

The Roadrunner

A bimonthly publication of the Kern-Kaweah
Chapter of the Sierra Club – Nov/Dec. 2007

You're All Invited: Chapter Fall Dinner

Saturday, November 17, at Bill Lee's in
downtown Bakersfield

YOU ARE ALL invited to a casual evening of delicious food, good conversation and motivating presentation. This is a great opportunity for those who are new to Sierra Club's Kern-Kaweah Chapter to mingle with the dedicated members who have been enjoying and protecting this area of California for many years.

During the dinner Chapter leaders will brief us on local concerns and conservation efforts. Following dinner we are honored to have **Ileene Anderson**, Staff Biologist with the Center for Biological Diversity (and formerly with Calif. Native Plant Society), speaking on urban/wildlands conservation in Southern California and specifically on protecting Tejon Ranch lands. This is a subject that should be of concern to all Valley residents, since it affects our southern gateway and an area of ecological concern.

Plan to do some holiday shopping at this event.

Sierra Club calendars, cards and miscellany will be on display and for sale.

See insert at the right for details on making your reservation. See p. 8 for mail-in coupon.

Annual Sierra Club Kern-Kaweah Chapter Fall Dinner & Social Gathering

Guest Speaker:

Ileene Anderson, Staff Biologist
Center for Biological Diversity

Speaking on
Tejon Proposed Development Projects

Saturday, November 17

6 PM no-host Social Hour

7 PM Dinner & Guest Speaker

Bill Lee's Bamboo Chopsticks
1203 - 18th Street, Bakersfield 93301

\$16 per person

make check payable to
Sierra Club, Kern-Kaweah

Chapter

Send check postmarked by Nov. 10
Checks only/No sales at

door

Do it today – and save this reminder!

Further info: Ann Gallon,
661.589.7796

Or Michelle Zachlod, 661.695.4336

JAMES KUNSTLER, NOTED URBAN PLANNER

**SPEAKS AT CAL STATE, BAKERSFIELD, WEDNESDAY NOV 14TH,
7 TO 8:30 PM FREE ADMISSION, PARKING**

Mr. James Kunstler, noted urban planning expert, author, and journalist, will explain his analysis of the mistakes made in urban design planning in the past and comment on what needs to be done now so as not to repeat them. This is a fantastic opportunity to listen to one who has analyzed the current state of policy regarding growth. Come and empower yourself when it comes to questioning growth development in Bakersfield as well as all of Kern and Tulare Counties.

He is the well-known author of *The Geography of Nowhere* and *Home from Nowhere*. He has long been recognized as a fierce proponent of **New Urbanism** and strident critic of sprawl and the high costs and inefficiencies associated with an automobile-centric culture. His latest book, *The Long Emergency: Surviving the End of the Oil Age, Climate Change, and Other Converging Catastrophes of the Twenty-first Century* (2005), expands on his past critiques of suburbia by exploring the sweeping economic,

political and social changes that will result from the end of access to cheap fossil fuels. (*cont. p. 2*)

Directions: From highway 99, exit Ming Ave. Go west about 5 miles. Turn right (north) on Gosford Road. Next light, Camino Media (near the Marketplace), turn left. Go west to stop sign. Turn right (north) on Student Way, entrance to CSUB campus. First building on the right is the Icardo Center. The parking lot is next to it.

Sponsors of this program are the *Sierra Club, Kern-Kaweah Chapter*, in conjunction with the *American Planning Association (APA), Central Section*, the *Environmental Resource Management Program* and *Department of Public Policy and Administration at CSUB*.

FROM THE KERN KAWEAH CHAPTER CHAIR

What did Kern-Kaweah members do for the planet on September 18, 2007?

Steven Montgomery told the Kern County Board of Supervisors that they must not allow septic tanks on lots of less than six acres.

Donnel Lester asked the Legislative Committee of the Bakersfield City Council to support the use of reusable grocery bags in place of plastic grocery bags.

