

## **CENT COAST COUNCIL MEETING**

May 10, 2008

NOTES

### **Attending**

- Delores Pollock, Callie Bowdish, Steve Ferry, Darlene Chirman – SANTA BARBARA
- Chrystal Klaubande, CONEJO VALLEY
- Priscilla Akin, MORRO COAST
- Paul Keller, Tam Taafe, LA PURISIMA
- Art Marshall, Marianne Slaughter, VENTURA
- Garry George, AUDUBON CALIFORNIA

### **Chapter Updates**

VENTURA, Marianne Slaughter, President

465 kids came for Earth Day to put together Bird Feeder kits. VENTURA is participating in National Geographic BIOBLITZ of Santa Monica Mtns and staffing a booth at the BIOBLITZ festival in Agoura. 3 or 4 bird walks/month. Very popular and a great way to get new members. Did an overnight to Bolsa Chica and visited Sea & Sage.

Education Project:: Interpretive Signage at Ventura Rivermouth.

Conservation Project:: Monitoring and protection of Snowy Plovers at Ormond, Hollywood Beach, McGrath, between McGrath and Hollywood

Education: Presentations at Rotary Club, California Conservation Corps presentation  
In Fall Neil Zigler will be President for a year. Very difficult to find new people on the Board. Neil is returning to the Board.

Problems: Board recruitment, Volunteer leadership, especially for President, VP

Success: making comments on condo development and industrial park in Port Hueneme/Ormond Beach.

Challenge: treated waste water is pumped into the Santa Clara River estuary holding ponds creating great habitat for birds. But city of Ventura wants to divert the water to the ocean. Environmental groups oppose this. Science Chair Reed Smith is writing comment letter.

SANTA BARBARA, Darlene Chirman., President

EYES IN THE SKY is still in negotiation with Museum of Natural History for approval for this program, and will be doing a fund raiser soon on this program.

Project:: IBA restoration at Coal Oil Point. Funding: AUDCAL, Wetland Recovery.

UNIV OF SB is planning to expand in a 20 year building plan. SB Audubon is commenting on that.

Conservation: LOMPOC Wind Project, UCSB expansion, Bishop Ranch development (between Los Carneros and Glen Annie), Snowy Plovers at Coal Oil Point, Veneco Projects (small oil co. with operations in SB Cnty including near Coal Oil Point, want to drill next to Harbor seal nursery in Carpenteria).

Outreach: (Delores Pollock) Annual appeal in Fall, TECOLOTE CIRCLE special group of donors who give endowment, Auction coming June 29 in Mission Canyon in afternoon.

Offered Bird Song CDs for Earth Day bonus for memberships.

Paul Keller, LA PURISIMA

Conservation Project:: Lower Santa Ynez River Project: restoration of lower Santa Ynez River estuary (AUDCAL IBA) with removal of a bridge and upkeep of the ponds of Vandenburg. The chapter has hired an engineer to do a feasibility study by Phil Williams. Hoping to remove concrete bridge remnants blown up in destruction after a flood.

Currently raising money for the feasibility study: Need \$ 15,000. Working with California Conservation Corps to clean ponds. Coastal Conservancy won't fund surveys so Tam is working with PRBO and UCSB on protocol and data analysis but data input will come from volunteers who will survey the site. Hoping to involve the community.

Callie Bowdish suggested that hydrology be studied for the entire region.

Updating Central Coast Birding Trail.

Wall Beach at Vandenburg was vandalized. There are Snowy Plovers there.

There was a discussion of challenges at the Santa Ynez Rivermouth.

Priscilla Akin, MORRO COAST

Conservation Project: Sweet Springs Acquisition. Cnty Board of Supervisors meeting. Bruce Gibson, Cnty Supervisor, recused himself but then testified publicly as an individual that acquisition of this estuary is good for the environment. Did receive one grant for cleanup at entrance.

Community meeting every month with research presentations like Santa Cruz Island Scrub Jay. Los Osos Land Conservancy spoke at a meeting about development and asked for Morro Coast's support.

Huge solar farm planned just outside the Carrizo Plain.

Chrystal Klaubunde, CONEJO VALLEY

Education: Jr. high school teacher in Simi Valley asked members of CV chapter to come to campus and work with the kids. They do a great job of getting out Audubon Adventures out to schools.

CV did first annual appeal letter to the National Audubon list (550 people) a few weeks ago.

Steve Ferry recommended that CV build an endowment in order to fund programs. Just got new volunteer who is financial advisor.

Cayegas Creek Watershed District is working on a new general plan and CV is sending members to meetings of habitat and restoration committee who meet jointly with members of sediment committee. There is interest in removing invasives and returning channels to natural state, mostly to reduce sediment downstream. CV may apply for Toyota grant for this project.

