chief energy planner in the *Independent*. Read the story here:

<https://tinyurl.com/SBOilEndings>

## Welcome visitors from the cold north to our temperate climate

All photos by Denise Dewire of Ventura



Yellow-rumped Warbler - Meditation Mount, Ojai



Osprey, Malibu Lagoon



Ruby-crowned Kinglet - Canada Larga Rd Vta



American Robin - Soule Park, Ojai



Cedar Waxwing, Lake Los Carneros, Goleta



Hermit Thrush, Soule Park, Ojai

When asked, do you have photos of over-wintering birds? Sure ... Denise Dewire's passion for photography came in handy for Jim Hines' Winter column (opposite page).

# Ten victories in 2020, ten challenges for 2021

We're not tired of winning yet.

The national Sierra Club is geared up and ready "to leverage the momentum coming out of our political work to build even more power for our ongoing chapter, policy and campaign outcomes," said Ramón J. Cruz, Sierra Club President.

"It is not lost on us that our country is deeply and increasingly polarized, and many of our staff, friends and family will continue to face extremism and possible harm as a result of the heated political climate," he added.

But first, a snapshot of 10 issues that the club has been able to accomplish in 2020 despite a federal administration that is hostile to environmental protection (and is continuing that in its lame duck period until Jan. 20). Many groups joined the club or formed coalitions to make these happen.

- 1) Continued to retire dirty coal-fired power plants.
- 2) Thwarted seismic work and lease sales in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.
- 3) Helped stop the Keystone XL tar sands pipeline and the termination of the Atlantic Coast Pipeline.
- 4) Halted a massive logging project in the Tongass National Forest.
- 5) Launched a new anti-gas power plant campaign that is already showing results
- 6) Defended clean emissions standards for vehicles.
- 7) Expanded solar and wind market share.
- 8) Headed off delisting (from an 'endangered' designation)

grizzly bears in the Yellowstone region.

- 9) Beat the Trump administration in court 88% of the time.
- 10) Great American Outdoors Act was passed and funded to ensure trails and maintenance is kept up and which permanently funds the Land and Water Conservation Fund

The beat, of course, goes on. So many challenges face us despite a change of the federal Administration. "Sierra Club staff are already reaching out to the Biden-Harris transition team to lay out our priorities and strategy," Cruz said, which includes rejoining the Paris Climate Accord of 2015. A partial list of the club's challenges include:

- 1) Expand climate justice, a critical step.
- 2) Restore all national monuments to full protection.
- 3) End the injustices along the Southern Border, including

## Public lands needs a hand

The premiere of the award-winning documentary film, *Public Trust*, happened on YouTube about the fight for America's public lands.

The film is from executive producers Robert Redford and Yvon Chouinard.

In a time of polarization, we still share something in common: 640 million acres of public land. Despite bipartisan support from voters, our public lands face unprecedented threats. Part love letter, part political exposé, *Public Trust* investigates three heated conflicts—a national monument in the Utah desert, a

construction of the border wall, not only an affront to immigrants but also the threat to migratory wildlife species.

- 4) Restore the commitment to environmental enforcement, justice and science-based policy in the Environmental Protection Agency.
- 5) End all new fossil fuel leasing and fracking on public lands, which currently amount to about 25% of our national emissions.
- 6) Advocate for 30 X 30, which is achieving permanent protection for 30% of America's lands and waters by 2030.
- 7) Move to regulate or ban toxic pesticides.
- 8) Enforce federal authority to protect waterways and wetlands.
- 9) Expand clean energy production and use.
- 10) Ensure children can get outdoors and heal from trauma caused by the pandemic.

proposed mine in the Boundary Waters and oil drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge—and makes a case for their continued protection.

