We commit to 100% clean power

Editor’s note: Thanks to the National Sierra Club, Theresa Tran and David Hauke of the Angeles Chapter and Katie Davis of our Los Padres Chapter for contributing to this historic announcement...a collaborative effort!

Ventura County made history in late October by becoming the first county in the country to set a renewable energy default of 100 percent available.

It joins the cities of Ventura, Ojai, Oxnard, Thousand Oaks, South Pasadena, Culver City, Santa Monica, Rolling Hills Estates, and West Hollywood in setting the new standard for a future powered by renewable sources, like wind and solar, by selecting the 100 percent default with Clean Power Alliance (CPA), launched just this year. Now, individual residential customers can choose among three options ranging from 36 to 100 percent renewables at different costs.

“I think this is the most significant vote I have ever made in terms of being able to address climate change,” said Ventura County Supervisor Linda Parks, a member of the CPA.

“All of us were impacted by the Thomas Fire, an unusual December fire (followed by the Woolsey and Hill Fires also affecting Ventura County in November) that’s part of a larger and frightening trend of intense and frequent weather disasters linked to climate change,” said continued on page 2

ELECTION RAP

Celebrate victories, then keep resisting

Editor’s note: Our chapter political co-chairs, David Gold and Alex Pujo, collaborated on this report.

Sierra Club members can celebrate a tremendous election victory, nationwide, statewide and at home in the Los Padres Chapter of Santa Barbara and Ventura counties.

We want to thank all who worked so hard to achieve this result. It will reap important benefits.

The election tidal wave swept anti-environment leadership out of control of the House of Representatives, to be replaced by members who care about our air, water, climate and health. This will present an insurmountable obstacle to any Trump administration legislative attempt to further its anti-science, pro-fossil fuel, pro-extraction agenda.

Statewide, “everyone we endorsed for statewide races won—and at least one was running against an outright climate-change denier,” said Kathryn Phillips of Sierra Club California. “Then there are the races for seats in Congress. I am so happy to report that not a single climate-change-change was won—and at least one was running against an outright climate-change denier,” said Kathryn Phillips of Sierra Club California. “Then there are the races for seats in Congress. I am so happy to report that not a single climate-change-change was won.”

By Pam Bury

Go log on to new blog

The Los Padres Chapter has added a new interactive blog on its website, and the first one is about the important topic of more oil companies trying to tap into local petroleum sources at a time when we are promoting renewable energy.

The blog was started and is administered by Jon Ullman, the chapter’s new Executive Director. You can find it here, incorporating photos and videos: https://lospadres2.sierraclub.org/blog

Two other groups within our chapter also have blogs. They are: Santa Barbara Group: https://lospadres2.sierraclub.org/SantaBarbara Ventura Sierra Club: https://tirnpurl.com/VenturaSierraClub/blog

The chapter blog’s first entry is about citizens attending an informational meeting in Isla Vista about Kern County oil companies wanting to put in up to 750 new oil wells in North Santa Barbara County. (See story pg. 9 or read the blog.) Also, there’s a blog entry about The Santa Barbara Metropolitan Transit District unanimous in setting a goal of 100% clean, quiet zero emission buses by 2030.

You can help spread the word about the blog’s content using Jon’s instructions: “The link can be copied on social media or emailed. If you are using Chrome go into settings and attach an extension called “Feeder.” Then press the orange RSS button on the blog. You’ll see the blog show up on your browser and get a notice every time a new one has been posted. “We are working out the kinks of this system, one of which is to incorporate and an email subscription.”

Youth go to court on climate inaction

This congratulatory note was seen coast-to-coast via a national Sierra Club press release and blasted it on the website as an example to follow.

The trial was scheduled to begin in October in Oregon’s Federal District Court, but the Supreme Court temporarily halted the case in order to consider a request from the Trump administration that the trial not be allowed to proceed and be more narrow in scope. The Supreme Court declined to intervene and on Nov. 21 the District Court judge asserted it should go to trial and all appeals should occur after the trial ran its course.

“It is upsetting to watch the people in charge completely disregard my future by allowing further delays,” said Miko Vergun, 17, one of the plaintiffs. “I feel like the people leading this country are failing young people like me.”

Our freedom depends on a climate system that will sustain human life. The twenty-one youth who filed suit hope to show that the federal government has a duty to prepare and implement a Climate Recovery Plan to protect our basic and most fundamental rights.

There is a classroom toolkit for teachers—highlighting the youth’s climate case is a way to engage students in discussions about climate change and the environment, and about how the justice system works. The kit includes a great half-hour slide show Pathway to Climate Recovery.

To keep up with the latest details on the case go: www.ourchildrenstrust.org

COVER PHOTO
This beautiful scene in the Middle Matilija area sort of survived fire and flood this year, but not all was spared. Two of our Wilderness Basics Course leaders said the trail was hard to follow, was washed out in places and they couldn’t find a campsite rumored to be gone. Check conditions on page 6 before you go on forest trails.

