

# The Roadrunner

Bimonthly Publication of the Kern-Kaweah Chapter of the Sierra Club — Nov/Dec 2004

## **KERN-KAWEAH CHAPTER GET TOGETHER SAT. NOV. 6.**

### **CATCH UP ON THE NEWS, OLD FRIENDS AND NEW.**

It's just around the corner now—one of those memorable Kern-Kaweah Chapter Fall Get-togethers when we all have a chance to see each other once again and to talk good times. Saturday, November 6th is the date.

Bill Lee's Chinese Chopsticks Restaurant, 1203 18th Street, Bakersfield, will be the meeting place. Social Hour begins at 6 PM followed by a 6-course Chinese dinner at 7 PM. A mere \$14.25 reserves your dinner, including tax and tip. A no-host bar will be available during the Social Hour.

As a very special celebration, we will recognize Jim Clark's 98th birthday with song and special dessert! A wonderful gentleman—you don't want to miss this opportunity to greet Jim and help him celebrate!

Reservations are a must, to be received no later than **Tuesday, November 2**. Questions? Call Georgette Theotig, 661.822.4371, in Tehachapi. Please send a check (\$14.25 per person) written out to Kern-Kaweah Chapter, Sierra Club, and mail it to Georgette Theotig, PO Box 38, Tehachapi, CA 93581.

## **FIRST-HAND LOOK AT HOW THE CALIFORNIA SIERRA CLUB MEETS, DISCUSSES AND TAKES ACTIONS**

*ATTENDING CAN BE AN EYE-OPENER, AN ENERGIZER FOR THOSE WHO CARE*

October 2–3, 2004: Twice a year delegates from all of the California chapters meet in San Luis Obispo to discuss the environmental issues being decided at the local, state, and federal level. In addition to volunteer activists speaking, the Club's staff workers in Sacramento and Los Angeles discuss the lobbying efforts they have made with elected officials. As a volunteer listening to them speak, you begin to understand the importance of their work and their dedication to our causes.

The issues this time were as broad as California's diversity. The coast received much attention, from the potential siting of LNG (liquefied natural gas) facilities along the coast to protecting wilderness areas along the north coast and to providing a sea mammal sanctuary in San Diego.

Our Chapter's key topic is Tejon Ranch's proposed housing development. Delegate Lorraine Unger explained to all about the importance of it to all Californians. Involving 270,000 acres, protection of its water, open space resources and endangered species are essential.

Governor Schwarzenegger's report card was given a C grade. Recent bills regarding preservation of Sierra land and smog checks kept him from getting a D. He has made both good and bad appointments to commissions and agencies. However, the Chambers of Commerce in the state currently have his attention, especially to any legislation that might raise taxes on businesses.

Living in a state that understands "drought," you know that water issues will always arise. A new threat to our reduced water supply is the unregulated taking of spring water for bottled water. Our position is that spring water, like all water, is a public resource that needs to be protected from privatization.

A new issue of concern is the siting of casinos in California, Las Vegas style and closer to population centers. Presently, Indian casinos are being treated as being exempt from local and state environmental rules. With the increased demand to place these casinos in the Bay area, we need to understand their impact on traffic, water, and land use. Finally, there was time for celebration. September 3, 2004 marked the 40th anniversary of the landmark legislation signed by President Johnson, the Wilderness Act. Locally, Golden Trout is a result of this legislation. Senator Boxer is sponsoring legislation that would add to California's wilderness land. The Chapter's delegates to this meeting were Harry Love, Ara Marderosian, Art and Lorraine Unger. Contact them if there is a topic you wish to be discussed at the next meeting, or if you have any questions in regards to this meeting.