Camarillo Regional Park is being transferred from County to CSU Channel Islands and CV is trying to pressure CSU CI not to pave it over or soccer fields. Part of the park is seasonally flooded wetlands and good habitat. Some of the land actually came in a federal land park grant with stipulation that it can't be developed, but that doesn't include the wetlands.

CV is participating in BIOBLITZ with Ventura and will have a booth at the BIOBLITZ fair.

Field trips: 4 or 5 a month, well attended. Did one to SE Arizona.

Fund raising dinner in March with silent auction, out loud auction, raffle and raised \$ 4,000.

Gave two Elliot McClure (famous ornithologist from Ventura College) scholarships at Science Fair (\$100 each) to junior high school kids on water quality and biodegradation.

Garry George, AUDUBON CALIFORNIA

Garry conducted a grant workshop and distributed materials on the three components of Toyota/Audubon Together Green grants and urged chapters to apply. Ideas discussed including partnerships with California Conservation Corps in restoring Coal Oil Point, wetlands in Santa Ynez River estuary, etc.

Volunteer Day grants are due May 21, 2008

Innovation Grants and Fellows Grants due June 27, 2008

### **IBA Mapping**

SB Audubon reported that they needed to finalize their comments on their IBAs.

### **Policy Update**

Garry talked about Prop 98, 99

Garry talked about SB1165

Garry asked about activists at each chapter who might respond quickly to needs to advocate to electeds. No chapter volunteered an individual, and all leaders reported that they had signed up with National, State or GetActive alerts on websites, but they get more than one a week and don't act on all of them and not sure where they come from.

All reported that the effort from Audubon could be more strategic.

### **Snowy Plovers**

Steve Ferry reported that he appeared before the Coastal Commission to testify in response to a letter sent to the Commission from SB County Board of Supervisors asking the Commission to open the beaches in SB County like Ocean Beach rather than protect them from plovers. Commissioners Steve Blank and Sara Wan asked him questions that would help the rest of the Commissioners understand why the beaches need to be protected.

Tam Taafe talked about her Lompoc city Councilmember making public statements about plovers without understanding what she was saying.  
Steve reported that City of Goleta is not honoring their agreement with Coastal Commission to keep horses and dogs away from plover critical habitat.  
Darlene reported that the City of SB wanted to expand their sidewalks on beach and included in their environmental review that they would relocate the birds.  
Snowy Plover Working Group is trying to map best habitat for the plovers and let the City know where the prime habitat is.

### **AUDCAL Board Report**

Steve Ferry, Council rep on the Board, reported on the last Board meeting.  
-Budget for FY08 is over 5 million  
-Budget for FY09 is over 6 million  
Coastal Commission voted against toll road.  
Audubon California has identified increasing membership as a high priority.  
Audubon California wants Audubon members in California to self-identify with California.  
National Audubon has proposed a program where state office keeps membership dues on new members  
AUDCAL has hired new Director of Marketing and Communications and his responsibility is to increase membership.  
Membership is ill defined at the national level.  
Chapter leaders expressed an interest in Audubon having an opt-in policy on mailings rather than an opt-out from National.  
There are serious flaws in record keeping at National. State Board gave a mandate to AUDCAL Dir of Marketing and Communications to work out the issues with National.  
Some chapter leaders feel that the treatment of Audubon members is disrespectful.  
Some leaders expressed that chapters are where people actually see what Audubon is.  
Chapter leaders expressed an interest in having National Audubon speakers come to their chapter to talk about National issues.

### **LOMPOC WIND PROJECT**

SB Audubon, La Purisima Audubon, LA Audubon commented on EIR for project in Lompoc. Those comments responded by making the wind applicant, Acciona from Spain, work with commenters on biology including EDC, the three chapters, UCSB's Mark Holmgren together to meeting with wind developer Acciona from Spain.

Above had meeting with SB County yesterday and County has hired Sid Gauthreau of Clemson University in NC to interpret NEXRAD weather radar on nocturnal migrants. Golden Eagles were also discussed.

Garry encouraged chapters to communicate as much as possible with County permitters to find out about wind applications, and to bring their County permitters up to speed on avian issues.

FEIR is now planned for late June/early July.

### **Tejon Ranch**

Steve reported on the 240,000 acres that are potentially conserved in the agreement reached between Audubon California, other conservation orgs, and the Tejon Ranch. The group discussed the importance of the area, and the potential impacts on the Condor. All agreed that Audubon California had made a great effort to conserve this habitat.

### **Next Meetings**

**Sept. 6 – Ventura Audubon (tentative)**

**January 15 – Morro Coast Audubon  
(Jan 16-17 Morro Bay Bird Festival)**

**May 16 - ask Monterey to host**

Great ideas

- water district map with oppportunities
- chapter projects at IBAs and wetlands on the IBA map page
- database
- send email for signup to Federal guideline process