Gas in Our Homes is a Health and Safety Risk

By: Matt Gough, Senior Campaign Representative for Sierra Club's My Generation campaign, and Yassi Kavezade, Community Organizer, My Generation Campaign, Southern California, Inland Valley

Sixty percent of homes in the state that cook at least once a week with a gas stove can reach pollutant levels that would be illegal if found outdoors. On top of that, homes with gas stoves have higher instances of childhood asthma - a recent study found that up to 12% of childhood asthma cases could be attributed to exposure to gas stoves. SoCalGas is doing everything in their power to protect their profits, including sacrificing the health and safety of Californians.

• Gas pipelines are particularly vulnerable to natural disasters. In the event of a fire, earthquake, or flood, gas pipelines are liable to rupture, catch fire, or explode. The dozens of high profile gas leaks, fires, and explosions in CA over the past few years are testament enough. From SCG’s Aliso Canyon gas leak that had a worse carbon footprint than the Deep Water Horizon leak, to the San Bruno gas line explosion that decimated a neighborhood, we have more than enough evidence to see that gas has no place in our buildings or our communities.

Resolutions calling for “balanced energy solutions” are thinly veiled ploys the gas industry is using in an attempt to preserve the use of their dangerous, dirty, and increasingly expensive fuel.

• Gas is becoming increasingly expensive. As our state electrifies our appliances and decarbonizes our grid, gas use will shrink and its costs will be spread over fewer communities, who will end up paying more. A recent study by E3 shows that low income communities will be hit the hardest by rising gas prices. SoCalGas and their front group, Californians for balanced energy solutions, are only concerned with preserving the gas status quo, despite the fact that their efforts will hit CA’s most vulnerable communities the hardest.

Continued on Page 2 >>>

Be sure to get your Online Palm and Pine by subscribing here: https://sangorgonio2.sierraclub.org/publications/newsletters

As I write this (August 2) we are a little more than a month from the deadline to accept Executive Committee (ExCom) candidate requests from our membership. At this time, we have three potential candidates for four openings on the Executive Committee and need at least one more candidate (more than one would be good) to ensure that our ExCom operates at full size for 2020.

The San Gorgonio Chapter, as of June 2019, has 7,163 members and if you were to list the “active” members (Group ExCom, Outings Leaders, various committee members, etc.) you would find about 7,000 people did not make it to the list.

We need one or two of those 7,000 people to step forward for this election. If you want to get your name into the hat you can contact me, Dave Barrie, at barriemail@mac.com And if you need more information to help you decide if you want to be a candidate you can contact me for that as well.

Once again, Chapter and Group volunteers are responsible for our accomplishments and the work that we do to protect the environment. This is one of the important ways you can help make a difference.
Gas in Our Homes . . . Continued from Page 1

- All-electric homes can be cheaper to build than gas-heated buildings — and they can lower monthly utility bills for residents and businesses. Ensuring all new construction is built without gas hookups will help developers build more quickly and affordably as there will be no need for new costly gas infrastructure — an advantage in California’s ongoing housing crisis. A recent analysis by the Statewide Utility Codes and Standards Team found that building all-electric reduced construction costs on average $5,000 for single-family homes and over $2,000 per unit in a multi-family building.

- SoCalGas’s attempt to slow walk the clean energy revolution through resolutions designed to hinder all electric design, construction, and retrofits is a dangerous and irresponsible reaction to the threats of climate change, housing affordability, and public health. These resolutions, introduced by SoCalGas front group, Californians for balanced energy solutions, have no place in local governance - it’s up to us to educate communities, elected, and relevant stakeholders about the dangers of gas and the benefits of electrification for the sake of climate change, housing affordability, and public safety.

**SIERRA CLUB 2020 CALENDARS**

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Wilderness Wall Calendar
Spiral bound, month-by-month format, featuring 12 majestic North American landscapes.

Sierra Club 2020
Engagement Calendar
Week-by-week format, featuring 57 spectacular photographs and “wire-o” binding.

Save the shipping cost!* Buy your calendars at the October chapter meeting!!

