Sierra Club member Gary Harrold revisits a towering redwood that he planted on the grounds of Mission Hill Middle School when he was a student teacher there in 1970. When he planted the tree with a handful of his science students, the tree was shorter than Gary. It was purchased with funds raised by collecting and redeeming aluminum cans. In 1970, aluminum can recycling was an individual endeavor, no organizations were doing it curbside. The *Sequoia sempervirens* is now approximately 70 feet tall; it softens the visual field, gives us oxygen, and cools the air from summer heat near the street.
Chapter continues to safeguard the environment

Many of you are closely following the Pebble Beach Company’s (PBC) massive proposed plans to cut down over 17,000 trees and fill in precious wetlands, home to 19 species of special concern including two endangered species. Chapter leaders were outraged in mid-June when afraid of being denied, the PBC had the Board of Supervisors pull the project off the Coastal Commission agenda.

Sierra Club members from all over the state were planning to attend the California Coastal Commission (CCC) hearing in Santa Rosa to protest the project. Many members had already left their homes and were on their way. Many were out of pocket for deposits on hotel rooms and other expenses. Coastal Commission staff and the Commissioners themselves had to waste most of a day at taxpayers’ expense. The Chapter attorneys and experts were well prepared and severely inconvenienced by the surprise change of plans.

Most major newspapers had the previous week, released the story that the PBC had influenced the Speaker of the Assembly, Fabian Nunez, to improperly make an 11th hour appointment in an effort to stack the Commission with a PBC-friendly member. Even the Monterey Herald editorialized that the PBC proposal would be unacceptably harmful and that the supposed “tradeoff” of development rights to hundreds of houses was “misleading at best.”

The PBC has publicly said that environmentalists, their lawyers, the many experts, and the brilliant and hardworking scientists with the CCC somehow don’t understand how “environmentally sound” this destructive project is. The company claims they will now rework the project to improve its environmental merits. Since their past record includes the duplicitous Measure A initiative, a fake vote at the Board of Supervisors, and sneaky back door political shenanigans to stack the CCC, we haven’t much hope they will return with any plan that will be permitted under the Coastal Act.

We are remaining vigilant on future developments on this project as it is one of the largest and most dangerous ever proposed for valuable biological resources on the California Coast. Chapter members are also working on protection of forest habitat in September Ranch, opposing Rancho San Juan, helping with a General Plan that will control growth, following and commenting on marine and river issues and much more.

But this work is very expensive. Our legal bills have been unusually high. Inserted in this issue of the Ventana is a fundraising envelope for Monterey County addresses. Please use it now to make a gift to the Chapter to help us to continue to protect the most important resources in Monterey County.

—Rita Dalessio

Name that butterfly

I

took An Inconvenient Truth, Al Gore’s movie about global warming. The startling images of Nature’s wake up calls pack a powerful punch. If the glaciers on Greenland and the ice in the Antarctic melt as predicted by scientists, the sea level could rise more than 20 feet. This ought to be of concern to residents of the Central Coast.

My topographic maps show that most of downtown Santa Cruz is below 20 feet in elevation. Monterey fared better, but Hopkins Marine Lab will have to be renamed Hopkins Submarine Lab. The water is already lapping at the stairways to houses in Pajaro Dunes. Waves would cover much of Moss Landing and Castroville if sea levels were to rise even 10 feet.

In advertising, there is a rule of thumb that one must see a message 7 times to even register that one has seen it at all. By my count, Nature has given us two wake up calls. The first was in 2002 when an ice shelf the size of Rhode Island broke up and disintegrated in Antarctica. Our second wake up call occurred last August when Hurricane Katrina devastated New Orleans. Will it take five more to get our attention?

Once Mother Nature finally has our attention, will it take us to change our habits? As a child I heard stories of Nero fiddling while Rome burned. I pictured a toga-clad character obliviously playing a violin on a Roman rooftop while the city burned behind him. But of course it won’t be like that at all. The modern-day version will consist of politicians arguing in the Senate while the sea creeps closer to our homes and business districts. Will we continue to put most of our transportation money into automobile infrastructure while neglecting public transportation and clean bicycle travel? Will we approve more subdivisions and services or build more densely in our central cities?

Turn to p. 8 to see what you can do to curb global warming before it’s too late.

—Debbie Bulger

Get your wetsuits and fins, we may be in for a swim

I just saw An Inconvenient Truth, Al Gore’s movie about global warming. The startling images of Nature’s wake up calls pack a powerful punch. If the glaciers on Greenland and the ice in the Antarctic melt as predicted by scientists, the sea level could rise more than 20 feet. This ought to be of concern to residents of the Central Coast.

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Turn to p. 8 to see what you can do to curb global warming before it’s too late.

—Debbie Bulger

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

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

Editor: Debbie Bulger, dbulger@cruzio.com
Production: Debbie Bulger, Vivian Larkins, Dale Nutley
Photographers: Debbie Bulger, Karin Grobe Richard Stover, Bill Malone, Compass Over Killing
Proofreaders: Jeff Alford, Charles Koester, Eloise Graham, Richard Stover
Distribution: Keith Wood, Jerry Houser Debbie Bulger, Esperanza Hernandez
Advertising Sales: Debbie Bulger
Late Night Food Delivery & Software: Richard Stover
Chapter website: http://ventana.sierraclub.org

2006 VENTANA PUBLICATION SCHEDULE:
Issue Deadline Mailing Date
#5 Sep. 25 Oct. 11
#6 Nov. 27 Dec. 13

Articles received after deadline may not be published.

F R O M T H E E D I T O R

Printed on Recycled Paper
Proposition 90 threatens to undermine land use planning and environmental protection

This November, Californians will vote on one of the most significant measures affecting environmental law to ever reach the ballot. Wealthy, out-of-state backers of this misleading and dangerous measure want voters to believe Proposition 90 is about “eminent domain reform.” But the impacts of the measure will be much more far-reaching and would effectively abolish our ability to pass or enforce basic laws that protect our coastline, open space, farmland, air and water quality, and other natural resources and will cost taxpayers billions of dollars in lawsuits to fund payouts to a few developers.