By Suzanne Tanaka

EAVESDROPS
“Raise the green power goal...” LA Times editorial advocating for 100 percent clean energy. Sierra Club California has had this goal for years. The members to donate to continue being ahead of the curve. In 2002 the state’s first target was only 22% coming from renewable sources: current target is 50% by 2030, yet California will easily meet that by 2020! To help and for info go: www.sierraclub.org/California
We go where action is...

large offshore platforms in the...

we may bid adieu to several other...

And since it's cheaper to remove...

in Goleta. Removing this platform...

beach and are working on plans...

have gone by the end of 2019.

(Energy) (Photo by Katie Davis)

OE Steens, 557-9758

• CLUB SERVICES •

Forest district: Jim Black, 548-0756, 708-5296

Wildrose Bureau Station: Teresa Nappi, 530-2731

Air Quality: Midulla, 530-2732

Thomson District: George O'Keefe, 530-2748

Conservation District: Open

Conservation VC: Dave Greer, 548-0752

Legal: David Gude, 642-7784 ext.

Orange: Stephen Bruce, 754-2015

Political SB: Alan Greer, 548-0755

Political VC: David Gude, 548-0754

Transportation: Open

Typography and production by Dan Fuller

Pier 421 on Ellwood Beach should be gone within a year due to California State Lands working to dismantle the region’s old and crumbling oil infrastructure. (Photo by Katie Davis)

Energy Rap

Oil going; Exxon says ‘truck it’

By Katie Davis

Beachy Clean

The ugly and crumbling piers on Ellwood beach in Goleta will be plugged and sealed by the end of January and may be completely gone by the end of 2019.

Finally, California State Lands has budget and staff working away on our legacy oil infrastructure. They have mapped three additional leaking wells along Summerland beach and are working on plans to plug them. They will identify leaking wells and seals in Goleta too.

Also, State Lands is plugging wells on and near Rincon Island in Ventura County and planning to remove platforms in Goleta. Removing this platform will be a major undertaking as it’s among the largest ever removed.

And since it’s cheaper to remove multiple offshore platforms at once, we may bid adieu to several other large offshore platforms in the coming years.

It’s a good thing too.

The platforms in our channel are old and decrepit, increasingly expensive to maintain and operate.

Exxon Be Gone

The holdout is Exxon. Its three platforms on the Gaviota coast have been shut down since the Plains Pipeline oil spill in 2015, but they are doubling down.

Exxon has submitted an application to restart offshore production and truck the oil along the 101 and the windy 166 to Kern County. Trucks are the least safe way to transport oil. If we are dependent on 101 as our main artery, just wait until we add 70 more oil tanker trucks every day.

An oil tanker truck doesn’t just explode in an accident, it burns for a long time, shutting down the road in both directions.

Many localities prohibit oil trucks from driving through tunnels, over bridges, or near water. Waiting behind the trucking proposal is an application by Plains, which wants to just convicted of falsifying negligence for causing the 2015 oil spill, to build a new 123-mile pipeline along the same route.

This would be a major project, bulldozing a 100-foot swath along the entire route, crossing three rivers and shallow aquifers and locking in Exxon’s power for decades to come. Exxon is also a parent company of AERA, which is proposing a major expansion of onshore oil production here as well.

EAVESDROPS

This is a very direct line of how an oil spill is literally costing us, still, years later.

Clean advocacy group Azul, on how California offshore rigs may cost沿海-generating millions of dollars when a company goes bankrupt, notably referring to Vento filing bankruptcy after the 2015 Refugio oil spill and Rincon Island problems off Ventura County.

Climate Conflicts

Meanwhile, in October, the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change released a shocking report written and edited by 91 scientists from 40 countries who analyzed more than 6,000 scientific studies that says we need to transition off of fossil fuels as soon as possible or face a global and catastrophic climate crisis by 2040 – parts of the world will be uninhabitable.

Debra Roberts, co-chair of the group concluded, “The next few years are probably the most important in our history.”

Here in California, scientists have connected the increase in devastating fires we’ve been experiencing to climate change.

In New York City, General announced he was suing Exxon for lying to shareholders about climate change. Exxon knew the science but did everything it could to cover it up. Something to keep in mind as Exxon gives out money to deniers.

Beyond that, if we are serious about reducing our carbon footprint, we need to stop burning fossil fuels.

Charged Up

If you don’t think it’s possible to get off fossil fuels fast, just look at Ventura. The county and most of its cities took one giant leap forward when they voted in October to set 100% renewable energy as the default plan for residents when they launch their community choice energy program in 2019. (See Clean Energy program on page 1.)

The groups’ appeal seeks a

Environmental groups presented their opening arguments on Nov. 7 in the California Court of Appeals, asking a three-judge panel to require additional environmental review before allowing the expansion of oil drilling in Santa Paula.

The groups’ 58-page brief outlines legal and factual reasons for appealing a lower court’s ruling that allowed 19 new oil wells and continued operation of 17 existing wells to proceed with minimal environmental review.

The new oil wells would be located along the Santa Barbara MTD, which is a quarter-mile below surface 20 to set a goal of transitioning its entire fleet of diesel buses to 100% electric buses by 2030. Where there’s a will, there’s a way. And the will is growing fast.

