

# The Roadrunner

A bimonthly publication of the Kern-Kaweah Chapter of the Sierra Club — May-June 2008

## NEWS FROM SACRAMENTO

### WHAT IS HAPPENING ON THE POLITICAL FRONT?

Excepted from report by Bill McGavern, spokesperson for our advocacy group

**JUNE ELECTION VERY IMPORTANT. EMINENT DOMAIN ON THE LINE  
BE SURE TO VOTE Support Prop. 99. OPPOSE 98.**

**VOTE FOR Prop 99** It will prohibit government from using eminent domain to take a home to transfer to a private developer. **OPPOSE 98** — While prop 98 is ostensibly about eminent domain, the fine print threatens local land use planning and environmental protections and was deliberately crafted to challenge affordable housing policies. This measure comes from many of the same wealthy special interests who proposed the defeated Prop 90 in 2006. Rejecting Prop 98 is a top priority for Sierra Club California this June. **SUPPORT 99** — Prop 99 is a real eminent domain reform measure intended to constitutionally protect home owners without the hidden agendas and adverse consequences of prop 98. Be sure to go out and vote for Proposition 99 in the June election.

\* **Global Warming** We have been very actively engaged in the process of implementing the **California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006, AB 32**. *Very important point: we support levying fees on the big greenhouse gas emitters to fund the state's global warming program.* The law established a set of goals, but left the methodology for achieving those goals unspecified. Sierra Club has collaborated with other enviro groups to provide input.

\* **SB 375 (Steinberg)** is a bill from last year strongly supported by Sierra Club California. **It aims to reduce greenhouse emissions from cars and trucks through incentives for better development patterns so people can choose to drive less.** It would establish performance objectives for regional plans to ensure that they reduce greenhouse emissions (by an amount to be specified by CARB), protect farm and habitat lands and provide a full range of housing choices. Future transportation funding would be directed to projects that implement the regional transportation plan. **New provisions in CEQA would assist growth in the good locations. Could this bill help those of us who face inappropriate housing proposals? Tejon, Yokol and more?**

\* **Water** More dams, yes or no? There is a RCC resolution asking us to oppose this water bond. **Sierra Club California has been urging Feinstein and Schwarzenegger not to support Chamber of Commerce proposed water bond. Both support dams and additional water storage.** Sierra Club California advocates that the state should spend money already approved by voters under Prop 50, 84, and 1E for Delta restoration before proposing a new water bond.

\* **Media Advocacy** *More state environmental info on electronic version of Roadrunner.* Keep up to date on California issues. Write letters directly to our representatives and for possible inclusion in Letters to the Editors section of our statewide and local newspapers. Make your voices heard. (See p. 9 for more information.)

## The Convention *Saturday–Sunday, June 21–22*

The Convention is held each year in order to give an opportunity for all Sierra Club activists to meet with our Sierra Club California lobbying staff in order to discuss the environmental political scene in California and brainstorm as to what types of legislation should be encouraged or discouraged in the coming year.

Bill Magavern is the head of the Sierra Club California lobbying staff. Other members are Paul Mason, deputy director, and Jim Metropulos, Senior Advocate. All are located in Sacramento, obviously the center of political affairs in California. Andy Sawyer is the chair of Sierra Club California.

*This meeting will be convened at the San Luis Obispo Education Center. Registration is \$40 (as usual, dinner, breakfast, overnight facilities). There is always a possibility of our Chapter providing financial backing for your attendance. Contact our chair, Arthur Unger, 661.323.5569, if you wish to make inquiry in regard to this.*

## Excerpts From Sierra Club's California Lobby Committee Report:

"The Sierra Club's effectiveness in the state Legislature is a team effort that depends heavily upon a strong grassroots lobby that is well coordinated with Sierra Club California's Sacramento staff."

"Strategically it is very important that all volunteer lobbying efforts be closely coordinated with Sacramento staff in order to avoid confusion, miscommunication and mixed messages in the Legislature, which can backfire and seriously undermine overall efforts to support or oppose a particular piece of legislation."

