A historic campaign to establish a statewide network of marine protected areas (MPAs), in California, achieved a major milestone on August 15, 2006. With a unanimous 5-0 vote, the California Fish and Game Commission approved a network of 29 MPAs covering over 200 square miles of state waters along California’s central coast. This plan, the first step in a master-plan for the entire coast, should receive final approval in early 2007 after environmental and regulatory review. The concept of marine protected areas includes marine reserves, where no fishing is allowed, marine conservation areas (where some commercial and/or recreational fishing is permitted) and marine parks where only recreational fishing is permitted.

While the law calling for an improved system of marine protected areas along the entire California coast passed in 1999, implementation languished for several years due to budget and staff shortages. The process was jump-started by newly elected Governor Schwarzenegger in late 2004 through a unique private-public partnership. What followed was a year of stakeholder meetings advised by science teams, followed by recommendations of a Governor-appointed Blue Ribbon Task Force. It culminated in a proposal by the Department of Fish and Game that was strengthened and approved by the State Fish and Game Commission.

The final MPA package creates a network of 29 marine protected areas that comprise more than 200 square miles (about 18%) of state waters between Santa Barbara and Santa Cruz Counties. Although conservation leaders supported a higher level of protection than was adopted, the Commission’s vote is considered a significant step towards ecosystem protection.

For more information go to: www.CalOceans.org.
Fall is a good time to hike

This fall is an especially good time to get out on the trails for a hike. Don’t let these mild, clear days go by without looking through the Outings pages for a leisurely walk or a strenuous climb through scenic areas of forests, parks, rivers and ridge tops.

In addition to the many popular hikes in the Santa Cruz Mountains and the Ventana Wilderness, the Chapter has begun offering hikes to two new properties opened this summer by the Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District.

One is Palo Corona Regional Park, about 4,350 acres of a former ranch with over 500 species of plants. The entrance to the park is located on the east side of Highway 1, about a mile south of Carmel Valley Road in Carmel. The elevation ranges from sea level to 3,400 feet. The Palo Corona trail leads up to Inspiration Point, a 3-mile round trip, where there is a dramatic view of Carmel Bay.

The second park is Mill Creek Redwood Preserve. The entrance to this preserve is approximately six and a half miles from Highway 1 on the south side of Palo Colorado Canyon Road in Big Sur. This 1,500-acre open space preserve boasts the best constructed back-country trail in Monterey County. This park has a sense of quiet tranquility found in more remote places but is only 15 miles from the peninsula. There is a single 5-mile roundtrip in-and-out trail that winds among shaded redwood side canyons above Upper Bixby Creek to a spectacular view of lower Bixby Canyon and the Pacific Ocean.

If you cannot find a hike to these new properties being offered that suits your schedule or want to explore these parks independently, you can contact the Park District to request an access permit online at www.mprpd.org or by calling 372-3196. Access permits are required by the County of Monterey to visit both of these parks. It is recommended that visitors apply for an access permit at least 48 hours in advance of the planned visit as permits are limited. Parking information will be provided, and carpooling is highly advisable and encouraged.

There is a photo of one of the spectacular views in Palo Corona Regional Park on the back page of this newsletter.

—Rita Dalessio

Comment on Sanctuary Management Plan

Nov. 30  Monterey Conference Ctr.
Dec. 5  UCSC Inn, Santa Cruz
6:30 p.m.

Workshops on the issues:
No. 6  Seymour Ctr, Santa Cruz
Nov. 9  Monterey Institute for International Studies, Monterey
For more info: Call Save Our Shores, 462-5660 or The Ocean Conservancy, 425-1363.

From the Editor

RID YOUR HOME OF VAMPIRES

D o you find yourself staring into the dark wondering if vampires are bleeding you dry? Do you lie in bed at night listening to the sucking sound of your conservation efforts draining away?

Stop the bloodsuckers. Take charge. Rid your home of vampires.

We’re talking about the vampires and ghost charges that most modern appliances have built into them. When you turn most appliances off, they’re still on. Fight this needless waste with a power strip.

The reason your TV springs instantaneously to life is it wasn’t really off. Use power strips to completely switch off these electricity wasters when you’re not using them. Simply plug your TV, DVD player, VCR, computer and other appliances with standby modes into an inexpensive power strip. Turn off the power strip and, presto, your appliance will be really off.

Do you leave your cell phone charger plugged in? Unplug and banish that ghost load. The same goes for digital camera battery chargers.

Bust those ghosts. Ban the vampire loads. Standby modes on all your appliances can waste the equivalent to keeping a 75 or 100 watt light bulb running continuously. Now, that’s scary.

Unplug those suckers.

—Debbie Bulger
A

at the request of the Santa Cruz Group, the Sierra Club has joined a lawsuit against the City of Watsonville that has been filed by Friends of Buena Vista (FOBV), a local neighborhood association in Larkin Valley, just north of the Watsonville Airport.

The City of Watsonville is proposing to expand the city limits and annex the area known as “Buena Vista” for development of 2,200 homes, associated commercial buildings, and a school. The entire area is directly under the flight paths for the airport runways. In addition, this area drains into the Harkins Slough.

The adverse impacts of this development include the conversion of quality agricultural lands to non-agricultural uses, groundwater depletion due to over-pumping of the Pajaro Valley Aquifer, increased traffic on roads and highways, and increased polluted runoff into Harkins Slough. The proposed development would severely compromise operating safety at the Watsonville Airport due to building in previously “clear” zones. As a result of this factor, the Watsonville Pilots Association has filed a companion lawsuit.

The Club’s environmental goals in this lawsuit are to block urban sprawl, preserve agricultural land, preserve water quality in Harkins Slough, and reduce or confine the over-pumping of the Pajaro Valley Aquifer. The specific legal goal of the litigation is to get an order setting aside the approval of the Watsonville General Plan Amendment unless and until a legally adequate Environmental Impact Report is prepared and substantial mitigations adopted.

