Budget cuts threaten coastal protection

The sinking economy in California is hurting our environment, especially in the coastal zone. Upcoming state budget cuts for 2008-09 will reduce funding for the Coastal Management Program of the California Coastal Commission by $956,000 and have eliminated over 17 Coastal Commission staff positions so far this year. (There will be a final report after January 10, 2009.) These cuts will make our coastline even more vulnerable to development and pollution.

Some of the Coastal Management Program activities and objectives include:
1. Review and approval of Local Coastal Plans, port master plans, university long range development plans, and any amendments to such plans for consistency with the Coastal Act.
2. Monitoring and enforcement of coastal development permits.
3. Protecting and expanding opportunities for public coastal access and recreation.
4. Implementing a coastal water quality protection program.
5. Providing technical information and assistance to support effective coastal management.
6. Implementing a coastal and ocean resource public education plan.

As a coastal chapter we have focused on coastal resources as a priority for our legal battles. Recently, the Santa Cruz Group successfully sued and stopped the expansion of Luers Barn near Davenport, and the Chapter won an appeal to the Coastal Commission to stop the Pebble Beach Company’s golf course and housing plans in Del Monte Forest. There have been many other efforts to curtail development and degradation of coastal resources through the years.

Currently, the Group is studying the toxins at the Cemex plant in Davenport and is pressuring Caltrans to replace the single span bridge at Waddell Creek with a more fish-friendly full-span bridge. The Chapter will be weighing in on the Cemex plant in Marina and plans for a mega-resort in the dunes west of Highway 1 in Sand City, Monterey County residents are working on the Moss Landing Local Coastal Plan.

Members continue to work on coastal trail opportunities and general development issues in both Santa Cruz and Monterey Counties. Dramatic budget cuts that affect the Coastal Management Program can impact the outcome of the work we do and the Coastal Commission do. We need your help to do whatever you can to ensure that efforts to protect the coastline are not diminished by these budget cuts.

—Rita Dalessio

A sustainable economy

At a public meeting I recently attended there was a discussion about building new parking garages in downtown Santa Cruz. Those opposed to new garages spoke about climate change and the need to switch to non-polluting forms of transportation. Those in favor of building more garages said that people will still be using cars in the future, but they will be powered by clean electricity and other clean energy sources.

While I have no crystal ball to see into the future, I feel this discussion is symptomatic of the lack of understanding of the enormity of climate change. It is also, in my opinion, a measure of the lack of imagination and creativity framing the entire discussion about global warming.

Like it or not, climate change is happening. Its effects will be so profound as to change our entire way of life. Experts in the know do not simply predict business as usual but powered by clean sources of energy. What is being talked about will shake our way of living to its very roots.

Currently much of the world economy operates on a model of perpetual growth. The economy is seen as ever expanding. Population will ever grow. Businesses must ever enlarge. For a business to be viable, it must sell more than the year before. Forever and ever.

Contrast that with a sustainable model. Many of us talk about sustainability, but few reflect on what that word really means. A sustainable economy is one which has reached a state of equilibrium, that is, a state of balance. It is neither continually growing or shrinking. It is stable.

A sustainable economy is one which does not use more resources per year than the earth can provide. It exists in a world in which the seas are not overfished, the forests are not overlogged, and the standard of living of the inhabitants does not reflect consumption run wild.

Which brings us back to the discussion about more parking garages. I am old enough to remember when most families had only one car, not two or three as is now the case. Children had to get themselves to school. Husbands and wives had to plan their schedules to share the same automobile. People took the bus or the train or walked to where they were going. And for the most part, families did not feel deprived by having only one vehicle.

Can we imagine a way of life where we are happy yet have less? It is not just cars we are talking about, but every aspect of our lives. It means smaller houses, less packaging, fewer material possessions, and fewer children.

And fewer parking spaces.

—Debbie Bulger
Wilderness designated within Limekiln State Park

California got 413 acres of new wilderness in 2008, in Limekiln State Park on the southern Big Sur coast. This was the first new legislatively-designated wilderness in the state system in more than 30 years.

AB 2945, introduced by Assemblymember John Laird and signed by Governor Schwarzenegger, also amends the 1974 California Wilderness Act to authorize temporary roads and motorized equipment within a wilderness area when necessary in an emergency or if it is the minimum tool necessary to meet minimum management requirements.

Limekiln State Wilderness is 23 miles south of the town of Big Sur on the South Coast in Limekiln State Park and is currently closed due to the Chalk Fire. The non-wilderness portion of the park, which opened in 1994, has 33 campsites, picnic facilities, historic limekilns from California’s early days, old growth redwoods, and several short hiking trails.

Limekiln is adjacent to the Ventana Wilderness of over 240,000 acres of rugged terrain in Los Padres National Forest. This newly designated area includes about a mile and a half of the West Fork of Limekiln Creek, an important steelhead spawning stream, and shares a boundary with the US Forest Service’s Cone Peak Gradient Research Natural Area. The most distinctive feature in this valuable ecosystem is the high number of plant associations in one small drainage. The plant communities of coastal scrub, redwood forests, coastal live oak woodland, valley grassland, and chaparral that coexist here provide a high level of biological diversity in a relatively small area.

The Ventana Chapter worked with the Ventana Wilderness Alliance, the California Wilderness Coalition and the California Wilderness Project on this bill with John Laird. An objective was to help provide a way for Sierra Club California to go to the State Parks and Recreation Commission and the Parks Department and work on getting more wilderness designated by administrative action.

John Laird summed it up best: “AB 2945 will link state park lands as wilderness to federal lands in similar designation. The bill also gives the Parks Department the process to do this in other areas around the state. Hopefully the designation for Limekiln State Park—a textbook example of a strikingly beautiful wilderness—will just be the first in many new state wilderness areas.”

Patented seeds violate farmers’ rights

by Laurel Hopwood, Sierra Club Genetic Engineering Committee Chair

The genetic diversity of our planet and the genetic resources which are the fruit of 100 centuries of human agriculture are a shared common treasure of mankind. Transgenic agriculture—using modern genetic engineering techniques to splice genes from one species into another—involves many risks which are yet to be fully evaluated, but one danger in clear sight is the use of patent protections to shift equity from the global genetic commons into private hands. This is theft in broad daylight.

The principle argument in favor of life patents is that they spur innovation. Yet genetic engineering in plants has so far consisted only of splicing genes from one species into another with no significant increases in yields or benefits to consumers. This rewriting of the genetic code has sufficed to win patents. This is not technological progress, but the veneer of technology being used for theft. The patents allow seed companies to impose new conditions in contracts with farmers. The actual “innovation” is a loss of farmers’ rights. In the United States and Canada, farmers are being sued for planting their own seeds (saving seeds) without paying a fee.