For the Club's position on a particular bill please contact Annie Pham, 916.557.1100, ext. 107, Pham@sierraclub-sac.org. (See p, 8 for information on bill to improve CEQA.)

## HOW GREEN ARE YOU???

Here is the result of a survey of the green habits of 1000-plus persons taken by Buzzback, a poll-taking market research association. This is just an easy way to check off *your* green endeavors—and what more green habits would you add to the list?

72% use energy-efficient light bulbs (*Our chapter handed many to the public AU*)

70% turn down the thermostat

71% recycle paper

68% turn off electric appliances rather than leave them on stand-by

67% take more showers than baths to conserve water

57% recycle glass

57% purchase recycled products

55% purchase recycled paper

51% purchase refill products

38% use less household chemicals (*We like baking soda and vinegar. The editor cleans quickly with these cheap and easy-to-use products. AU*)

36% walk short distances rather than drive

31% buy organic fruit or vegetables

20% take fewer flights

15% buy organic meat

6% only buy products from companies they consider Green

4% use a hybrid car

Replacing incandescent bulbs with CFL's in five years will reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 10 to 15%, more than any single other measure that has been proposed. The outcry within our ranks against this very minor inconvenience, despite its huge benefit, is sad. AU

### NEWS IN A NUTSHELL

APRIL BANQUET HIGHLIGHTS: Paul Gipe told the USA to get on the ball and pass legislation that would allow **each of us** to become an energy-producing business. We could have our own personal windmill to produce energy. If we reduce our personal electricity use and thus have excess production, we could **sell** it to the energy companies that would be **required** to buy it. That could mean \$\$ in our pocket, not just credits.

Awards: Pam Clark of the Kaweah Group received the Long Trail Award for her years as chair of Kaweah Group, speaking out at hearings, and effective letter writing to politicians; Cynthia Koval, of the Mineral King Group, received the Susan Miller/Ruth Allen Award as recognition for all the work she has done in arranging programs and special presentations such as the latest Chad Kister event; and Alison Sheehy received the Cup award for all the work she has done in educating the public, particularly in Kern County, by maintaining a great website with general background and up-to-date information on the natural world, such as highlighting the recent wildflower sites of special interest.

Art Unger, our chair of the Kern Kaweah Chapter, guided us with exceptional humor through the evening's program. Behind the scenes, deserving many thanks from us all, were Georgette Theotig, banquet chair plus, and Eva Nipp, pre-meal snacks provider. A very nice evening enjoyed by everyone, no doubt of that.

## Harold Wood, The Master Of Things Web, says Go For IT

*IT is going beyond the basics of e-mailing on to accessing information sources with confidence & ease.*

### The Sierra Club and Web 2.0:

#### Part 1: Social Networking

Over ten years ago, some people wondered if the “World Wide Web” would ever amount to anything. A lot of punsters thought that businesses, advocacy organizations, and the like, shouldn’t waste their time investing in creating websites. “Who would read them?”, they thought.

We now know that the Internet economy, places like ebay.com and amazon.com and even online advocacy groups or applications like Move-on.org and convio.com are tremendous social forces.

Will the same thing be true for what’s called “Web 2.0”? Only time will tell.

But here are some of the features of the “second edition” of the Web that seem to have potential for the Sierra Club and other environmental groups:

**Social Networking Websites** Consistently among the top five most visited websites on the Internet are “social networking” sites like myspace.com, facebook.com, and others. Once the domain of youth almost solely, they are now growing among all age groups. Just one of these sites, Facebook, has more than 66 million active users, and an average of 250,000 new registrations per day since Jan. 2007.

Think of these sites as a mini-web all in themselves—a place to network and collect “friends,” post your profile of interests, share photos and videos, and email friends. Although you can do all these things elsewhere on the web, a social networking website provides an easy way to do it and to focus on sharing with just those you have identified as your “friends.”