The Watsonville General Plan Amendment generates numerous environmental problems which are deferred for future solving. For example, there is no identification of a credible solution to increased regional traffic congestion that would be created on Highways 1, 129, and 152, nor is there a guaranteed water source to supply the huge population growth this General Plan Amendment seeks to encourage.

The proposed General Plan Amendment dismisses such deficiencies by calling them regional problems that need to be solved by someone else or by complaining that these problems will be solved later.

The Sierra Club and FOBV believe that this abdication of local responsibility needs to be corrected before any part of the General Plan Amendment is implemented. In public testimony Sierra Club and FOBV sought to convince the City of Watsonville that it should not adopt a Plan that contains major regional problems without first articulating clear and credible solutions. These efforts were to no avail, which is why we are seeking correction of the situation through the courts.

Contact Your Representatives

President George W. Bush
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

(202) 456-1111
FAX, (202) 456-2461
president@whitehouse.gov

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

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814

(916) 445-2841
FAX, (916) 445-4633
www.governor.ca.gov

Senator Dianne Feinstein
331 Hart Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

(202) 224-3553
[415] 524-3377
21 Post Street, Suite 2450
San Francisco, CA 94104
go to website to email

Senator Barbara Boxer
112 Hart Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

(202) 224-3535
[415] 403-0100
1700 Montgomery Street
San Francisco, CA 94111
go to website to email

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

Glass designer to donate portion of sales to Santa Cruz Group

A

nnieglass, the Watsonville-based designer of handmade glass tableware, has introduced a new pattern which highlights the Monarch butterfly. The serving ware was designed by Annieglass owner, Ann Morhauser, who has a personal attachment to Monarchs and the preservation of their habitat. Because the Santa Cruz habitat plays such an important role in the life of the Monarch butterfly, Morhauser will donate a portion of the proceeds from sales of her new Butterflies tableware to the Santa Cruz Group of the Sierra Club.

Aldo Giacchino, Chair of the Santa Cruz Group, expressed great appreciation for Morhauser’s generosity, stating, “It is very heartening to see a local artist who draws inspiration from the local environment make a contribution towards its preservation.”

The five-piece group of tableware showcases 24k gold abstractions of Monarch butterflies against thick, transparent glass. The line was introduced in September at the Annieglass store in Santa Cruz. To see examples go to www.annieglass.com.
Sierra Club positions on State bond measures

by Bill Allayaud, State Legislative Director, Sierra Club California

The November 7th ballot will be filled with many ballot measures. Sierra Club California has taken positions on a number of these measures. Some are very controversial, and the stakes are high. The Club has not taken a position on every measure. Vote for the environment on November 7!

Proposition 1c: Housing Bond:
Vote YES.
This is a $2.85 billion bond measure that will facilitate several types of affordable housing. It will also provide money to local governments for infrastructure for transit-oriented development and money for planning infill development. Affordable housing and money for smart growth planning are consistent with our statewide growth management guidelines.

Proposition 7:
The Clean Energy Initiative:
Vote YES.
This measure will fund a $4 billion dollar effort to reduce California’s dependence on gasoline and diesel by 25% over 10 years. It funds incentives to make alternative fuel vehicles and alternative fuels more widely available and affordable to consumers and research to bring clean, renewable energy and energy-efficiency technologies to the marketplace more quickly. The money will be raised by a tax on every barrel of oil extracted from land or water areas in California.

Proposition 89:
The Clean Money Initiative:
Vote YES.
This measure, sponsored by the California Nurses Association, would enact public financing of political campaigns and set new limits on political contributions and expenditures. This initiative proposes to remove corporate wealth as a major factor in elections through a voluntary system of public campaign funding. Prop 89 also sets new limits on campaign contributions to state office candidates and campaign committees. It introduces new restrictions on contributions and expenditures by lobbyists and corporations. The primary revenue for the Clean Money Fund is generated by a 0.2 percent increase in taxes on corporations and financial institutions.

Prop 90:
Eminent Domain and Damages:
Vote NO.
This measure is extremely important for all that the Sierra Club works on. The proponent, a wealthy East Coast developer and well-known Libertarian, claims it’s just about stopping the abuse of eminent domain by local governments; hence they call it the “Save Our Homes” initiative. But, we have rebranded it as the “Taxpayer Trap” initiative because of a hidden provision that says that basically any regulatory action a city, county, or state agency takes could be termed as “damaging” the value of private property. This amendment to the State Constitution would both result in billions of dollars of taxpayer money being spent on litigation and payouts for bogus damages, and in local and state agencies being reluctant to regulate the uses that affect our air, water, and land. The Coastal Commission, the State Air and Water Boards, Fish and Game, and local zoning and planning bodies would all be adversely affected if Prop. 90 passes. Defeating Prop. 90 is a high priority for all environmental groups in the state.

Why Sierra Club supports Phil Angelides for governor

by Bill Magavern, Senior Representative, Sierra Club California

We can do better. We can have a governor who moves consistently toward a more sustainable future instead of one who tries to please his big-business supporters with one hand while making environmental promises with the other.

That is why Sierra Club has endorsed Phil Angelides for governor. The decision was reached after Angelides filled out a long questionnaire and met with us for an interview. Schwarzenegger declined repeated requests to return our questionnaire and meet with us.

While Governor Schwarzenegger deserves credit for programs to fund solar energy and reduce diesel emissions, among other advances, his pro-environment promises have too often been undermined by his strong ties to the corporate lobbies that oppose virtually every major proposal to safeguard our air, water and wild places.

Schwarzenegger has supported freeway expansion and the rollback of the landmark California Environmental Quality Act. Angelides supports the Clean Alternative Energy Initiative on the November ballot; Schwarzenegger opposes it. Angelides supports giving communities the ability to enforce California’s public health and environmental laws, while Schwarzenegger backed the business-sponsored initiative that took away that right. Angelides called a halt to the handouts to industrial dairies in the Central Valley, while Schwarzenegger tried to keep giving away pollution-control money to polluters.

