EAVESDROPS

“I am so proud of the Los Padres Chapter as today (Sept. 13) in Washington DC Sierra Club national staff (Greg Caslin) used our Los Padres Chapter work and campaigns as an example of how chapters can work to make a difference. In the room were chapter leaders from all 5C chapters and national staff.” ~ Jim Hines, Los Padres Chapter Chair

Trump ‘Waiver Wall’ draws court suits

A coalition of national conservation groups filed suit Sept. 14 against the Department of Homeland Security challenging border wall construction activities that threaten wildlife and public lands in San Diego and Imperial Valley, California.

A section of a 2005 Homeland Security Act gave unprecedented power to waive any federal, state, or local law to construct roads and barriers along the border. This waiver has now been invoked six times to construct roads and barriers along the Mexican border.

The new lawsuit challenges the constitutionality of the act towards replacing existing border wall construction and building prototypes. The Sierra Club, Defenders of Wildlife and Animal Legal Defense Center filed the lawsuit.

“The waivers greatly endanger communities in the borderlands,” Alex Pujo, Chair Los Padres Chapter noted in a separate lawsuit he has been working with the Sierra Club on this issue.

The Sierra Club persists, nationally and locally, as shown by these actions taken by the Los Padres Chapter over the last few months, ranging from sponsoring an Electric Vehicle show to our Chair Jim Hines lobbying in Washington DC.

But while we’re busy working for the environment, it’s important that we also play there. Take a nature break, by yourself, with friends or join our free outings.

Sept 25: Record Setting Power plant at Ormond Beach as the California Energy commission approved a study saying solar and/or battery storage could replace the plant. Sierra Club and supporters rallied at the Energy Commission hearing in Oxnard to push renewables. (See story pg 2)


Sept 11-15: Wash DC: Our Chair Jim Hines made his third trip to the capitol to lobby and concluded: “Boy what a mess we are in,” although he did see some positives. See story this page.

Sept 17: Drive Electric Show by our Sierra Club and Community Environmental Council (See story back page) It got good coverage from Ventura County Star on Sept. 8 & 9, radio shows and KEY-T/KCVR a broadcast on the 10th and 11th. Check out broadcast here: http://tinyurl.com/DriveElectricShow

Aug 29: Leave, Steve. Our Chapter ExCom supported an opposition endorsement against Rep. Steve Knight (R-CA 25), who has a 0% lifetime score from the League of Conservation Voters. He represents a slice of Simi Valley.

Aug 23: Outdoor safety. At the end of an editorial listing deaths and injuries in the Los Padres National Forest, the Ventura County Star urged hikers to learn do’s and don’ts and noted: “The Sierra Club’s Los Padres Chapter offers its excellent Wilderness Basics Course every spring.”

Aug 21: Alex Pujo voted in as Los Padres Chapter Political Committee Co-Chair and Santa Barbara County Political Committee Chair, positions held by Fran Farina, who retired.

Aug 21: Photo Class at Ormond Beach, led by Ventura County Star.

Oh dear! Border wall cramps wildlife, but … the heads of national conservation groups, including Sierra Club, filed suit Sept. 14 against Homeland Security challenging border wall construction that threatens wildlife and public lands in San Diego and Imperial Valley, California.

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DC missteps a ‘mess’

By Jim Hines, Chair Los Padres Chapter

After four days in Washington DC for the Sierra Club (my third trip this year) I’ve got to say what a mess we are in.

The people I met with are opposed to national public land protections and even favor eliminating national parks, monuments and other public lands. They included members of Congress and staff of the Trump Administration and Department of the Interior.

They do not see eye to eye on issues such as protecting YOUR national lands.

While most members I met with listened to what I had to say about the importance of protecting America’s public lands, some were down right rude and I got endless lectures about how “the U.S. Government is illegally occupying the land”. But there are chips in this wall of opposition and many staff members were quite helpful to me.

Meetings with Interior staff were also along the lines of "national public lands were meant to be used for their highest economic value". Interior is totally beholden to oil and gas industry and the mining industry under Ryan Zinke’s control.

Regarding the national monument review which so many of you took part in, Interior staff told me that those will be released over time without any public event, except perhaps for the President dramatically reducing the size of two monuments in Utah, Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante.

The Administration is also working on reducing protections and funding for national public lands.

“As Interior Secretary, Zinke is supposed to protect our air and water — but now, that’s up to us. We’re ready to fight this handover of our public lands to looters and polluters — on Capitol Hill, in the courts and with the grassroots,” said Sierra Club Executive Director Michael Brune.

“We have the American people on our side — remember, more than 2.8 million people submitted comments during Zinke’s “review” of these monuments,” Brune continued, promising to fight “with more determination than ever.”

To contribute to the cause, go to: www.SierraClub.org

Trump ‘Waiver Wall’ draws court suits

Thomas Edison had an electric car, why not you? Jacob Meruk, 14, is on board for sure (is he the one waving from the passenger seat of his parents Tesla), and he represents the Next Generation that likely will see alternate vehicles outtake high-pollution gasoline cars. See story back page on the EV show cosponsored by Sierra Club and GEC.

(Photo above by John Hankins)

Evolutionary power to future

By Jim Hines, Chair Los Padres Chapter

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But while we’re busy working for the environment, it’s important that we also play there. Take a nature break, by yourself, with friends or join our free outings.