By Harry Love

## HAPPY HOLIDAY WISHES TO ALL OF YOU *A VISIT TO SEQUOIA NATIONAL MONUMENT—*

*This story will inspire admiration and resolve in all who care about the Sequoias, the Sierras and all natural places of our world. The heroes have never given up in their battle to protect these treasures. It is an example to the rest of us to keep on, no matter what the odds.*

What more could you want for a September outing than fantastic weather, the most beautiful sequoia grove in the Sequoia Monument, and a gourmet potluck! They came from all over California on a Friday night, winding up Highway 190 to the Quaking Aspen Campground in the heart of the Giant Sequoia National Monument. Many had never been to the Monument, and some had never seen a giant sequoia! As twilight faded, lanterns aided tent pitching as temperatures dropped to the 30s. Two dozen people including professors, students, teachers, attorneys, a chocolatier, and outdoor advocates began lively conversations which lasted most of the weekend.

Early Saturday morning some of us drove shuttle vehicles to our hike's ending point so we could ride, not hike, uphill back to the campsite. By 9:00 everyone was ready to hike!

The first 500 feet of the trail crosses through Unit 5D of the Coffeemill Timber Sale which we stopped in 1985. Indeed, hard fought battles by Sequoia Forest Alliance and our local Sierra Club saved the entire Freeman Creek Watershed from being roaded and logged in the 1980s. How heartwarming to see those trees still leaping from the hillsides as nature intended!

In our descent, we noted impacts of summer's cattle grazing—hoof-plowed bare slopes. Just inside the grove we discussed a 1980s clearcut that is not acknowledged by the Forest Service.

Then we entered a natural wonderland. At the first creek crossing we left the trail to explore a distant stand of sequoias. How exciting to discover huge sequoias looking much as they would have been encountered by Muir himself! We skirted further downstream to a small clearing, an opening sheltered by huge sequoias including a "stove-pipe" tree. We crawled through its roots to its hollow center to view the sky, wondering how many ancient people had done likewise. Finally, we continued our journey downstream.

The Freeman Creek Grove is the eastern-most grove in the Sierra and the largest, most pristine of the Monument groves. It contains more than 800 sequoias over 10' in diameter, more than 100 over 15', and at least one over 20', and there are many pointy-topped young sequoias just beginning their sagas. The trail begins in red fir strata at over 7000 feet, ranges through Jeffrey and sugar pine, then drops to 5500 feet with sage brush in near-desert conditions.

Near the bottom of the grove we arrived at the George Bush (Sr.) tree where in 1992, the campaigning president made a photostop and an unenforceable proclamation that restated an agreement already made between the Forest Service, the Sierra Club, and the timber industry. A New Zealand hiker noted about the Bush tree, "It's not a big tree." He added, "I wouldn't vote for it or for his son." Hmmm!

A mile later we clambered into the shuttle cars and gulped cold drinks! The return drive to our campsite wound through high desert pinnacles with sage in bloom, eastside pine, and the striking black patterns of the McNally Fire area.

A few of our hardy hikers hiked back to the campsite rather than ride. They beat us back! After a short rest and a possible sighting of a whiteheaded woodpecker, out came the soda, wine and appetizers. The potluck began! What a tasty feast! Sautéed Portabello mushrooms, salads of all varieties, stir fry, chicken, home grown veggies, pie, brownies. Mmmmm!

After Sunday's spontaneous potluck breakfast, some campers went with Joe Fontaine to Dome Rock for an overview of Monument geology and the McNally Fire and a visit to old logged areas; others hiked to the Needles Lookout, and after a while, everyone headed home.

The last to leave, I paused to watch the campground squirrel searching for crumbs. I felt such gratitude that this unique place still exists—both for its own intrinsic value and for the pleasure it had brought to all of us.

By Carla Cloer

# From the Chair, Lorraine Unger

Many of you are busily working on the upcoming elections. This is an important time for all of us, and I hope you will use the absentee ballot REQUEST FORM that was part of your last Roadrunner. After a quiet summer and a busy election time we have been inundated with varied environmental challenges that take our activists' time.