Impacts of Prop 90 on environmental protection

If Proposition 90 passes, virtually any actions taken to protect the environment could result in landowners (who simply have to claim the law “damages” their property value) demanding huge payments from all taxpayers through their property value) demanding huge payments from all taxpayers through the measure is virtually limitless. In thousands of lawsuits costing taxpayers millions of dollars in litigation costs. A similar but much less far-reaching measure was passed in Oregon in 2004 and has already resulted in 2000 claims requesting $3.8 billion in compensation. The scope of environmental regulations that could trigger compensation under the measure is virtually limitless. Some examples include:

- Protection of old-growth forests, wetlands, coastal areas, grazing lands, croplands, public parks, and open space
- New listings of endangered/threatened species or protection of habitat
- Urban growth boundaries
- Designations of marine reserves
- Neighborhood zoning protections: height limits, setbacks, local restrictions on big-box retail, inclusionary workforce and affordable housing, and restrictions on adult businesses in residential areas and near schools
- Approval of new development permits by the Coastal Commission
- Amendments to general plans, specific plans, or zoning ordinances
- Requiring developers to contribute to schools, affordable housing, and parks

Proposition 90 contains a hidden provision not mentioned by its proponents, that allows virtually anyone to sue claiming a new law or regulation has impacted the value of their property or business—no matter how far-fetched the claim—and taxpayers will be on the hook to pay the bill. This could result in huge payouts to fund projects. These provisions will drive up the cost of infrastructure projects, cause delays, or even halt work on much-needed community projects. Taxpayers will have to pay much more or lose out on the congestion relief, road repairs, schools, utility services, flood protection and other planned and needed infrastructure projects.

Broad coalition opposing Prop 90

This coalition contains environmental, labor, business, consumer, economic, local government, and community groups all opposed to Proposition 90. This strong coalition has committed to educating California voters about the true impacts of Proposition 90. For more information and a complete list of coalition members visit NoProp90.com.

Sanctuary guide a winner

The new Field Guide to the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary is colorful, packed with useful information, and now available to download on your computer. The guide contains information on the various sanctuary habitats from sandy beaches to the deep sea. Best of all there is a wildlife viewing calendar listing the months when the most commonly-seen marine animals are around.

The 12-page guide contains a detailed map of the Central Coast which identifies points of interest and things to do. The beautiful illustrations make this a classy publication.

Copies of the guide may be picked up at the sanctuary office, 299 Foam Street, Monterey or downloaded as a pdf at http://montereybay.noaa.gov/reports/2006/fieldguide/welcome.html.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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 cracking campfire.

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Contact Your Representatives
State Supreme Court rules Counties control zoning for logging

by Jodi Frediani

After a seven-year legal battle, the California Supreme Court decided in June against Big Creek Lumber Company in its long-standing lawsuit to reverse a County ordinance that restricts logging and related helicopter operations largely to land zoned for Timber Production. The decision affirms the right of a county to decide where logging can take place, even though the State has control over how logging may be done. Through the use of powers established in the 1930s, counties can use their zoning authority to determine the location of land uses, including logging.

The Supreme Court settled a disagreement between two appellate courts. The first court, in Big Creek vs. San Mateo County, asserted that only the State can regulate the “conduct” of timber operations, but local governments could determine the “location.” The second court, in Big Creek vs. Santa Cruz County, agreed with Big Creek that the “conduct” of timber harvesting includes “location” and counties cannot use their zoning authority to prohibit logging. In the June, 2006, 4-3 decision, the Supreme Court majority agreed that the state regulates “how” and counties govern “where” logging takes place.

Santa Cruz County’s ordinances do not prohibit logging, nor do they regulate how logging is done. They simply determine that logging should take place on land zoned for logging, in the same way that mining occurs on land zoned for mining. If landowners want to log, they need to get their property rezoned as a Timber Production Zone. Then a timber harvest plan can be submitted to the State for review and compliance with state regulations.

At press time, Big Creek had petitioned the Supreme Court for a rehearing of the case.

Defense Department blocks wind farms

In late June, the Sierra Club filed suit against Donald Rumsfeld and the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) for creating a virtual moratorium on the construction of new wind power plants. Rumsfeld and DOD have failed to complete a congressionally mandated study of windmills’ impact on radar. In the meantime, DOD, Department of Homeland Security, and the Federal Aviation Administration have halted wind farm construction “within radar line of sight” of any military radar—which has effectively stopped construction across the U.S.

Federal officials have declined to reveal how many wind projects have been blocked from construction, but, according to media reports, at least 15 wind farm proposals in the Midwest have been shut down so far. The list of stalled projects includes one outside Bloomington, Illinois, which would have been the nation’s largest source of wind energy, generating enough electricity to power 120,000 homes in the Chicago area. Coal and natural gas will likely replace the lost wind generation, resulting in higher energy costs and increased soot, smog and global warming pollution.

If the moratorium persists through the summer, it may not be possible to complete wind projects in time for their developers to claim applicable federal tax credits, which were extended last August through the end of 2007. The direct and indirect economic damage that will result from suspension of wind farm construction could easily reach tens of millions of dollars.

Wind energy is the fastest-growing source of power on the planet. With our tremendous wind resources, the United States can become a world leader in wind energy. Already, wind turbines in this country produce enough electricity to meet the needs of more than 1 million households. A single modern wind turbine can produce enough power to meet the annual electricity needs of 500 average homes.

I am very concerned about what I call the extinction of experience—the loss of everyday species within our own radius of reach. When we lose the common wildlife in our immediate surroundings, we run the risk of becoming inured to nature’s absence, blind to delight, and, eventually, alienated from the land.

—Robert Michael Pyle, Xerces Society founder

Richard Stover

State Supreme Court rules Counties control zoning for logging

The Sierra Club / Ventana Chapter Volume 45 Number 4, 2006

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Santa Cruz unbuckles greenbelt

On Tuesday, July 11, the Santa Cruz City Council approved the EIR for a bridge over Hagemann Gulch, ramp spanning Arana Creek, and intersecting paved east-west/north-south 8-11’-wide trails through critical habitat in the coastal zone portion of the Arana Gulch Open Space property on the city’s eastern edge.

Extensive comments against the proposal by Coastal Commission staff, California Department of Fish and Game staff, US Fish & Wildlife staff, professional botanists, an attorney retained by the Sierra Club and the California Native Plant Society, and concerned residents were sent to the City Council before the meeting because the project violates the California Coastal Act and the federal Endangered Species Act and because the EIR does not fulfill the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

The project, if allowed to proceed, could undermine the significant Bolinas Chica legal decision regarding Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Areas as well as present a destructive precedent for future development in the city’s other Open Space areas: Pogonip and Moore Creek Uplands. These Greenbelt properties and Arana Gulch were all acquired after a citizen initiative in 1979 for their habitat, watershed, viewed and passive recreation potential, not to accommodate transportation projects at the cost of habitat values.

The Sierra Club, the California Native Plant Society, as well as community groups and residents are considering both an appeal to the Coastal Commission, which would have to approve the project, and a lawsuit to address the numerous inadequacies and inaccuracies in the EIR.

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I am very concerned about what I call the extinction of experience—the loss of everyday species within our own radius of reach. When we lose the common wildlife in our immediate surroundings, we run the risk of becoming inured to nature’s absence, blind to delight, and, eventually, alienated from the land.

