Elkhorn Slough: North Lagoon by local artist Ann Thiermann is one of the paintings that will be on display at the May 20 Sierra Club Potluck and film night. See the calendar listing on p. 6 for details.
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

Chapter Chair

Sprawl or Smart Growth?

When Monterey County Voters go to the polls June 5 to choose a General Plan, their choice will determine the future of Monterey County and will impact your daily lives.

Please vote for Measure A, the Community General Plan Initiative (CGPI) and vote against Measure C, the 2006 Monterey County General Plan (GPU4).

The General Plan is the land-use blueprint Monterey County will follow for the next two decades. There is little in our lives left untouched by how we, as a society, use land. The adequacy of our roads, sewer and water systems; the quality of our schools, healthcare, libraries and parks; the sufficiency of police, fire and emergency services; the protection of our natural and cultural resources—all depend upon the wisdom and care with which we use land.

The debate over what is wise and what is wasteful has raged in Monterey County since 1999. Community groups, Ventana Chapter among them, advocated for policies to solve, not worsen, existing problems and to avoid creating new ones.

Arrayed against the community coalition are pro-development forces. Their initial stance, “we own the land and can do whatever we want with it,” was followed by, “the only way to fix existing problems is to do nothing more, much more of the same thing.”

Nearly six years of public involvement produced three General Plan versions at a cost of $6 million. Bowing to pro-development pressures, the majority of Supervisor visors scrapped the third General Plan version (GPU3) and gave the order to start over in 2004.

The result is the “sprawl-now-pay-later” General Plan adopted in late 2006 (GPU4).

However, GPU4 isn’t unchallenged on the ballot. A coalition of 18 community organizations, including the Ventana Chapter, drafted and qualified the Community General Plan Initiative (CGPI), a strong set of core land-use policies.

The Community General Plan Initiative would 1) limit rural subdivision, 2) focus rural growth and infrastructure investment into five existing rural communities, 3) require sustainable water supplies and adequate roads before or concurrent with new development, 4) increase the percentage of affordable housing that must be built with new development from 20% to 30%, and 5) require a countywide vote for any change to these basic tenets.

This edition of The Ventana focuses on the Monterey County General Plan debate because it is pivotal to the future of Monterey County and the Monterey Bay region. The time is now. We need your help in the campaign. We need your vote for Measure A, the Community General Plan Initiative, and against Measure C, the 2006 Monterey County General Plan.

—Rita Dalesio

Please see additional articles on pp. 5, 8, and 9 for more information on the Monterey County General Plan.

From the Editor

Heavy-metal fever

I was astonished by the selection of fever thermometers at my local drugstore. It had been a long time since I had purchased a thermometer, and I discovered that times had changed.

There were no mercury thermometers. Have they been outlawed in California or have the manufacturers seen the handwriting on the wall? I know that the sale of mercury fever thermometers has been banned in several other states. Maybe that was enough to change the market.

Most of the models in the thermometer display were digital. There were ones with lighted readouts, ones with memory, smaller-sized ones designed to fit someone’s temple. These could be used by simply touching the tip to someone’s temple. These could be used without waking a sleeping patient.

One, encased in a pacifier, was hailed as “baby-friendly”; another worked by sticking the tip in an ear. Most beeps when they were ready to use. There was even a musical SpongeBob thermometer!

Several had automatic shutoffs to conserve the battery. Aaah, the battery. The common denominator for almost all of the thermometers was that they were battery-operated. And that complicated my shopping.

What was in those batteries? Some of the larger models used two AAA alkaline batteries. Most of the smaller thermometers used button-cell batteries. All of the batteries contained one or more heavy metals depending on the battery type (not listed on the package). What was inside? Lead? Cadmium? Nickel? Mercury? (banned from alkaline batteries, but not button-cell). Lithium?

If these batteries are not disposed of properly, the toxic metals can leach into water supplies or if burned, pollute the air. In our well-intentioned move to reduce mercury exposure to children and others, we have increased the potential exposure to other dangers.

In the end, I purchased a simple non-electronic thermometer. It was the only non-digital selection. It was filled with a patented, non-toxic substitute for mercury. (Likely alcohol based).

All in all, it was a complicated shopping trip. It’s not easy being green.

—Debbie Bulger

We need your help to pass Measure A

Contact us at 641-0465 or email volunteer@montereyplan.org.

* Join the campaign
* Share information with friends and family
* Post a sign
* Phone bank
* Walk precincts
* Endorse the Community General Plan Initiative

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Fax (831) 429-4057

This is the first Ventana produced with our new computer and color printer. Now our proofreaders can discern blue from yellow on the printed page. The new large monitor enables us to see a whole page with readable type.

The colors on the screen are accurate. We want to give a special THANK YOU to the Chapter Executive Committee for authorizing this purchase.

—The Ventana Staff

We want to give a special THANK YOU to the Chapter Executive Committee for authorizing this purchase.

—The Ventana Staff
Volunteers fight water pollution

In the springtime flowers bloom, trees leaf out, and thousands of volunteers flock to the California Coast for what is called Snapshot Day. Armed not with cameras but with water testing kits, these busy investigators collect water samples and monitor water quality to assess the health of our streams.

Saturday, May 5 will be the 8th annual water quality monitoring event in the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary sponsored by the Coastal Watershed Council and the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Citizen Watershed Monitoring Network. According to a National Resources Defense Council study, Santa Cruz County ranked tenth in beach closings/advisories for 2005 with 51. (Los Angeles County led the list with 2213).

Water pollution not only threatens wildlife, but also the health of human beachgoers, surfers, and children playing in the sand. The bacteria, pesticides, toxic metals, and trash that flow to the Bay from our roads, parking lots and lawns through storm drains are the single largest source of pollution.

Monitoring our waterways is critical to collecting evidence necessary for the legal and social changes needed to curb this pollution. If you would like to help monitor water quality, attend one of the training dates listed below:

**Santa Cruz:** Saturday, April 21, 9:30-12:30 p.m., Natural Bridges State Park Interpretive Center. Contact Debbie Chirco-Macdonald, Coastal Watershed Council, volunteer@coastalws.org or at 464-9200.

**Monterey:** Saturday, April 28, 9:30-12:30 p.m., Watershed Institute, Bldg. 42 on 6th Ave. @ B St. CSUMB. Contact Bridget Hoover, Monterey Bay Sanctuary Citizen Monitoring Network, 883-9303, bhoover@monitoringnetwork.org.

