Obama – The Clear Choice in 2012
By Richard Isaac, New Jersey Chapter Political Chair (risaacx@aol.com)

The Sierra Club has endorsed President Obama for reelection in 2012. Since most Americans – including many Sierra Club members – may not be fully aware of the President’s environmental record, here is a partial list, compiled by the Club’s Political Team. The list is especially remarkable in light of the opposition from a Tea Party-Republican-controlled House of Representatives. For more detail, visit the Club’s website (www.sierraclub.org) and Google the site for “Obama’s Record.”

- The EPA, under Administrator Lisa Jackson, released new protections for toxic mercury from power plants.
- Proposed strengthening of fuel efficiency and carbon pollution standards for cars and light trucks to 54.5 mpg by 2025.
- Resistance to permitting the Keystone-XL pipeline that would carry oil manufactured from Canadian tar sands to export terminals in Louisiana and Texas.
- Cross-state Air Pollution standards that protect people from toxic emissions from plants located in other (up-wind) states hundreds of miles away.
- Through Executive Order 13514, the President established a greenhouse gas reduction goal of 26% by 2020, equivalent to taking 17 million cars off the road. It will save the federal government $8-11 billion in energy costs. The reductions are based on action plans of some 35 federal agencies. This was the first time that the federal government developed clean energy plans by agency.
- With green investments of close to $100 billion, the Recovery Act created good jobs for Americans, reduced dependence on dirtier energy sources, and promoted the shift to wind and solar power, high-energy-performance, low-carbon cars and buildings, mass transit, and a modernized water and transportation infrastructure.
- The Obama Administration protected 1 million acres around the Grand Canyon from uranium and other mining – for 20 years.
- The Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 will safeguard millions of acres of new wilderness, protect hundreds of miles of rivers, expand trails, and keep important habitat in Wyoming safe from oil and gas leasing.
- 7-year ban on new oil and gas leasing and drilling in Atlantic, eastern Gulf of Mexico, and the Pacific Oceans.

Paddle Along to Alaska at Our November Chapter Program

Brian Elliott will present his slide show, “Canoeing the Alaska North Slope” at the November 6 chapter meeting. The meeting starts at 7:30 PM at the San Bernardino County Museum, 2024 Orange Tree Lane, Redlands (California St. exit off 10 Fwy).

Brian witnessed several thousand caribou migrating across the area as well as spectacular with wildlife and scenery as the nearby Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Brian witnessed several thousand caribou migrating across the area as well as wolverine, grizzly bears, Arctic fox, wolves, and many nesting rough-legged hawks and peregrine falcons. He and his friends did not encounter any wildlife.

Continued on Page 2 > > >
Brian is a former geologist who is conservation. He has rock climbed extensively across North America, Europe, and Australia including big wall ascents of El Capitan and Half Dome in Yosemite. Brian was a member of a Himalayan climbing expedition in the mid-90s with a group of his friends in the Karakoram Mountains in Pakistan. His wife, Janice, always reminds people that Brian completed the Angeles Crest 100 Mile Run the summer that they met. She is an avid birding enthusiast and not-so-local birding areas. The past few summers have found them visiting Panama, Australia, and southeast Arizona, pursuing this interest.

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Membership Information
There is a membership coupon in this issue and address change information above. For other questions, contact the Sierra Club at (415) 977-5663 or ralphsalisbury@att.net

POSTMASTER:
Send address changes to: Palm and Pine
Sierra Club San Gorgonio Chapter
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San Gorgonio Chapter Ballot
Please indicate your vote on this ballot, cut out and mail so it is received by November 26, 2012.
Mail to: Sierra Club
PO Box 708, Blue Jay, CA 92317-0708

Remember to print your name and address and sign your name on the outside of the envelope so ballots can be verified. If two ballots from a joint membership are enclosed, be sure to print names and address and for each ballot.

SAN GORGONIO CHAPTER BALLOT
(please vote for 4 or fewer)
I t’s Film Festival Time
Mark Thursday, November 15th at 6:30 for the Big Bear Environmental Film Festival.
We will show one to two films that feature the environment as the “star.” So bring a comfortable chair, some popcorn, even a blanket, and spend an evening at the Discovery Center for our annual Environmental Film Festival.

No Meeting in December
There is no general meeting in December due to the holidays. Check the Web site at www.sierrclubbigbeargroup.org for the new schedule for 2013 programs.

Big Bear Group Cancels Their Local Newsletter
The October newsletter was the last newsletter sent to members from the Sierra Club Big Bear Group. Members will still receive the Palm and Pine and the Sierra Magazine with their membership. With no one stepping forward to help out the Executive Committee, or to replace Christie Walker as president and newsletter editor, it was decided to scale down the club’s activities including the production of the newsletter. All club news will be disseminated via the Web site www.sierrclubbigbeargroup.org and through the e-mail blasts. Monthly meetings will be held starting in 2013.

October Elections
This year, we will be voting at the October meeting to elect our next Executive Committee members in addition to the mail-in ballot below. You can vote to up to 5. Mail your ballot to: P.O. Box 3048, Big Bear Lake, CA, 92315 or attend the October meeting to vote.

MOJAVE GROUP EXCOM ELECTION FOR 2012 - 2013

Please vote for up to five

Claudia Eads
Don Eads
Terry Gold
Ed Wallace
Glenda Atkins

Los Serranos Group
by Mary Ann Ruiz, Chair

Please indicate your vote on this ballot, cut out and mail so it is received by January 15, 2013.

Mail To: Joe Whyte
1404 Albright Ave.
Upland, CA 91786

Remember to print your name and address and sign your name on the outside of the envelope so ballot can be verified. If two ballots from a joint membership are enclosed, be sure to print name and address and sign for each ballot.

□ Dean Shimek
□ John St. Clair
□ Farley Olander

Los Serranos Group Ballot
Please vote for 3 or fewer

□ Dean Shimek
□ John St. Clair
□ Farley Olander

Los Serranos Group Ballot
Please vote for 3 or fewer

□ Dean Shimek
□ John St. Clair
□ Farley Olander

Mojave Group
by Jenny Wilder, Group Chair

I t’s that time of year again to send in your vote for the Executive Committee (ExCom) election. Please find the Mojave Group Ballot in this issue of the Palm and Pine, cast your vote and send it in by the deadline (November 30). The Mojave Group territory stretches across the Mojave Desert from Wrightwood to Needles. It is a large area and every bit of it needs your help! If you are able to help explore, enjoy and protect the Mojave Desert, please consider joining the group Executive Committee. We urge you to find out more by attending the monthly general meetings (2nd Wednesday of the month at 7 pm) and the ExCom meetings (usually held the Thursday before the general meeting at 7pm). Issues affecting your quality of life in the desert are as diverse as the Mojave Desert flora and fauna. What is your passion? Contact Jenny at JenOasis@aol.com or call 760 220 0730.

Our Outings Chair, Melody Nichols, continues to help plan hikes for every ability level, including 3 conditioning walks each week. Check it out in the OUTINGS section. We also have informal exploration hikes on Tuesdays.

Our Program Chair, Carol Wiley, has some interesting programs on hand for the upcoming meetings, including the movie “Mother: Caring for 7 Billion” and our annual Christmas Party pot luck (bring your own plate, cup, fork etc as well as a favorite dish to share. Also a “white elephant” gift for the gift exchange).