—Robert Michael Pyle, Xerces Society founder
Chapter comments on Castroville development

The Ventura Chapter has submitted comments to the Monterey County Housing and Redevelopment Agency regarding a potentially environmentally-unsound community redevelopment plan for the unincorporated Castroville area. The proposal includes over 4,000 new housing units, 85 new light industry parcels, 30,000 sq. ft. of commercial uses, and a commuter rail station.

Our concerns include the effects of this proposal will have on area wetlands (Moro Cojo, Tembladera, and Alisal Sloughs), runoff into Elkhorn Slough and any degradation of Elkhorn Slough and Monterey Bay.

The proposed Castroville Community Plan also references the 2008 completion of the Salinas Valley Water Project (modifications to the Nacimiento Dam and a seasonal rubber dam near the mouth of the Salinas River) as mitigation for potential seawater intrusion caused by the proposed development. This Water Project has faced delays, and it is questionable that it will be completed by 2008. We believe no project should be approved before the Water Project is complete.

In addition, the cumulative impacts on seawater intrusion from all projected land uses in the Salinas Valley Groundwater Basin Pressure Subarea, and not just in the Castroville water district, should be analyzed.

The Club is also concerned with the loss of prime farmland that might be caused by this development. We believe that mitigation or offsets for conversion of prime farmland must be analyzed.

Chapter volunteers are very concerned, although not surprised, to see what the Monterey County Board of Supervisors has in store for this booming and fragile area, as revealed in its latest “20 year growth blueprint,” General Plan Update Version 4.

After over $6 million and six years of work, the Board rejected without review the third version of the General Plan Update—hardly a slow-growth plan—which was moved forward by the Planning Commission. Now, with GPU 4, they have opened the floodgates for total development. Those reviewing the Plan refer to it as “Anything, Anywhere, Anytime” Plan, because that is what special interests would be able to do under it.

The Board hopes to ram this version through even though it is contrary to the desires and needs expressed in years of public comment calling for farmland and open space protection and for infrastructure to be available for new development, among other long-overdue, common-sense goals.

Here’s what our initial review of the GPU 4 has uncovered: “Rural Centers” would be easily expanded, allowing urbanization to encroach further into rural lands. Requests for development from large property owners have been accommodated, covering thousands of acres and mocking the public’s goal of focusing development where infrastructure such as roads won’t be overburdened. The plan accommodates at the very least 27,000 new residential units, which is more than AMBAG (governmental) growth forecasts between 2005 and 2030 for Monterey County. Note these units are in addition to the 46,324 new homes already approved but not yet built and within the plans of the cities!

In policies worthy of Alice in Wonderland, any farmland (even prime) may be converted anywhere, so long as “adjacent” parcels are protected. The protections for natural resources are also shockingly lacking, allowing the wholesale conversion of oak woodlands. And by opening up steep slopes for conversion, there are tens of thousands of acres of native habitat now protected that could be stripped for intensive viticulture or other uses. GPU 4 even removes requirements for permits for many potentially-destructive practices and for construction on agricultural land, so the public would not be able to weigh in before approval. The trails policies are actually geared to stopping trails as opposed to accommodating the growing population’s needs for safe recreation in appropriate places.

As you can see, it continues to be critical that the public has an alternative to what is being cooked up by this county government. We will continue to press hard for the duly-qualified “Community General Plan Initiative” to be on the ballot, which legal maneuvering derailed. That ballot measure, together with the Rancho San Juan Referendum to overturn that project’s approval, are needed to over-ride these disastrous decisions.

Please Recycle This Paper Again

The Sierra Club / Ventana Chapter Volume 45 Number 4, 2006

Fourth version of General Plan Update features unbridled growth

Do you have furniture, sports equipment, or other items you no longer want or need around the house? I had a Nordic Track I was no longer using. I placed an ad in The Ventana, asked the purchaser to make the check out to “Sierra Club,” and was able to help the Club and clean out my garage at the same time. Such a deal!

Recycle unneeded items; snag $ for Sierra Club

Free classified ads

The Ventana is offering free classified ads, on a space available basis, for items worth $25 or more when the owner agrees to have the purchaser make the check out to “Sierra Club.” It’s easy. It recycles. Best of all it helps the Club fund conservation and advocacy.

For more information call 457-1036.

—Debbie Bulger

volunteers needed to get phone messages to activists

YOU are responsible, dependable, and smart. The Club needs someone to transcribe phone messages at its Santa Cruz office and get the messages to our activists. Must commit to 2 times/week. To apply, call 768-8187.

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**Sierra Club Events**

**Friday, August 11**

**Potluck & Slides - Southeast Asia**

Wendy will present this slide show from her trip to Southeast Asia. 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) may make great contributions too. For directions call George, 335-7748.

**Saturday - Sunday, September 9-10**

**Blue Whale Celebration**

Interpretive activities about whales for young and old sponsored by the Central California Whale Watch Coalition and the Fisherman’s Wharf Association. 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Learn about the effects of underwater sound and more. Fisherman’s Wharf, Monterey.

**Sunday - Monday, August 13-14**

**Lobby Day**

Travel to Sacramento to lobby with Sierra Club California. Training on Sunday afternoon. Visit with key legislators on Monday. Free hotel in double-occupancy rooms. Sunday dinner, Monday breakfast and lunch provided. Deadline to register for this event is August 1. Contact Sabrina Juarez, 916-557-1100 x 107, Juarez@sierraclub-sac.org.

**Sunday, August 13**

**Roundup with the Nut Jobs**

Meet the Nut Jobs, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. in Folsom Lake State Recreation Area. Free. For more information contact 916-632-2151 or 916-721-1300.

**Friday, August 11**

**Join a hut work party**

Volunteers are needed to help prepare Sierra Club huts for winter. Free overnight and prepare Sierra Club huts for winter. Free overnight and breakfast at Clair Tappaan before members accompanied by a ranger/naturalist. Proceeds to benefit Sierra Club political programs in California. Also offered September 14-18. $875 Cost includes sumptuous meals, snacks, and bunks on the boat. For more information contact Joan Jones Holz, jholz@ao.com, 626-443-0706.

**Friday, September 8**

**Potluck & Slides - Berlin**

Vilma Siebers will show slides of Berlin which she left in 1953 to come to the United States. See August 11 for details.

**Friday, October 13**

**Potluck & Slides**

The topic of this slide show could not be confirmed at press time. Please call George if you want to know. See August 11 for details.

**Non-Sierra Club events of interest**

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

**Saturday, September 9-10**

**Blue Whale Celebration**

Interpretive activities about whales for young and old sponsored by the Central California Whale Watch Coalition and the Fisherman’s Wharf Association. 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Learn about the effects of underwater sound and more. Fisherman’s Wharf, Monterey.