**Contact Your Representatives**

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<tr>
<th>State Senator Abel Maldonado</th>
<th>Senator Jeff Denham</th>
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<tr>
<td>100 Paseo De San Antonio, Suite 206</td>
<td>369 Main Street, #208</td>
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<tr>
<td>Salinas, CA 93961</td>
<td>San Jose, CA 95113</td>
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<tr>
<td>(408) 777-9461</td>
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<td>(916) 445-2841</td>
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<td>(831) 769-8040</td>
<td><a href="mailto:director@coastalwatershed.org">director@coastalwatershed.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Senator <a href="mailto:Denham@sen.ca.gov">Denham@sen.ca.gov</a></td>
<td><a href="mailto:vice.president@whitehouse.gov">vice.president@whitehouse.gov</a></td>
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**Correction**

Lois Robin is a member of the Club’s Pajaro River Committee. Her name was inadvertently omitted from the list of committee members in our last issue.
How we reduced our carbon footprint

by Kay Spencer

After watching Al Gore’s film, An Inconvenient Truth, my family became committed to reducing our carbon footprint. The reality is that we are whistling away, not drastically changing. However, without moving to town or investing thousands of dollars in a photovoltaic array, we have made a substantial difference in our cumulative impact upon our planet.

Like most Sierra Club members, we were already atypical Americans in some things: we had a subcompact car, washed out and re-used our plastic bags, and bought organic groceries most of the time. But looking specifically at carbon made it clear that we could change simple things to make a difference right this minute.

We divided the challenge into five parts and looked at each part separately: Transportation, Home heating (outside Santa Cruz, this would also include home cooling), Stuff you plug into the wall, Hot water, Shopping.

Transportation

This was the most challenging category for us. We live in the mountains, where there is no public transportation at all, off a high-speed commuter road which is awful for bicycling. My husband commutes five days a week to UCSC (50 mile round trip), takes regular international business trips, and my daughter goes to a private high school in downtown Santa Cruz (20 mile round trip). I work from home, but have a hobby (herding sheep), which requires driving very long distances to lessons and to other people’s farms for practice. This situation seemed insurmountable at first.

What we do now is complex, but it works: My husband and daughter put their bikes on a car rack and drive down to a commuter carpool lot in Soquel, from which they bicycle to work and school every day. I pick up my daughter and her bike in Soquel in the afternoon, my husband bikes back to his own car in the evening and drives home. We cut 30 miles a day from our collective family car commute. Additional benefits: completely skip all Santa Cruz traffic congestion, healthy exercise, and a feeling of virtuousness. We are not a particularly athletic family, by the way—just determined.

I made some severe changes to my discretionary driving, and cut out about 1,500 miles a month. When I drive my Honda Civic, I never go over 55 mph. I coast to stops and concentrate on slow easy accelerations. These techniques, faithfully applied, boosted my mpg to almost 40 on the freeway.

The biggest carbon impact we haven’t figured out how to address are the trips my husband must make to Europe. But he is committed to reducing the number if he can’t eliminate them entirely right now.

Home heating

This was much easier. Living in the mountains, we have always heated with firewood, usually scavenged from fallen trees. Burning wood does not have much carbon impact, because wood will decay and release its carbon within a few years anyway. This doesn’t mean you shouldn’t make sure you have an EPA-certified modern stove, which is more efficient and less polluting than the old ones. If you are burning fossil fuels, it is even more important to seal windows, insulate attic, lower your thermostat, and close off rooms you aren’t using.

Stuff you plug in

For Americans, we have very few appliances. We don’t even have a toaster, we use a little metal box that sits on a stove burner. However, we changed all our lights to compact fluorescents, and I became fanatical about keeping them turned off when not needed. We also turn off the computers at their power strips. Computers and most other electronics suck power all the time, not just when they are “on.” I gave away

Locals join actions to get Congress to cut the carbon

On Saturday, April 14, people all over the United States will come together to tell Congress to “Step it up. Cut carbon 80% by 2050.” They will be participating in a National Day of Climate Action, a grassroots effort started by author Bill McKibben and co-sponsored by the Sierra Club and dozens of other environmental organizations. At press time, 955 actions had been organized nationwide with 114 of those in California. For more information visit stepitup2007.org.

Local events will be held in Monterey, Pacific Grove, Santa Cruz, and on the UCSC Campus:

Monterey: Car Free Day. Pledge to be car free all day. Photo to be taken of car-free people at Window on the Bay Park 3-4 p.m.

Monterey: Beach Cleanup, Rally, Music, Speakers. Window on the Bay Park. 12 noon to 4:30 p.m.

Pacific Grove: Beach Clean-up. Asilomar State Beach. 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Santa Cruz: Merrill College, UCSC. Food, Music, Information. Photo taken of participants. Showing of An Inconvenient Truth. 12:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Santa Cruz: Live music, information. Speakers include Mayor Emily Reilly and Tommaso Boggia from UCSC. Duck Stage at Santa Lorenzo Park, 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
If Measure C passes, get ready for gridlock and water scarcity

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requires government agencies to analyze the impacts of government decisions on the built environment as well as the natural environment. To understand the full impact of Monterey County’s 2006 General Plan (GPU4) and the broad opposition to this plan, we must examine current conditions in Monterey County. In short, we’re in trouble. Our water sources are over-pumped; our roads are in disrepair and congested. The proposed GPU4 (Measure C) could push the infrastructure over the brink.

Water

Groundwater pumped from overdrafted aquifers is the only water source for most Monterey County residents and businesses. In all three major watersheds, well levels are declining; contaminant concentrations are increasing; seawater intrusion is advancing.

In the Salinas Basin, the Salinas Valley Water Project is underfunded and has not received final federal permits. Its projected benefits are considered “indirect and uncertain” even by proponents. Its price tag in 2001 was estimated at $16 million, and although it has not yet been built, the planned water project has been used to rationalize further subdivision throughout the Salinas Valley. According to the water project’s own EIR, by 2030, an additional distribution system will be required at a cost of $42 million. This is a 2001 cost estimate and does not include cost of mitigation or on-going operations.

Since 1995, California American Water has been under a court order to reduce pumping of the Carmel River aquifer by 10,000 acre-feet per year. Despite the order, subdivision within the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District has continued. The estimated cost to build a desalination plant in Moss Landing to replace water illegally pumped from the Carmel River aquifer is $200 million.

The management plan to bring the Pajaro Valley basin into balance has been partially implemented. However, the planned, but un-funded import pipeline from the Central Valley is estimated to cost $87 million. Flood control in the Pajaro River watershed is estimated by the Army Corps of Engineers to cost $220 million.

Roads

Repair and maintenance deficiencies on existing Monterey County roads total more than $200 million. In addition to repair and maintenance deficiencies, in Monterey County the flow of traffic, known as level of service (LOS), has declined, as growth has outstripped road improvements. To bring existing conditions up to LOS C (average 45mph, susceptible to congestion), the estimated cost would total $3.2 billion. Meeting a LOS D standard (average 40mph, unstable traffic flow) would cost $280 million. The Transportation Agency of Monterey County has identified only $67 million as being available for these projects.