See our facebook page for details and updates on some of our activities (http://www.facebook.com/pages/Mojave-Group-Sierra-Club/128853927174168).

Do you like hiking? We invite you to help maintain current hiking opportunities and protect some places where there should be designated hiking trails. Hiking trails are more appropriate near desert riparian areas than motorized routes. We encourage you to let the Bureau of Land Management know that hiking trails are needed throughout the Mojave Desert and especially near large populations such as the Victor Valley. Here we are surrounded by superb opportunities in the Juniper Flats Area, Fairview Mountain, Bell Mountain, Granite Mountain, Calico Mountains, Ord Mountains and more, but there is a total lack of designated hiking trails. Please submit public comments by email at cawemopa@blm.gov or send them to Bureau of land Management, California Desert District, Attn: WEMO Plan Activity Amendment, 22835 Calle San Juan de Los Lagos, Moreno Valley, CA 92535. From the BLM web page: http://www.blm.gov/ca/en/fo/cdd/west_mojave_-_wemo.html.

See you soon at the meeting or on a hike!

Moreno Valley Group
by Ann Turner McKibbon, Secretary

Photo by Theresa Carson of the Hidden Springs Hike, September 2012

The Moreno Valley Group will be selling 2013 Sierra Club calendars this fall to support the Sierra Club. They make wonderful gifts for the holidays and their beautiful pictures are inspirational. Please contact Theresa Carson at tcarson01@gmail.com or (951) 660-7246 if you would like to buy the 2013 wall and engagement calendars.

The Moreno Valley Group is now on Facebook. Please look for us and check out our pictures and other news.

Release of the draft environmental impact report for the World Logistics Center (WLC) has been delayed due to the need to conduct more comprehensive traffic studies.

Continued on Page 4 > > >
and study other related impacts as such air quality. A September 6 Press-Enterprise article quotes Moreno Valley Planning Official John Terrell as implying the judge’s ruling on the Villages of Lakeview environmental impact report is causing some local opposition at the council meeting. Their issue was not wanting to circumvent the city’s existing general plan. Apparently, the council will consider another proposal including a general plan update early next year.

The Riverside County Board of Supervisors approved the reclassification of 260 acres of land, stating that the new project could be approved. Board Chair John Tavaglione voted yes. Supervisors Bob Buster and Jeff Stone voted no. It is interesting to consider that county residents worked to oppose this project yet the majority of the board of supervisors has, in essence, reversed it.

The Moreno Valley Group submitted comments on the Morro Lake View Ranch Specific Plan (SP366) draft environmental impact report. The proposed project would put 2,000 homes on land north of the Ramona Expressway and south of the San Jacinto Wildlife Area. For more information on the project, contact project manager Matt Strate, (951) 955-8631, e-mail mmstrate@edf.org.

There will be a bird walk at Laker Perist Recreation Area (LPSRA) on Saturday, November 10 at 9:00 a.m. Get there early. Free with parking permit ($10 per vehicle) or camping fees. For information call (951) 321-9812 or (951) 940-5657. The second Saturday in December is the usual starting date for bald eagle counts at Lake Perris. Specific dates are not available at this time, but the count goes from December through March; the group meets at the Museum at 8:00 a.m. Please check the LPSRA web page (http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=651) or call (951) 940-5657 for more information. Parking is limited on the Use of Golden Bear Pass (a $10 annual pass for age 62 and older) can be found at http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=23887. This annual pass may be purchased anytime during the year but is good only until December 31.

The Moreno Valley Group is looking for volunteers to help us accomplish our group priority goals (http://sangorgonio.sierriclub.org/moreno-valley/index.html) and increase outreach and membership. If you are interested in helping us and working to share information about our group, please e-mail us at: movalleygroup@yahoo.com or call Ann McKibbon at (951) 924-8105 or George Hague at (951) 924-0816.

WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT IN RIVERSIDE COUNTY?

There is now the very real possibility that Granite Construction will be digging and blasting Liberty Quarry in the Temecula footprint. That is, if they are approved by a significantly large and impressive segment of the local community. This opposition to Liberty Quarry has been going on for more than 7 years. When word got out about the proposed quarry, opponents gathered, marched, rallied, testified at public hearings, passed out petitions, wrote to the editor, sent emails and mailed letters. Easily hundreds of thousands of hours were spent expressing local opposition to Liberty Quarry. And the public followed all the rules set out by the County, the Riverside County Planning Commission held numerous public hearings, the public was informed of the project, public witnesses testified. The evidence was so overwhelming against Liberty Quarry that the Commissioners voted 4-1 to oppose the quarry. And then when the issue went to the Board of Supervisors for their final ruling, more public hearings were held with more members of the public and expert witnesses testifying. Afterwards the Board of Supervisors voted 3-2 to oppose the quarry. That should have been the end of Liberty Quarry, but not so...

In a surprise move, after denying the Liberty Quarry project, a majority of the supervisors took the unusual step of certifying the Environmental Impact Report, a critical part of the disputed quarry application, and then to make matters worse, they now plan to give the quarry status for “Fast-Track” approval. It is abundantly clear that Granite Construction has a lot of influence on some of the members of our Board of Supervisors.

But the real tragedy here is the simple fact that in Riverside County, the people who live in the Temecula Valley seem to have no voice in the workings of county government even when it is about an issue so vital to their welfare and the welfare of the community.

But here is Fred Bartz, our expert on Liberty Quarry, with the current details:

Fred Bartz, Political Committee Chair LIBERTY QUARRY IS BACK

After being denied by the Board of Supervisors, Granite Construction filed a new application for a "revised" Liberty Quarry (approximately twenty percent smaller) on July 25th. In their application Granite also requested that the quarry be “Fast-Tracked” through the County of Riverside’s approval process, something that was not previously allowed for Surface Mining Permits. One of the major objectives of Fast-Tracking is to bring jobs. On September 25th, after much testimony against the Fast-Tracking of Surface Mining Permits, the County Board of Supervisors voted 3-2 to approve adding Surface Mining, Energy and Solar Panel projects to the list of Fast-Track projects. The addition of Solar Panel projects was initially opposed by County Counsel due to “pending litigation.”

Major opposition to this change came from the City of Temecula, Pechanga Band of Luiseño Indians, the Temecula Valley Chamber of Commerce, and the Temecula Valley Convention and Visitors Bureau, and Save Our Southwest Hills. Most of the opposition was regarding that approving Liberty Quarry will not bring any new jobs, just relocate current jobs from other quarries as demand for aggregate (sand & gravel) is somewhat fixed. The proposed change to County ordinances now moves forward to the County's consent calendar. After the second approval, the changes take effect in thirty days. Next, the County would have to approve to put the Liberty Quarry project on the Fast-Track list, which could be in early November. Projects approved for Fast-Tracking could be approved in as little as one week in the case of Liberty Quarry, before the end of the year.

Pam Nelson, Conservation & Educational Outreach Committee Chair First starting with conservation, we submitted a grant proposal to the National Parks Service in August and we have just received word that the County of Riverside has agreed to grant was approved. The grant will provide technical assistance for our Trails Committee to form a coalition to create a trail system that is accessible for persons with disabilities. Marietta and Wildomar. The three cities are enthusiastic about the idea and are actively working on their own trails. The Coalition would be composed of interested and participating stakeholders and agencies.