Of course, the Sierra Club has had a robust campaign to save and preserve public lands since its inception and welcomes all help from all directions and especially from these stellar producers. If you're not a member, join here: [www.SierraClub.org](http://www.SierraClub.org)

The film and its auxiliary campaign also welcome you to sign up to join the fight. Details are here: [www.patagonia.com/films/public-trust](http://www.patagonia.com/films/public-trust)

# Who won and lost

Here's the list of who we endorsed (Los Padres Chapter and state Sierra Club) that we ran last issue for the Nov. 3, 2020 ballot. Endorsement for Biden-Harris is a National endorsement.

**HIGHLIGHTED** names mean we endorsed who **WON**. A **CROSS-OUT** means our candidate/issue did **NOT** win.

As you can see, our favorites mostly won but voters rejected our advice on the four propositions (we wanted a 'no' vote on Prop 22, but it passed).

Visit our website to learn about our club's robust activism and enjoyment:

[www.SierraClub.org/los-padres](http://www.SierraClub.org/los-padres)

## President & VP

Biden - Harris

## House of Representatives

- Salud Carbajal – CD 24
- Christy Smith – CD 25
- Julia Brownley – CD 26
- Brad Sherman – CD 30

## CA State Senate

- Monique Limon – SD 19
- Henry Stern – SD 27

## CA Assembly

- Dawn Addis – AD 35
- Steve Bennett – AD 37
- Jacqui Irwin – AD 44
- Jesse Gabriel – AD 45

## CA Propositions

- Prop 15 schools: **YES**
- Prop 16 repeal aaa: **YES**
- Prop 17 x-felon vote **YES**
- Prop 22 app drivers: **NO** (It passed, we were NO)
- Prop 25 bail risk: **YES**

## Goleta City Council

- Paula Perotte -- Mayor
- Stuart Kasdin -- City Council
- Kyle Richards -- City Council

## Goleta Water Board

- Farfalla Borah
- Lauren Hanson
- Bill Rosen

## Goleta School Bond -- YES

## Goleta School District

- Vicki Ben-Yaacov
- Sholeh Jahangir

## Santa Barbara School District

- Laura Capps
- Jacqueline Reid
- Wendy Sims-Moten

## Carpinteria City Council

- Natalia Alarcon – Member

## Ventura County Supervisors

- Carmen Ramirez – Dist. 5

## Simi Valley City Council

- Ryan Valencia – Dist. 3

# EVENTS

Dec 9: **One Climate Initiative** by SB County presents an interactive, online workshop to hear more about this new effort. Two times available, at noon to 1:30pm or 6-7:30pm. See story pg 2. Register here: <https://tinyurl.com/SBclimateWorkshops>

Dec 12: **Agua Blanca Trail** (within the Sespe Wilderness) work is looking for volunteers for a series of projects this month and through 2021. Alan Coles will be leading the series. On this day, meet 8am at Temescal Ranger Station (left turn just before kiosk at Lake Piru). You must register for this and future trail work at: [Volunteer@LPForest.org](mailto:Volunteer@LPForest.org).

Dec 12: **Adopt-a-Highway** cleanup of Highway 33 led by Los Padres Forest Assn. 8am at Wheeler Gorge Visitor Center. This is a monthly work project. To join this or future cleanups, email: [Volunteer@LPForest.org](mailto:Volunteer@LPForest.org)

Jan 15: **Deadline to apply** for joining the Los Padres Chapter's Executive Committee. See story pg 1.

# Chapter wide party Dec. 5

Happy Holidays! You're invited to the Sierra Club Virtual Holiday Party 7pm Sunday, Dec. 5 for the whole chapter and your friends.

What better way to wrap up 2020 than gathering online with all your Sierra Club friends -- this has been a difficult year in so many ways, and now it is time to celebrate new beginnings, old friends, and our deep love of wild spaces and creatures.

Join the Sierra Club Los Padres Chapter for a fun online holiday gathering

Register for the party here: <https://tinyurl.com/ChapterParty>

# Help plan T.O. future

Alert to East Ventura County residents who are interested in guiding the future of the city of Thousand Oaks and surrounding areas towards a more environmentally friendly future.

