A big water grab that won’t die
Here we go again! Cadiz plans to squeeze Mojave Desert’s aquifers

From Sierra Club reports

More than 30 years ago, a company called Cadiz Inc. came up with a plan to pump water from aquifers in the Mojave Desert. Ten years ago, late desert activist Elden Hughes and other Sierra Club members who had worked hard on the Desert Protection Act opposed the project that could forever harm the desert’s ecosystem and drain one of its most precious resources.

Now, the plan resurfaces anew as do concerns about its viability and impacts on the land. The Santa Margarita Water District in Orange County is interested in buying the water. So what’s so wrong with this water mining plan that stands to make $1 billion to $2 billion off water sales for Cadiz? Plenty.

It’s unsustainable: This project is located in the desert of Southern California in an area with very low precipitation. Cadiz Inc. intends to pump up to 50,000 acre-feet to 75,000 acre-feet of water per year for 50 years and sell it to local water distributors in Los Angeles and Orange Counties. However, most scientists estimate the recharge rates are much lower. The U.S. Geologic Survey estimates it lies between 2,000 acre feet and 10,000 acre feet a year. This means groundwater levels will drop and drop, like taking more water out of a bathtub than you put in. This is, simply, unsustainable.

It could have adverse impact on federal lands and water resources: Cadiz Inc. claims there will be no impacts to the Mojave National Preserve’s springs, but the National Park Service says that conclusion is premature. Another significant issue is the delayed response in the aquifer.

A plan to pump water from deep below the Mojave Desert has raised environmental concerns.

Ever heard of the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade deal?
The SIERRA CLUB

Probably not, but the massive global trade proposal packs an environmental dark side.

From Ilana Solomon and Sierra Club reports

There’s a screech of congressional activity surrounding what one newspaper has said “may be one of the most important stories ever ignored by the media.”

But it’s not entirely the media’s fault. Nearly everyone — the press, members of Congress, the public — have been in the dark about the specifics of a massive trade pact that’s currently in the works: The Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement, or TPP. trade deal is the most expansive one ever to be negotiated, but the negotiations surrounding the pact are taking place in nearly complete secrecy, with little opportunity for substantive public input.

More than 130 members of Congress have signed and sent a letter to U.S. Trade Representative Ron Kirk calling for transparency in these negotiations. Led by Congressional Representatives Rosa DeLauro (D-Conn.) and Congressmen George Miller (D-Calif.), the letter urges Kirk to include stronger congressional consultations and a more open and transparent process.

The letter says, “We are troubled that important policy decisions are being made without full input from Congress. Under the trade agreements system, representatives from over 600 business interests have such access to be able to influence negotiators and the negotiating text. However, American small business, civil society, and other interests who have a direct and long-term interest in the outcome of these negotiations have little meaningful input.”

Also in June, U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown of Ohio introduced a new bill called the 21st Century Trade and Market Access Act. It is essentially a model of what responsible trade policy should look like. The Sierra Club has always been an advocate for fair and responsible trade which helps lift up standards for environmental protection, workers’ rights, and other public interest policy. Senator Brown’s bill advances this vision.

Among other provisions, the bill calls for increased consultations with Congress on trade agreements and establishes rules for future trade agreements. For example, the bill stipulates that trade agreements must include legally binding and enforceable environmental provisions that require countries to implement and enforce their own environmental laws in addition to obligations under multilateral environmental agreements.

The bill also ensures that public interest policies, including environmental laws and regulations, would not be subject to attacks by massive foreign corporations. This is particularly important, given that a recently leaked draft of the Trans-Pacific Partnership investment chapter confirms that the agreement will give corporations the right to sue governments for unlimited cash compensation — based on rules by private tribunals over nearly any law that they argue is hurting its expected future profits. It’s shocking but not unexpected, dozens of environmental laws and regulations have been challenged under past trade pacts with similar rules, like NAFTA.

The TPP is the most significant opportunity to update trade policy for the 21st century and to learn from the mistakes of NAFTA and other trade deals.

