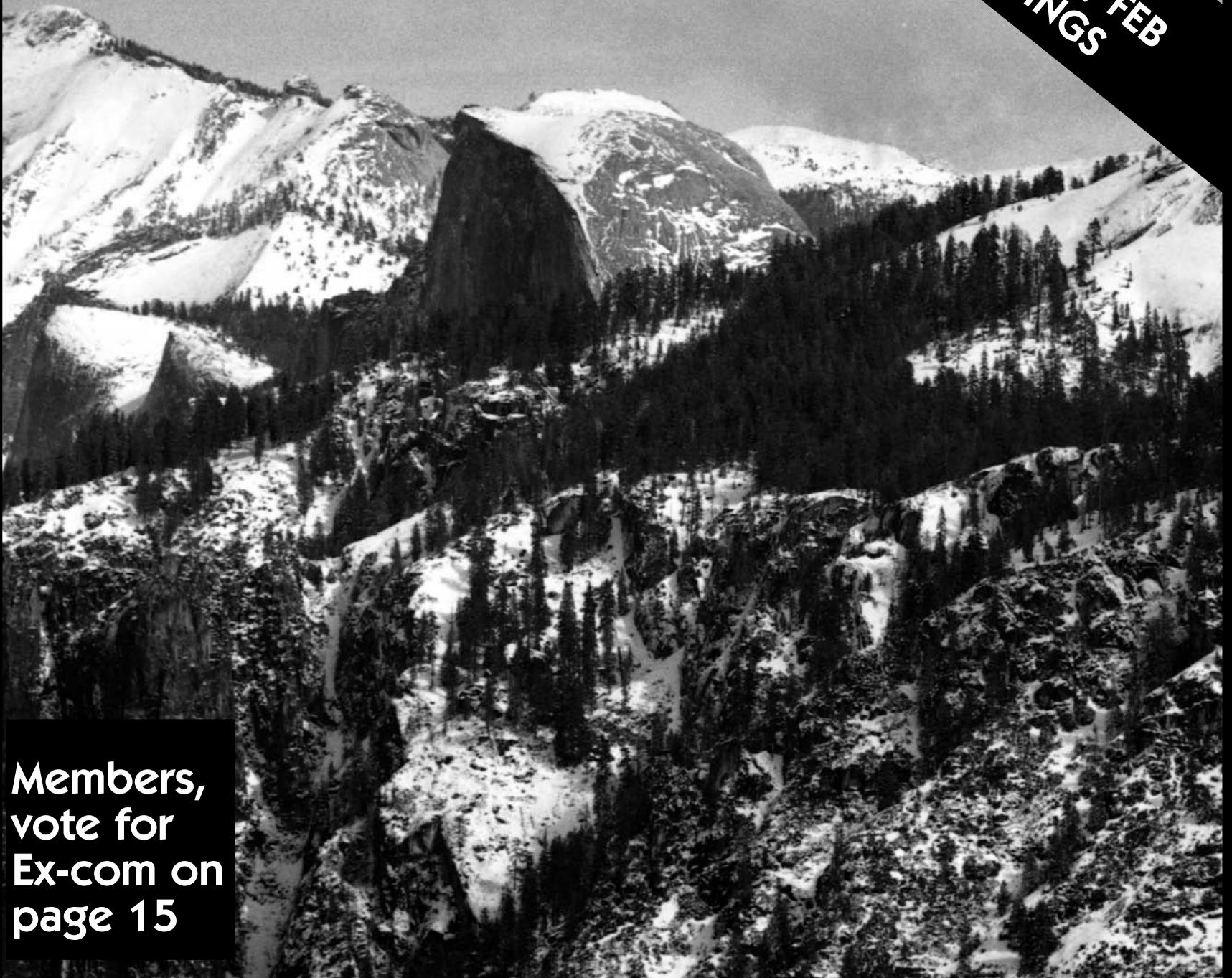


The
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VENTANA

MAGAZINE OF THE VENTANA CHAPTER OF THE SIERRA CLUB

DEC, JAN, FEB
OUTINGS



Members,
vote for
Ex-com on
page 15

Richard Stover

❄️ ❄️ ❄️ **Happy Holidays** ❄️ ❄️ ❄️



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Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

While it is the intent of *The Ventana* to print articles that reflect the position of the Ventana Chapter, ideas expressed in *The Ventana* are those of the authors, and do not necessarily reflect the position of the Sierra Club. Articles, graphics and photographs are copyrighted by the authors and artists and may be reprinted only with their permission.

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Please limit articles to 800 words; letters to 300. All submissions may be edited for clarity and length. Submissions are preferred via e-mail or on a high density 3-1/2 inch diskette. Save files as "text" or "ascii." Mail hard copy to editor, address below.

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e-mail: dfbulger@cruzio.com

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2005

VENTANA PUBLICATION SCHEDULE:

Issue	Deadline	Mailing Date
#1	Jan. 17	Feb. 2
#2	Mar. 28	Apr. 13
#3	May 16	Jun. 1
#4	Jul. 25	Aug. 10
#5	Sep. 26	Oct. 12
#6	Nov. 28	Dec. 14

Articles received after deadline may not be published.

Support the Coalition General Plan for Monterey County

Months ago, the Monterey County Board of Supervisors wasted \$5 million of our tax dollars, and five years of public participation when it refused to even consider a proposed General Plan. The County's dedicated general planning team had based the proposed General Plan on Twelve Guiding Objectives, developed by the public and approved unanimously by the Supervisors.

Why was the proposed General Plan trashed after five years of work which included 166 public outreach meetings all over the county and 84 Board of Supervisor and Planning Commission

hearings? It was opposed by developers. Appalled by the Board of Supervisors' leadership failure and its intent to move the General Plan process behind closed doors, 18 community, resident and environmental organizations, including the Sierra Club, stepped forward. In six months, at no cost to the county, the coalition of organizations completed public meetings in every district of the county. The coalition will present to the Supervisors a General Plan based upon these meetings and the Twelve Guiding Objectives, which is supported by 80% of the residents and workers of Monterey County.

Two other General Plan alternatives will come before the Board of Supervisors: One, drawn by the inexperienced and overworked county staff, and one slapped together by a developer consortium.

Shortly, the Chapter will urge each of you to join with us in support of our professionally-drafted Community General Plan. We urge you to get involved, because our fight to protect the natural resources of Monterey County is at a critical point.

—Rita Dalessio



FROM THE EDITOR

Reason for hope

Jane Goodall believes our everyday actions are reasons for hope. She is an unflappable optimist and the inspirational cheerleader we each need in our corner. Goodall makes the following observation in her latest book:

"We have the potential to exert immense power for good—we each carry it with us, in our purses, checkbooks, and credit cards. No one will force us to buy genetically engineered food, or meat from factory farms, or furniture made from clear-cut forests. We can search for and buy organically grown food, free-range eggs, and so on.

"But, you say, it costs a little more. Yes, it does. But as more and more people buy these products the prices will drop. And anyway, are we, or are we not, prepared to pay a few extra pennies to buy the future for our children?" (Jane Goodall, *Reason for Hope*)

This is the time of year when many of us share meals with extended family, purchase gifts for loved ones, and give of our time to make someone else's life a little bit brighter. It is the perfect time to use the power of our purchases to enrich rather than deplete the planet.

I encourage readers to patronize *The Ventana* advertisers. Their support of our newsletter deserves reciprocation.

I also want to give special thanks to the Chapter for providing *The Ventana* with new computer software and to Richard Stover and George Jammal for the many hours of work they put in to get that software up and running. You know how it is with computer upgrades!

Have a wonderful holiday season.
—Debbie Bulger



Sierra Club Member Profile

Advertising in this newsletter packs more clout into your advertising dollars. Sierra Club members are one of the most valuable audiences in America. They are "opinion leaders" and "influentials;" by any name they are some of America's most sought-after advertising targets. Their own purchasing activity is substantial. But, more important, they influence others—in everything from opinion and outlook to choice of products. They are not only consumers, but also doers and leaders.

Club Members are among the most active, affluent audiences of adventure travelers and year-round outdoor sports enthusiasts your advertising dollars can buy. It's an unduplicated audience with the power to buy your products and services.

Sierra Club Members are Great Prospects

Median Age: 41
Male/Female: 63% / 37%
Median Household Income: \$56,227
Attended/Graduated College: 81%
Professional/Technical/Managerial: 36%

Outdoor Sports Enthusiasts

Backpacking/Hiking 4 times more active than the average adult
Mountain Biking 5 times more active
Cross-Country Skiing 5 times more active
Whitewater Rafting 5.5 times more active
Source: 1996 MRI Doublebase

For Rate Information, Contact:
Debbie Bulger - 457-1036



Education Center
Visit Friends of the Sea Otter (FSO) to find out everything you want to know about the Central Coast's favorite little marine mammal. We offer an extensive library with historical and biological information, the latest statistics and facts, and activities for kids.

Retail Center
FSO's store features locally made sea otter crafts, environmentally friendly clothing and bags, and a wide variety of otter memorabilia. All proceeds benefit FSO's non-profit efforts to protect the southern sea otter and all sea otter habitat.

Friends of the Sea Otter 125 Ocean View Blvd. #204 Pacific Grove (the American Tin Cannery above First Awakenings restaurant)

Volunteer opportunity Bookstore merchandiser

The Ventana Chapter Bookstore in Carmel needs more pizzazz.

If you are creative, energetic, have retail experience or (for the right person) would like to learn more about the retail business, this volunteer position may be for you.

The Club would like the bookstore to attract more customers. We need to display our wares in a more attractive fashion and ultimately to achieve more sales.

If you are creative and skilled/ interested/excited about merchandising, call Marilyn Beck, 372-6860. Flexible hours, variable time commitment.



LETTERS

The Ventana welcomes letters. Send to:

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Ventana, 1603 King Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

or email to dfbulger@cruzio.com

Please include a phone number with your letter. Anonymous letters are not accepted. Letters may be edited for length.

Save bus to Big Sur

In August, as a visitor to Monterey, my purpose in coming was to see the Point Lobos State Reserve and other Big Sur parks by bus. I took the Monterey-Salinas Transit Bus 22 down the coast and observed the bus driver was keeping a careful record of the number of passengers boarding the bus and where. I thought perhaps the bus service was a prospect for discontinuance, and the bus driver confirmed this was possible.