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**Palm and Pine**

ISSN 1090-9974
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Sierra Club, Change of Address PO Box 421041, Palm Coast, FL 32142-1041

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If you wish to have your photos or disks returned, please include a stamped, self-addressed envelope. Outings must be submitted to the appropriate Outings Chair.

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(Be sure to supply Membership number)

Membership Information
There is a membership coupon in this issue and address change information above. For other questions, contact the Sierra Club at (415) 977-5500 or ralphsalisbury@att.net

Palm and Pine

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Week-by-week format, featuring 57 spectacular photographs and “wire-o” binding.

Save the shipping cost!**

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Summers in our Inland Valleys often come with triple digit temperatures. As they rise we also see an increase in bad air quality days for our communities. This year alone we have had over 40 days in a row with warnings for Bad Air Quality for ozone, the source of smog. Last summer we experienced over 90 bad air quality days continuing all the way into October. The cause and proliferation of ground level ozone, which is completely different than the ozone layer, is well known and preventable.

Join us at our September Chapter meeting to learn about what causes smoggy air and what you can do to stop the increase of deadly pollution in our communities. UC Riverside Professor of Chemical Engineering Dr. Sunni Ivey will explain how smog works and the serious health hazards we face here in the Inland Empire. She is a supporter of the Sierra Club My Generation Campaign, Sierra Club locally and at the national level supports our efforts in the Inland Valley to stop pollution in our skies as well as promote opportunities to get off of fossil fuels. Come learn more about how we can move towards renewable solutions for local transportation, power, and buildings.

Meetings are free and open to the public. Doors open at 7:00 pm so come early and mingle!

### The California Deal:
Making it Stronger and Greener for Everyone

Sierra Club California 2019 Summit
Pasadena City College • October 26, 2019

Sierra Club California will host its annual summit in a new one-day format in Pasadena on Saturday, October 26. This year’s theme is The California Deal.

California has been a national leader in cutting climate pollution and innovating environmental policy. How can we do even better going forward and ensure the state creates a fair and just transition to good paying jobs while we all gain access to clean air, clean water and sustainable transportation options.

Leading California activists and policy experts will guide discussions on improving the California Deal as the Green New Deal gains momentum nationally.

Don’t miss this reboot of Sierra Club California’s annual summit.

Seating is limited! Register early.

Location: Pasadena City College - Crevelling Lounge
Date: October 26 from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm
Cost: $20 in advance; $30 at the door
More information: [http://SierraClub.org/California/Summit](http://SierraClub.org/California/Summit)
This report from the Santa Margarita Group (SMG) is both a look backward to tell of our successes and a look forward to our plans for next year.

The Rear View Mirror

The first thing in our virtual rear-view mirror is our third “Earth Day Fair” held for the second year at the Vail Ranch Headquarters heritage site on April 6th. Organizing and promoting such events reinforces the message that the Sierra Club advocates for the environment and raises awareness of the fragility of the earth, its wildlife and the nature around us. The events themselves offer the general public the opportunity to engage with people who can discuss how environmentalism and healthy living go hand in hand. The SMG was also one of 20 organizations with a booth at the Soboba Tribe’s Earth Day at The Oaks Retreat football field on the Soboba Reservation on April 18th. The beauty of the site itself, at the foot of the green, majestic San Jacinto Mountains, gave participants an up-close appreciation of nature at its best.

Events such as these provide an opportunity for what in Sierra Club parlance is called “tabling” — simply, staffing a table and offering information to those attending. This year volunteers tabled on behalf of the SMG at the first Rooted in Nature Craft Brew Festival at Marna O’Brien Park in Wildomar on Saturday, May 18th. This event was a fund-raiser for the Santa Rosa Plateau Nature Education Foundation, affiliated with the Santa Rosa Plateau Ecological Reserve, often the site for educational activities organized by the SMG.

Our speaker at a General Meeting on June 13th was Billie Beckley, a Master’s Degree student in Marine Ecology at CSU San Diego. Her presentation, titled “A Sea of Change, Getting to the Point of Point Loma’s Kelp Forests,” revealed to the audience of 20–plus how crucial kelp is to the ocean’s ecology, which was very informative.

Open Mouth, Insert Food and Drink!