The Sierra Club applauds the members of Congress who signed the letter to USTR calling for increased transparency as well as Senator Brown for his leadership on defining a trade agenda that supports environmental protection, American jobs, and a healthy economy.

The cone of depression, or area of drawdown, is more extensive in the 100-year scenario (after 50 years of recovery) versus the 50-year scenario (at the end of project pumping). This indicates that unforeseen impacts that occur as a result of project pumping, even if project pumping is halted immediately, will continue to manifest for an extended period of time. Therefore, the aquifer system will be very difficult to manage under the monitoring and mitigation plan.

In impacts analysis is flawed. The analysis suffers in reliability as a result of the flawed hydrologic modeling. Of note are the continuously expanding outer limits of the cone of depressions, or area of drawdown from pumping, after 100 years. Additionally, the cone is anticipated to extend to elevations approaching the head at Bonanza Spring, which is located in Sen. Dianne Feinstein’s proposed Mojave Trails National Monument. The plan could affect this important spring.

Bottom line: This project is an aggressive water mining scheme that could adversely impact water resources, air quality and our federal lands.

TPP elevates corporate power at public expense

• The Trans-Pacific Partnership is a multilateral free trade agreement that aims to further liberalize the economies of the Asia-Pacific region. Currently, 11 countries are party to the negotiations including the United States, Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Chile, Malaysia, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore, and Vietnam. The U.S. joined the talks in November 2009, and both Canada and Mexico will be taking part in the 13th round of negotiations that began in July. By this time next year, Japan is expected to join. The Agreement is designed to be expandable to accommodate new members.

• The TPP would impose a set of extreme foreign investor privileges and rights and their private enforcement through the notorious “investor-state” system. This system elevates individual corporations and investors to equal standing with each TPP signatory country’s government — and above all of us citizens.

Under this regime, foreign investors can skirt domestic courts and laws, and sue governments directly before tribunals of three private-sector lawyers operating under World Bank and U.N. rules to demand taxpayer compensation for any domestic law that investors believe will diminish their “expected future profits.”
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With your support, we will continue with our important conservation mission and outings program. Thanks!

— Mary Forgione

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It’s critical for the country’s move to renewable energy.

From National Sierra Club reports

The Sierra Club in June launched Wind Works, a new campaign to advocate for renewal of the Production Tax Credit, or PTC, for wind energy. The credit is a federal tax policy that helps level the playing field by providing the certainty the wind industry needs for continued growth.

“The Wind Works campaign is the Sierra Club’s move to the next level, in advocating for renewable energy jobs and ensuring America transitions to a clean energy economy,” said Dave Hamilton, director of the Club’s Clean Energy of the Future Campaign. “Congress is holding thousands of high-quality American jobs in their hands, but every day of uncertainty for the industry is causing more delayed projects and more layoffs. This campaign will ensure lawmakers know that Americans want clean energy solutions and that they won’t sit back while congressional inaction causes further job losses.”

There are currently 75,000 jobs supported by the wind industry across the country. Renewing the PTC will help sustain and create more American jobs while helping to protect public health by moving the country beyond dirty energy. However, the PTC is set to expire at the end of this year. Already, the failure of Congress to renew the tax credit has led to layoffs as companies delay or cancel plans for new wind installations and factories. If the PTC is allowed to expire, the American Wind Energy Association estimates that approximately half of all existing American wind jobs will be lost before the end of the year.

Moving America toward a clean energy future will not only create new, high-quality American jobs, but will also yield significant public health benefits. Renewable energy like wind power replaces energy from fossil fuels that cause air pollution, which leads to heart attacks, asthma attacks and more than $100 billion in medical costs.

Wind energy is an important part of America’s energy mix. More than 400 American manufacturing plants build wind components, and wind is already generating 20 percent of their electricity from wind power and that number is growing quickly.

The Sierra Club is putting significant resources behind the “Wind Works” campaign to help America continue its transition to renewable energy. Through a variety of tactics, ranging from grassroots organizing to paid media, the campaign will work to ensure the wind industry continues to be a job creator, and to remind lawmakers that wind works for the economy, for the environment, and for America.

For more information, visit http://www.sierraclub.org/wind-works.