100% clean power...

continued from page 1

our Los Padres Chapter vice-chair, Katie Davis, who added, “Sanctions to Ventura for leading the way.”

“The good news is that the cost to move to clean power is now minimal due to the rapidly decreasing cost of renewable energy and efficiency,” she added.

Ventura County joined Los Angeles area jurisdictions to form the CPA. It is a locally operated provider that purchases clean and renewable electricity at lower or competitive costs than investor-owned utility Southern California Edison (SCE). More cities and counties are expected to join this trend.

SCE will continue its responsibility to provide transmission, distribution, maintenance, and customer services.

The idea is to empower customers by offering them a choice or their source of energy. CPAs does so by offering three rate options each with a different percentage of renewable energy: 36% renewable energy at 2-2% less cost than SCE’s 34% renewable energy base tier, 50% renewable energy at 0-1% less cost than SCE’s base, or 100% renewable energy at 7-9% more than SCE’s base, but 5% less than SCE’s cheapest green tier. The best deal is most renewable energy per dollar is 100% renewable. It’s just a few bucks more for a lot cleaner plan. And energy efficiency incentives could help residents reduce their energy bill.

The decision to city and county participating in the program had to choose a default plan for customers who don’t pick one. The benefit of choosing the 100 tier option as the default is that it enables more residents and commercial property owners to meet clean energy goals.

Santa Paula oil appealed

Despite objections from nearly 1,000 hikers and local residents, as well as overwhelming expert scientific testimony, the Ventura County Board of Supervisors narrowly approved the oil wells on a split 3-2 vote in 2015, relying in large part on an outdated environmental impact report prepared in 1978.

Los Padres ForestWatch, the Center for Biological Diversity, and Citizens for Responsible Oil & Gas then filed suit in Ventura County Superior Court over the county’s failure to conduct a new study of the environmental risks. That court ruled in favor of the oil company and the County earlier this year on this increase in the number of clean power jobs in our region and provide an economic boost. Renewable energy is creating jobs 12 times faster than the average of the economy, and the more we invest, the cheaper it becomes, while natural gas is subject to price spikes and disasters like the Aliso Canyon blowout. Low income customers in the CARS program will get the default plan, including 100% renewable energy in jurisdictions that selected that default, for the same discounted price they currently pay SCE. And anyone else can choose to pick between the plan options at any time. The companies’ voluntary program is expected to start early next year, while commercial and public buildings will be able to choose from multiple energy choice options. For details go to: http://cleanpoweralliance.org.

CPA buys renewable energy from numerous sources outside the region, but it also wants to enhance the ability to offer customers 100% renewable energy locally, helping the economy and providing new jobs. For more on the benefits of the 100% default, see website.

A full list of CPA’s member jurisdictions in Los Angeles and Ventura counties are listed on its website.

Santa Paula oil appealed

Environmental groups presented their opening arguments on Nov. 7 in the California Court of Appeals, asking a three-judge panel to require additional environmental review before allowing the expansion of oil drilling in Santa Paula.

The groups’ 58-page brief outlines legal and factual reasons for appealing a lower court’s ruling that allowed 19 new oil wells and continued operation of 17 existing wells to proceed with minimal environmental review.

The new oil wells would be located along the Santa Barbara MTD, which is a popular hiking trail that serves as a gateway to waterfalls, swimming holes, backcountry campsites and endangered species habitat in the Los Padres National Forest.
Learn about razing dam

Come learn about the progress of the Malibu Ridge Dam project that is not razing Malibu Dam in the Upper Ojai region.

The free event is at 5:30pm. Jan. 8 at the Foster Library, 651 E. Main St. in Ventura, featuring Jamie King, an environmental scientist with State Parks. It is part of the Ventura Sierra Club’s Ventura(a) Outdoors series.

Malibu Creek should benefit from the removal as the dam is 90 years old and filled with sediment removal, a typical problem. These enormous victories will help further many of our local goals, like re-introducing the Central Coast Heritage Protection Act and the Rim of the Valley Corridor Protection Act to better protect our forest and wildlife corridors. Similarly, Assembly members Monique Limos (AD37) and Jacqui Irwin (AD44) will continue their work to further California’s international leadership in fighting global warming. They will be joined by newly elected Assembly member Christy Smith (AD38), a friend of the environment who won a hard-fought battleground race against one who had a terrible environmental record, and William Oexeder (AD28). In Santa Barbara County voters defeated a veiled attempt by oil interests to control the Board of Supervisors with the creation of a Citizens Commission to redraw district boundaries with Measures H (which we tagged as Horrible). Measure H2018 – a seemingly innocuous “popular initiative” to redraw boundaries after the 2020 census – was instead a sneaky attempt to shift control of the Board to the oil-friendly North County by the criteria used to select commissioners. Voters approved instead an competing measure (G2018) with a fair selection criterion and many public hearings, so we dubbed that G for Good.

The Blue Wave extended to municipal elections as well. Goleta voters elected Mayor Paula Perotte based on strong support for jobs, land use, transportation and habitat protection. In Carpinteria, Council members Gregg Garyt and Alan Clark won reelection because they fought so long drilling and fracking, supported 100% renewable energy sources by 2030, and worked to ban plastic bags and acquire large open spaces.