Sept 25: Record Setting Facebook post went National! Crafted by SB Group about Santa Barbara City’s divestment from banks that deal with oil and gas and especially Dakota pipeline.

That single post was picked up and now has 50,000+ views and 100 shares! “Great to see our local city providing inspiration to activists across the nation,” said Group Chair Katie Davis, who was responsible for the post.

Sept 24: Annual Pothuck breakfast by the Santa Barbara Group is a long-time tradition held at Shoreline Park with a hike on the beach! Did you miss it? Too bad, see you in Sept 2018.

Sept 17: Divest Dakota was the cry against having our government entities invest in fossil fuel projects. Santa Barbara City Council voted to adopt a socially responsible investment policy.

Sept 16: Santa Clara River Gateway about a mile up from the beach had scads of volunteers during the official Coastal Clean-Up Day. What was the most unusual thing found? Read the story on page 5.

Sept 14: Renewable Puente Power is now a potential to stop the proposed power plant at Ormond Beach as the California Energy commission approved a study saying solar and/or battery storage could replace the plant. Sierra Club and supporters rallied at the Energy Commission hearing in Oxnard to push renewables. (See story pg 2)


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Cover Photo

Pro photographer Bill Dewey has been helping non-profit groups via his amazing images for 30 years, and Condor Call is proud to again publish his work. So is the Wildling (Wildlingmuseum.org), featuring his aerial shots in an exhibit that runs through January, but opening with Bill speaking at 3pm Sunday, Oct 29. Shown is Bill’s “10 Rotor American Morning Light” aerial, capturing the magic of a Santa Ynez Valley morning. See more at www.BillDeweyphoto.com
Ormond’s power battle
By Mike Stubblefield

There’s a new twist in the pitched battle between renewable energy advocates and NRG’s gas-fired Puente project on Ormond Beach. Perhaps you’ve read recent articles in the LA Times regarding the glut of gas-generated power that is overpowering our electrical grid. It reported that on some days, the California Independent System Operator (CalISO) either had to sell it, give it away or even pay Arizona or Nevada to take it.

Not coincidentally, the California Energy Commission (CEC) held another all day evidentiary hearing at Oxnard’s Performing Arts Center on Sept. 14. After its last hearing in Oxnard CEC decided, over NRG’s strenuous objections, to direct CalISO to conduct a study of renewable alternatives to yet another natural gas plant.

There is no question that a new, slightly larger than current NRG’s gas-fired power plant would produce more than enough power for the “Moonspark Project” that includes Santa Barbara’s South Coast and Ventura County. The problem is that excess power generation from a natural gas-fired plant means excess emissions and waste.

CalISO proposed a more environmentally friendly, but perhaps more expensive, “hybrid” system that includes solar generation, battery storage “hybrid” system that includes NRG’s proposed, and now obsolete, natural gas-fired plant. Company officials monitor the voltage demand in each part of the grid and turn batteries on and off in order to maintain the correct amount of electricity throughout various parts of the grid. For example, it might be sunny and hot in Moorpark, but foggy and cool near the coast. A demand-response system distributes the appropriate amount of electricity.

Such systems are one important aspect of our energy future in California. In another decade, we’ll all wonder what it will be like to create such a logical and efficient system. Stay tuned for a decision in the near future; meanwhile, here’s the results of Clean Coalition’s alternative:

P uente/Solar Alternative

Perhaps even more important are statements from SCE President Ron Nichols about how large batteries are “rethinking” its future strategies to the point where “it’s not terribly likely that there’ll be much more (gas-powered plants) in California.” Read it here:

http://tinyurl.com/SCF_future

And so, we are celebrating right now, as the Los Padres Coalition has won another battle in the war that we have won federal protection for endangered species at our beaches, wetlands and wildlands.

EDC helped build piloting prohibitory new oil/gas leases within the SB Channel’s three-mile limit (1994). Court victory led to unprecedented halt of federal oil leases off the Channel Islands.

- Large marine reserve system established around the Channel Islands.
- Marine Protected Areas expanded over recent years.
- Launch of projects in 2014 to protect marine life (whales, dolphins etc) from being struck by ships; we invited to monitor this issue (1994).

- Joined coalition to forbid the risk to the public water by trains from San Luis Obispo through Santa Barbara and Ventura counties to the south; also to the north (1994).

- Offshore fracking by oil companies hampered by lawsuits on grounds that federal agencies have not considered impacts on the marine environment.

- Legislation and tough regulations were crafted after Plains oil pipeline burst near Refugio State Beach May 2015. It sent oil into the ocean, reaching Ventura and L.A. areas. Sierra Club California helped ensure the bills got approved.

SANTA BARBARA

Hammonds Meadow protected via court case, allowing public access in 1989.

- Gaviota Coast Conservancy formed in 1994, co-founded by EDC; our chapter remains a coalition partner.

- Ballot Measure A in 1996 gave public approval for any proposed new oil/gas projects outside existing sites.

- In Lompoc area, about 5,000 acres of Burton Mesa Chaparral permanently preserved.

- Major victory in 1998 over long-years litigation to preserve the Carpinteria Bluffs as public open space (another piece added just this year).

- SB County Oak protection plan adopted in 2003 after Kendall Jackson clear-cut 850 trees.