GPU4 would allow twice the growth

Based on population growth projections, the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG) forecasts a need, during the next 25 years, for 8,900 new homes in rural Monterey County. GPU4 would allow more than twice that level of growth, with more than 21,000 new homes scattered throughout 56 rural areas.

Measure C would increase traffic by 231,000 - 273,400 vehicle trips per day—a 52% to 61% increase. The number of road segments operating at level of service E (near gridlock) and level of service F (gridlock) would more than double. Under GPU4, new development would not be required to mitigate traffic impacts until it dragged level of service down below LOS D. The current standard that requires mitigation is LOS C.

Moreover, neither projects nor funding mechanisms have been identified to provide water for GPU4’s level of growth. In a county with a population of about 420,000, the cost of solving existing water and traffic problems for present residents is staggering. Encouraging growth far beyond what is required to meet projected population needs is both irresponsible and unacceptable.

Vote NO on Measure C, the 2006 Monterey County General Plan.

For more information visit www.montereyplan.org.

Under GPU4 the number of road segments operating at level of service E (near gridlock) and level of service F (gridlock) would more than double.

The Well-Informed Voter

- Find the Community General Plan Initiative (CGPI) online at www.montereyplan.org
- Find the 2006 Monterey County General Plan (GPU4) at www.co.monterey.ca.us/pbi/gpu/draftJan2007/defaultJan.html

Silver Lake & Carson Pass

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

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

The Sierra Club/Ventana Chapter, Volume 46, Number 2, 2007 5
## Sierra Club Events

### National Day of Climate Action
Join people all over the United States in telling Congress to cut carbon emissions 80% by 2050. Chances to participate in Monterey, Pacific Grove and Santa Cruz. See article p. 4. More details at stepitup2007.org. Co-sponsored by Sierra Club and dozens of other environmental organizations.

### Saturday, April 14
**Environmental Films, Vegetarian Potluck, Art**
View three environmental films: Hurricanes on the Brink, Wind over Water, and Native Wind. Landscapes by Ann Thiermann, Boris Tyomkin, Erika Perloff, and Karen Kaplan. Original songs by Peter Weiss. Everyone welcome. FREE. Bring vegetarian food to share and your non-disposable plate, cup, serving utensils, and cutlery. Potluck starts at 6:00 p.m.; program starts at 7:30 p.m. sharp. To register visit www.sierraclub.org/outings/training or by phone at 415-977-5588. For questions contact the Club Activities Training Manager at outings.training@sierraclub.org or 415-977-5711.

### Friday - Sunday, June 8-10
**Outings Leaders Workshop**
For new and experienced outings leaders. Enhance leadership and group management skills. Interactive modules on emergency response, interpersonal leadership skills and more. Held at Clair Tappaan Lodge near Donner Summit. $45 cost covers dinner on Friday, bunk lodging, materials, raffle entry, and Outings T-shirt. Friday dinner is at 6 p.m. Program starts Friday at 7:30 p.m. sharp. To register visit www.sierraclub.org/outings/training or by phone at 415-977-5588. For questions contact the Club Activities Training Manager at outings.training@sierraclub.org or 415-977-5711.

### Spring & Summer, 2007
**Channel Island Cruises**
Visit the Channel Islands. Four- and five-day cruises. These trips are fundraisers to benefit Sierra Club political programs in California. Cost for 4-day is $775. Cost for 5-day is $925. All cruises depart from Santa Barbara. To make a reservation send $100 check made out to “Sierra Club” to Joan Jones Holtz, 11826 The Wye St., El Monte, CA 91732. For more info contact Joan at jholtzjin@aol.com, 626-443-0706. Website: www.truthaquatics.com/hiking.htm.

### 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.**

### Wednesday - Saturday, April 11-14
**EarthVision Film Festival**
See award-winning environmental films about oceans, endangered species, alternative energy, and more. April 11-12 Del Mar Theater, Santa Cruz; April 13-14 Santa Cruz Veterans Hall. Matinees and evenings. See www.earthvisionfest.org for full schedule. Sliding scale admission.

### Saturday, April 14
**Earth Day Cleanup**
Help clean up and restore Locke-Padden Park located between Canyon del Rey & Reservations Rds. in Marina. 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Native plant hike and FREE BBQ. Sponsored by Monterey Peninsula Regional Park district & Marina and Cultural Service Dept. For more info call Debbie Wyant, 372-3196 x 3.

### Friday - Saturday, April 20-21
**Climate Change films/discussion**
Hear expert speakers and view films dealing with Climate Change including the imaginative 9-minute film Turtle World. Sponsored by the Monterey Bay Chapter of the United Nations Association of the USA. Golden State Theatre, Alvarado St., Monterey. 7:00 p.m. Admission $10/evening. FREE with student ID. For more info see www.unamontereybay.org.

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

- Apr. 7, Sunset Beach State Park
- Apr. 21, Natural Bridges State Park
- Apr. 28, Henry Cowell State Park
- May 12, Sunset Beach State Park

### FREE Composting Workshops
Learn how to make organic fertilizer in your own backyard! In this 2-hour workshop Master Composters will teach you how to compost food scraps and garden clippings. Backyard compost bins will be available at the workshop at a $20 discount for qualifying Santa Cruz County residents who register in advance. Call the Hotline for details: 423-HEAP (4327). All workshops below are from 1:00-3:00 p.m.

- Sat., Apr. 21, Live Oak Grange Compost Demo Site, 1900 17th Ave, Santa Cruz
- Sat., May 12, Cabrillo College Horticulture Ctr., 6500 Soquel Dr., Aptos

### 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.

- Apr. 21, Wilder Ranch Park, 2 miles north of Santa Cruz on Hwy. 1.
- Saturday, May 26, Cabrillo College Horticulture Ctr., Demonstration Classroom 5110, 6500 Soquel Drive, Aptos.
- Saturday, Jun. 23, Scarborough Gardens, 33 El Pueblo Rd, Scotts Valley

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**Printed on recycled paper**
For complete event information, visit www.bike2work.com, contact Liana@bike2work.com or call 423-9569 x 128.

SANTA CRUZ

Saturday, May 12

Train and Bike Ride
10:00 a.m., Santa Cruz Train Depot Park, (101 Washington St. two blocks from the Wharf). Bring your bike on the train to Felton for a fun group ride back down to Santa Cruz along scenic Highway 9. Roundtrip train ride available for those unable to cycle back. Helmet required. Fee for train tickets. Co-presented with People Power and Friends of the Rail Trail.

Monday, May 14

Global Warming / Cooling Solutions Panel
6:00 p.m. @ Louden Nelson Community Center Auditorium (301 Center St. @ Laurel St.). Michele Whizin, who was recently trained as a presenter of the Inconvenient Truth slide show by Al Gore, will give a free lecture and show on global warming. Panel discussion of local solutions to follow. Valet bike parking.