Sierra Club members Ma and Pa urged everyone to get out and vote on Nov. 6, as did so many others. Protest on Facebook, the image got hundreds of hits and scores of shares. Pitchfork was for prodding, spatula for enticement, American Gothic. (Photo by Condor John). 

EAVESDROPS

“You’re definitely not seeing corporations slow down their appetites for renewables under Trump.” ~ Malcolm

“We have the best 100% renewable energy campaign for 1964. General meetings and programs held at Valley of Flowers Church in Vandenberg Village, 5346 Constellation Rd. Need a ride or offer a carpool?” Contact Janet Blevins: 711-4760 or janus48@gmail.com

Keep on in our proposal page: https://evl.ventura.sierraclub.org

— Volunteers needed for hikes and/or issues; your talents could make a difference. Call 350-0929 or: Rebecca/Auntie (me)

VENTURA NETWORK

1st Tuesday monthly at Venture Bike Hub, 490 N. Ventura Ave. 7-8:30pm. STRONGLY RECOMMEND RSVP as location and date are subject to change: sierraventuraventura@gmail.com

Get latest info about the western Ventura County group via Facebook and a site: http://biturl.com/VenturaSierraClubFB

New MEETUP site for hikes, outings etc: www.meetup.com/SierraClubVentura

CONEJO GROUP

Events, outings and meetings will be sent to you if you sign up at ConejoGroup@gmail.com

Otherwise, get all information on this eastern Ventura County Group from Hugh Warren, 341-6295 (jwhelan.net or by phone. Email Secretary Gerry Ching for the agenda: gching@cox.net

www.sierraclub.org/los-padres

or by phone. Email Secretary Gerry Ching for the agenda: gching@cox.net

www.sbsierraclub.org

www.facebook.com/sbsierraclub

www.SBSierraClub.org

Meets at Union Bank, 15 E. Carrillo St. View the calendar, hikes, issues and

Sierra Club members and others are urging some cities to get out and vote on Nov. 6, as had so many others. Protest on Facebook, the image got hundreds of hits and scores of shares. Pitchfork was for prodding, spatula for enticement, American Gothic. (Photo by Condor John).

Dec 2018/Jan 2019 • CONEJO Call 3

CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

~ Meets 4th Thursday 7pm of each month, either at Carpinteria HOP or by phone. Email Secretary Gerry Ching for the agenda: gching@cox.net

~ Chapter website and blog at: www.sierraclub.org/tsa-endeavors

SANTA BARBARA GROUP

~ We meet 1st Tuesdays, night at 7:30pm except Dec 18. Meets at Union Bank, 15 E. Carrillo St. View the calendar, hikes, issues and join the mailing list for the South Coast SB area (Carpinteria to Goleta) at: www.sbsierraclub.org

www.facebook.com/sbsierraclub
https://evl.ventura.sierraclub.org

ARGUELLO GROUP

~ 3rd Fridays most months for SB North County Group at 7pm, 6pm if a potluck is planned. General meetings and programs held at Valley of Flowers Church in Vandenberg Village, 5346 Constellation Rd.

Want a ride or offer a carpool? Contact Janet Blevins: 711-4760 or janus48@gmail.com

Keep on in our proposal page: https://evl.ventura.sierraclub.org

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

in alphabetical order:
1st member 2nd member
Katie Mullin
Martha Sadler
Jim Taylor

Write in candidate if desired:

Please write in your Sierra Club member ID # from your Condor Call mailing label or your membership card

(No member only to ensure a valid confidential vote. It will not be tied to your name.)

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 second ballot is provided for households with dual membership who get only one Condor Call. You may photocopy or cut this ballot from the Condor Call.

Mail ballot before Dec. 31 to:
Santa Barbara Group, Sierra Club, 341-6295 mail (jwhelan.net or by phone. Email Secretary Gerry Ching for the agenda: gching@cox.net

Santa Barbara Group, Sierra Club, 106 Quails Trail, Thousand Oaks, CA 91361

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

in alphabetical order:
1st member 2nd member
Katie Mullin
Martha Sadler
Jim Taylor

Write in candidate if desired:

Please write in your Sierra Club member ID # from your Condor Call mailing label or your membership card

(No member only to ensure a valid confidential vote. It will not be tied to your name.)

SANTA BARBARA GROUP MEMBERS ONLY VOTE

KATIE MULLIN

I have served on the Santa Barbara Group executive committee since 2012. The group is at the forefront of providing a voice to support the climate-friendly energy sourcing – with particular emphasis on those that are both sustainable and local, where hawk-eyed local environmentalists can keep an eye on what is happening.

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.

JIM TAYLOR

I have been a member of the Santa Barbara Group Executive Committee for two years, and currently serve as the Group’s Treasurer.

I am a self-employed software developer. I live in Carpinteria, and serve as vice president of the Carpinteria Valley Association, an environmental and town planning watchdog organization founded in 1964.