Schwarzenegger has named one committed preservationist to the Coastal Commission; Angelides promises to name four. Schwarzenegger has campaigned for George W. Bush, the most anti-environment president in our history, while Angelides has opposed Bush. Schwarzenegger is proud of his role in creating the gas-guzzling Hummer; Angelides is proud that his family owns 3 hybrid vehicles.

The Club’s interview committee was well aware of Angelides’ past record as a developer in the Sacramento area, and we discussed it with him. We gave much more weight, though, to his record as our elected Treasurer over the last 8 years. He has put the weight of his office behind real investments in clean energy and smart growth and has prodded corporations to clean up their environmental practices.
Club picks for statewide races

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR: John Garamendi
The Lieutenant Governor sits on the State Lands Commission, the UC Board of Regents, and is a non-voting member of the Coastal Commission. Insurance Commissioner Garamendi served in the Legislature where he authored laws on clean energy and toxic cleanup. As Deputy Secretary of the U.S. Department of the Interior, he implemented the Central Valley Improvement Act water reforms and blocked the Ward Valley nuclear waste dump. As Lt. Governor, Garamendi promises to once again promote a green agenda as he has at the state and federal levels for three decades.

SECRETARY OF STATE: Debra Bowen
Are you concerned about touch-screen voting machines, hackers, and paper trails when you vote? The Secretary of State will decide the voting procedures for California as the state shifts to electronic voting and as absentee voting increases. As Chair of the Senate Elections Committee, Senator Bowen led the fight to ensure that all votes will be accurately recorded and reported. She strongly supports Clean Money campaign finance reform and is extremely well-informed about the role and responsibilities of the office. Bowen, an environmental leader in the Legislature, played a key role in removing polluter-linked appointees from environmental positions.

CONTROLLER: John Chiang
The Controller sits on the State Lands Commission, the California Pollution Control Financing Authority, and the state pension funds. Chiang has been elected twice to represent the Los Angeles area on the Board of Equalization. He has consistently voted to rigorously enforce "polluter-pays" fees that fund programs for electronic waste recycling, hazardous waste cleanup, and childhood lead poisoning prevention. He also advocated ocean and desert protection as a staff member for former Controller Gray Davis.

TREASURER: Bill Lockyer
The Treasurer influences environmental policy through investment decisions of State pension funds, and as leader of the California Pollution Control Financing Authority.
For eight years, Lockyer has been the greenest Attorney General in California history. He will carry his environmental commitment to the Treasurer’s office where he promises to wield his influence to be the greenest Treasurer ever.

City of Santa Cruz Vote YES on I and J

These two ballot measures would empower the City of Santa Cruz to take action to limit UCSC expansion if there are not appropriate mitigations. The Club decided to endorse these two ballot measures because of the lack of sufficient mitigations to prevent the significant environmental damages from the proposed UCSC expansion.

Measure I is an ordinance which enables the City to oppose University growth unless the University provides mitigations for the negative impacts that the growth would create especially in the areas of water, housing and traffic.

Measure J would amend the City Charter to clarify that the City has no obligation to provide water and sewer services to areas outside its present service area. Most of the proposed University expansion is on the upper campus which is not in the City’s water and sewer service area. With the clarification of Measure J, the University would be required to enter into agreements with the City to gain connections to the city water system and sewage treatment plant to serve the upper campus.

Measure I and Measure J provide the City of Santa Cruz with more tools to address the impacts of University expansion. Vote YES on Measures I and J.

Club Speaker Series

Rail options for Santa Cruz
Thursday, December 14 • 6:30 p.m.
Jade St. Community Ctr. • Jade St. & 47th, Capitola
FREE or by donation

Hear rail experts from around the Western US present options for train and rail systems in Santa Cruz. Speakers include Michael Jones, Principal Planner, Alta Designs; Bill Burgel, VP Operations HDR, Portland OR; Mike Hart, CEO, Sierra RR. Sponsored by Sierra Club, People Power in conjunction with the Santa Cruz Sentinel and Assemblymember John Laird. For more information call 425-0665.

To change address by email: address.changes@sierraclub.org
Membership inquiries: membership.services@sierraclub.org

WITTWER & PARKIN, LLP
Practicing in the areas of Environmental and Land Use Law

147 S. River St., Ste. 221
Santa Cruz, CA 95060
Phone (831) 429-4055
Fax (831) 429-4057

Re-elect Assemblymember John Laird

Assemblymember John Laird made significant progress on environmental issues in 2005-06 through action on the state budget as Budget Committee Chair and by moving key legislation.
John Laird has been working hard to finally turn the tide after years of the state’s under-funding resources and environmental protection. Laird’s most outstanding achievements include allocating $250 million to the state budget to begin funding the $1 billion backlog in state parks deferred maintenance, providing for $19 million to protect and manage California’s ocean resources, and augmenting Fish & Game’s funding by over $70 million.
This year, Assemblymember Laird authored many environmentally-focused bills, including:
AB 1881 to improve efficiency of water use in new and existing irrigated urban landscapes.
AB 984 to develop a plan to control or eradicate non-native invasive tamarisk in the Colorado River to help increase the state’s water supply.
AB 2496 to increase high-efficiency toilet standards from the current 1.6 gallons per flush to 1.3 gallons per flush.
AB 2348 would authorize the State to share in the cost of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’ Pajaro River levee project. This $200 million federal project will require a 25% non-federal cost share.
AB 2485 (jointly authored with Assemblymember Jones and signed by the Governor) will provide for new protections for sea otters by making California penalties for killing a sea otter equal to those under federal law, prohibiting dumping materials harmful to sea otters into state waters, and labeling cat litter as non-flushing to reduce harmful Toxoplasmosis gondii in sea otter habitats.
AB 3028 to encourage development of the California Coastal Trail and for more coastal resource protection.