Thursday, May 17

Bike to Work/School Day
6:30-9:30 a.m. FREE breakfast for cyclists at sites around Santa Cruz County as well as free massages by Cypress Health Institute and bike maintenance by local bike shops at most sites. See website for listing of breakfast sites. Win $1,000! Enter the Clean Air Month drawing by filling out a Bike to Work Day Breakfast site survey.

Please patronize our advertisers
Let them know you have seen their ad in The Ventana

MONTEREY

Sunday, May 13

Steinbeck Old Town Criterium
Bike Racing in Salinas. West Alisal and Salinas Streets. For more information contact Eric Petersen, 757-RACE (7223). 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Tuesday, May 15

Bike vs. Car Challenge
Cycle from Natividad Plaza Shopping Center to Star Center in Salinas. Contact James Serrano, 758-7195. 7:45 a.m.

Wednesday, May 16

Ride of Silence
Cyclists will take to the roads in silent procession to honor cyclists who have been killed or injured while cycling on public roadways. 7:00 p.m. Seaside City Hall, 440 Harcourt Ave., Seaside.

Thursday, May 17

Bike to Work/ School Day
Free breakfasts for cyclists at participating schools and work sites.

Ventana Wilderness Alliance
Protecting the Northern Santa Lucia
Visit our website for current trail conditions, an open discussion forum, our quarterly journal and more Ventana and Silver Peak Wilderness information.
www.ventanawild.org

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claire tappana a lodge close to nature

Built by Sierra Club members in 1934, this rustic, hostel-style lodge stands atop historic Donner Pass, just an hour and a half from Sacramento.

Springtime in the Sierra is a magical time. In early spring you can take advantage of longer and warmer days with extended ski and snowshoe tours or using the Lodge’s own groomed trails. Later in the spring you can experience the explosion of wildflowers as you hike miles of trails behind the Lodge or on the Pacific Crest trail just 1.5 miles from the Lodge.

Guests enjoy excellent family style meals, a friendly staff and a casual and communal atmosphere.

See you on Donner Summit...

For more information about our special programs or to receive a full schedule and description of Clair Tappaan programs please visit our website at www.cts.sierraclub.org or call (800) 679-6775.
The problems with the Supervisors’ Plan (Measure C)

**HERE’S WHAT IS COMING OUR WAY**

18,200 Houses that have been approved and not built or are going through the permitting process and would be built without GPU4

+42,600 Other houses that are in the general planning process

60,800 Enough houses to create a new city the size of Salinas or to add more than 591,000 people to Monterey County

**WE DON’T NEED 11,400 MORE UNITS THAT GPU4 WOULD ALLOW!**

**VOTE YES ON THE COMMUNITY GENERAL PLAN INITIATIVE**

**VOTE NO ON GPU4**

**Suburban subdivisions continue to expand across prime farmland, and rural subdivisions creep up steep slopes.**

Anyone who has hiked a trail in Monterey County, or driven any one of its many scenic roads, knows the soul-satisfying abundance of this place. There’s a scientific reason: Monterey County is one of the ecologically richest areas along California’s Central Coast. It is part of a multi-county region recognized worldwide for its ecological significance. Our ecoregion is considered a Mediterranean habitat, which is limited to five regions worldwide. Mediterranean habitats cover only 2% of the earth’s surface but support 20% of its plant diversity.

The Central Coast is identified as a biodiversity hotspot by several conservation organizations including the World Wildlife Fund, Conservation International, and The Nature Conservancy. A “biodiversity hotspot” is a region that supports a high number of imperiled species, many of which occur nowhere else in the world.

Monterey County has undergone significant land use changes in the past couple of decades. Its ranches, farms and oak woodlands are being converted rapidly to vineyards and rural subdivisions. From 1991 to 2001, vineyard acreage almost doubled from 21,000 acres to 38,000 acres. Suburban subdivisions continue to expand across prime farmland, and rural subdivisions creep up steep slopes.

Expansion of services to support this urbanization creates problems of its own. Transportation corridors convert farmland, create incompatible uses, fragment habitat and provide thoroughfares for the spread of invasive, non-native species. Development diverts surface water; overdevelopment over-drafts groundwater. Dams, levees, waste-water treatment systems, and fire management systems all take their toll on habitat.

Despite the breakneck expansion of vineyards in Monterey County, Monterey County Vintners and Growers deemed the County’s level of environmental review “onerous” and unnecessarily time-consuming. They lobbied successfully for a Winery Corridor Plan to be included in the County’s 2006 General Plan (GPU4/Measure C). Their plan, which received only cursory environmental review under the EIR, would allow wineries and many “visitor-serving uses” to be approved in the future with nothing more than an administrative permit. This diminished level of environmental review was extended exclusively to the wine industry. Objectors were accused of being “anti-business.”

According to California’s Department of Finance, by 2050, Monterey County’s population is expected to expand by 250,000 people, a 62% increase. Population growth is considered by many experts to be the single greatest threat to California’s quality of life, including the health of its natural areas.

Unfortunately, GPU4 calls for rural growth that is twice the growth projected by the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments, our regional planning agency. This rural growth, taken together with the growth planned in the County’s cities, means we will nearly reach Monterey County’s 2050 population benchmark by the year 2026. Such aggressive growth will cut in half our time to protect this critical piece of the Central Coast Ecoregion.

Instead of focusing infrastructure investment and growth in already urbanized rural communities, GPU4 scatters it among planning areas to protect wildlife corridors that extend beyond planning area boundaries.

GPU4 includes a greatly expanded list of so-called “routine and on-going” agricultural practices, many of which have nothing to do with agriculture and everything to do with industrial development. Activities defined as “routine” or “on-going agriculture” would be allowed without a permit.

GPU4 focuses its very limited protection policies on specific threatened and endangered species but does not address or generally protect the habitats upon which these species depend. Furthermore, GPU4 shifts responsibility for environmental review to special status species to the state and federal agencies that protect them. The County justifies this as a cost-saving measure, but the fact is that environmental analysis will be diminished by shifting responsibility to non-local, under-staffed and under-funded state and federal agencies. Development attorneys have lobbied relentlessly for this change.

GPU4 policies are written using unenforceable language. Actions are “encouraged,” “discouraged,” “strongly encouraged,” “promoted,” and “considered.” Most actions are to be accomplished “to the extent feasible.”

Since the beginning of the General Plan update process in 1999, the Ventana Chapter of the Sierra Club has advocated policies that would improve habitat protections contained in the 1982 General Plan. GPU4 is open season on everything Sierra Club values.

