

The VENTANA

MAGAZINE OF THE VENTANA CHAPTER OF THE SIERRA CLUB



Richard Stover

Paving Paradise

p. 4



SIERRA
CLUB
FOUNDED 1892

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DEADLINES FOR SUBMISSIONS

All materials for publication must be received by the deadlines listed below. No exceptions.

SUBMISSIONS FORMAT

Please limit articles to 800 words; letters to 300. All submissions may be edited for clarity and length. Email to dfbulger@cruzio.com. Mail hard copy to editor, address below.

PHOTOS

Photos submitted to *The Ventana* must meet the following requirements: No laser copies or inkjet outputs. Electronic photos should be no smaller than 1200 x 1100 pixels or 300 dpi. Cover photos must be 3000 x 2000 pixels. Film photos, slides or negatives are fine. Please call the editor if you have any questions.

WHERE TO SEND SUBMISSIONS

Send submissions to: Debbie Bulger, Editor
1603 King Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060
e-mail: dfbulger@cruzio.com

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Do not call editor! Send address changes to Sierra Club, *The Ventana*, P. O. Box 52968, Boulder, CO 80322-2968.

POSTAL NOTICE

The Ventana (015057) is published 6 times a year, (Feb, Apr, Jun, Aug, Oct, Dec.) paid by subscription included in membership fee, by The Ventana Chapter of the Sierra Club, 1001 Center St., Santa Cruz, CA 95060. Periodical postage paid Santa Cruz, California, and at additional mailing offices.

Postmaster: Send address changes to Sierra Club, *The Ventana*, P. O. Box 604, Santa Cruz, CA 95061-0604.

Editor:

Debbie Bulger, dfbulger@cruzio.com
(no change of address calls, please!)

Production:

Debbie Bulger, Vivian Larkins,
Dale Nutley

Writers:

Rita Dalessio, Debbie Bulger,
Mardi Wormhoudt, Kaitilin Gaffney
Richard Stover

Photographers:

Richard Stover, Patricia McQuade

Proofreaders:

Jeff Alford, Richard Stover,
Charles Koester, Wolfgang Rosenberg

Distribution:

Debbie Bulger, Meryl Everett
Sheila Dunniway, Wendy Peddicord

Advertising Sales:

Debbie Bulger

Late Night Food Delivery & Software:

Richard Stover

Chapter website:

<http://ventana.sierraclub.org>



2006

VENTANA PUBLICATION SCHEDULE:

Issue	Deadline	Mailing Date
#1	Jan. 16	Feb. 1
#2	Mar. 20	Apr. 5
#3	May 15	May 31
#4	Jul. 17	Aug. 2
#5	Sep. 25	Oct. 11
#6	Nov. 27	Dec. 13

Articles received after deadline may not be published.

Support the community-based Initiative

After wasting six years and \$6 million, the Monterey County Board of Supervisors still cannot come up with a workable plan to govern development in the county for the next 20 years. Six years ago, the County began the process to update their General Plan crafted in 1982. (General Plans are intended to last 20 years). From the beginning members of the Ventana Chapter have attended hearings, made public comments and written letters voicing concerns about the threats from uncontrolled growth on our natural resources, farmland, water supply, roads and other infrastructure.

Earlier versions of the General Plan update attempted to address some of the Chapter's concerns by focusing development into community centers with available infrastructure. However, powerful pro-growth forces of special interests, big agribusiness, and developers were able to convince the Board of Supervisors to reject good planning principles.

As a result, the Chapter and about 20 other community groups came together, hired a professional planner, hosted six planning sessions from North County to Greenfield conducted in both English and Spanish, and involved thousands of local citizens. The outcome of these meetings is an Initiative planned to go on the June, 2006 ballot. This over 70-page document proposes to restrict growth to five Community Areas where infrastructure already exists and where farmland

and rural land conversions can be minimized. These Community Areas are Pajaro, Boronda, Castroville, Chualar and Fort Ord. The Initiative would also strengthen affordable housing requirements. Incorporated cities, Big Sur, and the Del Monte Forest are not affected by this Initiative as they have their own General Plans.

Currently signature gatherers are cir-

culating petitions to registered voters. If you are registered to vote in Monterey County, please sign this petition. The County and their pro-development allies are pursuing a General Plan update which will intensify sprawl, pave over farmland, increase traffic, fill in open space and wetlands and bankrupt our water supply.

—Rita Dalessio



FROM THE EDITOR

Fasten your seat belts

I just finished reading the book, *Collapse* (see book review on page 12). Author Jared Diamond describes society's non-sustainable practices as a time bomb with fuses of less than 50 years. In 50 years it will be 2055. In 2055 my two grandchildren will be younger than I am today.

There are formidable problems ahead. Humans are causing destruction of habitat, collapse of fisheries, extinction of species, loss of farmland, depletion of underground aquifers, dispersion of toxic chemicals into our land, air and water, global warming, and burgeoning population growth. And because of modern TV, movies and other communication technologies, masses of poor people all over the world aspire to the wasteful lifestyle we practice in this country.

"But technology will save us," you say. Diamond has answers for this and other one-liners as he calls them. "All of our current problems are unintended negative consequences of our existing technologies."

The time is long past when one society can collapse as Easter Island did and not affect the rest of the world. Our big

blue marble is too small to keep the rich safe when poor, desperate and hungry hoards struggle for survival. As Diamond explains, "... rich people ... merely buy themselves the privilege of being the last to starve or die."

In the face of such a future, Diamond is hopeful. He suggests actions that ordinary people can take to avert tragedy. Here are some of his suggestions:

- Vote for the environment.
- Let your politicians know that the environment is important to you.
- Praise big companies when they adopt policies that benefit the environment.
- Use your buying power to support environmentally-sound practices and products.
- Multiply your power by talking to others. Start with family members.
- Improve your local environment.
- Donate to environmental causes.

For years I have been searching for words to help make the connection between the health of our planet and our own survival. Diamond puts it succinctly, "Elimination of lots of lousy little species regularly causes big harmful consequences for humans, just as does randomly knocking out many of the lousy little rivets holding together an airplane."

Let's work together to keep airplane Earth in the sky.

—Debbie Bulger

The Bird Feeder
A Birder's Emporium



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to 11 PM Weekdays & 12 AM Weekends

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

Central Coast focus of Marine Life Protection Act

by Kaitilin Gaffney,
The Ocean Conservancy

One hundred years ago, Americans had the foresight to develop a national park system. Today, we all enjoy the natural beauty and recreational opportunities provided by special places like Yosemite and the Grand Canyon. In 1999, the California Legislature passed landmark legislation requiring similar protection for special places in the ocean. This law, the Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA), calls for marine protected areas to be established along the California coast. Marine protected areas have been used as ocean management tools around the world for many years and have been scientifically shown to help restore fish populations, protect important marine habitat and enhance recreational opportunities such as wildlife watching and scuba diving.

By the 1990s it was clear that California's ocean resources were in trouble. Some fisheries had already collapsed, and our state's growing coastal population was increasing pressure on ocean wildlife and habitat. Although

California did have some very small marine protected areas in place, these areas covered less than 1% of the State's coastal waters and were far too small to be effective. Recognizing the need for improved ocean

protection, the state legislature overwhelmingly approved the Marine Life Protection Act.

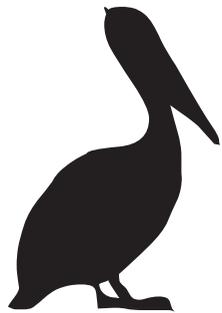
The initial phase of MLPA implementation is currently focused on the California central coast (from Pigeon Point in San Mateo County to Point Conception in Santa Barbara County). Planning for the rest of the coast will follow in coming years.

Over the past six months, a Regional Stakeholder Group, including divers, fishers, conservationists, educators, and local business people, has been meeting monthly to develop proposed maps of marine protected areas for our region. A Blue Ribbon Task Force established by the Governor will review these proposals in March and make recommendations to the Fish and Game Commission. The Commission will then make the final decision on which areas of the Central Coast shall be protected by the end of 2006.



watercolor, "Past Ventana" by Bill Fravel

The Marine Life Protection Act calls for marine protected areas to be established along the California coast.



How to help

Now is the time to let your local and state elected officials know that you support the highest level of ocean protection. It is particularly important to let Governor Schwarzenegger know that you support the Marine Life Protection Act (address in box to the right). Be sure to send copies of your letter to your local elected officials.