I issue include closely following South County politics and oil and gas industry issues.

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 the climate-friendly energy sourcing -- with particular emphasis on those that are both sustainable and local, where hawk-eyed local environmentalists can keep an eye on what is happening.

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.

CONEJO GROUP MEMBERS ONLY VOTE

CONEO GROUP MEMBERS ONLY VOTE

Concejo Group

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE BALLOT

(No candidate statements available)

NOTE: Only members of the CONEJO GROUP can vote for the candidates below. A second and final ballot is provided for households with dual membership who get only one Condor Call. You may photocopy or cut this ballot from the Condor Call.

Mail ballot before Dec. 31 to: Conejo Group, Sierra Club, 106 Quails Trail, Thousand Oaks, CA 91361

VOTE NO MORE THAN 4 (FOUR) person(s) including write-in option if you wish

in alphabetical order:
1st member 2nd member
Katie Mullin
Martha Sadler
Jim Taylor

Write in candidate if desired.

Please write in your Sierra Club member ID # from your Condor Call mailing label or your membership card

(No member only to ensure a valid confidential vote. It will not be tied to your name.)

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Fired up to enjoy, explore, and protect

By John Hankins

Fired Up! Our activism, events and outings in October and November continued amidst election mania, because that’s what we do for the environment… persist. Yet, after Nov. 6 we have increased hope that our efforts will make even more difference.

Here is a list of our volunteer work and actions during that period. Please list names to see Group News 14 for page 3 on contacts and links where you can get involved. Oh, and if you want to donate, go to: www.sierraclub.org/donate/1000

Another important list is our current Outings which are free for all; see pages 6d7. You see, we’re not resisting and politicking, we are likely outdoors, enjoying what we intend to protect.

Dec 1: Restoration Day on H dredick Ranch land along the Santa Clara River, organized by its Conservancy and Sierra Club members helping to restore the ecosystem.

Dec 1: SB Group Holiday Party is always a popular event; time to relax and have a good time and eat (mostly) hand-made food with members and friends. Held at Unitarian Church.

Nov 20: Plus, the Bus Santa Barbara Metropolitan Transit District (MTD) Board of Directors voted on a 100% clean, green and zero emission buses by 2050. Santa Barbara MTD already operates 14 all-electric buses with no tailpipe emissions. In a little more than a decade (by 2026) only serving the SB South Coast could be quiet, clean, comfortable and free.

Nov 15: Holly Go-lightly was the subject of a State Lands public update on Venice quantifying its interests in Platform Holly and other leases. In a little more than a decade (by 2026) serving the SB South Coast could be quiet, clean, comfortable and free.

Nov 13: Saving the Fox! The rare Channel Islands fox was the subject of “The Intercosinations Between Land & Sea.” It was another successful Ventura(e) Out event featuring Friends of the Fox member Pat Meyer and Keri Dearborn. See story this page.

Nov 12: Outdoor Therapy Forum hosted by SIERRA magazine Editor in Chief Jason Mark in conversation with Children & Nature Network, and Club partners about outdoor recreational therapy, especially for under-resourced youth and military veterans. We joined the forum to explore how the “Science of Awe” is broadening the environmental movement from a public health perspective. We’re involved in scientific research with the Greater Good Science Center at UC Berkeley; https://greatergood.berkeley.edu/

Nov 6: Loop Trail – Santa Club and Friends of the Santa Clara River were awarded a non-monetory grant from the National Parks Service for a study of the work we do with all ages along the Santa Clara River Loop Trail.

Nov 4: Garden Restoration event at the Fillmore Fish Hatchery sponsored by the Ventura Sierra Club.

Oct 28: #TrialofTheCentury rally co-hosted by the Sierra Group about public school-aged kids using the federal government over national climate change.

Oct 23: “Magnificent Seven” cities and Ventura County officials voted to set a goal of 100 percent renewable energy sources via the Clean Power Alliance, according to Sierra Santa Barbara Group Chair Katie Davis, whose article was posted this day on the Club’s national website and as a press release to the nation. Also see story pg 1 and Katie’s article here: https://tinyurl.com/ RenewableenergyPolicy

Oct 22: Community Oil meeting in the Sisquoc elementary school led by our chapter about large oil projects proposed nearby and over drinking water aquifer. See story on pg 7.

Oct 14: Potluck breakfast along Shoreline Park by the Santa Barbara Group, a long-time social tradition with a beach walk too.

Want Solar but Your Bill is Already Low?

SunWork is a nonprofit that makes small solar affordable.

Get a FREE quote at sunwork.org

Speaker: Jamie King, Environmental Scientist California State Parks, Angeleno Division

Malibu Creek ecosystem restoration project: An overview of current efforts to remove Rindge Dam

Tip 1: Restoration Day on H dredrick Ranch land along the Santa Clara River, organized by its Conservancy and Sierra Club members helping to restore the ecosystem.

Tip 2: Bus: viscosity and electricity was detailed by our Exec Director Jon Ullman at the MTD Board meeting, it worked. See Nov 20 item.

What’s up after election?