The U.S. has pushed life patents and genetic patents on the world. Sierra Club believes that, just as the nations of the world have agreed that there should be no slavery and that a contract which calls for slavery would be unenforceable, there should be no patents on the genetic machinery of life and that all contracts based on such an idea should be null and void. That would be to the advantage of every man, woman and child on this planet. We are the heirs to this planet’s genetic diversity and shouldn’t let that heritage be claimed by corporate greed.

One way to put the brakes on GMO agriculture that will soon be available is the Biosafety Protocol (Cartagena Protocol) of the Convention on Biological Diversity. Although the U.S. hasn’t ratified either the Convention or its Protocol, the Biosafety Protocol has obtained ratifications from over 50 nations and has entered into force. As part of international treaty law, it allows nations to invoke the Precautionary Principle in order to stop imports of GMOs. We urge farmers in the U.S., and likewise the farmers and nations of the world, to defend their rights to save seeds. We urge them to work for the abolition of patents on the molecular machinery of life. While changes in U.S. patent laws may be slow in coming, our position is that if farmers use their own seed or sell seed crops intended as food, they shouldn’t have to pay licensing fees twice.

Please recycle this paper again
North Monterey County development threatens Elkhorn Slough

by Mari and Klaus Kloeppel

Chapter members and Friends, Artists and Neighbors of Elkhorn Slough (FANS) are working to stop a proposed 103-unit housing project in North Monterey County, called Rancho Los Robles. There is no sustainable water supply for this project as this area suffers from a severely overdrafted groundwater aquifer. This aquifer has been so heavily drawn down that saltwater from the ocean is contaminating water quality, further restricting water supplies for agriculture and domestic use.

Some local wells in this aquifer have gone permanently dry necessitating trucking in water for many families for over a year. Yet, the Monterey County Planning Department has recommended approval based on “overriding considerations.”

Opponents have reviewed and responded to the Environmental Impact Report for Rancho Los Robles and have attended County public hearings on this project. The project would be built only a few hundred yards from Carneros Creek, which drains directly into the Elkhorn Slough only one mile away. Carneros Creek provides approximately 75% of the Slough’s fresh water, making its protection critical to the viability of Elkhorn Slough as a thriving ecosystem.

On October 29, despite the staff recommendation to approve, a majority of the Monterey County Planning Commission voted to recommend denial to the Board of Supervisors. At press time the project was slated to go before the Board on December 9, but there is a high likelihood that the issue will be continued to January.

The fragile watershed and rare natural resources of Elkhorn Slough are also threatened by the 26-unit Rancho Roberto development now on appeal before the California Coastal Commission and 185 new houses proposed by the Pajaro Valley Golf Course. FANS has been working for nine years to stop the destructive cumulative impacts of these projects.

To help or learn more contact the Kloeppels, mkkloeppel@earthlink.net.

Legislation needed to increase amount of renewable energy

by Jim Metropulos, Sierra Club California

California once led the world in renewable energy. We have the power to take back the lead.

Our state’s three investor-owned utilities, PG&E, Southern Edison, and San Diego Electric & Gas, probably will fall short of the state’s renewables target—20% by 2010. That’s why Sierra Club California believes the state should reform our renewable energy portfolio standard (RPS) law. Improving this law will help meet AB 32 climate protection goals, improve the quality of the air we breathe, and reduce our reliance on depleted fossil fuel resources.

Other states have made significant strides in building renewable energy. In 2007, Texas reached a total installed wind capacity of over 5,000 megawatts. That same year, California only built about 60 megawatts of wind turbines. Although efforts to pass legislation to boost the RPS goal and to make reforms in the program failed this year, Sierra Club California continues to lobby for more renewable power.

In upgrading California’s RPS law we must guard against efforts to undermine it in the name of reform. We oppose changing the definition to allow more hydropower to be considered as renewable. We do not think utilities should get renewable power credit for their energy efficiency efforts. While we have always supported energy efficiency, we believe the RPS should instead encourage investment in new sources of clean renewable power while other programs focus on energy efficiency.

Not all energy sources labeled under current law as “renewable” are equally sustainable in terms of environmental impacts or energy supply. Even renewable energy can have adverse impacts; poor environmental practices at the Altamont wind site in Northern California, for example, have resulted in excessive bird kills. The impact and sources of biofuels, large-scale development of solar power in the desert, toxic materials in certain types of solar panels, and other issues should be addressed, and standards developed for proper use of resources.

As we power up California’s standards, we need to ensure we do not lose valuable resources, and that we do nothing to harm the environment we are striving to protect.

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Toxic trouble in Davenport

by Kristen Rauget

On October 3, 2008, the County announced that chromium-6 (Hexavalent chromium) had been detected in Davenport, 10 times the allowable amount, along with the worrisome news that this toxin may have been emitted for a number of years. The Monterey Bay Unified Air Pollution Control District had decided to conduct unannounced tests in June, July, and August 2008 after high chromium-6 levels were detected at a cement plant in Riverside, California. The results of this testing required the Monterey Bay Unified Air Pollution Control District to issue a Prop. 65 notice to the Board of Supervisors and the County Health Officer. A Public Health Advisory for the Davenport Area was issued the same day.

The cement plant in Davenport was built by Portland Cement Company in 1905. Many companies have owned it over the years since then, with its current owner being Cemex Corp of Mexico. In 1905, little was known about environmental health problems resulting from cement plant emissions. We now know that cement plants emit dust and substances that can cause cancer and other health problems.

Many environmental groups, including the Sierra Club, have been battling such plants over emissions, including mercury, which can cause birth defects and neurological problems in small children. The Davenport Cemex plant was already on the radar screen for its seriously high mercury emissions. In 2005 (the most recent year for which a report was made), the Cemex plant emitted 170 pounds of mercury, making it one of the largest emitters of mercury nationwide. Under pressure from Miriam Rotkin-Ellman of the Natural Resources Defense Council, the Environmental Protection Agency conducted tests for mercury in Davenport last summer.

Cement-making operations were already shut down in Davenport at the time of the health advisory, due to low sales. The Cemex plant was advised by the County to remain shut until better understanding of the extent and control of the chromium-6 emissions was achieved. At a Board of Supervisors meeting on October 7, the public was assured that it would be apprised of any new data as soon as it became available. Satish Sheth, head of manufacturing on the U.S. west coast for Cemex, said the plant would cease using mill scale and steel slag in the future, since these by-products of steel manufacture, in use since 2001, are suspected to be the source of the chromium-6.