The Sierra Club has established a major outpost on Facebook. You can become a “**fan**” of the **Sierra Club here**:

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Sierra-Club/6204742571>

In fact, you, too, can now even become a “**friend**” of our **Executive Director, Carl Pope!**

Visit [http://www.facebook.com/people/Carl\\_Pope/787172493](http://www.facebook.com/people/Carl_Pope/787172493)

The **Sierra Club** also has on **Facebook** a “Network” (mostly staff, but allows anyone with a sierraclub.org address—including chapter volunteers leaders who have an address @kernkaweah.sierraclub.org), a couple of “Groups,” including one for its “**Cool Cities**” campaign, and an Facebook-centric “**Action Center**”—an application linked with the Club’s regular Action Center on its main web site.

Try these out – you may find yourself in just a passing fad, though at the rate of growth that seems unlikely. You just might find yourself on the cutting edge of an even huger Internet. Time will tell!

**PART II Blogging** Blogs are special websites that don’t take any expertise to set up and use. They provide an outlet for people to post their thoughts on a frequent basis—daily even.

Some popular environmental blogs have become equivalent to an online version of a specialized magazine or newspaper. You can even subscribe to these blogs via a “RSS feed” so you are notified of new postings. For environmental offerings, try these:

**www.grist.org**

Environmental News and Commentary with a huge sense of humor. At Grist, they believe that news about green issues and sustainable living doesn’t have to be predictable, demoralizing, or dull.

<http://www.ens-newswire.com/>

Compiles press releases on environmental topics from around the world.

<http://www.treehugger.com/>

A green blog on sustainable living.

*Sierra Club bloggers include:*

**Executive Director Carl Pope:** <http://sierraclub.typepad.com/carlpope/>

**Sierra Club Compass:** <http://sierraclub.typepad.com/compass/>

**Sierra Club Green Life:** Ideas for living well and doing good from Sierra magazine <http://sierraclub.typepad.com/greenlife/>

**About: Environment** <http://environment.about.com/>

**BushGreenwatch** <http://www.bushgreenwatch.org/>

**Real Climate** <http://www.realclimate.org/>

# KERN KAWEAH ROUNDUP

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY IF YOU PLAN TO PARTICIPATE IN SIERRA CLUB HIKES: *Everyone is welcome, Sierra Club members and non-members, to join in any of the outdoor activities. Requirements: You must be in condition for type of hike, equipped appropriately for the activity, and prepared to sign a Sierra Club release from liability. You must be willing to follow leader's directions. Be sure to bring any personal medicines you might need. Customary appropriate equipment includes good hiking shoes, plenty of water, snack, sunglasses, suntan lotion, layered clothing. The following might be helpful but definitely not required: compass, whistle, matches or lighter, and a good first aid kit. Long pants recommended. Unprepared for the prospective hike? It will be a no-go for you. Participation must be leader approved. Since unexpected change of plans may be necessary, it is recommended that YOU contact the hike leader the night before to be assured that the hike is still going to happen. Please let the leader know ahead of time that you are intending to participate. Check individual group listings for desired means of communication.*

New CA legislation designed to protect the consumer requires us to publish this notice: CST 2087755-40. Registration as a seller of travel does not constitute approval by the State of California. This legislation was designed to protect the user of outdoor activities that require cash payments of more than \$50 for participation.

**Buena Vista Group** More info? Call Isabel, 661.246.6195, or Donnel Lester, 661.831.6784

**2008 members of Executive Committee for Buena Vista Group:**

Isabel Stierle, Chair; Ann Gallon, Vice-Chair; Ken Fry, Secretary-Treasurer; Donnel Lester, Membership Chair; Glenn Shellcross, Publicity Coordinator

**Tuesday Conditioning Hikes** of 4 or 5 miles are at 7:00 PM at the corner of Highways 178 and 184. Contact Gordon (gnipp@bak.rr.com) or Larry (661.873.8107) for more information.