And in our Educational Outreach Program, the Outdoor Families are off to a good start again. The Lake Skinner put-get-together on Sept. 14th was successful and attended by enthusiastic parents and children. We reviewed the proposed outings and asked for suggestions. We gathered for an impromptu outing at a U-pick ranch near Par's house on Sept. 21st where the children and parents gathered delicious apples, pears and jujubes. Our next outings are on Oct. 12th to the Wilderness Gardens in Pala, Nov. 9th to the Elfin Forest Reserve in Escondido and Palmar Mtn. on Dec. 14th.

Margaret Meyncke, Outings and Educational Outreach Committee Chair The first weekend in June, my husband John and I participated in the Sierra Club’s “Outing Leader Training Course” at Keller Avenue and south to Fie/Eucalyptus avenues. Comments from Councilmembers Batey and Hastings implied they were concerned about the proposal as were city residents who made comments at the council meeting. Their issue was not wanting to circumvent the city's existing general plan. Apparently, the council will consider another proposal including a detailed project report for information on others who have contributed. Please read the entire article for information on others who have contributed.  http://www.pe.com/local-news/riverside-county/moreno-valley/article for information on others who have contributed.

Sierra Club, Moreno Valley Group, P.O. Box 1325, Moreno Valley, CA 92556-1325. http://www.pe.com/local-news/riverside-county/moreno-valley/article

Please send your GREATLY APPRECIATED DONATIONS TO:
SIIERRA CLUB, MORENO VALLEY GROUP, P.O. BOX 1325, MORENO VALLEY, CA 92556-1325.
THANK YOU! VERY MUCH FOR your support.

The Moreno Valley Group will consider updating the city’s general plan sometime in the near future. The city staff presented a proposal at the council’s September 18 study session to study the “highest and best use” for development in eastern Moreno Valley. Area covered would be between Nason Street and the eastern city limits and north to Hemlock Avenue.
The outings calendar is on the Internet at http://sangorgonio.sierracclub.org

CALENDAR SUBMISSIONS
DEADLINE: Items for the January/February 2013 calendar are due by December 1, 2012.
FORMAT: Items similar to those below. Serially edited if possible. Optional.
Submit on CD or send outings-wide to your group or committee leadership.
MEETINGS & other events: Stock electronically to Land Sidelines at cds@sierrac.org
GENERAL EVENTS & OUTINGS
All Outings Leaders are Chapter Certified Leaders hosting appropriate Outings Training Courses, First Aid Courses, and experience the Outings that they lead. Outings only happen if participants understand that they may not sue the Sierra Club leaders if they are not present.
Non-Sierra Club members may join outings otherwise sponsored in the wet spot. All participants agree to abide by the leader’s rules. Participants should CALL THE LEADER BEFORE ATTENDING AN OUTING.
WHAT TO BRING
Many outings specifically state what to bring. Each outing leader decides what to bring.

IN THE INTERESTS OF FACILITATING THE LOGISTICS OF SOME OUTINGS, IT IS CUSTOMARY THAT PARTICIPANTS MAKE CARPOOLING ARRANGEMENTS. THE SIERRA CLUB DOES NOT HAVE INSURANCE FOR CARPOOLING ARRANGEMENTS & ASSUMES NO LIABILITY FOR THEM.
Carpooling, ride sharing, and public transportation arrangements are made to cater to the interests of the leader and participants.

I understand that during my participation in this Sierra Club Outing, I may be exposed to a variety of hazards & risks, foreseen & unforeseen.

If the participant is a minor, the minor’s guardian must sign on the minor’s behalf.

I have read this document in its entirety & I freely & voluntarily assume all risks of such Injuries & Damages & notwithstanding such provision of this Agreement is held to be invalid or legally unenforceable for any reason, the remainder of this Agreement is enforceable.
on lunch at the Malt Shop in Green Valley Lake. Please bring Ten-essential, layered clothing, 2 liters of water, lunch, sunscreen, and sunglasses. And for more information Call hike leader Ed Wallace at 909 584-9487. BIG BEAR GROUP

NOV 1 (THU) 5:30 PM  LOS SERRANOS GROUP EXCORMEX MEETING Odd-numbered months only (Jan, Mar, May, Sep., Nov.) PLACE: For meeting time & place, call MARY ANN RUIZ (909) 815-9379, <ruizmaryann@gmail.com> - LOS SERRANOS GROUP

NOV 2 (FRI-SUN) DEATH VALLEY SERVICE Work with Death Valley National Park Wilderness Coordinator Charlie Callaghan on restoration activities in the Park. Projects are to be determined, but will probably include fence removal. Camping will be at Mesquite Springs campground north of Stovepipe Wells. Arrive Friday afternoon and stay for part of the afternoon, work will continue on Saturday with a potluck dinner Saturday night. May be a work or perhaps a day hike. Leader: KATE ALLEN, kj.allen96@gmail.com, 661-840-1153. CNRCC DEERTH COMMITTEE

NOV 3 (SAT) 9:00 AM PACIFIC CREST TRAIL, JK SILVERWOOD Hike Join us for a moderately paced, 8 miles, 500’ gain hike on the PCT from the Silverwood Park office to Cedar Springs Dam and return. We will have great views of the lake and the park. BRING: Wig, 4 liters of water, lunch, sunscreen, sunglasses, and hat. RATING: Strenuous MEET: Contact leader for meeting place and carpooling. A Adventure Pass is required for parking at the trailhead. BRING: water, lunch, snack, sunscreen, sunglasses, and hat. CALL: To register please contact Jim Seifler, Hiking Leader at (760) 694-5570 or email jmsmg2@hotmail.com. BIG BEAR GROUP

NOV 4 (SUN) 9:00 AM AMAGUA CALIENTE TRAIL HIKE Join us on an eight mile hike (out and back). This trail is a section of the PCT that runs through northern San Diego County. It is a moderately difficult hike with 900’ of elevation gain/loss. There are no real steep grades to negotiate on this segment of the trail and 1 estimate the hike will take you four hours to complete. The trail runs east, along a cottonwood shaded creek for about 1.5 miles. The trail then crosses the creek and climbs moderately through Chaparral before descending again to the creek bed. We will travel another 1.5 miles through an appealing stretch of canyon bottom lined with live oaks, sycamores and willows. Here we can find a comfortable place to take a break and begin the return trip. Directions: From 79 South in Temecula (Temecula Parkway) head east about 10 miles from the junction of 79 and Margarita Rd. After passing the glider port look for a large gravel turnout (parking area) on the right side of the road. That is where we will meet. Bring plenty of water, comfortable hiking shoes, a hat, a dress in layers bring a lunch and sunscreen. For further questions or to make reservations contact Bob Arndt (leader) at bob.jarndt161@hotmail.com or at (951)302-1059. Rain cancels. SANTA MARGARITA GROUP

NOVEMBER 5 – 11
Please read “LIABILITY WAIVER” preceding these listings. (Also refer to Weekly re occurring Outings & Activities)

NOV 5 (MON) 6:00 PM SB MOUNTAINS GROUP EXCORMEX MEETING Alpine Conference Room 27226 Blue Jay Mall on Wed, Feb. 4, May 2, Oct. 1, Nov. 5, INFO: DAVE BARRIL, (909) 337-4313. SB MOUNTAINS GROUP