Ironically, it was the Air Pollution Control District that had repeatedly assured the community of Davenport that the introduction of slag was safe, despite numerous concerns. Sheth said Cemex would replace the mill scale and steel slag with iron ore when manufacturing resumed. He also said Cemex would implement strict fugitive dust control procedures. Fugitive dust from loading operations and the cement kiln dust pile is believed to be responsible for the spread of chromium-6 in Davenport.

Santa Cruz County Environmental Health confirmed at the October 7 Board of Supervisors meeting that tests of drinking water showed a non-detect of chromium-6, although the last water test was done on August 28, 2007, leading to the belief that the problem is possibly just airborne. Additional water samples, taken from Mill Creek, San Vincente Creek, and Pacific Elementary School on October 7, also showed a non-detect level at a limit ten times less than the California Drinking Water Standard.

Attending the Supervisors meeting were parents of children from Pacific Elementary School which is right in the plume path of Cemex’s smoke stack. Many concerned residents urged medical testing to find out human exposure potential. Others urged that trucking and movement of the contaminated, stored cement and cement kiln dust cease until more data was gathered.

The day after the meeting, Santa Cruz County Environmental Health representatives went door to door in Davenport to issue a Health Advisory until test results showed air quality had returned to safe levels.

At the October 21 Board of Supervisors meeting many residents complained that real data was not yet available. They also strongly urged that shipping operations at the plant cease until test results were available and procedures to reduce chromium-6 contamination were in place. The Supervisors assured the residents that information would be available within days. The Board also indicated that a competent contractor for the air testing, Copeland Consultants, had been retained. This choice has since raised concern about the firm’s impartiality because of the prior associations of one of its consultants.

Despite residents’ very real concerns regarding fugitive dust, the Board did not require Cemex to halt shipping. However, Cemex voluntarily suspended shipping until test results were available. Data from continued air testing by the Air District before Copeland was hired, was finally available on October 25, showing the chromium-6 level had dropped below the allowed standard. This finding may have been due to Cemex’s suspension of shipping the contaminated cement.

The new contractor set up testing stations in and around Davenport including a 24-hour air monitor inside the school and one on the playground. New testing began November 1. This monitoring system should provide more accurate testing and will include surface wipe sampling.

Other tests taken before Copeland was hired showed a further drop in chromium-6 from earlier October results. Even though these preliminary tests have indicated a general drop in chromium-6, some days have spiked dramatically and need to be studied and investigated as to the exact cause.

Nationally-known environmental investigator Erin Brockovich came to Davenport on November 3 and met with residents. She explained that she wanted to share her expertise about chromium-6 and expressed her concern about all the other toxins that emanate from the plant. Brockovich, however, believes, as do many scientists and environmentalists, that there are no safe levels of chromium-6.

Brockovich noted discrepancies in the reporting of toxic emissions and was somewhat skeptical of the data since Cemex oversees the testing. She encouraged residents to talk to each other and compile information about their experiences with dust, smell, and their health. She also provided health questionnaires to be filled out and returned.

On a path to restarting the plant, Cemex was granted a temporary 48-hour permit on November 12 to carry out a test grinding of the contaminated clinker. (Clinker is hardened cement as it comes out of the heated manufacturing process and is ground into cement dust. Reducing agents ferrous sulfate and stannous sulfate were added to reduce chromium-6 emissions.)

The test-grinding results came back with levels of chromium-6 safe enough (according to the Air District) for Cemex to plan a full-scale production test. After the test the plant will shut down as the monitoring data are evaluated. Cemex plans to restart the plant in January if test results are positive.

Residents and parents of school children continue to urge the County to let production begin until the exact source of the chromium-6 can be pinpointed and absolute assurances can be made for their and their children’s safety.
**Sierra Club Events**

**Friday, January 9**

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**Potluck & Slides: On the Edge—Species at Risk**
This presentation is by Jeff Barnes, a widely-traveled wildlife photographer and an interpreter for the California State Parks. The potluck begins at 6:30 p.m. Bring food to share and your own washable plate, cup, utensils, and serving utensils. We love home cooked meals or dessert, but store-bought items (minimum value $5) make great contributions too. This event will be hosted by Randy and Carin Chapin at 612 Arroyo Seco, Santa Cruz. For directions call the Chapins, 425-1749 or George, 335-7748.

**Erin Brockovich meeting on Community TV**
If you missed the Town Hall meeting in November at Pacific Elementary School in Davenport at which famed environmental activist Erin Brockovich spoke, you can catch the video on Community TV (Comcast 25/Charter 71). The two-hour show is scheduled for the following times:
- Friday, December, 19 @ 9:00 a.m.
- Sunday, December, 21 @ 12:00 p.m.
- Monday, December, 22 @ 7:30 p.m.

**Public has until January to comment on new General Plan**
Due to an outpouring of letters from the public regarding the unavailability of documents associated with the fifth version of Monterey County’s General Plan Update, the comment period has been extended to no sooner than January, 2009. As a result, the rush to approval before the end of 2008 has been stopped.

Other problems with the process included a failure by the County to send the complete Draft EIR to state agencies and a failure to send the Draft EIR to the State Water Resources Control Board’s division of water rights (the key entity that rules our water supply).

Members of the public who commented on these and other problems included The Ventana Chapter, The Open Monterey Project, the Carmel Valley Association, Prunedale Neighbors Group, Prunedale Preservation Alliance, Friends & Neighbors of Elkhorn Slough, and other groups and individuals.

Chapter members are hard at work analyzing the plan’s impacts to the environment, in particular its biological resources, water quality, and water supply. Once final, these comments will be posted to the Chapter website.

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**Non-Sierra Club Events of Interest**

**FREE Wormshops**
Learn how worms can eat your food scraps and make beautiful compost for your garden. Master composters will teach you everything you need to know. Pre-registration required. Free and below wholesale worm bins for residents of unincorporated Santa Cruz Co. and Scotts Valley. $50 charge for residents of Capitola, City of Santa Cruz, and Watsonville. Call 427-3452 to register. Sponsored by S.C. Co. Board of Supervisors; produced by County Public Works Recycling and Solid Waste Services.

**Garland Ranch Hikes**
The Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District leads hikes at Garland Ranch every Saturday. An updated list of all hikes may be found on their website: www.mprpd.org.

**Santa Cruz CNPS**

**Habitat restoration**
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,_redwdrn@pacificbell.net, 462-4041. Website: www.cruzsnp.org.

**Watsonville Wetlands Watch**

**Docent Training**
Enrollment for new docents now open. Attend a 6-week training course starting February 18 on Wednesday evenings and Saturday mornings. Enrollees will be treated to an inside look at the Pajaro Valley and its wetlands. Training covers ecology, history, and wetlands restoration.

Documentments will learn to assist teachers during field trips and will lead walks. Cost: $40. Contact Kathy Fieberling, 427-0654 or kathyfieb@yahoo.com.