**May 3 (Sat) 8:30 AM** "Soapy" Mulholland, Executive Director of the Sequoia Riverlands Trust, will speak to us about Protecting Agriculture and Open Space, a look at farmland preservation and conservation. The breakfast program meeting is at the Garden Spot, 3320 Truxtun Ave. in Bakersfield. The light breakfast is optional. For more information contact Isabel Stierle at 661.246.6195 or Donnel Lester at 661.319.6996.

**May 10th (Sat)** 2008 Windmill-Wildflower Hike Planned for Tehachapi 23rd Annual Walk. Details p. 6. The Kern-Kaweah Chapter of the Sierra Club will lead a hike on the Pacific Crest Trail at 9:00 AM Saturday, May 10th, near Tehachapi, California.

**May 17 (Sat) Highway Cleanup** Meet at 9:00 AM at the corner of Old River Road and Highway 119. More info? Donnel Lester at 661.319.6996.

**June 7 (Sat) 8:30 AM** The Buena Vista Group ExCom will meet at a location to be determined. For more information contact Isabel Stierle at 661.246.6195 or Donnel Lester at 661.319.6996.

**June 21 (Sat) Highway Cleanup** Meet at 9:00 AM. See the May 17th entry for details. More info? Donnel Lester at 661.319.6996.

**Meeting Notices** If you would like to receive BV Group meeting and activity information by email, please contact our membership chair, Donnel Lester, at [donnelc3bvg@earthlink.net](mailto:donnelc3bvg@earthlink.net), with *Add me* to the email list in the subject heading. You can opt out of the mail notices at any time. We try to keep this to once-a-month emailings.

**Recycling at BVG Meetings** – bring us your old batteries and your old compact fluorescent bulbs.

**Condor Group Hikes?** Dale Chitwood, 661.242.1076. *More info?* Lockhart, 661.242.0432 [jmal@frazmtn.com](mailto:jmal@frazmtn.com) Meets Pine Mountain Club

**May 10th (Sat) NatureFest.** *Outdoors and indoors experiences with the natural world. Noon to 3:30 at the Frazier Park Elementary School in Frazier Park. Great for all folks, young to 100-plus. Details: p. 6.*

**May 24 (Sat) Tecuya Ridge.** This hike takes you along a ridge on the San Emigdio Range. Basically level, the trail takes you along flower-filled (we hope) spots as well as gives you broad views across the Valley to the north and mountain views to Frazier Mountain to the south. An easy trail. Meet 8 AM at PMC parking lot.

**June 7 (Sat) Wildflowers of the San Emigdio Range area.** Presented by Pam DeVries, botanist. Wildflower display will be a part of the program. 7 PM program, 6 PM potluck. PMC Clubhouse More info? 661.242.0432

**June 28 (Sat) Thorn Point.** Moderate, 6 miles RT. Continuous climb but not too steep. On a clear day you can see the Pacific. Wonderful views on all sides. 8 AM, PMC parking lot.

**Kaweah Group** *More info?* call Pam, 559.784.4643 or Diane, 559.781.8897.

**May 22 (Thur)** Picnic Time in Zalud Park, Porterville. 6 PM. Please bring a potluck dish to share. Ice tea and water provided. *Everyone welcome.*

**Mineral King Group.** *More info?* Call Janet Wood, Chair, 559.739.8527. Please visit [mineralking.sierraclub.org](http://mineralking.sierraclub.org) for more info on group events and activities.

**May 14 (Wed)** 6 PM Dinner Social at Black Bear Diner, Tulare. RSVP with Beverly Garcia at 559.732.3785 or email: [bev.garcia@kernkaweah.sierraclub.org](mailto:bev.garcia@kernkaweah.sierraclub.org)

**May 17 (Sat)** We will hike to Tokopah Falls in Sequoia National Park. This will be an easy 3 mile hike to falls, which should be beautiful this year. Leader is limiting the hike to the first 15 callers. Call Joanne or David at 559.733.2078 to find out time and meeting date and to reserve a spot.