**Saturday, September 30**

**Capitola Watershed Festival**

Bring the kids to Esplanade Park in Capitola Village. Meet live endangered fish in Capitola lagoon. Hear world-famous conservationists such as Fred Keeley. Row a boat with fish biologist Don Alley. Visit interactive booths with fun for all ages. Win the watershed cleanup treasure hunt. Dance to the watersheds band, and celebrate Soquel Creek 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. For more information, contact Barbara, 462-4303 or Capitola@dancin.biz.

**Second and Fourth Saturdays**

**Habitat restoration sponsored by 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 Brozman, 462-4041, redwrm@pacbell.net. website: www.cruzcnps.org.

August 12, Sunset Beach State Park Sept. 2, Henry Cowell State Park Sept. 30, Sunset Beach State Park

**Second and Fourth Saturdays**

**Habitat restoration—Watsonville**

Second and fourth Saturdays each month. Sponsored by Watsonville Wetlands Watch. 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Meet at the Fitz Wetlands Educational Resource Center located at Pajaro Valley High School in Watsonville. Gloves, tools and a snack provided. Call Jonathan Pilch, 728-4106 for more information. No experience necessary.

**Saturdays**

**Garland Ranch hikes**

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

**Free Wormshops**

Learn how worms can eat your food scraps and make beautiful compost for your garden. FREE workshop for Santa Cruz County residents. 10:00-3:00 p.m. Optional worm bin, $20. Call to reserve worm bin. Sponsored by Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors. Call Karin Grobe, 427-3452.

Saturday, Aug. 26, Grey Bear Recycling Facility, 2710 Chanticleer, Santa Cruz

Saturday, Sept. 16, Junction Park, Boulder Creek (Intersection of Railroad & Middledon)

Saturday, Oct. 21, Grey Bear Recycling Facility, 2710 Chanticleer, Santa Cruz

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**Kids are fascinated by life in the worm bin.**

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**Printed on Recycled Paper**
Governor Schwarzenegger filed a petition in July to the Bush administration requesting full protection of all Forest Service roadless lands in California. In addition, he is appealing all four southern California forest plans based upon their proposed removal of roadless protections. This action has been a priority for the Club and other environmental groups for over two years. The governor’s petition and appeals are very well written and, although they allow some specific exemptions from the Roadless Rule for such things as immediate public safety emergencies and cleanup of toxic spills, reflect a strong belief in and intention to keep roadless areas wild and pristine. This is a very significant interim victory. It is interim because the Bush Administration, and particularly U.S. Interior Undersecretary Mark Rey, can decide to accept the petition, deny it, or accept only parts of it. In addition, they can similarly grant the appeal of the four forest plans or not. Nonetheless, Schwarzenegger is the only Republican governor of a large Western state who has chosen to petition for full roadless protection.

She’s Wearing a Dead Bird on Her Head!
Author: Kathryn Lasky, Illustrator: David Catrow
Publisher: Hyperion Books for Children, 1995
reviewed by Debbie Budger

I picked up this exuberant children’s book at the Mono Lake Visitor’s Center as a gift for my granddaughters. It is a fictionalized account of the efforts of Harriet Hemenway and Minna Hall to stop the slaughter of birds for hat ornaments in the 19th century.

Harriet and Minna were two society women from Boston who loved birds. Despite the fact that women couldn’t vote at the time, the two cousins decided they had to do something to protect birds. And so they founded the Massachusetts Audubon Society. By enlisting the assistance of other society women, they made wearing dead birds on hats unfashionable. By including men in the club, they tapped into the power structure. They used the tools available to them to effect social change to benefit the environment.

The delightful text is full of understated humor. An example: “At the second meeting of the Audubon Society, Harriet and Minna and the new members made up the rules for their club.

I think,” said one gentleman, “that there should be an exception made for ducks.” “What kind of exception?” Harriet asked.

“We want to hunt them,” replied another gentleman.”

As a woman with granddaughters, I was especially taken with the positive message of this book. It was developed by the County in conjunction with the California State Water Resources Control Board and the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board. The program has reduced the occurrence of septic system failures from 18% to 2%. To obtain an application or for more information contact Rick Jones, rick.jones@co.santa-cruz.ca.us or call Rick between 9:30-11:30 a.m. at 457-2746.

Coast Dairies goes public
Panther Beach, Bonny Doon Beach and Davenport Bluffs are now part of the California State Park system. On July 14 the state Public Works Board voted to accept the Coast Dairies property west of Highway 1 as additions to the State Parks. Most of the remaining Coast Dairies property will transfer to the BLM. The agricultural lands on the property will be donated to a group run by the Farm Bureau.

Licking the solid waste problem

Consider the ice cream cone. The perfect container. Biodegradable, indeed edible. Its waffle walls serve to hold your icy treat, then offer up a cookie snack to make you feel that you’ve made the right choice for the environment.

Conees are far superior to paper containers which will end up in the landfill or worse. Styrofoam cups not only can’t be recycled, but also cause numerous health and safety problems. According to the City of Santa Cruz Public Works Department, polystyrene (Styrofoam) exposes workers who manufacture it to eye, skin and respiratory irritation, headaches, and other negative health consequences.

Kasey (8) and Veronica (5) Hegelein help the environment by choosing an edible container for their frozen yogurts. It’s a tough job, but somebody’s got to do it.

Cleaner river

The Center for Biological Diversity, the National Resources Defense Council and others have announced their intent to sue the California Fish and Game Commission for continuing to allow lead ammunition in light of the recent condor poisonings. Condors are exposed to lead when they eat carrion that have lead ammunition in their bodies. Non-lead bullets have equal or superior performance and could be substituted by hunters.

Ford breaks promise

Ford Motor Company announced in June that it is breaking its promise to produce 250,000 hybrid vehicles annually by the end of the decade. Instead it intends to focus on flexfuel vehicles which run on regular gasoline and E85. Unfortunately, E85 is only available at .003% of the nation’s gas stations. Is Ford’s new motto “bait and switch?”
Santa Cruz County places highest priority on non-sustainable transportation

by Peter Scott and Eloise Graham

What's your vision of the future in Santa Cruz County? Do you see miles of stop and go traffic surrounded by high sound walls? Do you see our communities paved over with parking lots and garages? Or would you like to see a bike and walking trail along the Union Pacific tracks? How about a passenger train running all the way from Santa Cruz to Monterey, connecting to San Jose in Pajaro? What about a quiet, aerial transport system up to UCSC, removing thousands of vehicles from Santa Cruz streets?

Santa Cruz deserves a diverse transportation system instead of putting most of its transportation monies into the highway basket. The Sierra Club supports sustainable transportation instead of wider, emission-producing highways. The Club favors the most energy and land conserving and least polluting transport systems and vehicles. Walking and bicycling are best. Next are buses, rail and other forms of public transit.

Yet, Santa Cruz County is in the process of piece-mealing the widening of Highway 1. The Merge Lanes project is the first phase.