For more information on the Marine Life Protection Act please go to www.caloceans.org or the Fish and Game website at www.dfg.ca.gov.

Santa Cruz General Meeting

Stuck in the Mud: the Pajaro River in Peril

Discussion to follow

Everyone Welcome

Wednesday, Jan. 25 • 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Cabrillo College Center
Watsonville

Call 464-1184 for more information

Refreshments

Contact Your Representatives

President George W. Bush
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, D.C. 20500
Comment line: (202) 456-1111
FAX: (202) 456-2461
president@whitehouse.gov

Vice President Dick Cheney
(202) 456-1414
vice.president@whitehouse.gov

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 445-2841
FAX: (916) 445-4633
www.governor.ca.gov

Senator Dianne Feinstein
331 Hart Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
(202) 224-3841; (415) 393-0707
1 Post Street, Suite 2450
San Francisco, CA 94104
senator@feinstein.senate.gov

Senator Barbara Boxer
112 Hart Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
(202) 224-3553
(415) 403-0100 (Voice)
1700 Montgomery Street
San Francisco, CA 94111
senator@boxer.senate.gov

U. S. Representative Sam Farr
100 W. Alisal Street
Salinas, CA 93901
(831) 429-1976 (Santa Cruz)

(831) 424-2229 (Salinas)
(202) 225-6791 (FAX, Washington, D.C.)
samfarr@mail.house.gov

U.S. Representative Anna Eshoo
698 Emerson Street
Palo Alto, CA 94301
(408) 245-2339
FAX (650) 323-3498
annagram@mail.house.gov

State Senator Abel Maldonado
100 Paseo De San Antonio, Suite 206
San Jose, CA 95113
(408) 277-9461
senator.maldonado@sen.ca.gov

State Senator Joe Simitian
State Capitol, Room 4062
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 445-6747 FAX (916) 323-4529
Senator.Simitian@sen.ca.gov

State Senator Jeff Denham
369 Main Street, #208
Salinas, CA 93901
(831) 769-8040
senator.Denham@sen.ca.gov

Assembly Representative Simon Salinas
100 W. Alisal Street, Rm. 134
Salinas, CA 93901
(831) 759-8676 FAX (831) 759-2961
assemblymember.Salinas@assembly.ca.gov

Assembly Representative John Laird
701 Ocean Street, Room 318-B
Santa Cruz, CA 95060; (831) 425-1503
99 Pacific Street, Suite 555D
Monterey, CA 93940
(831) 649-2832 FAX (831) 649-2935
assemblymember.Laird@assembly.ca.gov

UCSC proposes unsustainable growth

Too much of a good thing

by Supervisor Mardi Wormboudt

The University of California campus in Santa Cruz (UCSC) has bestowed many important economic, social and cultural benefits on Santa Cruz since its founding in the mid-1960s. However, its continued growth threatens to completely overwhelm the community.

Under the University's last Long Range Development Plan (LRDP), enrollment grew from about 9,000 students to almost 15,000 students. As predicted, particularly in the City of Santa Cruz with a population of about 56,000 people, traffic problems worsened, housing pressures increased, and the quality of life, both on and off campus, deteriorated.

Now, the University is proposing another major increase in enrollment, growing by 6,000 more students to a total of 21,000 by 2020. The City of Santa Cruz is almost totally built out. It simply does not have the capacity to absorb the University's growth.

The University recently released the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) on the LRDP and the comment period ends January 11, 2006. The 900-page DEIR can be viewed online at <http://lrdp.ucsc.edu>.

The DEIR is seriously flawed and does not meet the legal requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). However, it does document some of the major environmental impacts of the University's growth plan, even though many of these impacts are understated.

In this article, only a few of the DEIR findings can be briefly outlined:

- University growth will cause 10 significant and unavoidable impacts affecting air quality, noise, hydrology, population, housing, traffic, and water supply.

- The campus population growth, by itself, will be greater than the total non-University growth projected for the City of Santa Cruz by 2020.

- While the on-campus and off-campus student population currently living

in the City of Santa Cruz represents about 23% of its total population, by 2020 it will equal over 34% of the City's population.

- At this time four city intersections operate at Level of Service F (the worst rating) during peak hour. With the proposed University growth, this number will shoot up to 15 intersections, and nine will be at Level of Service F during both the morning and afternoon peaks.

- University growth will have a significant and unavoidable traffic impact at 11 intersections.

- The University's growth will consume about 73% of the City's remaining water supply capacity.

Richard Stover



Continued UCSC growth threatens to overwhelm Santa Cruz.

- Without the University's growth, the City would not have to expand its water supply in normal rain years. With this growth, expanded water supplies to serve future growth will be required.

- The growth proposed under the LRDP would result in the destruction of 120 acres of redwood and mixed evergreen forests, of which 61 acres are second-growth redwoods. This represents

about 13% of the redwood forest on campus.

- About 50 acres of sensitive habitat will be destroyed as a result of the LRDP, while 218 acres of impervious surface will be added.

If the DEIR had accurately accounted for the impacts of the University's proposed growth, the results would be shocking enough. However, the DEIR

Continued on p. 5.



Richard Stover

The growth proposed under UCSC's Long Range Development Plan would destroy 120 acres of redwood and mixed evergreen forest.



218 acres of impervious surface will be added to UCSC if the new Long Range Development Plan is adopted.

Richard Stover

Backers of General Plan Initiative gather signatures

In mid-November, backers of an Initiative to amend the 1982 General Plan for Monterey County announced a petition drive to collect nearly 9,000 signatures in order to place their proposal on the June 2006 ballot. The Ventana Chapter, along with nearly 20 community groups, has been working for several years, first to draft a positive general plan, and then to craft this proposed amendment.

This Initiative would protect the scenic and recreational values of the county as well as provide more benefit to the public rather than the special interests, developers and agribusiness groups which now control the Board of Supervisors.

The amendment would require that growth in the unincorporated county be centered in five specified "Community Areas": Pajaro, Castroville, Boronda, Chualar and Fort Ord. The Initiative would require a county-wide election to approve any subdivision of land not located within the cities or the five areas identified for development. It also would require that roads be built before or contemporaneous with development, and that the existence of an adequate, sustainable water supply be proven by the developer.

Limited exceptions to the public vote requirement include housing for agricultural workers, transfer of land to the

government/nonprofit sector, and for certain clustered developments of existing legal lots of record that are located where services can be provided and that meet other specific criteria. The clustering concept was created to allow conservation of farmland and other land that is desirable to protect, by locating development in one specific area. Such clustering is voluntary. By law, all existing legal lots of record may be developed by their owners, in accordance with existing zoning and site conditions.

A key point of the Initiative is to invest in development within the Community Areas, where there is redevelopment potential and where infrastructure can be provided, and to limit urban sprawl.

The roll-out of this Initiative occurred Wednesday, November 9, two days after the Board of Supervisors had voted to approve Butterfly Village, part of the 2,500-acre development known as Rancho San Juan in North County. The day before, November 8 in the General Election, citizens voted 3-1 against the development of Rancho San Juan. Dave Potter was the only Supervisor to vote against Butterfly Village. Potter strongly supports this Initiative.

seriously understates the impacts and is legally inadequate.

Some of the most serious problems are the following:

The University's growth will consume about 73% of the City's remaining water supply capacity.

- Because the DEIR does not include its assumptions regarding the potential height of proposed new buildings, it is impossible to evaluate the adequacy of the visual analysis.

- Many of the mitigation measures are couched in terms of "if feasible" or "if possible," representing an inadequate commitment to actually mitigate an impact.

- The DEIR doesn't consider the noise impacts of new construction in the undeveloped north campus area in terms of the current noise levels.

- The DEIR doesn't evaluate traffic impacts on Highway 1, although it projects that 25% of the campus trips will be on Highway 1.

- Traffic impacts of the University's growth are generally underestimated.

- The traffic analysis of the proposed 5,000-seat event center is inadequate because it assumes, without justification, that all events will be held in the evening so that none of the event traffic will occur during weekday peak hours.

- In its evaluation of the proposed LRDP's impact on water supply, the DEIR only evaluates on-campus growth, inappropriately ignoring both off-campus and induced growth, which are major.

This relatively long article contains only a brief summary of the impacts of the proposed University growth and the inadequacies of the DEIR. The proposed growth is simply not sustainable, and the University needs to reconsider its future growth levels, and, at least, prepare an adequate EIR.