By Jim Hines

LP Chair

I want to thank each of you for working so hard to get progressive values about our environment elected at the local, state and national level on Nov. 6. This work highlighted the importance of protecting our national public lands and waters, wildlife, clean and safe drinking water.

I know that many of you were out canvassing neighborhoods for candidates locally and several of you even traveled to other states to help, phoning vote banks to get out the vote for the environment.

But we still face some challenges at the national level.

The new environmentally friendly House of Representative will NOT be seated until Jan 7th. That leaves two months of a very anti-environment House and Senate. So, while 2019 will be easier for us, there is still that interim.

The House will be our firewall to stop environmentally destructive actions by the Trump Administration in 2019 and 2020.

I am meeting with members of congress who will take over in January. The most powerful group in the House, the Committee on Natural Resources, deals with all national public lands and waters as well as scenic routes and oversees the Dept. of the Interior.

We will talk about signing submissions to Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke and several of his deputies, requesting them to come before the committee in January and testify under oath about the Secretary’s work occurring behind closed doors with those who seek to eliminate America’s national parks, national monuments and other public lands in the western U.S.

I will help write the background info for the submission (I have had quite a few meetings with the Secretary since he took office in March 2017) and I hope to be in the hearing room when he testifies about the oil and gas leases.

I am also working on a national campaign to have Zinke removed from office.

So, get ready folks, while you all did a great job this election season we can’t sit back and say everything is OK, we still have work to do.

But we also need to remember how quickly the vote was cast and that it is not too late for us to get out in nature and relax, renew and reconnect.

For the win, Jim…
We offer thorough training for adults and seriously of various levels who want to explore the Serra Club's educational programs, covering topics such as environmental conservation, outdoor skills, and natural history. Our courses are designed to help members and their families develop a deeper appreciation for the natural world and contribute to the preservation of our planet.

Class starts February 6, 2019 - Register now!

https://tinyurl.com/IndianHeroes2018

Learn to Backpack

Chapter increasing statewide reach

Editor’s note: Since being hired as our chapter’s executive director a few months ago, Jon Ullman has dive right into the issues and problems throughout our region. Here’s his report to the Executive Committee that includes important collaborations program. By Jon Ullman

Electric gas not in buildings conclusions concluded

UCSB panel when our local Padrao Chaper hosted the Building Electrification event at the Sustainability Summit on Oct. 11. I moderated and helped organize the panel questions with California Golden, Sierra Club’s Electrification organizer/expert in Oakland; Grabon Wong, Sustainability Manager for the City of Santa Monica and Sean Armstrong, a leading designer of all-electric homes at Redwood Energy in Arcata.

Oil Stepping Out!

Attending a Climate Justice Network meeting in Santa Maria was next in which we created priorities and coordinated our involvement in pressing climate justice issues from Oxnard to Santa Maria. The network is a coalition of environmental and social justice groups including Sierra Club, 350.org, CAUSE, Food and Water Watch, Community Environment Council, Future Leaders of America, among others.

The goal of 100% all-electric buses by 2030 was a great victory when the Santa Barbara Metro Transit District Board voted to commit to it on Nov. 20. We (Jon and Katzie) “generated more than 150 emails and secured 20 organizations to sign on to a letter endorsing the goal.” Railies also helped. Read the letter here: https://tinyurl.com/IndianLocalHeroes

The private Hollister Ranch, looking west to Pt. Conception, an area where the Gaviota Coast Alliance is fighting for some publicity. (Photo courtesy of Gaviota Coast Conservancy)
Bring your most tempting dish and favorite drink for a Holiday Celebration. BURG WARREN 805-341-6295, JOANNE SUKOLSKE 805-492-5061 (SV)

December 15
GAVIOTA EAST: A hike from the former site of Gaviota Village to an overlook above the Gaviota tunnels. This is an easy to moderate 3.5 mile hike with 450 ft elevation gain. We will be hiking in a little visited part of Gaviota State Park, East of US501 on the ocean side of the mountains.

TRAIL: Moderate 6 mrt route (CJ)

October 10
CAMELLEGS CREEK PATH: This is a 4-5 mile walk on packed bike trail along the east side of Camarillo and serves as a connector between the city's north and south sides providing safe passage under the 101 Freeway. Along the way, the trail passes the Village at the Falls, Calamarro High School, and Pitts Ranch Park. Wear comfortable walking shoes, bring water and a hat. Bathrooms are available in the parking lot. Meet at the parking lot at the Pleasant Valley Fields at 9am, 150 Westport Ct., Camarillo. For more info, contact MAUREEN 1-805-657-8735 (VEN)

December 11
LOWER NEWTON CANYON: Moderate 5.4 hike with 750' elevation gain. Bring lunch, food, and water. Take N 101 Fwy. to Kanan Road, south on Kanan to the Cotton Canyon Park. Meet just before the third tunnel. Meet at 9am. FONTAYNE HOMES 1-805-300-4590 fontaynehomes@att.net. (CJ)

HOLIDAY POTLUCK and DIGITAL PHOTO SHOW: The Camarillo Center will be the site of our potluck and photo show. 284 Greenmeadow Drive, Thousand Oaks at 7pm. Bring your favorite digital photos or prints to show. Digital photos must be submitted at least 10 days prior to potluck to: CamiriGroup@gmail.com

Meetups & Ongoing Outings

Santa Barbara:
Meetup site by the Santa Barbara Group is a place for people to find all sorts of local activities, including hikes, and you can post or see photos too. Go to: www.meetup.com/SierraClub-SantaBarbara

Regular outtings are Wednesday evenings and Friday nights and every Saturday and Sunday during the day.