NOV 6 (TUE) 7:30 PM SAN GORGONIO CHAPTER EXCORMEX MEETING See front-page notice. PLACE: San Bernardino County Museum, 2024 6th Street, Redlands. REDIRECTIONS: Exit 1-10 at California St. INFO: LADD SEEKINS (909) 801- 3911 ladd.g.seekins@gmail.com. - CHAPTER

NOV 7 (WED) 6:30 PM BIG BEAR GROUP EXCORMEX MEETING The meeting place rotates. INFO: CHRISTIE WALKER, (909) 806-5806. BIG BEAR GROUP

NOV 8 (THU) 5:30 PM  LOS SERRANOS GROUP EXCORMEX MEETING Odd-numbered months only (Jan, Mar, May, Sep., Nov.) PLACE: For meeting time & place, call MARY ANN RUIZ (909) 815-9379, <ruizmaryann@gmail.com> - LOS SERRANOS GROUP

**NOV 9 (SAT-MON) 7:00 AM MISSION SPRING TO WHITEWATER BACKPACK This is the final leg, a 29.9 mile backpacking adventure that will complete the 132.9 mile Section C of the Pacific Crest Trail for 2012. Those individuals completing all of Section C during 2011- 2012 will receive a special recognition patch at the annual Big Bear Special Awards Banquet Party. The backpacking trip commences from Mission Spring Trail Camp on the PCT and we hike south through Mission Creek and cross over to Whitewater River before continuing south to the Whitewater Spring Spring. RATING: Moderate MEET: 7:00 a.m. at the Whiteranke Spring Parking Lot above the town of Angelus Oaks. BRING: backpacking gear, tent, bear canister, water purification capabilities, food, and two-liter bottles of water. CALL: for reservations and additional information. Ed Calendo, Hiking Leader at (909) 978-3813 or dogs111@msn.com. BIG BEAR GROUP

NOV 11 (SUN) 8:00 AM PACIFIC OCEAN HIKE A day hike from the Coffee Bean into the Cucamonga Wilderness to the top of Pacific Ocean (elevation 8693 ft), 12.2 miles round trip with 3700 ft elevation gain. Great views along the trail and at the peak. Rain cancels. BRING: sturdy boots, 3 liters water, lunch, sunscreen, and snacks. Contact leader for meeting place and carpooling. Contact John St. Clair at 909-953-8501. BIG BEAR GROUP

Continued on Page 7 > > >
NOVEMBER 12 – 18
Please read “LIABILITY WAIVER” preceding these listings. (Also refer to Weekly resourcing Outings & Activities)

NOV 12 (MON) 7:00 PM
SI B MOUNTAINS GROUP
MEETING
Monthly program meeting. No meeting in August. In December, PLACE: St. Richard’s Episcopal Church, 28788 Highway 18, Sky Forest. INFO: DAVE BARRIE, (909) 337-0113.
SIB MOUNTAINS GROUP

NOV 13 (TUE) 7:00 PM
CHAPTER COMMISSION MEETING
Monthly meeting or conference call. Take part in working on important conservation issues. Please particularly need your help! INFO: KIM FLOYD, Conservation Chair, <kimfloyd@fastmail.fm> (760) 249-5385.
CHAPTER

NOV 14 (WED) 8:00 AM
CUCAMONGA PEAK
This will be a strenuous hike up Ice House Canyon into the Cucamonga Wilderness to the top of Cucamonga Peak (elevation 8,859 ft). 12 miles round trip with 3,850 ft elevation gain. Scenic view in all directions. Leader: Ed Caliendo, Rainy Creek Group. BRING: sturdy boots, lunch, sunscreen, layer clothing appropriate for the weather. Contact John St. Clair prior to scheduled date for carpooling and meeting place. LEADER: John St. Clair. john@stclair.us, 909-983-8501
LOS SERRANOS GROUP

NOV 14 (WED) 9:00 AM
PCT – ONSUM SUMMIT TO ARRASTRE CREEK HIKE
This is a moderate, 8-mile hike on the PCT with an elevation change of about only 800’. There is a variety of vegetation along the way in mostly scenic, lush forest. Bring sturdy boots, ample water and food for snack breaks and lunch. We will meet at Vons at 9:00 am and carpool to the ONSUM Summit parking lot. If you prefer to meet us at ONSUM Summit at 9:15 am please call Dick Banks at 909-896-9232 for reservations.
BIG BEAR GROUP

NOV 14 (WED) 7:00 PM
MOJAVE GROUP
MEETING
Monthly meeting except July & August. PLACE: Sterling Inn, Regency Room, 17738 Francescas, Victorville. (One block north of Bear Valley Rd. on Ridgecrest side of the building. INFO: CAROL WILEY, (760) 245-8734, <derelily1@verizon.net> MOJAVE GROUP

NOV 15 (THU) 6:30 PM
BIG BEAR GROUP
MEETING
Monthly meeting except December. Info: For current program information, please visit the Group web site www.sierrachribbigbear.org. PLACE: Big Bear Discovery Center, 40971 North Shore Dr. (Hwy 38), Fawnskin. CONTACT: CHRISTIE WALKER, (909) 866-3006.
BERRIABEAR GROUP

NOV 15 (THU) 7:00 PM
SANTA MARGARITA GROUP
MEETING
Monthly meeting – The public is welcome. PLACE: Palmdale City Hall, 431-35 Winchester Rd., Temecula 92598. INFO: JIM MITCHELL, (951) 500-9676 sanmartahs@gmail.com or
SANTA MARGARITA GROUP

**NOV 17 (SAT) 8:00 AM
BERTHA PEAK VIA COUGAR CREST TRAIL HIKE
This is a “Peak” of Big Bear hike. Those achieving all five peaks over backing the Big Bear Valley will be given a commemorative patch. This is a 7-mile hike, 1,400 elevation gain. RATING: moderate/ strenuous. MEET: Hikers are to meet at Cougar Crest Trail Head located 100 yards west of the Big Bear Discovery Center. An Adventure Pass is required for parking. BRING: 2.5 liters of water, snack/lunch, sunscreen, sunglasses, hat, and good hiking shoes. CALL: To register please contact Jim Seifert, Hiking Leader at (760) 694-5370 or email iridemouny2k@hotmail.com.
BIG BEAR GROUP

NOV 17 (SAT) 8:00 AM
SB MTS, LAGREY MOUNT FALL
BIRD WALK
MEET: NORTH SHORE parking lot, across from Goodwin’s Market. See which birds remain for the November 15 (Thu) Meeting. Leader at (707) 328-1090 or dogs111@msn.com
SB MOUNTAINS GROUP

NOV 17 (SAT) 8:30 AM
DEEP CREEK, JUNIPER FLATS AREA Hike Join us on a lovely moderate 6-mile round trip hike to Deep Creek from the Juniper Flats Area, just south of Apple Valley. We descend approximately 1,350 feet to the Creek, a little upstream from Apple Valley. The meeting place rotates. INFO: CHRISTIE WALKER, (909) 866-5006.
MOJAVE GROUP