- Ellwood Mesa permanently protected in 2005 after 20 years of development proposals.

- Measure G in 2012 approved that agreement to land off Oxnard Coast. (NOTE: Owen Bailey represented the Sierra Club in that fight and he’s now EDC’s Executive Director.)

(Blacked an Oxnard development that permanently protects portions of the Oxnard Beach wetlands (2012).

Helped convince Camarillo to adopt a 2,500-unit project to protect ag land in 2014.

Helped stop the Ventura City Council from annexing 800 acres at Calabas Larga for high-end housing in 2015.

NOTE: Beth Weher of EDC and Condor John of Sierra Club collaborated on this article.

Wilderness Basics Course brings people closer to the natural world, as you can see from Cara Pedraza’s photo along the Aliso Trail from last year’s outing. Learn more from our Sierra Club cadre of expert volunteers, most of whom staff all upcoming February, March and April outings. Call (805) 344-5770 or check out our Facebook LosPadresWBC or online: www.lospadreswbc.org

Our bonds to nature

Cory Dell Trail or Cold Springs Trail in the Los Padres National Forest or a weekend backpack into the Cave or the Dick Smith Wilderness you will have entered the realm of spiritually which only nature can provide.

Allow yourself to fully feel the gentleness, the richness, the wilderness, the raw earth herself and the wild creatures which live on the land. We all bond with nature in different ways, some meditate beside a gently flowing stream, others enjoy the spiritual warmth of an evening campfire among the pines and still others to the extreme and challenge the endurance of nature by climbing the highest peak, taking the longest walk or swimming the Santa Barbara Channel.

Whatever way you choose to spiritually bond with nature you will truly be rewarded with feeling which knows no limit.

We are living in crazy, hectic and challenging times, so each of us when we are out amongst the wonder and beauty of our natural world.

The spiritual journey which we all take part in on this planet is fully enhanced by the time we each spend out among magnificent mountains, red rock canyons, flowing rivers, majestic sea coasts, blooming meadows and wildlife. How can one not feel closer to themselves and to their creator than when we are out amongst the wonder and beauty of our natural world?

Being out among nature allows us to look inward to recognize and feel the full potential of ourselves as positive, talented, loving and caring human beings.

Whether you are taking a David Copperfield evening walk on the beach in Ventura or Santa Barbara, a day hike along...
Sightings... continued from page 1
Sierra Club to not only teach about its virtues as we fight to restore the area, but record those qualities on a personal level.

Aug 18: Day of Action declared by National Sierra Club in August to bring our local rally with eco-groups was Friday evening at the Ventura Government Center so that local officials could attend. The national actions were to send a message to Trump/Zipke not to reduce or privatize numerous national parks, monuments and conservation areas. (See story on page 3)

Aug 17: Rally for Nat’l Monuments in Santa Barbara; news cameras were there and the Sierra Club was represented. Road Salud Carbajal spoke in front of an enthusiastic crowd near the Los Padres National Forest headquarters in Goleta about the importance of protecting our national lands and monuments. Lots of supportive honks from busy Hollister corridor.

Aug 11: Bike, potluck, slide show featured a hike with Al Sladek at 6pm followed by the show at Valle Verde Retirement Center in Santa Barbara, featuring Robert Bernstein’s insider photos of Solimar. Sierras.

Aug 7: SB Group had a table handing out our information and Condor Call at the opening of "Inconvenient Truth-The Sequel".

Aug 6: Toad the Wet Sprocket concert at Libbey Bowl in Ojai featured our Sierra Club table prior to the music. The band supports our mission and has invited the Sierra Club to table at each of its concert locations for the Summer 2017 U.S. tour.

Aug 3: Lands Campaign was bolstered by our Chair Jim Hines speaking to the Camarillo Democratic Club on the national public lands issue as well as other Sierra Club campaigns locally, notably on marine issues and wildlife corridors.

Aug 1: Double duty for our Arguello Group Chair Rebecca Davis, who was appointed to the Los Padres Forest Watch’s new Public Lands Advocate. Residing in the Santa Ynez Valley, she’ll engage the public and politicians to protect our iconic landscapes.

July 27: Push-Back happened at the Gaviota Master Planning meeting where it was found wanting, despite supposed 2,000 public comments that should be accessible to the public. SB Sierra Club members Katie Davis and Robert Bernstein advocated for better results such as business outreach. Compiled by Condor John Hankins

In alphabetical order: 1st member 2nd member
Robert Davis
Katie Davis
Alex Pujo
Luz Reyes-Martin
Merlie Samonte

Write in candidate if desired:
Please write in your Sierra Club member ID # (from your Condor Call mailing label or your membership card).

Reading this ballot, it will not be tied to your name.

SB Group Candidate
Robert Bernstein
Melanie Ashen
Stephanie Scher
Joanne Sulkoske

Write in candidate as desired:
Please write in your Sierra Club member ID # (from your Condor Call mailing label or your membership card).

SB Group Candidate
Merlie Samonte

4 vie for 5 SB Group seats

Merlie Samonte SB Group Candidate

I was born, raised and educated in the Philippines and am now a resident of Goleta. I have worked in the hospitality industry and have traveled to many places around the globe which gave me the opportunity to work with people of different cultures. What can I bring to the table? I can probably bring fresh perspective based on my experience growing up in a family that farms to augment food reliability and sustainability in ways that put a lot of local food on our table.