The Highway 1/17 project now underway is euphemistically termed the “Merge Lanes” project. The construction and clear cutting of the trees along the highway have shocked many residents who thought they voted down highway widening with the resounding defeat of Measure J in November 2004. The Merge Lanes project had already been approved before the Measure J vote.

It is one of three Highway 1 widening projects now on the books. The other two are the overall Highway 1 widening project, whose requisite funding was soundly defeated at the polls and the Hwy. 1 Soquel/Morrissey Auxiliary Lanes Project, which would extend Highway 1 widening south from La Fonda to the Soquel Avenue interchange. Funding for the Auxiliary Lanes Project was denied by the California State Transportation Commission earlier this year.

The “Merge Lanes” project grew out of a much larger project from 1988 that proposed a monstrous 3-level flyover replacing the Fishhook. Due to community opposition, this project was abandoned, and new studies were begun in 1997 that led to the Merge Lanes project. Several issues are worth noting:

• Construction will take until March 2009.
• The cost of the project, estimated at $2.5 million, could increase significantly. The RTC has requested a funding update from Caltrans.

Sound walls will be installed on both sides of the nearly two miles of the project.

• No changes to the Fishhook itself will occur.

• The Emeline off-ramp revision which Caltrans was not enamored of, was strongly desired by County officials and immediate neighbors, and so its $2.5 million cost is included in the project.

Recent traffic counts on this ramp show only 2000 vehicles/day on average—about the same as the residential street in front of this writer’s house. Additional wide bridges over Branciforte and Carbonera Creeks are needed just for this ramp. The Emeline off ramp will be closed until 2008.

• A proposed bicycle path along Branciforte Creek/Carbonera Creek under the widened freeway is not currently included in the project, although a request to Caltrans is expected to be acted upon soon by the Santa Cruz City Council. Such a bike path would provide a direct link between the County offices on Emeline Street and the County Building by San Lorenzo Park. Additionally the link could facilitate safe bike travel during the time the Market Street underpass is closed.

How you can fight global warming

1. Speak up and lobby for cleaner, more efficient cars and cleaner power plants.
2. Drive an efficient vehicle. When you buy your next car, choose one that gets the most mpg that fits your needs. Consider a scooter, electric bike or motorcycle instead of a second car.
3. Drive less. Combine trips; carpool. Walk or bike for shorter trips. Take the bus or train instead of driving whenever possible.
4. Replace incandescent bulbs with fluorescent bulbs.
5. Buy energy-efficient appliances.
6. Install a solar electric system if you can afford it.

Fuel-saving tips

The price of gas has caused us all to rethink our driving habits. Combining trips is one of the most obvious ways to keep fuel costs down, but besides moving closer to work and buying a more fuel efficient auto, there are a number of easy things you can do to save energy and impact global climate change in a positive way.

• Lighten your load. Two hundred pounds of extra junk in your car can add to fuel consumption. Empty your trunk for the environment.

• Keep your tires properly inflated. Under-inflated tires cut fuel efficiency by 2% per pound! The correct tire pressure is written on the side of your tires. If your tires have 27 psi and they are supposed to have 32 psi, you are wasting 10% of your fuel.

• Change a dirty air filter. A dirty air filter can waste as much as 10% of your fuel. Most are easy to change yourself.

• Drive slower. The faster you drive, the more fuel you waste.

• Avoid traffic jams. Drive at off-peak times when you can.

• Take public transportation. Have you ever tried it? Maybe you could get rid of one of your cars.

• Ride your bike or walk for short trips. It is good for both you and the environment.

—Sierra Club Sustainable Consumption Committee
Views from the ground

Emeline offramp, May 2006

Emeline offramp, July 2006

Emeline and Fernside, May 2006

Emeline and Fernside, July 2006

Emeline and Wendell, May 2006

Emeline and Wendell, July 2006
More consumers choosing cage-free eggs

by Susan Prolman, True Cost of Food Campaign Director, Washington, D.C. Chapter, Sierra Club

M any environmentalists are aware that significant environmental impacts are associated with the production of beef, pork, poultry, fish and dairy. Many of us have decreased or eliminated consumption of these foods in an effort to reduce our ecological footprint. The production of eggs raises similar environmental concerns as the production of other animal products. As is true in other food production, some methods of producing eggs are more environmentally sound than others.

Ninety-five percent of eggs produced in the United States come from hens raised in factory farms that use battery cages. This intensive confinement system is so inhumane it has been banned in many European countries and will be phased out of the entire European Union by 2012. In the United States, where consumers are just beginning to learn about factory farms, the push for more humane and more environmentally-sustainable alternatives has only recently gathered momentum.

In the United States, egg-laying hens are raised in sheds the length of football fields, with battery cage operations housing roughly 80,000 hens. Up to 10 hens are crowded into a barren wire cage so small the birds can’t spread their wings. Each bird is afforded less space than a single sheet of paper on which to live, leading to high levels of stress and injury. Cages are stacked one on top of another, with the waste of the birds above dropping down onto the birds in cages below. Because of the low value of egg-laying hens, no individual veterinary care is given. Sick and dead birds are common sights inside battery cages. In the U.S., approximately 300 million hens are raised this way each year.

Environmental problems associated with battery cage facilities include water, air, and soil pollution. Because these operations crowd large numbers of animals into a small area—often millions of birds at a single concentrated animal feeding operation—they generate a massive amount of manure and other animal waste. This manure frequently leaks, spills, or runs off into ground and surface water, killing fish and other aquatic life and contaminating drinking water supplies. These operations also produce dangerous amounts of ammonia and other gases that pollute the air.

The Humane Society of the United States recently instituted a successful campaign to encourage cage-free egg production as an alternative to factory farms. Cage-free facilities house roughly 20,000 hens on the floor of the shed, where the birds can walk, stretch their wings, and engage in other natural behaviors denied to caged hens.

Moving the animals from stacked cages to the floor greatly reduces the density at these facilities. Lowering the density of animals at egg-producing operations is an important step for the environment as less animal waste is produced in the same amount of space, which reduces potential water, air, and soil pollution.

In response to student demand, a growing number of colleges and universities including CSUMB have stopped buying battery-cage eggs. Several grocery chains, including New Leaf Community Markets, Whole Foods Market, and Trader Joe’s, sell only cage-free eggs. Businesses such as America Online, Google, Cisco Systems, Nordstrom, and others have announced that they will serve only eggs from cage-free hens in their cafeterias.

Although demand for eggs raised in cage-free facilities is growing fast, these eggs still represent only a small segment of the market. One barrier is expense. Cage-free eggs can cost as little as 25% more or as much as twice the price of battery-cage eggs.

Would you torture a hen for your omelet?

Guide to terms

Cage Free: Hens are uncaged inside barns or warehouses, but usually do not have access to the outdoors. Forced molting through starvation is permitted. No third-party auditing.