NOV 18 (SUN) 8:00 AM
WYSUP PEAK HIKE
This peak was named after George Wysup at his memorial July 10. George completed the Hundred Peaks List (280 peaks) almost ten times as the leader. The hike starts at Onyx Summit with R/T 6.6 miles, 2,100 ft elevation gain. Smooth trail, various vegetation along the way in mostly scenic, lush forest. Bring sturdy boots, ample water and food for snack breaks and lunch. We will meet at Onyx Summit parking lot in Big Bear Lake at 8:00 AM. Please call to confirm. Ed Caliendo, (760) 994-5407 BIG BEAR GROUP

DEC 1 (SAT) 8:00 AM
OWL CANYON/RAINBOW BASIN HIKE
This scenic desert hike is an 8.0 mile loop. Location is north of Barstow. RATING: moderate/ strenuous. MEET: 12-mile hike with two minor rock climbs (no special gear or skills needed). MEET: Call the hike leader if you are interested in participating. Additional info will be available for meeting time and place in Barstow CA. We will carpool to trailhead. BRING: layered clothing, the ten essentials, a 3 liters of water, lunch, sunscreen, sunglasses, hat, and good hiking shoes. CALL: To register please contact Jim Seifert, Hiking Leader at (760) 694-1090 or dogs111@msn.com.
BIG BEAR GROUP

**DEC 1 (SAT) 7:30 AM
APACHE PEAK HIKE
This trip climbs Apache Peak (7,567) for a superb vista over the southern end of the San Jacinto Wilderness and the desert canyons and then drops over the desert side to secluded Apache Spring. This is a 12 mile round-trip hike. We will follow the route of the Spitzer Peak Trail then ascend the Pacific Crest Trail to the southeast slope of Apache Peak. RATED: Moderate/ MEET: Take Hwy 74 and turn north on Apple Canyon Road (just west of Lake Hemet) and drive 2.6 miles on paved road to a turn-out at the signed Spitzer Peak Trailhead, park here. BRING: ten essentials, layered clothing, sun protection lunch, and two-liters of water. CALL: For reservations, contact Ed Caliendo, Hiking Leader at (760) 738-1090 or dogs111@msn.com.
BIG BEAR GROUP

DEC 1-2 (SAT-SUN) 10:00 AM
SB MTS KELLER HUT GATHERING
You are invited to join us for our annual holiday celebration at Keller Hut. You may arrive any time after 1 PM on Saturday. We provide turkey and dressing for dinner, plus tea and coffee. Please bring a suitable potluck dish to serve six, and cold beverages, plus a “white elephant” gift to exchange. You are welcome to stay overnight, and join us for a community breakfast, followed by a hike or Sunday AM. OVERSEER: DAVE BARRIE, 909-337-0371. CALL for information, and to notify him if you plan to attend.
SB MOUNTAINS GROUP

DEC 1-2 (SAT-SUN)  EXPLORE AND SERVE IN THE CARRIZO PLAINS SERVICE
Phosphorous antelope will not jump fences to escape predators but rather attempt to crawl under. For nearly eight years we have continued to remove fences and/or modify them to facilitate the movement of the phosphorous. The project has been very successful, and this will be one of the very last of these work weekends. Saturday will be a work day. We will camp and have a pot-luck dinner that evening is one of the campgrounds. Please note that at the choice of the group, who will beled by guide. Take part in working on important conservation issues. Please participate: we need your help! INFO: KIM FLOYD, Conservation Chair, <kimfloyd@fastmail.fm> (760) 249-5385.
CBHC DEER GROUP

DECEMBER 3 - 9
Please read “LIABILITY WAIVER” preceding these listings. (Also refer to Weekly resourcing Outings & Activities)

DEC 4 (TUE) 7:30 PM
SAN GORGONIO CHAPTER
MEETING
PROGRAM: See front-page notice. PLACE: San Bernardino County Museum, 2024 Central Ave., Apple Valley, CA 92308. Leader: CRAIG DEUTSCHE, craig.deutsche@gmail.com, (310-477-6670)
CHAPTER

DEC 5 (WED) 6:30 PM
BIG BEAR GROUP EXCOM
The meeting place rotates. INFO: CHRISTIE WALKER, (909) 866-5006. BIG BEAR GROUP

DEC 8 (SAT) 8:00 AM
SANTA ANA RIVER BAND WALK
SB MOUNTAINS GROUP

DEC 8 (SAT) 8:00 AM
MURRAY HILL (PEAK)
Hike It is difficult to call Murray Hill anything but a “peak,” yet officially it is a hill on all the maps. After climbing a 2,100 elevation gain you will think it’s more like a PEAK! The views are magnificent, showing the region around Palm Springs, Cathedral City, and Palm Canyon while offering you the nearby San Jacinto Mountains to the west. This is an approximate 9.0 mile round-trip loop hike. RATING: Strenuous MEET: At the Vons Shopping Center on South Palm Canyon Drive, in Palm Springs on Hwy 111. BRING: ten essentials, layered clothing, sun protection, lunch, hat, 3 liters of water CALL: for reservations contact Ed Caliendo, Hiking Leader at (760) 738-1090 or dogs111@msn.com.
BIG BEAR GROUP

DECEMBER 10 - 16
Please read “LIABILITY WAIVER” preceding these listings. (Also refer to Weekly resourcing Outings & Activities)

DEC 11 (TUE) 7:00 PM
SAN GORGONIO CHAPTER
MEETING
PROGRAM: See front-page notice. PLACE: San Bernardino County Museum, 2024 Central Ave., Apple Valley, CA 92308. Leader: CRAIG DEUTSCHE, craig.deutsche@gmail.com, (310-477-6670)
CHAPTER

DEC 12 (WED) 7:00 PM
MOJAVE GROUP
MEETING
Meeting except July & August. PLACE: Sterling Inn, Regency Room, 17738 Francescas, Victorville. (One block north of Bear Valley Rd. on Ridgecrest.) Enter on Ridgecrest side of the building. INFO: CAROL WILEY, (760) 245-8734, <derelily1@verizon.net> MOJAVE GROUP

Continued on Page 8 > > >
**DECEMBER 17 - 23**

Please read "LIABILITY WAIVER" preceding these listings. (Also refer to Weekly resourcing Outings & Activities)

DEC 15 (SAT) 8:30 AM PAINTED CANYON/LADDER CANYON LOOP HIKE

This is a MUST hike! The Painted Canyon and Ladder Canyon Loop are located in the northeast corner of the Coachella Valley within the Mecca Hills. This hike cuts through twisted and exotic Painted Canyon and the hiker uses a series of ladders to climb the Painted Canyon area. This is a 5 mile hike taking 4 to 5 hours to complete the loop. MEET: Take I-10 to Spot Light 29 Casino, Dillon Road off-ramp and look for TA Travel gas station signpost. Meet in parking lot under the TA Travel sign. BRING: Ten-essentials, layered clothing, 2-liters of water, lunch/snack, sunscreen, sunglasses, and hats. Hikers should wear long pants or 2-in-1 pants. RESERVATIONS: Call LEADER Ed Caliendo (760) 328-1090 or dogs111@msn.com

BIG BEAR GROUP

DEC 15 (SAT) 9:00 AM PAPA JUNIPER FLAT AREA HIKE

This is a moderate 10 mile hike through the Juniper Flats Area. After starting with a warming 4-mile climb of about 1,200 feet the terrain opens up with only a few more moderate short inclines. The views are fantastic throughout the hike, starting with the Mojave River and San Gabriel mountains behind you. Then the San Bernardino Mountains to the south and finally the Victor Valley and beyond as you start the descent near Bonita Vista. We will be arranging a shuttle hike for the hike. Wear layered clothing, hat and bring plenty of water/lunch/snacks and 10s. Meet at the Victor Valley Museum at 9 am. For more information contact leader Jenny Wilder JensJ@msn.com or call 760 220 0730. Some photos of the hike in June: http://www.flickr.com/photos/25273386@N08/sets/72157625675624030/

JANUARY 2012 CALENDAR

**NON-SIERRA CLUB ACTIVITIES**

The following activities, meeting & events are neither sponsored nor administrated by the Sierra Club. The Sierra Club has no information about the planning of these activities & makes no representations or warranties about the quality, safety, supervision or management of such activities. They are published only as a reader service because they may be of interest to the readers of this publication.