I have ridden this bus in previous years. It is perhaps the most beautiful public transit ride in the country and maybe the only one which stops at such a large number of State Parks. It would be a tragedy to lose this bus.

Recently, a magazine I receive with a transit column contained comments about problems in California. I learned that because of the budget deficits, state money for transit will dry up and revenue from Prop 42 for public transit would be used to reduce the state deficit. This serves to only confirm my worst fears for the future of Bus 22 to Big Sur.

If this is the case, I am assuming that the Ventana Chapter is interested in saving bus service to Big Sur as it now exists. I hope you would use your influence and marshal opposition to possible discontinuance or reduction of bus 22.

—Lewis Weinfeld
New York City

See the night

I wanted to get information about Mammoth's lighting ordinance to you.

It is nice to know that someone is thinking of being able to see the stars at night. The views up here at the night sky are nothing short of miraculous, especially on very cold winter nights, (around 0 to 10 degrees). The Milky Way appears as a giant swath of torn cotton candy.

—Mike Johnson
Mammoth Lakes

Editor's note:

Mammoth Lakes, on the east side of the Sierra, has enacted an ordinance to reduce light pollution. For illustrated examples of various types of light fixtures visit www.ci.mammoth-lakes.ca.us/lighting/stars.htm.

Moving?

Please fill out and mail the change of address form on page 15.

The post office charges us 70 cents each if they handle the address change. Please help the Club by using the coupon on page 15.

Thank you

Governor's performance on the environment mixed

by Bill Allayaud, State Director, Sierra Club California

By the end of August, the Legislature had put a number of environmental bills on Governor Schwarzenegger's desk for signature. While there were no blockbuster pieces of legislation this year, there were some significant measures that we wanted him to sign. The result? A mixed record. Overall, his first year appears to be better than any recent Republican governor, but not as good as Gray Davis's first years.

Here is a summary of key bills that reached the governor's desk.

Supported by Club; signed by governor:

AB 923 (Firebaugh) This raises significant new money for the Carl Moyer program, helping to reduce emissions of dirty diesel engines.

AB 2683 (Lieber) Will repeal the 30-year rolling exemption that applies to

Chapter revises Los Padres National Forest map

by Steve Chambers

Continuing in our efforts to provide accurate and timely trail information to local wilderness users, the Ventana Chapter has revised our Monterey District, Los Padres National Forest map. This map, bundled with our famous Trail Guide to Los Padres National Forest, is also sold separately.

At press time it was being printed and will be available in early December. The revised map show the recently-expanded Ventana and Silver Peak Wilderness boundary changes. In addition, we've corrected typos, designated an existing camp, eliminated a camp on private land, and noted a few historic trails no longer maintained (much less findable).

Most of these maps will be folded to fit with our trail guide, but unfolded copies (for wall mounting) will be available at the Sierra Club bookstore in Carmel. Unbelievably, we've kept the map price at a reasonable \$4.95. They make great holiday presents. Buy yours today.

Many thanks to Boon Hughey of the Ventana Wilderness Alliance, Chapter Chair, Rita Dalessio, Joyce Stevens, Mary Gale and Steve Chambers for their work on these revisions.

the Smog Check and Smog Check II programs; therefore, cars built after 1974 will never be exempt from smog regulations.

SB 1369 (Kuehl - Sierra Club CA sponsor) Increases the requirement for defensible space from 30' to 100' in the most fire-prone areas of the state.

SB 391 (Florez) Requires the perpetrators of pesticide drift poisonings to compensate the victims.

AB 1369 (Pavley - Sierra Club CA sponsor) Bans sale of mercury-added thermostats for residential and commercial use after Jan. 1, 2006.

AB 2901 (Pavley) Requires the sellers of cell phones to take them back from consumers for recycling.

AB 2093 (Nakano), AB 2672 (Simitian), and AB 471 (Simitian) These bills tighten up regulations for cruise ships entering state water for air and water emissions.

AB 2572 (Kehoe - Sierra Club CA sponsor) Requires water meters to be installed in Central Valley cities not covered by last year's bill, including the City of Sacramento.

SB 1459 (Alpert) Restricts bottom trawling in State waters.

AB 2600 (Laird and Leslie) Creates the Sierra Nevada Conservancy.

Supported by Club; vetoed by governor:

AB 2042 (Lowenthal) Prohibits air pollution at the Ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles from exceeding baseline levels.

SB 1478 (Sher) Makes numerous changes to the California Renewable Portfolio Standards Program and the Renewable Energy Program.

SB 1648 (Chesbro - Sierra Club CA Sponsor) Reforms the management of Jackson Demonstration State Forest in Mendocino County.

AB 338 (Levine) Requires CalTrans to use increasing levels of rubberized asphalt concrete made from recycled tires.

AB 2055 (Wolk) Would strengthen the open space element in general plans, including emphasis on agriculture, urban parks, and habitat issues.

AB 2476 (Wolk) Would have the Delta Protection Commission look at land use impacts on key resource areas.



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UCSC growth stresses carrying capacity of County

by Supervisor Mardi Wormhoudt

University growth has an enormous impact on Santa Cruz, and the current proposal to expand enrollment by 6000 students (to 21,000) seriously threatens the quality of life of the community.

Growth under the existing plan has overtaxed the local street system and increased pressure on the housing stock. The streets providing access to the campus are already highly congested, leading to some frustrated neighbors calling for a new environmentally-devastating road through the Pogonip park.

According to the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) completed on the current Long Range Development Plan (LRDP), an increase of 6000 students would result in a total population impact of over 16,000 additional people due to new staff, faculty, etc. Given the fact that the City of Santa Cruz is over 95% built out, there is little question that the recent university growth has already had an inflationary impact on housing prices even without this projected growth.

The proposed increase in the campus community of another 16,000 people would overwhelm the transportation network, increase housing prices even further, undermine the City's already difficult water planning efforts, and decrease already limited landfill space.

The University seems to think that

big growth is necessary, but when it comes to universities, bigger is not necessarily better. Harvard, Yale, Princeton, Stanford, and Brown all have undergraduate populations of less than 6000 students, which has not seemed to hinder academic programs or research at any of these institutions.

Undergraduate enrollment, by itself, currently makes up almost 5% of the Santa Cruz County's population, the second largest percent of any UC campus's ratio to county size. In addition, university students compose over 20% of the population in the City of Santa Cruz. These percentages would increase significantly under the proposed Plan.

At this point, the University administration expects to approve the draft LRDP in December and start the EIR process in January 2005 followed by the release of the draft EIR in September of 2005.

Opposition to the draft Plan is growing. A community group has formed to urge the University to reconsider the proposed enrollment increases. Over 130 letters were sent to the Acting Chancellor questioning the draft LRDP, and students submitted over 600 post-cards requesting, among other things, that the proposed enrollment increases be reconsidered.

Like it or not, there is a limit to the carrying capacity of the community.



Richard Stover

UCSC growth has an enormous impact on Santa Cruz. The current university proposal to expand enrollment by 6000 students (to 21,000) seriously threatens the quality of life of the community.

Many of us believe we have reached it. What is needed is legislation that will require that UC campuses not exceed 5% of the host county's population unless they are subject to local land use plan-

ning. UCSC insists that they want to work with the community to mitigate problems caused by university growth. Such legislation would give them the vehicle to do so.

Club will fight for adoption of Community General Plan for Monterey County

Phase one of the Community General Plan (CGP) process, identified by south county newspapers as "...democracy in the making" concluded in Marina on November 14. The five CGP Forums collectively drew more than 700 participants, who spent more than 2,500 hours working on a new General Plan for Monterey County.

When completed by the CGP team, the plan will be presented to the Monterey County Board of Supervisors (BOS) for their consideration and action. It will be the only plan before the Board that was developed during open meetings in every district of the County.

As described by professional planner Terry Watt, the CGP will provide more affordable housing than other concepts considered by the BOS, while limiting new development primarily to established cities and urban areas. Further, the plan will require infrastructure to be in place, including roads, sewers and proven water, before development can proceed. The Community General Plan precisely defines protected open space.

Eighteen organizations, including your

Ventana Chapter, helped to organize and run the CGP Forums. These Forums were held in response to the BOS decision to junk five years and \$5 million worth of planning process, and to move the development of the general plan behind closed doors. Rather than accept this developer-

It will be the only plan before the Board that was developed during open meetings in every district of the County.

sponsored abandonment, community, resident and environmental organizations came together to develop a true Community General Plan.

Eighty percent of the public has approved the principles on which the plan is based. The Board of Supervisors themselves have approved these principles. The groups sponsoring this massive effort are committed to seeing that the Community General Plan is adopted by the Board of Supervisors.



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Development deluge in Monterey Co.

Currently, Monterey County seems to be fast tracking all development projects, overloading the general public, the planning staff, the Planning Commission, and ultimately, the Board of Supervisors. This glut of projects comes during the holiday season when citizens are out of town or entertaining family and guests. It comes when the general plan itself is under revision and at a time when a new supervisor and a new County Chief Administrative Officer are coming on board.

The Ventana Chapter cannot understand why the Planning Department does not have enough staff for the General Plan Update and for critical code enforcement, yet seems to have plenty of staff to process all these complex development applications.

Here is what the Planning Department has been up to:

November 1. Comments were due on the Draft EIR for East Garrison, a development of 1470 residences proposed for the far easterly part

of the former Fort Ord.

November 10. Comments were due on the Revised Draft EIR for the Pebble Beach project asking for a combined development permit for new projects at 13 locations in the Del Monte Forest including a new golf course and 160 new visitor suites at Spanish Bay. This project would destroy 15,000 native Monterey pines and related habitat.