I am a founding member of the Coalition for Sustainable Transportation (COAST) and a member of the Bicycle Coalition since 1994. I currently serve on the ExCom of the Santa Barbara Group and chair the Santa Barbara Political Committee, Los Padres Chapter. Thank you for your support.

Katie Davis SB Group Candidate

John Muir, the founder of the Sierra Club, said, “The battle we have fought, and are still fighting, for the forests is a part of the eternal conflict between right and wrong.”

Today the protection of our ecosystems is more critical than ever. I believe Sierra Club has a powerful role to play in creating a more sustainable environment. As Chair of the SB Group, I have enjoyed working on many fronts to secure victories, including getting Santa Barbara to set a goal of 100% renewable energy by 2030 and consider a Community Choice Energy program to advance local clean energy. Also, defeating the SB locals’ oil project and getting our County to set the strictest regulations in the state on greenhouse gas pollution from new oil projects.

As a member of Sierra Club’s National Marine Team, I am fighting Trump’s efforts to expand offshore oil and reduce or eliminate our national marine sanctuaries. I am also a trained presenter of Al Gore’s “Climate Reality Project” and serve on the APCD’s Advisory Council.

Robert Bernstein SB Group Candidate

Building a sustainable world means having a positive vision of what we want, not just operating projects.

My vision: A community that is more walkable, bikeable and transit friendly. For us, as a social project as well as for environmental reasons. It’s a vision where we locally produce much of our own food and renewable energy.

A vision where we can access nature in a way that enriches our lives with minimal damage to our natural ecosystems.

Global climate change is largely the result of human policies and activities and I want us to do our part on a community level.

I was a founding Board member of COAST (Coalition for Sustainable Transportation) and past president of the SB Group.

I am a Life member of the Sierra Club and have served on our group Executive Committee since 1998, served on the SB Club Board since I served as Group Chair as well as Environmental Justice Chair and Transportation Chair.

Also, I am a life leader and a photographer and regular contributor to the Condor Call newsletter.

I was honored to be able to help serve the Sierra Club again for another term.

Lead our club
Our Chapter’s Executive Committee has three at-large seats open this year. I would definitely consider running. We’re long on action, short on bureaucracy!

For questions, contact Chair Jim Hines at 340-9265, then email sbcondorcall@gmail.com

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
~ Executive Committee meets at 7pm on the fourth Thursday of each month, either in-person at the Carpinteria YIHOP, or by conference call. Email Secretary Gerry Ching for the agenda and details: gching@cox.net

SANTA BARBARA GROUP
~ Usually meets at 11:30am on the first Monday of the month at Union Bank, 15 E. Carrillo St. View the calendar, hikes and issues and join the mailing list for the South Coast Santa Barbara area (Carpinteria to Goleta) at: www.SBSierraClub.org
~ www.facebook.com/sbsierraclub

ARGUELLO GROUP
NOW ON FACEBOOK; keep in touch with our SB North Counties Group and ARGUELLO GROUP at www.facebook.com/SierraClubVentura
~ General meetings with potluck and programs during most months on 3rd Friday at Lompoc Presbyterian Church 1600 E. Boundary Ave. at 6pm. Check the agenda.
~ Volunteers are needed as hike leaders and to monitor issues; your talents could make a difference.
~ Questions? Contact Marguerite Gazsi @mac.com or 350-6629.

VENTURA NETWORK
~ Up-to-date information about the western Ventura County group on Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/VenturaSierraClubFB
~ New MEETUP site for hikes, outings and other fun stuff in Ventura County: www.meetup.com/SierraClubVentura
~ Regular meetings 1st Tuesday monthly at REI in Oxnard 7:30pm. Check before attending: sierrachildventure@gmail.com

CONEJO GROUP
~ Get all information including the western Ventura County Group from Hugh Warren, 341-6295 mail@hikewarren.com
~ Web: www.sierraclub.org/los-padres/conejo
~ Outings: www.sierraclub.org/los-padres/conejo/outings

SANTA BARBARA GROUP Executive Committee Ballot (See candidate statements below) NOTE: Only members of the SANTA BARBARA GROUP can vote for the candidates below. A second box is provide for households with dual memberships who get only one Condor Call. You may photocopy or cut this ballot from the Condor Call. Please mail ballot before Dec. 31 to: Santa Barbara Group, Sierra Club, P.O. Box 15, Santa Barbara, CA 93102-0015
Vote for NO MORE THAN 4 (FOUR) people, including the write-in option if you wish.

In alphabetical order: 1st member 2nd member
Robert Bernstein
Katie Davis
Alex Pujo
Luz Reyes-Martin
Merlie Samonte

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(Number is only to ensure a valid confidential vote. It will not be tied to your name.)
Energy beat goes on...

By Katie Davis
Protecurcoast

In one word, 2017 has been off limits to new oil leases for 35 years through Democratic and Republican administrations, including a moratorium issued by George H. Bush. Over that time, including a moratorium issued by Republican administrations, there is a move, passing a resolution in July to Santa Barbara's first defensive Lands Commission gave final approvals to begin work capping these old, leaky nearshore wells while Goleta and San Luis Obispo followed suit and hundreds of state wide, these old, leaky nearshore wells are still enabled.