**Vote yes on Measure A.**  **Vote no on Measure C.**
Measure A stops sprawl and builds affordable housing

by Julie Engell

Monterey County can go the way of Los Angeles County or we can adopt land use policies that protect our environment by developing within existing communities to eliminate sprawl. Voters will decide on June 5.

Measure C, favored by developers and the Supervisors, would result in sprawl, traffic gridlock, water scarcity, and loss of endangered species.

Measure A, placed on the ballot by over 16,000 voters’ signatures, institutes policies for sound land use.

Vote for Measure A on June 5

Measure A would limit rural subdivision. Residential subdivisions and commercial and industrial subdivisions would not be allowed outside of five existing rural communities. However, to protect the economic viability of agriculture, subdivision of farmland would be allowed as long as all subdivided parcels remained in permanent agricultural use. Development on existing lots of record would continue. This would include existing land zoned for residential, commercial and industrial uses.

Measure A would focus rural growth into five existing rural communities. Communities should grow where existing roads, water, and sewer systems can be economically expanded and where the communities would benefit economically from growth and infrastructure investment. The five Community Areas in Measure A are Pajaro, Boronda, Fort Ord, Castroville and Chualar.

Measure A would not hamper growth or expansion of Monterey County’s incorporated towns and cities. Expansion through annexation could still occur.

By clearly defining where growth will occur and where growth will not occur, Measure A avoids most direct and indirect impacts to important habitat areas.

Measure A would require sustainable water supplies and adequate roads before or concurrent with new development. This would put an end to the current practice of development without adequate water or road improvements.

Measure A would increase the percentage of affordable housing that must be built with new development from 20% to 30%. Furthermore, the housing would have to remain permanently affordable for local working families, the unmet need for affordable housing would narrow over time.

Finally, Measure A would require a county-wide vote for any change to these basic tenets. More than seven years of participation in the General Plan process has taught the public that it wants a direct say in major development in Monterey County. Most land use decisions would still be up to elected Supervisors, but the initiative’s fundamental policies would not change until the community decided they should change.

The Community General Plan Initiative (Measure A) avoids most of the significant adverse environmental impacts associated with the 2006 General Plan recently adopted by the majority of Supervisors. In fact, Measure A was identified by Monterey County’s own Environmental Impact Report as the Environmentally Superior Alternative.

In the environmental analysis, the initiative was compared to the 2006 General Plan (GPU4), the current 1982 General Plan and GPU3. Of the four alternatives, the Community General Plan Initiative was the best alternative because it avoided most of the impacts caused by the other plans and significantly lessened the rest. The Supervisors’ 2006 General Plan (Measure C) was the most damaging alternative.

Please help us win at the polls on June 5. Volunteer for the campaign at www.montereyplan.org.

Where scientists and conservationists see opportunity to protect a large and critical piece of one of the rarest ecoregions on earth, development interests see wide-open opportunity for profit.

Measure A was identified by Monterey County’s own Environmental Impact Report as the Environmentally Superior Alternative.

Please recycle this paper again

Don Nielsen

Vote YES on Measure A.
Vote NO on Measure C.
EarthVision Film Festival opens April 11

The 9th EarthVision Environmental Film Festival opens Wednesday, April 11 at 4:00 p.m. in Santa Cruz. Venues include the Del Mar Theater and the Veteran’s Hall in downtown Santa Cruz. Many of the filmmakers will be on hand to discuss their work and will be honored at a public awards celebration on Saturday, April 14 at 6:30 p.m.

Films this year include American Masters: Dream from Nature, a stunningly beautiful depiction of the life of John James Audubon; Sundance contender Everything’s Cool, an entertaining reflection of our culture’s response to global warming shown on April 11; and a fast-paced series of short films at the 4 o’clock showing on April 12.

For a complete program listing, visit www.earthvisionfest.org.

Coastal parcel goes to Parks
The 20-acre former Piedras Blancas Resort in San Luis Obispo County, with a mile of coastal bluff and two beaches, became part of Simeon State Park in late March. This key acquisition is seen as a major step in coastal conservation, preventing commercial development and coastal armor ing in the middle of the new state park created from the Hearst Ranch. Transfer of the property to State Parks ensures that there will be no gap in the 18-mile Coastal Trail envisioned to run the length of the park. Restoration of native vegetation will be a priority.

Wilderness addition
Thanks to the Wilderness Land Trust with partnership funding provided by the Big Sur Land Trust, the 160-acre Horse Pasture property will be added to the Ventana Wilderness. Sellers were the late Robert Beck, Anna Beck of Carmel, and their son, Adam Beck of San Anselmo. The Beck family is the former owner of Tassajara Hot Springs.

The new wilderness addition is mostly chaparral with mixed oak-Coulter pine forest with stands of endemic Santa Lucia fir tucked into rocky canyons that flank the meadows. The inhaling was identified as a high priority conservation acquisition because of the potential threat of development as a wilderness retreat.

End Adventure Pass fees
Representative Peter DeFazio of Oregon wants to replace the recreation fee charged at National Forest parking such as Botcher’s Gap with a small royalty on mining operations on federal lands. “Outside of parks or developed campites . . . I don’t believe we should charge fees to access public lands,” says DeFazio, a member of the House Natural Resources Committee. As it stands now, hikers must pay $5 for a walk in the woods, but a foreign-owned mining corporation can purchase a full acre of public land for $2.50.

Club Energy Plan
Download the Sierra Club plan to deal with global warming at www.ases.org/climatchange/. Authored by the American Solar Energy Society, the report details how aggressive application of energy efficiency and use of renewables can achieve a dramatic reduction in U.S. global warming emissions by 2050. Fully three-quarters of this reduction can be achieved by technologies we have today without investing in environmentally irresponsible fuels such as nuclear or coal.

Club sues over kiln emissions
Sierra Club and others have filed a lawsuit against the EPA for failing to set standards for cement kiln mercury emissions which violate the Clean Air Act. Over six years ago the EPA was ordered to set standards by a federal court. Nationwide, approximately 118 cement kilns emit over 11,000 pounds of mercury each year making cement kilns one of the largest sources of mercury pollution.

Mercury is a dangerous and powerful neurotoxin that can cause developmental problems in newborns and young children. People are exposed to unhealthy levels of mercury from eating mercury-contaminated fish.

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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/Managerial: 36%

Outdoor Sports Enthusiasts
Backpacking/Hiking 4 times more active than the average adult
Mountain Biking 5 times more active
Cross-Country Skiing 5 times more active
Whitewater Rafting 5.5 times more active
Source: 1996 MRI Doublebase

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

Doors, Windows, & More
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The more includes plumbing, electrical and other remodel/addition work
Years of experience
Contractors license
Bruce Kisbey
831-476-8044
408-472-4478
DoorsWindowsAndMore@mac.com
In the interest of facilitating the logistics of some outings, it is customary that participants make carpooling arrangements. The Sierra Club does not have insurance for carpooling arrangements and assumes no liability for them. Carpooling, ridesharing, or anything similar is strictly a private arrangement among the participants. Participants assume the risks associated with this travel.