For the second year SMG members enjoyed an end-of-year potluck picnic on June 30th at the Santa Rosa Plateau. The agenda was to sit and chat with each other in a relaxed setting, ingest food and drink (non-alcoholic) and to remember to bring reusable utensils, plates and cups for a minimum of trash. The 20 or so who attended admirably achieved two of these goals—and will work on the third for the future.

Eating and drinking weren’t the main draw at our recent Wildlife Art Show and Speaker Series, but they sure helped in their enjoyment! The unique scratch art of Heather Lara was showcased at the Gallery at Warner Springs, which ran from May 3rd through the end of July. As a tie-in, there were Saturday afternoon presentations by experts from three organizations: the Wildlife Research Institute; the Santa Margarita Ecological Reserve and The Nature Conservancy. Donations were requested for the lectures to cover wine, appetizers and speakers.

The monies thus collected were distributed from each presentation as follows: $180 to the speakers from the Wildlife Research Institute and the next two, $300 and $400, to the Southern California Mountain Lion project, at the request of the presenters.

In our Crystal Ball

We predict that our efforts at providing venues for big cats and other critters to roam more freely across mountain ranges will soon begin to pay off. The SMG has moved closer to making the confluence of rivers under the I-15 overpass in Temecula a more functional wildlife crossing by actively partnering with the San Diego arm of The Nature Conservancy (TNC). With our input, TNC has applied for a Wildlife Conservation Board grant, after getting a go-ahead at the pre-application level. If approved, monies totalizing about $500,000 will fund tasks to make the underpass more inviting to wildlife, help to lead animals to it and discourage human habitation in the area.

We also predict that the Executive Committee and other interested members will participate in the second planning meeting of the summer on the morning of August 15th. We encourage all members of the SMG to attend; for details on the time and place contact SMG Chair, Pam Nelson at pamnelson05n@yahoo.com, or call 951-767-2324.

In September we resume our regular ExCom meetings and general membership meetings and programs. The ExCom meets on the Tuesday prior to the second Thursday of the month. The next general meeting will be held on September 12th at the Ronald H. Roberts Temecula Public Library, 30600 Pauba Rd, beginning at 6:00 with social time, 6:30 a brief business meeting and a speaker at 7:00. The Executive Committee returns to 10:00 am meetings on September 10th at the Bureau of Reclamation, Southern California Area Office (SCAO), 27226 Via Industria Ste. A, Temecula, CA 92590. Again, all are encouraged to attend.

We welcome your interest and participation in our activities. For more information go to:

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/SierraClubSantaMargaritaGroup
Website: https://www.sierraculbsmg.org/
Meetup: https://www.meetup.com/Outdoor-Families/
The Moreno Valley Group plans to have an information table at the November 16th meeting of the neighboring Save Our Forest Group. He will be enlightening us with what's happening that night while enjoying the movie. We will be sharing information about recycling and reusable products to reduce our dependence on plastics.

Here is some updated information on projects we are following:

**Gilman Springs Road (GSR):** Allows one to drive from Moreno Valley to the San Jacinto/Hemet area on a mainly two lane road. Right now you can enjoy driving along Mystic Lake and other lands which are part of the 10,000 acre Davis unit of the San Jacinto Wildlife Area (SJWA) and there is also open space at the 9,500 acre disjointed Potrero unit of the SJWA to the east of Gilman Springs Road near Highway 79. Endangered/threatened species as well as others that are protected under the Riverside County Multi-Species Plan use all of these important lands, but they may need to cross Gilman Springs Road and have access to both habitat lands. The Sierra Club and other environmental groups have been trying to have a meeting with Riverside County about their planned improvements to Gilman Springs Road to make sure they allow for safe animal crossings/connecivity. They are currently spending major money to upgrade Gilman Springs Road at this time, to make it safer for those who will use it when they shutdown portions of SR-60 through the Badlands to add a truck lane. They are, however, trying to this time, to make it safer for those who will use it when they shutdown portions of SR-60 through the Badlands to add a truck lane. They are, however, trying to

Moreno Valley General Plan Update: The city of Moreno Valley is in the process of updating its current general plan. If you would like to be added to their list, take part in this process and add your concerns and comments, please send your email address to all of the following: Moreno Valley City Clerk (Pat Jacquez-Naes, CityClerk@moval.org) and cc the MV community Development Director (Richard Sandizimier, richardsa@moval.org) and the city Planning Official (Patty Nevins, pattynr@moval.org).