**Fourth Saturday**

**Habitat restoration - Watsonville**
Sponsored by Watsonville Wetlands Watch. 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Meet at the Fitz Wetlands Educ. Resource Ctr. at Pajaro Valley HS. Gloves, tools, and snack provided. Call Jonathan Pilch, 728-4106, for more info. No experience necessary.

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**Friday, February 13**

**Potluck & Slides: Costa Rica**
Costa Rica — a nature Photographer’s paradise — is a slide show by world traveler Vilma Siebers. The potluck begins at 6:30 p.m. Bring food to share and your own washable plate, cup, utensils, and serving utensils. We love home cooked meals or dessert, but store-bought items (minimum value $5) make great contributions too. For directions call George, 335-7748.

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**Spring and Summer**

**Channel Islands trips**
Planning a vacation this May or during the summer? Consider a trip to the Channel Islands with a ranger/naturalist who will lead hikes and give talks. Fundraising event for Sierra Club political programs in California. Dates are May 1-4, July 17-20, August 7-10, and September 11-14. Cost is $950 which includes bunk and all meals. For more info contact Joan Jones Holz, 11826 The Wye Street, El Monte, CA 91732, jholtzhln@aol.com.
**Recycling alone is not the answer**

By Virginia Draper

By 2000, most California communities diverted at least 50% of solid waste from landfills, a goal mandated in 1989 by AB 939. But we need to do much better than that. To figure out where to focus public outreach, in 2007 the California Integrated Waste Management Board commissioned a survey of residents’ attitudes towards waste management and their habits regarding reducing, reusing, and recycling, the 3Rs of Zero Waste.

The survey results suggest that the public may not understand the concern about landfills. When asked about environmental priorities, less than one in five identified landfill waste, toxic waste, or the extinction of plants and animals as concerns. Nevertheless, the majority surveyed regularly recycle key household items, though only one quarter are recycling as much as they could, and few are regularly recycling plastic bags.

Respondents were far less knowledgeable about ways to reuse and reduce: “Only about one-third of California residents regularly reuse food containers or drink water from sources other than small plastic water bottles. Less than one-in-five consistently buy products in bulk or items with less packaging.” Fewer than 10% compost.

Thus the first recommendation of the report is “to increase efforts to promote waste reduction and reuse, which lag behind recycling in public awareness and practice.” Angela Brantley, Solid Waste Program Manager for the City of Monterey, welcomes this focus: “We know that recycling alone is not the answer.”

Brantley works with Monterey businesses to develop reuse practices. For instance, she suggests setting aside office space where employees can put items they no longer use, but that others may want. And she makes sure everyone is aware of the Last Chance Mercantile in nearby Marina, a reuse depot operated by the Monterey Regional Waste Management District. Here people can leave and buy at “affordable prices” things that might otherwise go into the landfill, such as sporting goods, furniture, automotive parts, and accessories.

In Santa Cruz County, the Bag fees in the future?

The California Ocean Protection Council, a state agency, has proposed not only a ban on polystyrene food containers, but also a fee for plastic bags as a way to cut down on marine debris. When Ireland imposed a tax on plastic bags in 2002, use dropped 95%. Look for state legislation in the future.

**Resources**

California Zero Waste web site: www.zerowaste.ca.gov

Information about all types of waste including ways to reduce household waste, strategies and sites supporting reuse, Zero Waste business and school programs, information about hazardous wastes, and links to local agencies and drop-off sites.

Healthy streams are good for people and wildlife

by Jodi Frediani

We all know that hardening of the arteries is damaging to human health and that arterial blockages can lead to death. We also know that toxic substances in the bloodstream can cause cancer and other serious problems. Not surprisingly, our streams and rivers—the circulatory system of our environment—must be protected from similar threats. We need to treat our creeks and streams as the lifeblood of our environment and not as drainage ditches. Taking better care of our streams is not only good for us and our drinking water, but essential for several local threatened or endangered species—coho salmon, steelhead trout, and California red-legged frogs.

What do healthy streams need?

Healthy streams need an intact riparian canopy, well-vegetated soils, and large trees alongside the stream banks. Downed wood also helps create deep cool-water pools needed by fish.

Development along stream banks can result in an unhealthy waterway. When we allow buildings in the natural stream flood plain or along stream banks, for example, we create problems. Flooding is a natural stream process which replenishes soil nutrients. A better use of flood plains and banks is for parks and greenways which can be flooded occasionally without threatening homes and businesses.

What harms waterways?

Excessive logging or cutting of trees along a stream bank eliminates the leafy canopy which shades the water and provides fish habitat. An extreme example of canopy removal is the clearcutting of trees within the channel of the Pajaro River after the floods of 1995. The levees constrain the natural flood waters, turning the river into a flood control channel. The trees, which provided many functions including significant bird habitat, were considered a threat because they took up room in the flood channel.

Channelization (straightening of the stream course) increases the velocity of the water as it runs downstream. An extreme example is the channelization of Branciforte Creek where it flows into the San Lorenzo River (also channelized between levees) in Santa Cruz. Less extreme channelization techniques are applied to protect poorly-sited houses and roads adjacent to streams.

Continued on p. 9.
Poor policies and enforcement

Santa Cruz County has a history of granting riparian exceptions, allowing for additions to existing non-conforming structures within the 50’ riparian buffer zone. A recent project proposes reducing the riparian setback from 50’ to 20’ along Aptos Creek and running storm water culverts directly into Aptos Creek for a Planned Unit Development. Another project redirects flows into Rodeo Gulch by building 1500’ of new drainage pipe and bypassing a wetlands. Rather than removing culverts as Berkeley is doing (a process called “day-lighting”), Santa Cruz County is creating more runoff into more drainage ditches and installing more culverts.

Code enforcement needs to take stream protection seriously as well. When an illegal concrete cistern was constructed recently in a tributary of Laguna Creek in Bonny Doon, a coho stream, it took two months of complaints from multiple neighbors including photographs circulated far and wide before the County re-tagged the structure. At press time the partially-dismantled cistern was still in place and causing bank erosion and water-quality degradation. If removal is not done in a timely fashion, the county road adjacent to this cistern could actually fail, sending tons of soil into the creek channel.

Often the need for affordable housing is cited as a reason to allow building in riparian corridors. Housing is an important need, and it must be sited in less environmentally-sensitive areas. It harms everyone to build in areas prone to flooding, most especially the residents themselves.

We need to learn to respect our local creeks and rivers and remember that they are the lifeblood of our communities.

How to help keep our water clean

- Use only organic lawn and garden treatments. Pesticides and fertilizers find their way into our waterways.
- Keep dirt roads in good repair.
- Check culverts regularly and keep unplugged.
- Call your Santa Cruz County Supervisor and ask that the County enforce riparian setbacks, even for additions to existing structures.
- If you have run off from your property, consult a professional to see how you can retain that water on the property or biofilter it before it leaves.