Sierra Club member No. 14

Glen Dawson at

Glen Dawson is fond of saying he considers himself a contemporary of John Muir. Indeed, he was 2 years old when the Sierra Club founder died in Los Angeles in 1914. But his connection to the Club goes far deeper.

More than 250 Sierra Club members, historians, antiquarian book sellers, friends and family members turned out in June at a Pasadena club to wish Dawson a happy 100th birthday. Susana Reyes of the Political Committee presented Dawson with a tribute on behalf of the Angeles Chapter, as did many others who came to honor the mountaineer, environmentalist, historian and antiquarian book seller.

Dawson made a first ascent of the East Face of Mt. Whitney with climbing greats Jules Eichorn, Norman Clyde and Robert Underhill in 1931 and participated in the famous High Trips in the Sierra with Ansel Adams and other early Club leaders. During World War II, he was a member of the famed 10th Mountain Division, and three of his contemporaries were on hand to celebrate his birthday.

And he has a Sierra Club membership that identifies him as No. 14. Aurelia Harwood, the first woman president of the Club, offered the gift to his brother, Muir, but Dawson’s dad told her his older son, Glen, would benefit more from the membership. (Dawson jokes that he made good with his late brother on the membership.) —Mary Fogtione

Briefs

Lobby like its 1892 — and you’re John Muir!

John Muir, the Sierra Club’s founder and intellectual touchstone of California’s environmental movement, realized early on that it takes more than a strong appreciation of nature to protect the state’s natural heritage.

Sierra Club California seeks activists to participate in its annual Lobby Day in Sacramento. On Sunday, Aug. 19, you will be trained in best practices and briefing on Capitol politics that will help you be more effective. On Monday, Aug. 20, volunteers meet with legislators and their staff members.

Sign up for Lobby Day at sierraclubcalifornia.org/lobby-day-2012/. Just 50 spots are open.

—Kathryn Phillips, director, Sierra Club California

Want to run for the Executive Committee?

Each year, the Chapter’s Nominating Committee invites potential candidates to run for the Angeles Chapter Executive Committee. But there’s another way to become a candidate too. Any Chapter member may petition to put his or her name on the ballot after filing a petition containing 40 signatures from members. Petitions must be submitted by 5 p.m. on Sept. 5.

Here’s what the petition should say: Above your signature list, type or print: “The undersigned current members of the Angeles Chapter of the Sierra Club are signing this petition to nominate the above-named candidate for the annual election of at-large Executive Committee members in November.” Also number the signatures 1-40.

For more information, contact Charming Evelyn, Chair of Nom Com, at bcharmz@aol.com or call (213) 387-4287.

We’re looking for more than a few new members

Come find out what the Sierra Club can do for you and why you should be a member on Aug. 13.

Bring a friend and come meet with members of the Orange County Group, Sierra Sage, Sierra Singles in Orange County and L.A. Hundreds Peaks Section, Wilderness Travel Course, Mule Packs and learn about the chapter’s many activities and conservation campaigns.

Meet 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Costa Mesa Community Center (1845 Park Ave., Costa Mesa). For more information, contact Chapter Membership Chair: Donna Specht at donnaspecht@juno.com

If you’re looking for a special gift... Why not send a personalized Sierra Club Angeles Chapter Tribute or Memorial Card?

It’s the perfect way to say you care and help the Angeles Chapter.

Within 24 hours, we’ll send a customized card suitable for any happy or sad occasion.

Contact Ron Silverman
213.387.4289
ron.silverman@sierraclub.org

Make someone smile — do it today!

Before that old clunker pushes up daisies

Why not donate it?

We’ll take your car, RV, or boat running or not. You receive a tax deduction and help the Angeles Chapter.

Contact Ron Silverman
213.387.4289
ron.silverman@sierraclub.org
Sierra Club has partnered with solar home spec-
cialists Sungevity in offering homeowners a chance to install rooftop solar panels easily and affordably. The offer is good in California as well as Arizona, Colorado, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maryland and New York. Here’s why it matters:

You can lock in your electricity rate for the next 20 years, free yourself from dirty energy, and do it all with no upfront investment. Most homeowners start saving on their power bills immediately. And if you go solar this summer, you’ll get a $750 gift card.