_Brodiaea Commerce Center warehouse settlement:_ The City approved the Brodiaea Commerce Center warehouse (near SW corner of Alessandro Blvd and Heacock St) directly across the street from 13 family homes. Just like the larger Moreno Valley Logistic Center (MLC) across the street from 31 homes, the Sierra Club worked with the developer to better protect the residents. As with the MVL, this developer agreed to provide each homeowner a state of the art $18,000 HVAC and air filtration system with a 10 year maintenance agreement to help protect them from the toxic diesel pollution generated by the project. The developer also agreed to better protect the homeowners with enhanced landscaping and restrictions on truck movement. Many other items in the settlement will better protect all of us from increased air pollution/greenhouse gas—such as the installation of EV chargers.

World Logistics Center (WLC): The 40.6 sq ft World Logistic Center (WLC) warehouse project would cover 2,610 acres, an area larger than three New York Central Parks. The Superior Court ruled in the environmental community’s favor in June 2018 on several issues, but we lost on the very important Greenhouse Gas (GHG) issue. On May 20, 2019, our Earthjustice attorneys, who are also representing the San Bernardino Valley Audubon Society, Center for Biological Diversity, Center for Community Action and Environmental Justice and Coalition for Clean Air, filed their opening brief to appeal the Superior Courts decision solely as it relates to the faulty GHG analysis. The City and the project developer, Highland Fairview, has filed a cross-appeal of the Superior Court’s decision and have been granted an extension until mid-August to file.

**Villages of Lakeview (VOL):** A coalition of environmental groups represented by Center for Biological Diversity has challenged the Riverside County Board of Supervisor’s approval of this 8,725-unit development on the south edge of the San Jacinto Wildlife area. A hearing on the merits of the lawsuit is tentatively set for August.

**Donations Needed:** Your donations are essential to our litigation against the Villages of Lakeview and the World Logistics Center as well as other projects in our area. Make checks payable to “Sierra Club” with a notation for WLC and/or VOL or other. Please send to: Sierra Club — Moreno Valley Group, P.O. Box 1325, Moreno Valley, CA 92556-1325. We sincerely appreciate and thank all of you who have taken time to donate to the litigation fund! We appreciate your generous donations.

Summer is in full swing up here in the mountains. Our Xeriscape Tour and booth at the Community Gardens was a success in July. We are going to skip a year and bring it back in 2021. We’ll be setting up our booth at the festivities of the “Forest Festival” celebrating Smokey Bear’s 75th birthday on August 17th at the Barton Flats Information Center. Our August General Meeting speaker will be Robin Eliason, the head biologist for the San Bernardino National Forest. She will be sharing information about the mountain wildlife and focusing on the Bald Eagles. It should be a wonderful learning experience for everyone!

September General Meeting will be a “Movie Night” with the National Geographic movie “Sharks.” We will be serving free popcorn and beverages that night while enjoying the movie.

Our October General Meeting speaker is Dr. Hugh Bialecki from our neighboring Save Our Forest Group. He will be enlightening us with what’s happening, environmentally, on the mountain and give us an update on the Nestlé company that is still taking water from Strawberry Creek.

So come join us at the Discovery Center every third Thursday of the month at 6:30pm! Free refreshments are always available.

Seeking Nominees

Our Executive Committee (“ExCom”), is seeking nominees to join our Big Bear Group. If elected, the term of office is for two years. We meet once a month in an ExCom member’s home here in the Bear Valley. We truly welcome new ideas and new board members to energize our Sierra Club group. If you’re at all interested, please email me at jcricket47@yahoo.com or call 909.585.1062. The deadline to submit your nomination is SEPTEMBER 6th. I look forward to hearing from you!  — Ellen Kesler, Group Chairwoman
Love the Redwoods? Find Out Who Really Saved Them at Our October Chapter Meeting!

The big lesson of their book is that caring and committed citizens could protect a natural area when it was generally not considered possible for government to act against powerful economic interests such as the lumber industry.