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) will be releasing their draft Coho Recovery Plan in early 2009. This plan identifies a number of areas where Santa Cruz County riparian policies are deficient and detrimental to the survival of our nearly extinct coho salmon populations. These policies are in need of a major overhaul. For years, the County has been removing fallen trees from stream channels often at the request of concerned landowners. NMFS wants those trees to remain. Property owners need to be educated about the importance of these essential elements in a healthy stream system. More culverts need to be retrofitted for fish passage or better yet, replaced by bridges to allow fish into currently inaccessible stream reaches. New construction should be kept out of riparian corridors to limit septic leakage and input of pesticides, herbicides and household chemicals.

**“We need to treat our creeks and streams as the lifeblood of our environment and not as drainage ditches.”**

**10 ways to save money and help the earth**

1. Use a clothes rack or line to dry more of your laundry.
2. Get to work without your car one day (or one more day) a week.
3. Buy more bulk groceries instead of packaged.
4. Eat less meat.
5. Turn off the light when you leave a room.
6. Walk or bike to school with your kids.
7. Install fluorescent bulbs.
8. Buy fruit in season.
9. Shop at yard sales.
10. Reuse gift wrap.

**Make a difference**

Join Sierra Club California’s Legislative Action Network

[http://cal-legalalert.sierraclubaction.org](http://cal-legalalert.sierraclubaction.org)

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**A little bird told me...**
Outings

December

Sunday, December 21
HIKE: WADDELL CREEK/BIG BASIN
Starting at Hwy. 1. We’ll hike the Skyline to the Sea Trail and McCray Ridge to the Mt. Mcabee overlook and return via the Howard King and Skyline to the Sea Trail with a short side trip to Berry Creek Falls. 12 Miles, 1700’ elevation gain. Dress in layers, bring lunch and plenty of water. Meet at the Santa Cruz County Government Center at 8:30 a.m. to carpool. Leader: John Howerton, 476-4253.

Tuesday, December 23
HIKE: GARZAS CREEK
Our 4-1/2 mile loop with 900’ elevation gain takes us through a redwood canyon and along Garzas Creek with six picturesque crossings. Moderate pace with stops to enjoy flora & fauna. Bring water & lunch. Meet at the Santa Cruz County Government Center at 9:30 a.m. to carpool. Leader: Nick Wyckoff, 462-3101.

Saturday, January 3
HIKE: MT. MADONNA PARK
We’ll look for fetid adders tongue from the Spring Lake entrance off Hwy. 152. 7 miles and 1200’ elevation gain. Meet at 9:30 a.m. at the Mar Monte exit off Hwy. 1, 1 mile La Selva Beach to carpool. Call Nick if you need additional information. Leader: Nick Wyckoff, 462-3101.

January

Thursday, January 7
NEW YEAR’S HIKE: GARLAND TO MY PLACE
From Safeway Mid Valley, we’ll carpool to Garland Ranch and climb up all the way to Snively’s Ridge for a sunny lunch spot. Then we’ll turn west through Carmel Valley, down to Holt Road and back. But wait, you are all invited to Kaffee und Kuchen at my condo, Mid Valley Garden Homes #53, to celebrate the New Year. 8 miles and 1500’ elevation gain. Bring water and lunch, optional hiking poles, and wear sturdy shoes. Moderate pace. Meet at Mid Valley parking lot opposite WaMu at 10:00 a.m. Call for a space. Leader: Annemelse Suter, 624-1467.

Thursday, January 6
HIKE: GLEN DEVEN RANCH
Our 7-mile hike with 800’ elevation gain takes us into a lovely canyon and along redwood-lined Garrapata Creek. After lunch, we’ll explore the ranch house, a writer’s studio, and then go out onto a ridge for spectacular views. Arrive early, leave at 9:30 a.m. sharp from Rio Road Park & Ride. Bring water & lunch. Call for a reservation. Leader: Lynn Bomberger, 375-7777.

Wednesday, January 7
HIKE: NISENE MARKS
Floods, earthquakes, wildfires and logging with mills and railroads have shaped the history of this 10,000 acre park created in 1963. We’ll enter the park from a trail in back of Aptos on a private road to the Old Growth Loop and the Oak Ridge Trail. Bring water and lunch for a stop along Aptos Creek mid-day, 8 miles with downhill at the beginning of the day and uphill at the end. Meet at Sears 41st Ave to carpool ($1) or call for directions to the trailhead. Leader: Diane Cornwell, 423-5925.

Clair Tappan’s 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.

The Lodge grooms its own cross country ski and snowshoe trails, rents equipment for these activities and offers cross country ski lessons. The unbeatable location of the Lodge provides quick and easy access to the legendary Donner Summit backcountry cross country skiing terrain or any of its downhill or cross country ski resorts.

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

See you on Donner Summit...
HIKE: FORT ORD DUNES

Finally, the Dunes west of the Highway are open and ready to be explored by us. We’ll walk up the steep dunes through sand and over ice plant to the former site of the Fort Ord Officer’s Club, then move south and eventually down to the beach. We’ll look for a space between the dunes and come back on one of the old military roads. 6 miles (or longer if you want) with some struggling up and down the dunes. Bring water and lunch, hiking sticks, binoculars, and wear layers; it may be windy by the ocean. Heavy rain cancels. Meet in Seaside at Home Depot near the gas station at 10:00 a.m. Leader: Anneliese Suter, 624-1467.

Tuesday, January 13

HIKE: WILDER RANCH

This nice lollypop loop begins in Carmel and leads into the quiet forest of Pebble Beach. Lunch gives us the option of a sandwich at Poppy Hills Golf Course. We’ll hike 6-1/2 miles with 750’ elevation gain. Arrive early; we leave at 10:00 a.m. sharp from Rio Road Park & Ride. Call for a reservation. Leader: Lynn Bomberger, 375-7777.

Wednesday, January 14

HIKE: SIERRA AZUL MT. UMUNHUM AREA

We’ll be hiking right below 3,486’ Mt. Umunhum (considered a sacred mountain by the Ohlone) along the Bay Area Ridge Trail which will eventually circle all of the bay area. The preserve has more than 17,000 acres of unspoiled rugged, steep terrain. We’ll hike along a wide trail with scenic views of the south bay. Since we are on the top of the ridge, we’ll pass over deep ravines and riparian corridors with seasonal or year-round water flow. We’ll hike out to Mt. El Sombroso and return on the same trail for a 10-mile hike from the end of Hicks Road in Almaden. Meet at Sears 41st Ave. at 9:00 a.m. or park at the trailhead at the top of Hicks Road at 10:00 a.m. Carpool: $4. Leader: Diane Cornell, 423-5925.