Jan de Leeuw, Mary Ann Lockhart, Mar Preston, and Dorothy Vokolek, supported by the Condor Group Ex-com, participated in organizing and presenting a forum on development proposals around Tejon Pass. It was held in Frazier Park and attended by 80 to 90 persons, including *Lorraine Unger* and *Donnel Lester*, who drove up from Bakersfield. Donnel was interviewed and quoted in the Mountain Enterprise, the local paper.

Gordon Nipp's detailed comments on sprawl and loss of food-producing land were discussed at the Shafter City Council. *Tom Frantz* spoke as a local resident. I was there too and was rewarded on driving home by a kit fox who danced away from traffic on Manor Drive where the railroad crosses Manor.

Maybe you had to tend only to your own life September 18, 2007. What will you do for the planet this month?

Art Unger

KERN KAWEAH CHAPTER ELECTIONS COMING UP!

WILL YOU CONSIDER RUNNING FOR A POSITION ON THE CHAPTER EX-COM?

This is an interesting body of decision-makers of which to be a part. It is the net that keeps all the local groups together, particularly when common goals are revealed and the need for joint action is evident. It is the body that, if convinced, is able to support your local group financially beyond the yearly allowance. It is the body that has "connections" and sources of information to help you become more influential in your local community.

All of this should help you decide that **you** would like to be part of this committee and want to run. Your obligations? Attend monthly meetings in Bakersfield, be willing to receive and respond to e-mail regarding Chapter business, and become ever more informed in areas of Chapter concern.

Interested? Send to jmal@frazmtn.com your name, group affiliation, email address, and a three-sentence-long biography/explanation of why you should be elected. This information will be published, along with the ballot, in the January/February edition of the Roadrunner.

If you wish to use the Roadrunner to distribute your group's ballots, please submit them by December 10th, 2007. Thank you.

KERN KAWEAH CHAPTER OFFICERS for 2007: *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 Lester (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. *Meetings:* All Sierra Club members welcome to attend. *Tentative future meeting dates:* Sun. Oct 28/ Sat. Nov 17, places to be announced. Call 661.323.5569 or e-mail alunger@juno.com to check for location and time of day.

KERN-KAWEAH ROUND-UP

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. Long pants recommended. Unprepared for the prospective hike? It will be a no-go for you. Please let the leader know ahead of time that you are intending to participate. Change of plans may be necessary. *IF YOU DON'T WANT TO BE DISAPPOINTED, BE SURE TO MAKE THAT CALL.*

Tuesday Conditioning Hikes: every week (Buena Vista Gp)

Nov 10 (sat) Hike to base of Winnedumah-Paiute Monument (Owens Peak)

Nov 17 (sat) Kaweah Oaks Preserve nature walk. (Mineral King)

Nov 24 (sat) Yellowjacket Trail (Condor)

Dec 15 (sat) Hike to Ladybug Camp (Mineral King) Lower 2/3rds, Cottonwood Creek (Owens Pk)

Buena Vista Group Bakersfield *More info? call Donnel Lester, 661.831.6784*

Buena Vista Group's monthly Program meetings are now held at a NEW LOCATION, The Garden Spot, 3320 Truxtun Avenue (NW corner of Oak and Truxtun) on the first Saturday of each month at 8:30 AM. Breakfast is available for \$6.50/person.

Nov 3 (sat) 8:30 AM at the Garden Spot. Our program will highlight guest speaker Jeremy Wilhelm, Exec. VP and CAO for Cilion, a renewable fuels company. He will discuss biofuels with an emphasis on ethanol and the proposed Famoso facility. For more information contact Donnel at 661.831.6784.

Nov 17 (sat), "Adopt-A-Highway" cleanup, the third Saturday of each month at 9 AM. We meet at the Monte Carlo Club parking lot at the intersection of Hwy 119 and Old River Road. Bring water, gloves, and a hat. We will work for about an hour and a half. For information, phone Donnel at 661.831.6784.