**June 2 (Mon)** Colima's Restaurant, 500 S. Linwood St. Visalia. Please call Beverly at 559.732.3785 for reservations.

**June 14 (Sat)** We will hike to Mist Falls out of Cedar Grove in Kings Canyon National Park. Because of the long drive down to Cedar Grove, interested hikers may want to drive down and camp on Friday as the leaders plan to do. This is a strenuous hike due to climb and a distance of 8 miles. If you plan to join the hike, you must confirm with Joanne or David by June 7 at 559.733.2078.

**June 21 (Sat)** 11 AM, Lunch Social, Anne Lang's Emporium, 1651 Sierra Dr., Three Rivers, CA. RSVP with Beverly Garcia at 559.732.3785 or email: [bev.garcia@kernkaweah.sierraclub.org](mailto:bev.garcia@kernkaweah.sierraclub.org)

**Owens Peak Group** *More info?* **Dennis Burge**, Chair, 760.375.7967 **email:** [dennis93555@yahoo.com](mailto:dennis93555@yahoo.com)  
**Jim Nichols**, Hikes, 760.375.8161 [jnichols@ridgecrest.ca.us](mailto:jnichols@ridgecrest.ca.us) Mtgs: Maturango Museum, Ridgecrest. Please use email for hike questions.

*Please note: there will be no program meetings for May or June*

**May 17 (Sat) Sawtooth Peak** (Located just S of Nine Mile Canyon, and E of Lamont Meadows, 8000+ ft max elevation, 2400 ft elevation gain, 8 mi RT). The route up this peak is 3 mi along the PCT, and 1 mi cross country. The PCT part has had nice flowers this time of the year. Sawtooth affords great views of the southern Sierra to the N and S, the Sierra foothills including Boulder Peak and Sand Canyon to the E, and the Kern Plateau to the W. In the past, the SW ridge route included climbing through a bear's den. We'll see this time. This is a moderate hike due to the distance, the elevation gain, and the challenge of the crosscountry route. Meet Sat, May 17 at 7:30 AM at the Ridgecrest Cinema parking lot. Call Dennis Burge at 760.375.7967 or Jim Nichols at 760.375.8161 for more information.

**June 14 (Sat) Olancha Pass And Round Mtn** (Located just W of Sage Flat, SW of Olancha; Olancha Pass, 9220 ft max elevation, 3400 ft elev. gain, 9.6 mi RT; Round Mtn, 9884 ft max elevation, 4000 ft elevation gain, 14.8 mi RT) We offer a trail workout to Olancha Pass, and, by request, a further optional extension to Round Mountain just to the S of Olancha Pass. Olancha Pass is a well used eastern lateral to the PCT and a part of the eastern approach to Olancha Peak. Sage Flat has been flush with lupine in the past, and there are notable hotspots of wildflowers on the sandy slopes through which the trail passes below Olancha Pass. Round Mtn is an additional 5.2 mi RT and 660 vertical ft beyond Olancha Pass and a nice objective as seen from Owens Valley. This tough conditioning hike will be good preparation for our summer adventures. The hikes to Olancha Pass and Round Mtn are both strenuous due to distance and altitude gained, with the latter just more strenuous (roughly 2/3 of a one day climb of Mt Whitney). Meet Sat, June 14, at **7:00 AM** at the Ridgecrest Cinema parking lot. Note the earlier start time. For more information, call Dennis Burge at 760.375.7967 or Jim Nichols at 760.375.8161.

## **2008 Windmill-Wildflower Hike Planned for Tehachapi 23rd Annual Walk May 10th, 2008**

The Kern-Kaweah Chapter of the Sierra Club will lead a hike on the Pacific Crest Trail at 9:00 AM Saturday, May 10th, 2008, near Tehachapi, California.

The Sierra Club's local Chapter sponsors the hike to spotlight a little-known section of the trail as well as the 3,500 wind turbines in the Tehachapi Pass. The event marks the 23rd year of the annual spring hike. More than 750 people, from children to octogenarians, have taken the six-mile walk across Cameron Ridge since the event was first launched more than two decades ago.