Saturday, January 17

HIKE: CARMEL VALLEY TO JACK’S PEAK

A short but interesting hike up Roach Canyon in Carmel Valley, up a moderate incline to Jack’s Peak. Let’s try to work off a little of that remaining holiday excess. 6 miles, with 1000’ elevation gain. Possible return via Martin Canyon if brush isn’t too overgrown. Possible short car shuttle. Meet at Save Mart/Bagel Bakery at 10:00 a.m. to carpool. Leader: Larry Parish, 622-7455.

Saturday, January 17

HIKE: LICK OBSERVATORY AND JOSEPH GRANT PARK

This will be a tour of UC’s Mt. Hamilton site (elevation 4200’) and observatories, including wonderful views of the Bay Area, Central Valley, and possibly the Sierra Nevada. We’ll also see the 36” refractor installed in 1888. A walk into the upper reaches of Joseph Grant Park will be included, time allowing. Because of the long and windy drive, the carpool is $6 so drivers won’t be discouraged. Carsick-prone people may want to drive themselves. 1000’ elevation gain and 8 miles. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the Santa Cruz County Government Center to carpool. Call Nick to confirm. Leader: Nick Wyckoff, 462-3101.

Saturday, January 17

HIKE: WILDER RANCH

We’ll hike through the green meadows with great views and plenty of sun in this cooler part of the year. 8-10 mile loop to the top of Wilder Ranch with 1000’ elevation gain. Bring food and water. Heavy rain cancels. Meet at Santa Cruz County Government center at 9:00 a.m. Only the heaviest of rain cancels! Leader: John Howerton, 476-4253.

Tuesday, January 20

HIKE: NISENE MARKS

Join us on the West Ridge Trail loop, 7 miles with 1000’ elevation gain through a lovely, shaded forest. We might even spot the fetid adders tongue, one of our earliest wildflowers. Arrive early, leave at 8:45 a.m. sharp from Shell station by Home Depot in Seaside or leave from parking lot behind Aptos Station at 9:30 a.m. Bring water & lunch. Call for a reservation. Leader: Lynn Bomberger, 375-7777.
**OUTINGS**

**Tuesday, January 27**
**SENIOR WALK: RIO DEL MAR/SEACLIFF BEACH**

Hiker’s choice of a level 4-mile walk along Seacliff and Rio Del Mar or up Cliff Dr. along a neighborhood for 1 mile and back down to the beach along a little-known path. Meet before 9:30 a.m. at Sears 41st Ave or at Rio Del Mar by Rio Cafe at 9:50 a.m. Dress for weather. Bring lunch, water, $2 carpool. Rain cancels. Leader: Beverly Meschi, 475-4185.

**Tuesday, January 27**
**HIKE: BLUFF CAMP**

This lovely 8-mile hike with 600’ elevation gain along the upper Carmel River with one unbridged crossing. Lunch beside the river at Bluff Camp. Bring water & lunch. Leave at 9:40 a.m. sharp from Rio Road Park & Ride. Call for a reservation. Leader: Lynn Bomberger, 375-7777.

**Wednesday, January 28**
**HIKE: CASTLE ROCK**

This is a drive up Hwy. 9 to this park on Skyline Blvd. but well worth it for the views of Monterey Bay and spectacular rock outcroppings. This park and its Goat Rock are well known by rock climbers. Our 9-mile hike takes us down to Castle Rock Falls and to the campground for lunch. We’ll return through madrone and oak chaparral on the Ridge Trail. The weathering of the sandstone gives it a honeycomb texture called “tafoni” which is found in only a few places in the world. Bring lunch and water. Meet at Sears 41st Ave. at 9:00 a.m. (carpool $4) or in the parking lot of the park at 10:20 a.m. Leader: Diane Cornell, 423-5925.

**Saturday, January 31**
**HIKE: WINDY HILL**

Windy Hill is west of Palo Alto. We’ll do a perimeter loop of 12-11 miles with 1700’ elevation gain (up and down Skyline Ridge). Meet at 9:30 a.m. at the Santa Cruz County Government Center to carpool. Call Nick for additional information. Leader: Nick Wyckoff, 462-3101.

**Sunday, February 1**
**HIKE: SOBERANES CREEK/ROCKY RIDGE**

We’ll follow the Soberanes Creek Trail into a verdant redwood grove, then climb steeply to grassy knolls for great views at lunch. We’ll descend Rocky Ridge with more fine views, 5-mile loop with 1700’ elevation gain. Boots recommended; hiking poles helpful. Bring water and lunch. Meet at Rio Road Park & Ride at 9:30 a.m. to carpool. Call for reservation. Leader: DJ Goehring, 277-9908.

**Friday, February 6**
**HIKE: PINNACLES**

Starting on the west side, we’ll hike an 8-mile circle that takes in the highlights of this fascinating National Monument: Juniper Canyon, High Peaks, Balconies and Caves. Expect wonderful views and moderately strenuous terrain that includes narrow, steep and maybe wet stretches. Leisurely pace. Bring lunch, water, sturdy shoes and a flashlight for the caves. Meet at MPC parking lot A at 10:00 a.m. (bring change for parking) or Chinquapin parking lot, West Pinnacles, at 10:00 a.m. (National Park Service entrance fee). Rain cancels. Leader: Cath Farrant and Mary Dainton 372-7427.

**Saturday, February 7**
**HIKE: TOPO PARK**

A good time to hike this park. It is one that is sizzler in the summer. It will be a long challenging and beautiful hike. Early start and plan to spend the whole day. You must call me a week in advance for meeting place and time or call will not be returned. Leader: Esperanza Hernandez, 678-1968.

**Tuesday, February 3**
**HIKE: NISENE MARKS**

See Tuesday, January 20 for details.

**Wednesday, February 4**
**HIKE: PINNACLES**

Now that the weather has cooled is the best time to visit my favorite place to hike! Always wonderful views, amazing geologic formations, and usually dryer than the coast. 10 miles with 1200’ elevation gain. Bring food and water. Call leader for carpool information. No rain cancellation! Leader: John Howerton, 476-4233.

**Tuesday, February 7**
**HIKE: JAC’S PEAK**

We’ll walk around Jac’s Peak clockwise, starting at the elementary school on Olimstead Road (near Monterey airport). 6 miles with less than 1000’ elevation gain. Beautiful views of Monterey and Point Lobos. Bring water and lunch. Heavy rain cancels, drizzly doesn’t count. Dress for winter weather. Confirm by calling. Leader: Anneliese Suter, 624-1467.