Their book grew out of a study of California’s state park system – Beyond Crisis: Recapturing Excellence in California’s State Park System – that James wrote for the California Little Hoover Commission in 2013. Said the Wasserman’s, “… we found to our great amazement a wonderful, inspirational story of a multitude of women, locally, statewide and nationally, who fought powerful lumber interests to save more than 30,000 acres of Northern California redwoods from 1913 through 1934. “We made this lost history of women’s conservation efforts in the redwood forests the primary focus of our book, with the intention of restoring credit where it is due. Throughout this period that marked the beginning of the modern environmental movement, women and the men they worked with through the Save the Redwoods League and Sierra Club, held to a powerful ideal of civilization in which the wonders of nature are not destroyed but passed intact to future generations.”

Laura Wasserman is a long-time institutional researcher and research coordinator in the private and public sectors. Her professional experience includes extensive business market analysis and polling for national opinion research, political campaigns and environmental issues. She has experience in evaluation of local, state and federal government programs and comprehensive report writing in California and Alaska.

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The Wassermans lived in the San Gorgonio Chapter area from 1983 to 1986, one year in Upland and two in Palm Springs when James was city editor of The Desert Sun. Since 2001 they have lived in the Sacramento area.

Island Hopping in Channel Islands National Park

August 18-20, September 22-24, October 20-22

Join us for a 3-day, 3-island, live-aboard tour of the enchanting Channel Islands. Hike wild, windswept trails bordered by blazing wildflowers. Kayak rugged coastlines. Marvel at pristine waters teeming with frolicking seals and sea lions. Train your binoculars on unusual sea and land birds—and an occasional whale. Watch for the endangered island fox. Look for reminders of the Chumash people who lived on these islands for thousands of years. Or, just relax at sea. This cruise departs from Santa Barbara. The cost, $730, includes an assigned bunk and all meals, snacks, and beverages. Kayaking will be overseen by our concessionaire; all hikes will be on trails, class 1 terrain. This trip is a fundraiser to support the Sierra Club political program in California. To reserve space send a $200 check, written to California Sierra Club PAC to Joan Jones Holtz, 11826 The Wye St., El Monte, CA 91732.

For more information contact leaders:
Joan Jones Holtz: jholtzhln@aol.com; 626-443-0706
Wayne Vollaire: avollaire1@gmail.com; 909-327-6825

Palm and Pine

Love the Redwoods? Find Out Who Really Saved Them at Our October Chapter Meeting!

MEETING DETAILS
Tuesday, October 1st • 7:30 PM
“Who Saved the Redwoods?"
Presented by Laura & James Wasserman
Program held at the
San Bernardino County Museum,
2024 Orange Tree Lane, Redlands
(California St. exit off I-10 Freeway)

Said the Wasserman’s, “… we found to our great amazement a wonderful, inspirational story of a multitude of women, locally, statewide and nationally, who fought powerful lumber interests to save more than 30,000 acres of Northern California redwoods from 1913 through 1934. “We made this lost history of women’s conservation efforts in the redwood forests the primary focus of our book, with the intention of restoring credit where it is due. Throughout this period that marked the beginning of the modern environmental movement, women and the men they worked with through the Save the Redwoods League and Sierra Club, held to a powerful ideal of civilization in which the wonders of nature are not destroyed but passed intact to future generations.”

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Island Hopping in Channel Islands National Park

August 18-20, September 22-24, October 20-22

Join us for a 3-day, 3-island, live-aboard tour of the enchanting Channel Islands. Hike wild, windswept trails bordered by blazing wildflowers. Kayak rugged coastlines. Marvel at pristine waters teeming with frolicking seals and sea lions. Train your binoculars on unusual sea and land birds—and an occasional whale. Watch for the endangered island fox. Look for reminders of the Chumash people who lived on these islands for thousands of years. Or, just relax at sea. This cruise departs from Santa Barbara. The cost, $730, includes an assigned bunk and all meals, snacks, and beverages. Kayaking will be overseen by our concessionaire; all hikes will be on trails, class 1 terrain. This trip is a fundraiser to support the Sierra Club political program in California. To reserve space send a $200 check, written to California Sierra Club PAC to Joan Jones Holtz, 11826 The Wye St., El Monte, CA 91732.

For more information contact leaders:
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