

The **VENTANA**
MAGAZINE OF THE VENTANA CHAPTER OF THE SIERRA CLUB

Birds in Decline p. 9

**JUN, JUL
AUG
OUTINGS**



The Brown Pelican is federally listed as endangered. Brown Pelicans rebounded after the pesticide DDT was banned in the United States.

Explore, enjoy, and protect the planet

Ventana staff photo

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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

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WHERE TO SEND SUBMISSIONS

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

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2009

Ventana Publication Schedule

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#6	Nov. 30	Dec. 16

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may not be published.

CHAPTER CHAIR

General Plan Update does not adequately address greenhouse gas emissions

After nearly a decade of attempting to update the General Plan for Monterey County, the Planning Commission has agreed to hold a series of workshops during its regular sessions to discuss the environmental impacts in the DEIR (Draft Environmental Impact Report) for the current version, GPU 5. The next three workshops are currently scheduled for June 10, June 24, and July 8. Please check the chapter website (www.ventana.sierraclub.org) for final dates, times, and venue.

The topics proposed for review are greenhouse gases (GHG), biological resources, and post 2030 growth impact policies. Chapter members have already contacted the County with concerns regarding GPU 5 and the DEIR. We believe that the Plan does not adequately address climate change, a Sierra Club priority, and even lacks a section on greenhouse gases. There is only a single provision in the Plan that addresses climate change (Section 4, Policy OS-10-11), and that section is insufficient.

This policy simply requires "development of a detailed GHG inventory and adoption of a GHG reduction plan" yet contains no provisions for establishing County GHG reduction goals or for developing measures to adhere to those goals.

The passage of AB 32 (California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006) provides for a statewide GHG emissions cap for 2020. Every county must contribute towards these state-mandated objectives, and GPU 5 does not reflect this requirement.

Another weakness of the current update is its lack of adequate protection for various at-risk habitats in Monterey County. Such habitats include riparian areas, steep slopes,

grasslands, and coast live oak and blue oak woodlands. The cumulative impacts on the biological disruption and destruction of these valuable habitats and the special species they support have not been adequately addressed or analyzed.

Additional information for all of these environmental issues should be developed and added to the DEIR. The DEIR should then be recirculated for public review and comment. Please consider attending the Planning Commission workshops and participating in this important process so critical to the future of Monterey County.

—Rita Dalessio

FROM THE EDITOR

Fit for a queen

Recently I had to make a queen costume for an event. Here's what I did.

First I went to the fabric store and looked at patterns. Boy, were they expensive. Fourteen dollars for some! Also the patterns were way more elaborate than I needed. While there, I looked at fabrics. The fancy ones, suitable for royalty, weren't cheap. Even the remnants were costly.

So I went to Goodwill, bought an old prom dress for under \$4; an adorable, fuzzy, stuffed rabbit for \$1, a metal candlestick for \$2.50, some artificial flowers for another \$2.50, and a straw visor for another dollar or two. Altogether, the total came to a little more than \$11.

When I got home, I cut off the skirt of the dress, made a vertical cut in the front to turn it into a cape, and used part of the bodice to make a pocket for a drawstring. The next part was hard. I took the cute, fuzzy bunny rabbit (may the god of stuffed animals forgive me) and skinned the little fella. After removing and saving the stuffing for other projects (very nice polyester), I cut the pelt into strips which I sewed on the bottom edge of cape.

I then covered the visor with the remainder of the dress material to fashion a stand-up ruff such as Queen Elizabeth I might have worn. When I tried this ruff on with the cape, however, they interfered with each other, so I ended up taking off the fabric and re-donating the visor back to Goodwill. Some ideas just don't work out.

The candlestick became a scepter after I unscrewed the base and my husband reduced the diameter of a piece of old broom-

stick on his lathe so it fit tightly into the top. We finished it off with a disk-shaped piece of metal Richard had in his metal junk collection and spray painted it gold.

The crown was fashioned from a piece of cardboard also sprayed gold and adorned with brass grommets, leftover "jewels" from the prom dress, and old buttons glued in place.



Debbie Bulger

Julie Wildera models the regal attire.

I was quite pleased with myself. The costume was done, I had saved money, and best of all, I had creatively reused all sorts of items. And reuse, as you will recall is one of the three Rs: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle.

I discovered thrift stores are a wonderful source of fabrics and raw materials if you plan to make something. There are all kinds of things just waiting to be reused or converted into clothing and accoutrements fit for a queen.

—Debbie Bulger



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East Molera green again

East Molera is green again! On a hike last fall it was black and ugly, burnt bush stubs sticking out from a uniform gray ash covering the slopes. So when Anneliese Suter invited me on a May wildflower hike there I was a bit dubious—how much would be restored? Thankfully, we found grass and flowers covering the ground, even across the fire road which had been a fine powder last fall. Colors abounded—blues, reds, yellows, and greens of all hues. Waves of wind could be seen parting the fields of grass. Difference scents were in the air. Pico Blanco shone above us.

Fire damage was more evident where trees had been—a sycamore which had once provided some shade along the upward climb was thoroughly burned and a copse of oak trees had mostly burned, though green shoots sprang up from many of the burned bases. The taller redwoods fared better, a few being torched but most only singed.

The trail itself was in good condition, easily passable though not always flat underfoot. In fact, while we were there, a Cal Fire work party was clearing more brush to widen the trail. If you have not been down to Big Sur since the fire, I encourage you to see for yourself the changes that have taken place since last fall.

Jack Glendening
Salinas

Water article all wet

I have been a member of the Sierra Club, a resident of Santa Cruz, and a member of the UCSC faculty for 30 years. I support the Sierra Club because it generally does a fair and thorough analysis of environmental issues. The recent article "WATER the Santa Cruz side of the Bay" [Volume 48, No. 2, 2009] does not meet the usual Sierra Club standards.

The article presents a highly selective set of facts to argue that UCSC is about to consume all of Santa Cruz's remaining water capacity. There is no doubt that UCSC is a major consumer and needs to cooperate with the city, but a slightly deeper analysis shows that this total focus on the university will do little to help solve our water problems. With 16,000 students and thousands of employees we might expect the university to use a lot of water—maybe 20% or 30% of the City's total? The article quotes the number 132 million gallons. This allocation constitutes only 3.6% of the city's water supply per the city's own calculations.

The city allocates almost as much, 106 million gallons, to golf courses, another 116 million gallons to irrigation. On a per person basis the university uses far less water than the average Santa Cruz resident. The water article also states that the water is "for expansion into its north campus area, now largely a natural resource reserve." In

Ventana Wilderness recovering after fires

On Sunday, June 8, 2008 an illegal campfire escaped control in the Monterey Ranger District of Los Padres National Forest, initiating the Indians Wildland Fire. Less than two weeks later, a powerful electrical storm made landfall on the Big Sur coast, igniting a series of wildfires that would form the infamous Basin Complex. Both blazes evaded containment for over a month, resulting in something of a "perfect storm" that would ultimately blacken over 240,000 acres of Central Coast wildlands. Within the Ventana Wilderness, only the Cone Peak area was spared, but that too burned in October's 16,000-acre Chalk Wildland Fire. Citing hazardous conditions and a depleted management budget, the US Forest Service closed most of the Monterey Ranger District for the better part of a year.

fact the development plan increases the natural reserve area, compared to the plan put forth in 1988.

There are many development projects happening in our city—the Tannery Arts projects, new condominiums, a hotel, and the huge project on Delaware Avenue. We can't solve the city's water problems by ignoring the users that consume over 95% of the water. We use 4% of our water to provide a university education to 16,000 students, to support research (much of which is focused on the environment), and to sustain the city's largest employer. This is good social policy and good for the long-term health of our environment.

Barry Bowman
Santa Cruz

Increased diversity

On a recent visit to Yosemite NP I was delighted to notice what appeared to me to be a large increase in the number of "minority" visitors. On a hike part way up the Yosemite Falls Trail, we said hi to, had conversations with, or just passed 6-9 African Americans and more Asian and Latino Americans, I hope it is a trend. It was wonderful to see more human diversity enjoying Yosemite. On most past visits it has always seemed I was sharing the trail with white Americans and Europeans.

Erica Crawford
Soquel

A bucket a day

On a recent trip to Oaxaca, Mexico, we learned that Oaxacan hotels provide buckets inside the shower stall for guests to collect shower water while waiting for it to warm up. The water is then used to clean the room! A very clever idea for a drought-stricken region that we have adopted at home in Santa Cruz. We save a bucketful a day, that we then use to water our indoor and outdoor plants.

Brenda Barcelo
Santa Cruz

With two notable exceptions, the District was at long last re-opened on May 1, 2009. Escondido Campground on Arroyo Seco-Indians Road will remain closed until agency personnel complete repairs on damaged facilities. The lower Pine Ridge Trail (including Ventana, Terrace Creek, Barlow Flat, Sykes and Redwood Camps)



has been rendered impassible with deadfalls and is subject to an indefinite closure. Most State Park lands east of Highway 1 on the Big Sur coast (Pfeiffer-Big Sur,

Julia Pfeiffer-Burns and Limekiln State Parks) likewise remain closed. But that leaves over 200,000 acres of backcountry open for exploration, with much of it in a marvelous state of post-fire recovery.

