Runaway runoff
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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 must be double spaced and submitted electronically. Save files as “text” or “ascii.” Mail hard copy to editor, address below.

WHERE TO SEND SUBMISSIONS

Send submissions to: Debbie Bulger, Editor 1623 King Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95062 e-mail: dbulger@cruzio.com

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

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

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ATTENTION: Potential Advertisers!

Advertising in this newsletter packs more clout into your advertising dollars. Sierra Club members are one of the most valuable audiences in America. They are “opinion leaders” and “influentials.” They are some of America’s most sought-after advertising targets. But, more important, they influence others—in everything from opinion and outlook to choice of products. They are not only consumers, but also doers and leaders. A whopping 65% say they are willing to pay more for products that are lighter on the earth.

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

Sierra Club Members are Great Prospects

Median Age: 45 Median Female: 62% / 37% Median Household Income: $82,000

Attended/Graduated College: 81% Professional/Technical/Managerial: 36%

Outdoor Sports Enthusiasts

Backpacking/Hiking 4 times more active than the average adult

Mountain Biking 5 times more active

Cross-Country Skiing 5 times more active

Whitewater Rafting 5.5 times more active

Source: 1996 survey and 2004 Sierra survey

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

Our lawsuit made clear the previous project did not have the assured water supply it would require—a hot button issue for conservationists alarmed about the state of the Carmel River and its species, as well as local residents already threatened with rationing due to the illegal over-pumping by Cal-Am. The current version of the project has not solved this fundamental water problem.

Earlier this year we asked you to contact your Monterey County Supervisor to ask that key project reviews for September Ranch not be omitted so the project could be fast-tracked. Thank you for your response. There was enough of a public outcry to make the county reconsider. Now reviews by the citizen-based Land Use Advisory Committee and the county’s Subdivision Committee and Planning Committee are slated to occur after all.

Meanwhile, activists have filed a citizen’s Public Records Act lawsuit to try to address questions about the independence and factual basis of the environmental documentation. Conservationists are not inclined to trust the County after discovering that for the previous incarnation of the project the September Ranch developers’ attorney had written planning documents which should have been produced by county staff or the EIR consultant.

The Chapter is reaching out to environmentalists to assist with the legal expenses to challenge this project. You may make a tax-deductible contribution to the Sierra Club Ventana Chapter. Mark “Foundation Account, Sept. Ranch” in the memo section of your check to ensure the tax deduction.

We will keep you informed of the situation.

—Gillian Taylor

Gentlepeople, stop your engines

G as must still be too cheap. Oh, I imagine if you are commuting to work by car, you might disagree, but my everyday observations tell me otherwise. Let me explain: Every day, every single day I observe drivers running their car engines without going anywhere. Parents wait outside schools for their child-with their vehicle motors running. Delivery truck drivers dash into office buildings or homes with packages leaving their vehicles running at the curb. And people sit in the driveway waiting for a spouse or a roommate with the key in the ignition and the engine spewing noxious fumes.

You’d think gasoline wasn’t precious or expensive, that there was an endless supply, and that there was peace in the Middle East.

I’m not even talking about driving less. I can understand that helping people figure out how they can get around and drive less is a tougher problem. Participating in a carpool takes planning, taking the bus requires knowledge of schedules and a bus frequency and route system that works for a person, and riding a bike or walking for some trips may take good health and a major habit change.

I’m talking about turning off your car engine when you are not actually driving. You wouldn’t think that it was a revolutionary idea, but for many people, it seems that being in a car is synonymous with having the engine running.

Do you know people like this? Do you know why they do it? We don’t live in Minnesota where it might be necessary to warm up a vehicle when it’s 10 below zero.

When I’ve asked folks why they leave their engines running, I get a variety of answers: “I’m only going to be here a minute,” one says. “Or, “I’m waiting for my son,” says another. As if the only way to wait is to spew pollutants for the duration. Once a driver answered beligerently, “Because I’m an American, and I can.” Does being an American mean having the freedom to pollute?

I’m not a psychologist. I can’t figure it out. It does leave me wondering, however, that if burning gas without going anywhere is an everyday experience, how will we ever make more dramatic changes in driving habits?

Which leads me to my conclusion: Gas is too cheap.

—Debbie Bulger
Water is a human right, not a commodity

Sierra Club believes that water is a public resource, not a commodity. We believe that municipal water systems are essential public services and should not be privatized.

The election in Felton is a microcosm of the huge struggle for water rights and corporate profits being played on the world stage. Multinational corporations are buying up water rights worldwide. Their goal is to make money for stockholders. The video documentary, Thirst, chronicles this process.

The Sierra Club has published a study guide to the video which references the increase in water rates and exploitation of the poor which has occurred with the privatization of water in developing countries and elsewhere.

All water resources, including the oceans, must be protected as a public trust so that commercial use of water does not diminish public or ecological benefits.

Friends of Localy Owned Water (FLOW), a grassroots group, has been working for public ownership of Felton water. One of FLOW’s primary concerns is the poor environmental record by RWE around the globe and by Cal-Am closer to home. RWE’s British subsidiary, Thames Water, topped lists of the worst polluters in the UK in 1999 and 2000, according to the watchdog group Public Citizen.

Sierra Club was one of 225 public interest organizations from around the world that released the following declaration in Kyoto at the 3rd World Water Forum setting forth principles for global water policy:

“Water, as a public trust and an inalienable human right, must be controlled by the peoples and communities that rely on it for their lives and livelihoods. The management of water services must not only remain in public hands, but must be revitalized and strengthened to make community and worker participation central in order to democratize decision-making processes and ensure transparency and accountability.”

Vote Yes on Measure W

Sierra Club urges a YES vote based on our water policy. Principles on which our policy is based are reproduced in this article in bold type.
Club wins court victory in Luers case

The Sierra Club is pleased to announce that the judge in Sierra Club vs. California Coastal Commission, in the matter of the Luers development project slated for the town of Davenport, nine miles north of Santa Cruz, has ruled resoundingly in favor of the Club.

The Club fought to protect the San Vicente Creek riparian corridor, habitat for both state- and federally-protected steelhead trout, coho salmon and California red-legged frog. San Vicente Creek is the southernmost habitat for coho salmon in the United States. Despite Club protests, the County had allowed a zero-foot buffer and a zero setback from the riparian corridor. County law requires a 30-foot buffer and a 10-foot setback for a total of 60 feet.

An exception to these requirements is allowed when there is no other feasible project possible on a site. In the Luers case, the County did not explore alternatives with developer David Luers. The California Coastal Commission staff repeatedly warned the county Planning Department over a three-year period that the project did not meet Coastal Act requirements.

When the Club appealed the Planning Commission’s decision to the Coastal Commission, Commission staff wrote a report supporting the Club’s appeal and recommending that the Coastal Commissioners deny the Luers project. Unfortunately, the Commissioners did not heed their own staff’s report, and approved the project at a late-night hearing held in Long Beach in June 2003. After the vote allowing the project, Luers put the property on the market.

“The Club filed suit not only to protect the riparian corridor on San Vicente Creek, but also to uphold the Coastal Act. If this project could ignore legal setbacks, what would keep developers even when alternative projects were feasible, the Coastal Act might be rendered meaningless,” said the judge’s decision stops what could have been a dangerous precedent and preserves the integrity of the riparian corridor. The property can still be developed so long as any project complies with legal buffers, setbacks and other zoning requirements.