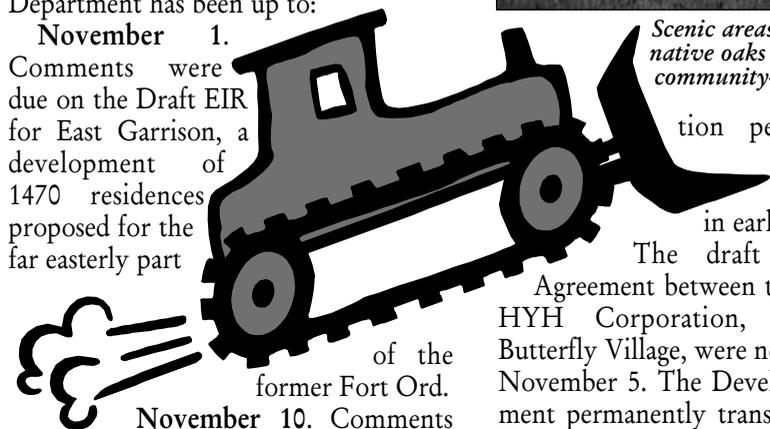
November 15-16. Planning Commission hearings were held for Rancho San Juan, including a specific plan for Butterfly Village, a 1077 residential-golf course development. Rancho San Juan will eventually have 4000 housing units for 13,000 people and a 2.4-million-square-foot business park along Highway 101. To make the project consistent with the County's General Plan, more than 20 goals and policies must be amended. Rancho San Juan will have enormous traffic and water impacts. The project is not supported by the city of Salinas.

The Fiscal Impact Analysis and CSD Feasibility Study for Butterfly Village and the Facility Financing Analysis for Rancho San Juan were not released for public review until November 2. These documents are essential to determining the feasibility and adequacy of proposed mitigations for the project. However, they were never available during the circula-



Hannah Eade

Scenic areas such as this south Monterey County ranchland dotted with native oaks could become a landfill or lost to development without a good, community-based General Plan.



tion period for the Draft EIR which ended in early July.

The draft Development Agreement between the County and HYH Corporation, developer of Butterfly Village, were not released until November 5. The Development Agreement permanently transfers rights held by the public to the developer. It is a 49-page contract.

The Final EIR for the combined project was released November 13, leaving only the intervening weekend for review prior to the November 15 Planning Commission hearing. Despite numerous substantive comments on the Draft EIR, it was not modified and re-circulated for a second round of comment.

Each of these documents is significant to the project; all are interrelated. However, none was available to the Planning Commission more than a few days before the hearings began. The documents weighed 16 lbs. and were not available to the public in hard copy at the Planning Department. A clearly irri-

tated Planning Commission scheduled future hearings in an attempt to wrap up the Rancho San Juan hearings by early December.

November 17. The Planning Commission approved a huge Safeway at the Crossroads at the mouth of Carmel Valley creating an unwelcome commercial visual impact on scenic Highway 1, the entrance to Big Sur, and involving flood plain issues due to levy changes. The two commissioners who live in the affected district voted against the project.

November 17. The Planning Commission held its first hearing for the East Garrison Specific Plan even though the Final EIR (FEIR) had not been published. (At Ventana press time the promised date for the FEIR was November 22, "at the earliest.") The FEIR came just three weeks after the comments for the Draft EIR were due and during Thanksgiving Week. A second hearing is scheduled for January 19.

November 18. The County Subdivision Committee hearing for the Pebble Beach Revised Draft EIR.

November 30. The Board of

Supervisors hearing on the Pebble Beach Revised Draft EIR.

All this frenzied development activity comes at the same time as there were important environmental issues to be addressed in local, state and national elections. Also there were important forums regarding desalinization projects and the County's General Plan Update.

It is hard to believe that the Monterey County Planning Department and Planning Commission can review all the voluminous documents within this short time frame and make any careful and reasoned decisions. Furthermore, it is glaringly unjust to the general public who will bear the impacts of development decisions and who were given little time to study and respond to the proposed projects.

Santa Cruz recognized for smart growth policy

The City of Santa Cruz has been recognized for its innovative approach to development by the 2004 Smart Growth Awards, given by the Environmental Protection Agency. The award is in the category, Policies and Regulations. Santa Cruz received the award for its Accessory Dwelling Unit Program which makes it easier for a homeowner to build an accessory unit by converting all or part of a garage or by building new structures on a homeowner's property.

Other winners and their categories were Overall Excellence: Town of Davidson, NC; Built Projects: Greensboro, NC; Community Outreach and Education: Sacramento Area Council of Governments; Small Communities: San Juan Pueblo, NM.

For more information visit www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/awards.htm.

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Sierra Club Events

Saturday, January 1

New Year's Party

6:00 p.m. at Tony & Alba's, 226 Mt. Hermon Road, Scotts Valley (King's Village Shopping Center) \$8/person; drinks extra. Please be punctual so we know how much pizza to order. For more information, call after 11:00 a.m. 335-3342. Leader: Karen Kaplan.

Friday, January 28

Singles Potluck and Games

Friday evening potlucks are a great way to begin the weekend, and provide an opportunity to work out some weekend plans with others. 6:30 p.m. Bring food to share and your own plate, cup, utensils, and serving utensils. We love home-cooked food, but store-bought items (minimum value \$4) make great contributions too. For directions call George, 335-7748.

Friday, January 14

Potluck/Slides: East Africa

"Close encounters of the best kind: an overview of East Africa" is the title of this slide show by Dr. Manny and Berna Nitzberg. The potluck begins at 6:30 p.m. Bring food to share and your own plate, cup, utensils, and serving utensils. We love home-cooked food, but store-bought items (minimum value \$4) make great contributions too. For directions call George, 335-7748.



The Sierra Club's Clair Tappaan Lodge



Enjoy the Sierra wonderland by skiing or snowshoeing on our private trails. Clair Tappaan also makes the perfect base camp for accessing all the winter recreation opportunities the Tahoe area has to offer. Built by Sierra Club members in 1934, this rustic, hostel-style lodge stands atop historic Donner Pass, just an hour and a half from Sacramento. Expect excellent family style meals, a friendly staff and a casual atmosphere.

Featured Programs

Snowshoe Ecology Tours January 7-9, February 18-20, March 25-27 Come with us on a snowshoeing day-tour and broaden your knowledge of alpine ecology. An experienced guide will lead the group off of the Clair Tappaan trail system for an educational tour into the Sierra High Country. Price: \$115 members, \$125 non-members, kids 12 and under \$65.

Kid's Intro to Nordic Skiing Workshops January 14-16, March 11-13 Start your kids off on the right ski. A Clair Tappaan ski instructor will start with a fun, creative, and basic Nordic Ski lesson. There will be time for snow games, sledding, and hot chocolate around the fire before heading out for a short, safe day ski on Lodge trails. Price: \$95 per child (includes one day ski rental, minimum age 8).

Bay Area Ski Bus Trips January 28-30, February 25-27, March 18-20 Ride in comfort on a chartered coach from Oakland to Clair Tappaan Lodge. Come on up to the summit on Friday evening and stay through the weekend. A return bus will leave the lodge after dinner on Sunday evening. Free shuttles take you to all of the five local resorts. Price: \$155 members, \$170 non-members.

New Year's Eve Party December 31 A wonderful tradition at Clair Tappaan. Participate and enjoy the famous and hilarious Talent Show. The evening will also include music, dancing, hors d'oeuvres and a crackling fire in the living room.

For more information about these programs or to receive a full schedule and description of Clair Tappaan programs please visit our website at www.ctl.sierraclub.org or call (530) 426-3632.

Non-Sierra Club events of interest

The following activities are not sponsored or administered by the Sierra Club. The Club makes no representations or warranties about the safety, supervision or management of such activities. They are published only as a reader service.

FREE Worm Workshops

Learn how worms can eat your food scraps and make beautiful compost for your garden. FREE workshop for Santa Cruz County residents, 1-3:00 p.m. Optional worm bin \$15. Call to reserve worm bin. Sponsored by Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors. Call Karin Grobe, 427-3452.

Sun., Dec. 12, Grey Bears Recycling Facility, 2710 Chanticleer, Santa Cruz

Saturdays (see dates below)

Habitat restoration — California Native Plant Society
Volunteer to restore native habitat in State Parks in Santa Cruz Co. Wear layered work clothing. Bring water & gloves. Tools provided. 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. We work rain or shine, but, if things get particularly unpleasant, we call it a day. Contact Linda Brodman, 462-4041, redwdrn@pacbell.net. website: www.cruzcnps.org.
Dec. 11 Henry Cowell State Park
Jan. 15 Quail Hollow Ranch Co. Park

Saturdays

Garland Ranch hikes
The Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District docents lead hikes at Garland

Ranch Park every Saturday and invite Sierra Club members to join them. An updated list of all hikes may be found on their website: www.mprpd.org.

Second and fourth Saturdays

Habitat restoration — Watsonville
Second and fourth Saturdays each month. Sponsored by Watsonville Wetlands Watch. 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Meet in Orchard Supply parking lot at Green Valley Rd. and Main St. in Watsonville. Gloves, tools and lunch provided. Call Laura Kummerer, 728-4106 for more information. No experience needed.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
Staff for Sierra Club Bookstore in Carmel

A chance to enjoy working in Carmel and helping the Club. Volunteers work 4 hours a month. Meet interesting people. Join the team! Call Gil Gilbreath, 624-7501.

AFRICA SAFARI

Timed to see the Great Serengeti Migration in Kenya & Tanzania
July, 2005

Escorted by a medical doctor, Dr. Manny Nitzberg, and Berna Nitzberg for the VERY BEST of East Africa! Staying at Giraffe Manor and selected tented camps. Limited space.

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O U T I N G S

RATINGS

GENERAL INFORMATION:

All outings begin and end at the trailhead. Carpooling to and from the trailhead is strictly a private arrangement between the driver and his/her guests. Carpool drivers are not agents or employees of the Sierra Club.

GLS = Gay & Lesbian Sierrans. All are welcome on GLS outings.

EXPLANATION OF RATINGS:

The outings described vary in difficulty from leisurely walks to strenuous hikes. The following explanation are general guidelines. (For more information about the difficulty of a particular hike, call the leader):

Walk: Between 2-5 miles, leisurely pace.

Easy: No more than 5 miles; slight elevation gain; easy pace.

Moderate: 5-10 miles; up to 2,000' gain; boots; better than average fitness required.

Strenuous: May involve off-trail hiking; demanding pace; for experienced hikers in good condition only.

MEETING PLACES

DIRECTIONS:

Big Sur Land Trust Parking Lot: 3785 Via Nona Marie, Carmel. From Hwy. 1 heading S in Carmel, turn left on Rio Rd., left on Via Nona Marie, then left into the parking lot behind Monterey County Bank.

Albertson's/Bagel Bakery: Heading south on Hwy. 1, pass through Monterey. One mile past the Ocean Ave. intersection, turn left on Carmel Valley Rd. Almost immediately, turn right at the light toward the stores. Albertson's and Bagel Bakery are on the right.