Hikers can expect a fascinating array of fire-following wildflowers, waist-high grasses and a lot less shade than in years past. Trail conditions range from excellent to utter devastation. Trails in the Little Sur and Arroyo Seco drainages appear to have been hit particularly hard. Hikers would be well advised to maintain heightened awareness when passing through burned forests, across steep slopes, over loose tread and when selecting a campsite (detached

branches and standing snags are particularly dangerous in high winds). Some routes may be extremely difficult to follow due to landslides and heavy regrowth. The remnants of fire suppression efforts, such as bulldozed firebreaks and slash piles may often obscure ridge-top trails. Familiar areas may be barely recognizable, so stay oriented and allow for extra hiking time.

The Ventana Wilderness Alliance hosts a website with current condition reports for backcountry trails at www.ventanawild.org/trails/trail.html. Ventana Chapter members are encouraged to use the online submission form to file their own trail reports and help update this valuable knowledge base.

For more information, contact Mike Splain, Local Wilderness Chair, mike@ventanawild.org.

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The post office charges us 70¢ each if they handle the address change.

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Thanks!

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Sierra Club successfully challenges Stockton's General Plan Update

by Holly Bressett, Attorney, Sierra Club Environmental Law Program

A great legal settlement obtained in October by the Sierra Club, in a case challenging the city of Stockton's

General Plan update, has demonstrated the power of litigation as part of an overall campaign to prod counties and cities to address global warming. Reinforcing this message, a court order issued on March 19 found for the Sierra Club in its challenge to the city of Tulare's General Plan update and agreed with the Sierra Club on all its global-warming claims.

The Club challenged Stockton's updated General Plan under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), arguing, among other things, that the Environmental Impact Report did not adequately address the increased greenhouse-gas emissions from the proposed expansion of the city's sphere of influence and the large residential development projects proposed well outside existing city limits.

The groundbreaking settlement among the club, the city, and the state attorney general, addresses these climate impacts through a Climate Action Plan, to be prepared by the city with oversight from a volunteer advisory committee with repre-

sentatives from environmental, non-profit, labor, business, and development interests. The plan must include greenhouse-gas inventories; a comprehensive transit program; green building standards for all new residential, municipal, and commercial buildings, which must consistently achieve the top 25% of city green-building measures in the state; proposed General Plan amendments that require and promote infill and downtown development projects; and amendments to the General Plan to ensure that growth on the outskirts of the city is not "out of balance with development of infill." Many of these measures must be submitted to the City Council for approval within one year from the date of the settlement.

This settlement will bring meaningful reductions in greenhouse-gas emissions through the study of emissions, changes to transportation and building standards, and reductions in sprawl development. We believe that we can achieve similar victories around the state. This case demonstrates

how a CEQA lawsuit, when brought as part of a larger campaign, can have more than just procedural results and can lead to major substantive improvements under the right circumstances.

The case also had political ramifications. When the city's old guard embarrassed itself by resisting a settlement that was clearly in the city's best interests, this made a great campaign issue for the Club and its Stockton allies. Voters elected a more progressive City Council, including a very green new mayor. Mother Lode Chapter leaders have reported a remarkable turnaround in the attitudes of top city staff, and the local political atmosphere has shifted so dramatically that the developer was forced to abandon an effort to pass a referendum aimed at killing the settlement.

Moreover, chapter leaders kept track of all other related land-use approvals, and wrote comments objecting to the threatened additions of sprawl areas in the city's sphere of influence. Due to momentum from the settlement agreement, the Club was able to block the worst aspects of that "sphere of influence" amendment.

Factors that made the Stockton litigation such a huge success included:

- sophisticated chapter activists working with their attorneys to devise a comprehensive campaign strategy with litigation only one of a number of tactics;
- targeting of a General Plan, rather than individual development projects in isolation;
- involvement of a highly sophisticated law firm with a track record of dramatic results using CEQA litigation;
- effective work in advance of the litigation to build the administrative record (for example, the chapter prepared its own "alternative plan" to the proposed General Plan);
- effective outreach to, and coordination with, the state attorney general's office;
- "taking delivery" by settling the case.

In short, the Sierra Club's multi-pronged strategy in Stockton was extremely effective. In the words of our lead lawyer, "we couldn't ask for a more inspiring client!" The Club hopes to replicate such campaign-driven results in other cities and counties.

The Sierra Club was represented by the law firm of Shute Mihaly & Weinberger in its Stockton litigation and settlement. Babak Naficy represented the Club in its challenge to the city of Tulare's General Plan.



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- John Muir

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State considering new logging rules to protect salmon

Industry trying to weaken salmon protections; public comments critical

by Jodi Frediani

The State Board of Forestry will hold a Public Hearing, June 24, in Sacramento on proposed rules to enhance streamside protection for endangered salmon. This meeting will be crucial for the future of imperiled coho salmon statewide and in our Central Coast streams.

Over the past two years the State Board of Forestry has engaged in an extensive review process to look at the sufficiency of current logging rules designed to protect coho salmon and steelhead trout. The Board hired a consultant to conduct a Scientific Literature Review. An oversight committee of agency staff, industry representatives, and the interested public participated in the literature review process and helped draft the new rule package, which, if adopted, would provide greater protection for coho salmon and steelhead trout.

The timber industry, in an effort to weaken the proposed rules, and after filibustering during months of additional review meetings, inserted 33 of their own proposed changes to the rule package. Some of the worst, if adopted, would reduce the required streamside canopy after logging below that which science deems necessary for salmon health. Riparian trees provide needed shade to keep stream temperatures sufficiently cool for coho. Streamside trees also stabilize stream banks to reduce sediment input and introduce large woody material into the stream system when they fall. Such wood helps create pools of cool water, meters sediment, and provides cover for the fish from predators.

Our local timber industry is also working hard to weaken the proposed rules. In an effort to convert the public process to a closed one, industry representatives hosted a field trip for agency and industry representatives from which the public was excluded. Local timber representatives are seeking exemptions from the new rules for the Central Coast district and are lobbying to keep status quo streamside regulations

rather than accept the need for increased protections. Without massive public participation, they just may succeed.

The Board of Forestry members are appointed by the Governor and as such are politically motivated. Their monthly rule promulgation meetings are heavily attended by timber industry paid lobbyists. Due to minimal funding, only a handful of environmental fish and forest advocates, including Sierra Club, attend.

If you care about the health of our streams and don't wish to see our endangered coho become extinct coho, get involved.

How to help

- Send a letter asking that the proposed rule package be adopted in its original form without any of the options. If you need help in composing a letter, check the Chap-

ter website for a sample. The letter must be received by June 22. Write: Board of Forestry and Fire Protection, Attn. Christopher Zimny, Regulations Coordinator, P.O. Box 944246, Sacramento, CA 94244-2460; email: board.public.comments@fire.ca.gov; FAX 916-653-0989. Tell the Board you are commenting on the "Threatened or Impaired Watershed" rules.

- Public input at the Board of Forestry hearing on June 24 will be critical. Please consider attending. Contact Jodi Frediani regarding carpool information.

- Contact Jodi Frediani, Forestry Consultant for Santa Cruz Group of the Sierra Club: JodiFred@aol.com, 426-1697 to receive an email with details about the hearing.



Don Alley

When a creek contains excess sediment, cobbles and gravels necessary for fish to lay eggs and rear young are smothered in sand.

Most Central Coast water bodies listed as impaired

by Jodi Frediani

The 1972 Federal Clean Water Act requires states to identify water bodies that do not meet water quality objectives and are not supporting their beneficial uses. Beneficial uses include drinking water, water contact recreation such as swimming, cold water (fish) habitat, estuarine habitat, groundwater recharge, and more. Each state must submit an updated list to the EPA every two years.

This list includes streams and other water bodies that are considered impaired due to a variety of contaminants including fecal coliform, pathogens, nitrates, pesticides, mercury, turbidity, and sediment, among others, as well as those streams where temperatures are too high for survival of fish.

Currently, most of the water bodies in Santa Cruz County and Monterey County are listed as impaired for sediment. Alisal Creek in Monterey County is already listed for fecal coliform and nitrate and is proposed to be listed for sodium and chlorophyll-a. The Pajaro River is currently listed

for nitrates, nutrients, sedimentation/siltation, boron and fecal coliform and is being proposed to add chloride, chlorpyrifos, *E. Coli*, low dissolved oxygen, pH, sodium and turbidity. Additional new listings are proposed for other water bodies throughout Santa Cruz and Monterey counties. The Water Board is proposing 500 additional listings. Some streams will be listed for multiple pollutants.

A public hearing conducted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board Central Coast Region on the impaired water bodies will be held July 10 in the Watsonville City Council Chambers starting at 8:30 a.m. Attend and speak up in support of the listings, or visit *The Ventana* website, www.ventana.sierraclub.org for a sample letter you can send.