Club joins lawsuit over mercury pollution from power plants

On May 18 the Sierra Club along with other environmental organizations filed suit in federal court challenging the Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA’s) approach for reducing toxic air emissions from power plants. Rather than adopt a rule that limits this pollution, the EPA unlawfully removed power plants from the list of industrial pollution sources for which the Clean Air Act requires strong air toxic standards.

“EPA is refusing point blank to set the protective emission standards for power plants that the Clean Air Act requires,” said Staff Attorney James Pew of Earthjustice, which filed suit on behalf of Sierra Club, Environmental Defense and the National Wildlife Federation. “Instead of protecting the public from pollution, this agency is doing its best to protect polluters from the law.”

At least 13 states have filed litigation challenging EPA’s mercury rule. The Clean Air Act requires that EPA set the strongest limits on toxic air emissions such as mercury. In the United States, coal-burning power plants are the largest unregulated human-made source of mercury to our air. Collectively, coal-burning power plants spew about 45 tons of mercury and more than 350,000 tons of other toxics into the air each year. Current technologies could reduce mercury emissions by as much as 90 percent. As a result of the EPA rule, air cleanup which would have begun in three years is delayed until after 2020.

Mercury is a developmental neurotoxin that can affect fetuses developing in the womb, young children, and at higher doses, can lead to serious health effects in adults. EPA scientists estimate that one in six women of childbearing age has mercury levels in her blood that are high enough to put a baby at risk. Nation-wide, as many as 630,000 infants are born every year with unsafe mercury levels, putting them at risk of cognitive and developmental damage.

Mercury emitted by power plants settles on the nation’s waters and bioaccumulates up the food chain. Human exposure is primarily through the consumption of contaminated fish. EPA decided that rather than setting stricter limits for power plant pollution as required under the Clean Air Act, the agency would simply remove power plants from the list of facilities subject to regulation.

Annual dinner
The cost of the roast beef dinner will be $3.75 per person.

Talcott speaks at dinner
Assurance of a high priority for the reintroduction in the next session of Congress of a bill to establish the Ventana Wilderness Area was given by Rep. Burt L. Talcott at the chapter’s annual fall dinner at Asilomar on Oct. 24. Special thanks are due to Mary-Stewart Hoopes and Gordon and Marian Clemens for their efficient handling of the reservations for the dinner.

Off-shore oil drilling and exploration
Will oil drilling rigs appear in Monterey Bay or along Big Sur coast? This possibility brings shivers of apprehension to those who wish Monterey Bay to become a leading marine research center; to those who know the destruction to marine and bird life caused by oil spills; and to those who think immense drillings are intrusions on natural beauty . . .

We suspect that oil companies are beginning to show interest in Monterey Bay. Some seven companies have permits to carry out geophysical exploration as far north as Mendocino County, including the Monterey County off-shore sanctuary . . .

The slide program of Bruce Meyer’s and Ward Allison’s recent trip to Nepal drew a record turnout of 301 members and guests to the Ventana Chapter Annual Dinner at Asilomar on Thursday, Jan. 30.
A biting issue

Vote NO on mosquito ballot

Ballots have gone out from Santa Cruz County’s Environmental Health Department asking Mid- and North County property owners if they wish to be assessed $12/year/parcel to extend the boundaries of the Mosquito and Disease Control Assessment District which currently operates only in Watsonville. Approval of this district extension would raise over $800,000/year for a condition that has not proven to be a significant threat here. The tax could be increased up to 3% per year without a vote.

West Nile virus is spread by infected mosquitoes and has claimed elderly people in New York, the Gulf Coast states and southern California: areas where population density and attendant loss of habitat for natural mosquito control, (fish, birds, bats, spiders) has been lost.

The mandate of the Mosquito and Disease Control Assessment is far broader than mosquitoes. The County may utilize a wide variety of mechanisms without public oversight to control “disease vectors” such as “rodents, stingling insects, Africanized honeybees, and fire ants.”

Especially troubling is the fact that the ballots must be voted before the end of the June 21 public hearing.

Mosquitoes form an integral part of the food chain. Bats, avian flycatchers and some spiders, for example, depend on mosquitoes for their sustenance. Control of mosquitoes could affect the survival of these animals as well as higher predators. Wholesale killing of mosquitoes could decrease the number of animals dependent on mosquitoes for food and thus result in no net reduction of the total mosquito population.

Especially troubling is the fact that the ballots must be voted before the end of the June 21 public hearing on the issue. What then, is the point of the public hearing if not to provide a way for homeowners to inform themselves about the ballot issue?

The methods and chemicals the District is authorized to use are not available for public scrutiny and many, such as the use of mosquito-fish, pose a threat to native wildlife if they should unintentionally end up in a creek or lake—the mosquito-fish also eat young steelhead and red-legged frog larvae.

Sierra Club does not see that a significant threat exists to county residents from West Nile virus. Experience with the pathogen has shown that infection rates drop off sharply after one or two years. The number of deaths in the U.S. from West Nile virus has been one third the number killed by tuberculosis or by accidental shootings. The number of cases which cause long-term debility is also modest according to a fact sheet posted on the Santa Cruz County Health Services Agency website. To date there have been no human cases of West Nile virus reported in Santa Cruz County.

A successful human vaccine is expected within 1 - 2 years for vulnerable residents. A vaccine for horses currently exists. Santa Cruz County residents would be better served by the restoration of impaired and lost habitat for native mosquito-eating animals such as red-legged frogs, Western pond turtles, salamanders, steelhead, avian flycatchers and bats than by the wide-spread use of chemicals in our waterways.

Could local muddy water be linked to poor logging practices?

Club fights for meaningful water quality monitoring

by Jodi Frediani

Santa Cruz Group Executive Committee member Kristen Raugust received a public notice on May 9 along with every other Davenport resident. It warned, DO NOT DRINK THE WATER WITHOUT BOILING IT FIRST! The problem: More sediment flowing down San Vicente Creek than the Davenport Sanitation District’s drinking water filtration system can handle.

That could change on July 8 when the Central Coast Regional Water Board will hold a hearing in San Luis Obispo on a new water quality Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP) for timber harvest plans. The MRP is part of a proposed General Categorical Waiver, required by state legislation which took effect in January 2003.

Say “logging” and most people think of buzzing chain saws and falling trees. But fish and drinking water could just as easily come to mind, as both can be harmed by logging practices. Local logging requires building roads and skid trails—lots of them. During a 10-year period, Santa Cruz County estimated 113 miles of new log roads and skid trails were constructed. Four hundred miles of such dirt roads exist, or 2½ the number of county roads. All are potential sources of sediment muddying local rivers and creeks.

When suspended sediment (turbidity) increases, drinking water filtration systems can become over-stressed. Additionally, with excessive suspended sediment fish can’t see to eat, and gravel beds where fish lay their eggs get choked with silt.

Last year it cost Davenport $60,000 to haul in clean water from the City of Santa Cruz, because San Vicente Creek was too muddy to treat.