Santa Cruz County Govt. Center: The large grey building at the corner of Ocean and Water in Santa Cruz. We meet at the corner of the parking lot nearest to the gas station.

Felton Faire: From Santa Cruz take Graham Hill Rd. toward Felton. Just after you pass Roaring Camp (on the left), make a right into Felton Faire shopping center. We meet at the edge of the Safeway parking lot nearest Graham Hill Rd.

41st Avenue Sears: From Hwy. 1 in Capitola, take the 41st Avenue exit and continue toward the ocean on 41st Avenue toward the Mall. Pass the main Mall entrance and turn right into the next entrance heading toward Sears. We meet behind the bank located at 41st and Capitola Road. **Senior Saunter meets in Sears parking lot close to 41st Ave.**

MPC Parking Lot: Monterey Peninsula College Parking Lot. From Hwy. 1 take the Fisherman's Wharf exit, go straight one block, turn left and left again into the first parking lot, parking lot A. This is the site of the Thursday Farmers Market. Plenty of parking without a fee on weekends.

In the interests of facilitating the logistics of some outings, it is customary that participants make carpooling arrangements. The Sierra Club does not have insurance for carpooling arrangements and assumes no liability for them. Carpooling, ride sharing or anything similar is strictly a private arrangement among the participants. Participants assume the risks associated with this travel.

DECEMBER

Saturday, December 4

HIKE: PALO CORONA RANCH

We'll hike into the old homestead in the Palo Corona Ranch. At least 10 miles and 2000' elevation gain. Bring lunch, water and wear hiking boots. Call two weeks before to reserve a spot, meeting place, and other details. Heavy rain cancels. Leader: Larry Parrish 622-7455.

Saturday, December 4

HIKE: MALPASO CREEK

Malpasos Creek is actually a hill climb just south of Pt. Lobos. Probably 1500' gain and 7 miles. Beautiful overlook of Pt. Lobos. I'm doing it because house building along the way may block access in the future. I think that Clint Eastwood's Malpasos Productions is named for this scenic location. Meet at the Santa Cruz Government Center at 9:30 a.m. to carpool. Leader: Nick Wyckoff, 462-3101.

Sunday, December 5

WALK: POINT LOBOS

4-mile loop, starting from Hwy. 1, toward Whaler's Cove then China Beach. Back thru woods. Meet at Albertson's at 9:00 a.m. to carpool. Bring snack and water; we'll be done about noon. Leader: Martha Saylor, 372-9215.

Sunday, December 5

HIKE: JUNIPERO SERRA

Hike up Junipero Serra Peak, the highest mountain in the Ventana Wilderness. Very strenuous 12 miles with 3,800' elevation gain. Strong hikers only. Bring lunch, lots of water and wear boots. Meet at MPC parking lot at 8:00 a.m. or at the Indians trailhead at 9:00 a.m. Leader: Steve Legnard, 402-1422.

Wednesday, December 8

HOLIDAY LUNCHEON/WALK

Our luncheon will be at the Paradise Park Social Hall. ON A WEDNESDAY. This will be a potluck with beverage and a meat provided. We'll do a White Elephant gift exchange: the cheaper & more outlandish, the better. Weather permitting, we can walk around the Park after lunch. Meet before 11:00 a.m. at Sears 41st Ave. or go direct to parking lot by Park office and Social Hall. \$4 charge for entree, beverages and decorations. Reservations required. Leader will coordinate potluck items. Leader: Pat Herzog, 458-9841.

Saturday, December 11

HIKE: MOUNT MANUEL

We'll ascend the long sunny ridge from Big

Sur State Park. Strenuous 11 miles, 3000' elevation gain. Some downed trees on trail. Panoramic views. Look for condors. Bring lunch, plenty of water, sun hat, sun block, \$ for carpool, park fee. Meet at Bagel Bakery, 8:30 a.m. Leader: Suzanne Arnold, 626-4042.

Saturday, December 11

HIKE: BUTANO STATE PARK

Something different from the mostly forest walks in this park. The northerly fire road gives views in all directions. 8 Miles and 1800' elevation gain. Meet at the Santa Cruz County Government Center at 9:30 a.m. to carpool. Leader: Nick

Wyckoff, 462-3101.

Sunday, December 12

HIKE: VICENTE FLAT

11-mile hike to Vicente Flat. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Bagel Bakery. Bring lunch and lots of water. Please contact Betsy for more details and to confirm that this hike will take place as scheduled. Leader: Betsy MacGowan, 510-215-9255 or bmacgowan@hotmail.com.

Wednesday, December 15

HIKE: SCHWAN LAKE/HARBOR

Hike on hidden trails near the Santa Cruz Harbor, find a secret garden, and see a short new rail trail developed by volunteers. Brisk pace to complete a 6-mile maze through city areas you may have thought you knew. Touring part of Arana Gulch open space will allow us to see some fine Heritage oak trees. Bring lunch, water and wear comfortable walking shoes. Meet at Sears 41st Ave. at 9:00 a.m. or in the parking lot off 17th Street at the

end of the street leading into Simpkins Swim Center. Leader: Diane Cornell, 423-5925.

Friday, December 17

HIKE: OLD COAST ROAD, BIG SUR

In winter the unpaved Old Coast Road makes a delightful walk. 11 miles up and down through fern-lined redwood canyons with views out to the coast and inland to Pico Blanco. Car shuttle. Strenuous hills at a leisurely pace. Bring lunch and water, meet behind Brinton's at 8.30 a.m. Leaders: Cath Farrant and Mary Dainton, 372-7427.

Saturday, December 18

HIKE & CLEAN UP: SALMON CREEK

Please help clean up Salmon Creek and see its spectacular 100' waterfall. We'll hike 5 steep miles to beautiful Spruce Creek and explore up the creek. Wear hiking shoes. Bring lunch, plenty of water and \$ for carpool. Meet 8:00 a.m. at Albertson's for the 2-hour drive down breathtaking Hwy. 1. Heavy rain cancels. Call leader for more information: Esperanza Hernandez, 678-1968.

Friday - Tuesday, December 24 - 28

HOLIDAY SKI TRIP: HUTCHINSON

Our first ski trip of the season to Hutchinson Lodge, near Clair Tappaan. We'll have it all to ourselves. There are 2 sleeping lofts, a large living/dining room with 2 wood stoves, and a sauna. Cost /person is only \$96 for 4 nights/ members, non-members: \$104/4 nights. Includes all meals! (Veg available) X-country ski rentals and lessons available for a fee. Free access to groomed trails from the back door. Free shuttle bus to cross-country and downhill ski areas. Share cooking and cleaning chores. For reservation and info, send the completed form below, a check for the total amount payable to Sierra Club and a SASE or e-mail address to Hutchinson Ski, P.O. Box 604, Santa Cruz 95061. Mail-in reservations must be received by Dec. 14. Information will be mailed to you on Dec. 16. Early reservations are a must; space is limited. Refunds for cancellations are 100% before Dec. 16, 50% by Dec. 22, none after the 22nd. For more details call leader, George Jammal, 335-7748.

NOTICE

Club events such as potlucks, slide shows and other get-togethers are on page 6 in the Calendar listings.



Hutchinson Lodge Ski Trip

Friday - Tuesday, Dec. 24-28



Names _____

Street _____

City _____ ZIP _____ Eve Phone _____

of members _____ @ \$96 each = _____

of non-members _____ @ \$104 each = _____

Total enclosed (make checks payable to Sierra Club) = _____

Departing day/time _____ Returning day/time _____

Carpooling information: I/we have room for _____ riders

I/we need a ride

You may give my name and phone number to other participants.
Rides cannot be guaranteed, reserve at your own risk.

A Self Addressed Stamped Envelope is enclosed OR email: _____

Sunday, December 19

HIKE: TORO PARK

Let's meet outside Toro Regional Park gate (off Hwy. 68 at the Portola Drive exit) at 10:00 a.m. and walk in to look for a not-too-strenuous climb up to a view. If we go up Wildcat Canyon we may encounter some erosion and do a little scrambling (slowly!) on the steep bits. Under 5 miles; leisurely pace. Bring lunch and water. Rain cancels. Leader: Mary Gale, 626-3565.

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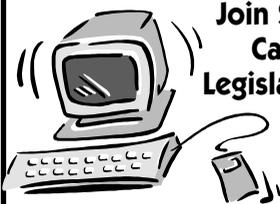
JANUARY

Saturday, January 1

HIKE/POTLUCK: MYSTERY SITE

Happy 2005! Leave your football games and cares behind and start the New Year off with fresh air and good friends. Easy walk at an easy pace on fairly easy terrain at a very nice place to be decided later. Dress in layers, wear good walking shoes, carry water and a snack, and perhaps raingear. Hurricane cancels. After the hike we'll carpool to a home with indoor plumbing and outdoor barbecue for our traditional potluck. Bring a cooler with a dish to share and something to BBQ for yourself. Directions to the home will be given at the hike; space is limited so call early for your reservation. Leaders: Mary Gale, 626-3565 and Esperanza Hernandez, 678-1968.

Make a difference



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Wednesday, January 5

HIKE: HUCKLEBERRY HILL

We'll hike 6 miles on an uphill trail off Hwy. 1 to view the Monterey Bay from behind Pt. Lobos. Boots and long pants recommended because of poison oak beside the trail. Bring lunch and water. Meet at Sears 41st Ave. at 9:00 a.m. or behind the gas station at the Rio Del Mar turnoff in Aptos at 9:15 a.m. or at the trailhead parking along Hwy. 1 across from the Pt. Lobos entrance. Leader: Diane Cornell, 423-5925.

Saturday, January 8

HIKE: MT. MADONNA COUNTY PARK

We'll seek the rarely noticed fetid adders-tongue. 7 miles; 1200' elevation gain. Meet at the Santa Cruz County Government Center at 9:30 a.m. to carpool. Leader: Nick Wyckoff, 462-3101.

Sunday, January 9

HIKE: DEVILS PEAK

From Bottcher's Gap, this hike takes us steadily uphill through oak and madrone woods to Skinners Ridge, then up the steep, dry path to Devils Peak. Spectacular

panoramic views from the coast to the interior of the Ventana Wilderness. 8 miles and 2000' elevation gain. Bring lunch and lots of water. Meet behind Brinton's at 8:30 a.m. for carpooling. Day-use fee to share among car occupants. Rain cancels. Leaders: Cath Farant and Mary Dainton, 372 7427.