Some local water bodies listed as impaired

Branciforte Creek
San Lorenzo River
Soquel Creek
Corralitos Creek
Pajaro River
Pacific Ocean at Capitola Beach

Pinto Lake
Watsonville Slough
Elkhorn Slough
Moss Landing Harbor
Old Salinas River

For a complete listing giving the reasons each is impaired visit www.swrcb.ca.gov/centralcoast/water_issues/programs/tmdl/303d/appendix_a.pdf

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Sierra Club Events

Summer

Channel Islands trips

Planning a vacation this summer? Consider a trip to the Channel Islands with a ranger/naturalist who will lead hikes and give talks. Fundraising event for Sierra Club political programs in California. Dates are July 17-20, August 7-10, and September 11-14. Cost is \$950 which includes bunk and all meals. For more info contact Joan Jones Holtz, 11826 The Wye Street, El Monte, CA 91732, jholtzhl@aol.com.

Friday, June 12

Potluck & Slides

Judy Frosch, traveler-photographer-kayaker, will show unique slides of Lake Powell taken during twenty-five separate weeks spent on the lake during a four-year period. The potluck begins at 6:30 p.m. Bring food to share and your own washable plate, cup, utensils and serving utensils. We love home-cooked meals or dessert, but store-bought items (minimum value \$5) make great contributions too. For directions call George, 335-7748. Donations of \$1 or more for projector maintenance would be appreciated.

Friday, July 10

Potluck & Slides: Underwater Photography

Rima Joseph will present slides from her multiple dives around Hawaii over the past few years. This event will be hosted by Randy and Carin at 612 Arroyo Seco, on the westside of Santa Cruz. For directions call George, 335-



Judy Frosch

7748. The potluck begins at 6:30 p.m. Bring food to share and your own washable plate, cup, utensils and serving utensils. We love home-cooked meals or dessert, but store-bought items (minimum value \$5) make great contributions too. Donations of \$1 or more for projector maintenance would be appreciated.

Friday, August 14

Potluck & Slides: Africa

This presentation is from Nancy's March 2009 safari in Tanzania with all of the usual African safari animals plus lots of birds and lots of telephoto close-ups. The potluck begins at 6:30 p.m. Bring food to share and your own washable plate, cup, utensils and serving utensils. We love home-cooked meals or dessert, but store-bought items (minimum value \$5) make great contributions too. Donations of \$1 or more for projector maintenance would be appreciated. For directions call Nancy, 423-5509.



Nancy Huguenard

Sunday – Monday, August 23 – 24

Lobby Day

Join Sierra Club members from all over California in Sacramento to lobby legislators for renewable energy, water conservation, improved air quality, and park protection. Training on Sunday and Monday work the halls of the Capitol. Contact Annie Pham, lobbyday@sierraclubcalifornia.org or 916-557-1100 x 107.

Island Hopping in Channel Islands National Park

July 17-20; Aug. 7-10; Sept. 11-14

Come explore the wild, windswept islands of Channel Island National Park. The pristine waters of the Marine Sanctuary entice both snorkelers and kayakers. Watch for the endangered Island Fox. Marvel at the whales, dolphins, sea and land birds, endemic plants, and reminders of the Chumash people who lived on these islands for thousands of years.

All islands are ringed with rugged shorelines and dotted with sea caves. Each island offers special charm: San Miguel for white sandy beaches and elephant seals; Santa Rosa for a rare stand of Torrey Pines; Santa Cruz for mountains, deep valleys, and the famous Painted Cave; Anacapa for the brown pelican rookery, a picturesque lighthouse, excellent snorkeling and friendly sea lions who swim with snorkelers and follow kayaks.

Cruises depart from Santa Barbara aboard the 68' twin diesel *Truth*. The fee, \$950, includes an assigned bunk, all meals, snacks, beverages, plus the services of a ranger/naturalist who will travel with us to lead hikes and present evening programs.

The proceeds from the cruises will benefit Sierra Club political programs in California. To make a reservation mail a \$100 check, payable to Sierra Club to leader: Joan Jones Holtz, 11826 The Wye St., El Monte, CA 91732. Contact leader for more information 626-443-0706; jholtzhl@aol.com.

Help Sierra Club pass priority bills in Sacramento

Come join the Club in Sacramento for our annual Lobby Day on Sunday and Monday August 23 and 24. You will be part of a team that will help Sierra Club California pass our priority bills during the most exciting and challenging time of the year at the State Capitol. You will have opportunities for interaction with other activists and our professional lobbying staff, as well as with legislators and their staffs.

This is a two-day event. On Sunday afternoon our advocacy team will train you on how to lobby and brief you on our priority bills so that you can effectively advocate for them. On Monday, you will work the halls of the Capitol as teams, with meetings scheduled from morning through the afternoon. We will focus on key remaining bills as the session winds down. Hot issues this year are renewable energy, water conservation, air quality, park protection, and resilient habitats.

It is possible to have fun and save our environment at the same time! Past participants have found it to be an eye-opening and rewarding experience. Participants should expect to pay some costs, but some travel and lodging reimbursements will be available.

For more information, please contact Annie Pham, Legislative Aide, at lobbyday@sierraclubcalifornia.org or 916-557-1100 x 107.

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.

Saturday, June 27

Parsons Slough talk and walk

Elkhorn Slough is sponsoring a presentation and walk about Parsons Slough, a branch of Elkhorn Slough. Meet at Elkhorn Slough at 9:30 a.m. at the flagpole. See article on page 6 for more info.

FREE Wormshops

Learn how worms can eat your food scraps and make beautiful compost for your garden. Master composters will teach you everything you need to know. Pre-registration required. Free and below wholesale worm bins for residents of unincorporated Santa Cruz Co. and Scotts Valley. \$50 charge for residents of Capitola, City of Santa Cruz, and Watsonville. Call 427-3452 to register. Sponsored by S.C. Co. Board of Supervisors; produced by County Public Works Recycling and Solid Waste Services.

Sunday, June 28, 1-3 p.m., Alladin Nursery, 2907 Freedom Blvd., Watsonville.

Summer Hikes

Hiking Class

Cabrillo College offers two 6-week hiking classes during the summer semester taught by club member Phil Kaplan. Monday or Wednesday mornings from 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. \$20 + health fee. Register online at www.cabrillo.edu for PE 37.

Santa Cruz CNPS

Habitat restoration

Volunteer to restore native habitat in State Parks in Santa Cruz Co. Wear layered work clothes. 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, redwdrn@pacbell.net, 462-4041. Website: www.cruz.cnps.org.

June 6, Twin Lakes State Park

Monterey CNPS

Habitat restoration

Volunteer to restore native habitat in State Parks in Monterey Co. Wear layered work clothes. Bring water & snacks. Tools & gloves provided. Carpools meet at Rio Rd. Park and Ride. Rain or shine. Contact Jan Shriner, jshriner@mbay.net, 236-0905. Website: www.montereybay.cnps.org.

Watsonville Fourth Saturday

Habitat restoration - Watsonville

Sponsored by Watsonville Wetlands Watch. 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Meet at the Fitz Wetlands Educ. Resource Ctr. at Pajaro Valley HS. Gloves, tools, and snack provided. Call Jonathan Pilch, 728-4106, for more info. No experience necessary.

Government cracks down on emissions from cement plants

The federal government is proposing new rules to reduce airborne mercury pollution from cement kilns for the first time. When finally adopted after the public comment period, the rules will apply to the Cemex plant in Davenport and 150 other plants across the nation. The plant in Davenport is currently closed because of the decreased demand for cement due to the economy, but could reopen in the future.

In 2005 the Cemex plant emitted 170 pounds of mercury, making it one of the biggest emitters of mercury nationwide.

The new standards would cut mercury pollution by 81–93% nationwide according to the US Environmental Protection Agency. Led by Lisa Jackson, the new EPA Administrator, EPA is

proposing first-time standards for cement kilns of mercury, hydrochloric acid, and toxic organic pollutants such as benzene. In addition, the agency is strengthening the outdated standards for particulate matter to better control kilns' emissions of lead, arsenic, and other toxic metals.

The new standards are being proposed as part of a court settlement reached between the US Environmental Protection Agency,

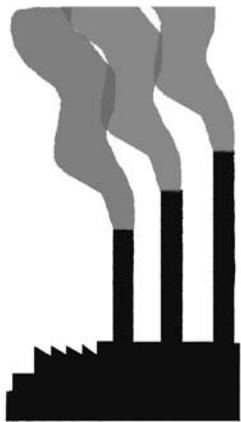
the nonprofit environmental law firm Earthjustice representing Sierra Club, and others. Local and national environmental and public health advocates cheered the news, which follows a decade of delay and represents a hard-fought victory for those who have long pushed for these mercury

The new standards would cut mercury pollution by 81–93% nationwide

limits.

“This is great news and is a promising sign that the new leadership at EPA and in the White House is serious about protecting public health and the environment,” said Earthjustice attorney Jim Pew. “By stopping pollution at its source, we can keep mercury from poisoning the fish we eat. Bit by bit, we can reclaim our nation’s waters and protect our children’s health and our environment from dangerous mercury pollution.”

The new rules would also require cement kilns to monitor their mercury emissions for the first time. In the past, the industry has been notoriously lax about reporting these emissions: a study last summer from Earthjustice and the Environmental Integrity Project found that cement kilns emit mercury pollution at more than twice the level estimated as recently as 2006 by the EPA, which only started to collect data on the problem in 2007.