Powering your home with solar energy is the single best way to shrink your carbon footprint, the equiva-
len of taking 1.5 cars off the road.

Sungevity will give $750 to the Sierra Club for every homeowner who installs solar panels in their home through this program. The Sierra Club is using the money for Sierra Club’s important environmental campaigns in California.

Last summer more than 150 Californians took advantage of Sierra Club’s Solar Homes Pilot Campaign. This year, we’ve expanded — and you can qualify this year, even if you didn’t qualify before.

To learn more about the program, go to www.sierraclub.org/solarhomes or contact Conservation Coordinator Jennifer Robinson at Jennifer. Robinson@SierraClub.org.

Saddleback Butte, a treasure in Antelope Valley

By Elaine Macdonald
From Lancaster, looking eastward toward Lake Los Angeles, you will see an isolated hill or butte rising abruptly above the western edge of the Mojave Desert. The butte is in the shape of a saddle. The story of this little-known butte has recently become a topic of concern in the Antelope Valley.

Last year, California’s Department of Parks and Recreation decided to shut 70 state parks and close 93 of them. Because of state budget cuts in spending. Through some parks on the list have been spared because of donations or nonprofit organizations that agree to run them, Saddleback Butte State Park was scheduled to close last July 1 but received a temporary reprieve.

Saddleback is an important park for the Antelope Valley and has a unique history. In 1955, Jane Peltono, one of the founders of the Antelope Valley California Poppy Reserve, along with other civic groups established the Antelope Valley State Park Committee. Shortly after the committee was established, the saddle-
back hill on the far east side of Lancaster was acquired by the state. In 1972, the park on the east side was renamed Saddleback Butte.

In October 2010, Saddleback Butte State Park celebrated its 50th anniversary. It’s known for its granite mountain top that towers some thousand feet above the broad alluvial bottom land of the Antelope Valley. It features a short paved trail called the Richard Downen Nature Trail and two good hiking trails that wander through the 2,955 acre park. The hiking trails connect with the Buttes Peak Trail and connect to the park’s horse trail established in 1994.

Saddleback Butte Horse Trail

In the early 1990s, I trailered my horse from Lancaster to Saddleback. My intention was to ride around this interesting desert butte. When I found signs indicating “No Horses in the Park,” I contacted Vicki Maris, then superin-
tendent for Mojave Desert State Parks. He was surprised that a park named Saddleback did not have a place for horses, and an effort began to create a horse trail at the park. Obtaining approval for this trail was complicated but finally a grant was approved for fencing off the upper part of the trail to protect the desert tortoise and raptor habitat. The 4.9 mile trail was marked off with rocks, which was an ardu-
ous task.

The trail work was completed with the assis-
tance of park personal, Antelope Valley Trails, Recreation & Environmental Council, ETI Control Ltd., Lake LA Bases 4-H Horse Project, Scout Troop 856 and the Camp Fenner crew. Spreauelthorpe was the project’s myielk, Deborah Stevens and Ed Skinner (now deceased). Since the creation of the horse trail, I have enjoyed many years of riding through this unique area. Now there’s an effort afoot to spare the park from being closed due to the budget cuts.

Reserve Mojave Desert Interpretive Association is the parent organiza-
tion of the Save Saddleback Butte Committee. For the past several months, hikes and horse rides have been organized to showcase the beauty of this natural setting.

Then we tackled our electricity use. We put a six-outlet power strip (S4) between the wall and our TV accessory (leaving the TVD3 con-
nectected to record shows). This takes away the phantom electrical draw of TV, DVD and our Playstation. Then we did the same for computers, printer, scanners, speakers, and again in the kitchen with microwave, toaster, etc.

We set our thermostat to low so we wouldn’t be waiting air-condi-
tioning when we’re not home or have the house heating up at night. The heater is set to go off a half hour after we go to bed and before we wake. It also includes a timer for 24 hours to turn the heater on and off in this thermostat online. All these were cheap and easy and can be done in a single weekend.