The Sierra Club, working with Citizens for Responsible Forest Management, the Lompico Watershed Conservancy, and the Ocean Conservancy has spent the last two years encouraging the Water Board to develop a meaningful waiver and water quality monitoring program for logging operations. While progress has been made, the process has been slow. The latest proposal is still woefully inadequate.

Your voice is needed to put pressure on the Water Board to take water quality seriously. They have proposed a Negative Declaration instead of an EIR for adopting a general waiver of discharge requirements for timber harvest activities.

How to help

• Attend the July 8 hearing in San Luis Obispo and speak in favor of meaningful water quality monitoring for timber harvests.
• Contact Forestry Task Force Chair, Jodi Frediani, 426-1697 or jodiFredi@aol.com for carpooling and more information.
• Visit the Water Board website www.srwcba.ca.gov/ rwqcb3/ and follow the link to Proposed General Timber Harvest Waiver.

Muddy debris resulting from a logging road failure heads downhill towards King’s Creek in Boulder Creek which flows into the San Lorenzo River.

Please Recycle This Paper Again

The Sierra Club / Ventana Chapter Volume 44 Number 3, 2003
Potluck & Slides: Mongolia
Sigrid will share her slides from her extended stay in Mongolia. 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.

Friday, July 22
Singles Potluck and Games
See June 24 for description.

Friday, August 12
Potluck & Slides: Sicily
Tonight's slide show on Sicily will be by Vilma Siebers. 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.

Enjoy Channel Islands National Park and support the Club’s political program
July is the perfect time to enjoy wildlife, hiking, swimming, snorkeling, and kayaking in Channel Islands National Park. San Miguel, Santa Rosa and Santa Cruz islands will be alive with curious sea lions, seals, dolphins and numerous species of birds. Snorkelers will delight in the pristine waters of the marine sanctuary surrounding these islands. Photographers will especially enjoy the “magic hours.” The cruise departs July 23 on the 65’ twin diesel Truth from Santa Barbara. Return on July 25. Guests are encouraged to board the boat on Friday evening, July 22 to prepare for an early Saturday departure. The cruise is strictly informal. Each guest will have an assigned bunk equipped with a privacy curtain and a reading light. The cost, $470, includes bunk, sumptuous meals, snacks, & guide.

To reserve space send a check for $100, payable to Sierra Club California PAC, to Joan Jones Holtz, 11826 The Wye St., El Monte, CA 91732. For more information contact Joan Holtz, 626-443-0706, jholtzhln@aol.com or Gail Prothero, 949-347-1255, gprotoher@cox.net.

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

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

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

Second and fourth Saturdays
Habitat restoration — Watsonville
Second and fourth Saturdays each month. Sponsored by Watsonville Wetlands Watch. 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Meet in Orchard Supply parking lot at Green Valley Rd. and Main St. in Watsonville. Gloves, tools and lunch provided. Call Laura Kummerer, 728-4106 for more information. No experience needed.
The Sierra Club does not have insurance for carpooling arrangements and assumes no liability for them. Carpooling, ride sharing or anything similar is strictly a private arrangement among the participants. Participants assume the risks associated with this travel.

**RATINGS**

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

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

**EXPLANATION OF RATINGS:**

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

- **Walk:** Between 2.5 miles, leisurely pace.
- **Easy:** No more than 5 miles; slight elevation gain; easy pace.
- **Moderate:** 5-10 miles; up to 2,000' gain; boosts better than average fitness required.
- **Strenuous:** May involve off-trail hiking; demanding pace; for experienced hikers in good condition only.

**MEETING PLACES**

**DIRECTIONS:**

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

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

**Santa Cruz County Gov’t Center:** The large grey building at the corner of Ocean and Water in Santa Cruz. We meet at the corner of the parking lot nearest to the gas station.

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

**41st Avenue Sears:** From Hwy. 1 in Capitola, take the 41st Avenue exit and continue toward the ocean on 41st Avenue toward the Mall. Pass the main Mall entrance and turn right into the next entrance heading toward Sears. We meet behind the bank located at 41st and Capitola Road. Senior Saunter meets in Sears parking lot close to 41st Ave. MPC Parking Lot: Monterey Peninsula College Parking Lot. From Hwy. 1 take the Fisherman’s Wharf exit, go straight one block, turn left and left again into the first parking lot, parking lot A. This is the site of the Thursday Farmers Market. Plenty of parking without a fee on weekends.

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

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**NOTICE**

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

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**JUNE**

**Sunday, June 5**

**STROLL: LIMEKILN CREEK**

A long drive takes us to a short but lovely walk among the redwoods along Limekiln and Hare Creeks, far below Cone Peak. Bring water and lunch, and plan to share gas cost and state park entry fee. Meet BEHIND the Big Sur Land Trust Office (on Via Nona Marie across from the Rio Road Post Office) at 9:30 a.m. We’ll return mid to late afternoon. Leader: Mary Gale, 626-3565.

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**Tuesday, June 7**

**SENIOR HIKE: WATSONVILLE LEVEE**

Level 4 miles in the sun along Corralitos Creek past orchards and fields with view of the Watsonville Hills. No Facilities. Meet before 9:30 a.m. at Sears 41st Ave. Bring lunch, water, HAT, sunscreen, and $2 carpool. Leader: Beverly Meschi, 473-4185.

**Wednesday, June 8**

**HIKE: MCCRARY BIG CREEK**

Tentative announcement of a trek that we hope will happen as planned. Please call one of us to find out if and when. Esperanza and Nick will co-lead. Monterey walkers should call Esperanza and Santa Cruz people Nick. The off-trail ramble is very difficult and should only be attempted by well conditioned, experienced hikers. 10+ miles with steep canyon climbs, log crossings of creeks, poison oak, etc. Leaders: Nick Wyckoff 462-3010 and Esperanza Hernandez 678-1968.

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**Saturday, June 11**

**BIKE RIDE: OLD COASTAL HIGHWAY**

Come on a 6-mile mountain bike ride from Big Sur Bridge to Andrew Molera State Park. Meet at the Big Sur Bridge at 10:30 a.m. The ride starts at 10:30 a.m. An option is to take the Monterey Transit bus #22 to the start. Board at the Monterey Transit Center across from Safeway at 9:00 a.m. The bus leaves at 9:15 with space for 3 bikes. Bring lunch and at least 2 liters of water. If you wish, you can purchase lunch in Big Sur on arrival. Those who choose to return to Big Sur Bridge may ride the road in reverse. The return bus leaves Big Sur at 4:45 p.m. getting to the transit center at 5:45 p.m. 800’ elevation gain. Helmets mandatory. You must sign the club’s liability waiver. Please contact leader: Henry Leinen, 655-1948, Hleinen@aol.com (email preferred).

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**Sunday, June 12**

**HIKE: TANBARK TRAIL TO TIN HOUSE**

The Tanbark Trail packs a lot of scenery in a fairly short length. From its start off Hwy. 1, south of Big Sur, the trail winds up the south side of Portington Canyon, past a rushing creek and through redwoods and tanbark oaks until it reaches the site of the ruined “Tin House.” Here we’ll have lunch and enjoy the ocean views before returning via a disused dirt road. Car shuttle to save walking the last mile on Hwy. 1. 6 miles with 2000’ elevation gain. Leisurely pace. Meet behind Britton’s (opposite Albertson’s) at 9:30 a.m. to carpool. Leaders: Cath Farrant and Mary Dainton, 372-7427, marydainton@juno.com.