**April**

**Wednesday, April 11**

**Senior Walk: Point Sur Light**

Please note this walk is on a WEDNESDAY. This is a 2-hour docent-led tour of the only complete turn-of-the-century light station in Calif. to the public. There is a 1/2 mi. walk from parking lot as well as stairs. Located 19 miles south of Rio Road in Carmel. $8 entrance fee and a $5 carpool fee. No food allowed on tour. Dress in layers. Meet at the parking lot of the East Garrison entrance at 9:00 a.m. Reservations with the leader, Henry Leinen at hleinen@aol.com (preferred) or by phone 655-1948.

**Sunday, April 15**

**Mountain Biking: Fort Ord**

We'll explore the trails of the popular East Garrison area. Limited to 12 participants. Helmets mandatory. Bring water and a snack. We'll ride on dirt and some pavement. 3 hours. Meet at the parking lot of the East Garrison entrance at 9:00 a.m. Reserve a space with the leader, Henry Leinen at hleinen@aol.com (preferred) or by phone 655-1948.

**Notice**

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

**April 11 and April 12**

**HIKE: POGONIP**

We'll explore the trails of the popular East Garrison area. Limited to 12 participants. Helmets mandatory. Bring water and a snack. We'll ride on dirt and some pavement. 3 hours. Meet at the parking lot of the East Garrison entrance at 9:00 a.m. Reserve a space with the leader, Henry Leinen at hleinen@aol.com (preferred) or by phone 655-1948.

**April 15**

**HIKE: ELMORE DE MADERA CREEK OPEN SPACE PRESERVE**

A 9-mile loop hike starting from the entrance on Star Hill Road. We'll hike the El Monte De Madera Creek Trail 3.6 miles to the main entrance near Shanks Point on Skyline Boulevard. From there we'll hike the Tanfori, Fir and Methuselah Trails back. Along the Tafoni Trail we'll take a side trip to a large sandstone formation with shallow caves and honeycomb depressions reminiscent of outcroppings at Castle Rock State Park. Spectacular views to the sea along the ridge top. The canyons are filled with second-growth redwoods and Douglas fir. Meet at the Santa Cruz County Government Center at 8:30 a.m. Bring water, lunch and $6 carpool. Leader: Ed Gilbert, 685-8389.

**Saturday, April 14**

**HIKE: CONE PEAK TO MEMORIAL CG**

This hike will require a car shuttle, so the leader needs to know how many people are coming one week in advance. Only 8 people per van, if we have a second van, 8. More. This unforgettable 16-mile hike with 2000' elevation gain requires stamina and endurance. We'll hike along the ever winding Arroyo Seco River. From Cone Peak our vistas will be San Antonio Lake, Nacimiento Lake, the Ocean, and Fort Hunter Liggett. Wear hiking boots, dress in layers, bring plenty of food, water and $ for carpool. For more info, call leader: Esperanza Hernandez 678-1968.

**Saturday, April 14**

**HIKE: EL CORTES DE MADERA CREEK OPEN SPACE PRESERVE**

A 9-mile loop hike starting from the entrance on Star Hill Road. We'll hike the El Monte De Madera Creek Trail 3.6 miles to the main entrance near Shanks Point on Skyline Boulevard. From there we'll hike the Tanfori, Fir and Methuselah Trails back. Along the Tafoni Trail we'll take a side trip to a large sandstone formation with shallow caves and honeycomb depressions reminiscent of outcroppings at Castle Rock State Park. Spectacular views to the sea along the ridge top. The canyons are filled with second-growth redwoods and Douglas fir. Meet at the Santa Cruz County Government Center at 8:30 a.m. Bring water, lunch and $6 carpool. Leader: Ed Gilbert, 685-8389.

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**Notice**

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HIKE: LOWER PEBBLE BEACH
Saturday, April 21
Meet at Black Bear Diner at 9:30 a.m. to carpool. Bring lunch and water. Dress for the weather. For more info, call Stacie Smith, 625-5256.

HIKE: LOWER PEBBLE BEACH
Saturday, April 21
Meet at Black Bear Diner parking lot at 9:20 a.m. Leader: Martha Saylor, 372-9215.

HIKE: EWOLDSEN TRAIL
Friday, April 20
Starting at Julia Pfeiffer Burns State Park, we’ll hike a 5-mile loop through fern-lined McWay Canyon, passing redwood groves to a viewpoint high above the ocean. Last time we saw California Condors. Steep trail but leisurely pace. After we’ll take a short stroll along the scenic waterfall trail. Bring lunch and water. Dress for the weather. For more info, call Celeste Cate, 624-3149.

HIKE: GARZAS CANYON LOOP
Thursday, April 19
Starting at Julia Pfeiffer Burns State Park, we’ll hike a 5-mile loop up fern-lined McWay Canyon, passing redwood groves to a viewpoint high above the ocean. Last time we saw California Condors. Steep trail but leisurely pace. After we’ll take a short stroll along the scenic waterfall trail. Bring lunch and water. Dress for the weather. For more info, call Celeste Cate, 624-3149.

HIKE: TORO COUNTY PARK
Wednesday, April 25
Meet at the Toro Park Gate on Hwy. 68 and park just inside the gate to the right. Hike starts at 10:00 a.m. Leader: Diane Cornell, 423-5925.

HIKE: MAL PASO TO ROCKY RIDGE
Saturday, April 28
HIKE: SIERRA AZUL
Another wildflower walk which might include a funny flower called a Pink and succulents. 6 miles and 1500' elevation gain. We’ll carpool over Hwy. 17 to this Mid-Peninsula Open Space and walk on the asphalt road which the Air Force built to access Mt. Umunhum. Meet at 9:30 a.m. at the Santa Cruz County Government Center. Call Nick for additional information. Leader: Nick Wyckoff, 462-3101.

HIKE: BLUFF CAMP
Sunday, April 29
HIKE: BLUFF CAMP
With the Big Sur Marathon down the coast, we’ll stay in Carmel Valley. We’ll drive up to Princess Camp in Cachagua, walk around the Los Padres Reservoir, and up the Carmel River to Bluff Camp. 9 miles roundtrip with 600' el-
Please recycle this paper again

Saturday, May 5
HIKE: WUNDERLICH COUNTY PARK
8-mile loop hike starting at the Woodside Rd. off La Honda Rd., east of Skyline Blvd. We’ll hike in the mountains behind the horse stables on the old Folger coffee family estate on the Bear Gulch, Alambique, Meadow, Redwood and Madrone Trails in this 942-acre park. 1020’ elevation gain. This is one of the most ecologically-diverse parks east of Skyline Blvd, with cool groves of 2nd-growth redwoods, open grassy meadows and nearly pure stands of Douglas fir. Along the trail we’ll pass the Lonely Redwood Giant with its emerald reservoir—a popular hangout for news. Meet at the Santa Cruz County Government Ct. at 8:30 a.m., or Felton Fair at 8:50 a.m. Bring water, lunch and $6 carpool. Leader: Ed Gilbert, 685-8389.