We also invested more in our home by buying a front-loading high-efficiency washing machine. It spins so much water out of the lau-
dry that a clothes line in the back yard works fine — no dryer needed.

In the kitchen, we choose a top freestanding all-steel appliance because cold sinks. We bought non-
toxic shredded denim attic insula-
tion, you don’t need to bring tons in your home to insulate your house. Because it wasn’t fiberglass, we were able to do the heavy weekend cutting and rolling that night.

After improving energy efficien-
cy, we made the big leap of hav-
ing solar panels installed on our roof. Obviously, conserving energy and water is cheaper than creating solar power or desalinating water.

Closing dirty coal plants makes U.S. leader in reducing carbon emissions

From Sierra Club reports

Since 2006, the U.S. has seen the larg-
est reduction in carbon dioxide emissions of any country or region, according to a recent report from the International Energy Agency. The report states that, during this time, U.S. carbon dioxide emissions have fallen by 7.7% or 430 million metric tons, due both to a decrease in coal use. This decrease is equal to eliminating the annual greenhouse gas emissions from more than 84 million pas-
senger vehicles.

The Sierra Club has been active with its Beyond Coal campaign for the existing fleet of outdated coal plants gets cleaned up or phased out. The campaign seeks to create new solar and wind-energy jobs. (Visit www.beyondcoal.org.)

America has long been criticized by the international community for not taking a leadership role in reducing carbon emissions. But it’s clear now that the work being done by the U.S. beyond coal is having a significant effect.

Coal was responsible for 35% of U.S. electrical power, down from 59% just 10 years ago. According to analysis by the Vancouver Observer, carbon dioxide emissions from the average American are now at the same levels that they were in 1964. These numbers put America on track to meet the goal President Obama set in the Copenhagen Accord of 17% cut in carbon dioxide emission reductions by 2020.

"Americans should be heartened by the report that U.S. carbon emissions have dropped by nearly 8% over the past six years," said Michael Brune, execu-
tive director of the Sierra Club. "This significant milestone is a testament to the hard work of thousands of volunteers around the country, who are working to retire dirty, outdated coal-burning power plants."
Why L.A.'s plastic bag ban matters

By Sarah Mosko

When California lawmakers in May joined four dozen California jurisdictions banning single-use, plastic carry-out bags, L.A. is the largest city in the nation to approve such a ban—an issue that has been a priority for the Angeles Chapter since it was founded.

Members have been active on this issue, and rallied at City Hall in Pasadena, Dana Point, Laguna Beach and Huntington Beach, to endorse the ban. That work continues in northern region and Long Beach, Santa Clara and San Jose in the southern region and Long Beach, Manhattan Beach, Santa Monica, Calabasas and Malibu in the south

An earlier proposal also included a ban on paper bags, but the Council decided instead to wait two years to decide whether a ban on paper was necessary. In the meantime, L.A. has switched to reusable bags, the real goal of the plastic ban. The bag ordinance also calls for the buildup of plastic debris in an area of the Pacific twice the size of Texas and dubbed the Great Pacific Garbage Patch, which, in 1999, already contained six times more plastic than zooplankton. Analysis of ocean samples collected a decade later indicates that the ratio of plastic to plankton has risen six-fold from off the coast of Southern California. Algalas has found plastic debris at all ocean depths in amounts sometimes twice that of plankton.

Plastic bag litter is not only an eye

saver, but also fouls waters, the

energy used to make them. If

plastic bags were banned, it was
not likely to cost a lot. A January

report by the National Parks

Agency states that plankton are

tiny plankton. Analysis of ocean samples collected a decade later indicates that the ratio of plastic to plankton has risen six-fold from off the coast of Southern California. Algalas has found plastic debris at all ocean depths in amounts sometimes twice that of plankton.

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30 years of trail time with Stag Brown

By Joe Young

On Sunday, June 3, the Hundred Peaks Section offered a special outing called the “First Sunday in June with Stag Brown.” The story of some of these special outings was conducted on June 6, 1982. By recasting the 30th anniversary of these annual events.