Santa Cruz County and City adopt new programs to encourage energy independence

The Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors and the Santa Cruz City Council have each adopted Energy Independence and Economic Stimulus Initiative programs to provide homeowners financing options to install energy generation improvements.

The programs consist of two phases. Phase 1 (available immediately) is a loan program for solar panel installation and other energy efficiency improvements such as solar hot water or rain water catchment systems. Phase 2 consists of investigation of special finance districts for solar installations.

Both phases require zero local tax dollars to finance. Low interest loans for Phase 1 will be at the fixed rate of 9.0% for up to 15 years. The solar finance districts being investigated for Phase 2 would allow property owners in such districts to pay for solar projects through a 20-year special tax

assessment on their property tax bill with little upfront costs. Similar projects have been established in Berkeley and Boulder, Colorado.

“This is a win-win for our county because it would infuse millions of dollars in our local economy while also making good progress toward climate change goals,” said Neal Coonerty, chair of the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors.

The programs will help the City and County of Santa Cruz to make significant progress toward needed reductions in greenhouse gas emissions while providing investment in the local economy, two goals that are consistent with the Climate Action Compact of 2007 between the City and County and the University of California, Santa Cruz. Other participants in this community partnership include the Santa Cruz Community Credit Union, local solar companies, and Ecology Action.

Mercury is dangerous in even very small doses; one-seventieth of one teaspoon of mercury can contaminate a 20-acre lake and make the lake’s fish unsafe to eat. But a study by the University of Florida found that when mercury pollution is reduced, ecosystems can indeed bounce back, documented by reduced mercury levels in fish and certain bird species within just a few years.

A dangerous neurotoxin, mercury interferes with the brain and nervous system. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, eight percent of American women of childbearing age have mercury in their bodies at levels high enough to put their babies at risk of birth defects, loss of IQ, learning disabilities, and developmental problems.

Traffic pollution linked to new cases of asthma

An eight-year study has found childhood asthma rates could increase as much as 30% with the exposure to higher levels of traffic-related air pollution. The study followed 217 non-asthmatic children from a wide area of Southern California. Home air monitors allowed scientists to compare the children’s exposure to air pollution and newly-diagnosed



cases of asthma. It was found that higher amounts of nitrogen dioxide, a constituent of smog, are associated with the development of childhood asthma.

Published in the journal *Environmental Health Perspectives*, the study is the latest to come from the Southern California Children’s Health Study, a project pioneered by the California Air Resources Board in the early 1990s. This, the most extensive investigation into air pollution’s impact on the young, has provided data that resulted in over 100 peer-reviewed articles with several groundbreaking results.

One of these studies found that children exercising on days with high ozone concentrations also had an increased likelihood of developing asthma. “Good air quality is fundamental to good health,” said Air Resources Board Chair Mary D. Nichols. “Recent studies have shown that the reduction of air pollution is also economically beneficial. It diminishes the costs associated with lost work and school days, medications to address illnesses, hospital visits and smog-related premature deaths.”

County Supervisors support net metering

Currently if you have solar panels on your roof, you are not paid for any excess power you might have generated during the year at the “true up” time. Instead your account is zeroed out. Assembly Bill 920, currently before the State Legislature, would change that. AB 920 would allow owners of solar and wind energy systems to be paid a fair price for any excess power fed into the grid. Utilities would be allowed to count the purchased power toward meeting their annual Renewable Portfolio Standard Goals.

Acting on a resolution introduced by Supervisor Neal Coonerty, the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors has voted support of AB 920.

If passed, AB 920 would enable homes, small businesses, schools, and farms that produce renewable energy to get paid by their utility company for any excess electricity they produce that goes back on the grid. AB 920 is supported by Sierra Club, Environment California, the Planning and Conservation League, AFL-CIO, the California Association of Realtors and the Coalition for Clean Air.

How can Parsons Slough be restored?

Elkhorn Slough has lost 60% of its historic salt marsh, and is expected to lose 30% more by 2050. One branch of Elkhorn Slough, called Parsons Slough, is a 450-acre complex of mudflats and other tidal wetlands. This area historically supported 400 acres of tidal marsh, but now only 35 acres remain. In the first half of the twentieth century the area was diked off from the tides and drained for farming. The land surface dropped and is now too wet for salt marsh plants.

In 1982 the dikes around Parsons Slough broke. The tides returned, but the salt marsh did not. Powerful currents swept through the area, and salt marsh loss accelerated throughout Elkhorn Slough.

Reducing tidal exchange at Parsons Slough slightly would slow currents in many parts of Elkhorn Slough, increasing the viability of salt marsh and soft mud habitats throughout the estuary. Salt marsh can also be restored by adding sediment to raise the elevation of the area so it is high enough to support wetland plants.

Elkhorn Slough is currently evaluating how to implement these strategies while protecting the high quality existing habitat in Parsons Slough for sharks, rays, sea otters, seals, and shorebirds.

On Saturday, June 27, from 9:30 a.m. to noon, Elkhorn Slough is sponsoring a presentation and walk about Parson’s Slough. To participate meet at the flagpole at Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve at 9:30 a.m. For more info contact Erin McCarthy, erin@elkhornslough.org.

New report shows birds in decline

A new report released by Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar shows that nearly a third of the nation's 800 bird species are in trouble due to habitat loss, invasive species, and other threats. The report, *The U.S. State of the Birds*, synthesizes data from three long-running bird censuses conducted by thousands of citizen scientists and professional biologists.

Birds in trouble include not only the California Condor and the Marbled Murrelet, but other local favorites such as the Snowy Plover, Solitary Sandpiper, Chestnut-backed Chickadee, and Pine Siskin. At the same time, the report highlights examples, including many species of waterfowl, where habitat restoration and conservation have reversed previous declines, offering hope that it is not too late to take action to save declining populations.

"Just as they were when Rachel Carson published *Silent Spring* nearly 50 years ago, birds today are a bellwether of the health of land, water, and ecosystems," Salazar said. "From shorebirds in New England to warblers in Michigan, we are seeing disturbing downward population trends that should set off environmental alarm bells. We must work together now to ensure we never hear the deafening silence in our forests, fields, and backyards that Rachel Carson warned us about."

The report calls attention to the crisis in Hawaii, where more birds are in danger of extinction than anywhere else in the United States. In addition, the report indicates a 40% decline in grassland birds over



Erica Crawford

Wetlands management and restoration have contributed to thriving populations of American White Pelican.

the past 40 years, a 30% decline in birds of aridlands, and high concern for many coastal shorebirds. Furthermore, 39% of species dependent on oceans have declined.

However, the report also reveals convincing evidence that birds can respond positively to conservation action. The data

show dramatic increases in many wetland birds such as pelicans, herons, egrets, osprey, and ducks, a testament to numerous cooperative conservation partnerships that have resulted in protection, enhancement, and management of more than 30 million wetland acres.

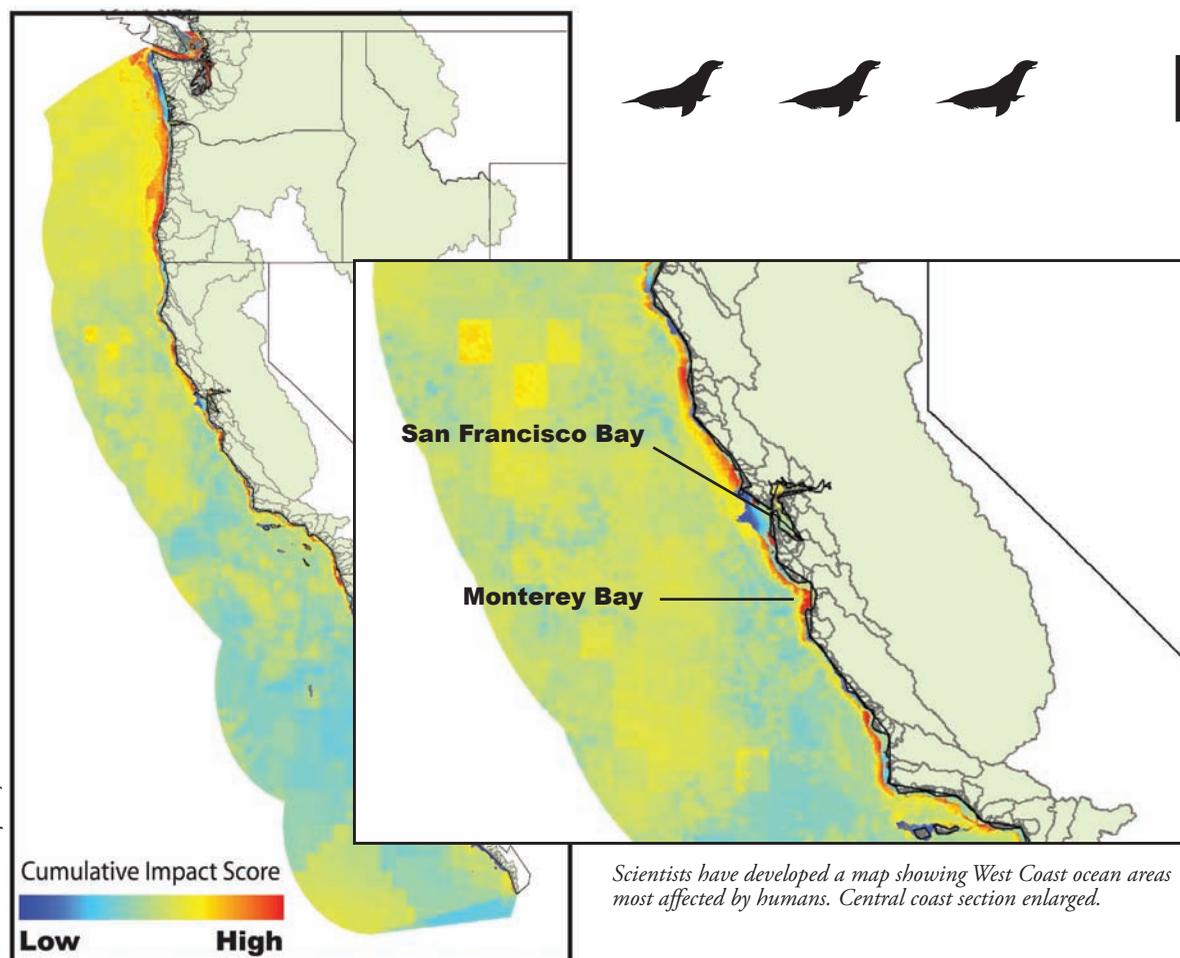
Surveys conducted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and U.S. Geological Survey, combined with data gathered through volunteer citizen science programs such as the National Audubon Society's Christmas Bird Count, show once abundant birds such as the marbled murrelet are declining significantly. The possibility of extinction remains a cold reality for many endangered birds.

Birds are beautiful, as well as economically important and a priceless part of America's natural heritage. Birds are also highly sensitive to environmental pollution and climate change, making them critical indicators of the health of the environment on which we all depend.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service coordinated creation of the new report as part of the U.S. North American Bird Conservation Initiative, which includes partners from American Bird Conservancy, the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies,

Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Klamath Bird Observatory, National Audubon Society, The Nature Conservancy, and the U.S. Geological Survey.

To view the full report with its beautiful photos visit www.stateofthebirds.org.



Scientists have developed a map showing West Coast ocean areas most affected by humans. Central coast section enlarged.

Researchers map West

"Every single spot of the ocean also

—BEN HALPERN, MARINE ECOLOGIST AT THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR

In a two-year study to document the way humans are affecting the oceans on the West Coast, Halpern and colleagues overlaid data on the location and intensity of 25 human-derived sources of ecological stress, including climate change, commercial and recreational fishing, land-based sources of pollution, and ocean-based commercial activities.

With the information, they produced a composite map of the status of West Coast marine ecosystems. The lead scientists on the study previously conducted a similar analysis on a global scale published last year in *Science*.

"We found two remarkable and unexpected results in this research," said Halpern.

700,000 acres of new wilderness designated in California

Years of volunteer work in organizing and mapping potential new wilderness areas by club members and others paid off this spring as Congress passed the largest expansion of national wilderness in 15 years. The new wilderness designation will safeguard two million acres nationwide including about 700,000 acres in California.

Included in the omnibus lands bill are over 400,000 acres in the Eastern Sierra, additions to Joshua Tree National Park, protection of 85,000 acres in Sequoia-Kings Canyon National Parks (including the Mineral King Valley area), the flower-studded San Joaquin Ridge near Mammoth, over 223,500 acres in the White Mountains (home to Bristlecone Pines), and establishment of a wilderness around Mount Hood in Oregon.

The package also includes five important ocean protections: NOAA Undersea Research Program Act, The Ocean and Coastal Mapping Integration Act, The Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System Act, The Federal Ocean Acidification Research and Monitoring Act, and The Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program.

The bill will also protect more than one million acres in Wyoming from oil and gas development and designates more than 1000 miles of wild and scenic rivers.

Included in the legislation was a landmark settlement of an 18-year lawsuit the Sierra Club has supported, led by the Natural Resources Defense Council, to restore

the San Joaquin River. The law authorizes the federal government to spend \$88 million to restore the river which once supported huge spring Chinook salmon runs. Water flows will be restored to now dry parts of the river, and water management

projects will help farmers offset irrigation losses. Additional funding brings the total restoration funds to \$400 million.

With passage of this bill, California now has 14 million acres of wilderness. Wilderness lands are protected from logging, new

mining, and energy development. One provision, strongly opposed by the Sierra Club, will allow building a road through wilderness in Alaska's Izembek National Wildlife Refuge.



Ventana staff photo

The area surrounding this backpacker is now part of the John Muir Wilderness.

t Coast ocean threats



ong the West Coast is affected by 10 to 15 different human activities annually.”

ECOLOGICAL ANALYSIS AND SYNTHESIS (NCEAS), UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA AT SANTA BARBARA

ern. “Ocean management needs to move beyond single-sector management and towards comprehensive ecosystem-based management if it is to be effective at protecting and sustaining ocean health. Also, the global results for this region were highly correlated with the regional results, suggesting that the global results can provide valuable guidance for regional efforts around the world.”

The study results show that hotspots of cumulative impact are in coastal areas near urban centers and heavily polluted watersheds.

The research involved a four-step process. First, the scientists gathered information to quantify and compare how different hu-

man activities affect each marine ecosystem. For example, fertilizer runoff was shown to have a large effect on salt marshes, but a much smaller one on rocky reefs. Then the researchers gathered and processed data on marine ecosystems and human influences. Next they combined data from the first and second steps to determine “human impact scores” for each location along the West Coast. Finally, they compared regional results to global results for the same areas from the previous analysis.

“The study provides critical information for evaluating where certain activities can continue with little effect on the oceans and where other activities might need to be stopped or moved to less sensitive ar-

reas,” said Phillip Taylor, section head in the National Science Foundation Division of Ocean Sciences.

“The results are a wake-up call,” said Halpern. “We are significantly affecting the oceans.”

Make a difference
Join Sierra Club
California's
Legislative Action
Network
<http://cal-legalert.sierraclubaction.org>

Say NO to bottled water

by Vicki Lee

The bottled water industry—led by Nestlé, Coke, and Pepsi—aggressively promotes bottled water through sexy marketing campaigns that undermine people's trust in public water systems. Their campaigns rival the Joe Camel ads that hooked kids on cigarettes and the Happy Cows ads that belie the California dairy industry's animal factories that dominate subsidized agriculture here. This trendy "healthy" drink can cost 500 to 4,000 times more than tap water.

In the U.S. more than 30 billion plastic water bottles are discarded each year. Only 15% are recycled; the rest end up in landfills, or as litter—66 million every day. They can take 1,000 years to decompose and meanwhile they contribute to the vortex of plastic waste in the Pacific Garbage Patch, which may be twice the size of Texas.

Smaller bottles are made from polyethylene terephthalate (PET), the manufacture of which generates 100 times more toxic emissions than glass. Researchers found that eight out of 10 PET bottles leave residues of the endocrine disrupter bisphenol A in the water. Exposure to extremely low doses of bisphenol A is strongly linked to breast cancer, prostate cancer, and diabetes.

If you are concerned about the quality or taste of your tap water, it is much cheaper and safer to install a water filter on your tap to remove the pollutants than to depend on bottled water.



Production of bottled water for U.S. consumption in 2006 required the equivalent of more than 17 million barrels of oil.

No problems have been associated with refillable stainless steel or aluminum/baked-enamel-lined containers.

Reducing our carbon footprint

The Pacific Institute estimates that production of bottled water for U.S. consumption in 2006 required the equivalent of more than 17 million barrels of oil, not including the energy used for transportation. This released over 2.5 million tons of

carbon dioxide, a major global warming gas. It took three liters of water to produce one liter of bottled water.

The total amount of energy embedded in the use of bottled water is the equivalent of filling a plastic bottle one quarter full of oil, according to the Pacific Institute.

What you can do

Avoid using bottled water unless absolutely necessary. Drink from reusable metal

or glass containers filled with tap water when traveling. At public events and at home, offer pitchers of water.

Opt for tap water. Take the pledge at: www.stopcorporateabuse.org/campaign/think_outside_the_bottle_pledge. For more information on the Pacific Garbage Patch, see: www.algalita.org.

Reprinted with permission from the *Yodeler*, newspaper of the Sierra Club San Francisco Bay Chapter.

Local residents propose environmental laws

Santa Cruz Sierra Club member Ron Pomerantz and Soquel resident Liz Levy were recognized by Senator Joe Simitian as winners in the State Senator's Oughta Be A Law Contest. Pomerantz, a San Jose Fire Captain, suggested that safe disposal instructions be provided for home smoke alarms which contain Americium, a radioactive byproduct of plutonium.

The result was SB 317, The Fire Alarm Device Collection Act of 2009 which, if passed, would require manufacturers to label smoke detectors with either a toll-free phone number or a website on how to safely dispose of the device.

"I hope that we end up with a safer product and reduce the consequences of ionizing detectors in our environment," said Pomerantz.

When asked why he chose the proposal, Simitian replied, "Radioactive materials don't belong in our landfills. It's just common sense." California already has similar laws in place for mercury and other toxins.

Levy, a long-time resident of Soquel, grew concerned about the environmental threat of commuter traffic. Forty percent of state emissions come from vehicles, making this the biggest contributor to global warming in the state. Levy sought a solution that could reverse this trend without breaking the state's budget. Based on a successful Washington state program, she proposed creating tax incentives for employers who succeed in motivating employees to reduce traffic gridlock.

The resultant Vehicle Trip Reduction bill, SB 425, would create a program that gives businesses an incentive to engage in substantive commute reductions. The bill aims to reduce the number of cars on the road and the amount of time drivers spend on their commute.

The key to success, Simitian emphasized, is incentives. "Observation tells us that too many of us are still driving solo, even if that means sitting in traffic. We need to figure out what motivates us to get out of our cars, and provide incentives to encourage that effort. That's what this bill will do."

Both bills are currently before the State Legislature.

NEWSCLIPS

Condor dies of lead poisoning

One of the first condors released at Pinnacles in 2003 (#286) has died at the Los Angeles Zoo where it was being treated for lead poisoning. The lead came from ingesting bullets found in the carcasses of animals the condor used as food.

Since 1992 14 condors have been killed by lead poisoning. Lead ammunition is the greatest threat to wild condors. In July 2008 use of lead ammunition was banned in counties where condors are found.

A second condor (#375) which was also suffering from lead poisoning was successfully treated and has been released again to the wild in May.

Condor hatches in wild

For the first time in 70 years a condor chick has hatched in the wild. On April 18, the chick emerged in a nest on a private ranch in San Benito County. Biologists had switched the original egg with one they knew was viable and took the wild-laid egg to the Los Angeles Zoo. Condors do not fly until about six months after hatching.

Watsonville bans styrofoam

In April, Watsonville adopted a ban on styrofoam for take-out food, joining other Santa Cruz and Monterey County jurisdictions that had previously adopted similar bans. With the Watsonville ordinance, all of Santa Cruz County now bans polystyrene for take-out food packaging, following San Francisco to become the second counties in the state to adopt a county-wide ban. A bill to ban styrofoam statewide (AB 1358) is currently before the Legislature.

Networking

If you're into social networking you might want to check out these new Sierra Club websites: Climate Crossroads: <http://climatecrossroads.org>, Sierra Club Trails: <http://sierraclubtrails.org>, Sierra Student Coalition: <http://ssc.sierraclub.org>. Anyone can browse on these sites. Those wanting to participate in the discussion can do so by creating a user profile.

Community members will be able to blog, join and create groups, take action, start discussions, circulate petitions, organize rallies, and more. Through these online communities, activists can come

together to tackle climate change, share knowledge of great hiking trails and waterways, or simply swap green living tips and earth-friendly recipes.

Solar plan

San Francisco has approved a plan to build a 5 megawatt photovoltaic system consisting of over 25,000 panels. The public/private partnership is for a 25-year agreement; the system would be built by Recurrent Energy with no up-front costs to the City. Construction is scheduled to begin this summer and be completed by 2010. The City would be obligated to purchase power from the company at an agreed price and would have the option to purchase the system in years 7, 15, or 25.

Poaching petition

Audubon California is sponsoring a petition drive in favor of AB 708 which would dramatically increase penalties for poaching. Poaching violations more than doubled from 2003 to 2007. One Gilroy hunter killed over 300 birds, including protected species. To sign the petition which Sierra Club supports, visit www.audublog.org.

OUTINGS 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 the riders. Carpool drivers are not agents or employees of the Sierra Club.

EXPLANATION OF RATINGS:

The outings described vary in difficulty from leisurely walks to strenuous hikes. The following explanation is a general guideline. (For more information about the difficulty of a particular outing, 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 2000' 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:

Rio Road Park & Ride: This parking lot is on Rio Road in Carmel.

Save-Mart / Bagel Bakery: (formerly Albertson's) South of Monterey on Hwy. 1. One mile past Ocean Ave., turn L on Carmel Valley Rd. Almost immediately, turn R at the light. Save-Mart/ Bagel Bakery on the R.

Santa Cruz County Government Center: The large grey building at the corner of Ocean & Water in Santa Cruz. We meet at the corner of the parking lot nearest to the intersection.

Felton Faire: The shopping center at the junction of Graham Hill and Mt. Hermon Rds. in Felton. 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 Ave. exit. Go toward the ocean on 41st Ave. Pass the main Mall entrance and turn right into the next entrance near Sears. We meet behind the bank located at 41st and Capitola Road.

MPC parking lot: Monterey Peninsula College Parking Lot. From Hwy. 1 take the Fisherman's Wharf exit, go straight one block, turn L and L again into the first parking lot: A. This is the site of the Thurs. Farmers Mkt. Plenty of parking with no fee on weekends.

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

In the interest 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, ridesharing, or anything similar is strictly a private arrangement among the participants. Participants assume the risks associated with this travel.

CST 2087766-40. Registration as a seller of travel does not constitute approval by the State of California.

Participants will be required to sign a liability waiver. To read it before choosing to participate on an outing go to www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms.

JUNE

Friday, June 5

HIKE: WEST MOLERA

We'll hike up Hidden Trail and Ridge Trail enjoying views of Pico Blanco and Post Summit. 8 miles with 1200' elevation gain. After lunch we descend via the Panorama Trail and Bluff Trail, with views of the ocean and Point Sur. Bring lunch, water, and a sweater or windbreaker as the ocean breeze can be cold even at this time of year. Optional: bring sandals or aqua shoes for a possible river crossing. Meet at the Rio Road Park & Ride at 9:30 a.m. Leaders: Cath Farrant and Mary Dainton, 372-7427.

Saturday, June 6

HIKE: MT. MADONNA COUNTY PARK

Find more mariposas in our local foothills behind Watsonville. 6 miles with 1200' elevation gain. Meet at 9:30 a.m. at the Mar Monte exit in Aptos to carpool. Call Nick for additional information. Leader: Nick Wyckoff, 462-3101.

Saturday, June 6

WALK: FT. ORD DUNES S.P.

Let's explore our newest state park and see what's to be seen on a short beach walk. Getting there is half the fun. Meet at 1:00 p.m. at the parking lot

on the east side of Hwy. 1, near the site of Stilwell Hall. From the Lightfighter exit off Hwy. 1, go left on 2nd Ave., left again on 1st Street, and follow the signs along 5th Street to the 8th Street bridge. It's a funky approach to a state park, but the park itself is worth finding, and it's free! Call the leader by Friday if you'd rather ride with her from some central meeting point. Dress in layers, bring water, a snack, and optional binoculars. Leader: Mary Gale, 626-3565.

Sunday, June 7

WALK: CARMEL RIVER BEACH

How about an early morning walk from Carmel River Beach to Monastery Beach via the hill and back via the Bluff Trail. Enjoy views of Point Lobos and listen to the surf. 3 miles. Wear comfortable shoes and dress for the weather; wind breaker recommended. Bring water and a snack. Meet at the parking lot at Carmel River Beach at the lagoon (south end of Carmelo in Carmel). Call leader to reserve a space and for meeting time. Leader: Martha Saylor, 372-9215.

Sunday, June 7

HIKE: PINNACLES BY MOONLIGHT

Hiking the Pinnacles by the light of the moon is a very euphoric experience. It gives you the feeling one might have on another planet. It is therapeutic for the mind and soul. It is mesmerizing. The weather will be perfect for an ancient volcano hike. Call a week in advance, so your call can be answered. 10-12 miles. Leader: Esperanza Hernandez, 678-1968.

Tuesday, June 9

SENIOR HIKE: LOCH LOMOND

We'll start at Glen Corrie picnic area which is the first parking lot on the right after entrance, then walk down to the launch ramp area, and along lakeside to a picnic area for lunch. Some steep hills. Meet before 9:30 a.m. at Sears 41st Ave. or at Felton Faire before 9:50 a.m. Bring lunch, water, \$5 carpool and share of entrance fee. Leader: Joan Brohmer, 462-3803.

Tuesday, June 9

HIKE: MITTELDORF PRESERVE

On this 7-mile loop with 2000' elevation gain we hope to see the unusual "Golden Ear Drops." We'll take our strenuous hike at an easy pace through a redwood forest along a lovely creek up to vistas overlooking the rugged Garrapata and Big Sur coastlines. Bring water & lunch. Arrive early; we'll depart at 8:30 a.m. sharp from Rio Road Park & Ride. Call for a reservation. Leader: Lynn Bomberger, 375-7777.

Saturday, June 13

HIKE: MEDICINE BUDDHA TO NISENE MARKS

Join me on this beautiful trail from Medicine Buddha to Nisene Marks. This hike involves a car shuttle.



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We'll begin at the Medicine Buddha Center, turn off on a connector into Nisene Marks, then end at Porter's picnic area. Lunch will be at Hoffman's Historic

Site. 8 miles with 1100' elevation gain. Please call for more details. Leader: Pamela Burnham, 428-2796.

Saturday, June 13

WALK: PEBBLE BEACH-ASILOMAR

This will be a 4-mile loop, starting on neighborhood streets and then thru dunes between fairways, out to Point Joe and back along the beach boardwalk. Quiet neighborhood, beach wildflowers, possible wildlife. Meet across from the Fishwife Restaurant on Sunset Drive and Asilomar Blvd., Pacific Grove. Call to reserve a place and for meeting time. Bring snack and water. Leader: Martha Saylor, 372-9215.

Sunday, June 14

WALK: SOBERANES COASTAL FLOWERS

On our 5-mile walk with 600' elevation gain we'll explore the diversity of Soberanes Point coastal shrub flowers and then the riparian and redwood forest plants of Soberanes canyon. Wildflower enthusiast Bob Hale will be along to discuss the various plant communities and flowers. Arrive early; we'll depart at 9:00 a.m. sharp from Rio Road Park & Ride. Bring water & lunch. Call for a reservation. Leader: Lynn Bomberger, 375-7777.

Tuesday, June 16

SENIOR HIKE: SOBERANES/GARRAPATA

Scenic 3-mile walk with lunch on cliffs. Meet before 9:30 a.m. at Sears 41st Ave. To go direct, Soberanes is on Hwy. 1, 7.3 miles south of Rio Road in Carmel. Look for a grove of cypress trees on the right. There is parking along the road on ocean side. Primitive restroom. Dress for weather. Bring lunch, sit-upon, water, \$5 carpool. Leader: Brooke Ewoldsen, 475-6188.

Thursday, June 18

HIKE: GARZAS CREEK

Our 4 1/2 mile loop with 900' elevation gain takes us through a redwood canyon and along Garzas Creek with six picturesque crossings. Moderate pace with

stops to enjoy flora & fauna. Bring water & lunch. Arrive early; we'll depart at 10:00 a.m. sharp from Rio Road Park & Ride. Call for a reservation. Leader: Lynn Bomberger, 375-7777.

Saturday, June 20

HIKE: BUTANO

Hike through a green canyon between steep ridges. We'll make a loop up the Jackson Flats trail and down the Doe Ridge Trail. Enjoy a sweeping view from the lunch stop at the top of the ridge. Bring water and lunch for the 10-mile hike with 1200' elevation gain. Meet at the Santa Cruz County Government Center at 9:30 a.m. to carpool or at the picnic area just past the ranger Kiosk at Butano State Park off Hwy. 1 at 10:30 a.m. Leader: George Jammal, 335-7748.

Sunday, June 21

HIKE: HENRY COWELL TO WILDER

A long meandering hike from the giant redwoods to the oak chaparral, we'll hike from the cool shade of Henry Cowell across the San Lorenzo River, through UCSC to great coastal views on our way towards Hwy. 1. We'll see what's left of the wildflowers. About 12 miles, 1000' elevation gain. Please call for shuttle information by Friday evening. Leader: John Howerton, 476-4253.

Tuesday, June 23

SENIOR WALK: CAPITOLA STAIRS

We'll go up and down stairs (short & long) in Capitola to Depot Hill. 3 miles. Meet before 9:30 a.m. at Jade Street Park. Bring water and lunch or eat at one of restaurants in Capitola. Restrooms. Leader: Pat Herzog, 458-9841.

Tuesday, June 23

HIKE: LAND OF MEDICINE BUDDHA

This 6-mile loop with 500' elevation gain includes a lovely redwood forest and a beautiful creek. Moderate pace with stops to enjoy flora & fauna. Bring wa-

ter and a snack. Arrive early; we'll depart at 8:30 a.m. sharp from Shell station by Home Depot in Seaside or from the back parking lot of the Congregational Church of Soquel at 9:20 a.m. sharp. Call for a reservation. Leader: Lynn Bomberger, 375-7777.

Saturday, June 27

HIKE: ARROYO SECO

We'll hike to the old Girl Scout Camp swimming hole for a dip and see what effect the Big Sur fire has had on the watershed. This is the hottest hike I do, so don't do it if you are not heat tolerant. Bring lots of water, and be prepared to walk in water and jump in the swimming hole. Sorry boys, don't expect to see Girl Scouts swimming (except our own), as the Camp was closed more than 30 years ago. 6 miles and a hot 1000' elevation gain. Meet at 9:30 a.m. at the Mar Monte exit in Aptos to carpool. Call for more information. Leader: Nick Wyckoff 462-3101.

Sunday, June 28

HIKE: SOBERANES CREEK/ROCKY RIDGE

This 5-mile loop with 1700' elevation gain features great terrain variety. We'll follow the Soberanes Creek Trail into the verdant redwood grove, then climb steeply to grassy knolls for the spectacular view at lunch. Then we descend Rocky Ridge with more fine views. Boots recommended; hiking poles helpful. Bring water and lunch. Meet at Rio Road Park & Ride at 9:00 a.m. to carpool. Call for reservation. Leader: DJ Goehring, 277-9908.

Tuesday, June 30

SENIOR HIKE: FALL CREEK

Shady 3-mile hike in redwood forest partly along creek. Some moderate uphill, rocky in places. Lunch at limestone kilns. After lunch we'll do another mile or so. No restrooms. Meet before 9:30 a.m. at Sears 41st Ave. or at Felton Faire near Safeway before 9:50 a.m. To go direct, park in Empire Grade lot up from Hwy. 9. Bring water, lunch, repellent, and \$3 carpool. Leader: Beverly Meshi, 475-4185.

Tuesday, June 30

HIKE: GLEN DEVEN RANCH

Our 7-mile hike with 800' elevation gain takes us into a lovely canyon and along redwood-lined Garrapata Creek. After lunch, we'll explore the ranch house and a writer's studio, and then go out onto a Ridge for spectacular views. Moderate pace with stops to enjoy flora & fauna. Bring water & lunch. Arrive early; we depart at 9:30 a.m. sharp from Rio Road Park & Ride. Call for a reservation. Leader: Lynn Bomberger, 375-7777.

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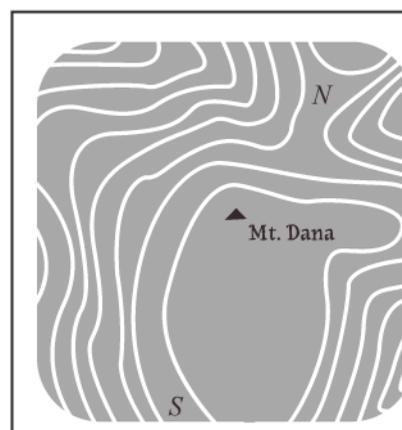
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JULY

Friday, July 3

HIKE: REDWOOD CYN/GARLAND PARK

We'll hike tree-canopied trails in the East Garzas section of Garland Park in Carmel Valley: Garzas Canyon, Redwood Canyon, and Terrace Trails. Leisurely-paced 4 miles with 500' elevation gain. Bring lunch and water. A hiking pole or two will be helpful for the steeper parts. Meet at Rio Road Park and Ride at 9:30 a.m. Leaders: Cath Farrant and Mary Dainton, 372-7427.

Saturday, July 4

SWIM/HIKE: ARROYO SECO

This outing has also been called an amphibious hike. We start at the Arroyo Seco parking lot and hike about 3 miles to get into the water. We'll wade and walk upstream through several small waterfalls, then have to swim through deep ponds and the narrow gorge to reach the big waterfall. When we are lucky, we'll climb it and enjoy lunch further up in the sun. Only real good swimmers and energetic hikers are encouraged; kids over 12 years of age with parents are welcome. Put your food in double plastic zip lock bags in an old rucksack. Wear tennis shoes or water sandals with toe protection and a bathing suit underneath your hiking outfit. A rubber mattress or a floating device are nice to float downstream. Bring water, lunch, sunblock, and a hat. Bring \$ for carpool. Reserve the whole day. Call for reservation and time. Leader: Anneliese Suter, 624-1467.

Sunday, July 5

WALK: LIMEKILN S.P. OR ??

There's nothing like a cool stroll in a redwood canyon on a hot summer day, and Limekiln S.P., 55 miles south of Carmel, has the best redwoods around. Sad to say, at this writing in early May, the park is closed because of last summer's fire, and doesn't answer the phone. So we'll have to wait for further information. Meanwhile, we'll plan to go down to Big Sur and have fun in the sun, shade, or fog in some nifty place. Where in Big Sur would not be fun? Call leader by Thursday, July 2, to see when and where to meet; by then she might know something! Leader: Mary Gale, 626-3565.

Tuesday, July 7

HIKE: MITTELDORF PRESERVE

Our 6-mile hike with little elevation gain winds along Williams Creek through a serene redwood forest. We'll see a nice variety of ferns and flowers including spectacular Leopard Lilies. Bring water & lunch. Arrive early; we'll depart at 10:00 a.m. sharp from Rio Road Park & Ride. Call for a reservation. Leader: Lynn Bomberger, 375-7777.

Friday - Sunday, July 10 - 12

SERVICE TRIP: NEVADA WILDERNESS RESTORATION

Eastern Nevada's White Pine County has MANY new wilderness areas. We'll help the BLM's Ely office enhance wild values as we put up vehicle barriers, rehab old routes, or remove old guzzlers; specific area to be known later. 3-day car camp service trip with Vicky Hoover; central commissary (\$15); vicky.hoover@sierraclub.org or 415-977-5527.