Sunday, May 6
HIKE: FALL CREEK
Join me to explore this enchanted forest with redwoods, a lovely bubbling stream full of cascades, a lime kiln, barrel mill, fish pond, and dancing springs. About 7 miles. Bring water and lunch. Meet at Felton Fair at 10:00 a.m. to carpool. Leader: Sheila Dunnaway, 336-2325.

Sunday, May 6
HIKE: BIG BASIN TO THE SEA
This 15-mile hike will start at Park Headquarters and end at beautiful and windy Waddell Beach. We’ll see the most majestic redwoods in the state and enjoy the spectacular and breathtaking waterfalls. Monterey area people call leader for carpool. Bring water, food and $1.50 x 2 for bus. Meet at the Santa Cruz Metro Station at 8:00 a.m. For more information call leader: Esperanza Hernandez, 678-1968.

Tuesday, May 8
HIKE: NISENE MARKS
A 9-1/2 mile loop-hike up the West Ridge trail, past Hoffman’s Camp, and down and out through Bridge Creek canyon, with a rugged one-mile in and out side-trip to 45’ Maple Falls. 800’ elevation gain. Meet at Sears 41st Ave. at 9:30 a.m. or at the parking lot behind Aptos Station at 9:45 a.m. Bring water, lunch and $1 carpool. Leader: Ed Gilbert, 685-8389.

Tuesday, May 8
HIKE: SOBERANES CREEK/ROCKY RIDGE
Our gorgeous 4-mile lollipop loop with 1600’ elevation gain follows McWay Creek through a dense coastal redwood forest. The wildflower and fern-lined trail has six bridged creek crossings and eventually peaks at a spectacular overlook of the jagged Big Sur coastline where we might spot condors! Bring water, lunch and optional binoculars. Meet at the Black Bear Diner Park & Ride in Carmel to carpool. Leader: Dwight Goehring, 277-9908.

Wednesday, May 2
HIKE: POGONIP TO UPPER UCSC TRAILS
Tired of hiking the same old trails? Let’s explore some of the trails that lead up to UCSC. We’ll be going thru mixed evergreen forest and upland redwood forest as well as remnants of coastal terrace prairie. History is evidenced by lime kilns, the old clubhouse, a polo field, orchard, and cement pond. Springs bubble up along the Spring Trail, Up and down trails. 9 miles. Bring water and lunch. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at Sears 41st Ave. to carpool ($1) or at the trailhead on Golf Club Drive off Hwy. 9 at 9:30 a.m. Leader: Diane Cornell, 423-9325.

Thursday, May 3
HIKE: TORO PARK
This 5-mile hike with 800’ elevation gain takes us through a forested valley floor along the Olson Trail to oak-dotted grasslands covered with wildflowers. Birds might include wild turkeys, acorn woodpeckers, hawks, robins, jays and even western bluebirds! We’ll return on the Gilson Gap Ridge through oak meadows and woodlands with panoramic views. Meet at the 7 Elevens/Citgo at Hwy 68 & Canyon Del Rey in Del Rey Oaks at 9:30 a.m. or at Toro Park outside parking lot at 9:30 a.m. Bring water and a snack or lunch. Call to confirm hike. Leader: Lynn Bomberger, 375-7777.

Thursday, May 3
HIKE: GARAPATA STATE PARK
Enjoy an 8-mile loop with 1600’ elevation gain that climbs up Granite Canyon to a spectacular view overlooking the Pacific for lunch. We descend to Soberanes Point to enjoy trails around Whale Peak. We’ll look for otters along a beautiful section of trail that winds through canyons and overlooks rocky cliffs along the coast. Incredible rock chimneys and colorful rock formations. Meet at the Black Bear Diner Park & Ride in Carmel to carpool. Leader: Henry Leinen, 655-1948 or Hlein64@aol.com (preferred).

Sunday, May 13
HIKE: POGONIP
Take Mom out for a 5-mile loop hike with 1650’ elevation gain. Enjoy lovely wildflowers along the way. We’ll follow the Soberanes Creek Trail into a delightful redwood grove, then climb the steep, badly eroded trail up to grassy knolls for great views and lunch. We’ll descend Rocky Ridge with a fine ocean view all the way down. Boots necessary; hiking poles helpful. Bring water and lunch. Meet at Alberson’s at 9:00 a.m. to carpool. Leader: Dwight Goehring, 277-9908.

Wednesday, May 2
HIKE: POISON TO UPPER UCSC TRAILS
Tired of hiking the same old trails? Let’s explore some of the trails that lead up to UCSC. We’ll be going thru mixed evergreen forest and upland redwood forest as well as remnants of coastal terrace prairie. History is evidenced by lime kilns, the old clubhouse, a polo field, orchard, and cement pond. Springs bubble up along the Spring Trail, Up and down trails. 9 miles. Bring water and lunch. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at Sears 41st Ave. to carpool ($1) or at the trailhead on Golf Club Drive off Hwy. 9 at 9:30 a.m. Leader: Diane Cornell, 423-9325.

Thursday, May 3
HIKE: TORO PARK
This 5-mile hike with 800’ elevation gain takes us through a forested valley floor along the Olsson Trail to oak-dotted grasslands covered with wildflowers. Birds might include wild turkeys, acorn woodpeckers, hawks, robins, jays and even western bluebirds! We’ll return on the Gilson Gap Ridge through oak meadows and woodlands with panoramic views. Meet at the 7 Elevens/Citgo at Hwy 68 & Canyon Del Rey in Del Rey Oaks at 9:30 a.m. or at Toro Park outside parking lot at 9:30 a.m. Bring water and a snack or lunch. Call to confirm hike. Leader: Lynn Bomberger, 375-7777.

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Sunday, May 6
HIKE: FALL CREEK
Join me to explore this enchanted forest with redwoods, a lovely bubbling stream full of cas-
Thursday, May 17
HIKE: NISENE MARKS
We’ll hike the Loma Prieta Grade Loop thru a lovely, shaded forest of redwoods, tanbark oaks, maples, ferns and wildflowers. Beautiful creeks with several crossings. Gradual 900’ elevation gain is spread over 8 miles. Meet at Sea- side at the Home Depot parking lot near the gas station at 8:45 a.m. or in Aptos in the lot behind Dance Synergy off Apts Creek Road at 9:30 a.m. Bring water and lunch. Call to confirm hike. Leader: Lynn Bomberger, 375-7777.

Friday, May 18
HIKE: TANBARK TRAIL/TIN HOUSE
The Tanbark Trail packs a lot of scenery in a fairly short length. From its start off Hwy. 1 south of Big Sur, the trail winds up the south side of Partington Canyon, past a rushing creek and through a redwood grove, up through forests of tanbark oak, until it reaches the site of the ruined “Tan House.” Here we’ll have lunch and enjoy the ocean views before returning via an old dirt road. Car shuttle, 6 miles with 2000’ elevation gain. Meet at the Black Bear Diner at 9:30 a.m. to carpool. Leaders: Tricia Matejcek, patachek@juno.com, 768-8187.

Saturday, May 19
HIKE: HENRY COE STATE PARK
We’ll look for spring wildflowers at this Santa Clara County park. 8 miles on steep horse trails with 1600’ elevation gain, 1.5 hr carpool. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the Santa Cruz County Government Center to carpool (NOTE EARLIER MEETING TIME). Call Nick for additional information. Leader: Nick Wyckoff, 462-3101.

Saturday, May 19
WALK: POINT LOBOS
Join us on this 4-mile walk, from Hwy. 1, to the Pit, then back past Whaler’s Cove, to the top of Whaler’s Knoll and back via southern trails. There still should be many wildflowers. Slow pace. Meet at Albertson’s at 9:00 a.m. to carpool. Bring, snack, water, and optional binoculars for close-ups of seals and otters with babies. Leader: Martha Saylor, 372-9215.

Sunday, May 20
HIKE: GARZAS CANYON
The Terrace Trail at Garland Ranch has good flowers in spring. We’ll climb to a nicely-contoured walk above the creek, drop steeply to the creek and climb steeply out. Short distance /slow pace. Bring lunch, water, good footwear, and optional walking stick. Meet at the Garland Ranch lot on C.V. Road at 9:30 a.m.; hike starts from Garzas Rd. trailhead at 10:00 a.m. Call leader for more info: Mary Gale, 626-3565.

Tuesday, May 22
SENIOR SAUNTER: CARMELO CIRCLE
3-mile loop in Carmel. We’ll start at the Carmel Beach parking lot, walk past Mission Ranch up Mission Trail Reserve through Carmel and back along scenic Carmel Beach. Meet before 9:30 a.m. at Sears 41st Ave. To go direct, take Hwy. 1 south to Ocean exit. Turn right, go downhill to Carmello, left on Carmello about 1.5 mi. to beach parking area. Free parking with restrooms. Meet there about 10:30 a.m. Bring water, lunch, $5 carpool. At end of hike, optional lunch in Carmel. Leader: Brooke Ewoldsen, 675-6188.

Sunday, May 27
HIKE: MITTLEDORF PRESERVE
A 9-mile loop around the preserve mostly in the woods where we’ll also find wildflowers, 2000’ elevation gain. Great views from the ridges. Meet at the gatehouse to the San Carlos Ranch at 8:00 a.m. Bring lots of water and food, wearing hiking boots. Definitely call leader before: Anneliese Suter, 624-1467.

Tuesday, May 29
SENIOR HIKE/ PICNIC: HENRY COWELL
Our loop hike is along the river and through the redwoods. Easy 3 miles with slight uphill. After hike, we’ll have our annual potluck picnic. BRING YOUR FAVORITE MEAT. Meet before 9:30 a.m. at Sears 41st Ave. or at Felton Faire by Safeway at 9:30 a.m. To go direct, use the main entrance to Cowell on Hwy. 9, turn right past the pay station to the first picnic area. Bring water, potluck dish, $2 carpool and share of entrance $. Leader: Helena Cantin, 438-4253.

June 2
HIKE: SUNOL REGIONAL PARK
I hope we’re not too early for mariposas and elegant clarkias in this fairly distant park in the east Bay. Gentle climbs up to Canyon Creek to elegant clarkias in this fairly distant park in the east Bay. Gentle climbs up to Canyon Creek. Bring water, potluck dish, $2 carpool and share of entrance fee. Leader: Tricia Matejcek, 768-8187.

June 9
HIKE: LOWER PEBBLE BEACH
See April 21 for details.

June 14
HIKE: GARZAS CANYON LOOP
See April 19 for details.

June 16
HIKE: PALO CORONA RANCH
Our exact route is yet to be determined, but wherever we go, it will be new and exciting for most of you. There are several options and you can expect 10 miles with 2000’ elevation gain. Only room for 20 hikers, so make your reservation early. The hike will be based on pre-hike input from YOU. Call for reservations, mg. place, etc. Leader: Larry Parrish, 622-7455.

June 24
WALK: LIMEKILN CREEK
This hike involves a long but spectacular drive for a short but gorgeous walk. Way south of Santa Cruz, this park features stroll along both Hare Creek and Limekiln Creek under huge redwoods. We’ll lunch near the old kilns, and gaze up from the beach at Cone Peak before heading back. Bring lunch, water, park entrance $, and plan on a long day. Meet at the Black Bear Diner Park & Ride at 9:00 a.m. Leader: Mary Gale, 626-3565.

Friday - Wednesday, June 29 - July 4
BACKPACK: GRAND STAIRCASE ESCALANTE
Backpack Escalante Grand Staircase, Coyote Gulch to Escalante River. Enjoy waterfalls and swimming. Hot season but pleasant along tree-lined creek in deep canyon of brilliant red rock and sheer walls. Shady areas frequent. Lots of wading. See lots of bright lights flashing after dark. 28 miles round trip with pack, additional day hiking. To reserve, send $20 made out to Sierra Club (refundable deposit) to David Hardy, Box 99, Blue Diamond, NV 89004, phone 702-875-4549. Email: (preferred) hardyhikers@juno.com.
M EETING S C H E D U L E

Ventana Chaper (Monterey Co.)
Information: 624-8032
Executive Committee:
Last Thursday of the month; Call for meeting place & time.
Conservation Committee:
Alternate 3rd Saturdays, 2:00 p.m.
Beck’s house: 23765 Spectacular Bid, Monterey. Take Hwy 68 to York Rd. to Spectacular Bid.
May 19, at 2:00 p.m.

Santa Cruz Regional Group
Information: 426-4453
Meeting Place: Sierra Club Office, 1001 Center St., Santa Cruz, Suite 11.
Executive Committee:
Wednesday, Apr. 11, at 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday, May 9, at 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday, June 13, at 7:00 p.m.
Conservation Committee:
Call Conservation Chair for meeting times and dates: 768-8187
Stop Sprawl in Monterey

Apr, May, Jun Outings

Critical expanses of Monterey County remain undeveloped and connected to wilderness areas by wildlife corridors.

Don Nielsen