Dec 1 (sat) 8:30 AM at the Garden Spot. We will be viewing the movie "Going Local," which focuses on community choice in contracting for energy sources. For more information contact Donnel at 661.831.6784.

Tuesday Conditioning Hikes. 7 PM, 4-5 miles. Corner of Highways 178 & 184. Gordon 661.872.2432 or Larry 661.873.8107.

December: No "Adopt-A-Highway" due to the upcoming holidays.

***** Buena Vista Group Nominations *****

Nominations for four positions on the Buena Vista Group Executive Committee are being accepted until December 1, 2007. They should be mailed to BVG Nominations Committee, 1626 19th Street, Suite 3, Bakersfield, CA 93301.

Distribution of Compact Fluorescent Lamps In Bakersfield

The Kern-Kaweah Chapter approved a resolution last April to provide up to \$200 for each of its five groups to purchase compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) for free distribution in their communities as a way of encouraging the use of CFLs, thus reducing energy use and reducing global warming.

Since that time the Buena Vista Group has purchased and distributed about \$125 worth of bulbs totaling more than 300 CFLs and has another \$75 worth (about 300 since we found a cheaper source), of which approximately 100 have been distributed. We have found them at prices as low as 25 cents each for the 15 watt or 23 watt lamps, energy star labeled, of course. The distribution efforts have taken place at a variety of locations, from handing the CFLs out at tabling events, at a book store, in parking lots, at our monthly group meetings, and at community gatherings.

The response has generally been quite good, and of course we are quick to let the recipients know who is providing the CFLs. We have even used them to introduce people to the Sierra Club in case they aren't familiar with it. That gives us a chance to inform them about who we are and what we stand for in the local community, leaving the recipient with a positive image in their mind as they part.

People will be reminded of where they got their CFLs from the time they first turn them on for as long as the CFLs last. For this reason, I think they will value the gift more than simply a pen or pencil with our logo on it.

Donnel Lester, Chair

Meeting Notices. If you would like to receive BVGroup meeting and activity information by email, please contact Membership Chair, Ann Gallon, at amgallon@atg1.com, with *Add me to the email list*. You can opt out of the e-mail notices at any time. We try to keep this to once-a-month emailings. **Battery Recycling at BVG Meetings** – bring us your old batteries, lithium ion, nickel metal hydride, NiCad, small sealed lead-acid batteries and from cordless & cell phones, power tools, laptops, etc.

Condor Group Pine Mountain Club. *Info?* 661.242.0432. Hike info? Dale, 661.242.1076

Nov 24 (sat) Yellowjacket Trail (Thanksgiving weekend) Meet at 8 AM. Pine Mountain Clubhouse (or make arrangements to meet further down the road). We will be hiking the Yellowjacket Trail off Grade Valley Road. This has been one of our favorite hikes, because of its diversity. The trail takes us through a series of sag ponds and along a (sometimes) running stream. This area was also burned over by the Day fire, so it will give us the opportunity to see the fire's effect in this area. Approximately 8 miles in length with less than 500 feet elevation gain.

(Condor Group will have a booth at the annual Craft Fair held in the PMC Clubhouse on the same day. Nice holiday shopping opportunity)

Dec 1st (sat) Holiday Party. 6 PM. Bring a gift (a white elephant from your “too-much-stuff in my house” pile) wrapped to disguise its contents and ready to be exchanged in the lottery style gift delivery system. 6 PM Potluck followed by music and merriment. PMC Clubhouse.

No more Condor hikes until March, 2008 due to usually unstable weather conditions (called snow).

Where Will All The Wildflowers Go?