**Sunday, February 8**
**HIKE: PINNACLES**

This National Monument is famous for open spaces, for abundant wildlife, and for its spring-time wildflowers. Fences significantly restrict the movement of the resident pronghorn antelope, and we will modify and remove fences for their benefit. Welcome hike on April 5, three and a half days of service, and a full day for exploring the monument. Use of accommodations at Goodwin Ranch included. Limited to 12 participants; $30 covers 5 dinners. For more information, contact: Craig Deutche, deutche@earthlink.net, or co-leader Melinda Goodwater, 408-774-1257, email: mgoodwater@sbcglobal.net.

**Sunday - Friday, April 5 - 10**
**SERVICE TRIP: CARRIZO PLAIN**

This is a great opportunity for Sierra Club members and friends to spend the week in the Carrizo Plain National Monument. For more information contact: Bruce Kisbler, 408-472-4478 Kishler@sbcglobal.net.

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**ATTENTION: Potential Advertisers!**

**Sierra Club Member Profile**

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

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

**Sierra Club Members are Great Prospects**

Median Age: 41
Male/Female: 63% / 37%
Median Household Income: $56,227
Attended/Graduated College: 81%
Professional/Technical/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 times more active

**Oceanside Activities**

Surfing 3 times more active than the average adult
Snorkeling 5 times more active
Scuba Diving 5 times more active

**Discovering Sierra Club Members**

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

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**The Bird Feeder A Birder’s Emporium**

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Ventana Chapter Candidates

Susan Van Stirum

Childhood explorations in the Catskill Mountains taught me to value the wilderness and its magical power to heal what ails one and lift one’s spirit. Later I joined the clean air movement, energized by youthful enthusiasm and the start of both the EPA and Citizens for Clean Air. Our campaign to convert New York City building incinerators to compactors resulted in legislation mandating this change.

From this endeavor I learned that change is both possible and slow, as many who talk of environmental progress are not ready to act. Though proud of our accomplishment, I was ready to move on to an eclectic career in non-profits and in nursing, and am now a Health and Well- ness Coach.

Moving to the Monterey Peninsula in 1980, I have delighted in the awe-inspiring natural beauty which surrounds us here. I find I cannot promote human wellness without working for the health of the environment which sustains us.

This is why I would be honored to work with the Sierra Club’s Ventana Chapter to help protect the land, air, and water which give us so much. Thank you so much for your consideration.

Dale M. Agron

I treasure this region and its wealth of biological resources. I have lived in Monterey County for 43 years and have worked as a registered nurse and later as an elementary school teacher. I have a B.A. in Liberal Studies, a teaching credential from San Jose State University, and a Master’s Degree in Special Education from Chapman University.

My daily commutes have given me a deep appreciation of the beauty of this diverse county. I bring a broad perspective of the Central California region due to 31 years of experience on the executive boards of environmental and service organizations. As secretary of the Monterey Bay Chapter of the California Native Plant Society, I campaigned for the formation of the California Coastal Commission. I have been a member of the Ventana Chapter for over 40 years and was an active member of the Transportation Committee which successfully fought the infamous Hatton Canyon Freeway through Carmel.

After retiring from teaching, I served two terms as secretary of the Rising Leaf Watershed Arts Board and worked educating the public on watershed preservation. It would be an honor to serve on the Ex-Com working for the residents and environment of Monterey County.

Ed Thornton

I am a Distinguished Professor Emeritus at the Naval Postgraduate School in the Oceanography Department where I have taught and researched for the past 40 years. My expertise is the physical processes in the nearshore ocean, which includes societal problems such as beach erosion, ocean pollution and beach safety. I have studied beaches throughout the world, and I am the recognized expert on the physical aspects of beaches in southern Monterey Bay and Carmel.

I was an author of the Regional Sediment Management Plan for southern Monterey Bay that was just adopted by AMBAG (The Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments) this month. We have been recognized by my peers by receiving the International Coastal Engineering Award for 2007, which is the highest award accorded in my profession, and the Citizen of the Year Award for 2007 by the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary.

I have been a member of the Sierra Club for 40 years. I have followed the local issues and support the environmental efforts of the Ventana Chapter. I would work to support the broad general goals of the chapter and bring focus to solving problems confronting beaches, dunes, estuaries and wetlands in the Ventana Chapter area.

Please recycle this paper again
Tense budget negotiations and friction in the State Capitol made 2008 a tough year for environmental solutions. A few bipartisan measures were enacted to protect California families, but many other worthy bills were either stopped short of enactment or vetoed by the Governor.

**Bills passed**

AB 1879 grants the Department of Toxic Substances Control sweeping new authority to keep hazardous chemicals out of toys, packaging, furniture, and other consumer products.

AB 2347 requires manufacturers to establish and fund a program to recycle thermostats containing mercury, a potent neurotoxin.

AB 2911, responding to the Cosco Busan oil spill, promises to shore up the State’s prevention, response and mitigation of future spills, and to improve the number and training of volunteers used in rescuing oiled wildlife.

**Bills vetoed**

AB 2447 would have required a city or county to make a finding of adequate fire protection before approving subdivisions.

SB 974 would have assessed a fee on shipping containers and used the revenues to fund improvements in air quality and transportation around the mega-ports of Los Angeles, Long Beach, and Oakland.

SB 1113 would have given environmental and consumer attorneys who sue polluters more power to hire expert witnesses by allowing recovery of those costs when they win cases important to the public interest.

### Sierra Club California report cards State legislators

Most California Democratic legislators voted consistently to protect our air, water and wild places, while the vast majority of their Republican counterparts continued to be obstacles to environmental progress.

Sierra Club California tracked the votes of California’s Assemblymembers and Senators, recording each Earth-friendly vote as a positive score. From toxics prevention to water conservation to environmental education, the measures addressed many of California’s most urgent 2008 environmental priorities.

Statewide, 15 senators and 27 Assemblymembers scored 100% green, all of them Democrats. Senator Joe Simitian and Assemblymember John Laird each received a 100% score.

Republican Senator Abel Maldonado Jr. voted with the environment only 4 out of 7 times, making him the highest-scoring Republican in the California Senate. Senator Jeff Denham received an eco zero.

To see the complete scorecard visit www.sierraclubcalifornia.org.

### Hazardous chemicals to be kept out of toys

In Yerba, Boy Scouts and Camp Unalayee I hiked in the Sierra, Trinity Alps and the Cascades. As part of the Stanford Alpine Club, I rock climbed in Yosemite Valley and did extensive mountaineering throughout the West. I continue to cross-country ski and hike with my sons and friends.

I have a BS in Geology and a BA in Environmental Studies from UCSC. My college internship was at Yosemite NP where I wrote an environmental impact report on snowmobile use (and abuse).