Great Blue Heron



Patricia McQuade

Great Blue Herons are a familiar sight to local members. We see them wading at the water's edge, walking on the docks at the harbor, and nesting in our tall trees. Once I looked out my kitchen window as I was washing dishes on and saw one flying down King Street in Santa Cruz!

Great Blue herons are true carnivores, eating mostly fish and occasionally small mammals such as voles. They can live more than 20 years.

—Debbie Bulger

Santa Cruz Creeks and Wetlands Plan to go to Council in February

Six years ago, the California Coastal Commission directed the City of Santa Cruz to develop a comprehensive plan for the network of creeks and wetlands within city limits. Many have been heavily impacted—channeled, filled, diverted, obstructed, placed in culverts—as the city has grown, severely diminishing aquatic and wetland habitat and degrading the quality of water flowing into the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary.

The Plan was released for public review in November and was on the City Planning Commission agenda on December 1. It will return for final Planning Commission action on December 15 before going to the City Council in early February, 2006.

The draft Plan continues incentives for the restoration of Class A watercourses, which the Sierra Club endorses, but we are concerned that no such recommendations are presently put forward for Class B and C watercourses. (Classification is based on quality, continuity, and enhancement potential of the riparian habitat, with A being the highest rating). Rather than accepting the degradations that have been imposed on these important habitats in the city and consigning them to these conditions evermore, we request that the City develop a program of incentives and recommendations for restoration wherever and whenever possible.

Copies of the plan are available for review at the Central Library and on the City's website.

Sierra Club Events



Club Pajaro River Committee and Dr. Robert Curry, floodplain specialist. Cabrillo College Watsonville Center, 318 Union Street, Watsonville. 7-9:00 p.m. FREE. Refreshments.

Friday, January 27

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 other like-minded individuals.

The potluck starts 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.

Sunday, January 1

Singles New Year's Pizza Party 6:00 p.m. at Tony & Alba's: 226 Mt. Hermon Road, Scotts Valley. (King's Village Shopping Center) \$9.00 per person; drinks are 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.

Wednesday, January 25

Pajaro River Video
See the locally-produced video, *Stuck in the Mud: The Pajaro River in Peril* followed by a discussion with the Sierra

Pajaro River video to be screened January 25

Mark your calendar now. The second event in the speakers' series sponsored by the Santa Cruz Group is Wednesday, January 25 at the Cabrillo College Watsonville Center, 318 Union St., Watsonville. The meeting will highlight the issues and challenges of the Pajaro River Watershed. A video, *Stuck in the Mud: The Pajaro River in Peril* will screen.

Members of the Pajaro River Committee and floodplain specialist, Dr. Robert Curry, will conduct a discussion after the show. Members of the audience are invited to participate with their own visions, hopes and concerns for the Pajaro River. This discussion is particularly timely as the Army Corps of Engineers is planning to present its flood protection plan for the lower 12 miles of the River in March 2006. A reception with refreshments will be held after the discussion.

The video, *Stuck in the Mud: The Pajaro River in Peril* covers many impor-

tant aspects of the huge Pajaro River watershed. Through interviews with farmers, biologists, environmentalists and a lawyer, the 30-minute film takes a comprehensive look at how stakeholders along the river are seeking ways to achieve flood protection and ecological health. See aerial and historic views of the Pajaro River as well as photos of many animals whose destiny in this river is in jeopardy.

The mud of the title refers to the huge sediment problem caused by upstream sand and gravel operations. The film was produced by Pajaro River Watershed Committee member Lois Robin.

The meeting will begin at 7:00 pm in the Forum Room with a reception at 9:00 pm. The meeting is free and open to all.



Thursday, March 30 - Sunday, April 2

Channel Islands Cruise

Visit the Channel Islands National Park with Sierra Club members accompanied by a ranger/naturalist. Proceeds from this four-island tour will benefit Sierra Club political programs in California. Other dates offered in spring and summer. Costs include sumptuous meals, snacks, and bunks on the boat. For more information contact Joan Jones Holtz, jholtzhl@aol.com, 626-443-0706.



Make a difference

Join Sierra Club California's Legislative Action Network

<http://cal-legalert.sierraclubaction.org>

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

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.

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.

Free Wormshops (dates following)

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

Sunday, Jan. 29, Quail Hollow County Park, 800 Quail Hollow Road, Felton.

Sunday, Feb. 26, Grey Bears Recycling Facility, 2710 Chanticleer, Santa Cruz.

Saturdays

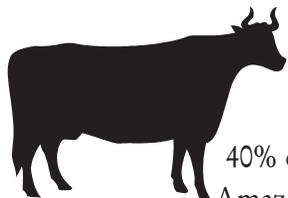
Garland Ranch hikes
The Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District docents lead hikes at Garland Ranch Park every Saturday and invite Sierra Club members to join them. An updated list of all hikes may be found on their website: www.mprpd.org.

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.

January 14, Quail Hollow Co. Park
January 28, Sunset Beach State Park
February 11, Quail Hollow Co. Park

ECOFACTS



Nearly

40% of the Amazon rain

forest destroyed in Brazil was cleared for cattle ranching.

Things you can do now to save the world's rain forests:

- Prepare fewer meals from beef.
- Eat more fruits, grains and vegetables.
- If you are not already a member, join the Sierra Club!

It's time to protect our precious environment. And stop exhausting our planet's resources. You can make a difference... **Join today!**

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:

Park and Ride/Black Bear Diner: This parking lot is on Rio Road in Carmel.

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

Friday, December 16

HIKE: OLD COAST ROAD, BIG SUR

In winter the unpaved Old Coast Road is a delightful walk. 11-miles up and down from Bixby Bridge to Andrew Molera through fern-lined redwood canyons with views to the coast and inland to Pico Blanco. Car shuttle. Moderate to strenuous hills. Leisurely pace. Bring lunch and water, meet behind Brinton's (opposite Albertson's) at 8.30 a.m. Leaders: Cath Farrant and Mary Dainton, 372 7427.

NOTICE

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

Saturday, December 17

HIKE: EAGLE ROCK FROM LITTLE BASIN

We'll take a trail built by Sempervirens Fund and State Parks. You'll see the nail-less bridge, and with clear weather, some far-reaching views of the Santa Cruz Mountains. 8 miles with some steep uphill and downhill sections. Wear boots with good treads. Meet at 9:30 a.m. at the Santa Cruz County Government Center to carpool. Call Nick for additional information or if rain is forecast. Leader: Nick Wyckoff, 462-3101.

Saturday, December 17

HIKE: HOLT ROAD TO SNIVELY RIDGE

We'll walk up from Mid Valley on Holt Rd. through the forest to the "closed" south trail to Garland Ranch's Snively Ridge and higher, if we want. We may return down to the Park or back on the North Trail to Mid Valley. 9 miles, 1500' elevation gain. Expect poison oak without leaves, wear long pants. Bring water and lunch. Meet at Mid Valley shopping center in Carmel Valley next to the bank on Berwick Street at 9:30 a.m. Heavy rain cancels. Leader: Anneliese Suter, 624-1467.

Saturday, December, 17

HIKE: COOK SPRING CAMP

We'll start hiking from Memorial Park Camp along the Arroyo Seco Trail and river, to beautiful False Madrone Camp, to the small Madrone Camp, to Cooks Camp and back. Beautiful river sites, redwood trees, madrone trees and from the ridge spectacular views of the mountain ranges. Strenuous 12-miles. We'll benefit from the maintenance work the VWA has done on this wonderful trail. Early start for long ride to trailhead. Van may be provided if enough people come. I will bring my water filter. No shorts, wear long-sleeves, dress in layers, bring substantial lunch, water,

\$ for carpool, and wear hiking boots. For information call leader in advance: Esperanza Hernandez, 678-1968.

Sunday, December 18

HIKE: PICO BLANCO PUBLIC CAMP

Hike from Botcher's Gap around Pico Blanco to Pico Blanco Public Camp with the most beautiful pool and waterfall in the area. Truly breathtaking. Return the same way. 10-miles with 1500' elevation gain. Bring lunch, water; wear boots. Heavy rain cancels. Meet at Albertson's. Leader: Steve Legnard 402-1422.