**NON-SIERRA CLUB RECURRING WEEKLY & MONTHLY MEETINGS (LOOK IN CALENDAR FOR DATES)**

**NON-SIERRA CLUB ACTIVITIES CALENDAR**

**MAY 4** (FRIDAY) 8:00 PM INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE

FOLK DANCE NON-SIERRA CLUB EVENT – UC RIVERSIDE FOLK DANCE CLUB

Join us for international folk dancing. This is the same group that used to meet at UC R. Meetings are twice monthly: on the 1st & 3rd Fridays. COST: $3 donation to help pay for the room. PLACE: Highgrove United Methodist Church, 938 W. Center St., Highgrove. DIRECTIONS: Take the Center St. exit from Interstate 215. The church is one half mile east of the freeway on the right. INFO: GAIL SEEKINS (909) 825-4427 giseekins@sbcglobal.net or LARRY PLOWELL (909) 864-2309

**OCT 17** (WED) 7:30 PM AUDUBON SOCIETY MEETING

NON-SIERRA CLUB EVENT – SAN BERNARDINO VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY PROGRAM. A guest speaker presents an illustrated program on wildlife or natural science. Come early to browse the gift tables & socialize. LOCATION: San Bernardino County Museum, 2024 Orange Tree Lane, Redlands. DIRECTIONS: Exit 110 at California St. INFO: DORI MEYERS, (714) 779-2201.

**OCT 19** (FRIDAY) 8:00 PM INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE

FOLK DANCE NON-SIERRA CLUB EVENT – UC RIVERSIDE FOLK DANCE CLUB

Join us for international folk dancing. This is the same group that used to meet at UC R. Meetings are twice monthly: on the 1st & 3rd Fridays. COST: $3 donation to help pay for the room. PLACE: Highgrove United Methodist Church, 938 W. Center St., Highgrove. DIRECTIONS: Take the Center St. exit from Interstate 215. The church is one half mile east of the freeway on the right. INFO: GAIL SEEKINS (909) 825-4427 giseekins@sbcglobal.net or LARRY PLOWELL (909) 864-2309

**NOV 2** (FRIDAY) 8:00 PM INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE NON-SIERRA CLUB EVENT – UC RIVERSIDE FOLK DANCE CLUB

Join us for international folk dancing. This is the same group that used to meet at UC R. Meetings are twice monthly: on the 1st & 3rd Fridays. COST: $3 donation to help pay for the room. PLACE: Highgrove United Methodist Church, 938 W. Center St., Highgrove. DIRECTIONS: Take the Center St. exit from Interstate 215. The church is one half mile east of the freeway on the right. INFO: GAIL SEEKINS (909) 825-4427 giseekins@sbcglobal.net or LARRY PLOWELL (909) 864-2309

**OCT 25** (THURSDAY) 7:30 PM INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE NON-SIERRA CLUB EVENT – UC RIVERSIDE FOLK DANCE CLUB

Join us for international folk dancing. This is the same group that used to meet at UC R. Meetings are twice monthly: on the 1st & 3rd Fridays. COST: $3 donation to help pay for the room. PLACE: Highgrove United Methodist Church, 938 W. Center St., Highgrove. DIRECTIONS: Take the Center St. exit from Interstate 215. The church is one half mile east of the freeway on the right. INFO: GAIL SEEKINS (909) 825-4427 giseekins@sbcglobal.net or LARRY PLOWELL (909) 864-2309

**NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2012**

**NON-SIERRA CLUB ACTIVITIES CALENDAR**

**JAN 2 (WED) 6:30 PM BIG BEAR GROUP EXCOM**

MEETING

The meeting place rotates. INFO: CHRISTIE WALKER, (909) 866-5006.

**JAN 3 (THU)**

LOS SERRANOS GROUP EXCOM

MEETING

Odd-numbered months only (Jan, Mar, May, Jul, Sep, & Nov). PLACE: For meeting time & place, call MARY ANN RUIZ, (909) 815-9379, cnuizmaryan@gmail.com. **LOS SERRANOS GROUP**

**DEC 20 **(THU) 7:00 PM SANTA MARGARITA GROUP MEETING

Meet the monthly meeting. PLACE: Rancho California Water District Headquarters, 4251 Winchester Rd., Tequesta 92589. INFO: JIM MITCHELL, (951) 596-9007 eschauling@bgc.com

**FUTURE ACTIVITIES**

Please read "LIABILITY WAIVER" preceding these listings. (Also refer to Weekly resourcing Outings & Activities)

No scheduled activities as yet.

**NON-SIERRA CLUB ACTIVITIES**

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**NON-SIERRA CLUB MEETING**

HIGHGROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, 938 W. CENTER ST., HIGHGROVE. DIRECTIONS: TAKE I-15 EXIT AT CALIFORNIA ST. AND HEAD WEST TO CENTER ST. EXIT FROM I-15. THE CHURCH IS ONE HALF MILE EAST OF THE FREEWAY ON THE RIGHT. INFO: GAIL SEEKINS (909) 825-4427 giseekins@sbcglobal.net or LARRY PLOWELL (909) 864-2309

**NON-SIERRA CLUB EVENT**

SAN BERNARDINO VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY PROGRAM. A guest speaker presents an illustrated program on wildlife or natural science. Come early to browse the gift tables & socialize. LOCATION: San Bernardino County Museum, 2024 Orange Tree Lane, Redlands. DIRECTIONS: Exit 110 at California St. INFO: DORI MEYERS, (714) 779-2201.
**CONGRESSIONAL RACES**

YES Dr. Raul Ruiz has been endorsed in the 36th Congressional District in his race against the incumbent, Mary Bono Mack. Dr. Ruiz, the son of farm workers, is a newcomer to the political scene, but after graduating magna cum laude from UCLA, he went on to receive three graduate degrees from Harvard, a Medical Doctorate, a Master’s in Public Policy and a Master’s in Public Health. Dr. Ruiz actually lives in the District and has been active in environmental justice issues in the eastern Coachella Valley. He is committed to the environment and can be counted on to fight against the efforts of the current House leadership that wants to weaken environmental regulations and the power of the Environmental Protection Agency.

YES Mark Takano is the Sierra Club endorsed candidate for the 41st Congressional District. This is an open seat that is getting a lot of national attention. Mark attended Harvard College and received his bachelor’s degree in Government in 1983. Mark returned home to Riverside and obtained his secondary teaching credential in Language Arts and Social Studies at the University of California at Riverside. He began teaching in the Rialto Unified School District in 1988 and is a classroom teacher today. Mark has been an elected member of the Riverside Community College District Board of Trustees since 1999. A very active member of the community, he has served in many capacities and is firmly committed to the environment. Mark was endorsed by the Club in his races in 1992 and 1994 which he lost by narrow margins.