Sunday, January 9

HIKE: ASILOMAR-PEBBLE BEACH

4-mile loop starting on neighborhood streets, thru dunes, out to a point, and back along the beach boardwalk. Possible whale spouts. Meet across from the Fishwife Restaurant on Sunset Dr., Pacific Grove at 9:00 a.m. Back about noon, bring snack and water. Leader: Martha Saylor, 372-9215.

Tuesday, January 11

SENIOR SAUNTER: SUNSET BEACH

We'll walk both the bluffs and the beach. 4 miles with not very steep hills. Dress for weather. Meet at Sears 41st Ave. before 9:30 a.m. or at Sunset Beach at the kiosk parking lot on the bluff at about 9:50 a.m. Bring lunch, water and \$2 for carpool. Rain cancels. Leaders: Joan Brohmer, 462-3803 and Mary Lou Schneider, 479-1859.

Wednesday, January 12

HIKE: GARRAPATA STATE PARK/SOBERANES CANYON

This trail into the canyon from the Hwy. 1 goes through a fine stand of redwoods and a hillside of cactus. Then it rises in a steep ascent (32% grade) over the Rocky Ridge Trail and down on rocky switchbacks with excellent ocean views. Maybe we'll see migrating gray whales. Wear hiking boots. 9 miles. Bring lunch and plenty of water. Meet at Sears 41st Ave. at 9:00 a.m. or behind the gas station at the Hwy. 1 and Rio Del Mar turnoff at 9:15 a.m. or at the trailhead on Hwy. 1 south of Carmel near the number 13 turnout marker and stand of tall trees. Leader: Diane Cornell, 423-5925.

Saturday, January 15

HIKE: JACKS PEAK

6-mile perimeter loop with some elevation gain. Great views of Monterey Bay and Pt. Lobos. Bring water and lunch. Meet at K-mart parking lot (gas station side) in Seaside at 1:00 p.m. Back around 4:00 p.m. Rain cancels. Leader: Andrea Phelps, andrea_phelps@csumb.edu.

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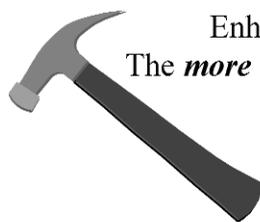
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O U T I N G S

Saturday, January 15

HIKE: BIG BASIN

We'll enter Big Basin from the North and cover 10 miles with 800' elevation gain. Bring lunch and water. Meet at the Santa Cruz County Government Center at 9:30 a.m. or at Felton Faire at 10:00 a.m. Leader: George Jammal, 335-7748.

Sunday, January 16

HIKE: PALO CORONA RANCH

We'll hike into the old homestead in the Palo Corona Ranch. 10 miles and 2000' elevation gain. Bring lunch, water and good hiking boots. Call two weeks ahead to reserve a spot, find out about meeting place and other details. Rain cancels. Leader: Larry Parrish, 622-7455.

Tuesday, January 18

SENIOR SAUNTER: WEST CLIFF/NATURAL BRIDGES

We'll walk along the bluffs from Lighthouse Field to Natural Bridges and visit the monarch butterflies in the eucalyptus grove. We'll take the Nature Trail to Moore Creek Lagoon and return for lunch by the Visitors' Center. For a shorter hike, we can skip the Nature Trail. Easy 4 miles, or 3 miles for shorter walk. Meet at Sears 41st Ave. before 9:30 a.m. or at 9:50 a.m. at Lighthouse Field parking across from Surfing Museum. Bring lunch, water and \$2 carpool. Leader: Jean Harrison, 425-5447.

Saturday, January 22

HIKE: DE ANGULO TRAIL TO TIMBERTOP

This steep, difficult trail offers rewarding coastal views. We'll do a car shuttle after winding 39 miles down the Big Sur coast. Some of the trail is overgrown and eroded. Return via Timbertop Trail. Ventana peaks views and possible condor sightings. 9 miles. Wear boots, bring water, lunch and \$ for car-

pool. Heavy rain cancels. Meet at Carmel Bagel Bakery at 8:00 a.m. Leader: Suzanne Arnold, 626-4042.

Sunday, January 23

HIKE: WADDELL CREEK

Getting to outings

Sierra Club encourages outings participants to walk, bicycle, and take the bus to outings meeting places.



Come with us for a moderate hike up the Waddell Creek canyon in Big Basin. We'll meet at 9:00 a.m. to carpool at Shen's Gallery at Mission and King in Santa Cruz, across from New Leaf. We'll

visit a little-observed small waterfall and return to Santa Cruz by 4:00 p.m. Contact leaders Celia and Peter Scott, 423-0796 or drip@ucsc.edu if you have any questions.

Tuesday, January 25

SENIOR SAUNTER: RIO DEL MAR/SEA CLIFF BEACH

Hiker's choice of a level 4-mile hike along the Seacliff and Rio del Mar beach path or walk up Cliff Drive along a neighborhood for one mile and back down to the beach along a little-known path. Lunch at picnic tables. Dress for weather and bring a sit-upon. Meet at Sears 41st Ave. before 9:30 a.m. or the parking lot at Rio del Mar by Cafe Rio at 9:50 a.m. \$2 carpool. Rain cancels. Leader: Beverly Meschi, 662-2434.

Wednesday, January 26

HIKE: UVAS CANYON COUNTY PARK

Once tribal territory of the Mutsum Ohlone Indians used for hunting and gathering, this canyon was settled in 1873 by Montoya and Atkinson who constructed a lumber mill and raised crops. Later came the grape vineyards that gave the park its name. The wet winters create numerous waterfalls on the Uvas, Swanson, and Alec Creeks. Elevation ranges from 1000-2700 ft. in this 1200-acre park, so it has a lot of diversity in habitat and animal life. Join us for a 7-mile hike around the waterfalls

and up to Knobcone Point. Bring lunch and water. Meet at Sears 41st Ave. at 9:00 a.m. or behind the gas station at the Rio del Mar turnoff at 9:15 a.m. or at Uvas Canyon County Park parking lot off Croy Rd. in Santa Clara County. Leader: Diane Cornell, 423-5925.

Saturday, January 29

HIKE: ROCKY RIDGE

Strenuous 7-mile loop up along the creek through Soberanes Canyon with its beautiful redwoods. We'll then go further up the super steep ridge, which we will regret doing, that is, until we get to the top where we will be mesmerized by the sight of a spectacular view of the Big Sur Coast. We'll come down Rocky Ridge and enjoy more fabulous views as we descend a very steep trail. Wear hiking boots, bring lunch, plenty of water and \$ for carpool. Meet at Albertson's at 8:00 a.m. For more information call leader: Esperanza Hernandez, 678-1968.

Saturday, January 29

HIKE: SIERRA AZUL OPEN SPACE PRESERVE

Car shuttle adventure up from the East Los Gatos Kennedy road entrance, over the Mt. Umunhum ridge and down to the Lexington Reservoir. 9-10 miles and 2000' elevation gain. Since cars and bodies must be mixed in the right proportion, you will call the leader for time and to see if enough drivers are willing to make this work. Leader: Nick Wyckoff, 462-3101.

Sunday, January 30

HIKE: POINT LOBOS

4-mile loop, starting from Hwy. 1, toward Whaler's Cove, along North Shore, towards China Beach, and back thru woods. Meet at Albertson's at 9:00 a.m. to carpool. Bring snack, water. Done about noon. Leader: Martha Saylor, 372-9215.

Sunday, January 30

HIKE: PT. BONITA

After driving to San Francisco, we'll take the bus across the Marin Headlands to the Pacific Coast. We'll visit the park visitor center and Pt. Bonita lighthouse, then hike back via the



Point Lobos awaits you.

Coastal trail to and across the Golden Gate Bridge. 10 miles with 1000' elevation change. Bring water, lunch and a snack, and \$1 bus fare. Wear hiking boots. Binoculars and/or camera suggested. Dress for windy weather. Meet at the Santa Cruz

County Govt. Center at 9:45 a.m. Leader: George Jammal, 335-7748.

FEBRUARY

Sunday, February 6

HIKE: JACKS PEAK

8 miles around the perimeter of Jack's Peak Park. Great views of Monterey Harbor and Pt. Lobos. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the K-Mart parking lot in Seaside. Take the 218 exit off of Hwy. 1. Bring lunch, water, and wear boots. Leader: Steve Legnard, 402-1422.

Tuesday, February 8

SENIOR SAUNTER: ANTONELLI POND

We'll start our 3-mile easy walk along the west side of Antonelli Pond and visit the homeless garden then on to Terrace Point to the Seymour Center. We'll return to Natural Bridges picnic tables for lunch. Meet at Sears 41st Ave. before 9:30 a.m. or meet on Delaware Avenue in Santa Cruz just past Swanton Ave. at entrance to Natural Bridges at 9:50 a.m. Dress for weather. Bring lunch, water and \$2 carpool. Leader: Jean Harrison, 425-5447.

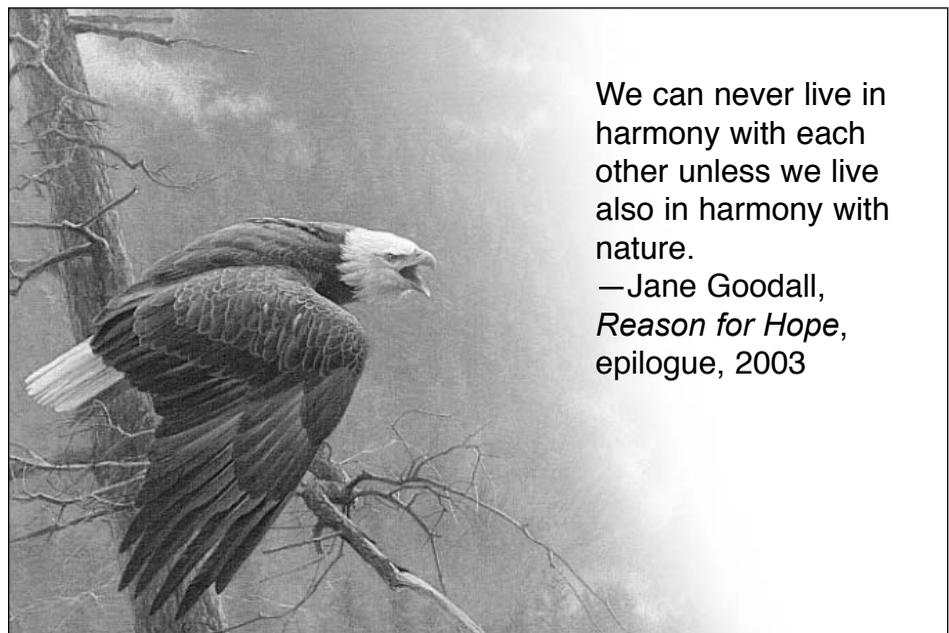


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Polar Bear Cottage is rustically elegant with spectacular views of Silver Lake. The two bedroom cottage sleeps six, has a full kitchen, and large livingroom with fireplace and propane furnace. The cottage is part of Kit Carson Lodge and sits on 12 acres of lakeside frontage at Silver Lake on Highway 88. During the winter the Lodge closes the rest of it's facilities. Enjoy cross country skiing or snowshoeing, along the lake shore right outside your door, with access to the back country. You virtually have the trails and lake edge to yourself. For downhill skiers, Kirkwood Meadows Ski Resort is just 5 miles east. South Lake Tahoe is only 45 minutes away. Whether you hike, ski or snowshoe the short distance from your car to the cottage, you immediately escape from the hustle and bustle crowds of the winter ski resorts. For information contact: KIT CARSON LODGE, Kit Carson, CA 95644 (530) 676-1370

Operation by USFS Permit



We can never live in harmony with each other unless we live also in harmony with nature.

—Jane Goodall, *Reason for Hope*, epilogue, 2003

O U T I N G S

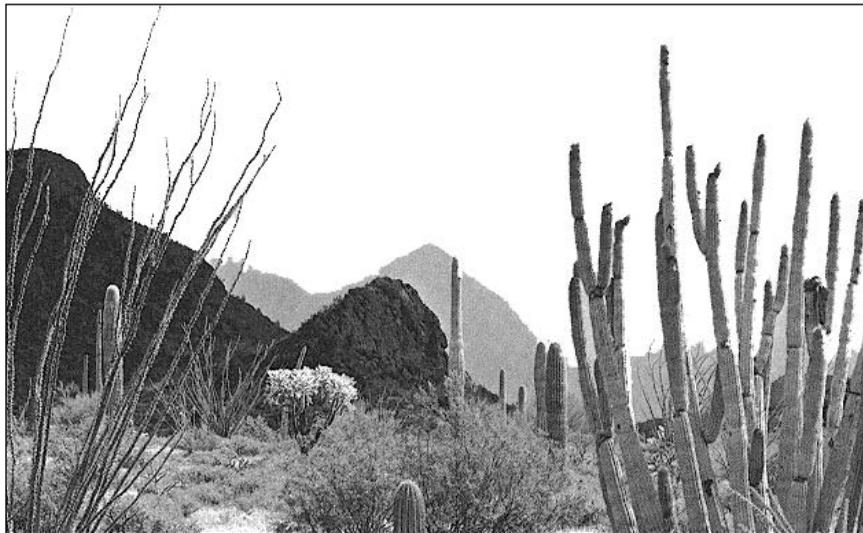
DESERT OUTINGS

Sponsored by the Sierra Club's California/Nevada Regional Conservation Committee

Saturday-Sunday, January 8-9

ANTELOPE PROTECTION CAR CAMP

Pronghorn antelope can be trapped by old barbed wire fences. Join us for a weekend in the Carrizo Plain removing fencing. Camp at KCL campground, bring food, water, and camping gear for the weekend. Potluck Sat. night. For fence removal, bring heavy leather gloves, old long-sleeved shirts and sweatshirts, long pants and boots. Rain cancels. Alternate date: Jan 22-23. Resource specialist: Alice Koch. For more information, contact Leaders: Cal and Letty French, ccfrench@tcsn.net, (805-239-7338), 14140 Chimney Rock Road, Paso Robles, CA 93446.



The desert holds much beauty for those who look.

Debbie Bulger

Saturday-Monday, February 5-7

EXPLORE THE UNKNOWN MOJAVE

While the East Mojave Preserve is well known, fewer people know of the mountains and Wilderness Areas immediately to the south. We will car camp with appropriate

amenities and explore the Marble, Clipper, and Piute Mountains on three consecutive dayhikes. These low ranges should provide us with moderate weather, long views, and winter solitude. Limit 12 participants. Leader: Craig Deutsche, deutsche@earthlink.net, (310-477-6670).

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Department of Energy issues vehicle fuel economy report



Best, worst, and really, really wasteful list helps consumers make wise choices

Published by the U.S. Department of Energy and the Environmental Protection Agency, the Fuel Economy Guide provides consumers with fuel economy information on every 2005 model year car, SUV and light truck. However, the Bush administration's report downplays information that it doesn't want American consumers to see—that some of the most common and "popular" vehicles are the worst gas-guzzlers on the road. Instead of highlighting the inefficient, gas-guzzlers many Americans drive such as the Dodge Ram, Range Rover and the GMC Yukon, the report highlights cars few Americans can afford such as the Ferrari, Lamborghini, and Bentley.



In addition, the report does not even list the worst gas-guzzlers on the road, including the Hummer

H2, and the Ford Excursion (which the Sierra Club has dubbed the "Valdez"), due to a loophole that exempts trucks and SUVs over 8500 pounds from fuel economy standards. The Bush administration has failed to close this loophole. The administration has even proposed a new loophole: "weight-based CAFE standards" that would create an incentive for automakers to add weight to their SUV and other light trucks, qualifying them for weaker standards.

To save money at the pump, curb global warming, and cut America's oil dependence, Sierra Club urges consumers to buy the most efficient vehicle that meets their needs.

Sierra Club analysis of the Fuel Economy Guide has determined the following lists. For more information, visit www.hummerdinger.com.

10 Best Vehicles

Rank Model/Fuel Economy/Lifetime CO2 emissions

1. Toyota Prius Hybrid/55 mpg (60 city / 51 highway)/31 tons
2. Honda Civic Hybrid/48 mpg (48 city / 47 highway)/36 tons
3. Honda Civic/39 mpg (36 city/44 highway)/44 tons
4. Toyota Echo/38 mpg (35 city/42 highway)/45 tons
5. Toyota Corolla/36 mpg (32 city/41 highway)/48 tons
6. Scion xA/34 mpg (32 city/37 highway)/51 tons
7. Scion xB/33 mpg (31 city/35 highway)/52 tons
8. Toyota Matrix/33 mpg (30 city/36 highway)/52 tons
9. Pontiac Vibe/33 mpg (30 city/36 highway)/52 tons
10. Ford Escape Hybrid/31 mpg (33 city/ 29 highway)/56 tons

Worst Fuel Economy Among "Popular Vehicles"

1. Dodge Ram 1500 pickup 2WD/10 mpg (9 city/12 hwy)/174 tons
2. Land Rover Range Rover/13 mpg (12 city/16 hwy)/134 tons
3. Toyota Land Cruiser Wagon 4WD/Lexus LX 470/14 mpg (13 city/17 hwy)/124 tons
4. Cadillac Escalade/15 mpg (13 city/17 hwy)/116 tons
5. GMC Yukon AWD/15 mpg (13 city/17 hwy)/116 tons
6. GMC Sierra AWD/15 mpg (14 city/16 hwy)/116 tons
7. GMC Safari/ Chevy Astro AWD 15 mpg (14 city/17 hwy)/116 tons
8. Lincoln Aviator and Navigator 15 mpg (14 city/17 hwy)/116 tons
9. Chevrolet Trailblazer EXT 4WD 15 mpg (14 city/18 hwy)/116 tons
- Dodge Durango 4WD/15 mpg (14 city/18 hwy)/116 tons
- Ford F 150 Pickup 4WD 15 mpg (14 city/18 hwy)/116 tons
- Volkswagen Toureg/15 mpg (14 city/18 hwy)/116 tons
- Nissan Titan and Armada 4WD 15mpg (14 city/18 hwy)/116 tons

* Several popular vehicles tied at 14/18 mpg combined fuel economy category.

"Hall of Shame" behemoths exempt from reporting requirements

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Lincoln Navigator | 12. Ford F150 Supercrew |
| 2. Hummer H2 | 13. Ford Excursion |
| 3. GMC Yukon 2500 XL | 14. Ford E350 |
| 4. GMC Workhorse Stepvan | 15. Chevrolet Van 3500 |
| 5. GMC Sierra 2500 | 16. Chevrolet Van 1500/2500 |
| 6. GMC Savanna Cargo Van 3500 | 17. Chevrolet Utility 2500 |
| 7. GMC Savanna Cargo Van 1500/2500 | 18. Chevrolet Suburban 2500 |
| 8. GMC Savanna 3500 | 19. Chevrolet Silverado HD 2500 |
| 9. GMC Savanna 1500/2500 | 20. Chevrolet Silverado 2500 |
| 10. GMC NPR Flat Bed | 21. Chevrolet Express 3500 |
| 11. GMC Flat Bed 3500 | 22. Chevrolet Express 1500/2500 |

* Some vehicles, exempt because they weigh over 8,500 pounds GVW, are covered in other configurations weighing less than 8,500 pounds GVW.

San Lorenzo Redwoods become part of Castle Rock State Park

The Sempervirens Fund has sold the remaining 1069 acres of the San Lorenzo River Redwoods to the California Department of Parks and Recreation for the bargain price of almost \$2.8 million. This sale to the State was the second and final phase of the land transfer. Previously, State Parks paid \$2.2 million for 277 acres of the property.

Sempervirens paid over \$12 million for the two properties financed by over 15 thousand generous private donors. The State funding came from recent park bonds (Prop. 40) passed by the voters of California.

The land will become part of Castle Rock State Park and will increase the size of that park by 37%.

The purchase almost didn't happen because of a *de facto* freeze on acquiring land for State Parks because of the state budget. The State Department of Finance's current policy prohibits the use of state money to cover the operating costs of newly-acquired parkland.

This policy could also affect acquisition by the State of Coast Dairies beaches south of Davenport and other local properties.

Sempervirens Fund will use the proceeds of this sale to replenish its Opportunity Fund to preserve more redwood forestland.

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Ventana Wilderness Alliance Protecting the Northern Santa Lucia

Visit our website for current trail conditions, an open discussion forum, our quarterly journal and more Ventana and Silver Peak Wilderness information.

www.ventanawild.org P.O. Box 506, Santa Cruz, CA 95061 831-423-3191

What you eat affects the sky

by Mike Tidwell

Few of us realize it, but the food we put in our mouths each day dramatically affects the global climate. The typical American diet requires the staggering equivalent of 400 gallons of oil each year. That, in turn, generates, nearly as much planet-warming carbon dioxide as the average U.S. car creates.

Our country derives almost all of its energy from fossil fuels—oil, coal, and natural gas—whose use generates millions of tons of CO₂ annually. And nearly one fifth of that energy is devoted in some way to food.

Let's start with fertilizer. Virtually all of our food crops are raised with petroleum-based fertilizers. We actually extract the nitrogen we need for plant stimulation from various petroleum products. This alone takes up 30 percent of our energy budget for food.

Then there's our complementary use of petroleum-based herbicides and pesticides, as well as diesel fuel and gasoline for combines and other farm machinery. We also need fossil fuels to irrigate our crops before harvest and often to dry the same crops after maturity.

Our nation's great consumption of meat, eggs, and dairy products amplifies all of these energy needs manyfold since roughly 80% of all corn and other grains grown in this country go to feed animals, not people. Our annual per capita consumption of about 230 pounds of meat requires an ocean of oil.

Once shipped from the farm, of course, much of our food is then refrigerated, processed, and packaged which requires enormous amounts of electricity. Over half of our nation's electricity

comes from the combustion of pulverized coal.

Finally, there's the runaway explosion in food transportation. Thanks to globalization, artificially low gas prices and massive government highway subsidies, the average kilogram of food nationwide travels at least 1500 miles from farm to plate. Indeed, the average prepared meal in the U.S. includes ingredients produced in at least five other countries.

It should be easy now to see that most of us are basically eating fossil fuels when we sit down to dinner in America, the equivalent of 400 gallons of oil per capita.

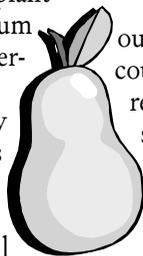
Solution: Eat organic foods grown in your region.

All of these diet-related impacts on our climate and natural environment could be dramatically and painlessly reduced if Americans took three easy steps: 1) buy locally raised foods whenever possible; 2) buy organic foods; and 3) reduce meat consumption.

Thankfully, buying local food that has not been trucked thousands of miles is not difficult on the Central Coast. Besides local farmers' markets, consumers can buy directly from a specific farm near them thanks to a practice called "community-supported agriculture." For a set annual price, you essentially "subscribe" to a farm, receiving a standard weekly share of whatever the farm produces during the growing season.

A second important step, beyond buying locally, is to buy organically-raised food. On average, organic farms use 37% less energy than conventional farms.

The last critical step in the food/energy equation is reducing one's consumption of meat. It takes 40 pounds of grain to produce one pound of beef. Simply put, America could feed most of Africa with the grains we feed to livestock.



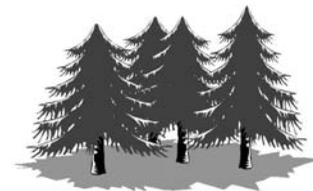
Local Farmers' Markets

- Aptos—Cabrillo College
- Capitola—Capitola Theater parking lot
- Felton—Felton Presbyterian Church
- Hollister
- Live Oak—Portola Dr. & 15th Ave.
- Marina—across from Post Office
- Monterey Bay Peninsula College
- Salinas "Alisal"
- Salinas—Northridge Mall
- Old Monterey—Alvarado St.
- Santa Cruz—Lincoln & Cedar Sts.
- Watsonville—Downtown Plaza
- Westside Santa Cruz—Swift Street Courtyard

For more information pick up a free copy of the Local Food Guide produced by the Community Alliance with Family Farmers. This booklet is being distributed at local farmers' markets. www.caff.org, 761-8507.

There would be reductions in ozone and particulate air pollution and ground water contamination.

The report, which was co-funded by the Pentagon, can be downloaded from www.oilendgame.org.



CDF tries to re-start Lompico timber cut

Despite the fact that the application by Redwood Empire to log the Lompico Creek headwaters was denied by the Board of Forestry, the California Department of Forestry (CDF) is trying to restart the logging plan. The end run includes a plan to allow public comment for only 10 working days.

A timber harvest plan denied on appeal, as was this one, is not open to reactivation as proposed by CDF. The agency might have gotten away with the restart, however, were it not for the watchful eyes of the Lompico Watershed Conservancy and the Santa Cruz County Planning Department. Both wrote to CDF pointing out that restart of a denied timber harvest plan is in conflict with the Forest Practice Act. Under that act, Redwood Empire must file a new timber harvest plan if they wish to proceed.

It is not clear if CDF will try to persist in its illegal action.

When the County of Santa Cruz appealed the original timber harvest plan, the Board of Forestry stunned its own staff and the industry when it found that this logging plan did not adequately address the cumulative impacts on Lompico Creek. The Board of Forestry found that the timber harvest plan was not in compliance with an existing plan to reduce sediment in Lompico Creek under a section of the Clean Water Act. Lompico Creek has been designated as "impaired" under the Clean Water Act.

Lompico Creek has a viable population of listed Steelhead which would also be harmed by a big logging operation. The Lompico headwaters have extensive areas of extreme erosion hazard rating by CDF's own measurement standard. The land is second growth redwood forest with scattered old growth growing in stream gorges and terrain so inaccessible that the trees can only be removed by helicopters.

Efforts began in 1997 to try to purchase this property for watershed and wildlife protection. To help in this effort, call 335-8136.

Researchers show how U.S. can wean itself from oil

The Rocky Mountain Institute has issued a report claiming that the United States could save more oil than it gets from the Middle East by 2015, use less oil than in 1970 by 2025, import no oil by 2040, and use no oil at all by 2050.

Authored by Amory Lovins and others, the 329-page report explains in detail how the change could be made. The recommendations are market based and innovation driven. Major savings in oil consumption could be achieved by boosting the fuel efficiency of motor vehicles, including vehicles used by the military. The report recommends, among other actions, rebates for buyers of fuel-efficient cars paid for by fees on inefficient vehicles and investment incentives for automakers to retool.

In addition to achieving greater fuel-efficiency, the report recommends replacing oil with biofuels. At the same time our projected natural gas use in 2025 could be cut in half with established efficiency techniques, and some of the saved natural gas could be used to further replace oil.

By 2025 we could meet 61% of U.S. obligations under the unratified Kyoto Protocol. This would probably be better than any nation currently expects to achieve.

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NEWS CLIPS

Activist honored

The Sierra Club honored Antarctica activist, James Barnes, with its highest international award on November 15. The EarthCare Award was presented to Barnes in recognition for his work as founder of The Antarctica Project, a non-governmental organization which works to protect the biological diversity and the wilderness of Antarctica.

Food facts

The Community Alliance with Family Farmers has released a free guide to fresh foods from Central Coast farms. The guide includes a directory of local farms, farmers' markets, Community Supported Agriculture farms, and Farm to School programs in Santa Cruz, Monterey, and San Benito Counties.

It also lists restaurants and caterers that sell or cook with locally-grown farm products. The guide is available at area farmers' markets, natural food stores and at public libraries. For more information, call 761-8507.

Green building expo energizes local member

In November, local Sierra Club member and architect, David Tanza, attended the Greenbuild International Conference and Expo in Portland, Oregon.

by David Tanza

Solar energy is the last thing that comes to mind when one flies into Portland, Oregon through an overcast and cloudy November sky. However I'm arriving in Portland to attend "Greenbuild," the 2004 International Conference and Expo where over 6000 building industry professionals have come to learn about the latest advancements in sustainable and green building design, construction, finance, building management, and of course, solar energy.

There are presentations and daily educational sessions on sustainability, designing smart and healthy buildings, living landscapes, green community planning, and the implementation of the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) program, which is the cornerstone to the green building program developed by the U. S. Green Building Council.

On display in the exhibit hall are the latest green building products, systems and technologies from more than 300 companies and organizations. Items range from wood products certified by the Forest Stewardship Council, cotton insulation made from recycled blue

Deficit spending

A WWF International report confirms with rigorous analysis that humans are now consuming 20% more resources than the earth can produce. The report, which is available online, has graphs galore. The report concludes that we are headed for big trouble unless we reduce world population, reduce per capita consumption, and implement more resource efficient technologies. For more details visit www.panda.org where you can download a copy of the *Living Planet Report 2004*.

Beautiful bunchgrass

It's official. We now have a state grass: the purple needlegrass (*Nassella pulchra*). A native bunchgrass such as purple needlegrass is recognizable on the state flag if one looks closely (beneath the grizzly's feet). The role of our native grasses in maintaining spectacular wildflower displays and habitat for native species is critical.

jeans, numerous material manufacturers whose products utilize recycled and renewable resources, green and living roof technologies, paint without volatile organic compounds, concrete made with recycled glass, waterless urinals, and solar panels using photovoltaic systems to generate electricity.

One of the more inspirational presentations was by Glenn Murcutt, an architect, naturalist, environmentalist, humanist, and economist from Australia, who was the winner of the prestigious 2002 Pritzker Architectural Prize.

Murcutt's simple architecture responds directly to the site, landscape and climate. His inspiration clearly comes from the indigenous people of Australia. His structures respond to, and blend with, the environment.

In addition to the conference and expo, there were several tours showcasing Portland's green building activities that are successfully linking economic prosperity with environmental stewardship for the city. Even without the sun, it was clear why Portland is considered the "greenest" U. S. city by the Green Building Council.

David Tanza, AIA, CCA, is an architect and principal of Strategic Construction Management, Inc., located in Santa Cruz, CA. He is a LEED(tm) Accredited Professional.

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Executive Committee Candidates

Ventana Chapter Candidates



Rita Dalessio

As Chapter Chair for the past three years, I have worked with other Ex-Com members to protect the natural resources in the Monterey Bay area. Currently one of the fastest growing areas in the state, we're finding that the pressures to develop, especially large subdivisions on unincorporated county land, have never been stronger.

If re-elected to Ex-Com, I will continue to oppose unwise development and implement the expertise and legal clout of the Sierra Club to ensure that environmental laws and procedures are enforced in our area.

As a hiker, I am especially committed to protection of the vast Ventana Wilderness. Our Chapter is actively promoting the preservation of this national treasure to ensure that its spectacular features will continue to be a sanctuary for human visitors as well as for wildlife.

I have used my knowledge and skills to contribute to the Chapter's fiscal soundness, and in the community, to work with diverse groups. I would be happy to continue to work for our chapter and the Monterey area to keep it green.



Heather J. Allen

I would like to serve on the Executive Committee of the Sierra Club Ventana Chapter because I share the Sierra Club's mission to explore, enjoy and protect the planet. In my relatively short time on the Central Coast, I have been fortunate to explore and enjoy the wildness of the Big Sur coastline and the tranquility of Monterey Bay. I am continuing to learn how to best protect these fragile resources as a graduate student of International Environmental Policy at the Monterey Institute of International Studies. I believe the Sierra Club builds the capacity of local people to improve their own communities and protect their environment, and I would like to share my knowledge and experience to help protect the treasures of the Ventana region.

the Executive Committee.

My history of involvement includes exposure to and knowledge of most, if not all, of the administrative agencies with jurisdiction in the County. My ongoing conservation activities, and my background as an attorney, should blend well with the work of the Executive Committee.



Aldo Giacchino

I want to contribute to the advancement of the Executive Committee's work. I have lived in the Bay Area for 30 years, the past seven in Santa Cruz. I have taken every opportunity to ski, hike and camp in the Sierras and to crew competitively in San Francisco Bay. I love the coast and the mountains with equal passion. I will do my utmost to preserve and enhance the enjoyment of our region's natural assets.

I have a Master's degree and a ten-year career in city planning, including the position of Planning Director of a major city. I have also been an executive in several health care organizations.

I have engaged in many community efforts to protect the Santa Cruz environment. I have successfully contested environmentally damaging projects before the Coastal Commission. I have the experience to plan, manage, and work collaboratively on complex problems and organizational issues. I would appreciate your vote.

ty and environmental groups, including the Sierra Club. In the early 90s, I helped found, and still serve on the Board of Citizens for Responsible Forest Management, dedicated to preserving forests and watersheds in Santa Cruz County.

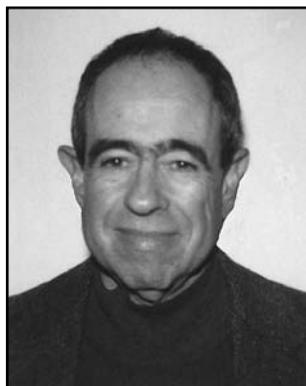
At a time when the battle between economic interests and truly sustainable environment grows more heated, I am especially compelled to leverage my local forestry experience, along with 20+ years of global business/marketing management background to help protect our environment for future generations. It would be a privilege to do so in the context of the Sierra Club.



Lois Robin

I have been taking part in activities in the Pajaro Valley with groups such as Action Pajaro Valley, the Pajaro Valley Ohlone Indian Council, the Pajaro River Taskforce, the Toxics Action Coalition, the Pajaro Valley Art Council and Voices of the Wetlands. The Valley will soon experience a population explosion. Will it create livable, sustainable communities, or will it be maul and sprawl? Will the Valley preserve its wetlands and prime agricultural lands, or will it succumb to thoughtless development? Will it solve the problems of toxic pollution from agricultural and other toxic sources or go on poisoning its residents? The Sierra Club has a major responsibility to this critical area at this time.

I was a member of the Santa Cruz Executive Committee in the 1980s. In recent years I've spent my time on South County matters providing a Speaker's Forum there on issues of growth management, intelligent planning and the preservation of the environment. Protecting the wild places-and the urban spaces-remains the core of my being and the motivation for serving again on the Santa Cruz Ex-com.



Joel Weinstein

A permanent beach closure in my childhood first aroused my concern about the environment. The Monterey area's environmental quality drew me here, and I'm strongly motivated to protect it.

I worked with both business people and environmentalists to achieve common goals in a traditionally polluting industry in Los Angeles. Our company led the industry in pollution control, eliminating or recycling virtually all wastes, demonstrating that clean practices were more profitable than pollution.

Santa Cruz Group Candidates



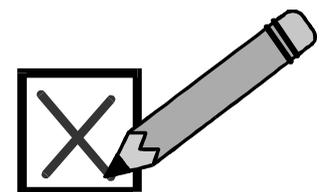
Michael A. Guth

I have been active in conservation activities, and especially coastal issues, as an individual and as a member of numerous organizations, boards, and commissions (including the Conservation Committee of the Santa Cruz Chapter of the Sierra Club). I believe that I can make a strong, positive contribution to



Bojana Fazarinc Morgenthaler

For the last 15 years I have lived in Santa Cruz County, relishing its natural beauty and working to preserve it. During those years, I worked and partnered on forestry issues with communi-



Voting Instructions and Executive Committee Ballot

Review candidates statements on page 14 and mark your ballot below. Mail this entire page including your ballot in the envelope enclosed with your Ventana.

The ballot must be postmarked by Monday, December 20.

Monterey County members may vote only for Chapter candidates.

Santa Cruz County members may vote for BOTH Chapter and Group candidates.

For joint memberships, mark a vote in both columns.

After you complete your ballot, TEAR OFF THIS ENTIRE PAGE and return it in the envelope provided. Your mailing label on the back of this page ensures that the vote has come from a valid member of the Club. Ballots and mailing labels will be separated by the Chapter Secretary to ensure a secret ballot. If you lose the envelope enclosed with your Ventana, mail your completed ballot to Mary Gale, Chapter Secretary, Sierra Club, P.O. Box 5667, Carmel, CA 93921. Call Mary Gale, 626-3565, if you have any questions.

What does the Executive Committee do?

The members of the Executive Committee make Chapter and Group policy for the Club. These representatives, elected by you, meet each month to discuss issues and hear reports from subcommittees such as the Conservation Committee and the Forestry Committee. Executive Committee members make policy and financial decisions and supervise local Club operations such as budget, fundraising, and local offices/bookstore.

Ventana Chapter

Both Santa Cruz and Monterey members may vote for these vote for up to 3

Candidate	individual or 1st joint member	individual or 1st joint member
Rita Dalessio		
Joel Weinstein		
Heather Allen		

Santa Cruz Group

ONLY Santa Cruz County members may vote for these vote for up to 3

Candidate	individual or 1st joint member	individual or 1st joint member
Mike Guth		
Aldo Giacchino		
Bojana Morgenthaler		
Lois Robin		



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MEETING SCHEDULE

Ventana Chapter (Monterey Co.)

Information: 624-8032

Executive Committee:

Last Thursday of the month; Call for meeting place & time.

Conservation Committee:

Alternate 3rd Saturdays, 2:00 p.m.
Beck's house: 23765 Spectacular Bid, Monterey. Take Hwy 68 to York Rd. to Spectacular Bid.
January 19, at 2:00 p.m.

Santa Cruz Regional Group

Information: 426-HIKE (426-4453)

Meeting place: Sierra Club Office
1001 Center St, Santa Cruz, Suite 11.

Executive Committee:

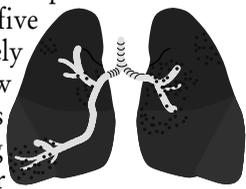
Wednesday, Dec. 8, at 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday, Jan. 14, at 7:00 p.m.

Conservation Committee:

Wednesday, Jan. 7, at 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday, Feb. 4, at 7:00 p.m.

Air Pollution can reduce children's lung function

Children who live in polluted communities are five times more likely to have clinically low lung function—less than 80% of the lung function expected for their age. New data from the Children's Health Study suggests that pollutants from vehicle emissions and fossil fuels hinder lung development and limit breathing capacity for a lifetime.



were collected from 1759 children as they progressed from 4th grade to 12th grade. The researchers also tracked levels of air pollutants such as nitrogen dioxide, acid vapor, elemental carbon, and particulate matter in the 12 Southern California communities where the children lived. The study encompassed some of the most polluted areas in the greater Los Angeles basin, as well as several less-polluted communities outside the Los Angeles area.

Over the eight-year period, researchers found that children living in the most polluted communities had significant reductions in the volume of air they could exhale after taking a deep breath compared to children living in communities with cleaner air.

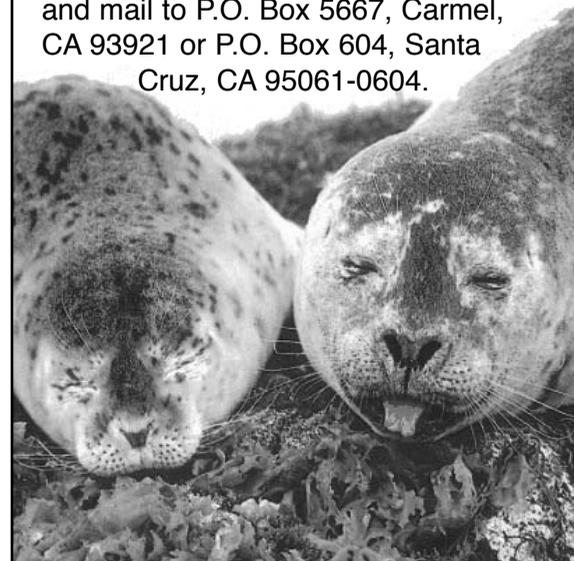
Researchers are unsure how air pollu-

tion may retard lung development. Chronic inflammation may play a role, with air pollutants irritating small airways on a daily basis. Scientists also suspect that air pollutants might dampen the growth of alveoli, tiny air sacs in the lungs.

The research team will continue to follow the study participants until their lungs are fully mature. They want to find out whether the participants will experience respiratory symptoms, and if those who moved away from a polluted environment will show some improvement in lung function.

Making a list? Checking it twice?

Consider adding the Club to your list. Make a check out to "Sierra Club" and mail to P.O. Box 5667, Carmel, CA 93921 or P.O. Box 604, Santa Cruz, CA 95061-0604.



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The VENTANA

MAGAZINE OF THE VENTANA CHAPTER OF THE SIERRA CLUB

Volume 43, Number 6, 2004

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Hannah Eade



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to p. 15
and vote!**

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