Cip and take this Handy Guide to the polls

Governor Phil Angelides
Lieutenant Governor John Garamendi
Secretary of State Debra Bowen
Controller John Chiang
Treasurer Bill Lockyer
House of Reps. Sam Farr
Prop 1c Housing YES
Prop 1d Schools YES
Prop 84 Water/Parks YES
Prop 85 Parental Notification NO
Prop 87 Clean energy YES
Prop 89 Clean money YES
Prop 90 Eminent Domain NO
U.S. House of Reps. Sam Farr, Anna Esthoo, Mike Honda
State Assembly John Laird
Measures I & J (Santa Cruz) YES on both
Sierra Club Events

Friday, October 20
Vegetarian Potluck & Film
U.S. Urban Solutions from Curitiba
Curitiba is a model “green” city in Brazil with efficient transportation, affordable housing, public parks in flood plains, low crime rate, and happy residents. Local film-makers Maria Vaz and Giovanni Vaz Del Bello will answer questions after the screening. Bring food to share and your own plate, cup, utensils, and serving utensils.
s. 6:30 p.m. Live Oak Grange, 1900 17th Ave., Santa Cruz. For more info call Karen Kaplan, 335-3342 after 11:00 a.m.

Saturday - Sunday, October 21-22
Peter Grubb work party
Help prepare the Peter Grubb Hut for winter. Free overnight and breakfast at Clair Tappaan before work begins. Tools and food provided. We will be collecting and storing firewood. Contact Joan Marshall, marshall_joan1234@yahoo.com or 650-564-8623.

Friday, October 27
Potluck & Slides: China
This slide show will be a compilation of the slides that Sheila, Keresha, Andrea, Don and George took on our recent trip to China. 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 see ventana.sierraclub.org/schedule or call George, 335-7748.

Friday, November 10
Vegetarian Potluck & Film
Global Warming
“Too Hot Not To Handle,” a documentary, includes thought-provoking interviews with scientists, city planners, researchers, and politicians. Bring food to share and your own plate, cup, utensils, and serving utensils. 6:30 p.m. Live Oak Grange, 1900 17th Ave., Santa Cruz. For more info call Karen Kaplan, 335-3342 after 11:00 a.m.

Tuesday, December 5
Senior Holiday Lunch
This year at Duarte’s in Pescadero. Full listing under Outings section. Call Pat Herzog for reservation, 458-9841.

Thursday, December 14
Rail Symposium
Passenger rail experts will discuss options for train and rail systems. Jade Street Park Community Center, Jade Street @ 47th in Capitola. 6:30 p.m. Free. Spon- sored by Sierra Club, People Power in conjunction with Assemblymember John Laird and the Santa Cruz Sentinel.

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.

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 Brodman, 462-4041, redwdrn@pacbell.net. website: www.cru enr.org.

Oct. 28, Sunset Beach State Park
Nov. 18, Sunset Beach State Park
Dec. 2, Henry Cowell State Park

Second and Fourth Saturdays
Habitat restoration—Watsonville
Second and fourth Saturdays each month. Sponsored by Watsonville Wetlands Watch. 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 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 an dish (main dish, dessert, salad, etc.) to share and your own table service. The potluck will start at 6:30 p.m. For directions see ventana.sierraclub.org/schedule or call George, 335-7748.

Sierra Club members to join them. An updated list of all hikes may be found on their website: www.mprrdp.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. 1:00-3:00 p.m. Optional worm bin, $20. Call to reserve worm bin. Sponsored by Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors. Call Karin Grobe, 427-3452.

Sunday, Jan. 21, Grey Bears Recycling Facility, 2710 Chanticleer, Santa Cruz

Composting Workshops
Learn how to make organic fertilizer in your own yard. Master composters will teach you how to compost food scraps and garden clippings. Compost bins available at workshops at $20 discount. Offered FREE to Santa Cruz County residents. Sponsored by Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors and produced by the SC County Dept. of Pub. Works, Recycling, & Solid Waste Services. Advance registration required. Call 423-HEAP (4327).

Saturday, Oct. 21, 1-3 p.m., Cabrillo Environmental Horticulture Center, Room 512, 6500 Soquel Dr., Apts.
Sat., Oct. 28, 3-4 p.m., Wilder Ranch State Park, N of Santa Cruz on Hwy. 1.
The debate we’re not hearing: Immigration and trade

by Andrew Christie

As immigration once again becomes the hottest political topic in America, the debate again focuses on higher fences and driver's licenses, amnesties and guest worker programs. As always, a central fact is going largely unspoken: Corporate globalization and U.S. policies on trade have more to do with how many people cross our borders illegally than U.S. immigration policy or any potential reform thereof.

The exploitation of less-developed countries in the economic globalization framework known as “free trade” has resulted in their financial and environmental impoverishment — both known to be major causes of global overpopulation and increased migration.

The Sierra Club recognizes corporate globalization and overconsumption as primary causes of human impoverishment, environmental degradation, and forced migration. While rising migration to developed countries has been cited as a cause of environmental harm, when the issue is reframed as above, it becomes apparent that forced migration is an effect, not a cause, of environmental destruction.

In the environmental community, the issue of immigration has often been framed in arguments by opposing sides as a matter of population vs. overconsumption or U.S. immigration vs. global population, creating an apparent dynamic of environmentalists vs. immigrants and the right of migration, a dynamic of futility on the order of class warfare.

A primary difficulty has been the focus of the debate on U.S. immigration policy rather than on the nature of immigration itself. Developments of the last 20 years have made it clear that there is a larger issue that contains the issues of concern for both sides of this debate. Economic globalization and its regime of wasteful consumption is “promoted and enforced by international institutions and agreements such as The World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the World Trade Organization, the North American Free Trade Agreement and the proposed Free Trade Area of the Americas,” and these policies and institutions have brought about the loss of local production for consumption, increased “instability of food supplies, hunger for millions of people, and devastating consequences for farmers, communities, and nature.”