**STATE ASSEMBLY RACES**

YES Chris Holden is the Sierra Club endorsed candidate in Assembly District 41, most of which is in the Angeles Chapter.

YES Norma Torres is endorsed in Assembly District 52. This is the third time Norma has been endorsed by the club and she continues to have an outstanding record for the environment. She was the only endorsed candidate in the San Gorgonio Chapter to receive a financial contribution from the Sierra Club California PAC.

**COUNTY SUPERVISOR RACES**

YES Bob Buster is endorsed for Riverside County Supervisor District 1. Bob has received many previous endorsements from the Club and continues to be the only consistent voice for the environment on the Riverside County Board of Supervisors.

**PROPOSITIONS**

**NO on Proposition 32. The Billionaires’ Bill of Rights**

By Victoria Brandon, Redwood Chapter Political Chair

Once again, big corporations and multimillionaire right wing extremists are attempting to corrupt the electoral process by promoting a ballot measure that goes beyond mere deceptiveness to verge on the fraudulent.

Officials designated the “Stop Special Interest Money Now Act” and widely touted as the “Pachyderm Protection Act.” Prop 32 masquerades as campaign finance reform. The measure bans direct contributions to California candidates by both corporations and labor unions, and prohibits both corporations and unions from using payroll deductions to collect “political funds” even from employees or members who approve in advance. This apparently even-handed restriction is actually grossly discriminatory, since as the measure’s authors know full well, unions get almost all of their funds through payroll deductions, and businesses almost none.

Prop 32 also contains enormous loopholes designed for the benefit of large corporations and the wealthy. Many common organizational structures such as LLCs, partnerships and real estate trusts are exempt. If you’re a venture capitalist, land developer or law firm – exempt. Corporate executives – exempt. And as provided in the infamous “Citizens United” decision, corporations and billionaires can still give unlimited political contributions to anonymous, unaccountable “Super PACs.”

This already sounds pretty bad, but it gets worse. Prop 32 also disfavors public employee unions as “government contractors,” and would forbid them from attempting to influence any government agency with which they have dealings. That restriction would also cover political action committees established by any membership organization, or “any agency or employee representation committee or plan,” seeking stronger civil rights or environmental protections, such as the Sierra Club. It’s no wonder the measure is actively opposed, not only by organized labor, but also by the country’s leading good-government groups, such as Common Cause and the League of Women Voters.

In the words of Los Angeles Times columnist Michael Hiltzik, “In this state, we’ve come to expect ballot initiatives sponsored by business interests to be, essentially, frauds. But it’s hard to conceive how one could be more fraudulent than Proposition 32. If there was any doubt left that the initiative process has been totally corrupted by big business and the wealthy, this should put it to rest for all time.”

If Proposition 32 passes it would effectively end organized labor’s ability to influence the political process in California, and cripple the Sierra Club’s ability to protect the environment.

**YES on Proposition 37. Genetically Engineered Foods, Mandatory Labeling**

by Masada Disenhouse, San Diego Chapter

Passage of Proposition 37 would make California the first state to require labeling of genetically modified raw or processed foods sold in state. It would also prohibit labeling or advertising such foods as “natural.”

As food consumers it is our right to know exactly what is in our food so that we can make educated choices for ourselves and our families. 50 countries with over 40% of the world’s population already genetically engineered foods, including the entire European Union and China. Genetically modified organisms (GMO) are made by inserting genes from another species into an organism’s DNA. Genetic modification is very different from the traditional practice of selective breeding to improve the qualities of plants or animals.

Usually the purpose of GMOs is to create crops that are resistant to herbicides or to have crops self-manufacture their own insecticides. GMOs are currently in 75% of processed food in grocery stores. In the US up to 85% of corn, 91% of soybeans and 95% of sugar beets are now genetically engineered.

The genetic engineering of plants and animals is likely to be one of the greatest environmental challenges of our time. A number of studies have shown that GMOs can pose serious risks to humans, animals, and the environment. Human health effects can include higher risks of toxicity, allergenicity, and antibiotic resistance. GMOs contribute to growing dependence on industrial agriculture which is energy- and toxic- chemical intensive, destructive to biodiversity and the environment, and unsustainably. GMOs are coming for the documented growth in herbicide-resistant weeds and are suspected of negatively impacting beneficial insects.

Due to cross-pollination, GMO crops are contaminating non-GMO and organic crops. While the supporters of Prop. 37, mostly organic food companies, have raised about $2.7 million, opponents have already raised ten times

**PROPOSITIONS**

**Please vote NO on Prop 31.**

By Margaret Okuzumi, Angeles Chapter

While this well-intentioned measure tours its devotion to reform, transparency and oversight, this flawed initiative actually creates a more complex and unmanageable governance system and undermines environmental laws. Prop 31 contains a dangerous provision allowing local governments to override state laws, including environmental laws. Under Prop 31, if local governments decided compliance was too costly and “inexpedient” local goals, they would be free to circumvent state laws and regulations such as ones pertaining to municipal drinking water quality, air quality, protection of coastal lands, reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, mitigation for endangered species, and hazardous waste remediation, to name some examples. Prop 31 would increase the time spent reviewing programs and reduce the time state workers will be able to devote to implementing them. It give the governor excessive power and provides incentives for the minority party in the Legislature to block action on the budget.

We wish California Forward had been more responsive to the early concerns expressed by the environmental community about the ballot measure language, because we favor better government performance and accountability. As it stands, we strongly urge your NO vote on Prop 31 in order to protect our environment.
Propositions . . Continued from Page 9

that—about $25 million. The lead opponent, unsurprisingly, is chemical giant Monsanto. Others include DuPont, PepsiCo, Coca-Cola, Nestle, Kellogg, and many other biotech and processed food suppliers.

Opponents' claims that the price of food will increase greatly are exaggerated, based on previous labeling requirements. Note that there is nothing in Proposition 39 that prevents anyone's ability to grow or produce genetically modified foods. The labels wouldn’t even imply that genetically modified foods are unsafe—they would simply state that the product contains GMOs.

Exemptions, including foods sold in restaurants, ensure the law is not overreaching. The Sierra Club supports citizens’ fundamental right to know what they are putting into their bodies and their environment.

We urge our members to vote “Yes” on Prop. 37.

YES on Proposition 39.

Fairer Corporate Taxes to Fund Energy Efficiency and Education

By Jim Metropulos, Sierra Club California staff

Smart policy works around California must be swooning as they read Proposition 39 on the November ballot. It does so much so elegantly.

Sierra Club California staff have endorsed this measure. It will help increase solar and other alternative energy while reducing energy demand at schools and other government buildings.

Overall, Proposition 39 would simultaneously fix an unfair corporate tax loophole, generate billions of dollars in new funds for education, and for five years fund job-creating energy efficiency and alternative energy projects at schools and other public buildings. Those energy efficiency and alternative energy projects would, in turn, save on heating and cooling costs at those public buildings for decades to come.