The six-mile hike leaves the trailhead at the junction of Cameron Road and Tehachapi-Willow Springs Road promptly at 9:00 AM. Spring weather at 5,000 feet in the Tehachapi Mountains is unpredictable. The temperature can vary from near freezing to sweltering. Hikers are advised to dress appropriately, bring at least one quart of water per person (two quarts per person recommended), and pack a lunch.

The Pacific Crest Trail stretches from Mexico to Canada, following the crest of the Sierra Nevada for much of its length. The route over Cameron Ridge offers sweeping vistas of the Mojave Desert, the Garlock Fault, and thousands of wind turbines.

The Sierra Club supports the responsible development of renewable resources, including wind energy. The hike will be led by local Sierra Club member Paul Gipe. A car pool will leave from Bakersfield at 7:30 AM. For more information on car pooling from Bakersfield call Tony Swan at 661.363.5106 or Paul Gipe at 661.325.9590.

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## ***NATUREFEST II***

*Experiences With The Natural World*

***SATURDAY, MAY 10, 2008*** Noon to 3:30 PM

*Frazier Park Elementary School in Frazier Park.*

***Great for all folks, young to 100-plus Free!***

*You can expect to see hands-on-exhibits on flowers, trees, wetlands, fire prevention, fossils, gps challenges, compass work, sketching nature, llamas, tracking, story telling, nature photography, tread lightly, just air & clean air, and much more.*

*IT is a great time of year to visit this Mountain Communities area, located on the top of the Tejon Pass on I-5. No snow this time of year but you never can tell for sure!*

*Sponsored by Condor Group and various parent-teacher educators*

# MIDGEBUZZINGS

I AM STILL FEELING the pleasant effects of a gathering at the home of friends recently for a potluck and tour of the wildflowers and native plants that brighten their two acres of land and give us a reason to come together every spring to celebrate friendship and mutual love of nature's bounty. It was a gorgeous day, just between March and April, with many of the beauties we rejoice in here: a blue sky, fluffy clouds, and in this case, a view from the garden all the way to the mouth of the Kern River Canyon. The setting might have been the same forty years ago when some of us were getting acquainted through membership in the newly formed Kern-Kaweah Chapter of the Sierra Club. Then, as now, we ate outside, shared stories, and reveled in the perfection of a day.

The next morning, in the Sunday edition of the *Bakersfield Californian*, I opened the comics section to remove, as I always do, the little insert for children which is entitled: "The Mini Page: Especially for kids and their families." The headline, a first of its kind in my experience with this section of the paper, read as follows: "Frogs Are Facing Extinction." To my amazement, almost the entire four pages, beautifully illustrated, were devoted to this very serious environmental problem. The Mini Page staff had begun with biological information about frogs, written in enlarged print and in language suitable for readers from the about the fifth grade upwards. There was a discussion of a frog-killing fungus, including such frank and direct sentences as these: "Human development and global warming have destroyed much frog habitat," and "The rapid extinctions could signal the start of an environmental danger to humans as well." This was certainly nothing like forty years ago!

Now I am waiting for letters to the editor from parents who may have differing responses to this edition of the children's section of the paper. There are sharp divisions in people's opinions of theories about climate change. A friend told me recently that in his latest *Mensa Magazine* there was an article to the effect that global warming is a myth. Apparently IQ is not necessarily a factor in the perception and acceptance of what most scientists now believe regarding human activity as a leading cause of climate change. There are varying responses, also, from religious communities, some rejecting the scientists' views as entirely secular in opposition to religious faith, and others embracing science and working through their congregations to enlarge understanding both of the problem and of its possible solutions.