A consensus has emerged:

- “At the turn of the millennium, we are witnessing intense new worldwide migration and refugee flows . . . largely structured by the intensification of globalization;”
- “Structural adjustment programs [of the International Monetary Fund], imposed as a condition of international loans, have undermined social programs and supports—contributing to out-migration flows from many countries;”
- “The privileging of rich migrants over poor ones romanticizes globalization as corporate progress and ignores the immense human suffering it entails for the majority of the world’s population . . . [and] these waves of internal migration also result in the movement of peoples across national borders in order to survive;”
- The “Alternatives for the Americas” statement issued at the Peoples’ Summit of the Americas condemned the “actions of transnational corporations, international development and financial institutions . . . [that] heighten inequality among and within states, increase pressure to migrate, and impede efforts to fight racism and racial discrimination.”

While it’s a given that overconsumption and waste is built in to our model of economic globalization, one seldom hears it acknowledged that forced migration is also a consequence of the increasing impoverishment of less-developed nations and therefore also attributable to the role of “free trade”-styled globalization. At most, the argument is usually made that other countries should improve the lot of their citizens so they won’t flee to the U.S., with no analysis of how that improvement should come about or exactly what is preventing it.

Regardless of whether one believes that reducing resource consumption or reducing immigration should be the primary goal for a sustainable society and healthy environment, the problem is the economic engine of inequity that is driving both wasteful consumption and forced immigration. Tackling the problem at its source means focusing our energies on a common strategy with a common goal: Eliminating the inequity between the winning and losing ends of the “free trade” equation. That means turning free trade into fair trade.

“Restricting immigration to the United States won’t solve the environmental problems that force people to move in the first place, and the increasing numbers of illegal immigrants indicate that restrictions are more thumb-in-the-dike than viable policy,” says Stephen Mills, director of the Sierra Club’s international programs. “The Sierra Club’s international efforts go to the headwaters, promoting environmentally-sustainable livelihoods that keep forests and families healthy, while making polluting multinational corporations accountable and trade agreements fair.”

Andrew Christie is a member of the Responsible Trade Committee and Chapter Coordinator for the Santa Lucia Chapter.

US population tops 300 million

In mid October the United States will become a nation of 300 million people. Reaching this milestone provides us with an opportunity to recommit to finding necessary solutions to the challenges we face as the world’s third most populous country with growing environmental concerns such as energy consumption and land and water use. It also provides us an opportunity to reflect upon our role in an increasingly globalized world where it has and will continue to become more apparent that everything is connected. US policies concerning the environment, security and health all have profound global impacts.

By effectively planning our communities, we can increase transportation choices, reduce air and water pollution, and protect natural places. By planning our families and providing all people with access to reproductive health care information and services, we can slow population growth and preserve natural resources for future generations. And by supporting sound global policies that promote human rights and sustainable development, we can address the root causes of environmental degradation, including poverty and lack of access to basic healthcare.

For more information visit the Sierra Club National website www.sierraclub.org/population.
Ten million years ago, a vast, shallow sea covered California’s Central Valley and emptied into the Pacific Ocean near Santa Cruz. As the Santa Cruz Mountains formed, sand from the ancient sea floor rose, forming the Santa Cruz Sandhills, a unique ecosystem that now comprises less than 4,000 acres of habitat near Felton, Ben Lomond, Scotts Valley, and Bonny Doon. The single rarest ecosystem in Santa Cruz County and one of the rarest in the United States, the Santa Cruz Sandhills, is also among the most critically endangered.

The Sandhills are a remarkable bastion of biodiversity. They support plant and animal species that are found nowhere else in the world, including the endangered Bonny Doon silverleaf manzanita, Ben Lomond buckwheat, Ben Lomond spineflower, Santa Cruz wallflower, Santa Cruz kangaroo rat, Mount Hermon June beetle, and Zayante band-winged grasshopper. As scientists have yet to describe all of the species that are endemic to the Sandhills, these known plants and animals are likely indicators of an even more richly diverse ecosystem.

The Sandhills have become critically endangered by a variety of factors: development pressure, uncontrolled recreation, invasive non-native vegetation, lack of enforcement of local and federal laws such as the federal Endangered Species Act and the County Sensitive Habitat Ordinance, and a lack of systemic planning for their preservation and management. Federal protection for the Mount Hermon June beetle has succeeded in frustrating small property owners who have sought to build a house addition, deck, swimming pool, or single family home, but it has led to rampant unauthorized development, projects with poor, piecemeal mitigation, and a lack of coherent planning for the Sandhills as a whole.

Fortunately, the County of Santa Cruz, the City of Scotts Valley, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and various organizations and individuals are now moving forward on several fronts to preserve what is left of the Sandhills. A Regional Habitat Conservation Plan and an interim plan for smaller projects are being developed to establish a coherent framework for preservation and mitigation in the Sandhills. The County’s Sensitive Habitat Ordinance is being reviewed to make sure it effectively addresses the unique threats that face the Sandhills. The City of Scotts Valley is considering establishing its own Sensitive Habitat Ordinance.

The flowers and beetle shown on pages 8 and 9 are found only in Santa Cruz County. The endangered Santa Cruz wallflower at the top is known from only 17 locations within the Sandhills. Pictured on the right in inset the Santa Cruz monkeyflower rarely exceeds 4” in height. The pink flower on p. 9 is the endangered Ben Lomond spineflower.
Researchers confirm that lead bullets are poisoning condors

A study led by environmental toxicologists at the University of California, Santa Cruz, has confirmed what wildlife biologists have long suspected: Bullet fragments and shotgun pellets in the carcasses of animals killed by hunters are the principal sources of lead poisoning in California condors that have been reintroduced to the wild.

Lead poisoning is a major factor limiting the success of efforts to rebuild populations of the endangered California condor. Since the mid-1980s, condors have been bred in captivity and released back into the wild in California, Arizona, and Baja California. The birds, which feed on carrion, can ingest lead from ammunition in animal carcasses or gut piles left behind by hunters.