Staggie Thurston Brown, whom everyone calls Stag, has been a Sierra Club member since the late 1960s and a leader since the early ’70s. He began leading for the HPS and for the Griffith Park Section in the mid-1970s. Stag Brown and Bob Thompson were prolific leaders on HPS outings, and they have led more than 100 hikes together since the 1970s.

Stag served for several years on the HPS Management Committee, serving as outing chair, social program chair, and section chair. He was the first person ever to be chosen chair of the HPS twice (1983 and 1990). The HPS presented him with the John Backus Leadership Award in 1979, and its highest award, the K. Sam Smith Service Award, in 1989.

Stag also received a special award for “motivation” in 1984.

The Angeles Chapter presented Stag with an outing service award in 1979 and with the prestigious Chester Versteeg Outings Award in 2003.

For many, however, Stag is best known for his leadership of adventurous hikes in Griffith Park. Stag has led a hike in Griffith Park on the first Sunday in June since the mid-1970s. Because of his love of the park, he and his bride Nami chose to hold their wedding in Griffith Park on July 20, 1985. (Many couples have met by hiking or have participated in an outing on a Wednesday in hike with Griffith Park with Stag.)

In 1988, Stag and Joe Young scheduled an outing “just because” it was the first Sunday in June. Since Stag had become known for it, he had $1,195 for Sierra Club transportation and to and from Grand Junction and around Moh. All park admissions are included. Breakfasts and three lunches will be provided. All other meals and airfare to and from Grand Junction are not included. For copies of the itinerary and application forms, make out a check for $500 deposit (check payable to Sierra Club-Sierra Sage Group) and mail to Mike Sappingfield, 26352 Via Camino Real, Ventura, CA 93003. For members, $400 deposit will hold a reservation; the remainder is due by March 1, 2013. For non-members, $500 deposit will hold a reservation; the remainder is due by March 1, 2013. Contact: Mike Sappingfield (mikesapp@cox.net), Outdoor Leaders: Mike Sappingfield and Sylvia Stevenson.

Olympic National Park and Victoria Excursion July 20-28, 2013

O-rated: Join us for an 8-day, 7-night excursion to explore the wonders of the Pacific Northwest’s fabulous Olympic National Park and Victoria Excursion or as a separate trip. Lodge for 2 nights, transportation while on the getaway, admissions and breakfasts are included. Airfare to and from Seattle and most meals not included. Cost for the trip is $1,195 for Sierra Club members; $1,250 for non-members. To reserve a spot, send a $500 deposit check made out to Sierra Club-Sierra Sage Group to Mike Sappingfield, 26352 Via Camino Real, Ventura, CA 93003. For information, call or email Mike at 949-768-3610 or mike@sappingfield.net. Sponsored by Sierra Singles, Sierra Sage Group and the Angeles Club Outings, and the Angeles Club Outings, and the Angeles Club Outings.

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Stag Brown, on Lietune Mountain.

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County Sierra Singles / Easy Hikers
Leaders: Donna Spectch, Julie Garner
July 26
Sierra Singles Summer Picnic at Crystal Springs, Griffith Park. Friends and newcomers welcome to attend this "dinner in the park" at 6:30 p.m. at the Crystal Springs picnic area inside the park. Bring a potluck salad or main dish. Various vegetarian fare to grill. Soft drinks, paper goods and charcoal provided.

July 29
Mugu Peak via La Jolla Valley Loop, O-rated: Moderately paced 9 mile hike with 3,100 feet of gain in Point Mugu State Park. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at Mugu State Park near the Mugu Lagoon. Wear layers, bugsuit, hat. Bring 2-quart water, sunscreen, toilet paper, and money for lunch; wear comfortable, stable walking shoes. Sponsored by Sierra Singles. Leader: Linda Hillman (805-987-0442), Mel Kovar.