Vivian home was a champion of offshore drilling, but it'll be back next session, so we're gearing up for a fight. Kudos to the Tri-Counties that is currently working on the Governor's desk; it would demonstrate its feasibility. SB County Supervisors discussed it Oct. 3, past our deadline. To help or learn more, go to: https://cathymurillo.com

The Sierra Club enthusiastically endorses Kristen Sneddon for Santa Barbara's 4th district, which includes the Riviera, Upper East, East感兴趣 Hill, East San Roque neighborhoods, and Coast Village Road. Kristen holds a MS in geophysics, with an emphasis in groundwater. She teaches environmental geology at Santa Barbara City College, focusing on climate change, water use, waste management and natural disaster preparedness. At Santa Barbara's March for Science rally last April, Kristen heard the call for scientists to get involved in shaping the future of our community, and was inspired to run. Her priorities include wildfire and emergency preparedness, ensuring a sustainable water supply and supporting the city's 100% renewable energy goal. A Santa Barbara resident for 30 years, Kristen and her husband, Chris, have two children in the local public schools, and one in college. Kristen is past chair of Starn Parent-Child Workshop, and current chair of the Peabody School governing board. As a parent, teacher, and environmental scientist, she will provide a unique and valuable voice on the city council. Her decision-making will be informed by her breadth of experience.

To help or learn more, go to: www.friedmanforcouncil.com

Eric Friedman grew up in Santa Barbara County and graduated from the University of Notre Dame. He will bring to Council his long environmental experience and the perspective of a young, middle-class family trying to make it on the South Coast; something that City Hall desperately needs. From 2002 to 2016 he served as a senior consultant to Naumt Schultz and Sadah Furuhashi on a variety of environmental and Climate Change Choice Energy Initiative study for the Tri-Counties that is currently in the Carpepinteria Foothills, conversion of Rincon Point homes to 100% renewable energy, and the development of CycleCalCoast. Eric is running for District 5, which includes West San Roque, Upper State, Summerland, Hidden Valley, Campanil and parts of Oak Park. Eric, his wife Julie and two sons enjoy surfing and outboard canoeing; for them the coast, environmental stewardship and open space preservation are personal priorities. He is a former director of the Santa Barbara chapter of the Sierra Club and a former member of the Santa Barbara Harbor Commission. To learn more about Eric’s campaign, help out or to vote, go to: www.friedmanforcouncil.com

Sierra Club is pleased to once again endorse Greg Hart for Santa Barbara’s 6th District.

As a P L A N N I N G Commissioner, Councilmember, and State Coastal Commissioner, Greg has w o r k e d tirelessly to preserve and protect our environment.

From leading the efforts to preserve Pismo Beach, to authoring the City’s successful Clean Creeks Initiative, Greg has worked tirelessly to advocate for our local environment.

He has worked with Sierra Club in a variety of issues. He was our major contact to secure the council’s resolution opposing the Phillips 66 oil train. He serves as the City’s liaison to BEACON (beach erosion authority), Creeks Advisory Committee and the ad hoc committee for the Santa Barbara County Chapter. He is a leader on transportation and housing, and he is easily accessible to all constituents.

As a Councilmember, Greg supported municipal efforts to reduce and conserve energy; he supported the bicycle master plan, ZIP car program and additional MTD funding; open space and creek restoration projects. He also supported infill development, preserving open space and building housing in locations that enable people to rely less on their cars.

To learn more about Greg’s campaign, visit: www.facebook.com/Hart4SB

We will miss your wisdom, precision, tenacity, and kindness so much... but are so happy for you on your new adventure. Speaking on behalf of many... WE LOVE YOU!!!

David Gold, adding his voice to many who are sad to see Fran Farina leave our chapter for new work and adventures in the environment in San Luis Obispo County.

For the community company created by Exxon/ Mobil and Shell to extract oil while limiting their financial and environmental responsibilities, has an application pending for 296 oil and waste water injection wells on rolling oak-covered hills near the small community of Garey and overlooking Santa Maria’s drinking water supply. It has been sued in Kern county for polluting the small community of Garey and overlaying Santa Maria’s drinking water supply. It has been sued in Kern county for polluting the groundwater there.

Next door, bankrupt ERG has an application pending for another 233 oil wells and four highly polluting steam generation engines to pump “environmental recovery oil.” ERG ranked No. 1 in spill volume in Santa Barbara County from 2010-2015. Judging by the scoping hearings, the projects rightly face significant opposition.

Divest Best

Putting money where our mouth is occurred Sept. 19 when the Santa Barbara City Council voted to divest from banks funding the Dakota Access Pipeline and to adopt a socially responsible investment policy. That’s what we call leadership. 2019: Featuring National Bioneers: Keynote Talks By: Amy Goodman Suzanne Simard Jeremy Narby John Wick & Calla Rose Ostrander Mariel Nanasi and Local Speakers! NOVEMBER 4 • 9 am-5 pm SLO GUILD HALL More information and Registration at ECOLOGICAL.ORG $45 ADVANCED REGISTRATION • $25 STUDENTS
Big clean-up, thanks to you

Our members helped on numerous clean-up efforts, but there were two led by our Los Padres Chapter. SB hike leader Robert Bernstein brought a crew to Lizard’s Mouth (left photo) while Ventura Sierra Club Chair Nina Danza’s crew was at a Santa Clara River location, where she snapped one of the participants going “Into the Wild!”