The UCSC researchers used a "finger-printing" technique based on the unique isotope ratios found in different sources of lead. The technique enabled them to match the lead in blood samples from condors to the lead in ammunition.

Lead researcher Molly Church, said she hopes the findings prompt greater efforts not only to reduce lead exposure in condors but to reduce lead contamination in California in general.

"Lead is a well-known toxin that should no longer be getting into the environment, and it would truly be a shame if lead poisoning negated the significant condor conservation efforts and achievements that have taken place over the past several decades," she said.

Cleaner buses

Thanks to $6.8 million from the California Transportation Commission, Santa Cruz Metro will convert 40 buses from diesel to much cleaner compressed natural gas. Our lungs are grateful.

PG cool

Pacific Grove has joined Santa Cruz, Capitola, and almost 300 other cities nationwide as a Cool City. In September city council members voted unanimously to adopt the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement. Way to go Pacific Grove! OK, Salinas, Watsonville, Monterey. Are you going to commit to combat global warming?

Petition denied

Our last issue reported the California Supreme Court decision affirming the right of a county to decide where logging takes place. Big Creek Lumber appealed. The appeal was denied, reaffirming this right for counties.

EPA ignoring evidence

While most of the rest of the country is moving toward less pollution, the EPA is not protecting our health. In September the EPA announced new air standards for particulate matter that ignores scientific evidence that the proposed standards need to be lower. Maybe they should be renamed the Environmental Pollution Agency.

Club sues over global warming

In August the Sierra Club, 12 states including California, the Natural Resources Defense Council and other environmental groups filed suit before the Supreme Court to force the EPA to tackle global warming. The suit contends that the Clean Air Act requires the EPA to act. Because the case includes a challenge by the auto industry to California’s clean car laws, the state is involved. It’s a sad situation when one has to sue to save the world.

Recycling saves energy

U.S. Department of Commerce notes that recycling plastic saves more than 80% of the energy needed for non-recycled plastic; recycling paper saves 64% of the energy required to make paper from trees; and recycling iron and steel saves over 74% over production from ore. Not only that, the over 56,000 recycling establishments in the U.S. employ over a million people.
Court removes legal block of land use ballot measures

When a three-judge panel derailed two Monterey County grassroots ballot initiatives intended for the June election, citizens appealed the decision to the Ninth Circuit Court. Now that body has ruled 14-1 that private recall petitions do not have to be translated into minority languages. This decision reversed the earlier ruling, Padilla v. Lever.

The Ninth Circuit decision clears the way for the Community General Plan Initiative and the Rancho San Juan Referendum to go before the voters. The Rancho San Juan referendum would overturn approval of the largest project in Monterey County history. The Community General Plan Initiative incorporates common-sense development policies into Monterey County’s General Plan by amending the County’s existing 1982 General Plan. Supervisors have failed to update the 1982 General Plan despite spending $7 million and 7 years in the effort.

The Ninth Circuit decision to reverse Padilla on September 19 came too late to include either measure on the November ballot. Look for both of these land-use ballot measures at a future election.

Hike to save the coast: Oct. 28

by Owen Bailey

On Saturday, Oct. 28, Sierra Club Coastal Director, Mark Massara will lead activists from throughout California on an easy and informative hike through one of California’s great coastal places—the Tomales Dunes. This magnificent and relatively isolated spot which is in Marin County across from Point Reyes National Seashore, represents one of the largest unprotected stretches of dunes in the state. Club activists have been working for years to protect the dunes from the threats posed by the un-permitted RV campground, Lawson’s Landing, the largest RV campground in all of California.

This hike is the second in the series of statewide hikes to save the coast. The first occurred in March in the threatened Del Monte Forest at Pebble Beach.

The Great Coastal Places hike series is designed to bring people together to experience our fragile, threatened coastal beauty as the first step activists can take to protect the coast for future generations. Massara will point out sensitive dune wetlands, multiple endangered species, and a future in doubt.

Join Mark and other Sierra Club members from all over California to experience the beauty of the Tomales Dunes and to learn how much you can help with very little time commitment. For more information email Mark at savethecoast@sierraclub.org or call Catherine Caufield, 415-663-9312.

Is your dry cleaner using a toxic product?

The Sierra Club, represented by Earthjustice, filed a lawsuit in September that challenges the Environmental Protection Agency’s refusal to phase out the use of perchloroethylene, a highly toxic chemical still used as a solvent in most dry cleaning facilities. Approximately 27,000 dry cleaners currently use perchloroethylene, also known as “perc” or “PCE.”

Perc has been identified as a probable cause of cancer, and also causes other serious adverse health effects, including headaches, dizziness, eye irritation, kidney and liver damage, and damage to the central nervous system. Recognizing the danger posed by perc, California air regulators recently called for a phase-out. Many dry cleaners have voluntarily switched to cleaner, safer technologies. Wet cleaning machines, and machines that run on captured carbon dioxide, or CO2, offer the same cleaning quality with none of the toxic threats of perc.

The Ventana suggests you choose your dry cleaners carefully. Ask them if they use perc. We called about 10 dry cleaners in Monterey and Santa Cruz Counties. About a third were still using perc. Others had switched to safer methods. What does your dry cleaner use?
DIRECTIONS:
Thursday Farmers Market. Plenty of parking.
- Turn left and left again into the first parking lot, parking lot A.
- This is the site of the Fisherman’s Wharf exit, go straight one block, College Parking Lot.
- From Hwy. 1 take the exit toward Felton Faire shopping center. We meet at the edge of the Safeway parking lot nearest to the gas station.
- Water in Santa Cruz. We meet at the corner of Ocean and a large grey building at the corner of Ocean and Water in Santa Cruz. We meet at the corner of Ocean and Water in Santa Cruz. We meet at the corner of Ocean and Water in Santa Cruz.
- From Hwy. 1 in Capitola, you come to Alviso, if you drive out First St. in San Jose past the technology buildings, you come to Alviso.
HIKE: MOUNT MANUEL AND POST SUMMIT
This strenuous 13-mile hike with 2700’ elevation gain is challenging and beautiful. We’ll hike up Mt. Manuel across the ridge to Post Summit then down to East Moleria. A short car shuttle back to Big Sur completes this hike. Bring boots, water and lunch. Meet at Albertson’s in Carmel Valley at 8:30 a.m. Leader, Steve Legnard 402-1422.