Wednesday, December 21

HIKE: NEW BRIGHTON TO SEACLIFF

Celebrate winter solstice by taking a 7-mile walk along the beach with cliffs of mudstone and sandstone that reveal the fossils of sea creatures that once lived on the Pliocene ocean bottom. Starting in the area of a historic Chinese fishing camp, we'll pass the cement boat, Palo Alto, that was a nightclub during prohibition, and return up hill from Pot Belly Beach to the railroad track. Bring lunch and water. Meet at Sears 41st Ave. at 9:00 a.m., or in the seaside parking area of New Brighton Beach at 9:20 a.m. Leader: Diane Cornell 423-5925.

Friday - Tuesday, December 23 - 27

HOLIDAY SKI TRIP: HUTCHINSON LODGE

Here's our first ski trip of this season to Hutchinson Lodge, which is the small lodge near Clair Tappaan. We'll have the whole lodge to ourselves for the holidays. There are 2 lofts for sleeping, a large living/dining room with 2 stoves, and a sauna. Cost of this long weekend/person is only \$110 for 4 nights/members. Non-members/\$120 for 4 nights. Price includes all meals! (Vegetarian avail-

able.) X-country ski rentals and lessons available (for a fee) at the main lodge in addition to free access to groomed trails right from the back door. Free shuttle bus from the lodge to nearby cross-country and downhill ski areas. We will all share cooking and cleaning chores. For reservation and trip information, 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. Early reservations are a must, space is limited. Refunds for cancellations are 100% before Dec. 15, 50% by Dec. 21, none after the 21st. For more details call leader, George Jammal, 335-7748.

JANUARY

Sunday, January 1

HIKE/POTLUCK: NEW YEAR'S DAY

For a New Year's special, hikers should bring drinks or finger food to share for party after hike at Garland Ranch. Easy and slow hike, crisscrossing the beautiful meadows and woods of Garland Ranch. Climbing only to the Mesa (not all the way to Snively's Ridge). 3-4 miles. Bring water. Leaders: Joyce Stevens, 624-3149 & Martha Saylor.

Sunday, January 1

HIKE: MT. MANUEL AND POST SUMMIT

Strenuous New Year's Day, 12-mile hike with great views of the coast and inland. 3000' elevation gain. The hike down toward East Molera is beautiful in the afternoon light. Short car shuttle. Bring boots, lunch and water. Heavy rain cancels. Meet at Albertson's at 8:00 a.m. Leader: Steve Legnard 402-1422.

Saturday, January 7

HIKE: WILDER RANCH

A 9-mile, double-loop hike, with 500' elevation change, along the Wilder Ridge and Enchanted-Loop trails in the western section of this state park. We'll traverse several riparian forests and open meadows with beautiful ocean vistas. Meet at the Santa Cruz County



Hutchinson Lodge Ski Trip

Friday - Tuesday, December, 23-27

(Read the write-up for more details)



Names _____

Street _____

City _____ ZIP _____ Eve Phone _____

of members _____ @ \$110 each = _____

of non-members _____ @ \$120 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: _____

O U T I N G S

Government Center at 9:30 a.m. Bring water, lunch and \$1 for carpool. Leader: Ed Gilbert, 685-8389.

Saturday, January 7

HIKE: HUCKLEBERRY HILL

A short hike on the east side of Point Lobos. 3 miles and 600' elevation gain. Possibility of poison oak; wear long pants. We'll hike up old roads to lunch spot overlooking Gibson Canyon with views along the way. Meet at the Bagel Bakery at 10:00 a.m. Leader: Larry Parrish 622-7455.

Sunday, January 8

HIKE: WILDER RANCH

Wonderful panoramic Monterey Bay views, meadows and woods. 10 miles, some uphill. Dress for the weather; heavy rain cancels. Meet at Monterey Home Depot, (exit 218) at 8:00 a.m. or the Santa Cruz County Government Center at 9:00 a.m. Wear boots or sturdy shoes. Bring water, lunch \$ for carpool. Leader: Suzanne Arnold, 626-4042, or suzannecarml@aol.com.

Tuesday, January 10

SENIOR SAUNTER: SUNSET BEACH

We'll walk both the bluffs and the beach. Moderate 4 miles with not very steep hills.

Meet at Sears 41st Ave. before 9:30 a.m. or at kiosk parking lot at Sunset Beach at 9:50 a.m. Dress for weather. Bring lunch, water, \$2 carpool. Leader: Joan Brohmer, 479-1859.

Wednesday, January 11

HIKE: UVAS CANYON COUNTY PARK

This will be our yearly visit to this lushly-wooded park on the east side of the Santa Cruz Mountains to see the many waterfalls on Swanson Creek during the rainy season. In the 1800s the abundant timber of this canyon was cut to fuel the New Almaden mine, but today the park hosts a diverse and interesting mix of vegetation and wildlife. There may be some steep climbs as this park ranges in elevation from 1000' to 2700'. We'll hike on the Knibbs Knob, waterfall loop and contour trails. Bring lunch and water. Meet at Sears 41st Ave. at 9:00 a.m. or drive to the end of Croy Road through Sveadal to meet at the parking lot above the park entrance at 10:00 a.m. Leader: Diane Cornell, 423-5925.

Saturday, January 14

HIKE: CASTLE ROCK

A 10-mile, double-loop hike with 800' elevation change through this state park. We'll begin at the main park entrance, at 3200' and hike past Castle Rock, Castle Rock Falls and Russell Point along the Saratoga Gap and

Loghry Woods Trails, to the Skyline Trail. Returning along the Service Road and Ridge Trails, past Goat Rock and the Interpretive Shelter. Meet at the Santa Cruz County Government Center at 8:30 a.m., or at Felton Faire at 9:00 a.m. Bring water, lunch and \$5 for carpool. Leader: Ed Gilbert, 685-8389.

tus grove and then take Nature Trail to Moore Creek Lagoon. Lunch by Visitors Center. Easy 4 miles. Meet at Sears 41st Ave. before 9:30 a.m. or at Lighthouse Field parking lot at 9:50 a.m. Dress for weather. Bring lunch, water, \$2 carpool. Leader: Jean Harrison, 425-5447.

Wednesday, January 18

HIKE: SAN ANTONIO COUNTY PARK

This park and open space preserve inhabited by Ohlone Indians for over 3,000 years was granted in 1839 to Juan Mesa. It is bounded by Adobe Creek, Stevens Creek, and Permanente Creek. An old cabin from the late 1800s on Deer Hollow Farm has a nature exhibit and shows what life was like there for the Grants in the late 1800s. We'll hike through chaparral, oak-studded meadows, and fern canyons. Bring water and lunch for this 10-mile up and down hike with views of the S. F. Bay area. Meet at Sears 41st Ave. at 9:00 a.m. to carpool or at 10:00 a.m. in the park parking by the restrooms off Cristo Rey Drive near where Hwy 280 and 85 meet in Cupertino. Leader: Diane Cornell, 423-5925.

Saturday, January 21

HIKE: MT MADONNA COUNTY PARK

We will start at Sprig Lake and look for the fetid adder's tongue, the first blooming wildflower in the Santa Cruz Mountains. 7 miles with 1500' of ups and downs. Both sun and forest cover, so wear layers. Meet at 9:30 a.m. at the Santa Cruz County Government Center to carpool. Call Nick for additional information or if rain is forecast. Leader: Nick Wyckoff, 462-3101.

Saturday, January 21

HIKE: EAST MOLERA, BIG SUR

Lovely views of the coast, Pico Blanco, and the canyon of the South Fork of the Little Sur reward us for our steep climb towards Post Summit. 6 miles and 1800' elevation gain. Bring lots of water, lunch, hat, sun protection and \$ for carpool. Rain cancels. Meet at 10:00 a.m. at Albertson's to carpool. We'll be back around 4:00 p.m. Leader: Andrea Phelps, e-mail: andrea_phelps@csumb.edu.

Sunday, January 22

HIKE: FT. ORD

Shall we do our same old Engineer Canyon up to the mesa for some views, or perhaps try

carpool news

Meet 1 hour before formal meeting time in order to save gas and protect the environment when participating in out-of-county outings. Informal (no leader) carpool meeting spots:

Santa Cruz: County Gov't Center.
Monterey: K-Mart Seaside

Saturday, January 14

HIKE: TERRACE CREEK

We'll hike up the Pine Ridge Trail for 5 miles, then go up beautiful Terrace Creek Trail to the Old Coast Road and return via the Ventana Resort. 10.5 miles with 1600' elevation gain. Great coast views. Bring a big lunch and lots of water. Meet at Albertson's at 9:00 a.m. for a car shuttle. Heavy rain cancels. Call before to confirm. Leader: Anneliese Suter, 624-1467.