Certainly the Sierra Club takes the view that children, as well as adults, must be educated to the increasingly serious threats to our planet and the implications for their future. At the same time it is imperative for the well-being of children that they should not be discouraged or frightened by adult views and conclusions. They should believe in solutions, and be encouraged to take part in efforts to achieve them. Clearly, the children's section in the Sunday paper is an indication both of this awareness on the part of adults, and of their movement toward positive and constructive education for the very young. Perhaps we in the Kern-Kaweah Chapter should begin to think about implementing programs for children through chapter activities. Emphasizing hope at all levels can only be good for our own state of mind.

Ann Williams

## ***Executive Committee of the Kern-Kaweah Chapter***

*Chair:* Arthur Unger (Bksf), 661.323.5569. *Vice-chair:* Gordon Nipp (Bksf), 661.872.2432. *Secretary:* Georgette Theotig (Tehachapi), 661.822.4371. *Treasurer:* Lorraine Unger (Bksf), 661.323.5569. Donnel Lister (Bksf), 661.831.6784. Jan de Leeuw (PMC), 661.245.1725. Richard Garcia (Min King), 559. 592.9865. Mary Ann Lockhart (PMC), 661.242.0432. Ara Marderosian (Kernville), 760.378.4574,

***Chapter Ex-com Meetings:*** All Sierra Club members are always welcome to attend.

*May meeting: Saturday, May 11*

Call 661.323.5569 or e-mail [artunger@att.net](mailto:artunger@att.net) to confirm all meeting dates, as well as location and time of day.

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***Want to contact Chapter Chair?***

artunger@att.net  
*note new e-mail address*

***Want to contact Roadrunner editor?***

Mary Ann Lockhart,  
jmal@frazmtn.com or 661.242.0432

Yes, I want to join the Sierra Club. Check enclosed.
Name _____
City _____ State _____
Zip _____
<i>Indicate one:</i>
Intro \$25 ____ Sing \$39 _____ Joint \$47 ____ Send
to Sierra Club, PO 52968, Boulder, CO 80322
<u>F94Q W 6000-1</u>

**JUST ARRIVED - LEGISLATIVE NOTE OF GREAT INTEREST. WE NEED TO WATCH THIS!**

State Senator Kuehl’s **SB 1165** passed out of the Senate Committee on Environmental Quality on Monday afternoon and is now headed to Senate Appropriations. Supported by 40 conservation organizations, community groups and CEQA practitioners, this measure would ensure that environmental review documents required by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) are both current and free of undue influence by the project proponents. **Improved public participation opportunities will give local residents will better chances for input. The bill would ensure greater transparency in the creation of draft Environmental Impact Reports (EIRs) and requires EIRs older than five years to be reviewed again for new impacts. Watch for alerts to support this bill!**

*Second notice*

<p><b>Insider News on All Things of Kern Kaweah Concern UPDATED</b>  <b>Coming to you Paperless and Stampless. Try it. You’ll like it!</b></p> <p>Join our <u>KERN-NEWS</u> Email List if you would like to receive up-dated news <u>along with notices of when the Roadrunner</u> is posted on our website. <b>(Note: Request to be notified that electronic Roadrunner is on the web can be made directly and easily on Chapter site)</b></p> <p>And/ or</p> <p>Join our <u>KERN-FORUM</u> Email Discussion list if you want to read, write about and respond to environmental challenges of the day that are of special interest to you.</p> <p>You can join either or both of these lists at</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><a href="http://kernkaweah.sierraclub.org/">http://kernkaweah.sierraclub.org/</a></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Looking forward to reading you and the Roadrunner soon!</u></b></p>
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## ELECTRONIC ADDITIONS

### More News from the Sierra Club State Staff on legislation of interest

We have been working with a broad coalition of other environmental groups under the umbrella name of Green California to advocate support to protect our state programs from draconian budget cuts such as possible closures of 48 State Parks, removing life guards from 14 State beaches, significant cuts to game wardens, closing California Conservation Corp centers, etc. It is likely that we don't see real movement on the budget until Republicans have to deal with constituents angry about the imminent closures of parks and schools.