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**Wednesday, June 15**

**SENIOR SAUNTER: ELKHORN SLOUGH**

Please note this walk is ON A WEDNESDAY since the reserve is not open on Tuesdays. This coastal wetland is one of the few remaining marshes on the migratory flyway for birds. We hope to see egrets, blue herons, hawks, teals, etc. Joanna Aria will be serving as docent on this pleasant 4-mile walk with some moderate uphill. Meet before 9:30 a.m. at Sears 41st Ave. If you wish to go direct, call leader. Bring lunch, water, sunscreen, hat, $3 carpool and share of entrance fee. Leader: Joanna Aria, 685-1824.

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**Saturday, June 18**

**PLAY DAY: MITTELDORF PRESERVE**

You can do whatever you want on this 1100-acre redwood preserve. Hike (alone or with leader), meditate, do art, photography, dance, or be a great opportunity to create your own play time. Meet at Albertton’s at 9:00 a.m. Return when you want to. Leader: Marilyn Beck, 372-6860.

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**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 Bldg. **Monterey:** K-Mart Seaside

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**The Sierra Club’s Clair Tappaan Lodge**

Enjoy beautiful mountain trails and vistas, wildflowers, lakes, and streams. Come on your own or join one of our exciting workshops or hiking weekends. Built by Sierra Club members in 1914, this rustic, hostle-style lodge stands atop historic Donner Pass, just an hour and a half from Sacramento. Expect excellent family style meals, a friendly staff and a casual atmosphere.

**Featured Programs**

June 3–5, July 15–17, August 26–28 Yoga Workshop $145 members, $170 non-members
June 10–12, August 12–15 Family Hike Weekend $125 members, $150 non-members, $75 kids
June 17–19 Fly Fishing Workshop $145 members, $170 non-members
June 19–24 Sierra Serenity $250 members, $275 non-members
June 24–26 “Finding Your Way” Navigational Workshop $145 members, $170 non-members
July 1–4 Fourth of July Weekend Mountain Celebration
July 8–10, August 19–21 Tahoe Hiking Highlights $125 members, $150 non-members
July 22–24 History Hikes $125 members, $150 non-members
July 29 – 31 Bicycle Weekend $145 members, $170 non-members
September 2 – 5 Labor Day Weekend Celebration
September 16–18 Fall Work Party

Prices for featured programs include meals and lodging. For more information about these programs or to receive a full schedule and description of Clair Tappaan programs please visit our website at www.ctlsierracleub.org or call (800) 679-6775.
HIKE: MARINA STATE BEACH
We'll start out at the boardwalk enjoying the views of Monterey Bay, then north along the beach, passing by hang gliders just hanging around up there. 3-mile loop. Meet at west end of Reservation Rd. at the state beach parking lot at 10:00 a.m. Wear shoes for walking on sand and bring a windbreaker, water and snack. Leader: Joyce Stevens, 624-3149.

HIKE: POGONIP
Meet at 10:00 a.m. at the Santa Cruz County Government Center. 6 miles. Bring lunch and water. We'll see the haunted meadow, sacred oak, kils, and other thrilling sights. Leader: Sheila Dunnway, 336-2325.

HIKE: ANDREW MOLERA
We'll hike through a diversity of landscapes: redwoods, oaks, coastal views and gorgeous flowers. Lunch on the beach, 8 miles, 1000’ elevation gain. We'll start on the Ridge Trail and return on the Panorama. Bring lunch, water, sun hat, windbreaker. Meet at Bagel Bakery at 9:00 a.m. Leader: Suzanne Arnold, 626-4042, suzanne@carml@aol.com.

HIKE: EWOLDSON TRAIL
Sunday, June 25
WALK: POINT LOBOS
4 miles starting from Hwy. 1, to the Pit, then past Whaler's Cove, to the top of Whaler's Knoll and back via southern trails. Meet at Albertson's at 9:00 a.m. to carpool. Bring snack, water, and optional binoculars. Back about noon. Leader: Martha Saylor, 372-9215.

HIKE: SOQUEL DEMO FOREST
Saturday, June 25
HIKE: BIG CREEK/CANOGAS FALLS
Saturday, June 26
HIKE: JACK'S PEAK
Sunday, June 26
HIKE: BUTANO STATE PARK
HIKE BUTANO STATE PARK
Hike 9-mile loop around this cool, green, canyon park. Bring water and lunch. Meet at 9:30 a.m. at Sears 41st Ave. or go direct and park behind the tennis courts at Chaminade at 9:50 a.m. $1 carpool. Leader: Maureen Maynard, 336-5293.

HIKE: CHAMINADE TRAIL
Saturday, July 2
HIKE: BIG CREEK/CANOGAS FALLS
Saturday, July 2
HIKE: BIG CREEK/CANOGAS FALLS
It is a few years ago since we last did this wonderful hike. If we get the permission from the Landels-Hill Big Creek Reserve, we would meet very early at Albertson’s and spend the whole day. We hike up the Big Creek (always water), go to High Camp and hike steeply downhill to Canogas Falls, 1000’ loss and gain. Back over meadows with ocean views. Finally through the redwoods. Bring lots of water and a big lunch.

Silver Lake & Carson Pass
Come relax and enjoy the beauty. Fish, hike, or wander along the many lakeside and mountain trails abundant with wildflowers. After a hike, refresh in the cool water, lounge on our beach, or glide on the pristine Silver Lake waters, very peaceful and quiet. Then join us for a gourmet meal at our restaurant or spend the evening in your comfortable lakeside room or cottage, ending your day star-gazing from your deck or meeting others at the crackling campfire.

Kit Carson Lodge
www.kitcarsonlodge.com
or call: (209) 258-8500

O U T I N G S
Tuesday, July 5

SENIOR SAUNTER: PINTO LAKE

Pinto Lake in Watsonville is very picturesque with old oak and eucalyptus trees shading the easy 2-mile trail. Good restrooms and picnic tables. Meet before 9:30 a.m. at Sears 41st Ave. To go direct, take Airport Blvd. exit to Green Valley Rd. Go left on Green Valley and drive about 3 miles. Drive past the first Pinto Lake sign and go about 1 mile to Pinto Lake County Park sign on left side of road. Park to meet at 10:00 a.m. in last parking lot. Bring lunch, water and $3 carpool. Leader: Pat Herzog, 458-9841.

Tuesday, July 12

SENIOR HIKE: COSTANOA

We'll hike on trails above Costanoa ranch. We'll do Pampas Heaven Loop with lots of gradual uphill. Spectacular views! Meet before 9:30 a.m. at Sears 41st Ave. or at 9:50 a.m. at Shen's Gallery, King & Mission. To go direct, park in rear of parking lot at General Store. Boots recommended. Bring lunch, water and $4 carpool. General Store has a deli counter for sandwiches, etc. Leader: Pat Herzog, 458-9841.