This was the theme of the forum planned and carried out by the members of the Condor Group Ex-com and presented in Frazier Park. This forum was designed to expand the information data on all the proposed housing developments (50,000 houses, 100,000 minimum population increase, traffic increase, beyond belief) in the Tejon Pass area. Speakers included ILeene Anderson from Center of Biological Diversity presenting an overview of the unique biological areas that would be severely affected: Doug Peters, local water activist, describing the present conditions of water supply, concluding with tree ring evidence that indicated that over the last 400 years, desert conditions were the norm, with the last forty “wet” years or so being the exception; Linda McKay, local air activist, who, interpreting the findings of a state air monitor, indicated that what was assumed to be clean air in this region is threatened by pollutants; Jan de Leeuw with statistical evidence of the increase in traffic and its costs; Mary Ann Lockhart presenting predictions as to earthquake potentials related particularly to the San Andreas and Garlock Faults, raising concerns as to the wisdom of allowing large leapfrog housing projects in this area; and Dorothy Vokolek reviewing the common findings that housing developments often produce more than considerable negative financial costs to non-resident housing development taxpayers. Over 80 persons attended the forum, a remarkable number for this small rural area.

Want to read more about all of this? Check into Cuddyvalley.org. This is a website that was designed and is continually updated by Prof. Jan de Leeuw, a member of the Condor Group in addition to being the head of the Statistics Dept. at UCLA.

In addition, the Group distributed 50 sets of fluorescent bulbs at a local fiesta within two hours. Let's hope they all have been installed!

Mary Ann Lockhart

Kaweah Group Porterville *More info? call Pam, 559.784.4643*

Dec 15 (sat) Potluck. Come join us in our traditional Christmas potluck at 6 PM at the home of Boyd and Mary Leavitt. We're looking forward to seeing you all and celebrating the season together.

Mineral King Group Visalia. *More info? call Kim Loeb, 559.798.1764* Check mineralking.sierraclub.org for more about our events and activities

Nov 7 (wed) 7 PM Non-Sierra Club meeting of great interest. See p. 6 for details.

Nov 14 (wed) 6 PM – **Dinner Social at Taj Palace**, 4545-B W. Noble Ave., Visalia. Please RSVP to Bev at 559.732.3785 or gmachine@psnw.com.

Nov 16 (fri) 7 PM - Non-Sierra Club meeting of great interest. See p. 6 for details.

Nov 17 (sat) 9 AM – **Kaweah Oaks Preserve nature walk**. Brian Newton will lead a hike on two or three of the interpretive trails at the preserve. This should be a flat very easy hike in the Kaweah Oaks Preserve. Meet at 9 AM in the parking lot by Taco Bell in Mary's Vineyard. Call Brian for more info 559.627.3571.

Nov 26 (mon) 5:30 PM – **ExCom Meeting** at Something Fresh Restaurant, 505 S Chinowth St, Visalia. All members are welcome. **Note that we have moved to Monday.** Please RSVP to Bev at 559.732.3785 or garciamachine@comcast.net.

Dec 12 (wed) 6 PM – **Dinner Social at Thai Basil Restaurant**, 1423 E Noble Ave. (in Mary's Vinyard), Visalia. Please RSVP to Bev at 559.732.3785 or gmachine@psnw.com.

Dec 15 (sat) - 9 AM – **Hike to Ladybug Camp**. This is a fairly short and easy hike up the South Fork of the Kaweah River up to Ladybug Camp. We may even be able to see a bunch of hibernating ladybugs, but I'm not sure if they are still out in December. Meet at 9 AM in the parking lot by Taco Bell in Mary's Vineyard. Rain/snow cancels. Call Allen for info. 559.739.8087.

Mineral King Concerns

Tulare County continues to work on its General Plan update, which will be the blueprint for growth in the county for the next 20 or more years. Meanwhile, J. G. Boswell Company is pursuing its Yokohl Ranch project, which would create a new city of 10,000 houses in pristine Sierran foothills. There are many other growth pressures on the county. Mineral King Group members are working with the community-based citizens group Tulare County Citizens for Responsible Growth (TCCRG), which is working hard to make sure that future growth protects our natural resources, communities and local economy. John Kamansky (johnkamansky@SBCGLOBAL.NET) is the Mineral King Group contact for TCCRG.

The Mineral King Group presented the film "THE GREAT WARMING" at a downtown Visalia coffee house in late September. There was a good turnout. We have that CD and a number of others, like "BEING CARIBOU," "OIL ON ICE," that members and other groups are welcome to borrow. Please call Beverly Garcia for more information at 559.732.3785.

Kim Loeb

Owens Peak Group Ridgecrest *More info? Dennis Burge, Chair 760.375.7967 Jim Nichols, Hikes 760.375.8161 email: dennis93555@yahoo.com, Maturango Museum*

Nov. 7 (wed), 7:30 PM. Rob and Tara Cahill will present: "*A biogeography of the Resplendent Quetzal*", with a photo-biography of the avifauna of the cloud-forests of Guatemala's central highlands. This is co-sponsored by OPG, Maturango Museum, Kerncrest Audubon and Heifer Project Intl. At Maturango Museum.

Nov 10 (sat) Hike to base of Winnedumah-Paiute Monument, in the saddle of the Inyos E of Independence, 8369 ft, 1900 ft elevation gain, 7.5 mi RT. We will try to rediscover the route to this 80-ft granite obelisk, said to be the Paiute warrior Winnedumah, frozen in time at the crest of the Inyo Mtns. Several routes are described, but we will attempt to discover the old route and trail from Barrel Springs. We should have outstanding views of the Sierra Crest, Owens Valley, and the N part of Saline Valley and points E. Moderate hike due to distance and elevation gain. Meet 7:30 AM at the Ridgecrest Cinema

parking lot. More info? Call Dennis at 760.375.7967 or Jim at 760.375.8161. (*cont. p. 6*)

Nov. 26 (mon), 7:30 PM. "In American Values, American Wilderness". A DVD provided by Stan Haye. Christopher Reeve (in his last appearance) and a diverse group of Americans share their values for Wilderness. At Maturango Museum. Ridgecrest.

Dec 15 (sat) 7:30 AM. Lower 2/3rds of the Cottonwood Creek Trail, the old route to the Cottonwood Sawmill, 7800 ft, 2500 ft elevation gain, 7 mi RT. We will explore the lower 2500 ft of the 4000 ft trail up to the location of a washed-out bridge. We will track down signs of the flume used to shoot slats of wood down to the charcoal kilns located near the shore of Owens Lake in the 1870s. Depending on the creek crossing, some may want to explore the upper part of the trail. Good December workout! Moderate hike due to distance and elevation gain. Meet Sat, Dec 15 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 info.

What to do if you break a CFL

How should I clean up a broken fluorescent bulb? The U.S. EPA recommends the following clean-up and disposal guidelines: 1. Open a window and leave the room (restrict access) for at least 15 minutes.

2. Remove all materials you can without using a vacuum cleaner. — Wear disposable rubber gloves, if available (do not use your bare hands). — Carefully scoop up the fragments and powder with stiff paper or cardboard. — Wipe the area clean with a damp paper towel or disposable wet wipe. — Sticky tape (such as duct tape) can be used to pick up small pieces and powder.

3. Place all cleanup materials in a plastic bag and seal it. — If your state permits you to put used or broken CFLs in the garbage, seal the CFL in two plastic bags and put into the outside trash (if no other disposal or recycling options are available). — Wash your hands after disposing of the bag.

4. More — The first time you vacuum the area where the bulb was broken, remove the vacuum bag once done cleaning the area (or empty and wipe the canister) and put the bag and/or vacuum debris, as well as the cleaning materials, in two sealed plastic bags in the outdoor trash or protected outdoor location for normal disposal.

Donnel Lester

News in the Nutshell

Special non-Sierra Club sponsored programs of much interest, particularly for Mineral King.

Nov 7 (Wed) 7 PM. A forum of 4 panelists will discuss growth in Tulare County and how to manage the increase in population. In the lecture hall (room 350, now called the Sycamore Building) at College of the Sequoias. Free admission. Organized by TCCRG. Panelists are Greg Kirkpatrick, Visalia City Councilman, Jeff Steen, co-chair of TCCRG, Mike Knopf, president of the development company Quad Knopf, and Laurel Firestone, Executive Director of Community Water Center. Call Brian Newton for more info. 559.627.3571.

Nov 16 (Fri) 7 PM. The November Tulare County Audubon Society program presenter will be Dr. Gary Langham, director of bird conservation for Audubon California. He will provide an update on the Condor Recovery Program, highlighting current perils and success stories. 7–9 PM at the TC Department of Education building at the southwest corner of Woodland and Burrell Avenue. Free admission, door prizes and refreshments. Call Brian Newton for more info. 559.627.3571.

Hiking Leaders newly certified. Congratulations: Dennis Burge, Dale Chitwood, Allen Dimick, Joanne Dudley, James & Mary Ann Lockhart, Jim Nichols, Theresa Stump, Georgette Theotig, Lorraine Unger. A swell beginning. Anyone else wanting to join this crew? Call Jim, 760.375.8161.

Name on Film Harold Wood is listed on the credits of the de Caprio movie "The 11th Hour," a feature-length documentary concerning the current environmental crises. He was called as an expert on John Muir and so credited. Congratulations, Harold.

Can you imagine it? Pictures of a dug-up front yard and the Ungers on the front page of the Bakersfield California? Why? Recording Ungers' personal step toward conserving water by replanting their yard with drought resistant, water-saving native plants. Want to try too? Go to Calif. Native Plant Society plant sale on Saturday, Nov 3rd, Cal State Bakersfield, 9001 Stockdale Hwy. Sale in Environmental Studies Area near Parking I. 9 AM–4 PM. More info? Call Debby Kroeger at 661.872.2256.

MIDGEBUZZINGS

MANY OF US know and love Will and Sue Dallons, long-time members of the Kern-Kaweah Chapter and residents of Tehachapi for many years. They were the owners of Beco-Sierra Graphic Services and once printed *The Roadrunner*, then a monthly publication. Will designed and produced my little book, *Midgebuzzings*, in 1985.

When they retired, they decided to live as camp hosts in the western United States, spending the remaining seasons of their lives in places where winters are warm and summers are pleasantly cool. In short, they would live as the super-rich do, but without the expense. They bought a comfortable vehicle for the purpose, packed it with what they would need, bid their four children with assorted families goodbye, and drove off into a life of adventure.

In August Chris Geyer and I were privileged to receive an invitation from the Dallons, now in their 80s, to join them for an overnight at the Piedras Blancas Light Station a few miles above San Simeon, where they were working as caretakers and assistants. I had been there briefly in July with Bugs Fontaine, Joan Harper, and Bob and Glory Fisher, all early members of the chapter, and I had requested a later interview for an article.

Chris and I found the Cambria coast deep in fog that day, and drove north without hope of sunlight. But just after San Simeon the fog rolled away, and by the time Will and Sue met us at the gate to the station road the weather was gorgeous.

Driving toward the lighthouse and the outlying buildings, we could see the magnitude of the task of replacing ice plant and other botanic interlopers with native flora. Knowledgeable volunteers spend hours uprooting exotics and piling them for removal. Then they cultivate the soil, and sow the seeds they have harvested from native plants. Resident scientists and trained volunteers study weather patterns and marine life. Sue has kept a journal of her observations of the flora and fauna, and Will, a master carpenter and craftsman, has built improvements and constructed show cases and permanent mounts for displays and publicity.

Inside the lighthouse an iron staircase spirals upward in diminishing turns to a hatch that opens to the top. I dared go no farther than halfway, but Chris, at 81, went right up to the platform, annoying the resident peregrine falcon and exulting in the altitude and the view.

That evening, following interviews with volunteers, access to a growing library of scientific materials, and lessons on the history of the lighthouse from the beginning to its present state, we had supper in the Dallons' residence overlooking the ocean. Will and I sipped wine and reminisced about chapter history with Chris and Sue. Suddenly Will said, "Do you want to see the light at night?"

I can only try to convey the effect of that light as it pulses from an 800,000-candlepower mechanism that sends a far more powerful beam than any created from oil or kerosene. It cuts through fog like revelation through a shroud of ignorance. I wondered aloud if a camera could catch it. Sue took some pictures and there it was on her digital screen, just as we saw it!

That night, looking out a bedroom window that opened to the sea, I watched those sweeping beacons contend with the darkness until dreams overcame them.

Thanks, Will and Sue. You *are* the light!

(Piedras Blancas remains off limits to the public, as it is a research station open mainly to scientists and qualified volunteers. There are tours on selected Saturdays. For reservations call 805.927.6811.)

Want to sign up for "e-mail only" Roadrunner?

Send message to alunger@juno.com

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

Mary Ann Lockhart,

jmal@frazmtn.com or 661.242.0432

Happy Holiday Greetings to all

“Thousands of tired, nerve-shaken, over-civilized people are beginning to find out that going to the mountains is going home; that wildness is a necessity; and that mountain parks and reservations are useful not only as fountains of timber and irrigating rivers, but as fountains of life.” - John Muir

*Let us continue to encourage and support protection of
our natural world in the days and years to come.*

_____ clip here _____

Reservation for Sierra Club, Kern-Kaweah Chapter Dinner

I/We will attend the Dinner on Saturday, Nov. 17, 6 PM, at Bill Lee's Bamboo Chopsticks in Bakersfield.

Please make check out to: Sierra Club, Kern-Kaweah Chapter

Enclosed is my check for _____ reservations x \$16.00 per person = \$ _____

Name/s attending _____

_____ phone # _____

Please, MAIL reservation ON OR BEFORE Sat. Nov. 10, 2007.

[No sales at door]

SEND to Dr. Michelle Zachlod, 801 Boca Del Rio Dr., Bakersfield CA 93314

SIERRA CLUB POSITION ON BALLOT INITIATIVES OCTOBER, 2007

Sierra Club California supports the Terms Limits and Legislative Reform Act (which is on the February, 2008 ballot).

Staff contact: Jim Metropulos

Sierra Club California opposes the Nuclear Energy, Removal of Prohibition of Nuclear Power Plants initiative (which is in signature gathering).

Staff contact: Jim Metropulos

Sierra Club California opposes the Presidential Electors, Political Party Nomination and Election by Congressional District initiative (which is in signature gathering).

Staff contact: Bill Magavern

GLOBAL WARMING/ALTERNATIVE FUELS

We advocated for a strong list of Early Action Measures to implement last year's Global Warming Solutions Act. Activists from the Energy and Air Quality Committees joined me in addressing the Air Resources Board meeting on this topic in June. Interference from the governor's office kept the Early Action list to 3 measures, and then caused the firing of ARB's chair and executive officer. I publicly criticized that interference, and the resulting controversy led to the governor and his new ARB chair committing to expanding the Early Action list, an action that will be taken next month (see article from today's Sacramento Bee).

We have supported 2 major alternative fuels bills: AB 118 (Núñez) would raise money for alt fuels and air quality, and SB 210 (Kehoe) would put air quality and sustainability criteria on the Low-Carbon Fuels Standard being formulated by ARB as an Early Action Measure.

AIR QUALITY

We have focused on reducing **toxic diesel emissions**. Our sponsored bill, AB 233 (Jones), which would improve enforcement of diesel emission reduction rules, is poised for passage by the Legislature. ARB in July adopted strong standards to reduce emissions from off-road diesel engines like construction equipment (Bill Haller and Rafael Aguilera, from the Air Quality and Environmental Justice Committees, respectively, testified for us at the hearings). In addition, we have lobbied for the Clean Ports bill, SB 974 (Lowenthal), to reduce diesel emissions at the mega-ports of Los Angeles, Long Beach and Oakland – that bill is now being negotiated with the governor for next year.

For the 5th straight year we have backed reform of the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District's governing board (SB 719, Machado). And we have testified to ARB on the need for stronger clean-air plans for the Valley and the South Coast area.