Certified Humane: The birds are uncaged inside barns or warehouses. They must be able to perform natural behaviors such as nesting, perching, and dust bathing. There are requirements for stocking density and number of perches and nesting boxes. Forced molting through starvation is prohibited. Compliance verified through third-party auditing.

Certified Organic: The birds are uncaged inside barns or warehouses and are required to have outdoor access. They are fed an organic, all-vegetarian diet free of antibiotics and pesticides. Forced molting through starvation is permitted. Compliance is verified through third-party auditing.

Fertile: Eggs laid by hens who lived with roosters, meaning they most likely were not caged.

Free Range: There are no standards in “free range” egg production. Typically, free range egg-laying hens are uncaged inside barns or warehouses and have outdoor access. They can engage in many natural behaviors such as nesting and foraging. However, there is no information on stocking density, the frequency or duration of outdoor access, or the quality of the land accessible to the birds. There is no information regarding what the birds can be fed. Forced molting through starvation is permitted. No third-party auditing.

Natural: This label has no relevance to animal welfare.

United Egg Producers Certified: A voluntary program, which permits routine cruel and inhumane factory farm practices. By 2008, hens laying these eggs will be afforded 67 square inches of cage space/bird, less area than a sheet of paper. The hens are confined in restrictive, barren cages and cannot perform many of their natural behaviors, including fully stretching their wings. This is a program of the United Egg Producers.

Vegetarian-Fed: These birds are provided a more natural feed than that received by most laying hens, but this label does not have significant relevance to the animals’ living conditions.

Definitions provided by Humane Society of the United States.
**Outings**

**Ratings**

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

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

**Explanation of Ratings:**

The outings described vary in difficulty from leisurely walks to strenuous hikes. The following explanation are general guidelines.

(For more information about the difficulty of a particular hike, call the leader):

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

**Meeting Places**

**Directions:**

- Park and Ride/Black Bear Diner: This parking lot is on Rio Road in Carmel.
- Albertson’s/Bagel Bakery: Heading south on Hwy. 1, pass through Monterey. One mile past the Ocean Ave. intersection, turn left on Carmel Valley Rd. Almost immediately, turn right at the light toward the stores. Albertson’s and Bagel Bakery are on the right.
- Santa Cruz County Govt. Center: The large grey building at the corner of Ocean and Water in Santa Cruz. We meet at the corner of the parking lot nearest the gas station.
- Felton Faire: From Santa Cruz take Graham Hill Rd. toward Felton. Just after you pass Roaring Camp (on the left), make a right into Felton Faire shopping center. We meet at the edge of the Safeway parking lot nearest Graham Hill Rd.
- 41st Avenue Sears: From Hwy. 1 in Capitola, take the 41st Avenue exit and continue toward the ocean on 41st Avenue toward the Mall. Pass the main Mall entrance and turn right into the next entrance heading toward Sears. We meet behind the bank located at 41st and Capitola Road. Senior Saunter meets in Sears parking lot close to 41st Ave.
- MPC Parking Lot: Monterey Peninsula College Parking Lot. From Hwy. 1, take the Fisherman’s Wharf exit, go straight one block, turn left and left again into the first parking lot, parking lot A. This is the site of the Thursday Farmers Market. Plenty of parking without a fee on weekends.

**Outings**

*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.*

**August**

**Saturday, August 5**

**Hike: Medicine Buddha to Sand Pt**
A 10-mile hike from the Medicine Buddha above Soquel following Bate’s Creek up to the West Ridge and Hitchley Ridge to Sand Point Overlook in Nisene Marks State Park. Spectacular views of the Monterey Bay from the West Ridge and from Sand Point. 1300’ elevation gain with no creek crossings. Meet at Sears 41st Ave. at 9:30 a.m. Bring plenty of water, lunch and $2 for carpool. Leader: Ed Gilbert, 685-8389.

**Friday, August 11**

**Hike: Medicine Buddha to Sand Pt**
Let’s explore the Monterey Bay Coastal Trail through Monterey and Sand City. Meet at Lovers Point in Pacific Grove at 10:00 a.m. at the start of the Rec. Trail. Our route will be almost all on paved bike trails, with some street work in Marina and Sand City. Relatively flat ride with a few short, sharp hills. Prepare for headwinds and some short congestion on the trail, especially around Fisherman’s Wharf on the return trip. Total distance is 30 miles, at a leisurely pace. Helmets mandatory, Bring water and lunch which we’ll eat at Lock Paddock Park in Marina. Leaders: Cath Farrant and Mary Dainton, 372-7427.

**Saturday, August 12**

**Hike: Soquel Demo State Forest**
This demonstration forest, one of only two in the state, is used by the State Division of Forestry and university forestry classes for forest practices research and forestry training. Located high on a ridge (2600’) and deep in a canyon (800’) behind the Forest of Nisene Marks, this forest is bordered on the north by Soquel Creek and is directly above the San Andreas Fault. We’ll hike from the junction of Eureka Canyon Road and Highland Way through the upper reaches of Nisene Marks to the Ridge Trail. We’ll hike the Ridge Trail to the Tractor Trail where we’ll drop down into the canyon and follow Hihn’s Mill Road to hike’s end at Highland Way. 11 miles. Car shuttle. Meet at Sears 41st Ave. at 9:00 a.m. Bring plenty of water, lunch and $4 carpool. Leader: Ed Gilbert, 685-8389.

**Sunday, August 13**

**Hike: Lower Pebble Beach**
Enjoy spectacular ocean views and Del Monte Forest on this 9-mile hike starting near Asilomar, then south along Spanish Bay to Bird Rock. We then proceed east adjacent to Spyglass Hill and Poppy Hills Golf Course down through S.F.B. Moise Reserve and out along 17 Mile Drive. Bring water, lunch, and wear hiking shoes. Meet in front of the Fishwife Restaurant on Sunset Drive and Asilomar Avenue in Pacific Grove at 9:30 a.m. Leader: Stacy Smith, 625-3526.
Let's explore this newly-opened 1200-acre ranch south of Bixby Bridge in Big Sur. The now-deceased former owner, Candid Camera’s Alan Funt, had access roads built, a beautiful barn restored, and his own very special

HIKE: BRAZIL RANCH
Friday, August 18

Take us along the back way down to beach. We may get as far as the museum at the cement ship. Meet before 9:30 a.m. at Sears 41st Ave. to go direct, meet at 9:50 a.m. and park on Kennedy at Park Ave. Bring lunch, water and $1 carpool. Restrooms available. Leader: Joan Brodmer, 462-3803.

HIKE: GARLAND RANCH/GARZAS CYN
Saturday, August 26

This is a beautiful hike with lots of shade in Garland Park! We’ll hike the Terrace Trail, then through the Redwood Canyon and return along Garzas Creek with 6 footbridge crossings. Meet at Albertson’s in Carmel at 9:00 a.m. to carpool or at the Garzas Canyon trailhead on East Garzas Road, at 9:15 a.m. The hike will take about 3 hours. Bring water and a snack/lunch. Leaders: Lynn Bomberger, 375-7777 and Martha Saylor.