Tuesday, October 24
HIKE: ASILOMAR BEACH/PEBBLE BEACH
We’ll stroll along Asilomar State Beach, along the boardwalk into Pebble Beach and go as far as Point Joe or a bit beyond. Friendly dogs on leash OK. Parking along Sunset Drive. Bring water, a snack, and dress in layers. Meet in front of Asilomar Conference Center and Sunset Drive in Pacific Grove, next to the sign, “Asilomar Conference Grounds” at 11:20 a.m. Leader: Carol Marquart, 375-2235.

Tuesday, October 24
SENIOR HIKE: BUTANO
This easy 3-mile loop hike is through the redwoods into the campgrounds and along Little Butano Creek. A more rigorous extension is available. Bathrooms and water available. Meet before 9:30 a.m. at Sears Ave. or at Shem’s Gallery, King & Mission at 9:00 a.m. Bathroom facilities at trailhead. Bring lunch, water, $4 carpool and share of entrance fee. Leader: Janet Schwind, 425-3845.

Wednesday, October 25
HIKE: COSTANOA TRAILS
Twenty-five miles north of Santa Cruz, the Costanoa Resort was built off Hwy. 1 in a grove of Eucalyptus trees. This was the site of an historic Ohlone encampment with its hillsides and valleys that provided shelter from seashore winds. We’ll start at the resort and follow the trail out and then uphill to the upper and lower vista points that overlook Anto Nuevo Point and Pigeon Point Lighthouse. Bring water, lunch, and $3 carpool for this 8-mile hike. Meet at Sears Ave. at 9:00 a.m. or at the Costanoa Resort Ranch House which is a general store at 9:40 a.m. Leader: Diane Cornell, 423-5925.

Saturday, October 28
HIKE: SAN LORENZO RIVER REDWOODS
This recent Sempervirens Fund acquisition and extension to Castle Rock State Park adds about 30% to the park acreage. Rain will cause trail problems, so call if wet to verify status. 8 miles with 1200’ elevation gain with some off-trail rambling. Meet at 9:30 a.m. at the Santa Cruz County Government Center at carpool. Call Nick for additional information. Leader: Nick Wyckoff, 462-3101.

Sunday, October 29
HIKE: MILL CREEK
Let’s check out the new trail at Mill Creek in Palo Colorado. 5 miles, well-graded trail. Slow-paced pace. By reservation only, thanks to the requirement for parking permits, so call leader to save a space. Dress in layers and wear sturdy shoes; bring lunch and water. Meet at 10:00 a.m. at Park & Ride/Black Bear Diner. Leader: Mary Gale, 626-3656.

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

Wednesday, November 1
HIKE: FALL CREEK
This is the best time of year to take a peaceful and quiet hike into the fall colors of the big-leaf maples around the lime kilns. We’ll hike along bubbling Fall Creek into the central canyon of the park, see Fall Creek into the central canyon of the park, see the fall colors of the big-leaf maples around the lime kilns. We’ll hike along bubbling Fall Creek into the central canyon of the park, see

Saturday, November 4
HIKE: BIG BASSIN
A 12-1/2 mile loop hike with 1330’ elevation change, starting from Park HQ. We will hike the Howard King Trail, up to the overlook on Mt. McBee at 1730’ elevation gain, then down to the overlook at beautiful Berry Creek Falls at 400’. We return up the Berry Creek Trail, past Silver, Cascade and Gold Crest Falls, to the Sunset Trail and Park HQ. About 1400’ elevation gain. Meet at the Santa Cruz County Government Center at 8:30 a.m. or at Felton Faire at 8:50 a.m. Bring water, lunch, share of park entrance fee and $5 for carpool. Leader: Ed Gilbert, 685-8389.

Saturday - Sunday, November 4 - 5
BACKPACK: BIG CREEK RESERVE
We’ll meet 7:00 a.m. at Albertson’s and spend the weekend until Sunday afternoon. A Hartnell College biology teacher will accompany us. We hike up Big Creek through the redwoods to High Camp and leave our heavy backpacks in camp. Then, those who want to can hike steeply down on rough trails to Canogas Falls, 1000’ loss and gain. On Sunday morning, we’ll walk out to a fabulous place high above the coast and finally, return on through meadows with 180 degrees of ocean views. Bring tent, sleeping bag, warm clothes, food for 3 days, cooking utensils, and $ for car pool. Water will be available. Call 1-800-423-9949.
Near the falls the rocky trail winds uphill and narrows. Boots are the best for this 9-mile hike with 800’ elevation gain. We’ll pass the site of Herbert Hoover Jr.’s camp when he was a boy building fences. Bring lunch, water, and $4 carpool. Meet at Sears 41st Ave. at 9:00 a.m. or at the trailhead on Hwy. 1 across from the bus stop at Waddell Beach at 10:00 a.m. Leader: Diane Cornell, 423-5925.

Thursday, November 16
HIKE: GARLAND RANCH/GARZAS CYN
If the bridges haven’t been removed yet for the winter, we’ll hike up the Terrace Trail, then through Redwood Canyon and return along Garzas Creek. If the bridges are out, we’ll make a detour and still have a beautiful hike! 4 miles with 800’ elevation gain. Meet at the Big Bear Diner P&R at 9:00 a.m. or at the Garzas Canyon trailhead on East Garzas Rd. at 9:15 a.m. Bring water and a snack/lunch. Leader: Lynn Bomberger, 375-7777.

Saturday, November 18
HIKE: BRAZIL RANCH
See October 20 for details.