Sunday, January 15

HIKE: HIDDEN WATERFALL

Did you know that there's a little-known but fairly spectacular waterfall nestled in the hills around Palo Colorado Road. We'll follow an unmaintained logging road for 1.5 miles then branch off into a fairly easy cross-country trek for about a half mile before reaching the 20 ft waterfall. Expect to climb over fallen logs, crosscountry hiking, and possibly poison oak. Leisurely pace, but footing can sometimes be tricky. Hiking pole suggested. Bring lunch & water. Meet at 10:00 a.m. at Albertson's to carpool. Leader: Ted Hill, 449-1953 or tedsup@yahoo.com.

Tuesday, January 17

SENIOR SAUNTER: WEST CLIFF/ NATURAL BRIDGES

We'll walk from Lighthouse Field to Natural Bridges to visit the Monarchs in the eucalypt-



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FEATURED PROGRAMS

DECEMBER 31 New Year's Eve Party A wonderful and festive tradition at Clair Tappaan.

JANUARY 6-8, FEBRUARY 10-12, MARCH 24-26 Bay Area Ski Bus Trips Ride in comfort from Oakland to Clair Tappaan. Price: \$175 members, \$200 non-members, \$140 children (includes lodging/meals).

JANUARY 6-8, MARCH 10-12 Kids Ski Weekends Start kids off right with lessons and short trips on CTL trails. Price: \$125/child (includes equipment rental/lodging/meals).

FEBRUARY 3-5 Snow Camping Skills Course Price: \$145 members, \$170 non-members.

FEBRUARY 17-19, MARCH 24-26 Snowshoe Ecology Tours Enjoy guided snowshoe day tours and broaden your knowledge of alpine ecology. Price: \$145 members, \$170 non-members (includes lodging/meals).

MARCH 17-19 Snow Camping Trip Price: \$145 members, \$170 non-members.



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 (800) 679-6775.

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a different route past the old Boy Scout cabin to the lake? Either way, it will be fairly easy and 5 miles or less. Slow pace up a few steep bits but little elevation gain. Bring water and snack or lunch, dress in layers, and expect mud if it has rained. Hard rain cancels. Meet at the BLM trailhead off Portola Drive near the intersection of Reservation Road and Hwy. 68. For more info call before the weekend of the hike. Leader: Mary Gale, 626-3565.

Sunday, January 22

HIKE: ANDREW MOLERA

Hike the loop at West Molera with great views of the coast. Lunch at the pocket beach and then hike out. 8 miles and 1000' elevation gain. Bring boots, lunch, water and sandals to cross the river. Meet at Albertson's at 9:00 a.m. Leader: Steve Legnard 402-1422.

Tuesday, January 24

SENIOR SAUNTER: RIO DEL MAR/ SEACLIFF BEACH

Hiker's choice of a level 4 miles along Seacliff and Rio del Mar or walk up Cliff Dr. along a neighborhood for 1 mile and back down to beach on a little-known path. Lunch at picnic tables. Meet at Sears 41st Ave. before 9:30 a.m. or the parking lot at Rio Del Mar by Rio Cafe at 9:50 a.m. Dress for weather. Bring lunch, water, \$2 carpool. Leader: Beverly Meschi, 475-4185.

Wednesday, January 25

HIKE: HENRY COWELL REDWOODS

We'll hike the most popular trails and some less popular on our loop around this forested park: Eagle Creek Trail, Powder Mill Trail, Graham Hill Trail, and the River Trail. Bring lunch and water. 8 miles. Meet at Sears 41st

Ave. at 9:00 a.m. to carpool or in front of the gift store at the park at 9:30 a.m. Leader: Diane Cornell, 423-5925.

Saturday, January 28

HIKE: MONTEVINO MOUNTAIN

Mid Peninsula Open Space District acquired these lands in Los Gatos in the 1970-80s to stop development of significant and threatened acreage adjacent and to the west of the City of Los Gatos. 10 miles on fire roads with 2000' of uphill. Meet at 9:30 a.m. at the Santa Cruz County Government Center to carpool over Hwy 17. Call Nick for additional information or if rain is forecast. Leader: Nick Wyckoff, 462-3101.

Saturday, January 28

HIKE: CONE PEAK

Car shuttle, leaving some cars at Kirk Creek Camp and some at Cone Peak Road where our hike begins to Cone Peak ending up at Kirk Creek Camp. 13 miles. Beautiful mountain views, gigantic redwoods, awesome ocean overlooks, and the opportunity to meet wonderful people. Water filter provided, no shorts. Dress in layers, wear long sleeve shirt, bring plenty of food and water, and \$ for carpool. Leader: Esperanza Hernandez, 678-1968. Please call ahead of time.

Sunday, January 29

HIKE: PALO CORONA

We'll continue to explore recently-opened

trails (mostly dirt roads) and eventually arrive at the Corona cabin. We'll return on the main road. 12-14 not-too-strenuous miles and 2500' elevation gain. Space is limited, so make your reservation early with leader Larry Parrish, 622-7455.

Tuesday, January 31

SENIOR HIKE: ASILOMAR

Asilomar south to Pt. Joe and loop back. Easy 3+ mile walk on dirt paths, streets, sandy paths and boardwalks. Lunch at tables at Pt. Joe with great ocean views. Meet at Sears 41st Ave. before 9:30 a.m. or by the Fishwife Restaurant in Pacific Grove at 10:30 a.m. Dress for weather. Bring lunch, water, \$4 carpool. Leader: Brooke Ewoldsen, 649-1714.

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



FEBRUARY

Saturday, February 4

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 Coastal trail to and across the Golden Gate Bridge. 10 miles with 1000' elevation change. Bring water, lunch and a snack, hiking boots and \$1 bus fare. Binoculars and/or camera optional. Dress

for windy weather. Meet at the Santa Cruz County Government Center at 9:45 a.m. Leader: George Jammal, 335-7748.

Saturday, February 4

WALK: MONTEREY'S PATH OF HISTORY

Have you ever walked through Old Monterey and really looked at the historic adobes and monuments and wondered what kind of stories they could tell? Here is your chance to become an expert in Monterey lore and take a leisurely 3-mile walk. Meet at 10:00 a.m. at the Monterey Public Library parking lot on Pacific Street across from the fire department. Wear walking shoes; bring water and a snack. Rain cancels. Phone old historic leader, Joyce Stevens, 624-3149 for more information.

Sunday, February 5

HIKE: JACK'S PEAK

We'll walk around Jack's Peak clockwise, starting at the elementary school on Olmstead Road (near airport). 6 miles with less than 1,000' elevation gain. Beautiful views of Monterey and Point Lobos. Bring water and lunch. Heavy rain cancels, dribble doesn't count. Dress for winter weather. Confirm by calling leader: Anneliese Suter, 624-1467.

Tuesday, February 7

SENIOR SAUNTER: ANTONELLI POND

3-mile easy hike starting at the west side of Antonelli Pond, visiting the Homeless



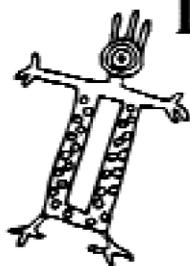
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Garden, then to Terrace Point and the Seymour Center. Back to Natural Bridges for lunch. Meet at Sears 41st Ave. before 9:30 a.m. or on Delaware Ave. just past Swanton at entrance to Natural Bridges at 9:50 a.m. Dress for weather. Bring lunch, water, \$2 carpool. Leader: Jean Harrison, 425-5447.

Saturday, February 11

HIKE: WILDER RANCH

A 9-mile loop with 900' elevation change, along the Engelsman's, Long Meadow, Chinquapin, Eucalyptus, Old Cabin and Wild Boar trails in the eastern and northern sections of Wilder Ranch State Park. We'll traverse several riparian forests and open meadows with beautiful ocean vistas. Meet at the Santa Cruz County Government Center at 9:30 a.m. Bring water, lunch and \$1 for carpool. Leader: Ed Gilbert, 685-8389.

Saturday, February 11

HIKE: POINT LOBOS

4-mile walk, starting from Hwy. 1, to the Pit, then back past Whaler's Cove, to the top of Whaler's Knoll and back via southern trails. Meet at Albertson's at 9:00 a.m. for short carpool. Bring snack, water, and optional binoculars for close-ups of the animal life. Leader, Martha Saylor 372-9215.