HIKE: PICO BLANCO PUBLIC CAMP
Sunday, August 27

The hike to Pico Blanco Public Camp has the best waterfall in the area. This 14-mile strenuous hike starts along the Little Sur River and then up a rough trail to the camp. The waterfall and pool with granite walls are amazing, redwoods and ferns surrounding them. Bring lunch and water near boot. Meet at Albertson’s in Carmel at 8:30 a.m. Leader: Steve Legnard, 402-1422.

HIKE: NISENE MARKS
Saturday, August 26

A 13-1/2 mile loop-hike from the Porter gate, lunch at Emma Pratt Grizzly trail, over Hinckley Ridge and China Ridge, and down and out through Aptos Creek canyon, with a side trip to pasture at gorgeous Five-Finger Falls. We’ll lunch at the Westridge Trail Camp and pause at sand Point Overlook to enjoy a panoramic view of Monterey Bay. 1300’ elevation gain and multiple creek crossings. Meet at Sears 41st Ave. at 8:30 a.m. or at the parking lot behind Aptos Station at 8:50 a.m. Bring plenty of water, lunch and $2 carpool plus share of park entry fee. Leader: Ed Gilbert, 685-8389.

HIKE: TWIN REDWOODS
Sunday, September 3

A 13 mile hilly hike along Loma Prieta Grade trail, over Hinckley Ridge and China Ridge, and down and out through Aptos Creek Canyon, saving it from a Timber Harvest Plan scheduled by Redwood Empire. Check the following website for more details: www.sempervirens.org. Some-what like Big Creek/Lockheed (although not as long or difficult), this hike is at times an off-trail ramble requiring ankle-supporting boots and nerve on poorly developed hillside trails with downhill dropoffs. Walking stick recommended. 5 miles and 1200’ elevation gain. Participation limited, so call Nick for reservation, and meeting place and time. Leader: Nick Wyckoff, 462-3101.

HIKE: PORTER RANCH, WATSONVILLE
Saturday, September 9

Join me for a 4-mile walk along streets and walkways in Pacific Grove and Pebble Beach, Depot near the gas station at 10:00 a.m. or at west end of Potrero Road in Moss Landing at 10:30 a.m. Dress for weather and beach walking. Bring a windbreaker. For more information call slow leader: Joyce Stevens, 624-3149.

HIKE: LOMPICO HEADWATERS
Sunday, September 3

Sempervirens Fund recently acquired 425 acres on Lompico Creek saving it from a Timber Harvest Plan scheduled by Redwood Empire. Check the following website for more details: www.sempervirens.org. Some-what like Big Creek/Lockheed (although not as long or difficult), this hike is at times an off-trail ramble requiring ankle-supporting boots and nerve on poorly developed hillside trails with downhill dropoffs. Walking stick recommended. 5 miles and 1200’ elevation gain. Participation limited, so call Nick for reservation, and meeting place and time. Leader: Nick Wyckoff, 462-3101.

HIKE: WADDELL BEACH TO TWIN REDWOODS
Sunday, September 3

Come join us to see the Moss Landing area in a new way. We’ll start our 3-mile stroll at a new 5-acre state beach given to California State Parks by the Elkhorn Slough Founda- tion. We’ll walk north along the beach to the end of the Moss Landing spit, then turn around and walk south on Sandholt Road, stopping at Phil’s Fish Restaurant for lunch. After lunch we’ll continue south for a peek at the new Moss Landing Marine Lab and back to our start. Meet in Seaside at the Home Depot near the gas station at 10:00 a.m. or at west end of Potrero Road in Moss Landing at 10:30 a.m. Dress for weather and beach walking. Bring a windbreaker. For more information call slow leader: Joyce Stevens, 624-3149.

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HIKE: EYEWOLDEN TRAIL
Come on this moderately strenuous 5 to 6-mile hike starting at Julia Pfeiffer Burns State Park. Enjoy panoramic views high above the ocean. Afterwards, we’ll venture out to the waterfall. Bring hat, water, lunch, and $ for hour-long carpool. Meet at Albertson’s in Carmel at 10:00 a.m. Back around 4:00 p.m. Leader: Andrea Phelps, andrea_phelps@csumb.edu.

Tuesday, September 12
HIKE: GARLAND RANCH
Lots of shade! We’ll hike the Waterfall Trail to the Mesa, then return by zigzagging down the mountain past the Fern Pond and eventually through Maple Canyon. Meet at Albertson’s in Carmel at 9:30 a.m. or at Garland’s main parking lot 10 minutes later. About 3 miles, allow 1-1/2 hours. Bring water, lunch and carpool. Leader: Lynn Bomberger, 375-9841.

Sunday, September 10
HIKE: EWOLDEN TRAIL
Meet at 8:00 a.m. at Santa Cruz County Government Center to carpool. Bring plenty of water and $ for carpool, plus share of park entrance fee. Leader: Ed Gilbert, 685-8389.

Sunday, September 17
SINGLES VEGETARIAN POTLUCK & SWIM: GARDEN OF EDEN
Meet at 11:00 a.m. at Felton Fair to carpool. Return at 4:00 p.m. From the trailhead, it’s an easy 20-minute walk to the river picnic site. Bring your plate, cup, serving utensils, water & potluck dish to share. Wear bathing suit. Bring a towel & sun protection. For more information call after 10:00 a.m. Leader: Karen Kaplan, 335-3342.

Tuesday, September 19
HIKE: HENRY COWELL STATE PARK
Located off Hwy. 152, this is a moderate 3.5-mile hike in lovely forest and meadows. We’ll return home via Gizdich Farms for dessert. Meet before 9:30 a.m. at Sears 41st Ave. To go direct, take Hwy. 1 and exit at San Andreas Rd. Follow San Andreas past Manresa Beach State Park about 1 mile to Manresa Uplands. Leader: Pat Herzog, 438-9841.

Friday, September 22
HIKE: EWOLDEN TRAIL
We’ll hike and climb this Yosemite classic start very early Saturday on a great trail that includes Vernal Falls, Nevada Falls, Little Yosemite Valley and finally, assisted by cables to the top of Half Dome. The view from the top will never be forgotten. We’ll hike back to Yosemite Valley to camp. For Sunday, we plan a leisurely hike and then back to the Monterey area. Call for additional information and carpool arrangements. Must be very fit for this extremely strenuous outing. Leader: Steve Legnard, 402-1422.