Editor’s note: More than $10,000 pounds of trash was plucked from the state’s beaches, ocean, rivers, parks, lakes and other waterways. The Ocean Conservancy’s annual Coastal Cleanup Day, according to early tallies, produced 31.9 million pounds of recyclables collected and distributed throughout the nation. Here’s the data collected on the trash cleaned up:

- Students, Joe Flores, Stefano Flores and Steve Cabellero. Also, the caption’s spouses, Jim Dunza and Dino Meneghin who “loves doing this, am thinking to switch careers to trash weighing anything!”
- Candice Meneghin, CalTrout conservation manager, explained that the Santa Clara River system where steelhead trout migrate from the estuary through the cleanup property and into the headwaters for reproduction.
- Amy Davis. Natural Resource Conservancy natural guide, took the group on a site walk to see what lives in the riparian area. She pointed out native plants, and picked out bits of non-native but edible mustard to taste. Everyone learned about Arundo donax, the most noxious invasive plant in the riparian zone.
- Big thanks to the sponsors: DJ Harrison & Sons for disposal service, Golf n Stuff game coupons, Chick Fil A sandwiches, and Coastal Cone ice cream discount tokens.

EAVESDROPS
"People are unhappy with his perceived unenforcement of environmental laws.”
An EPA inspector, responding to reports that EPA Chief Scott Pruitt has unprecedented 24/7 protection by 18 people as he embarks on getting the agency’s funds by 31%. He has also cut the number of investigators who investigate environmental crimes below the Pollution Prosecution Act mandate.

VENTURA
“Santa Clara Clearing” By Nina Danza
What does it take to find 3 bike wheels, a vinyl record, two golf clubs and Superman underwear? About 72 volunteers who took these and more to a ton of trash out of the Santa Clara River Gateway site at Coastal Clean Up Day.

Imagine, 10,540 pounds of junk not getting to the beach and into the ocean. Some of the MPVs for the day deserve applause: Attendees over four years, Charlene Beauvert and students from Oxnard’s Sierra Linda School, also Ken Fouks and Oxnard College geography Professor Evans, La Mer Bleu Productions.

Ventura Sierra Club has a great series of programs starting now and running through 2018. Up your game on local ecoscience and outdoor activity expertise. Big thanks to the Ventura County Library agency, the major co-sponsor of the series, for providing complimentary room and equipment to the club.

First one is for the non-toxic crowd; a biological way to eradicate invasive species from 2-4pm Saturday, October 7, at Foster Library, 1651 E. Main St. with Nicole Norelli from the California Alliance for tamarisk biocontrol. Free, but donations accepted.

Here’s a chance to just mingle and talk with like-minded enviros, 12:30-2:30pm, Sunday October 29, at Carabia Coffee, 9493 Telephone Rd. For 2 hours Ventura Sierra Club has arranged live acoustic music, a local art exhibit (50 percent donated to us) and a relaxed inspiring atmosphere. Shut out to George Naugles, club volunteer for putting this together.

Also, added fun via Ventura Bike HUB leading a group ride to the coffeehouse starting from the Hub, 1150 N. Ventura Ave. starting at noon. Any age welcome with ability to do a 10-mile ride. Keep track of all our activities at sierraclub.org/los-paddes/ventura.
MONDAY MORNING fitness walk: Sulphur Mountain from Casitas Springs Trailhead. Prepare to rock climb. Bring swimsuit. Difficult but short 5 mrt. Bring lunch and water, bring B of A on upper State St at Hope Ave. at 9am.


October 15

LULU MOUNTAINS: HOKE: En- joy pine forests southwest of Frazier Park and a waterfall too. 8.2 mile with gain of about 1,100'. Trail starts at Three Falls Boy Scout Camp and then ascends the side of a mountain in a trail in a pine shaded corridor. Our lunch destination is Lulu Mountains. Bring layers, rain gear, lunch, sunscreen, and other 10 essentials. Rain cancels. Meet at 7:45 at the CCC Topping Room 651 E. Main (free parking in lot). Call JIM 479-7063/644-6934 (SB) or LORA 661-944-4056. (CNRCC Desert Committee)

October 17

ARROYO BURRO TRAIL - SANTA BARBARA MISSION RIDGE: We'll explore some of the Midland School trails in this moderate 5.5 mrt hike, including the High Country Loop returning via the Red Rock Springs Trail. Bring water, a light lunch and sun protection. There is little shade and one long warm. This hike involves a 1 hr drive to the trailhead on Figueroa Mtn Rd. Rain cancels. Meet at the trailhead parking lot, Hope Ave & State St. if you are coming from north of Santa Barbara you can use the Westlake trainhead. Email me for instructions. GERRY 964-5411, gcho@gmx.com (SB)

October 18

MISSION RIDGE: Hike up Mission Ridge to the overlook onto Tuna. From there we'll take a primitive trail to a high ridge for great views. From there we'll loop back down to Rattlesnake. Moderately strenuous 7 mrt hike. Meet behind B of A on upper State St at Hope Ave. at 8am. NOTE THE EARLY START TIME! ALEJANDRO 688-1240 (SB)