Saturday, February 11

HIKE: PINNACLES

Hike North and South Chalone Peaks. Experience a hike that few dare to take. Views of the Diablo range to the East, Santa Lucia Mtns. to the west, overlook of the great Salinas Valley, and if nature permits, we will be able to see from Moss Landing all the way to Santa Cruz. This 3500' elevation gain hike is worth every inch of its strenuously-steep 15-mile loop. Bring plenty of food, water, dress in layers, and \$ for carpool. Starting time is early. For information call Esperanza Hernandez, 678-1968. Please call in advance.

Sunday, February 12

HIKE: FT. ORD

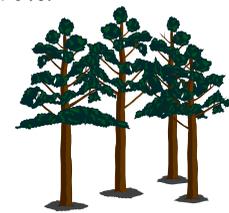
10 miles in rolling hills on Fort Ord Public Lands with some elevation gain. Exact path to be determined, perhaps some early wildflowers. Heavy rain cancels. Bring water, lunch, wear boots or sturdy shoes. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at Home Depot, exit 218. Leader: Suzanne Arnold, 626-4042.

views. No restroom facilities, but we can stop at Wilder Ranch park entrance to use restrooms. Meet at Sears 41st Ave. before 9:30 a.m. or at Mission & King Sts. by Shen's at 9:50 a.m. To go direct, drive past Wilder Ranch entrance about 2 miles. When you see sign saying "Quilted Fish," park in lot to the left. Dress for weather. Bring lunch, water, \$3 carpool. Leader: Pat Herzog, 458-9841.

Saturday, February 18

HIKE: DEL MONTE FOREST

Join Sierra Club Coastal Director Mark Massara on an easy hike to see just what damage developers are planning for the Del Monte Forest. You've read that the Pebble Beach Company intends to cut down 17,000 threatened trees. Here's your chance to see up close and personal just what those words mean. Meeting time and place to be included in the next Ventana. Mark your calendar now to save the date. For more information call Rita Dalessio, 659-7046.



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Tuesday, February 14

SENIOR HIKE: WILDER RANCH/BALDWIN LOOP

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Santa Cruz commits to desalination



Club concerned about many unanswered questions

In November the Santa Cruz City Council approved an EIR for an Integrated Water Plan which includes an estimated \$40 million desalination plant as the preferred new supply option for the city. In addition to the desal plant, the Integrated Water Plan includes conservation measures and a commitment to curtail water use by 15% during a drought.

A smaller pilot desal plant will be built first as required by the State Department of Health in order to test the plant design and process. The pilot plant and related studies are estimated to cost \$3.2 million and would be located on the westside of Santa Cruz, reportedly on the UCSC Marine Lab Campus at Terrace Point. The city has received an approximately \$2 million State grant for part of the cost of the pilot project. If the pilot study gives satisfactory answers, the city will proceed with a much larger, permanent facility.

Conceived of as "the city's only alternative in a drought," the desalinated water would be piped to Capitola in "normal" years, to allow the Soquel Creek Water District to recharge its aquifers and ward off saltwater intrusion. In drought years, the plant would produce water for customers of the City Water Department, an area stretching from the north coast to the outskirts of Scotts Valley, from UCSC to Pasatiempo to Santa Cruz Gardens and

all of Live Oak, including 41st Avenue. In drought years the Soquel Creek Water District would not receive any water from the desal plant but would be able to withdraw water from recharged aquifers.

Plans include piping the hyper-brine produced by the desal plant under the west side of the city to the sewer treatment plant at Neary Lagoon, where the desal effluent would be mixed with the treatment plant effluent and discharged through the existing outfall.

Unanswered questions

The Sierra Club opposes moving ahead on the water plan and the commitment to desalination before there are satisfactory answers to many questions. Unknown are the impacts on marine life from sucking up Monterey Bay water to process for drinking. Microscopic sea life would be killed in the desalination processing. The extent of such loss has not been addressed.

It is also not clear where the intake for both the pilot plant and the permanent plant would be located. If the permanent plant intake is located near where Almar Avenue reaches the Bay, it would be very close to the westside sewer outfall. Since the pilot plant intake may be located in a different (and cleaner) area, it is

questionable whether the water quality data from the pilot plant would be applicable for the permanent plant.

Rate questions abound. No answers have been forthcoming on the differential rates to be paid by city residents as opposed to those paid by mid-county residents as opposed to those paid by Soquel Creek Water District customers. Rate questions are also key when considering the needs of UCSC, particularly in light of its expansion plans. Despite providing housing for thousands at present (and thousands more if its expansion goes forward as planned), the University is billed as an "industrial" customer, a significantly lower rate than that charged to residences.

To date, the Soquel Creek Water District has not signed any agreement to participate in the funding or operation of the larger plant. The desalination process at both plants will be fueled by natural gas, a fossil fuel that will contribute to global warming. The cost of this fuel continues to rise creating uncertainty about the cost/unit of water produced from the plant. Also, the concern that the desal plant could encourage growth is being dismissed by the city as an unnecessary worry.

In line with testimony at several pub-

lic events by Jonas Minton, former deputy director of the California Department of Water Resources and now with the Planning and Conservation League, as well as other scientists and policy specialists, the Sierra Club believes that far more could be done through increased conservation and water recycling.

The city must apply for a permit from the Coastal Commission to proceed with building the pilot plant. Hopefully the Commission will insist on answers to many of the questions.

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Chapter opposes water management scheme for Seaside Aquifer

After plans for a huge 500-unit resort/condo project called Monterey Bay Shores on the dunes of Sand City was shot down by the California Coastal Commission in 2001, the developer sued the Commission. The Ventana Chapter intervened on the side of the Coastal Commission. Among other issues, we were concerned with the proposed water supply for this development. The project would draw from the Seaside Aquifer, a major component of the Monterey Peninsula's water supply, which is threatened with overdraft and seawater intrusion.

While that lawsuit has not yet been resolved, an additional threat to this water supply and to that coastal environment has raised its head. Special interests have joined together to propose pumping more water from the aquifer

than the Sierra Club and the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District believe is safe for the long-term health of the supply. The groups favoring over-pumping include The California American Water Company, several cities, and the owners of property overlying the Aquifer—including the disputed Monterey Bay Shores project.

The special interests also propose forming a committee to administer the water supply. They envision a vote-weighted body which could outvote the Water Management District, created to represent the public interest. Their scheme would not only give administration of the Seaside Aquifer to water rights claimants whose interests are not consistent with those of the public in preventing overdraft of the aquifer, but also appears to strip the water management district of its regulatory control. The arrangement could also facilitate the massive Monterey Bay Shores resort and other projects which are not sustainable.

In light of this, the Chapter is seeking to legally intervene to oppose this water scheme. Attorney Larry Silver recently filed with the court an *amicus* brief, to represent the Chapter in this effort.

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or your local Monterey County Coordinator Monterey County, Environmental Health Division (831) 755-4579

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BOOK REVIEW

Collapse—How Societies Choose to Fail or Succeed

Author: Jared Diamond
Publisher: Viking Penguin, 2005

reviewed by Richard Stover and Debbie Bulger

Once Easter Island was covered with trees which supplied nuts, fruits, canoes, roof thatching, barkcloth, ropes, firewood, habitat for birds and other animals, and the logs necessary to erect the signature statues of that island. Non-sustainable human activity resulted in a barren landscape, devoid of trees. The consequences of the forest destruction included loss of raw materials, loss of food, and loss of crop productivity. The resulting starvation and descent to cannibalism reads like an adventure story.

On the Caribbean island of Hispaniola there are two countries: Haiti and the Dominican Republic. Only 1% of Haiti is forested whereas 28% percent of the Dominican Republic has forest cover. Haiti suffers from overpopulation, is one of the poorest countries in the world, and its government has descended into chaos. The Dominican Republic, although poor, has a lower population density and growth rate and a booming economy. The contrast is partly the result of choices each of these countries has made.

In *Collapse*, Jared Diamond examines the reasons why societies collapse or don't collapse. He looks at societies from both the ancient and modern world giving examples of both failure and success.

Diamond identifies a number of factors that influence whether a society fails or not. In every case examined, the degradation of the environment plays a significant role when societies collapse. Although environmental destruction is not always involved (the former Soviet Union, for instance) whenever the environment is overstressed, it is much harder for a society to cope with other adverse factors.