Saturday, September 23
HIKE: HENRY COWELL STATE PARK
This is a hump on the south side of the park causing an S-Bend in the San Lorenzo River which is a display of some interesting geology. The hike will include water crossings of the San Lorenzo that are approximately 1-2 feet deep, so be prepared to wade. 11 miles and 2000’ elevation gain with some steep sections. Meet at 9:30 a.m. at the Santa Cruz County Government Center to carpool. Call Nick for additional information. Leader: Nick Wychoff, 462-3101.

HIKE/CLIMB: HALF DOME
There is a hump on the south side of the park causing an S-Bend in the San Lorenzo River which is a display of some interesting geology. The hike will include water crossings of the San Lorenzo that are approximately 1-2 feet deep, so be prepared to wade. 11 miles and 2000’ elevation gain with some steep sections. Meet at 9:30 a.m. at the Santa Cruz County Government Center to carpool. Call Nick for additional information. Leader: Nick Wychoff, 462-3101.

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We’ll hike and climb this Yosemite classic start very early Saturday on a great trail that includes Vernal Falls, Nevada Falls, Little Yosemite Valley and finally, assisted by cables to the top of Half Dome. The view from the top will never be forgotten. We’ll hike back to Yosemite Valley to camp. For Sunday, we plan a leisurely hike and then back to the Monterey area. Call for additional information and carpool arrangements. Must be very fit for this extremely strenuous outing. Leader: Steve Legnard, 402-1422.
Hike: Purisima Creek Redwoods

A 10-mile loop hike, with 1500’ elevation change, along the Purisima Creek, Soda Gulch, upper Harkins Ridge, upper North Ridge and Whittemore Gulch trails, in this open space preserve. From Hwy. 1, we’ll travel northeast 4-1/2 miles on Purisima Road to our start point at the west entrance gate. This 2633-acre preserve has the northernmost major redwood forest in the Santa Cruz Mountains as well as Douglas fir, madrone, oak and chaparral. The ridge tops will provide us with views of the Pacific Ocean, the world-famous Mavericks surfing break and the local mountains with farms. Meet at the Santa Cruz County Government Center at 8:00 a.m. Bring plenty of water, lunch, and $6 carpool. Leader: Ed Gilbert, 685-8389.

Saturday, September 30

HIKE: PURISIMA CREEK REDWOODS

Sunday, October 1

WALK: POINT LOBOS

We’ll start this 4-mile hike around beautiful Point Lobos at the Highway, out to the Pit, then back past Whaler’s Cove, to the top of Whaler’s Knoll and back via southern trails. We might still find some wildflowers and spot some wildlife. Meet at Albertson’s in Carmel at 9:00 a.m. for a short carpool. Bring snack, water, and optional binoculars. Leader: Martha Saylor, 372-9215.

Tuesday, October 3

SENIOR HIKE: NISENE MARKS

Staring at the Porter Picnic area, we’ll hike to the site of former Hoffman House. Mostly shady and some uphill with 3-1/4 miles total. Meet before 9:30 a.m. at Sears 41st Ave. or at the dirt parking lot before the park entrance. Bring lunch, water, sit upon, insect repellent, $2 carpool and share of entrance fee. Leader: Beverly Meschi, 475-4185.

Saturday, October 7

HIKE: HICKORY RIDGE

Sierra Club leader Kirk Smith started this walk after Sempervirens Fund acquired this land in the 1980s. He enjoyed saying that 2 participants met on this outing and came back a year later to announce their marriage. The walk begins at Saratoga gap and allows views of Portola, Castle Rock and Big Basin State Parks as well as the Pacific Ocean. We’ll see some heritage apples. Meet at the Santa Cruz County Government Center to carpool at 9:30 a.m. 8 miles with 1000’ elevation gain. Call Nick for additional information. Leader: Nick Wyckoff, 462-3101.

Tuesday, October 10

SENIOR HIKE: GARLAND RANCH

We’ll hike from the visitor’s center to the Maple Cyn Trail, Sage Trail to the fern pond and Indian grading rocks and return via the nature center. Some moderate uphill. Meet before 9:30 a.m. at Sears 41st Ave. or at the parking area on Carmel Valley Rd. 8.6 miles from Hwy. 1. Bring lunch, water, sit upon, $5 carpool. Leader: Beverly Meschi, 475-4185.

Saturday, October 14

HIKE: LOWER PEBBLE BEACH

See August 13 for description.

Saturday, October 14

HIKE: PESCADERO CREEK PARK

A 10-mile hike through a 6500-acre redwood forested watershed along one of the major creeks in the Santa Cruz Mountains. We’ll hike the Old Haul Road Trail, and sections of the Pomponio and Tarwater Loop Trails. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at Santa Cruz County Government Center to carpool to the park entrance. Bring lunch, water, sit upon, insect repellent, $5 carpool. Leader: Beverly Meschi, 475-4185.

Sunday, October 29

ATTENTION: Potential Advertisers!

Sierra Club Member Profile

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

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

Sierra Club Members Are Great Prospects

Median Age: 41
Male/Female: 63% / 37%
Median Household Income: $56,227
Attended/Graduated College: 81%
Professional/Technical/Manager: 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
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Source: 1996 MRI Doublebase

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

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VOLUNTEER NEEDED TO SELL Trail Guides from their home. Requires keeping stock at home, handling phone orders for both individual sales and bulk orders for about 15 main accounts at bookstores, then filling orders. Must be dependable. For more information call Rita Dalesio, 659-7046.

PHOTOCOPY MACHINE needed by Santa Cruz Group. Donate one for a tax deduction. Call Aiko, 460-1538.

Sierra Club Service outings

Saturday-Monday, September 24
TAMARISK ERADICATION: SURPRISE CANYON
After three previous service trips, our outing should deliver the final blow to these invasive weeds. With a flowing stream and shade, this canyon in the Panamint Mountains of Death Valley is a pleasant setting for our work with Marty Dikes, Wilderness Coordinator for the Ridgecrest BLM office. Primitive camp. In addition to the extensive mining history of the area, campfire conversation will include concerns about past and future use of the area by off-road vehicles. We work two days and the third is reserved for an exploratory hike. Sign-up and information from leader: Craig Deutsche, (310-477-6670), deutsch@earth link.net.

Saturday-Monday, October 14-16
BARBED WIRE REMOVAL: CARRIZO PLAIN
In 2001, President Clinton created the Carrizo Plain National Monument. The area is now part of the National Landscape Conservation System managed by BLM. On Saturday we will remove and/or alter barbed wire fencing to benefit pronghorn antelope. Sunday we will hike in a rugged and little-known area of the Caliente Mountains. Those who are able will continue fence removal on Monday. For information, contact Leader: Craig Deutsche, (310-477-6670), deutsch@earth link.net.
Ventana Production assistant Vivian Larkins and her son Sal know how to save money on gasoline and fight global warming. 
For more tips see page 8.

Biking 4 miles instead of driving keeps about 4 pounds of pollutants out of the air we breathe, according to Environmental Defense.