A **high speed rail bond measure** is slated to be on the November ballot. While high speed rail could make California a far more sustainable state, the jury is out on whether the Authority will make the right decisions. The draft environmental impact statement was deeply flawed and the HSR board has not yet taken steps which would assure us that the HSR will measure up as green infrastructure. Accordingly, the Sierra Club has worked to pull together a coalition to fight to make the system live up to its promise. The authority will need to certify an EIR, and also needs legislation by June of this year to make changes essential to the political prospects for the measure. That legislation will require a two thirds majority. Needless to say, we have leverage.

**AB 1920 (Huffman)** will enable residents who produce renewable energy for their homes, small businesses or farms to get paid by their utility company for any excess electricity they produce that goes back on the grid. Paul Gipe says **AB1920** is a "faux" or false feed-in tariff bill. We should not support it. It is a waste of time."

### **Land Use and Transportation**

Though there are dozens of bills relating to land use that we will be working on this year, the highlights all seem to have a strong climate change angle. No recommendations at this time.

**Air Quality** working on campaign for a strong rule to clean up dirty diesel trucks at the CA Air Resources Board. **SB 974 (Lowenthal)** would assess fees on containers shipped through the ports of Los Angeles, Long Beach and Oakland, and use the money to fund air quality and transportation improvements.

**AB 2175 (Laird)** would require the Department of Water Resources to establish a numeric water conservation target for the state, initially for 2030, that provides for the maximum feasible and cost-effective increase in water conservation. Water suppliers would work with the department and set 5-year goals for water conservation. They would also have to report on their progress in reaching the target and have it confirmed by independent evaluation.

### **Producer Responsibility for Hazardous Waste**

**AB 2347 (Ruskin)**, would make the manufacturers of mercury-containing thermostats responsible for safely recycling them when they become waste. We sponsored legislation in 2004 that banned the sale of new mercury thermostats, and now we are addressing the existing stock.

We have also supported a producer responsibility framework adopted by the Integrated Waste Management Board. Bill Magavern is serving on a Lighting Task Force appointed by Dept of Toxic Substances Control, pursuant to AB 1109 of last year, to suggest solutions for end-of-life disposition of light bulbs. And we co-released a report on what to do if a mercury-containing fluorescent bulb breaks in your home.

**Sierra Club California strongly opposes any effort to close our state parks.** These cuts would be devastating to the millions of Californians who rely on their state parks for recreation, educational opportunities, and quiet enjoyment of nature.

**AB 2989 (Fuentes)** – this Sierra Club California sponsored bill would create the California

**Forestry**

Jackson Demonstration State Forest (JDSF) – After nearly a decade of litigation, and several years of working closely with the Board of Forestry to create a new management plan, we are extremely pleased with the plan approved by the Board of Forestry earlier this year. This month the Director of CDF named the Advisory Committee, which has substantial influence and authority over the first three years. The Committee appears to be quite balanced and includes two long-time Sierra Club forest activists (Linda Perkins and Kathy Bailey), as well as the director of the Campaign to Restore Jackson Forest (Vince Taylor).

Outdoor Environmental Education and Recreation Program at the California Department of Parks and Recreation. The program would award grants to formal school programs and nonprofit community groups that provide outdoor education and recreation opportunities. Money for the grants would come from the Environmental License Plate Fund and private donations.

**AB 2945 (Laird)** would designate wilderness in four different state parks - Castle Crags, Andrew Molera, Limekiln and Providence Mountains. It would also allow agencies to use motorized equipment in state wilderness areas if it is necessary to accomplish an essential task.

State Senator Kuehl's SB 1165 passed out of the Senate Committee on Environmental Quality on Monday afternoon and is now headed to Senate Appropriations.

Supported by 40 conservation organizations, community groups and CEQA practitioners, this measure ensures that environmental review documents required by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) are both current and free of undue influence by the project proponents.

Thanks to everyone who responded to our recent alert on this bill by calling Chairman Simitian and other Senate Environmental Quality committee members to ask them to pass Senator Kuehl's SB 1165!