Why do some societies heading toward collapse fail to take the necessary steps to save themselves? Diamond finds that willingness to change plays a big role. For example, the Norse in Greenland clung to the cattle farming economy that they brought from warmer climes even though Greenland was not a good place to farm. The Norse must have seen but failed to utilize the powerful hunting technologies such as the kayak and the harpoon used by the Inuit. The Norse vanished in Greenland; the Inuit survived. After the Norse society in Greenland collapsed, the land gradually recovered over several centuries since erosion



stopped. Diamond points out that within the lifetimes of children alive today, the human race will face the unavoidable and unpleasant global consequences of fresh water depletion, topsoil erosion, deforestation, fisheries overexploitation, energy depletion, overpopulation, overconsumption, toxics generation, atmospheric damage, and a host of other environmental problems. By learning from the failures of societies from Easter Island to Rwanda, we can hope to decide which of our core values must change if we are to avoid global collapse. By learning from the successes we can get some guidance on what new core values we may need to achieve survival.

In the end Diamond is cautiously optimistic about our future. We have many advantages not available in the past, not the least of which is our growing knowledge and understanding of the past. Collapse is a valuable contribution to that knowledge and understanding. Diamond states, "... a society's fate lies in its own hands and depends substantially on its own choices."

What will we choose?



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NEWS CLIPS

Picture perfect

Ken and Gabrielle Adelman report that they have taken over 6000 new photographs of the California Coast to update their pictorial survey. To check out this extraordinarily useful website visit www.californiacoastline.org/

No idling

Portland, Maine is developing an anti-idling policy for city vehicles in order to save money, clear the air and stave off global warming. That east coast city is particularly concerned about the health aspects of curbing emissions since Portland has one of the highest asthma rates in the county. Local cities, are you listening?

Marine research money

Senator Boxer reports that Congress has approved over \$2 million for UCSC's Center for Integrated Marine Technologies, part of the Institute of Marine Sciences. The Center works with partners from around the Monterey Bay area to support coastal marine resources and public health. By utilizing coastal observance systems, the Center gains valuable data about marine life which is distributed to a wide variety of scientific and public audiences. By gathering information to help us better understand our oceans, the Center is helping to protect one of our nation's most precious natural resources.

Don't preheat too early

If you bake a lot, you're familiar with the old-fashioned advice that instructs you to preheat the oven before you begin mixing ingredients. Those recipes were developed long before energy conservation was in. Most ovens need only 10 minutes to get up to temperature. To save energy, don't preheat too early.

Recycle your cards

Your holiday cards can be used again by cutting off the illustration and adding a blank paper with your new message. Or if that sounds like too much of an art

project for you to handle, put them in your recycle bin. Happy Holidays!

Roadblock

In October, 20 environmental groups including the Sierra Club filed suit against the Bush administration over its repeal of regulations that blocked road construction, logging and development on the country's last roadless areas. Earlier the states of California, Oregon, and New Mexico filed challenges of their own. To sign a petition to reinstate the Roadless Rule visit www.sierraclub.org/forests.



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DIRECTORY OF CLUB LEADERS

Ventana Chapter

Mailing Address – The Ventana Chapter, P.O. Box 5667, Carmel, CA, 93921, e-mail:ventana@mbay.net
Phone – 624-8032 (Santa Cruz Group Phone: 426-4453) Website:www.ventana.sierraclub.org

Chapter Executive Committee				
Chapter Chair	Rita Dalessio	16 Via Las Encinas	Carmel Valley, CA 93924	659-7046
Vice Chair	D'Anne Albers	P.O. Box 2532	Carmel, CA 93921	375-1389
Treasurer	Joel Weinstein	140 Carmel Riviera Dr.	Carmel, CA 93923	625-5586
Other Members	Larry Espinosa	19240 Reavis Way	Salinas, CA 93907	663-2753
	David Epel	25847 Carmel Knolls Dr.	Carmel, CA 93923	625-3137
	Julie Engell	15040 Charter Oak Blvd.	Prunedale, CA 93907	633-8709
	Marilyn Beck	528 Crocker Ave.	Pacific Grove, CA 93950	372-6860
	Gudrun Beck	23765 Spectacular Bid	Monterey, CA 93940	655-8586
	Heather Allen	3037 Vaughn Ave.	Marina, 93933	224-0134
Admin Chair/Sec	Mary Gale	25430 Telarana Way	Carmel, CA 93923	626-3565
Coastal Chair	D'Anne Albers	P.O. Box 2532	Carmel, CA 93921	375-1389
Conservation Committee				
Co-Chairs	Gudrun Beck	23765 Spectacular Bid	Monterey, CA 93940	655-8586
	Gillian Taylor	52 La Rancheria	Carmel Valley, CA 93924	659-0298
Local Wilderness Committee				
Chair	Steve Chambers	319 Caledonia St.	Santa Cruz, CA 95062	425-1787
Computer Database				
	Stephanie Kearns	740 30th Ave. #67.	Santa Cruz, CA 95062	475-1308
NC/NRCC Reps.	George Jammal	601 Manzanita Ave.	Felton, CA 95018	335-7748
	Patricia Matejcek	P.O. Box 2067	Santa Cruz, CA 95063	423-8567
Outings Chair	Anneliese Suter	9500 Center St. #53	Carmel, CA 93923	624-1467
Population Committee				
Chair	Harriet Mitteldorf	942 Coral Dr.	Pebble Beach, CA 93953	373-3694
Political Chair	Terry Hallock	P.O. Box 22993	Carmel, CA 93922	915-0266
Pot Luck Committee				
Chair	Marion Chilson	6060 Brookdale Dr.	Carmel, CA 93923	624-3510
Sierra Club Council				
Delegate	David Epel	25847 Carmel Knolls Dr.	Carmel, CA 93923	625-3137
Alternate	Rita Dalessio	16 Via Las Encinas	Carmel Valley, CA 93924	659-7046
Transportation Committee				
Chair	Neil Agron	26122 Carmel Knolls Dr.	Carmel, CA 93923	624-3038
Outings Chair	Anneliese Suter	9500 Center St. #53	Carmel, CA 93923	624-1467
Membership Chair	Heather Allen	3037 Vaughn Ave.	Marina, 93933	224-0134
Ventana Editor	Debbie Bulger	1603 King Street	Santa Cruz, CA 95060	457-1036
Pajaro River Committee				
Co-Chairs	Lois Robin	4701 Nova Dr.	Santa Cruz, 95062	464-1184
	JoAnn Baumgartner	P.O. Box 1766.	Watsonville, CA 95077	722-5556

Santa Cruz County Group of the Ventana Chapter

Group Office: 1001 Center St., Santa Cruz, near Actors' Theatre Website:www.ventana.sierraclub.org
Mailing Address: Sierra Club, Santa Cruz Group, P.O. Box 604, Santa Cruz, CA 95061-0604
Phone: 831-426-HIKE (426-4453), Fax: (831) 426-LEAD (426-5323), e-mail: scscrg@cruzio.com

Executive Committee				
Chair	Aldo Giacchino	1005 Pelton Ave.,	Santa Cruz, CA 95060	460-1538
Other members	Patricia Matejcek	P.O. Box 2067	Santa Cruz, CA 95063	423-8567
	Lois Robin	4701 Nova Dr.	Santa Cruz, CA 95062	464-1184
	Richard Shull	110 Amber Lane	Santa Cruz, CA 95062	425-5153
	Kristen Raugust	454 Swanton Road	Davenport, CA 95017	423-8566
	Shandra D. Handley	147 S. River St., Ste 221	Santa Cruz, CA 95060	477-1981
	Kevin Collins	P.O. Box 722	Felton, CA 95018	335-4196
	Bojana Morgenthaler	25401 Spanish Rnch Rd.	Los Gatos 95033	408-353-5536
	Treasurer	Nan Singh Bowman	10361 California Drive.	Ben Lomondk, CA 95005
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Forestry Task Force				
Chair	Jodi Frediani	1015 Smith Grade	Santa Cruz, CA 95060	426-1697
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Vacant				
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Ventana Chapter Candidates

D'Anne Albers

We share our bay area with visitors from all over the world, who come for our quiet beauty and natural wonders. The Club has been a leader in the battle to preserve this environment. I greatly respect the efforts that others before me have made.

no photo available

I am proud to have played a part. As chapter Coastal Chair, I organized Sierra Club and Elkhorn Slough volunteers to remove over 10 tons of trash from the slough. I sit on the Marine Life Protection Act's Central Coast Task Force and participate in Sierra Club's Great Coastal Places campaign and Marine committee. We work to create a southern Monterey Bay coastal armoring plan, to solve the problem of storm water runoff, and to protect areas of special biological significance. Continuing threats to our coastline include development, sewage spills, run-off, sea wall construction, dangers to marine life, and more. If elected I will continue to keep our chapter involved in safeguarding our coast.