Saturday, November 18
HIKE: CASCADE RANCH/BIG BASIN
An 11-mile car-shuttle hike, with 1100’ elevation gain. We’ll shuttle cars at the entrance of Cascade Ranch and hike through the Big Basin Redwoods. Bring water, lunch, $2 carpool. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at Sears 41st Ave. or at 10:30 a.m. 10.3 miles up Carmel Valley Rd., right on Boronda and left on Garzas Rd. to the end. Leader: Diane Cornell, 423-5925.

Tuesday, November 21
SENIOR SAUNTER: WILDER RANCH
We’ll walk the bluffs from the parking lot to 4-mile beach. Easy, flat trail with spectacular ocean views. Meet before 9:30 a.m. at Sears 41st Ave. or at Shen’s Gallery, King & Mission at 9:50 a.m. Bathroom facilities at parking lot of Wilder. Bring lunch, water, $3 carpool news
Meet 1 hour before formal meeting time in order to save gas and protect the environment when participating in out-of-county outings. Informal (no leader) carpool meeting spots:
Santa Cruz: County Gov’t Center
Monterey: K-Mart Seaside

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The Sierra Club / Ventana Chapter Volume 45 Number 5, 2006
Sunday, November 26
HIKE: GARLAND RANCH
Do we need to work off some of that stuffing and pie we ingested on Turkey Day? Let’s hope for a clear day and puff up and down a few hills somewhere around Garland Ranch. The pace will be slow and the distance under 3 miles. Dress in layers, bring lunch, water and hiking stick if you have one to help on tricky trail spots. Meet at 10:00 a.m. at the main parking lot (NOT ON THE SHOULDER OF CV ROAD!!!) or if coming from town, check for (no leader) carpoolers at the Park & Ride on Rio Road at 9:45 a.m. Just wave your racket around and see who responds. Real Rain Cancel? Leader: Mary Gale, 626-3565.

Tuesday, November 28
SENIOR HIKE: POGNON
Starting at Spring Street we’ll hike 4+ miles to lime kiln and view the Sacred Tree on the way. No bathroom facilities. Meet before 9:30 a.m. at Sears 41st Ave. or on north end of Spring Street at 9:30 a.m. Bring lunch, water, $2 carpool. Leader: Helena Canton, 457-4253.

Thursday, November 30
HIKE: NISENE MARKS
What a beautiful hike! Join us for a 9-mile loop on the West Ridge Trail through a lovely shaded forest of redwoods, tan-bark oaks, maples and ferns. The gradual elevation gain is approximately 1000’. Bring lunch and water. Call for meeting time and location. Leader: Lynn Bomberger, 375-7777.

Friday, December 1
HIKE: MOUNT MADONNA
Here we go for our 9-mile loop hike from the Mount Madonna Sprig recreation area. We’ll hike along the Berry-Go-Round, Loop, Blue Springs and Blackhawk trails. 1400’ elevation gain. Meet at Sears 41st Ave. at 9:30 a.m. or at the Rio Del Mar Shopping Center (near the Bitter-Sweet Bistro) at 9:45 a.m. or near carpool, or meet at the park’s Spring entrance off Hwy. 152 at 10:30 a.m. Bring water, lunch and $3 carpool. Leader: Ed Gilbert, 685-8389.

Sunday, December 3
HIKE: TORO PARK (WILDCAT CANYON)
Hike 10 miles in Toro Park with a 1500’ elevation gain. This hike is close to town and a great workout. There are great views of the harbor and Salinas Valley, Bring water, boots, and lunch. Meet at the Home Depot in Seas- side near the gas station at 9:30 a.m. Leader: Steve Legnard 402-1422.

Tuesday, December 5
HIKE: CARMEL MISSION/MISSION TR
Meet in front of the entrance to the Carmel Mission museum store on Rio Road at 11:00 a.m. We’ll take a 45-minute tour of the Mis- sion and Nature Trail. After, we’ll stroll along the Mission Nature Trail and have lunch on the grounds of the Flanders Man- sion. On our way back, we’ll visit the Lester Roundtree Native Plant Garden and return via the Mesa Trail. Bring water, a snack, and wear comfortable walking shoes. Leader, Carol Marquart, 375-2355.

December

Saturday, December 2
HIKE: TORO PARK (WILDCAT CANYON)
The Marks Family donated this Park to Mon- terey County, I believe, in the 1960’s. 10 miles with 2000’ elevation gain and views. Meet to carpool at 9:30 a.m. near the Mar Monte Ave. exit of Hwy 1 (southern of the San Andreas Rd. exit) Call me to verify the location! Leader: Nick Wyckoff, 462-3101.

Sunday, December 3
HIKE: TORO PARK
This is a 10 mile hike in Toro Park with a 1500’ elevation gain. This hike is close to town and

CLASSIFIEDS

Rates: $4.00 per line for Sierra Club members. Payment must accompany all ads. Make checks payable to: Sierra Club. Approximately 35 characters per line. Spaces and punctuation count as characters. Typewritten or computer generated copy preferred.

WEBMASTER The Ventana Chapter is looking for a volunteer webmaster. Must have at least working knowledge and some experience with html. Experience with PERL or C would be a big plus. Duties include routine or unsched- uled website updates. No content editing needed. For more information contact George Jammal, george.jammal@ventana.siera- nciah.org.

VOLUNTEER NEEDED TO SELL Trail Guides from their home. Requires keeping track at home, handling phone orders for both individual sales and bulk orders for about 10 main accounts at bookstores, then filling orders. Must be dependable. For more information contact Rita Dalasio, 659-7046.

SEVEN ON THE EXECUTIVE COMMIT- TEE: If you are an active member interested in serving on the Ventana Chapter or Santa Cruz Group Executive Committee or know someone you think would be good, call Mary Gale 622-3563 (Monterey) or Debbie Bulger 457-1036 (Carmel).

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O U T I N G S

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—Aldo Leopold,
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