Friday, July 15

HIKE: WEST MOLER A

Meet behind Brinton's (opposite Albertson's) at 9:30 a.m. for this moderately strenuous 8-mile hike with 1200' elevation gain. We'll hike up Hidden Trail and Ridge Trail, enjoying views of Pico Blanco and Post Summit. After lunch we descend via the Panorama Trail and Bluff Trail with views of the ocean and Point Sur. Bring lunch, water, and windbreaker as the ocean breeze can be cold even in summer. Leaders: Cath Farrant and Mary Dainton, 372 7427, marydainton@juno.com.

Sunday, July 10

HIKE: PICO BLANCO CAMP

This 11-mile 1300' elevation hike leaves the Old Coast Road and follows a beautiful section of the Little Sur river, then up to Pico Blanco Camp to see the most beautiful waterfall and pool in the area. Wear boots and sun protection, bring lots of water and lunch. Meet at Albertson's at 9:00 a.m. Leader: Steve Legnard, 402-1422.

Sunday, July 17

SINGLES VEGETARIAN PICNIC & BOATING: LOCH LOMOND

We'll have an early supper potluck at 4:00 p.m. Afterwards we'll go boating, or you may hike or just socialize and relax. Sorry, no swimming or alcohol allowed in the park. You may bring your own boat or we may rent shared row or paddle boats for approximately $2 per person. Parking is free after 4:00 p.m. To carpool meet at 3:15 p.m. at Felton Faire or at the lakeshore picnic tables at 4:00 p.m. Bring your own plate, cup and serving utensils and a potluck dish to share. For more information call leader Karen Kaplan after 11:00 a.m., 335-3342.

Saturday, July 9

PLAY DAY: GLEN DEVEN RANCH

Enjoy a day at the ranch—writing, reading, photographing, hiking (alone or with leader), playing music, resting. A special opportunity to be on the 865-acre property of forests and meadows, flowers and history. Meet at Albertson's at 9:00 a.m. Return when you want to. Leader: Marilyn Beck, 372-6860.

Sunday, July 17

SWIM/HIKE: ARROYO SECO

We'll hike from the Arroyo Seco parking lot, 3 miles to the water, then wade/rockscramble/float upstream through beautiful pools on air mattresses or light tubes (light enough to easily tote, air pump provided). You must have some type of flotation device. Depending on the water flow, we'll check out the waterfall and see if it's possible to climb up the side. You must be a good swimmer and energetic hiker! Kids over 12 with parents are welcome. Double bag food in large ziplocks in a light daypack. Wear swimsuit under light hiking clothes. We'll stash clothes and change when done. Old tennis shoes that cover toes work best; sandals may cause toe bruising on rocks which can be slippery. An all-day outing in great heat and strong sun. Meet at Carmel Bagel Bakery 8:00 a.m. or in the park, in the upper right side lot, about 9:30 a.m. Call to confirm. Leader: Suzanne Arnold, 626-4042, suzannecarmel@aol.com. Co-leader: Steve Legnard.

Tuesday, July 19

SENIOR HIKE: NISENE MARKS

Shady, moderate 3-miles with ups and downs. Choice of return via the Buggy Trail. We'll lunch at George's Picnic Area. Meet before 9:30 a.m. at Sears 41st Ave. or at Park kiosk about 9:50 a.m. Park in lot to left of the entrance kiosk. Bring lunch, water, $2 carpool and share of entrance fee. Leader: Marilyn Selby, 479-3809.

Saturday, July 23

HIKE: FALL CREEK

We'll do the Lost Empire trail and loop back through the barrel mill site. 10 miles with 1800' elevation gain. Meet at 9:30 a.m. at the Santa Cruz County Government Center to carpool. Call leader Nick Wyckoff for additional information, 462-3101.

Sunday, July 10

HIKE: FALL CREEK

Join me as we explore this enchanted forest with redwoods, a lovely bubbling stream full of cascades, a lime kiln, barrel mill, fish pond, and dancing springs. Afternoon walk. 7 miles Bring water and a snack. Meet at Felton Faire at 11:00 a.m. to carpool. Leader: Sheila Dunniway, 336-2325.

Getting to outings

Sierra Club encourages outings participants to walk, bicycle, and take the bus to outings meeting places.
**O U T I N G S**

**Sunday, July 24**

**HIKE: CHINA CAMP TO BIG SUR**
Formerly called Marathon Hike. Hike 23 miles from China Camp to Big Sur Ranger Station in one day! This is the classic trans-Ventana hike starting at 4262' and dropping to 370' with a lot of up and down on the way. Very strenuous, only for serious, fit hikers. I'll try to set up a van pool this year so that no one will have to return to China Camp at the end of the day. Please call for more information. Leader: Steve Legrand, 462-1842.

**Tuesday, July 26**

**SENIOR SAUNTER: LEVEE/EAST CLIFF**
Casual walk along River Street levee to museum on East Cliff Dr. for 20 min. stop. Then on to Aldo’s for lunch or you may bring your own. After lunch we’ll walk to Gateway Plaza. Park by river near Ross. Bring water, lunch, $1 carpool. Leader: Maureen Maynard, 336-5293.

**Saturday, July 30**

**HIKE: ASILOMAR/PEBBLE BEACH**
Saturday, July 30

**HIKE: BIG BASIN**
There’s an extension of East Ridge Trail that takes us into the northern parts of the park. We’ll cover 12 miles with 2000’ elevation gain. Meet at 9:30 a.m. at the Santa Cruz County Government Center to carpool. Call for additional information. Leader: Nick Wyckoff, 462-3101.

**Sunday, July 31**

**SWIM/HIKE: ARROYO SECO**
Because we love it, repeat of swim/hike of July 17. See write-up above.

**Sunday, July 31**

**HIKE: NISENE MARKS**
Meet at the Santa Cruz County Government Center at 10:00 a.m. or near Pacific Rim Restaurant at 10:30 a.m. 8 mile hike to Maple Falls and back. Bring lunch, water, wear boots. Some stream crossings. Leader: Sheila Dunnyway, 336-2325.

**Sunday, August 7**

**HIKE: PICO BLANCO CAMP**
Strenuous 11-mile, 1500’ elevation gain hike. Great views up and down the coast. Bring lots of water and lunch, sun hat and sun block. Meet at the Bagel Bakery at 8:20 a.m. Call for more information. Leader: Betsy MacGowan, 510-215-9255, bmacgowan@hotmail.com.

**Tuesday, August 9**

**SENIOR HIKE: FALL CREEK**
Shady 2-mile hike in redwood forest partly along the creek. Some moderate uphill. Trail is rocky in places. We’ll lunch at the limestone kils. After lunch, optional hike another mile or so. Others can wait at kilns. No restrooms. Meet before 9:30 a.m. at Sears 41st Ave. or just before 10:00 a.m. at Felton Faire. To go direct, use parking lot on Empire Grade up from Hwy. 9. Boots recommended. Bring water, lunch and $3 carpool. Leader: Beverly Meschi, 475-4185.

**Sunday, August 13**

**HIKE: BIG BASIN TO THE SEA**
We’ll take advantage of the special Big Basin Bus to get us to the starting point. Meet at the Santa Cruz Metro Center to catch the #35 bus at 8:30 a.m. for Big Basin (The bus will NOT wait for stragglers). We’ll end the hike at the mouth of Waddell Creek in time to catch the No. 40 bus, arriving back in Santa Cruz at 6:55 p.m. 13 miles, almost all downhill. Bring lunch, water, two $1 bills and four quarters for bus fare. Wear hiking boots. Leader: George Jamalal, 335-7748.