REDUCING USE OF TOXIC CHEMICALS

For many years we have called for stricter regulation of toxic chemicals, which currently are released into the marketplace without testing for safety. This year our top vehicle is AB 558 (Feuer), which would for the first time require companies to report on the chemicals they use and make plans to reduce their use. The CA Environmental Protection Agency has launched a Green Chemistry Initiative, which is somewhat promising but still vague at this point and vulnerable to attack by industry. I spoke on a panel hosted by the Dept of Toxic Substances Control on this initiative, and Rafael Reyes of LP Chapter and national Board spoke at a San Jose workshop – we called for a tough regulatory approach that keeps the most toxic products and chemicals off the shelves.

As usual, we stopped some bills that would have opened loopholes in hazardous waste laws. And I continue to co-chair the DTSC Director's External Advisory Group.

RECYCLING/SOLID WASTE

Extended Producer Responsibility: We have joined other advocates in pushing to make manufacturers, not just consumers and local governments, take some responsibility for the safe collection and recycling of their products. I spoke at an Integrated Waste Management Board workshop on producer responsibility, and the Board is now considering a measure to move forward with legislation.

In addition, we have been following up on implementation of last year's sponsored bill on landfill financial assurance, and have pushed the IWMB and ARB to reduce methane emissions from landfills – one of the Early Action Measures addresses this need.

BRINGING TOGETHER LEGISLATORS AND PUBLIC-INTEREST ADVOCATES

I have co-hosted 2 dinner parties at my home this year to allow legislators and advocates to have fun and get to know each other in an informal setting, away from meetings and fundraisers: one for the Legislature's Environmental Caucus and advocates from environmental groups, the other for progressive legislators and advocates from environmental, consumer, labor and senior groups. Both were very well attended, and a good time was had by all.

Sierra Club's Diversity Council Expands Efforts to Include All People in Protecting the Planet

Diversity Statement, surveys begin the comprehensive process

San Francisco, CA—The Sierra Club's Diversity Council today announced several steps in an effort to internally diversify the Sierra Club around the country. While the Sierra Club remains the nation's largest and most effective grassroots environmental advocacy organization, work remains to make sure the Sierra Club reflects all the diverse communities found across America. The Sierra Club Board of Directors established the Diversity Council in 2006 to help craft a strategy for diversifying the Sierra Club and demonstrating a commitment to diversity from the national to the local level.

"The Diversity Council has been working hard over the past year because if we do not diversify, we won't meet our conservation goals as an organization," said Diversity Council Co-Chair and Sierra Club Board member Sanjay Ranchod.

Within the past year, the Sierra Club Board of Directors has approved an official Diversity Statement that reflects Sierra Club's commitment to diversity at the staff, volunteer and membership levels. The statement was circulated to Sierra Club leaders across the country for their feedback and consensus via an online bulletin board.

The Diversity Council also conducted an online survey of Sierra Club volunteer and staff leaders to find

out how they felt about efforts to diversify the Sierra Club. Survey results indicated that 70% of respondents agree that Sierra Club needs to diversify to achieve our conservation goals.

"Sierra Club leaders know in their hearts that change is needed," said Mark Walters, Diversity Council Co-Chair and a volunteer leader of the Sierra Club's Inner City Outings Program. "But to change, folks simply need to know how to and that is where we can help."

With a clear mandate from Sierra Club leaders around the country to act, the Diversity Council met in Memphis, Tennessee last month to begin drafting a plan to diversify the Sierra Club nationally and locally. Council members will be seeking comments from everyone after a draft plan is presented to the Board of Directors at their October 2007 board meeting. Until then, the Diversity Council urges all Sierra Club leaders to do their part to make the Sierra Club reflect the face of America and educate themselves about efforts to diversify the Sierra Club.

For more information on the work of the Diversity Council, visit www.clubhouse.sierraclub.org/diversity or www.sierraclub.org/diversity

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