I present a weekly environmental news show on Free Radio Santa Cruz (101.1 FM and www.freakradio.org) Thursday evenings at 9:00 p.m.

### Santa Cruz Group Candidates

#### Mark Sullivan

I appreciate the leadership that the Executive Committee provides regarding a wide range of environmental issues confronting the Central Coast. I believe that prioritizing and addressing these important issues create the basis for developing and implementing an environmentally- and socially-sustainable future.

As an avid outdoor sports enthusiast, I have always been interested in a wide variety of environmental issues. I am a resident of Capitola, where my wife Kristin and I constructed a straw-bale home run by the sun. We have regular home tours that focus on educating the public about the principles of green building and sustainable design. To date, we have had over 5,000 people tour our home.

Professionally, I am an environmental attorney, and I represent clients involved in matters such as land use issues, environmental justice litigation, and contaminated properties. I also teach environmental law courses at De Anza Community College.

Thank you for your consideration, and let me know if you are interested in a home tour!

#### Kevin Collins

I have served two terms on the Executive Committee and am running for reelection. My personal work centers on County Planning review, water resources, forest conservation, and salmon recovery.

I joined the Santa Club Forestry Committee in 1997. My life-long fascination with nature motivates my involvement. The reason I wish to continue on the Sierra Club Santa Cruz Group Executive Committee is to strengthen the Sierra Club’s diverse efforts and to solve problems facing our forests, streams, and the wildlife dependent on them. The fate of the myriad wildlife and plants native to these mountains determines ecosystem health for us all.

I face major difficulties with local planning and zoning decisions, and we need new solutions to cope with ever-increasing demands for basic resources like clean water. I am the Board President of the Lompico Watershed Conservancy, an incorporated nonprofit. The Conservancy has been very effective and coordinates with the Sierra Club. I bring a statewide perspective from work with conservation activists across Northern California. My position on the County Fish and Game Advisory Commission and experience with advocacy and review of the State Resources Agencies and State Water Board decisions also benefit the Sierra Club.

#### Dennis P. Davie

I have served on the Santa Cruz Group Executive Committee for the past three years. I have been a member of the Santa Cruz Group Forestry Task Force since 2003. I am serving as the Ventana Chapter representative on the Light Brown Apple Moth Environmental Advisory Committee. In this role I was influential in requiring the California Department of Food and Agriculture to write an Environmental Impact Report on pheromone spraying.

My love of the wild woods and streams began at an early age. My father loved to fish and took our family camping often. In YMCA, Boy Scouts and Camp Unalayee I hiked in the Sierra, Trinity Alps and the Cascades. As part of the Stanford Alpine Club, I rock climbed in Yosemite Valley and did extensive mountaineering throughout the West. I continue to cross-country ski and hike with my sons and friends.

I have a BS in Geology and a BA in Environmental Studies from UCSC. My college internship was at Yosemite NP where I wrote an environmental impact report on snowmobile use (and abuse).

I present a weekly environmental news show on Free Radio Santa Cruz (101.1 FM and www.freakradio.org) Thursday evenings at 9:00 p.m.

#### Charles Paulden

From the first time I went camping in Yosemite to the last time I went surfing, I have had an intimate relationship with the Natural World and a commitment to preserving and enhancing it.

In college I promoted preservation of open spaces, farmland, and living easy on the Earth to offset the pressures towards war.

I have worked with the Sierra Club Executive Committee, the Growth Committee, ORCA, TFTF, People for the Preservation of Plesant Point, Live Oak Neighbors, Save Lighthouse Field, No Wingspread, Save Porter Gulch, Nisene to the Sea, No on J, People Power, Stop the Seawall, Save The Windbreak, Save the Roadhouse, and Rail Trail advocates.

I support pro-environment leaders who promote environmentally-focused land use, where the health of the natural environment is the primary focus of planning. Good planning follows the General Plan, preserves waterways as parks and open space, directs storm water into retaining areas to be cleaned and filtered through the soil micro-organisms to recharge our water tables.

I support Sierra Club’s Growth Guidelines: higher density urban centers close to civic amenities along transportation networks while protecting farmland and open space.

I am a landscape contractor and Yoga therapist.

### Please note

**Ventana Chapter Candidate bios are on page 13.**

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To change address by email: address.changes@sierraclub.org

Membership inquiries: membership.services@sierraclub.org
Voting Instructions and Executive Committee Ballot

Review candidate statements on pages 13 and 14 and mark your ballot below.
Mail THIS ENTIRE PAGE using a recycled envelope from junk mail with a new label you affix. (Be sure to mark out the computer code on the envelope bottom.)
The ballot must be postmarked by January 2.
For joint memberships, mark a vote in both columns.
After you mark your ballot, TEAR OFF THIS ENTIRE PAGE and mail to Sierra Club, Ex-Com Elections, c/o The Mattersons, 212 1st Street, Pacific Grove, CA 93950. The mailing label on the back of this page ensures that the vote has come from a valid member of the Club. Ballots and mailing labels will be separated to ensure a secret ballot.

Ventana Chapter
Both Santa Cruz and Monterey members may vote for these
Write ups on p. 13 ♦ ♦ Vote for up to 3

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<th>candidate</th>
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Santa Cruz Group
Only Santa Cruz members may vote for these
Write ups on p. 14 ♦ ♦ Vote for up to 3

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What does the Executive Committee do?
The members of the Executive Committee make Chapter and Group policy for the Club. These representatives meet each month to discuss issues and hear reports from subcommittees such as the Conservation Committee, Transportation Committee, and the Forestry Committee. Executive Committee members make financial decisions and supervise local Club operations such as budget and fundraising.

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Meetings Schedule

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<tr>
<th>Ventana Chaper (Monterey Co.)</th>
<th>Santa Cruz Regional Group</th>
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<tr>
<td>Information: 824-8032</td>
<td>Information: 426-4453</td>
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<tr>
<td>Executive Committee:</td>
<td>Meeting Place: Sierra Club Office, 1001 Center St., Santa Cruz, Suite 11.</td>
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<td>Last Thursday of the month; Call for meeting place &amp; time.</td>
<td>Executive Committee: Wednesday, January 14 at 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, February 11 at 7:00 p.m.</td>
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<td>Conservation Committee:</td>
<td>Conservation Committee: Call Conservation Chair for meeting times and dates: 788-8187</td>
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<td>As needed.</td>
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<td>For dates and times call 655-8586</td>
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Please recycle this paper again
“Walk the Sequoia woods at any time of year and you will say they are the most beautiful and majestic on earth.”
—John Muir, The Mountains of California

The giants of Yosemite’s Mariposa Grove dwarf the snowshoer.

Belted Kingfisher

New State Wilderness

DEC - FEB OUTINGS

Explore, enjoy and protect the planet