**Tuesday, August 16**

**SENIOR SAUNTER: NEW BRIGHTON/POT BELLY BEACH**
It’s a great time for a beach walk. Leader will take us along the back way and down to the beach. We may get as far as the cement ship. Meet before 9:30 a.m. at Sears 41st Ave. If you go direct, meet at 9:30 a.m. and park on Kennedy at Park St. Bring lunch, water, sun-screen and $1 carpool. Leader: Grace Hansen, 476-7524.

**S U M M E R  O U T F I T S**

**Volunteers Needed**

Wild River Campaign seeks to protect Big Sur rivers

by Dave Westman

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 character enjoyed by the native Salinan and Esselen peoples centuries ago.

Unfortunately, these free-flowing rivers remain at risk of being degraded with dams, diversions and other developments to serve our ever-growing population. Only one local river, the Big Sur River, is fully protected with both federal wilderness designation and by inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic River System. Even rivers within federal Wilderness Areas, are at risk of development if they are not part of the National Wild and Scenic River System. Such rivers can be dammed and developed by Presidential Executive Order.

To protect these rivers and streams, the Sierra Club is teaming up with the California Wild Heritage Campaign, the Ventana Wilderness Alliance and Friends of the River to launch the Ventana Wild Rivers Campaign. We have only begun this historic project, and are currently working to raise the public awareness of seven outstandingly remarkable rivers for permanent protection within the Forest Service boundary: Arroyo Seco, Carmel River, Nacimiento River, San Antonio River, San Carpoforo, Tassajara Creek, Willow Creek.

For more information visit: www.ventanawild.org/projects/rivers.

**Volunteers Needed**

**Staff for Sierra Club Bookstore in Carmel**

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

Bicyclists may use fire road

According to a settlement reached in April between Citizens for the Preservation of the Forest of Nisene Marks State Park and California State Parks, bicyclists will be able to use the Aptos Creek Fire Road. Potential loss of the use of the fire road prompted settlement negotiations between State Parks and Citizens for the Preservation of the Forest of Nisene Marks.

As reported in The Ventana, the December 10 ruling by Superior Court Judge Judy Holzer Hersher banned mountain bikes in the portion of the park dedicated by the Marks family as a violation of the Marks family’s wishes as stipulated in the deed. The ruling did not include an exception for the fire road.

The settlement requires State Parks to revise the General Plan in accordance with the court’s interpretation of the deed, honoring the Marks family’s wishes that the deeded portions of the park be “preserved for all time as a natural preserve” and the land use “limited to camping, nature study, hiking, and associated activities.”

The settlement lays out the compromise as follows: “With the exception of the Apts Creek Fire Road, the General Plan may not authorize bikes on the Dedicated Property.”

By agreeing to the settlement, State Parks chose not to appeal the judge’s decision, and the Citizens for the Preservation of the Forest of Nisene Marks State Park agreed to allow mountain bikes on the Apts Creek Fire Road.

The Santa Cruz Group of the Sierra Club actively participated in this issue by taking a firm position against the adoption of the General Plan for Nisene Marks as originally drafted by State Parks because of the many inadequacies of the plan.

Attorneys for State Parks argued that the Marks family’s deeds had expired because they had not been extended after 30 years. The judge’s decision against that argument offers assurance to future land donors that the state will not be able to circumvent donors’ wishes for how their generous gifts of land are to be used.

In reviewing the settlement, Santa Cruz Group of the Sierra Club expressed satisfaction with the final outcome and the assurance it offers to future land donors that their wishes will be followed. “If the wishes of the donors could easily be ignored, donations of special land will likely become few and far between,” said Bill Parkin, attorney for the Santa Cruz Group of the Sierra Club.

Sanctuary Draft Management Plan due out this summer

After nearly three years of public input and extensive review, the National Marine Sanctuary Program is preparing a Draft Management Plan (DMP) and an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (MBNMS). The DMP/EIS is expected to be released for public review late this summer. Public hearings will be held throughout the region and will present an important opportunity for citizen participation.

The DMP, a revision of the Sanctuary’s original 1992 management plan, will focus on how best to understand and protect the sanctuary’s resources. The DMP will include twenty-five action plans that will guide the MBNMS for the next five years. The majority of the action plans are grouped into four main marine management themes:

- Coastal Development (coastal armoring, desalination, harbors and dredge disposal and submerged cables);
- Ecosystem Protection (special marine protected areas, Davidson Seamount, bottom trawling effects on benthic habitats, and introduced species);
- Water Quality (beach closures, microbial contamination and cruise ship discharges);
- Wildlife Disturbance (e.g., marine mammal, seabird, and sea turtle disturbance, motorized personal watercraft, and tidepool protection).

The action plans were developed based on an extensive public process conducted over the past 4 years which included hundreds of people participating in public scoping meetings, stakeholder work groups and Sanctuary Advisory Council workshops and meetings. This update of the sanctuary’s management plan is part of a larger review process which also involves the Gulf of the Farallones and Cordell Bank national marine sanctuaries to the north.

The sanctuary program has produced a Citizen Update to the Joint Management Plan Review to help the public better understand the sanctuary management plan review process, how key coastal and ocean issues will be addressed and how citizens can make their voices heard. For a copy of this new publication or for updates on the JMPR call 647-4217 or visit http://sanctuaries.nos.noaa.gov/jointplan/.

Spraying stopped

The Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors voted unanimously in May for a 3-year moratorium on spraying herbicide along county roads. Environmentalists including the Sierra Club and the Valley Women’s Club supported the ruling.

New membership chair

Heather Allen, who has just completed a Master’s degree in International Environmental Policy at the Monterey Institute of International Studies, will serve as the new Membership Chair for the Ventana Chapter. Allen is a member of the Chapter Executive Committee and works as Policy Director for Friends of the Sea Otter in Pacific Grove. Her current projects include establishing the Coalition on Responsible Desalination to inform desalination policy on the central coast and coordinating bilingual environmental educational campaigns in Half Moon Bay and Marina. Recently, Allen was awarded a John A. Knauss Marine Policy Fellowship for 2006.

Land saved

The Trust for Public Land has purchased 20 acres of oceanfront property north of Hearst Castle which it intends to hand over to State Parks. The $4.5 million purchase west of Hwy. 1 includes two beaches. An existing resort with a motel and restaurant has been closed.

In another land save, the Trust for Public Land announced the purchase of a 3373-acre addition to Sonoma Coast State Beach in May. An additional 515 acres will be protected by conservation easements. The land, comprising most of the watershed of Willow Creek, links previously conserved lands. The almost $21 million purchase money came from Prop. 50 and Prop. 40 bond measures.

We need clean air

The EPA marked World Asthma Day in May by advising that people reduce their exposure to “secondhand smoke, cockroaches, dust mites,” etc. Hey EPA, how about enforcing the Clean Air Act? That would offer a world of relief to asthma sufferers.

A quiet trail beckons bikers on a misty day in The Forest of Nisene Marks.
### Support your local Certified Green Businesses

Look for the Green Business Logo in shop windows.