I am very committed to protecting our wild and not-so-wild areas and the abundant wildlife both in our wilderness areas and in our own backyards. We must have wild areas both for wildlife survival and our own enrichment.



Denyse Frischmuth

I have been a dedicated environmentalist ever since I was introduced in the late 60s to the then new concept of ecology. Then a mother of two young children, I wanted to ensure that they would inherit a livable planet.

From environmental steps at the personal level, I progressed to activism in Silicon Valley. I led or contributed to actions which induced Sunnyvale to adopt curbside recycling and to require solar panels for commercial buildings. At my workplace I formed a study group that brought about environmentally friendlier practices, and I organized a car-pool program. Locally I've worked with Pacific Grove Eco-Corps, the Marine Sanctuary Snapshot Day, Landwatch, the Sierra Club California Coastal Campaign, and on-line activism to educate

and mobilize others.

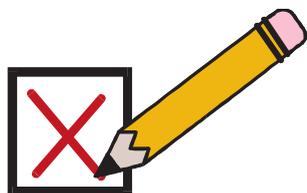
"Think globally and act locally" expresses how I see the impact of our Chapter. Land use issues should be the focus of our energies now, for the quality of our lives and that of future generations depends on how they are resolved. Our air quality, our water resources, the health of our eco-system and of our coastal environment, wildlife habitat preservation, all hang in the balance.



Kimberly Marion

I am running for Excom because I believe in the power of the grassroots and in the power of the Sierra Club to make positive changes to protect our environment through collective action. Before moving to Monterey from Vermont, I worked for the Vermont Chapter of the Sierra Club as a wilderness and forest protection organizer. It was incredible to see the passion for wilderness turn into action, and I'd like the opportunity to help with the Ventana Chapter. I am particularly interested in mobilizing our grassroots, enhancing our ability to cultivate and engage more volunteers, and make our presence even greater force.

We are faced with increasingly challenging times as Representative Pombo continues on his path to dismantle the Endangered Species Act and drill for oil, not only in Alaska, but also along U.S. coastlines. We are also facing a number of things in our backyards, with increasing development, water scarcity, and some political battles. We can't mobilize our communities alone, but we can get it started and live up to the reputation of Sierra Club leadership. Please feel free to email if you'd like to find out more, wildforestsforever@gmail.com.



Santa Cruz Group Candidates



Kevin Collins

I have served one term on the Executive Committee and am running for re-election. My personal work centers on water resources, forest conservation, and salmon recovery. I started reviewing logging plans in 1994 and joined the Sierra Club Forestry Committee in 1997. My life-long fascination with nature motivates my involvement.

I am the Board President of the Lompico Watershed Conservancy, an incorporated non-profit. The Conservancy has been very effective and coordinates with the Sierra Club. The reason I wish to continue on the Executive Committee is to strengthen the Sierra Club's many diverse efforts and to solve problems facing our forests, our streams, and the wildlife dependent on them. The fate of the salmon, the owls, and the myriad wildlife and plants native to these mountains determines the future of ecosystem health. We face major difficulties and need new solutions to cope with our ever-increasing demands for the most basic resources like clean water. I bring a statewide perspective from work with conservation activists all over Northern California. My position on the County Fish and Game Advisory Commission and experience with advocacy and review of the State Resources Agencies' decisions also benefits the Sierra Club.



Charles Paulden

From the first time I went camping with my family in Yosemite to the last time I went surfing, I have had an intimate relationship with the Natural World and a commitment to preserving and enhancing it.

In college I promoted preservation of open spaces, farmland, and living easy on the Earth to offset the pressures towards war. I have worked with the Sierra Club Growth Committee, People for the Preservation of Pleasure Point, People for

Critical Thinking on Transportation, Live Oak Neighbors, Live Oak Community Alliance, Live Oak History Group, COPA, Save Lighthouse Field, Save Porter Sesson/No Wingspread, Save Porter Gulch, Nisene to the Sea, No on J, People Power, Stop the Seawall, Save the Windbreak.

In graduate school I studied Community Psychology with an emphasis on Wilderness Studies. I have filed four appeals to the Coastal Commission.

I support the Sierra Club's Growth Guidelines. I advocate small mixed-use Urban Centers over existing malls. Spending money on parks and green spaces saves money on crime prevention.

Some important books: *A Pattern Language*, Alexander; *Oblivion or Utopia*, Fuller; *Design with Nature*, McHarg; and *The Santa Cruz General Plan*. I am a landscape contractor and Yoga therapist.



Dennis P. Davie

My love of the wild woods and streams began at an early age. My father loved to fish and took our family camping often. In YMCA, Boy Scouts and Camp Unalayee I hiked in the Sierra, Trinity Alps, and the Cascades. As part of the Stanford Alpine Club, I rock climbed in Yosemite Valley and did extensive mountaineering throughout the West. I continue to crosscountry ski and hike with my sons and friends.

My political work began with civil rights, anti-war and disarmament campaigns. In 1976 I walked across the country with Buddhist monks praying and organizing for peace. I demonstrated against the Diablo nuclear plant with the Abalone Alliance. In 1982 I helped start Santa Cruz Earth First! I have participated in the Sierra Club Forestry Task Force for the past 4 years and have presented testimony to CDF and the Regional Water Board on local Timber Harvest Plans.

I have degrees in Geology and Environmental Studies from UCSC. My college internship was at Yosemite where I wrote an environmental impact report on snowmobile use (and abuse).

I present a weekly environmental news show on Free Radio Santa Cruz (101.1 FM and www.freakradio.org) Thursdays evenings at 9:00 p.m.

Voting Instructions and Executive Committee Ballot

Review candidate 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 January 2.

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, 25430 Telarana Way, Carmel, CA 93923. 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.

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
D'Anne Albers		
Denyse Frischmuth		
Kimberly Marion		

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
Kevin Collins		
Charles Paulden		
Dennis P Davie		



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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 21, 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, Jan. 11, at 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday, Feb. 8, at 7:00 p.m.

Conservation Committee:

Wednesday, Jan. 4, at 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday, Feb. 1, at 7:00 p.m.

The VENTANA

MAGAZINE OF THE VENTANA CHAPTER OF THE SIERRA CLUB

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OUTINGS



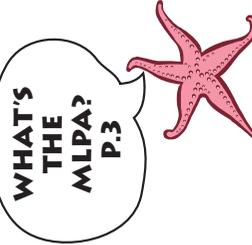
Patricia McQuade

Local resident
p. 5



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FEATURES

- Chapter chair 2
- From the editor 2
- Calendar 6
- Outings 7
- Book review 12
- Newsclips 13
- Chapter directory 13

ARTICLES

- Marine protection 3
- UCSC growth threatens to overwhelm Santa Cruz 4
- General Plan Initiative 5
- Pajaro River video 6
- Santa Cruz chooses desal 11
- Chapter fights H₂O scheme 12
- Ex-Com Ballot 15
- Cool cities 16

Santa Cruz and Capitola are cool cities

Two local cities are moving forward with innovative energy solutions to cut U.S. dependence on oil, reduce energy consumption, and implement clean energy solutions to curb global warming. Tired of waiting for the federal government to act, almost 200 cities all over the country have signed on to their own agreement.

The endeavor was launched in 2005 by Seattle Mayor Greg Nickels. Major cities which have already signed on include San Francisco, Chicago, Boston, Salt Lake City, San Jose, Philadelphia, Portland, New York City, Miami, Washington DC, Las Vegas, and Atlanta.

Locally, Santa Cruz and Capitola have joined the crowd pledging to

reduce global warming carbon pollution in their cities to 7 percent below 1990 levels by 2012. Cities are using various tactics to achieve their goals such as replacing gas guzzlers with hybrid vehicles, installing solar panels on municipal buildings and reducing their energy consumption. Participating cities are not only helping the planet, they are also saving taxpayers money.

Your city, too, could join the group. To learn more check out, "Cool Cities: Solving Global Warming One City at a Time" available at sierraclub.org/global-warming/coolcities. Contact your city leaders and suggest they take steps to become truly cool.

AT LEAST SOMEONE IS DOING SOMETHING ABOUT GLOBAL WARMING



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet