Local wild rivers need protection
p. 3
Deadline: Mailing Date

Articles received after deadline may not be published.

DEADLINES FOR SUBMISSIONS

All materials for publication must be received by the deadlines listed in The Ventana publication schedule (see below). No exceptions.

SUBMISSIONS FORMAT

Please limit articles to 800 words; letters to 200 words. All submissions may be edited for clarity and length. Submissions are preferred via e-mail or on a high-density 3½-inch diskette. Save files as "text" or "ASCII." Mail hard copy to: address below.

WHERE TO SEND SUBMISSIONS

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

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Do not call editor! Send address changes to Sierra Club, The Ventana, P.O. Box 52964, Boulder, CO 80322-2968.

POSTAL NOTICE

Where to send submissions

Send e-mail to: dbulger@cruzio.com

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Please send all Letters-to-the-Editor to: Editor, e/c Sierra Club • 1603 King St. Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Send e-mail to: dbulger@cruzio.com

VENTANA PUBLICATION SCHEDULE:

Late night yard also produces plums and lemons and in the future raspberries, apricots, fuyu persimmons, and oranges. Those trees and bushes were planted recently and haven’t yet begun bearing fruit. You can tell I’m not a fan of lawns.

I take special pleasure in showing the garden to my 3 and 5-year old granddaughters and letting them pick a lemon to make lemonade. I want them to observe the cycles of the seasons and to understand where their food comes from.

Not from the supermarket. Not wrapped in plastic or in a box. But from the earth where someone stuck their fingers and pulled weeds and watered and plucked off snails. I want them to appreciate that land is necessary to grow food, and it might not be a good idea to cover that land with impervious surfaces that prevent the water from returning to the water table. I also want my granddaughters to see that it’s possible to grow vegetables and fruits without poisoning the ground, the air, the water, and ourselves.

I want to them to savor a piece of apple pie and smile and say with pride, “I picked the apples!” —Debbie Bulger

Our little yard also produces plums and lemons and in the future raspberries, apricots, fuyu persimmons, and oranges. Those trees and bushes were planted recently and haven’t yet begun bearing fruit. You can tell I’m not a fan of lawns.

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Quality or quantity? value or price? the Sun or fossil fuels? what world will you choose?


From the Editor

Autumn bounty

Well, it’s fall. Where did the summer go? We have just harvested our Concord grapes and picked the apples from our front yard tree. The grapes are easy. We get just enough to make grape jelly and squeeze a little grape juice.

But one little Gravenstein tree makes a lot of apples. With a hundred and one apple recipes I am cooking up a storm. So far I’ve made apple sauce, apple chutney, apple tart, apple crisp, apple kugel, baked apples and sweet potatoes, apple-blueberry cake and apple bread pudding. I’m looking forward to apple pie, apple kuchen, and more.

It is supremely satisfying to eat the food grown in your own yard. It is amazing what one can grow on a small city lot. This year we cultivated sugar snap peas, fava beans, tomatoes, pumpkins, acorn squash (volunteers from the compost), and yellow crooked-neck squash.

The gophers got the bean strings. I’m rather relaxed about the pillage and consider it a tithe.

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HELP SAVE OUR WILDERIVERS

by Tom Hopkins

Hidden within the wild backcountry of the northern Santa Lucia Mountains and along Monterey County’s spectacular Big Sur coast, are a handful of free flowing rivers and streams that retain the same wilderness that first charmed the native Salinan and Esalen peoples centuries ago. These rivers should be preserved in their wild, free-flowing state because they provide clean water, rare vegetation opportunities, scenic enjoyment, cultural resources, and are essential for the survival of countless species of native plants and animals.

Unfortunately, these free-flowing rivers remain at risk of being degraded with dams, diversions and other developments to serve our ever-growing populations. Only one of our rivers, the Big Sur River, is fully protected with both federal and state wilderness designations and by inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic River System. Even rivers within federal Wilderness Areas, are at risk of development because they are not part of the National Wild and Scenic River System. Such rivers can be dammed and developed by Federal Executive Order. One only needs to consider the Bush administration’s record of systematically dismantling 35 years of environmental preservation to understand that our local unprotected rivers are at risk.

To protect these rivers and streams, the Ventana Wilderness Alliance has teamed up with the Ventana Chapter of the Sierra Club to launch the Ventana Wild Rivers Campaign. The initial effort of the campaign is to increase local awareness and to ask the public to communicate their support for the protection of these remaining free-flowing rivers. To facilitate this communication a petition has been developed that is included in this issue of The Ventana that readers are urged to sign and mail. These cards, along with similarly-worded petitions, will be presented to our local elected representatives as the campaign unfolds. Please sign and mail your support card today to save our wild rivers. Additional information is available at: www.ventanawild.org/projects/rivers/

Tom Hopkins is a founding board member of the Ventana Wilderness Alliance and a Life Member of the Sierra Club.

Club suing Coastal Commission over Luers Barn project

The Sierra Club Santa Cruz Group, with the support of the Ventana Chapter, has filed suit against the California Coastal Commission for its approval of the Luers Barn project, a three-story, 6000 sq. ft. combination of building, decks and bridges on the HwY 1 frontage in Davenport.

The Commission approved the project despite several violations of the Coastal Act, including allowing a zero-foot setback on a riparian corridor of San Vicente Creek (50’ buffer and 12’ setback are usually required). The Commission also ignored provisions of the Local Coastal Plan that protect the “Special Coastal Community” of Davenport. Commission staff had recommended the project be denied.

The Commission vote was 7-3, with McClain-Hill, Hart, Potter, Peters, Dessier, and Woodley in support of the large project. Commissioners Wan, Isely and Reilly voted against the project to protect the riparian corridor and adhere to the local coastal plan.

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) 456-1141
vice.president@whitehouse.gov

Governor Gray Davis
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, California 95814
(916) 445-2841
FAX: (916) 445-6633
gray.davis@governor.ca.gov

Senator Dianne Feinstein
331 Hart Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
(202) 224-3841
(415) 994-2075
1 Pine Street, Suite 2450
San Francisco, CA 94104
senator@feinstein.senate.gov

Senator Barbara Boxer
112 Hart Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
(202) 224-3514
(415) 633-2120 (Voice)
1700 Montgomery Street
San Francisco, CA 94111
senator@boxer.senate.gov

U .S. Representative Sam Farr
102 W. Alisal Street
Salinas, CA 93901
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The Sierra Club / Ventana Chapter Volume 42 Number 5, 2003 3
**ELECTION NEWS**

**Vote for Bustamante after you vote NO on recall**

by Bill Magavern, Senior Legislative Representative, Sierra Club California

Sierra Club California has endorsed Lieutenant Governor Cruz Bustamante for governor in the October 7th election. While we continue to oppose the costly recall, we strongly urge our members to vote in both parts of the ballot: no on recall, and yes on Bustamante. In the event that the recall passes, electing a pro-environment candidate like Bustamante is absolutely vital to protecting the air, water and land of the Golden State.

**Good environmental record**

As though in his early years as a Democratic Assembly Member from the Fresno area, Bustamante did not have as green a record as most coastal Democrats, when he became Speaker of the Assembly in 1997 and acquired statewide responsibilities, his performance improved dramatically. In 1997 and 1998 he earned a 100% voting record from the California League of Conservation Voters. Since then Bustamante has shown himself to be a consistent environmental champion. Sierra Club California, the California League of Conservation Voters, and Vote the Coast endorsed him for Lieutenant Governor in both 1998 and 2002.

As Speaker, Bustamante began to focus his attention on environmental issues. His appointments to the Coastal Commission dramatically and positively changed the Commission’s structure and focus. He helped increase environmental funding in the state budget by 19%, including $15 million to increase coastal access, acquire coastal lands and to stabilize technical staffing levels to provide local communities assistance in complying with the California Coastal Act.

As Lt. Governor, he has continued protecting our coast and waterways through his position on the California State Lands Commission (CSLC). Bustamante has vigorously fought offshore oil drilling and has battled industry to ensure they do not leave their trash on our ocean floors. “I adopted a zero-tolerance policy on oil spills,” Bustamante says, “and became the only person in the history of the CSLC to exercise the power of the Chair to order an oil platform shut down.”

Bustamante has used the Lieutenant Governor’s office to advocate Sierra Club-supported legislation. He has backed bills to increase the state’s use of renewable energy, to reduce vehicle greenhouse gas emissions and to close a loophole that was being used by real estate speculators to drive up the cost of land that were being acquired for preservation.

In answers to questions from Sierra Club California’s Political Committee, Bustamante said that the three most important environmental issues he would face if elected would be “managing the impending water crisis, the increasing levels of plastics and other toxins in our waters, and air pollution.” His plan for water supply is to first focus on conservation and then “look to emerging technologies—including desalination—while maintaining public control over this valuable public resource.” To improve water quality, he promises to aggressively reduce urban run-off and clean up our beaches and rivers.

On air, he pledges to fully implement AB 1493, the landmark greenhouse gas law and support efforts to ensure that polluters pay for the damage they cause to the environment. He also says he will look to legislation to reduce air emissions in the Central Valley.

Unlike Arnold Schwarzenegger, Bustamante opposes the Bush Administration’s modifications of the New Source Review process under the Clean Air Act because they roll back improvements in air quality and create loopholes for polluters.

Bustamante agrees with Sierra Club that environmental justice considerations should become a standard part of all environmental review. In addition, his energy reforms hold that the state should continue to emphasize conservation, while exploring alternative energy sources and expanding our use of renewable energy sources. Schwarzenegger, on the other hand, has made building more powerful plants the centerpiece of his energy platform. The actor declined to return the Sierra Club questionnaire. He reportedly is seeking a hurried retrofit of his gas-guzzling Hummer, but he can not so easily build a real environmental record—that takes years of actual work. Cruz Bustamante has done that work.

Addressing one of the key issues facing the state, Bustamante states that “urban sprawl is a serious issue that increases traffic, air pollution, water use and urban run-off, and decreases the amount of land we can preserve as open space. We need to create public/private partnerships to increase infill development and to create livable urban communities with broad public transportation options.” The Sierra Club endorsement interview committee raised the sprawl issue with him both generally and in the specific context of tribal casinos. In response, the Lt. Gov. said that although the Native American tribes have sovereignty over their own lands, but expressed a willingness to consider negotiating with them on environmental issues if the need were demonstrated.

Bustamante indicated that he has not yet focused much attention on forestry, but that he opposes clearcutting. On this and other issues, he committed to listening to our views and making himself accessible to our representatives. His record and platform, along with this willingness to listen,

**Debunking the myths behind the recall**

by Bill Magavern, Senior Legislative Representative, Sierra Club California

Recall proponents have loudly proclaimed that California’s economy is moribund and businesses are fleeing the state to escape excessive taxation and regulation, including environmental regulation. But when one considers the actual facts, a much different picture emerges.

Is our economy worse than those of other states? “California has tracked the national economy over the last several years,” says UC Berkeley professor John Ellwood. In terms of attracting jobs, California has “done a little bit better than the rest of the country,” notes Kenneth Rosen, from the Haas School of Business at UC Berkeley. Total civilian employment in our state actually hit an all-time high in August, something that you won’t hear from Arnold Schwarzenegger, Tom McClintock and other recall advocates.

All states are suffering from the Bush recession, and the facts show California right in line with the national average. According to the Wall Street Journal, California’s 2.5% economic growth in the 12 months ending in June exactly matches the figure for the whole U.S. California did slightly better than average in percentage of jobs lost and budget deficit as a percentage of gross domestic product, and slightly worse in unemployment rate and growth in personal income.

California does have a fiscal crisis. The gap between revenues and spending leaves a structural deficit of $9.15 billion. In the past, such gaps have been bridged through a combination of increased revenues and spending cuts, and Governor Davis proposed such a mix this year.

Presently, though, the requirement for a 2/3 majority in both houses of the Legislature to pass either an annual budget or a tax increase has allowed a minorit y of lawmakers who categorically oppose all revenue increases to block such a balanced approach. The Budget Accountability Act, which will be on the ballot in March, would make the fiscal process more democratic, opening the door to a balanced approach.

Are Californians overtaxed?

No one likes to pay taxes, but experts say that our state and local tax burden is 14th in the nation calculated as a percentage of income, and sixth-highest when calculated on a per capita basis. Interestingly, “the bottom 40% of California households by income (those earning $9,000 or less) have a combined state and local tax burden that is below the national average for their income group,” says Prof. Ellwood. In other words, our progressive tax structure compared to other states puts more of the burden on the wealthiest fifth of Californians—those who have received the lion’s share of the tax cuts enacted by the Bush Administration.

Do environmental regulations cause businesses to flee California? On the contrary, California is still considered an attractive place to live and work, in part because of the beautiful coast and mountains that we seek to safeguard. Furthermore, Americans are more and more aware of the importance of clean air and water. What business executives would want to move to a region where their children would be likelier to contract asthma? What tourists would want to vacation at a beach so polluted that they might get sick from swimming in the water?

Vote against the costly recall.
Proposition 53 would reduce State budget flexibility

Sierra Club opposes Prop. 53

by Jim Metropulos, Legislative Representative, Sierra Club California

Proposition 53 removes budget flexibility without providing any certainty that the programs with the greatest benefits—including environmental and community college education spending. Because of other earmarked funds, only a portion of existing state revenue can be spent in a discretionary manner.

Proposition 53 further reduces budget flexibility

Currently, 40% of incoming general funds are earmarked for K-12 and community college education spending. Of the remaining funds, only between 25-35% of State revenue can be spent in a discretionary manner.

Prop. 53 is vague

In addition, Proposition 53 doesn’t set priorities for which state or local infrastructure projects should be funded. The initiative leaves it up to the Department of Finance to prepare an annual plan on how to expend the infrastructure funds. The legislature then has the option of using or ignoring this plan as the legislature decides how to spend the money.

Prop. 53 threatens funding for environmental programs

Many environmental protection programs are funded by general funds. If another piece of the general fund is locked up through a constitutional amendment, the amount left for discretionary spending is reduced. Environmental protection funded from the general fund include the Department of Fish and Game, Department of Toxic Substance Control, and the California Air Resources Board.

Vote NO on Proposition 53.

Support environmental justice

Vote NO on prop. 54

by Clifford Rechtschaffen

Sierra Club urges a no vote on Proposition 54, the “Classification by Race, Ethnicity, Color, or National Origin Initiative.” This initiative, authored by Ward Connerly, would prevent state and local governments from collecting or maintaining racial or ethnic data in their operations. Sierra Club California joins the other major environmental groups in the state in opposing Prop. 54 because it would undermine our effort to achieve environmental justice in California.

Proposition 54’s ban on information gathering by state agencies would greatly hamper efforts to identify and document the unequal distribution of environmental hazards in California. Studies show that numerous environmental harms are disproportionately located in communities of color, even after controlling for income and other factors. These hazards include the likelihood of living near abandoned waste dumps that release toxic chemicals, living in areas that fail Clean Air Act standards, suffering from childhood lead poisoning or pesticide-related illnesses, and eating contaminated fish. Some of the most important demographic data on which these studies are based comes from the California Department of Finance, the Department of Health and Human Services, and the California Department of Toxic Substance Control, and the California Air Resources Board.

Vote NO on Proposition 54.

ELECTION NEWS

Deborah A. Malkin
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The Sierra Club / Ventana Chapter Volume 42 Number 5, 2003
Sierra Club Events

Friday, October 10
Potluck - Jiuzhaigou & Huanglong
This slide show is from George & Judy’s trip this summer to China’s most beautiful national parks, Jiuzhaigou & Huanglong. The potluck begins at 6:30 p.m. Bring food to share and your own plate, cup, utensils, and serving utensils. We love home-cooked food, but store-bought items (minimum value $4) make great contributions too. For directions call George, 335-7748.

Saturday, October 11
San Lorenzo River/Road Clean-up
The Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District docents lead hikes at Garland Ranch Park every Saturday and invite Sierra Club members to join them. An entrance fee is required by October 17. Contact Annie Kohut Frankel, afrankel@coastal.ca.gov and (415) 597-5888. Attendees receive a free copy of the Monterey River/Habitat Restoration Guide. Pre-registration required by October 17. Contact Linda Brodman, 429-POOL.

Tuesday, October 28
Potluck - Nicaragua
Heidi Irwin will show slides about reforestation and water sanitation in Nicaragua. Bring food to share for you and your own plate and utensils. Drinks available. Carmel, 6:30 p.m. Turn east at Hwy. 1 and Rio Road; turn south at the last stop light at Carmel Center Place; park in the lighted area behind the Safeway and enter the side entrance of the mall. For more information call Marion Chilson, 624-3510.

Tuesday, November 25
Potluck - Seven Continents
Join Betsy Schwartz to explore different cultures, unique animals, beautiful landscapes and mountains around the world. Betsy has visited over 100 countries. Bring food to share for you and your own plate and utensils. See October 28 for directions to the potluck. For more information call Marion Chilson, 624-3510.

Wednesday, October 22
Free Teacher Workshop
The California Coastal Commission presents: Waves, Wetlands, and Watersheds, 4-6:30 p.m., Seymour Marine Discovery Center. Pre-registration required by October 17. Contact Annie Kohut Frankel, afrankel@coastal.ca.gov or (415) 597-5888. Attendees receive copies of the Commission's science activity guide. FREE.

Saturday, October 11
San Lorenzo River/Road Clean-up
Remove trash from the river, creeks, Hwy 9 & our downtown! Rain or shine. Bring gloves. Volunteering qualifies for school community service credit. Sponsored by the Valley Woman’s Club, the San Lorenzo Valley Water District and Santa Cruz Co. Call 338-1728.

Saturday, October 25
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.

October 6-10
Rideshare week
Link up with others and try not to drive alone. It might become a habit. The air and our lungs will thank you. In Monterey call 422-POOL; in Santa Cruz call 429-POOL.

Sunday, October 11
San Lorenzo River/Road Clean up
Habitat restoration - Watsonville
Sponsored by Watsonville Wetland Watch. 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Meet in Orchard Supply Lot at Green Valley Road and Main Street in Watsonville. Gloves, tools and lunch provided. Call Laura Kummerer, 728-4106 for more information. No experience necessary.

Saturday, October 18
Garrapata Ranch hike
The Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District docents lead hikes at Garrapata 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.mrrpd.org.

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.

Santa Cruz environmental video festival to screen winners
From October 23-26 winning entries in the 5th annual EarthVision International Environmental Video Festival will be shown in Santa Cruz. Thursday’s screening will be at the historic Del Mar Theatre, on Friday the venue will move to UCSC. Saturday and Sunday’s showing will be at Community Television on Pacific Avenue. The Producer’s Party, featuring live music and organic food, will be held Saturday, October 25.

This year there are entries from nine countries including India and Ecuador. The festival judging is organized into issue categories. Director Michelle Martinez explains, “Unlike other competitions with industry standards such as documentary, comedy, drama, etc., EarthVision is organized into categories by ecosystem and environmental issues.Entries are judged not by the sophistication of the equipment used, or the size of

One of the many waterfalls in Jiuzhaigou National Park in China, featured at the October 10 potluck.

The annual membership luncheon will be held on October 18 at the 1,100-acre Mitteldorf Preserve in Carmel Valley. This redwood and madrone forest was purchased by Chapter members Harriet and Art Mitteldorf and donated to the Big Sur Land Trust for permanent protection. There will be hikes, lunch and a talk by Big Sur naturalist and historian Jeff Norman. The cost is $15 for members and $40 for non-members (includes membership). Reserve your place early. The preserve has a limited capacity.

Reserve your place at the Membership Luncheon
To order tickets call Joel Weinstein, 624-5338

The Sierra Club/ Ventana Chapter Volume 42 Number 5, 2003
Printed on Recycled Paper
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; the driver alone, not the Sierra Club, is responsible for the safety of guests while carpooling.
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.
- Easy: No more than 5 miles a day; slight elevation gain; easy pace.
- Moderate: 5-10 miles a day; up to 2,000 ft. elevation gain; 1 to 2 1/2 mph; boots; better than average fitness required.
- Strenuous: Distance variable; may involve off-trail hiking; demanding pace; for experienced hikers in good condition only.

MEETING PLACES
- Big Sur Land Trust Parking Lot: 3785 Via Nona Marie, Carmel. From Hwy. 1, head south on Via Nona Marie, turn left into the first parking lot behind Monterey County Bank, then left on Via Nona Marie, Carmel. From Hwy. 1 head south in Carmel, turn left on Rio Road, then left at the end. The parking lot is behind the Monterey Peninsula College parking lot.
- MPC Parking Lot: Monterey Peninsula College, 725 Evergreen Ave., at the intersection of Pacific and Franklin, Pacific Grove. The parking lot is just north of the Great Mall.
- 41st Avenue Sears: From Hwy. 1 in Capitola, take the 41st Avenue exit and continue toward the ocean on 41st Avenue toward the mall. Park at the end of the main entrance heading toward Sears. Make a right toward the park located at 41st and Capitola Road.
- Senior Saunter: Sears 41st Ave. This park with a creek and redwoods is inland from Pescadero or Gazos Creek. We'll start by the picnic tables and walk the road and Creek Trail. Shorter hike available. Bring lunch, water, $3 carpool, and your share of park entry fee. Meet at Sears 41st Ave. at 9:30 a.m. or at Mission and King next to Shem’s just before 10:00 a.m. Leaders: Bob and Peggy Mitchell, 426-5374.
- Backpack: Miller Canyon. This hike features a scramble up the creek to an old cabin site below Tassajara Road. Bring an adventurous spirit. Meet at Tassajara Rd. See old cabin sites. Our first night is at Miller Canyon camp. Numerous river crossings to Carmel River Camp. Night we'll prepare local cuisine. Bring garlic & lemon sauce. Additional check-up for $30. Meet at Tassajara Rd. East, this will be a 2-3 hour park at the trailhead, and then a five-mile hike to the end of the road. Meet at 10:30 a.m. and bring water and a snack. Leader: Ted Hill 449-1953.
- Saturday - Monday, October 11 - 13
- BackPack: Miller Canyon. We start at China Camp on Tassajara Rd. See old cabin sites. Our first night is at Miller Canyon Camp. Numerous river crossings to Carmel River Camp. Each night we will prepare local cuisine. Bring garlic & lemon sauce. Send a check for $30 made out to Cathy Dezendorf. Note the name of the trip on the check. Include a SASE if you do not have email. Email the following information: Name, phone, address, email, carpool preference. Parking limited; please carpool. Meet at Albertson’s at 8:00 a.m. Sat. Leaders: Henry Leinen, kleinen@aol.com, 653-1948 and Cathy Dezendorf, cdezendorf@mindspring.com.
- Sunday, October 12
- BackPack: Miller Canyon. A ramble up Hatton Canyon to enjoy the solitude and birdsong. We’ll talk about our hopes for Hatton Canyon State Park and how the canyon escaped from Caltrans’ freeway plans. We’ll circle back through the Roundstone Arboretum and Mission Trails Park in the footsteps of Father Serra, 4 miles. Bring lunch, water and wear suitable shoes. Meet at 10:00 a.m. at Albertson’s. For more info. call leader: Joyce Stevens, 624-3149.

RATINGS
- Easy 4-mile levee hike starting from the corner of the parking lot that is nearest to the gas station.

OCTOBER
- Sunday, October 7
- Senior Saunter: Butano State Park. This park with a creek and redwoods is inland from Pescadero or Gazos Creek. We'll start by the picnic tables and walk the road and Creek Trail. Shorter hike available. Bring lunch, water, $3 carpool, and your share of park entrance fee. Meet at Sears 41st Ave. at 9:30 a.m. or at Mission and King next to Shem's just before 10:00 a.m. Leaders: Bob and Peggy Mitchell, 426-5374.
- Saturday, October 11
- Notice: Jacks Peak. 2-4 mile hike with a different format. It's my intent to facilitate awareness and explore ways that we add to what we sense in nature, and ways that nature touches us. Meet at the end of Loma Alta Rd. Take Hwy. 1 to the 68 Hwy West exit and then take Aquitio Rd East. There will be two "T" turns to stay on the right at these turns and proceed to the end of the road. Meet at 10:30 a.m. and bring water and a snack. Leader: Ted Hill 449-1953.
- Saturday - Monday, October 11 - 13
- BackPack: Miller Canyon. We start at China Camp on Tassajara Rd. See old cabin sites. Our first night is at Miller Canyon Camp. Numerous river crossings to Carmel River Camp. Each night we will prepare local cuisine. Bring garlic & lemon sauce. Send a check for $30 made out to Cathy Dezendorf. Note the name of the trip on the check. Include a SASE if you do not have email. Email the following information: Name, phone, address, email, carpool preference. Parking limited; please carpool. Meet at Albertson’s at 8:00 a.m. Sat. Leaders: Henry Leinen, kleinen@aol.com, 653-1948 and Cathy Dezendorf, cdezendorf@mindspring.com.
- Sunday, October 12
- Notice: Jacks Peak. Gentle to steep oak-covered slopes take us to a fern pond and Indian grinding rocks. Return on Maple Canyon Trail to Cooper Ranch with farm implements and nature center. 3 miles. Dress for weather. Bring hat, sunblock, hiking shoes, $3 carpool. Meet at Sears 41st Ave. at 9:30 a.m. or at the park at 10:30 a.m. Leader: Roz DiNatale, 768-0363.
- Saturday, October 18
- WALK: Hatton Canyon. A ramble up Hatton Canyon to enjoy the solitude and birdsong. We’ll talk about our hopes for Hatton Canyon State Park and how the canyon escaped from Caltrans’ freeway plans. We’ll circle back through the Roundstone Arboretum and Mission Trails Park in the footsteps of Father Serra, 4 miles. Bring lunch, water and wear suitable shoes. Meet at 10:00 a.m. at Albertson’s. For more info. call leader: Joyce Stevens, 624-3149.

Notice: Club events such as potlucks, slide shows and other get-togethers are on page 6 in the Calendar listings.
Carmel Beach at the west end of Ocean Ave. at 10:00 a.m. Leader: Stacy Smith, 625-4526.

Saturday, October 25

HIKE: TURNER CREEK
Beginning at Bonnet’s Gap we’ll hike 3 miles up to a saddle and then down to Turner Creek Camp for lunch. Sternumus 9 miles, 1900’ elevation gain. On foot, and possibly on horseback. Bring food, water, and wear hiking boots. Meet at Albertton’s at 8:00 a.m. Leader: Larry Parrish, 622-7455.

Saturday - Sunday, October 25 - 26

BACKPACK: VENTANA WILDERNESS
Sternumus, very hilly 6 miles on the Pine Ridge Trail to the Ventana Trail Camp 1000’ elevation gain. Limited to 8 people. Call leader to reserve. Participants need full backpacking gear. Leader: Jim Dunn, 458-3339.

Sunday, October 26

HIKE: PINNACLES
Single loop from the west side including Juniper Canyon, High Peaks, Balconies and Caves. Narrow, steep and possibly wet in spots. Bring bat, water, flashlight (for caves), $5 for hour + carpool and lunch. Meet at K-Mart parking lot (gas station side) in Salinas at 9:30 a.m. Rain cancels. Remember daylight savings is over. Leader: Andrea Phelps, 884-9705 or andrea_phelps@ucsb.edu.

Friday, October 31

HIKE: FALL CREEK
Hike through this green park between steep ridges inland from Pigeon Point Lighthouse north of Santa Cruz. 10 miles, 1200’ elevation gain. Strenuous. Do not leave cars from lunch stop. Bring water and lunch. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at Sears 41st Ave. or call leader if you wish to go direct. Leader: Maureen Maynard, 336-8295. Sunday, November 2

HIKE: BLUFF CAMP
Let’s see if there’s any water in Los Padres Reservoir! Meet behind Bennett’s at 9:00 a.m. to carpool to Princes Camp in Cachagua. 8 miles roundtrip along the dam and along the edge of Los Padres reservoir to lunch at Bluff Camp. Bring lunch and water. For more info. call before 2:00 p.m. on Sat.; 11/1. Leaders: Cath Farrant and Mary Dainton, 732-4470.

Tuesday, October 28

HIKE: TERRA COTTA CAMP
Explore the Butano Fire Trail which connects Big Basin and Butano State Parks. Our trailhead will be near the ranger kiosk at Butano. Bring food, water and wear hiking boots. Meet at the Santa Cruz County Government Center at 9:30 a.m. to carpool. Leader: Nick Wyckoff, 462-3101.

Wednesday, October 29

HIKE: PINNACLES
Let’s see if there’s any water in Los Padres Reservoir! Meet behind Bennett’s at 9:00 a.m. to carpool to Princes Camp in Cachagua. 8 miles roundtrip along the dam and along the edge of Los Padres reservoir to lunch at Bluff Camp. Bring lunch and water. For more info. call before 2:00 p.m. on Sat.; 11/1. Leaders: Cath Farrant and Mary Dainton, 732-4470.

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coastal views from the lunch spot. Descend down Coast Ridge Road. Strenuous 10 miles, 2200’ elevation gain. Wear boots, bring lunch, water, hat, and $ for carpool. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the Rigby Bakery. Heavy rain cancels. Leader: Suzanne Arnold, 625-6542.

Saturday, November 15
HIKE: LOWER PEBBLE BEACH
Enjoy spectacular ocean views on this 9-mile hike starting near Asilomar down the coast to Bird Rock, then east through Del Monte Forest, Poppy Hills, and the S.B.F. Morse Reserve. We’ll go along Spanish Bay Golf Course. Bring water, lunch. Wear hiking shoes. Meet in front of the Fishwife Restaurant on Sunset Dr. at Asilomar Ave. in PG at 9:30 a.m. Leader: Stacy Smith, 623-5256.

Saturday, November 15
HIKE: PICOS BLANCO CAMP
Strenuous 12-mile hike with 2200’ gain from Borcher’s Gap to Pico Blanco Public Camp to Little Sur River Trailhead. Short car shuttle. See probably the most beautiful pool and waterfall on the Little Sur River. Wear boots, bring $ for carpool, lunch and water. Meet at Albertson’s at 8:30 a.m. Heavy rain cancels. Leader: Steve Legnandi, 422-1422.

Saturday, November 15
HIKE: ALMADEN QUICKSILVER
Come to this fascinating Santa Clara County park. At one mine entrance, you’ll get to feel 50 degree air which has been from being mined for 100 years. We’ll go along Spanish Bay Golf Course. Bring water, lunch. Wear hiking shoes. Meet in front of the Fishwife Restaurant on Sunset Dr. at Asilomar Ave. in PG at 9:30 a.m. Leader: Stacy Smith, 625-5256.

Saturday, November 15
HIKE: ASILOMAR / PT. PINOS LIGHTHOUSE TOUR
Walk 1-1/2 miles of the Monterey Bay Coastal Trail. Then either have lunch at the picnic tables at Lovers’ Point or at one of the restaurants nearby. Bring lunch or $, water, jacket, and $3 for carpool. Meet at Sears 41st Ave. at 9:30 a.m., or 10:30 a.m. at the free street parking area just past Lovers’ Point. Leader: Grace Hansen, 476-7254.

Sunday, November 16
WALK: LOMBARDO / PT. PINOS
Moderately strenuous 6-7 mile loop with a very steep climb leading to awesome views. Bring hat, water, and lunch. Meet at Albertson’s at 10:00 a.m. Back around 3:00 p.m. Rain cancels. Leader: Andrea Phelps, 884-9725 or andrea_phelps@csumb.edu.

Sunday, November 16
HIKE: GARLAND RANCH
Strenuous 6-7 mile loop with a small elevation gain. Dress for weather, bring wind-breaker, hat, water, lunch and $3 carpool. Meet at Sears 41st Ave. at 9:30 a.m.; Mission & King Streets next to Shen’s at 9:30, or at lot next to volume sign on Martin Rd. at 10:30 a.m. Leader: Beverly Meschi, 625-7632.
**OUTINGS**

**Sunday, November 23**

**WALK: GARLAND RANCH**
Walk some lower trails to work up a Thanksgiving appetite. Easy pace; flat terrain. Footing can be slippery; wear shoes with good tread. Bring water and lunch. Meet at 10:00 a.m. at the lower lot, 9 miles east of Hwy. 1 on Carmel Valley Rd. or at Albertson’s at 9:30 a.m. to carpool (no leader). Hard rain cancels. Leader: Mary Gale, 422-6970.

**Tuesday, November 25**

**SENIOR SAUNTER: COASTWAYS RANCH & ANO NUEVO**
Kiwi picking time! Pick some or buy veggies and gourds. Afterward you can stroll along gaily decorated Cannery Row or The Innery and do some holiday shopping. Meet at Sears 41st Ave. at 9:30 a.m. The luncheon will cost about $16-20 which includes your choice of a meal from 3 special caterers, 1 beverage, taxes and tip. Reservations to Pat are required. $3.00 carpool. Free parking. Leader: Pat Heesch, 685-8955.

**Tuesday, December 2**

**SENIOR SAUNTER: HOLIDAY LUNCHEON**
Join us for our festive Mexican Holiday lunch at El Torito in Monterey. Spectacular bay views. Afterwards you can stroll along gaily decorated Cannery Row or The Innery and do some holiday shopping. Meet at Sears 41st Ave. at 9:30 a.m. The luncheon will cost about $16-20 which includes your choice of a meal from 3 special caterers, 1 beverage, taxes and tip. Reservations to Pat are required. $3.00 carpool. Free parking. Leader: Pat Heesch, 685-8955.

**Wednesday, December 3**

**HIKE: POGONIP**
Enjoy a walk through this 640-acre expanse of open meadows, woodlands, and creeks that was once part of the Henry Cowell Ranch. We’ll walk up to the University to eat our sack lunch and return through the Pogonip Creek Nature Trail, 6 miles. Meet at Sears 41st Ave. at 9:00 a.m. to carpool, or at Golf Club Drive entrance to Pogonip (park on street across from the truck and bus garage and walk to the gate into Pogonip) at 9:30 a.m. Leader: Diane Cornell, 423-5925.

**Thursday-Monday, December 25-29**

**HOLIDAY SKI TRIP: HUTCHINSON LODGE**
Our first ski trip of this season to Hutchinson Lodge, near Clair Tappaan. We’ll have it all to ourselves. The lodge has 2 lofts for sleeping, a large living/dining room with 2 wood burning stoves, and a sauna. The cost of this long weekend/person is only $99 for 4 nights/members. Non-member price: $110 for 4 nights. Price includes all meals! Vegetarian available! X-country ski rentals and lessons available for a fee. Free access to groomed trails from the back door. Free shuttle bus to nearby cross-country and downhill ski areas. We’ll 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. 604, Santa Cruz 95061. Mail-in reservations must be received by December 17. Information will be mailed to you on Dec. 19. Space is limited. Refunds for cancellations are 100% before Dec. 19, 50% by Dec. 23, none after the 23rd. For more details call leader, George Jammal, 335-7748.

**WITTWER & PARKIN, LLP**
Practicing in the areas of Environmental and Land Use Law
147 S. River St., Ste. 221
Santa Cruz, CA 95060
Phone (831) 429-4055
Fax (831) 429-4057

**Hutchinson Lodge Ski Trip**
Thursday - Monday, Dec. 25-29
(Read the write-up for more details)

| Names ____________________________ |
| Street ___________________________ |
| City __________ ZIP ______ Zip Phone ______ |
| # of members _______ @ $96 each ______ |
| # of non-members ______ @ $104 each ______ |
| Total enclosed (make checks payable to Sierra Club) ______ |
| Departing 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. |
| Departing: Day ______ approx. time: ______ a.m. / p.m. |
| Returning: Day ______ approx. time: ______ a.m. / p.m. |
| □ A self addressed stamped envelope is enclosed OR e-mail: ____________________ |

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Bush Administration holds on to Cheney Energy Task Force secrets

Administration asking for Supreme Court hearing

T he Bush Administration is refusing to release information related to the Secret Cheney Energy Task Force, claiming it is protecting confidential communications from a doctrine designed to protect presidential communications into virtual immunity from suit. "At some point, this Administration is going to have to realize that the American people want to know what kind of influence energy corporate interests had over America's energy policies," said David Bookbinder, senior attorney for the Sierra Club. "President Bush is attempting to weaken clean air standards for power plants and he's promoting an energy bill largely inspired by these secret meetings. The public deserves to know who actually wrote these plans."

In July, a three-judge panel of the Court of Appeals said the Bush Administration is subject to "discovery," and must comply with requests for information from Sierra Club and Judicial Watch about the Cheney Energy Task Force. The Club and Judicial Watch are suing the Administration to stop delaying and fess up to their secret dealings with the energy industry. The Bush Administration is seeking a stay of the case until the Supreme Court decides whether to hear it. The public must have access to the Administration's secret meetings to provide information critical to the integrity of our energy policy. We want to shed light on how much influence energy corporations have had over the Bush Administration's energy plan.

Sierra Club huts need your help

E ach fall volunteers enjoy a week or more in the Sierra by contributing their time to refurbishing and restocking the Club's backcountry huts in anticipation of another winter season. Over 120 volunteers joined at least one work party last year. The four main huts, between Donner Summit and Lake Tahoe, provide rustic overnight shelter 3-6 miles from the nearest plowed road. Most were constructed over 50 years ago and have been serving Club members and the general public for generations. A fifth hut is just behind the Club's Clair Tappaan Lodge in Norden. Volunteers have worked throughout the month of September to prepare the huts for winter. The Club provides tools and supplies (including food), all you need bring is a willingness to help with the work. No special skills are required. Clear crisp air, fall colors, good conversation, and a sense of participating in a long tradition are your rewards.


The Sierra Club's Clair Tappaan Lodge

Your Getaway in the Sierra

Come visit Sierra Club's flagship lodge and enjoy some good old-fashioned fun and relaxation. Built by Sierra Club members in 1933, this rustic, hostel-style lodge sits atop historic Donner Summit just an hour and a half from Sacramento and minutes from several premier cross-country and downhill ski resorts.

The lodge hosts a broad range of exciting workshops and outdoor activities including: snowshoe ecology tours, backcountry ski trips and avalanche safety courses. Cross-country ski and telemark lessons are offered daily and 9 km of groomed trails begin right outside the back door.

Popular annual activities this winter will include


Spring Skiing in the Sierra March 21–26. Five days of guided ski trips.

New Midweek Lodge/Ski Packages! One or two nights, cross-country or downhill.

For more information about the lodge, rates, updates to the program and activity schedules, and ski packages, please visit our website www.ctlsierraclub.org or call 530-426-3632.

www.ctlsierraclub.org
Post Office Box 36, Norden, CA 95724
530.426.3632 (voice) • 530.426.0742 (fax)
e-mail: CTL@sierraclub.org
Club files complaint about Garzas Creek diversions

The Ventana Chapter and the Carmel River Steelhead Association have filed a formal complaint with The State Water Resources Control Board against Rancho San Carlos Partnership for harming public trust resources in Garzas Creek, a major tributary of the Carmel River. Rancho San Carlos is a sprawling luxury subdivision and golf course in the Santa Lucia Mountain range, southwest of Carmel Valley. Submitting testimony from hydrologists, fisheries experts and locals with knowledge of the site, the Chapter and Carmel River Steelhead Association are calling on the state to stop allowing Rancho San Carlos to divert water without a valid water right.

Garzas Creek is a vital link to protecting the steelhead population in the Carmel River and an important fishery which is already Federally-listed as "threatened." The State Water Resources Control Board has been allowing Rancho San Carlos to divert water without a water right. The complaint points out the harm to the river and asks that the diversions be stopped.

Members of Carmel River Steelhead Association have long engaged in projects to reduce steelhead mortality rates and protect steelhead spawning habitat, and the Chapter has a longstanding interest in preserving the fishery and promoting habitat restoration. When applying for their development, Rancho San Carlos proclaimed to Monterey County officials and the public that they had an independent water supply and would not harm downstream resources, the environment or other users by their well pumping or water management.

Past efforts to protect Garzas Creek have been unsuccessful. NOAA Fisheries, a Federal Agency, has noted that the current management of the creek may be having a significant impact on the listed steelhead population. NOAA Fisheries also expressed concern that the current management of Garzas Creek may be having a significant impact on the listed steelhead population. Rancho San Carlos proclaimed to Monterey County officials and the public that they had an independent water supply and would not harm downstream resources, the environment or other users by their well pumping or water management.

Following a public hearing in San Jose on August 22, the State Park and Recreation Commission unanimously approved the Preliminary General Plan for the Forest of Nisene Marks State Park. On September 18 the Citizens for the Preservation of The Forest of Nisene Marks State Park filed suit against the California Department of Parks and Recreation and the State Park and Recreation Commission. The suit is based on failure of State Parks to comply with California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), lack of impacts analysis in regard to trail planning, inadequate mitigations for the illegal use of mountain bikes, violation of the Public Resources Code, and violation of the terms of the Grant Deed from the Marks family.

The Commission’s approval of the Preliminary General Plan gave State Parks the green light to move forward with their proposal to include mountain bikers on trails in areas of the Park that were previously off-limits to bikes. Written comments to State Parks regarding the General Plan numbered more than two to one against expanding the use of mountain bikes to trails in the devoted portion of the Park. All trail plans and development within the Park, however, must meet CEQA guidelines. Environmental concerns regarding impacts of development on water quality and special status species like coho and steelhead; trails on steep erosion-prone slopes; and protection of sensitive and endangered species are addressed by CEQA.

During the public comment portion of the hearing, the only testimony that prompted staff discussion was that of a spokesperson from the Audubon Society who asked staff if inventory studies could be completed before initiating a trail plan. State Parks staff discussed the request but the Commission stopped short of adding a requirement which would require State Parks to conduct inventory studies before proceeding with trail plans. The Sierra Club has repeatedly asked State Parks to conduct inventory studies before beginning any development within the Park.

State Parks Citizens group files lawsuit

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Mail only Peninsula Water Board Election November 4

Sierra Club endorses Hanson, Markey and Pacelli

Ballots will be mailed to voters on October 6 for the Monterey Peninsula Regional Water District election on November 4. This election will be conducted entirely by mail.

Six candidates are running in this important race which will determine if the environmental majority on the Water Board will continue. After years of developer control of the Water Board, the last election created an environmental majority on the board. This current board has been able to stop the disgraceful practice of water transfers which provided water credits to the highest bidder. The current board has also established steelhead recovery projects in Carmel Valley and is pursuing a workable new source for water for residents and restoration of the Carmel River.

The Sierra Club is supporting the re-election of Zan Hanson (Carmel Highlands/Carmel/Carmel Valley Division 5). In addition the Club has endorsed Kristi Markey (Monterey-Division 3) and Bob Pacelli (Pacific Grove/Pebble Beach-Division 4) to replace Molly Erickson and Kris Lindstrom whose terms are over. Each of the endorsed candidates has emphasized their commitment to local control by the voters of the Water Board. Each opposed legislation which would have transferred control of the Water Board to Sacramento.

In addition, Hanson, Markey and Pacelli opposed the previously-proposed Carmel River dam and favor building a 8,402 acre-feet desalination plant in Sand City instead of the much larger desalination plant planned for Moss Landing favored by their opponents. All promise to continue steelhead recovery activities started by the present board.

Return your ballot

Be sure to mail in your ballot for the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District Election.

State Parks Citizens group approves flawed Nisene Marks plan

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How to help

Contact Kirk Lingenfelter of State Parks at KLINGENFELTER@parks.ca.gov or (831) 429-2859 and ask him to implement a comprehensive biological inventory study for the purpose of protecting threatened and endangered species and sensitive habitats identified in the inventory. Remind State Parks that the Marks family donated Nisene Marks Park to the State with the stipulation that it remain a "natural preserve" and "that the property shall be held in its natural state . . . limited to camping, nature study, hiking and associated activities."

For more information or to donate to the lawsuit call Sandy Henn, 662-2843.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Staff for Sierra Club Bookstore in Carmel

A chance to enjoy working in Carmel and helping the Club. Volunteers work 4 hours a month. Meet interesting people. Join the team! Call Vi Fox, 626-1588.
Draft EIR due for high-speed train between San Francisco and Los Angeles

by Patrick Moore

n many parts of the world, Europe, Japan, China, Korea and others, High Speed Rail trains are proving to be the best transportation option to travelers going 100-400 miles. With speeds between 180 to 217 mph, an unmatched safety record, and an on-time record that the airlines can only dream about, high-speed trains are very popular. The high-speed train which connects Paris to Marseille has a 61% market share, beating air travel.

As we go to press, the Draft Environmental Impact Report for California’s own high-speed rail system connecting San Francisco to Los Angeles is due to be released. After release, there will be a 90-day comment period. This high-speed powered High Speed Train would travel over 200 mph. With a travel time of approximately two hours between downtown stations in the Bay Area and the Los Angeles basin, high-speed rail will offer better door-to-door travel times than an airplane.

The Loma Prieta and San Francisco earthquakes have successfully fought the planned expansion of San Francisco Airport. This $10 billion project would have dumped over 800 acres of fill into San Francisco Bay in an effort to improve the on-time performance of a small fraction of the flights delayed by local fog. Building high-speed rail is a positive, job-producing, economy-boosting way to improve travel between northern and southern California without harming San Francisco Bay or expanding other airports including LAX.

According to the Bay Area Metropolitan Transportation Commission, 35% of flights from the San Francisco Bay Area head to the Los Angeles Area. The California High Speed Rail Authority believes a majority of those travelers would use a high-speed rail system if it were available. High-speed rail offers the opportunity to reshape the transportation backbone of California for the next 100 years and will help address the congestion bottlenecks at all of the region’s busiest airports without airport expansion.

Environmental challenges

The trick is to do it right. Station placement, rail alignment and land use around stations are critical environmental issues. Sierra Club California has adopted a resolution that stresses downtown stations with good access to mass transit. A station surrounded by parking lots and isolated from a city center is an unwelcome destination. Furthermore, the ridership served by such a station would be limited by the parking lot capacity. The opposite is true of a station located in an attractive downtown area with limited parking served by mass transit.

Important Dates:

Sept-Oct 2003 Draft EIR due
Dec 03-Jan 04 Comment period ends
Nov 2004 $10 billion bond measure on ballot to fund initial construction.

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Banerjee Arctic Refuge photos now in San Francisco

The photo series, “Seasons of Life and Land,” on the 19-million-acre Arctic National Wildlife Refuge by freelance photographer Subhankar Banerjee, is now showing at the California Academy of Sciences in San Francisco through December 31.

The photos were advertised as a featured exhibit at the Smithsonian’s National Museum of Natural History in Washington, D.C. this spring but were moved from its prominent location to a basement hallway and stripped of their original captions after Senator Barbara Boxer showed some of the photos during Senate energy debate.

The San Francisco exhibit opened as federal lawmakers in Washington, D.C. began a new round of negotiations on whether to allow oil drilling in the Arctic Refuge. Twelve photos from the exhibit can be viewed on the web at www.calacademy.org/exhibits/anza/.

In early 2002, Banerjee, of Bellevue, Washington, quit his job at Boeing in Seattle, cashed in his savings and headed to Alaska to document the Refuge’s land, wildlife and indigenous people. Banerjee spent 14 months over a two-year period photographing the Arctic Refuge, braving subzero temperatures and blizzards, to document the Refuge in all four seasons.

In September, Banerjee was honored with a Special Achievement Award from the Sierra Club for the publication of his book, Arctic National Wildlife Refuge: Seasons of Life.

Sierra Club wins an Emmy

The National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences honored the first public television program from Sierra Club Productions with an Emmy in the category of Outstanding Cultural & Artistic Programming—Long Form.

Ansel Adams: A Documentary Film, written and directed by Ric Burns, received the honor in September. The feature-length documentary highlights the life and art of America’s famed photographer and environmentalist. The film first aired on PBS on Boston’s “American Experience” and is now available in home video and on DVD.

Sierra Club Productions develops and produces dramatic and non-fiction programming for television and films that reflect the Sierra Club philosophy. Currently in development by Sierra Club Productions are special on transportation alternatives, global warming and a film based on Hope’s Edge: A New Diet for a Small Planet, Vertical Frontier, a completed feature-length documentary on the history of rock climbing in Yosemite, which was produced by Peloton Productions in association with Sierra Club Productions, is now available for distribution.

Santa Cruz County receives state rail funds

The Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) is one step closer to acquiring the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line from Union Pacific. $11 million in funds from Proposition 116 Clean Air and Transportation Improvement Act have been set aside for use in Santa Cruz County since the ballot measure passed in 1990. The first installment of these funds, $40,000, was granted in August to the RTC by the State Transportation Commission.

These funds will be used for pre-acquisition activities including appraisals, title search, and development of a business plan. The Prop. 116 funds are matched by other state and local funds to be used for environmental review of the proposed Recreational Rail service between Capitola and Aptos/Seascape.

For more information visit the RTC website, sccrtc.org or call 460-3200.

How to help

• Read the Draft EIR and submit your comments. Contact the California High Speed Rail Authority to get a copy of the DEIR: Dan Leavitt, California High Speed Rail Authority, (916) 324-1541, Dleavitt@hsr.ca.gov

• For more information contact Patrick Moore, Sierra Club CA Transportation Committee, (650) 257-9792, Pmoore@sierraclub.org, or visit http://lomaprieta.ezserver.com/HighSpeedRail.html. A copy of the Sierra Club resolution can be found at www.sierrclub.org/ca/sec/high_speed_rail.pdf.

• Write a letter to the editor of your local newspaper.

Please Recycle This Paper Again
A campaign sponsored by the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission is urging residents, “Don’t drive, 1 in 5.” Sustainable transportation options such as walking, biking, carpooling, and riding the bus are highlighted through English and Spanish ads on the radio and in papers. See ad this page. Additional publicity follows local commuters engaging in wacky stunts as they compete for votes and prizes.

The goal is to create awareness of the campaign and to nudge residents to convert 25% of their car trips into more sustainable forms of transportation. If everyone left their car at home one day a week, if possible, or one trip out of five if they are car dependent, traffic congestion would ease, and the quality of life for all would improve.

How to help
• Keep a record of your car trips.
• Are you able to cut down by combining trips, carpooling, taking the bus, riding a bike or by walking?
• To order a poster to display at a business or workplace, contact Cory Irimes, 460-3201 or cory.irimes@santa-cruz.ca.us. To view posters visit http://pull.xmr3.com/p/152-6E23/s/20039966/SCCRTC_Posters.pdf.

**Volunteers needed to walk children to school**

Join in the fun of the walk/bike projects at 4 schools throughout Santa Cruz County: Capitola Elementary, DeLaveaga Elementary, Mar Vista Elementary, Live Oak Elementary.

**Traffic Busters**

**Smart Sneaker Week**

Walk and Wave on Wednesday

For more information contact Barbara Graves, 462-4503 or email, Barbara@TrafficBusters.org.

**Come hike with us!**

**S I E R R A  C L U B**

**Weekender Bag!**

Join today and receive a FREE Sierra Club Weekender Bag!

**Membership Categories**

- Individual
- Joint

**Introductory**

- $25
- $39
- $47

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Contributions, gifts and dues to the Sierra Club are not tax deductible; they support our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include $7.50 for a subscription to Sierra magazine and $1.00 for your Chapter newsletter.

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**Classifieds**

Rates: $4.00 per line for Sierra Club members. Payment must accompany all ads. Make checks payable to: Sierra Club. Approximate 30 characters per line. Spaces and punctuation count as characters. Typewritten or computer generated copy preferred.

**Moving?**

Please fill out and mail the change of address form on page 15. The post office charges us 75 cents each if they handle the address change. Please help the Club by using the coupon on page 15.

**Thank you**

**Walk — bike — bus — carpool — vanpool**

If you can walk to work or school at least once a week, you’ll help take cars off the street, reduce pollution and cut your commute cost. Walking is also a great form of exercise — one you can actually do with a smile on your face. For more information on how you can make a difference, call 831-429-POOL, or visit commutesolutions.org. enter to win a new Toyota Prius at kpig.com

**Ad campaign urges, “Don’t Drive, 1 in 5”**
In September RMC Pacific Materials (the Davenport cement plant folks) took a bulldozer through the Bonny Doon Ecological Reserve, grading three-quarters of a mile of existing road through the fragile Zayante Sands, removing constructed waterbars, blading off a collection of rare Ben Lomond Spine Flowers, and crushing and uprooting listed manzanitas. All without a permit. Local activists sounded the alarm.

The Bonny Doon Ecological Reserve is a special place. This delicate sand hill habitat is home to a number of unique species of plants and insects. The Ben Lomond Spine Flower, Abrams Cypress, Santa Cruz and Silver Leaf Manzanitas and Ponderosa Pine are among the rare and/or threatened and endangered plants within its boundaries. The Reserve is managed by the California Department of Fish & Game.

In addition to the unauthorized road work in the Reserve, RMC reconstructed a road through their own timberland down to Laguna Creek. They removed twelve-inch diameter trees from the old roadbed which was last used thirty years ago to harvest timber. RMC also dismantled an old log bridge across Laguna Creek without the necessary permits from Fish & Game. The road work, itself, may be in violation of the County’s grading ordinance.

The work was authorized by the Registered Professional Forester contracted by RMC to manage their timberlands. The Department of Fish & Game is requiring RMC to stabilize the sandy road cut prior to winter rains. Fish & Game warden, Dennis Baldwin, is currently investigating the illegal grading project, endangered species violations, and bridge removal. Santa Cruz County Environmental District Attorney, Morgan Taylor, visited the site to see the damage first hand.