July 31
Fullerton Beginners Hike, O-rated: Slow to medium pace hike on town LA, O-rated: Attend 8 p.m. (714-625-2839), Julie Garner, Ana Barnes,Axst Maynord.(http://angles.sierrahub.org/orange)

July 20-22
Lemon Lily Festival in Idyllwild, O-rated: Celebrate Idyllwild’s 4th Annual Lily Festival at Idyllwild Park. Arrive Friday evening or Saturday morning and tent camp one or two nights. Hike nature trails to spot seasonal leasol flowers. Get your photo taken in Slide Trail (5 miles, 1700 feet of gain). Cost is $25 for Sierra Club members. Sponsored by Pasadena Group and the Natural Science Section and Orange County Group. Leaders: Mountain Dave, Asst Joe Maynard. (http://angles.sierrahub.org/orange)

July 27
Little Hikers at Fairview Park, O-rated: Join us for a 1-mile hike on the bluffs. After hike, walk over the boardwalk for a free tour of OC Model Engineers. Newcomers, supervised children welcome. Meet 9 a.m. at the parking lot on Fruit Mesa. Bring water, snack, hat, jacket, sturdy shoes. Sponsored by Orange County Sierra Singles/Little Hikers Easy Leaders. Leaders: Donna Spectch (714-625-2839), Julie Garner, Ana Juanet.

July 21
Dinner and Free Evening Outdoor Concert at California Plaza in downtown Los Angeles. Walks at 5 p.m. and performance at 7 p.m. Performance. Meet 5:30 p.m. on street level for the hike. Bring money for dinner and parking. Rain cancels. Sponsored by Sierra Singles / Easy Leaders. Bob Dean and Elaine Miffling (818-955-9065)

July 22, Aug. 19 & Sept. 5
Bolu Cahuilla Mangdito Indian Reserve Hike, O-rated: Easy paced, flat, 5-mile hike. Newcomers are welcome. Scenic beauty of Bolu Chica, one of the last remaining wetland ecosystems in Southern California. Meet 9:30 a.m. in the reserve. Sponsored by Orange County Sierra Singles / Easy Hikers. Leaders: Donna Spectch, Julie Garner

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Move LA halls Darrell Clarke as transportation hero

Former Angeles Chapter chair and longtime activist Darrell Clarke has been singled out as a transit champion for stepping up and advocating for the Exposition Line at a time when transit’s future looked especially bleak. Darrell’s work dates back to 1989 when Southern Pacific Railroad offered to sell a right-of-way to the L.A. County Transportation Commission (now L.A. Metro). Clarke had read about a neighborhood meeting in Rancho Park/ Cheviot Hills where residents had blasted the whole idea of light rail, and that’s when he formed Friends of Expo.

“Where’s the beef?”

Hamburgers have long been considered among America’s most traditional foods. But, many of us may soon be stocking our freezers with veggie burgers instead. A recent Reuters report suggests that World Trade Organization rules will soon prohibit the labeling of meat as to the country of origin. That means that American consumers would have no idea where the meat products they consume originated or if they were processed in a manner which would induce them to eat the meat.

The ground meat horror stories publicized by Eric Schlosser in his book “Fast Food Nation” helped push for the inclusion of COOL (country of origin labeling) in the 2007-08 Farm Bill. COOL said that beef, lamb, pork, chicken, or goat meat could only be designated as “Made in the USA” if it were “exclusively born, raised, and slaughtered in the United States.”

Now the American COOL law has been challenged. Mexico, Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Colombia, the European Union, Guatemala, India, Korea, New Zealand, Peru, New Zealand and Taipei have all asked the WTO to throw out the U.S. meat labeling program.

It is still unclear which WTO ruling the U.S. is violating by labeling meat. The probable conclusion is that the U.S. can’t institute a meat labeling program if by doing so consumers will choose against buying meat from unknown countries whose processing standards are hygienically questionable (and ground meat which may come from hundreds of animals and dozens of countries).