October 22

ARROYO BURRO TRAIL - SANTA BARBARA SIDE: Hike up Jesusita Trail and Arroyo Burro Trail. Long steep hike with great views of Santa Barbara and Goleta. Hike to a waterfall, and lunch at the mountain top. 12.5 mrt. Bring lunch and plenty of water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St at Hope Ave. at 9am. TONY 455-4212 (SB)

October 23

MONDAY MORNING fitness walk: Emmitbrook - a hidden treasure in the Montecito Valley - Meet at 8:30am to carpool 30 minutes to the trailhead. In the Montecito Valley we walk a combination of trails and streets through a beautiful part of the Santa Barbara foothills that few people haven't seen before. Some uneven trails, but not too difficult. Beautiful Oak, Madrone, Manzanita, and some amazing homes of the rich and famous in the background. Meet behind PHILIP CLARK, 218-2103 or 218-2105. (VEN)

October 27

THE OLD CABIN SITE, Mugu State Park: Counter clockwise LOOP. Moderate-to- strenuous 9 miles round trip hike with 1,600 feet of elevation gain up to the old cabin site in the NE part of Mugu St Park. Approx 6 hrs at moderate pace. (Upper Sycamore Cyn, Boney Mtn, Fossil trails) Meet at 8am, Ventura carpool (Seaward and Harbor in Ventura). Ten essentials, hiking boots and poles, sun hat, insect repellent, 3 qts. water, and snack/ lunch. Meet behind B of A 85 or Rain Cancels. LORA 218-2103 (VEN)

October 29

FISH CREEK: Long car pool to Nira Campground, then up the Manzano to Fish Creek Camp, continuing up Fish Creek to a small swimming hole. Moderate 9 mrt. Bring lunch, snacks, plenty of water, and a swimsuit if you want to take a dip in the pool. Meet behind B of A on upper State St at Hope Ave. at 9am. JM 479-7063/644-6934 (SB)

RAY MILLER TRAIL: 8 mile round trip hike with 900’ ascent. Outstanding ocean and mountain views. Meet at trailhead of PCH at 10am. Bring water and snacks. Wear comfortable hiking shoes. This event is limited and no child. KIM HOCKING 983-2147 (SB)

ARTFUL SALES BENEFIT (MB): Saturday 6:30- 2:30pm Caraba Coffee 9493 Telephone Rd., Ventura. Money raised to benefit Project Artful, a non-profit that supports the exchange of handmade jewelry, photos, cards or gifts shown by the artist at the shop this date. Stile and listen to delightful live acoustic music performance. Not only will half of the continued next page
November 6  
**MONDAY MORNING**  

**Fishing walk** 
Join the LA Times by Sierra Club California Director Kathryn Phillips who said, "he may be exactly the right man at the right time for state parks.

**EVEDEVEOS**  
*Everything is on the table... except feeling the burn in our parks.*

**Newly appointed state Parks Director Anthony Jackson, who outsidetransitioned as a Marine officer a year ago and was spending his time going from park to park and working with state parks from the LA Times by Sierra Club California Director Kathryn Phillips who said, "he may be exactly the right man at the right time for state parks.

November 10  
**UPPER ROSE LAKE OVERNIGHT** 
Meet at B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave, and down to the Ventura pier. From here we will walk the Ventura Riverbed to the Hike across the RR tracks and head to Mission Plaza on the LORA & PHILIP CLARKE, 218-2013 or 218-2015 (VEN).

November 10  
**SESE CONDOR SANCTUARY** 
In an effort to protect sea turtles and marine mammals and to protect California’s ocean heritage, including the beaches, people, and marine wildlife.

November 11  
**LOTOGA TERRA BLUFF FLAME** 
Meet at Ojai at 8:30am to park 30 minutes east to downtown Ojai where we park our vehicles near Rainbow Bridge Market (on Mattila Street and Montgomery). Then we will hike to Ojai Valley Trail to the stop for lunch. 
October 12  
**POOLS and the full coastline. Pass by an exquisite church and plaza.**

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November 12  
**CAVIOTA PEAK/ TRESPASS LOOP** 
Moderate hike with an elevation gain of 2200. Get ready to see eye-popring views up and down the coast. We will ascend the fire road to the saddle and return via Trespass Trail. We will hike at a moderate pace or about 2 miles per hour and stop at the saddle for snacks, returning to the trailhead at 3:30pm. Depending on the number of experienced hikers only. Hike leader approval required for an all-day trip. Wear good hiking shoes, bring lunch, and plenty of water. Contact the hike leader for details. TONY 455-4212 (VEN).

November 13  
**MONDAY MORNING**  

**Fishing walk** 
Cozy Dell to the next junction for even more excitement. This trail hike has possibilities based on who shows up that day’s weather and trail conditions. This can be as

November 14  
**DAKEN CABIN** 
Long car pool to Niram Campground, then a long hike up the Ray Miller trail. We will hike at a moderate pace or about 2 miles per hour and stop at the saddle for snacks, returning to the trailhead at 3:30pm. Depending on the number of experienced hikers only. Hike leader approval required for an all-day trip. Wear good hiking shoes, bring lunch, and plenty of water. Contact the hike leader for details. TONY 455-4212 (VEN).