The Monterey Bay Area Green Business Program certifies businesses that go **above and beyond** regulatory requirements by preventing pollution and conserving natural resources. The businesses listed below have voluntarily reduced water consumption, retrofitted lights and other electrical modifications to reduce energy consumption, reduced solid waste by recycling and minimizing waste, and have gone above and beyond regulatory requirements by implementing pollution prevention practices in their operation. The certification process involves a series of rigorous audits by environmental and conservation experts to come up with the **best available technology to prevent pollution** and conserve natural resources. Certified businesses have invested time, effort and financial resources to ensure that they meet the criteria for certification. These businesses are the **industry front-runners that meet and exceed exceptional environmental standards**. Please visit the Monterey Bay Area Green Business Program website for more details: [www.ambag.org/greenbiz/](http://www.ambag.org/greenbiz/)

More businesses are certified all the time! Check the website for an up to date list, and patronize the Certified Green Businesses listed below.

THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES ARE PROUD TO BRING YOU THE GREEN BUSINESS PROGRAM:
Santa Cruz County Sanitation District, County of Santa Cruz Department of Public Works, County of Santa Cruz Department of Environmental Health Services, County of Monterey Environmental Health, City of Watsonville Public Works Utility, City of Monterey, City of Scotts Valley, Soquel Creek Water District, Monterey Bay Unified Air Pollution Control District, California Environmental Protection Agency Department of Toxic Substances Control, Ecology Action of Santa Cruz

### AUTO REPAIR BUSINESSES

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<td><strong>SANTA CRUZ</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Car Care Center</td>
<td>831/479-4777</td>
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<td>DMV Clinic</td>
<td>831/462-4436</td>
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<td>Gino's Carco Santa Cruz Auto Recycling</td>
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<td>Nate Smith's Optimal Auto Care</td>
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<td>Rick's Auto Shop</td>
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<td>Water Star Motors</td>
<td>831/457-0996</td>
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<td><strong>WATSONVILLE</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>L&amp;M Auto Repair</td>
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<td><strong>MONTEREY/PACIFIC GROVE</strong></td>
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<td>Forest Hill Auto Service</td>
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<td>Pacific Motor Service</td>
<td>831/375-9571</td>
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### RESTAURANTS

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<td>Crow's Nest Restaurant</td>
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<td>Nuevo Southwest Grill</td>
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<tr>
<td>UltraMat Cafe</td>
<td>831/426-9274</td>
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<td>Wired Wash</td>
<td>831/429-9473</td>
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<td><strong>SOQUEL</strong></td>
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<td>Cafe Cruz</td>
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<td>Michael's on Main</td>
<td>831/479-9773</td>
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<td><strong>APTOS</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Bittersweet Bistro</td>
<td>831/662-9799</td>
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<tr>
<td>Café Rio</td>
<td>831/688-8917</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL CERTIFIED GREEN BUSINESSES

Look for this seal. All Certified Green Businesses display this seal in their shops.

**EAT GREEN TOO!**
Eleven restaurants now Certified as Green Businesses in Santa Cruz County

For more information about the Monterey Bay Area Green Business Program, contact your local Santa Cruz County Coordinator

Jo Fleming at (831) 465-7439

Visit our website for an up to date listing of Certified Green Businesses

**FUNDING BY A GRANT FROM THE CALIFORNIA INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT BOARD**

What is a Certified Green Business?
- Green Businesses meet or exceed all environmental regulations
- Green Businesses implement specific practices to reduce pollution, save water and energy, and protect human health
- Green Businesses are audited by inspectors before receiving certification

Printed on Recycled Paper
Local Program helps businesses go green

If you knew that a local business operated in an environmentally-responsible way, would you be more likely to patronize it? Now there is a green certification program for businesses that voluntarily go beyond what is required by regulatory agencies. These special businesses earn the right to display the Green Business logo.

The Monterey Bay Area Green Business Program recognizes and promotes businesses that operate with the environment in mind. The program provides applicants with clear information and technical assistance on how to comply with environmental regulations and how to go beyond compliance to adopt environmentally-sound practices in four areas: energy efficiency, water conservation, solid and hazardous waste reduction, and pollution prevention. Oftentimes, being kind to the earth also means saving money in water and energy costs.

To become certified, businesses must voluntarily reduce water consumption, retrofit lights and make other electrical modifications to reduce consumption, reduce solid waste by more than the average business and surpass regulatory requirements for pollution prevention. Once the applicant business has completed the requirements and becomes a Certified Green Business, it is encouraged to display the Green Business logo on the premises and in advertising.

The local Green Business Program is modeled after a similar program in the San Francisco Bay Area. The Monterey Bay Area Green Business Program is currently focusing on auto repair shops and restaurants with plans to expand into hospitality and other sectors in the near future.

The original San Francisco Bay Area program has grown to include seven participating counties which have certified over 300 businesses and public agencies since 1996. The program continues to expand with new Green Business Programs starting up in San Diego, Sacramento, Arizona, Hawaii, as well as right here in the Monterey Bay area.

If you own a local restaurant or auto repair shop, you are urged to contact the program coordinator in your county and start the certification process.

The service audit is free to participants. As an added incentive, water fixtures are replaced at no cost to the business. In addition, the program may be able to provide rebates for replacement lighting fixtures.

Coalition for Waste Alternatives ponders options

Local Task Force to implement the most environmentally and socially responsible long-range waste management program possible;

• Lobbying elected officials in support of new diversion programs and full implementation of existing programs;

• Promoting new aggressive waste diversion alternatives and incentives.

The Santa Cruz County Integrated Waste Management Local Task Force has advanced a number of waste-cutting measures, among them a Zero Waste resolution, mandatory recycling, mandatory trash collection in the urban area and a 12-gallon garbage can option. The Coalition will be weighing in on these measures which could help tremendously in extending the life of the county landfill. Opposition to mandatory recycling may come from businesses and apartment managers who don’t want to sort their garbage.

According to the 1999 county waste sort, food waste accounts for 30% of the material in residential garbage carts. Food waste at restaurants is about 65% of refuse and ranges from 25-40% in agricultural, retail food, finance/real estate and other service-oriented businesses. The county would like to provide for food waste collection at all businesses and residences. Programs for food scrap collection and composting have been successful in reducing waste in San Francisco and East Bay cities, and the resulting compost has been approved for use on organic farms. A compost facility would require 20 or more acres. It could stand alone or be coupled with other waste-handling facilities. Sensitivity and hard work will be needed to identify space suitable for composting.

An updated waste composition analysis is slated to occur next year. When the results are known (probably at the end of 2006), the County will learn if the types of garbage have changed since 1999 and what steps might most effectively reduce waste even more.

Until Zero Waste is achieved, there will be some garbage to deal with. Ideas on the table include waste export, waste-to-energy, anaerobic digestion, pyrolysis, gasification, and production of refuse-derived fuels. All of these options have environmental consequences. Gathering information on these processes from sources other than those selling the technology is critical to making an informed decision.

If you wish to receive email updates and alerts regarding solid waste, contact Karin Grobe, 427-3452, kgrobe@pacbell.net.

How to help

• Eat out at certified green restaurants.