Wednesday night: Strenuous conditioning hike. Meet at 6:30 at the Santa Barbara Mission at 1015 Mission St. Two miles inland at the Three Stages. Meet at 6:30 at the Santa Barbara Mission; we leave at 6:15 sharp. Bring a flashlight: optional potluck or pasta afterward. AL SLADEK, 685-2145. (SB)

Friday eve: Evening social hike for an easy-to-moderate 2-4 mrt evening hike in the area. Meet at 6:30 at local hotels or trailheads. Meet at 6:45 at the Santa Barbara Mission. This easy hike is short and sweet. Bring water and a snack to keep you going. Meet at 6:45 at the Santa Barbara Mission.

Camarillo:
Meetup group is open to anyone to join and is a super handy calendar of the local Sierra Club Outings. Ease into fitness at beginner walkers, get into intermediate half or whole day hikes, or make friends on new adventures on backroads. Just go to: http://eventgrid.com/SierraClub-Camarillo

Ventura:
Meetup group is open to anyone to join and is a super handy calendar of the local Sierra Club Outings. Ease into fitness at beginner walkers, get into intermediate half or whole day hikes, or make friends on new adventures on backroads. Just go to: http://eventgrid.com/SierraClub-Ventura

Take a Hike:
LAP DES CHÊNES: Moderate 6 mrt route (CJ)

Dealing with the Christmas decorated Harbor Village and harbor restaurants near the Channel Islands Harbor Park center, turn around and follow the road back to the settling ponds for a pleasant walk. It’s a drive of about 3 miles almost to our cars at 11:30am. This will be a 4-5 mile flat loop on pavement and a great introduction to the area. We will see some wildlife at the ponds! Prepare for sun and bring water. For more info, contact MAUREEN 1-805-657-8735 (VEN)

December 29
RATTLESNAKE to FLORES PEAK: Hike to Gibraltar Road. We will follow the road to a steep, primitive trail and scramble up 700 feet to Flores Peak. We’ll have a short break at the top for lunch. Strenuous 8 mrt. There is some rock scrambling and exposure involved so must be comfortable with heights and ledges. Bring 2-3 liters of water. Rain cancels. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at 8am. KRISTI email: sbhikergirl@gmail.com (CJ)

La Cumbres do Norte: This is a 16 mile out and back hike with 4,487 ft. of elevation gain. Bring lunch and water. Meet at the top of the La Cumbres do Norte to meet us at the trailhead near the bathroom. 307 Greenmeadow Ave. 91361. For more info, contact MAUREEN 1-805-657-8735 (VEN)

December 20
EMMA WOODS AFTERNOON HIKE: 1:30pm – 3:30pm, meet at the Mission Plaza Parking Lot 115 W. Main Ventura (Main Street side in the Vons parking lot). https://www meetup.com/maps/places/342635650101819075WFM If you were busy with errands and missed your hike, join us on this easy, dog-friendly hike! Starting at the parking lot, we’ll walk to the Ventura Bike path and ride to the Ventura Pier. Either way, it’s about a 6 mile out and back. Wear comfortable walking shoes and a hat. Bring water and cash, if you want to stop in the store for a popsicle. We should be back to our cars about 3:30pm. For more info, contact MAUREEN 1-805-657-8735 (VEN)

January 4
HILL CANYON AFTERNOON HIKE: 1:30pm – 3:30pm, (Hill Canyon parking lot off Santa Rosa Avenue) The trail starts and ends in partial shade of oak trees and is accessible year around. Dogs are welcome on leash. Directions: From hwy 150 in Goleta, go north on Signal St to the National park sign. You can park on Signal (preferred) or you can turn left at the sign and park in the lower parking lot. Please bring a medium to light weight jacket in case of changing temperatures. Carry at least 2 liters of water and please bring a high but salt free snack. On the trail will be packed out. Start/End Point: Parking lot. For more info, contact VICTORIA a.perez@gmail.com (VEN)

January 31
LA CaTAStAs WalkOut: Hike outside the lake campground entrance gate or along the road. 11093 Santa Ana Rd. To RATTLESNAKE TRAIL - ROCKY PINe. Head to the intersection with the River Trail and then go right. Meet there at the trailhead. Please be sure to bring water. We will start a short hike in the afternoon to walk about 2 miles. Meet at 1:30pm and if time permits, we will hike back to see some wildlife at the ponds!