November 15  
**TOURA TERRA BLUFF FLAME** 
Meet at Ojai at 8:30am to park 30 minutes east to downtown Ojai where we park our vehicles near Rainbow Bridge Market (on Mattila Street and Montgomery). Then we will hike to Ojai Valley Trail to the stop for lunch. 
October 12  
**POOLS and the full coastline. Pass by an exquisite church and plaza.**

November 16  
**LA CONJURE PEAK VIA RATTLETRUNK TRAIL** 
Beautiful views from the highest peak on the front range. Strenuous 11 mrt hike with 3200 feet elevation gain/loss. Experienced hikers only. Bring lunch and plenty of water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. JIM 707-793-8494 (EWR).

December 3  
**COLD SPRINGS, FORBUSH FLAT TO SPRING** 
Hike down Cold Springs Trail from E. Camino Cielo to Forbush Flat campground. Hike approx 1.5 miles further to natural spring. Bring swim suit, towel, lunch, hiking shoes or boots and plenty of water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. ALEJANDRO PHILIP CLARKE, 218-2013 or 218-2015 (VEN).

December 9  
**TOPA TOPA BLUFF FLAME**
Meet at Ojai at 8:30am to park 30 minutes east to downtown Ojai where we park our vehicles near Rainbow Bridge Market (on Mattila Street and Montgomery). Then we will hike to Ojai Valley Trail to the stop for lunch. 
October 12  
**POOLS and the full coastline. Pass by an exquisite church and plaza.**

December 10  
**LOOP POINT BEACH WALK** 
Meet at just south of Summerland and hike to Santa Claus Lane and then walk back to Rattler Road. Great views of the SB Channel and elegant beach estates. Easy 4 mrt. Meet at 9am at the Bank of America parking lot, Hope & State St. GERRY 964-5411 (SB).

Monday morning hikes 52 in a year-ikes!  
By Philip Clarke  

The Ventura Sierra Club's tradition of sponsoring morning walk and hike-ikes for nearly 29 years is continuing to new generations, but with the goal of doing 52 different hikes throughout the year. Heres the link:  
http://tinyurl.com/venturus2ikes  

Long-time leader Pat Pump can now do it, as Pat Pump has done so for years, but a crew has taken over rather than see it disappear. While Pat is still a rather small number, if you see her walking shoes is a big task. Ten years ago, Pat had a variety of 15-20 walk-ikes that covered most of Ventura and the surrounding areas, like Ojai, Carpinteria and even Santa Barbara. I have guided you to do it on your own, you can look it up and just do it. And, feel free to offer us suggestions of new areas that can be done within at most a 30-minute drive from the downtown Ventura carpool site (currently Mission Pines Park parking lot). Ensure the walk can be done by most people in most good physical condition within 2-3 hours.

And we’d like to offer a social side-strike with Pat Pump of the year-ikes for those so inclined. This is usually near the end of the walk or immediately thereafter, depending on where we are that week.

Hope to see you out NEXT Monday morning! You can contact us at 218-2105 (Philip) or 218-2105 (Lora).
Hundreds plug into EV show

By John Hankins

Jacob likes to invite his teen-age friends into his parents’ Tesla Model X Autopilot and see their reactions when it powers off like a space ship smoothly, quietly and without effort. Tesla calls that “Ludicrous acceleration” — zero to 60 mph in 2.5 seconds!

His mom Lisa Merkord likes that too, but she loves the wraparound windshield and the calm in LA traffic as Autopilot takes over, asserting “it’s the best driving experience ever!” (it’s also the safest, she says, “can’t roll over because the batteries are down low.”)

This is the kind of wonder we heard from over 400 people who attended the Electric Vehicle show at Oxnard’s Channel Islands Harbor on a September Sunday, sponsored by the Los Padres Chapter of Sierra Club (for the second year) and Community Environmental Council (CEC). It was during National Drive Electric Week, Sept. 9-17, held every year to show the public “the benefits of all-electric and plug-in hybrid-electric cars, trucks, motorcycles” and even boats, bikes golf carts ... and lunar rovers.

“Those enthusiastic and knowledgeable owners of 42 electric vehicles displayed their cars,” said Sierra Club’s James Reach, while the attendees asked them questions with no pressure to buy. New this year and thanks to CEC was the ability for them to drive four various models (one a $140,000 BMW).

Cameron Gray of CEC conducted a workshop with an audience hanging on every word. “We are a third party and not biased,” he said, concluding that now is a good time to buy as prices are coming down and there’s more models available.

You can get an electric vehicle for as low as $20,000 now, Gray said, while hybrids are more expensive because of their complexity, ranging from $30,000-50,000. Gray has noticed some EV leases that have no upfront payment and are as low as $90 per month. Tax credits and discounts from SCE, dealers and local government are also possible; in fact, Stan Cowen of the Ventura County Air Pollution Control District was there to run down the possibilities.

Prospective buyers can learn about such discounts from the APCD or CEC before visiting dealers.

Reach gave credit to co-captain Kent Bullard (Sustainability Council of Ventura County) and the Electric Vehicle Advocates of Ventura County, “whose contributions made this event an overwhelming success.”

The National Sierra Club now has a Go Electric Campaign, asserting EVs “present a critical opportunity to slash pollution, reduce our dependence on oil, create American jobs, and improve national security.”

Cathy passed out an ad showing an electric car from the 1900s (first invented in the early 1800s), which was eclipsed by gasoline-powered vehicles, but now with new technology and much less pollution, EVs “have a second chance.”

Best source for info on discounts and EV models is at: www.DriveClean.CA.gov