• Take your car to a green auto repair shop.

• Urge non-certified businesses to start the certification process.

• Visit www.ambag.org/greenbiz to learn more.

Ventana Wilderness Alliance

Protecting the Northern Santa Lucia

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

www.ventanawild.org P.O. Box 506, Santa Cruz, CA 95061 831-423-3191
2005 Ventana Election Rules and Timeline

The timeline and rules listed below are based on the Sierra Club’s guidelines for chapter and group elections of members to Executive Committees.

I. Chapter/Group Election Timeline


June-August: Nominating Committees consider chapter/group members for Executive Committees; choose at least two more candidates than the number of openings on each ExCom.

July: Petition candidates may begin to circulate petitions. They may contact the chapter Election Committee Chair, Mary Gale, at 626-3565 to determine whether they are being considered for nomination.

August 26: Chapter and Group NomComs submit names of candidates to Chapter ExCom.

September 9: Election Committee Chair provides candidate names to Chapter/group offices and to webmaster for member information.

Sept. 21: Election Committee Chair submits election article to Ventana Editor for inclusion in autumn Ventana.

October 7: All candidate petitions and statements with photos for inclusion in election mailing to members must be submitted to Election Chair; materials not received by the deadline may not be included in the mailing.

October 22: Election materials delivered to mailing house unless included in Ventana.

November 14: Election materials mailed to members unless included in Ventana.

December 30: Deadline for postmark on returned ballots.

January 2006: Election Committee Chair reports election results to Chapter ExCom.

II. Election Rules and Procedures

Nominating Committees consist of not fewer than 3 members, appointed each year by ExComs in spring, and whose term expires on Dec. 31. Their membership is published in the August Ventana.

Duties: select nominees and report names to Chapter ExCom by the end of August. NomComs shall nominate at least 2 more candidates than the number of ExCom members to be elected; all must have given their consent to the nomination.

Deliberation of the NomCom may be open or closed at NomCom discretion; no committee members may be nominated. Names of nominees shall be published in the October Ventana.

Petition Candidates: the name of any chapter or group member proposed in writing by 25 members and who gives consent shall also be included on the ballot. The petition must be postmarked or delivered to the Election Chair by October 7. July 1 is the first day for circulation of a nominating petition, and shall be in a form prepared by the Secretary and made available to petition candidates at the Chapter/group offices.

The form shall provide for names, signatures, and addresses of signers and dates of signature. The Secretary shall verify the membership of signers to determine if a sufficient number appear on the petition. A candidate statement in the form prescribed by the Election Chair shall accompany the petition when it is submitted to the Secretary.

Candidate Statements: the Election Chair shall provide to all candidates a standard format for statements, specifying the length, organization, and content. All candidates shall submit statements which conform to these specifications; material may be edited for accuracy, suitability, and length, and is confidential until published. Statements not received by the October 7 deadline may not be included in the mailing to members.

III. Balloting Committee: This committee of not less than 3 members is appointed by ExCom. No candidate may serve on this committee. Balloting Committee shall prepare for mailing by November 14 a brief description of the election procedure, the candidates’ statements, and ballots with return envelopes. Separate ballots, accompanied by the candidates’ statements, shall be mailed to each member. The return envelope shall bear a distinctive return address so as to insure prompt receipt by the Secretary, who shall hold the ballots unopened until the election closes, and then give them to the Balloting Committee for opening, validation, and counting of ballots. The counting process shall be subject to observers, one appointed by each candidate. Balloting Committee shall notify candidates of the time and place for opening and counting of the ballots. If the winning candidates’ margin of victory is 10 votes or fewer, the ballots shall be counted again. Before counting ballots, Balloting Committee shall check names of a master list of Chapter members, unless computer printed labels are part of the lot.

Election Results: shall be reported to the Secretary, who shall report to the candidates and the ExComs. Within 5 days the Balloting Committee shall submit a written report of the election results to the ExCom. The election is not deemed complete until the report is received. The ballots shall be held for one month following opening and counting, after which they may be destroyed by destruction of ExCom, if no objection to the election has been made.

ExCom shall establish a formal objection procedure, which shall be initiated within 30 days of the submission of the formal report of Balloting Committee to ExCom. The ballots shall not be destroyed before the end of that 30 day period, or before any formal objection has been processed, including the time during which the election is protested to the national Sierra Club.

IV. Election campaigning

Campaigning for chapter/group office is permitted; however, no campaign statements other than those submitted to and approved by the Election Chair, and no advertisements, shall appear in the Ventana or any other Sierra Club publication. After publication of names of candidates, no article by or about a candidate may appear in the Ventana unless it pertains to the ordinary performance of the duties of the candidate as a member of the Sierra Club. Each candidate shall have an equal opportunity to respond to published or circulated campaign statements of other candidates and shall be given an equal opportunity to address Sierra Club meetings concerning their candidacy. No candidate may spend more than $100 for campaign expenses, regardless of source. The Chapter membership mailing list shall be made available to candidates for the purpose of sending campaign material. Campaign material shall be identified by source, and copies shall be sent to the NomCom and to all candidates in time to permit timely responses. Sierra Club entities shall not endorse candidates, but any member may endorse and speak for a candidate as an individual, as distinguished from a chapter/group official. Editors of the Ventana are not permitted to endorse a candidate. Candidates may not sign arguments accompanying ballot issues such as by-law changes. Candidates may address such issues in their candidate statements.

V. Amendments to Election Rules:

Any amendments may be proposed and made each year, by May, by ExCom. The rules, as they may have been amended, shall be published each year in the Ventana for Jul/Aug.

VI. Election Timetable:

ExCom shall adopt this annually, in June, setting out the dates for all procedures specified in the by-laws and these rules. The timetable shall by published in the Ventana for Jul/Aug.
Registrations are coming in! The Sierra Summit will be the largest gathering held by the Sierra Club in its 113-year history, and will serve as an important milestone in the environmental movement. This four-day event happening September 8-11 in San Francisco will be a huge opportunity for attendees to explore, enjoy, and protect the planet through a fun and rich learning experience.

The Ventana Chapter and Santa Cruz Group will be ably represented by D'Anne Albers, Heather Allen, Harriet Mitteldorf, Patricia Matejcek, George Jammal and a representative from the Forestry Committee.

“I’m looking forward to helping shape the Club’s future,” said Ventana Chapter student delegate, Heather Allen. “And I can’t wait to see Bill Maher either!” she exclaimed.

There will be workshops on everything from “Backyard Organics” and “Eating Smart” to “Photography & Nature” and “Restoring the Wild.” There will also be an exhibit hall filled with the latest environmentally-sensitive technologies and products. Speakers include Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., former Poet Laureate Robert Hass, chef Alice Waters, and professor George Lakoff.

The Summit will include the Sierra Club Strategic Direction Setting process involving 1000 delegates from across the country. Since no Sierra Club event would be the same without outdoor activities, there will be a number of hikes and other fun opportunities to get outdoors and socialize. It will be a great chance to network and learn with other Club members and leaders from around the country.

Everyone is welcome to attend. To register, go to www.sierrasummit2005.org and either complete the form online or mail or fax it in. You can also call 301-694-5243 or email scs051.attendee@expoexchange.com.