End - 34.45995, -119.24587 For more info, contact MAUREEN 1-805-657-8735 (VEN)

The Stakeholders in 1969 where Vons Chapel (5 on s/st) ended up making up changing climbing equipment. It still exists and still being used next to the more modern changing Great Pacific Ironworks Patagonia store and offices in Ventura. It makes you feel like you’re shopping in a festive store setting. Have d’oeuvres, spiced cider and good cheer in a festive store setting. Meet at 8am at the trail with lots of foliage. Bring water, food and wear lug-soled shoes. Wear a hat. Bathrooms are available in the parking lot. Bring your favorite digital photos or prints to show. Digital photos must be submitted at least 10 days prior to potluck to: CamiriGroup@gmail.com
almost twists back on itself. This is Canyon. Then we will continue about (first mile) to the turnoff for Sisar park on the right side of the market.

SISAR CANYON: This is a beautiful water in Sespe Creek, or 85 degrees at 10am. 5 mrt/600’ elevation gain. Blvd. entrance at 9am. Hike starts at V’s on’s parking lot, Ventura; Harbor Hwy. 33 to Rose Valley turnoff. Trail PIEDRA BLANCA TRAIL TO GIBRALTAR ROCK VIA DIVIDE PEAK: Very strenuous 13 mrt with 3200 feet elevation gain from Matilija trailhead to Divide Peak. Experienced hikers only. Great views of Ojai and Lake Casitas. On a clear day all Channel Islands are visible. Wear lug-soled shoes, bring at least 3 liters of water, lunch, and snacks. The weather can vary greatly during the course of the hike, so bring layering accordingly. For those planning to hike from Santa Barbara meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. by 7:30am (note early departure time). Hike Distance approx. 3.5 mi, elevation gain approx. 1300’. Meet at 7am Pratt Trailhead (34.46218, -119.20524). Bring water, good footwear only please. More than light rain cancels. NINA: prettychicjewelry@gmail.com (SB)

January 21 GIBRALTAR ROCK VIA BLUFF WALK: The seal rookery at 9am. The seal rookery is about 4 miles from the trailhead and is a great place to see seals, especially in the winter months. Dogs are allowed on the beach, but please keep them on a leash. The hike is about 3.5 miles long and takes about 2-3 hours to complete. This is a moderate hike and is suitable for families and groups of all ages.

The 1969 oil spill in the Santa Barbara Channel did fuel the environmental movement, although Rachel Carson (“Silent Spring”) came before as did oil spills. “Silent Spring” was published in 1962 and had a significant impact on the environmental movement, although Rachel Carson had published several books before her death in 1964. The book was a bestseller and its publication coincided with the rise of the environmental movement in the United States.

The Santa Barbara oil spill was a major event in the history of the environmental movement, and it helped to galvanize public opinion against the oil industry. The spill led to a number of changes in environmental policy, including the establishment of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the passage of the Clean Water Act in 1972. These laws helped to protect the environment and prevent future oil spills from occurring.

More recently, the BP oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico in 2010 was a major event that led to changes in environmental policy. The spill led to a number of changes in environmental policy, including the establishment of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the passage of the Clean Water Act in 1972. These laws helped to protect the environment and prevent future oil spills from occurring.

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Chouinard deserves coveted John Muir award

By John Hankins

The Sierra Club’s most coveted accolade, the John Muir Award, was given to Patagonia founder Yvon Chouinard of Ventura this year. A climber who took part in Yosemite’s golden age of big wall climbing (“Wall Rats”), Chouinard as a teen started forging pitons and selling them out of his trunk. That led to founding the Chouinard Equipment Company and later Black Diamond, which furthered the “clean climbing” movement to partly replace pitons with equipment that had less damage to rock (cams, nuts, chocks etc.).

It is said that Chouinard was partly inspired by the writings of John Muir for developing his environmental ethic, which has stood for over 125 years to 

"Explore, Enjoy and Protect the Planet."

He went on to create Patagonia in the 1970s; embracing sustainability and responsible practices and inspiring other companies to contribute at least one percent to local eco-groups. His wife Malinda, who he met while climbing, was a key part of his success as she is to this day.

“Patagonia’s business model is truly inspiring,” said Sierra Club President Loren Blackford. “It is a blueprint for other businesses, large and small, to follow.” Blackford also noted that Chouinard has been a leader in opposing the Trump Administration’s anti-environmental efforts.

That’s for sure. This year he challenged the Trump Administration due to the White House tenant ordering “the largest elimination of protected land in American history,” when Interior slashed public lands in Utah.

“I’m not going to sit back and let evil win,” he said famously under the headline posted on Patagonia’s website: “The President Stole Your Land.” Patagonia filed a lawsuit against the Trump Administration’s actions, and it countered with a petty response: “Patagonia: Don’t Buy It”, using the federal ‘bully pulpit’ and taxpayer funds to boycott a private company.

Instead, sales multiplied.

Then, when Patagonia received a $10 million windfall due to Trump’s “irresponsible tax cut” the company announced the whole amount would instead be turned over to grassroots groups fighting for the environment. Patagonia also started fundraising efforts to help the groups even more. For info go to: www.Patagonia.com

Gibraltar Rock overlooking our coast is used by hundreds every year, but clean climbing equipment helps retain its face. (Photo by Robert Bernstein)