The Thousand Oaks Climate Coalition is now active to build community awareness, offer input, raise questions, and strengthen the 2045 Thousand Oaks General Plan Update -- and its corresponding Climate and Environmental Action Plan -- which will jointly dictate that future for the next 25 years.

Sierra Club members and friends are welcome to pitch in. So far, the coalition's affiliations are with Conejo Oak Tree Advocates, 350 Ventura County Climate Hub, Citizens' Climate Lobby, The Nature Conservancy, Friday's For Future, among other nature-respecting organizations and individuals.

The coalition is currently working to ensure the implementation of effective policies and strategies that mitigate climate issues.

Residents in the East Ventura County area who want their voice and ideas heard are urged to join. In the mix are policies for nature conservation, trail improvements, advocacy for community hubs that enable working and shopping closer to home, and other strategies to reduce air pollution and GHG emissions.

For background on the T.O. 2045 General Plan see:

<https://tinyurl.com/TOaks2045org>

And for the Climate and Environmental Action Plan see:

<https://tinyurl.com/TOaksClimate>

To get involved, contact the coalition's lead organizer, Clint Fultz at: [CitizenClint@protonmail.com](mailto:CitizenClint@protonmail.com)



# Take a Hike!

## LOS PADRES CHAPTER

UPDATES: <https://www.sierraclub.org/lospadres>

Panorama above Goleta by Robert Bernstein

### OUTINGS NOTES

#### Sierra Club Local Outings

All Sierra Club local outings have been cancelled until further notice. Check the Los Padres Chapter website for updates to this policy at: [www.SierraClub.org/LosPadres](http://www.SierraClub.org/LosPadres)

You may find some private Meet-Up hikes that have a club member as an organizer; check pg. 3 listings in the Group News box. These are not sanctioned by the club, however.

A reminder that our popular Wilderness Basics Course will not happen next year (2021) because of pandemic restrictions. It usually happens in Feb/March each year; we are determined that the WBC will spring forth again, in spring of 2021. Just like new growth would in the wilderness.

#### Forest Areas Reopen

While the Monterey Ranger District remains closed to the public due to the Dolan Fire. The rest of Los Padres is open to the public.

Extreme fire restrictions remain in effect – gas and propane portable lanterns and stoves are only allowed in developed recreation sites. All campfires are prohibited.

Many of the campgrounds, day use areas and trailheads in the Lower Santa Ynez Recreation area of the Los Padres National Forest are now open. These developed areas are subject to a user fee, but if you are not using a developed area, a fee cannot be collected. A new sign posted at the first kiosk makes this clear, but you must use an existing roadside turn-out and be completely off the pavement.

See the Conditions box below, it has all the contact numbers you may need to check your outdoor plans. Most information is at: [www.fs.usda.gov/lpnf](http://www.fs.usda.gov/lpnf)

#### Please Be Safe

Please observe social spacing. And if an area is too crowded, pick another. And be careful with fire.

#### Day Use Fees

Day use fees are not required for roadside parking outside of developed campgrounds or day use areas.

## Epic trek in a day

By Kristi KirkPatrick

An early start had us at Romero trailhead around 7am. For us, the 9 Trails Challenge in the Santa Barbara front country is a through hike, because we are not among the few who can run the 35 mile out-and-back annual ultramarathon, so we had to leave a shuttle car at one end for the ride back to the starting point, Jesusita trailhead.

The “Challenge” strings nine different Santa Barbara trails together for one epic trek across the ridgelines on the ocean side of the Santa Ynez mountains. For 17.5 glorious miles the view holds the vast horizon to the south, the Channel Islands, and the coastline below. Set against this is the splendid scenery of the Los Padres National Forest—boulders, creeks, and wild animals.

With boots on the ground at 8am, we made our way up Jesusita toward Tunnel trail, our first ascent. At Mission Creek we were stopped by an Edison crew grooming the road to the towers above but, after some

discussion, we were kindly escorted through the work zone to the next trailhead. YAY!

Our second ascent was up Tunnel to the connector and down to Rattlesnake trail. From there we climbed up to Gibraltar Road and moved on toward Cold Spring, down the west fork and up the east fork. At Hot Spring, people were taking advantage of the recently scoured creek bed to soak in the sulfur pools. We kept moving.

Onward and downward this time to Girard, McMenemy, and San Ysidro trails! Next, we ascended the Buena Vista trail, distracting ourselves from the long day with a bit of fun, loudly counting the switchbacks in a jumble of foreign languages. There are 16. A lovelorn male tarantula made an appearance as he pursued an afternoon rendezvous with...anyone. Did you know they can live up to 7 years?

After eight hours of hiking and 5,000 feet of gain, lots of snacks and electrolytes, gorgeous weather and camaraderie, we finally reached our destination at the Romero trailhead.

Thank goodness for the car parked nearby!



A tarantula looking for a mate was therefore ignored by the Challenge hikers led by Kristi KirkPatrick (Photo by Selfie)

### YOU CAN HELP

## Forest rivers under attack

The Santa Ynez River and the Siquoc River and their tributaries support some of the best and most vibrant riparian forest in Santa Barbara County, responsible for clean water providing critical habitat. But non-native Tamarisk trees are aggressively invading the river areas, threatening these important waterways.

Channel Islands Restoration is working with the Los Padres National Forest and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to eradicate those Tamarisk trees rivers and it needs your help to make this effort happen.

These rivers and their watersheds are in territory that is rugged, wild, vast, pristine, and gorgeous. They are necessary not only for all animals and plants – and our human habitats -- and most critically for numerous threatened and endangered species.

#### Santa Ynez River

Tamarisk eradication project in the Santa Ynez River is intended to restore 170 miles of riparian habitat in the upper reaches of the watershed above Gibraltar Dam. The mission is to record the

locations of all Tamarisk trees and seedlings that we see, monitor the results of our treatments of 120 trees two years ago, and eradicate up to 2,100 Tamarisk trees.

We’re planning on several short trips in the Santa Ynez backcountry between February and April 2021 and 2022. Most of the trips will start from the south side of the river, gaining access from East Camino Cielo; while a smaller percentage will start from the north side, gaining access from Highway 33 near Ojai.

#### Sisquoc River

The magnificent and beautiful Sisquoc River watershed is the second project where the many canyons and streams in the watershed is like walking in a world of wonder, clear and clean.

On the one hand nearly untouched, and on the other hand, evidence of historic homesteading is visible from the Manzana Schoolhouse to the Dabney Cabin, to abandoned farm machinery in the grassy meadows above the river. The project involves scouting for Tamarisk on foot on the mainstem of the Sisquoc River, Manzana Creek and the tributary canyons between the Judell Trail and the Forest boundary west of Manzana Schoolhouse.

We will be conducting five or more trips into the Sisquoc watershed between February and April 2021 and 2022. Some will start at NIRA camp on Manzana Creek, and some will start in Santa Barbara Canyon in the Cuyama Valley.

#### Volunteer opportunities

There will be lots of volunteer opportunities including river walkers, canyoneering scramblers, camp cooks, shuttle drivers, front country weather monitors and safety contacts, Covid safety compliance chiefs, safety and communications persons, photographer/videographer, supplies manager, education director, and financial donors.

Donors are important as the grant funding comes with the requirement to match the funds that are received. For donations, earmark them for either the Sisquoc or Santa Ynez River Tamarisk projects.

Please join the adventures! To sign up for outdoor service, or to volunteer while staying at home, go to:

[www.cirweb.org/volunteer](http://www.cirweb.org/volunteer)

For questions, call Volunteer Coordinator Lizzy Sorce at 805-448-1065 or email:

[lizzy@cirweb.org](mailto:lizzy@cirweb.org)



## Send trail problems to LP Forest Association

If you come across any bad sections of trail, downed trees or slides, take pictures and post to Hike Los Padres and email the Forest Service or your favorite trail group - things change so quickly across the trails and any information you can share is always appreciated! Website

is: [www.HikeLosPadres.com](http://www.HikeLosPadres.com)

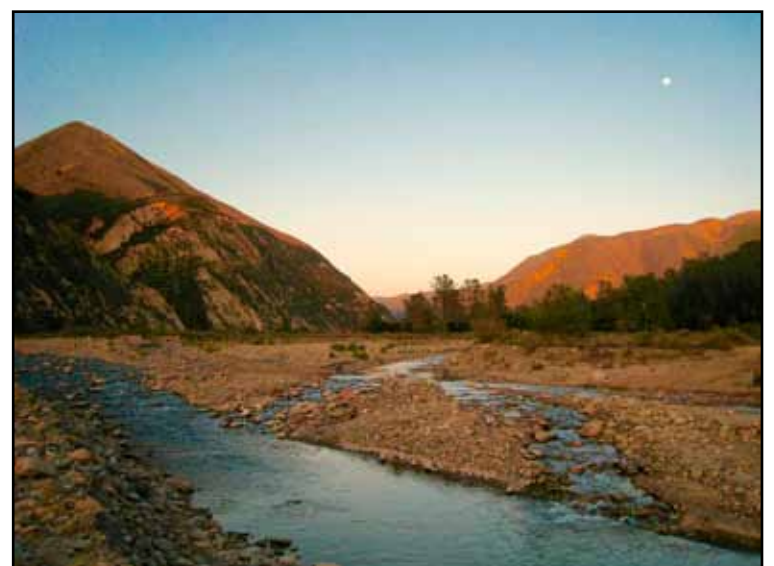
The Los Padres Forest Association’s mission is to care for the Los Padres Forest, ensuring it thrives and remains safe and open for the people to use and enjoy. LPFA volunteers work to keep trails open, report and assess forest conditions and provide public education on how to safely use the forest. If interested in becoming a member or volunteering, visit:

[www.lpforest.org](http://www.lpforest.org)

Surprising facts about the forest: there are 111 peaks throughout the LP forest, 174 springs, 206 dirt roads, 56 off-highway vehicle trails, 293 camps, 205 hiking trails and over a thousand cataloged locations. More info is at the Hike Los Padres website.



The Santa Ynez River (above) and the Sisquoc River (right) are two important waterways being attacked by Tamarisk trees (AKA salt cedar). You can help volunteer at a desk, as a donor, or a dusty hiker seeking them out. (Santa Ynez River courtesy of SYV Historical Society and Sisquoc photo by Steve Evans, [www.CalWild.org](http://www.CalWild.org))



#### CONDITIONS

Campgrounds trails and roads in Los Padres National Forest can be closed, have restrictions due to habitat protection, repair or weather. Before you go into the backcountry ensure you check conditions with rangers. Numbers to call (805 area unless noted) are:

**Los Padres Forest Districts**

Headquarters	968-6640
Ojai-Ventura	646-4348
Mt Pinos	(661) 245-3731
Santa Barbara	967-3481
Santa Lucia	925-9538

**Other Areas**

Santa Monica Mtns	370-2301
Conejo Park	381-2737
Simi Valley	584-4400
Montecito	969-3514

**Forest Information**

For updated info, maps, news releases, and other goodies:  
<http://FS.USDA.gov/LPNF>

**Regional Hike Info**

Lots of local info on websites that give you varied info on outings, trail profiles, wildflower alerts, work opportunities and much more.

<https://www.sierraclub.org/lospadres>  
[www.LPFforest.org](http://www.LPFforest.org)  
<https://LPFW.org>  
[www.HikeLosPadres.com](http://www.HikeLosPadres.com)  
[www.SBSierraClub.org](http://www.SBSierraClub.org)  
[www.SantaBarbaraTrailGuide.com](http://www.SantaBarbaraTrailGuide.com)  
[www.SantaBarbaraHikes.com](http://www.SantaBarbaraHikes.com)  
<https://SBTrails.org>  
[www.VenturaCountyTrails.org](http://www.VenturaCountyTrails.org)  
<http://Hikes.VenturaCountyStar.com>

# Friends accelerate Ormond Cleanup

By Joan Tharp and Christina Zubko

*Editor's note: Joan and Christina are founding members of the Friends of Ormond Beach and assert that "with renewed interest in Ormond Beach and the wetlands, and with the election behind us, the future looks bright!"*

Nearly two tons of trash were picked up in and around the Ormond Beach area by volunteers after several safe cleanups were conducted in the last months of 2020.

The list of organizers included Laura Oergel (chair of Ventura County Surfrider), and Steven Gama, a Port Hueneme City Council member, who conducts Hueneme Beach cleanups every Saturday morning at 8:30am.

In September, the California Coastal Cleanup month, the County of Ventura launched its campaign, "Protect Your Happy Place." Oergel organized 90 volunteers from the County, Sierra Club, The Nature Conservancy, Ventura Coastkeeper--Wishtoyo Foundation, Paddle Out Plastic, Friends of Ormond Beach, Los Angeles Chapter of Sea Shepherds, and other residents of the broader Ventura area. That effort along the Ormond Beach/Lagoon shoreline and dune areas netted 3,350 pounds of trash in just four days.

In other cleanups that included Ormond Beach, Perkins Road, Perkins Island, Ormond Pointe, and the entire shoreline of Ormond Lagoon about 350 pounds of trash were hauled out by 128 volunteers. Gama's volunteers joined forces with Oergel and her team in September, which included Tom Spence of KVTA giving needed publicity to the ongoing efforts.

The Friends thank all the groups and volunteers and Jayrol San Jose of Jayrol A. Photography who produced a video of the lagoon effort. See it here:

<https://tinyurl.com/OrmondCleanup>

In October and in November, Oergel continued to organize volunteers to pick up trash from



Port Hueneme Council member Steven Gama with his niece. He and his volunteers pick up trash every Saturday from Hueneme to Ormond Lagoon: "Trash knows no borders," is his motto. (Photo Courtesy of Steven Gama)

around the entire perimeter of the Ormond Lagoon. Access to these areas required permission to drive onto The Nature Conservancy property and then about a half-mile hike through sand dunes to get to the trash and to haul it out. Volunteers filled a 40-yard dumpster with trash collected from some of the homeless camps.

Sources of the trash include illegal dumping, wind-blown debris, former homeless encampments, and the homeless camps that remain on the Halaco Superfund Site.

While this has been a chronic problem, there are solutions in the works:

~ The county is out to bid for the tšumaš Creek Improvements, Hueneme Road to Upstream of Jane Drive. Part of this project involves covering about 700 feet of the channel. This winter, full capture devices will be installed in three storm drain catchment basins along J Street between Hueneme Road and Jane Drive to trap trash and prevent its entry. The City of Oxnard will clean out the traps quarterly.

~ The City of Oxnard is

installing connective pipe screens which are full capture trash devices in areas designated as industrial, commercial, transit, mixed use, and high-density residential land uses, according to Heather D'Anna, a wastewater specialist. Over 300 of these capture devices are installed with another 500 scheduled by a 2030 deadline. This may stop all trash from getting into the two channels that drain into the Ormond Lagoon.

*(Editor's note: If Heather's name sounds familiar to Condor Call readers, it's due to her involvement with the Sierra Club's Wilderness Basics Course and her Lifesaver Award in 2019 when she and Brandon Nichols saved a fallen hiker in the High Sierras in 2019.)*

~ All these efforts are fueled by an increased interest in Ormond Beach by both non-profit conservation organizations and private citizens. Friends of Ormond Beach is optimistic about 2021 and plans to engage with city, county, state, and federal elected officials to support the restoration of the Ormond Beach wetlands.

Efforts also include working with the three partners (State Coastal Conservancy, City of Oxnard, and The Nature Conservancy) to find an appropriate land manager, to enforce Oxnard ordinance 2906 to protect birds, to request that funding be found to remediate the Halaco property, and to monitor the demolition of GenOn power plant in the next 5-7 years.

## What Can You Do?

Please join our team! We are creating coalitions to build on the momentum that our volunteers have established. Follow the Friends on Facebook and Instagram and contact us at:

[SaveOrmondBeach2019@gmail.com](mailto:SaveOrmondBeach2019@gmail.com)



Laura Oergel, Chair of Ventura Surfrider, and her volunteers picked up about 3,350 pounds of trash around Ormond Lagoon. (Photo courtesy of Friends of Ormond Beach)

# This way to Goleta waterways

The City of Goleta has its first ever Creek and Watershed Management Plan to ensure natural resources are protected.

Plan includes detailed information on the dozen creeks that run through the community, identifies impairments, and outlines programs and specific future actions to address those impairments.

It also outlines best practices to provide habitat for fish and wildlife, accommodate wildlife movement corridors, convey stormwater runoff and floodwaters, and furnish open space and passive

recreational areas for residents.

After extensive public comment at its Nov. 24 meeting, the Goleta City Council unanimously adopted the plan. Staff made sure to involve the public through all stages, including three public workshops from February – November 2020, Technical Advisory Committee meetings, and the public was asked to review the draft prior to the meeting.

City of Goleta Mayor Paula Perotte – whose reelection was endorsed by the Sierra Club -- applauded the adoption of the

plan. "Having a thorough Creek and Watershed Management Plan in place is important because it ensures that our beloved creeks are protected and maintained for future generations to enjoy."

The city's Advance Planning Manager Anne Wells added, "Goleta's creeks are dynamic systems, host to plants and wildlife species that define Goleta's natural resources. The plan reflects a citywide vision worthy of our abundant creek resources."

Learn more about this dynamic plan at:

<https://tinyurl.com/GoletaCWMP>



Ken with Paddle Out Plastic is hauling one of many loads of trash found in the water. (Photo courtesy Friends of Ormond Beach)

# Solar deal for Ventura

The last chance to take advantage of the Community Environmental Council's Solarize Ventura County is Wednesday, Dec. 9.

The campaign makes it easier and more affordable for citizens in the county to go solar, add home battery storage, or both and it is also aimed at nonprofit organizations.

CEC can afford to offer this lower-cost deal due to its group purchasing model which helps local homeowners install solar electricity through a streamlined and hassle-free process, at a discounted price. CEC has helped over 800

local homeowners, bringing 3.5 megawatts of solar to the Central Coast.

CEC's Solarize Nonprofit creates an affordable, accessible pathway to solar power. First, we help your nonprofit organization install a solar system so your business can run on clean energy. Within about six years, your organization will fully own the solar system, translating to tens or hundreds of thousands of dollars in savings on your electric bills over time.

For details and/or to sign up, go to:

[www.cecsb.org](http://www.cecsb.org)



A Ventura Land Trust docent enjoys the trail on a nice fall day. Volunteers are needed, please sign up and "work" at your own schedule, in two-hour shifts dusk to dawn. (Photo by Pam Tonucci) Get in touch here: [docent@venturalandtrust.org](mailto:docent@venturalandtrust.org)

# Outdoor docents welcome at Ventura Land Trust

Ventura is a vibrant community with the chaparral covered hills, sandy beaches and two rivers being an integral part of our lives, and you can help keep our quality of life.

These natural spaces have become more important to us in the past few months as a place to find some peace or to escape and be practical as fire breaks and watershed.

Ventura Land Trust (VLT), a community-based nonprofit organization, believes that preserving open space and providing public access enhances the economy, quality, and public well-being of Ventura and surrounding communities. Docents are an important part of our community and the embodiment of our mission and vision which helps the Trust achieve our goals.

Docents help create a responsible recreating culture and conservation mind-set at Big Rock, a riparian community along the bike path following the Ventura River, and Harmon Canyon, a chaparral community off Foothill Road.

These nature preserves are

owned by the Ventura Land Trust to preserve and are open for visitor use ... forever!

We need docents to help educate visitors about the rules and regulations of the preserves they are enjoying and inspire our community to be stewards of these lands for future generations.

Docents commit to two hour shifts at Big Rock or Harmon Canyon preserves, acting as representatives of the Trust and reminding visitors of the rules. Main responsibilities include providing visitors with information about Ventura Land Trust, answer questions and help them follow Leave No Trace principles. Optional duties include weed pulling and visitor use surveys.

You can help protect our local nature preserves while interacting with the public. To learn more or sign up, email:

[docent@venturalandtrust.org](mailto:docent@venturalandtrust.org)

For more information about volunteering with Ventura Land Trust, donating, or becoming a member, visit:

[www.VenturaLandTrust.org](http://www.VenturaLandTrust.org)



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The dream of completing the California Coastal Trail from Gaviota to Guadalupe is taking a temporary detour for an interim route, which is available for public review via an “online story map”.

The route seems particularly suited for bike riders, but there’s plenty of opportunity for hikers and there’s even an opportunity for people in other areas to get on the trail via train.

The study identifies routing for an interim (or secondary) Coastal Trail to fill the gap across northern Santa Barbara County until a truly Coastal Trail is secured. The Santa Barbara Trails Council has prepared this study for the SB County Association of Governments (SBCAG) to aid in identifying safety improvements and funding for the trail route and future Coastal Trail improvements. You can help in this effort via its website:

[www.SBTrails.org](http://www.SBTrails.org)

The draft coastal trail story map is now available for public review. It’s a site full of photos and points of interest, starting from the north at Guadalupe you scroll down southward until you get to Gaviota State park. Experience it here:

<https://arcg.is/0v5PTS>

To learn more, go to the project website at: [www.bit.ly/ct-route](http://www.bit.ly/ct-route)

The primary objective of the study is to identify alignments for a continuous trail from Guadalupe to Gaviota. Due to existing constraints along the coast, this proposed trail alignment is located primarily within road corridor rights of way and on public land. But the study also identifies spur routes to beaches, open spaces, and other points of interest as well as describing improvements and action items to improve coastal access and recreation in the North County. The study area is from the City of Guadalupe to the beach at Gaviota State Park.

The California Coastal Act of 1972 included the creation of a continuous California Coastal Trail (CCT) to extend 1,200 miles between Oregon to Mexican borders. Statewide, about 60% of the trail has been completed. While progress is being made on the CCT in southern Santa Barbara County, little trail planning progress has occurred in the northern part due to the large expanse of private rangeland and Vandenberg Air Force Base facing most of the north

county coastline.

The absence of a planned coastal trail in that area has stymied access to the CCT from the northern part of SB County, so SBCAG has initiated this study to engage the public in planning for a continuous interim CCT that utilizes existing road rights-of-way, public lands and identifies spurs to access coastal locations such as Point Sal, Guadalupe Dunes, Jalama and Ocean beaches, among many others..

## Electric deals are a steal

You may qualify for a free or low-cost leased or used electric vehicle.

People earning under \$78,600-\$104,800 (family of 4) may qualify for up to \$10,500 in refunds and down-payments grants. These incentives cover new, used, or leased EVs – including all electric vehicles, plug-in hybrids, and gasoline hybrids.

There are record low lease prices for many EVs right now and a used EV can cost as little as \$5,000, so some drivers could get an EV at little-to-no cost with the incentives available today. People who earn a higher income can still qualify for up to \$3,000 in rebates, giving a lease payment of around \$100/month. Learn more at:

[www.electricdrive805.org/drivers](http://www.electricdrive805.org/drivers)



A family is overjoyed to check out and ride in an electric vehicle, this one a Tesla, during our Sierra Club’s annual EV car show (not held this year, no thanks Covid). EVs are the future; check them all out at:

[www.PlugInAmerica.org](http://www.PlugInAmerica.org)