Saturday, July 11

HIKE: BIG BASIN

We'll hike the Trail Beautiful, Meteor and Hollow Tree loop. This is one of the Park's oldest trail loops, so old that State Parks has renamed Trail Beautiful to something much less romantic. Expect a probably hot 8 miles with about 1200' elevation gain, steep in places. Meet at 9:30 a.m. at the Santa Cruz County Government Center to carpool. Call for more information. Leader: Nick Wyckoff 462-3101.

Saturday, July 11

WALK: CARMEL RIVER BEACH

See June 7 for details.

Sunday, July 12

HIKE: SOBERANES CREEK/ROCKY RIDGE

See June 28 for details.

Monday, July 13

HIKE: VICENTE FLAT

Car shuttle will be needed for this wonderful hike. Mostly downhill with spectacular views of the Pacific Ocean and beautiful Redwood Trees. We'll benefit from the magnificent, hard work Mike Heard, the VWA Trail crew leader, has done on this trail. HATS OFF TO MIKE! Call leader a week in advance for information. Leader: Esperanza Hernandez, 678-1968.

Tuesday, July 14

SENIOR HIKE: ROARING CAMP/COWELL

We'll walk from railroad cars thru Roaring Camp to trails and climb to top of Bear Mtn. where we'll have lunch. Restrooms. 3 miles with some uphill. Meet before 9:30 a.m. at Sears 41st Ave. To go direct, take Graham Hill Rd. to Roaring Camp, drive past Roaring Camp entrance to Roaring Camp Dr. on your right for parking. Bring water, lunch, \$3 carpool. Leader: Helena Cantin, 438-4523.

Tuesday, July 14

HIKE: MAPLE FALLS

This 6-mile Nisene Marks hike with 700' elevation gain takes us through a lovely forest along beautiful creeks and eventually to serene Maple Falls. Some

agility is required. Moderate pace with stops to enjoy flora & fauna. Bring water & lunch. Arrive early; we'll depart at 8:45 a.m. sharp from Shell station by Home Depot in Seaside or from parking lot behind Aptos Station at 9:30 a.m. sharp. Call for a reservation. Leader: Lynn Bomberger, 375-7777.

Thursday - Sunday, July 16 - 19

BACKPACK: YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

Experience the amazing Cathedral Lakes region, among the most sublime high-country areas in the park. This three-night, base camp outing is suitable for first timers as well as experienced backpackers. Individual commissary. Space for 8 only. Contact leader for details. Leader: DJ Goehring, 277-9908, djgoehring@yahoo.com.

Tuesday, July 21

SENIOR WALK: WILDER BLUFFS

This is a reverse of our usual Wilder Bluff walk. We'll walk the bluffs for about 3 miles on easy, flat trails with great ocean views. Compost restroom. Meet before 9:30 a.m. at Sears 41st Ave. or at Shen's Gallery at King & Mission Sts. before 9:50 a.m. To go direct, drive about 2 miles past Wilder Ranch entrance until you see a "Quilted Fish" sign on your right. Park in lot to the left (repaved). Bring lunch, water, \$2 carpool. Leader: Janet Schwind, 425-3845.

Tuesday, July 21

HIKE: PEBBLE BEACH

We'll hike a figure 8 through serene pine forests and open meadows of Pebble Beach. Lunch gives us the

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option of a Poppy Hills sandwich. 6 1/2 miles, 850' elevation gain, moderate pace with flora & fauna stops. Arrive early; we'll depart at 9:30 a.m. sharp from the Safeway parking lot recycle shed on Hwy. 68 in Pacific Grove. Call for a reservation. Leader: Lynn Bomberger, 375-7777.

Saturday, July 25
HIKE: BUTANO

Let's stay cool under the redwoods on an 8-10 mile moderately-paced hike in Butano State Park. Our total gain will be around 1200'. Please call for more details. Leader: Pamela Burnham, 428.2796.

Tuesday, July 28
SENIOR HIKE: NISENE MARKS

Shady 3-mile hike beginning at Marcel's Trail, cross creek and view twisted tree & hidden garden. Moderate ups and downs. Lunch at George's picnic area. Meet before 9:30 a.m. at Sears 41st Ave. To go direct, park at kiosk near park entrance. Primitive restroom. Bring lunch, water, repellent, \$1 carpool and share of entrance fee. Leader: Joan Brohmer, 462-3803.

Tuesday, July 28
HIKE: NISENE MARKS

This 6 1/2 mile loop on the Bridge Creek Trail in Nisene Marks with 900' elevation gain takes us through a lovely redwood forest and along beautiful creeks with several crossings. Moderate pace with stops to enjoy flora & fauna. Bring water & lunch. Arrive early; we'll depart at 8:45 a.m. sharp from Shell station by Home Depot in Seaside or from parking lot behind Aptos Station at 9:30 a.m. sharp. Call for a reservation. Leader: Lynn Bomberger, 375-7777.



Erica Crawford

Pinnacles National Monument offers rock spires, shear-walled canyons, oak woodlands, and over 16,000 acres of designated wilderness.

return through the madrone and oak chaparral on the Ridge Trail. Bring lunch and water and meet at the Santa Cruz County Government Center at 9:00 a.m. (carpool \$4) or in the parking lot of the park at 10:00 a.m. Leader: George Jammal, 335-7748.

Saturday, August 8
HIKE: SANTA CRUZ MOUNTAINS

Please call leader for the location and details of this hike or check the website for update. Leader: Pamela Burnham, 428-2796.

Saturday, August 1
HIKE: PT. LOBOS

We'll start this 4-mile hike around beautiful Point Lobos at the highway, to Whaler's Cove, out to the Pit and back, to the top of Whaler's Knoll and return via southern trails. There are usually wildflowers out and some wildlife to see. Meet at the Rio Road Park & Ride to carpool. Bring snack, water, and optional binoculars for close-ups of animal life. Call leader to reserve a space and for meeting time. Leader: Martha Saylor, 372-9215.

Tuesday, August 11
HIKE: MILL CREEK PRESERVE

This 5 1/2 mile in-&-out hike through redwoods with 250' elevation gain takes us along a beautifully-terraced trail to a spectacular coastal overlook. Moderate pace with stops to enjoy flora & fauna. Bring water & lunch. Arrive early; we'll depart at 10:00 a.m. sharp from Rio Road Park & Ride. Call for a reservation. Leader: Lynn Bomberger, 375-7777.

Tuesday, August 4
HIKE: JACKS PEAK

Jacks Peak offers quiet, forested trails with spectacular views of Monterey, the Bay, and Carmel Valley. 5 1/2 miles with 700' elevation gain. Moderate pace with stops to enjoy flora & fauna. Bring water & lunch. Arrive early; we'll depart at 9:30 a.m. sharp from the NW corner of Whole Foods parking lot in Monterey. Call for a reservation. Leader: Lynn Bomberger, 375-7777.

Monday, August 17
HIKE: PINNACLES WITH METEOR SHOWER

The peak for the Perseid Meteor Shower will be around August 12, but there will be a full moon that might prevent us from seeing meteors then, so let's try on this date. Call for information a week in advance. Leader: Esperanza Hernandez, 678-1968.

Friday, August 7
HIKE: WEST MOLERA

See June 5 for details.





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AUGUST

Saturday, August 1
HIKE: CASTLE ROCK

It's a drive up Hwy. 9 to this park on Skyline Boulevard, but it is well worth it for the views of the Monterey Bay and spectacular rock outcroppings. This park and its Goat Rock are well known by rock climbers, and the park has an interesting history. Our 9-mile hike will take us down to Castle Rock Falls and around to the campground for lunch. We will

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



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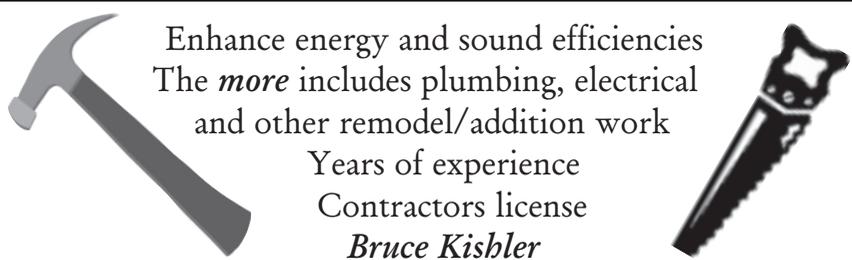
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MEETING SCHEDULE

<p>Ventana Chapter (Monterey County) Information: 624-8032</p> <p>Executive Committee: Last Thursday of the month; Call for meeting place and time</p> <p>Conservation Committee: For dates and times, call 655-8586.</p>	<p>Santa Cruz Regional Group Information: 426-4453</p> <p>Meeting place: Sierra Club Office, 1001 Center Street, Santa Cruz, Suite 11</p> <p>Executive Committee: Wednesday, June 10 at 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, July 8 at 7:00 p.m.</p> <p>Conservation Committee: Call for meeting times and dates, 761-3263.</p>
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