Proposition 39’s fix to the tax loophole would establish a “single sales factor” method for calculating corporate taxes. This method is used by most large states already. It essentially requires out-of-state companies that do business in California to pay taxes on California sales the same way that in-state companies pay taxes.

The Legislative Analyst estimates that, as a result of Proposition 39, at least $500 million dollars a year will be available for efficiency and alternative energy projects beginning in 2013 through 2017. That funding also can be used for job training and workforce development in energy efficiency and alternative energy.

Generally, energy efficiency experts figure that the average building could cut its energy use by 25 percent through efficiency improvements. In California, just meeting 2020 efficiency goals for schools and other government buildings will cost about $2.1 billion, according to one study done for the Public Utilities Commission. Proposition 39’s funding will substantially help cover that cost.

The measure also makes sure there is coordination and accountability in how the energy funds are used. Among other things, it creates a nine-member board that includes technical and finance experts to be responsible for oversight of how the funds are spent.

It is supported by a range of interests, including environmental and environmental justice organizations, labor, and progressive business organizations, such as the Los Angeles Business Council and the U.S. Green Chamber of Commerce. Its most noteworthy backer is Tom Steyer, a Bay Area-based investor who helped fund the fight that defeated efforts to roll back California’s global warming policies 2 years ago.

To help accelerate California’s clean energy transition, and to reduce energy waste, vote YES on Proposition 39.

Santa Margarita . . Continued from Page 4

Hut in the San Bernardino Mountains. I would like to recommend this training to anyone interested in learning the basics about leading a hike. We met Saturday morning for breakfast and to get acquainted. Ralph Salisbury, the Chair of the Excom, led the training for the San Gorgonio Chapter, passed out our instructional materials and began to educate us on the importance of outings to the Sierra Club and having quality hiking leaders. I am now familiar with the structure of the Sierra Club and how the outings fit into the big picture. We spent the day covering the comprehensive training manual with breaks for lunch and dinner. The camaraderie of our fellow students made the experience a lot of fun. Included in the training are topics such as..."Wilderness Etiquette," "Leader Requirements," "Planning an Outing," "Map and Compass," "Ten Essentials," and "Safety Management." The next day, Sunday, students were taken on a cross-country hike called "Field Exercises." Each student was handed a scenario to dramatize a different issue that might occur while leading a hike. Everyone in the group took turns being the leader and dealing with different problems during the hike. They returned after six hours tired but smiling.

And then on Sunday, September 23, my husband John Meyncke led his first hike. Thirteen was a lucky number for the thirteen people that enjoyed hiking on the Santa Rosa Plateau that morning. We met at the trailhead at 8:30, bright and early, and took off under John’s leadership. John has just recently completed his training to become a Hiking Leader. This hike was the first of two provisional hikes required to obtain his official status as a Hiking Leader.

Our group (pictured above) was diverse in age and experience. At least two hikers had never been to the Santa Rosa Plateau! We were thrilled to be able to introduce them to one of our local natural wonders. Puffy clouds created some shade, while the large oaks and acres of grassland provided vistas that were spectacular. After stopping briefly at the ancient adobe for some light refreshments, we continued on past the tennis courts and the large oaks. We finished off the loop trail and arrived back at our cars in just three hours. What a lucky day to take a hike!

OUR SANTA MARGARITA GROUP GENERAL MEETINGS ARE HELD ON THE 3RD THURSDAY OF EVERY MONTH EXCEPT JULY AND AUGUST AT THE RANCHOS CALIFORNIA WATER DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS, 42135 WINCHESTER ROAD, TEMECULA 92590

STARTING AT 6:30 PM.

Questions, please email us at sierrachubang@
gmail.com and visit our web site www.
sierrachubang.org

Tahquitz Group Excom Election

Please vote for no more than three candidates, and mail in by December 31, 2012, to POB 4944, Palm Springs, CA 92263. Please also sign your name on the outside of the envelope. Thanks!

Vote

J Jeff Morgan
K Kathy Kelley
J Juan Taylor
Preserve The Future

Not everyone can make a large gift to protect the environment during their lifetime, but you can preserve the environment for generations to come by remembering the Sierra Club in your will.

There are many gift options available. We can even help you plan a gift for your local Chapter. For more information and confidential assistance, contact:

John Calaway
Director, Gift Planning
85 Second Street, 2nd Floor
San Francisco, CA 94105
(800) 932-4270
planned.giving@sierraclub.org

Chapter's December Program to Focus on TWO National Parks!

Mary Ann Ruiz will give her illustrated talk, “Great Basin and Pioneer Basin Tour,” at the December 4 chapter meeting, which starts at 7:30 PM at the San Bernardino County Museum, 2024 Orange Tree Lane, Redlands.

Most people don’t consider Nevada a late July destination. If asked what state is the most mountainous, Nevada does not come to mind. As National Parks go, Great Basin is one of the least visited, and most people have no idea where it is or what it is like. A camping and hiking trip to Great Basin changes that perception. With a campground close to 10,000 ft elevation, it’s nice and cool when the surrounding desert is blazing. At the visitor center you will learn that Nevada is the most mountainous state, with 318 distinct ranges. The park is a mountain oasis in the middle of the vast deserts of the Great Basin.

Come along on a 4-day camping trip, with hikes each day into this little known treasure. Finish up with a climb to the top of 13,064’ Wheeler Peak, with panoramic views of this rugged mountain range. This is a “dark Sky” park, with the best visibility of the Milky Way in the continental United States.

Then, we will head to Pioneer Basin in the Eastern Sierra, on an 8-day Sierra Club national backpack trip. Starting up and over 12000 ft Mono Pass, experience the lakes, recesses, peaks and granite of the Mono Divide High Country.

Our Speaker Mary Ann Ruiz chairs the Los Serranos Group, is an outings leader and has been active in the San Gabriel Mountains Forever campaign. She grew up visiting National Parks with her family, and took her first backpack trip at 9 years old to Merced Lake in Yosemite National Park. That was it, she got the bug and loves hiking and backpacking ever since. Mary Ann has been active with San Gorgonio Chapter since 2001.
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• Hybrid Vehicle discount (available in most states).
• New Electric Vehicle Discount (now available in more than 20 states!).

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* Savings amounts represent annual savings of policyholders who became new policyholders with this program between 7/1/10 and 6/30/12 and reported data on their prior carrier’s premium. Your potential for savings varies depending on current premium, driving record, and other risk characteristics. Group rates for Sierra Club members are not available in NY, TN and WA. Interested applicants may still call for a quote.

This auto insurance program is underwritten by Hartford Fire Insurance Company and its affiliates, One Hartford Plaza, Hartford, CT 06155. CA License #5152. In Washington, this auto program is underwritten by Hartford Insurance Company of the Midwest, in Michigan, the auto program is underwritten by Hartford Underwriters Insurance Company. This program is provided by The Hartford, not Sierra Club or its affiliates. Sierra Club is not an agent or broker and does not sell, transact, or negotiate insurance. Paid endorsement. The Hartford pays a royalty fee to Sierra Club for use of Sierra Club’s intellectual property. The program is currently not available in all states. Applicants are individually underwritten and some may not qualify. Specific features, credits and discounts may vary and may not be available in all states in accordance with state laws and applicable law. All first time responders receive the gift. Please allow 4-6 weeks for delivery. Gift offer not available in GA, ND or NM, but residents may still request a quote.