Visit the Sierras and Hawaii With The Backpacking Committee!}

PAGE 8 JULY-AUGUST 2012 SOUTHERN SIERRAN

BRIEFS/PAGE 3

Move LA halts Darrell Clarke as transportation hero

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“I didn’t expect it to become a life’s work.” Clarke said. “I guess when you believe in something that much and you see an opportunity you just keep working for it. I certainly remember, it was 2000 or 2001 and the news was bad. But you pick yourself up, dust yourself off and just keep working for it. I certainly remember, it was 2000 or 2001 and the news was bad. But you pick

Other honors include L.A. County Supervisors Gloria Molina, Mark Ridley-Thomas and Zev Yaroslavsky; State Sen. Kevin Murray; Daeor Mayor John Fasana; Robbie Hunter of the L.A./Orange counties Building & Construction Trades Council; and Art Hadney of Stantec and member of the Southern California Chapter of the American Council of Engineering Companies.

From Move LA reports

Condor selected as bird of the year

The condor, one of the world’s rarest and most imperiled birds, was named the Audubon California Bird of the Year. The California condor received the designation after it received nearly 35 percent of votes cast during an online poll last fall. Although the bird can be found in several southwestern states and in Mexico, it is a distinct part of California’s natural heritage — so much so that it is depicted on the California version of the U.S. quarter.

The California condor has been in sharp decline for more than 100 years. It was first listed as endangered by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service in 1967, and in the mid-1980s reached a low of 22 individual birds. Since then, an aggressive captive breeding and release program by a group of government agencies and nonprofit organizations has built the population up to 394 total birds, 295 of which are in the wild.

—Condor Call, Los Padres Sierra Club

Calling all leaders for outings summit

The Angeles Chapter will host an all-day Outings Assembly on Nov. 3 designed to bring together chapter leaders, provision leaders and outings chairs. The group will lock around ideas for future activities and outings and elect members of two key committees: Outings Management and Safety and Leadership Training. The event is sponsored by the Chapter Outings Management Committee. Meet 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Eaton Canyon Nature Center in Pasadena.

Contact: Outings Management Committee Chair Melody Anderson or Donna Specht (donnaspecht@ juno.com)

Labor Day Weekend Bus Trip

Friday Through Monday • August 31 through September 3, 2012

Lodge: Ot: Mammoth Lakes Bus Lodge Hiking Trip: Leave Friday afternoon, return Monday evening. Join us as we hike & sightsee at spectacular Mammoth Lakes. No beginners. Moderate: 5-6 mile day hikes. Beautiful view hikes include: Horseshoe Lake to Reds Meadow, Devil’s Postpile N.P. & Rainbow Falls. Relax at night with dining & well guarded evening walks. Space is very limited. Includes bus, 3 nights lodging w/breakfast and dinner at Mammoth Lakes plus Monday night dinner. 2 persons per room. Send Email address or 2-4X9 SAS, H&W phones, S/C, check (Sierra Club) $480 per person. Non-member check $530, made out to Sierra Club Backpacking Committee. Send to Leader/Reservationist Bill Crane bilgiana@socialrc.com, Co-Leader Joan Weaver.

Backpack: Ot: Thousand Island Lake-Lake Ediza Bus Backpack: Camp at edge of lake or walk down the Minaretts. Hike with expansive views on first day and many lakes on second day. Leave LA Fri for Mammoth. Sat hike from Agnew Melas via High Trail to Thousand Island Lake, 11.5 mi., 1800’ gain. Move 9 mi to Lake Ediza on Sun and explore. Sat night hike out 6 mi. Moderate strenuous climb first day, smaller ups and downs 2nd day. Email leader with recent conditioning and experience and contact information and send 2 SAS with check and info. Price inc bus, camping, permit, Mon. dinner. See front of Schedule for refund info and SAS. Check for fee $225 w/S/C, $240 w/o, payable to Sierra Club, to Ldr: Don Tidwell tidwell@sidextreme.com, Asst: Erika Siering.

CSF #2087766-40. Registration as a seller of travel does not constitute approval by the State of California.

From Left, George Wattland (Chapter conservation coordinator), and transportation committee members Jerard Wright, Francine Ortiz, former Angeles Chapter chair and longtime activist Darrell Clarke, Sandra Gattelli at the Move LA award presentation held on June 13 in the Fred Harvey Room at Union Station.

Visit the Sierras and Hawaii With The Backpacking Committee!

Photo by Bill Cran

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