Some of the challenges we faced in September: we are working with the folks in Wasco to combat the proposal for 8 dairies with 100,000 head of cows. The Wasco City Council has proposed Measure U to their voters as an advisory vote to place a buffer of ten miles around their city without any new dairies. They hope to take the results of this election to the Kern County Board of Supervisors.

The Governor has proposed to collapse most of the environmental boards and commissions under the Environmental Protection Agency. Among these are the San Joaquin Air Pollution Control District (SJVAPCD) board and the various water resources boards. This is supposed to save state funds. Sierra Club members attended hearings on California's Performance Review (CPR) throughout the state, and our representative Bill Allayaud was on a panel in Fresno. At that meeting the Sierra Club staged a press conference with some of our allies at Cal State Fresno immediately before the all-day CPR hearing. We had representatives at the SJVAPCD's Air Quality Symposium and the Sequoia National Forest's OHV trail plan presentation. (See below.) Our activists speak regularly before the City Council of Bakersfield and Kern County Supervisors on land use issues.

If you have a bit of free time after Nov. 2, call me (661.323.5569) and I'll find you a small task to do. Hope to see you November 6th at the dinner at Bill Lee's in Bakersfield (check our activity listing).

## **YOUR PERSONAL CHANCE TO PROTECT YOUR FAVORITE PLACES**

### *in Sequoia National Forest and more.*

Where do you love to hike? Talk to your kids and find out which trail is their favorite. Jot down a quick note to the Sequoia National Forest Planning Team. Why?

Several of our members attended a planning workshop with Sequoia Recreational Planners Sept. 22 in Lake Isabella. All our national forests are under order to plan for trail use by motorized vehicles; they are now called OHVs, Off Highway Vehicles. Sequoia National Forest is in the lead with a survey of all their trails used by motorcycle enthusiasts. This survey is because nationally it was found that there is a great deal of impact on the natural resources by motorcycle use. Right now Sequoia Forest staff has surveyed most of the Forest under their jurisdiction except the Kern Plateau, Cannell Meadow District.

The plan will take several years, but we should begin giving input now and into 2005 on the trails that we think should be for hikers. Every trail is to be studied, including logging roads and areas with even one tire track. Please gather your family together and write your thoughts; don't overlook any comments, even if you object to a present multi-use trail.

If you can take time from your workday, visit the USFS office in Porterville at 900 W. Grand Ave. to look at the maps or the Bakersfield Visitor Center, 3801 Pegasus, near the Post Office Annex. Also Cannel Meadow office in Kernville is open on weekends, so drop by before or after a hike. If you don't have time to look at the maps, give a call to one of our forest activists, and they will carry your concerns forward to the Forest Service. Kern-Kaweah contacts: Joe Fontaine at 821.2055, Ara Marderosian at 760.378.4574, Harold Wood 559.739.8527. To talk directly to the Forest Service call Norm Carpenter at 559.784.1500 x1131.

Lorraine Unger

*You whose experiences center in Los Padres NF will soon be having the same opportunity described above. A future article in the Roadrunner will explain the details of the Forest Service's plan to limit the damage done by Off Highway Vehicles and how you can participate. If the Forest Service doesn't back down, wheeled vehicles will be confined to a system of designated trails where their impacts will be minimized and crosscountry travel off trails will be prohibited. In Los Padres, crosscountry is already prohibited. The complete plan is scheduled to be finished by September 2008.*

## **SABRINA LAKE BASIN DESTINATION WINNER FOR SIERRA HIKERS**

### ***MEMORIES OF SUMMER TO TIDE YOU OVER UNTIL THE NEXT HIKING SEASON— AND TO GIVE YOU INSPIRATION FOR TRIPS OF YOUR OWN.***

The stunning alpine setting of the Sabrina Lake Basin served as the high Sierra home for 7 backpackers the sunny week of August 1–8. Joining leaders Gordon and Eva Nipp were Alice Khteian, Theresa Stump, and Georgette Theotig, with Claus and Connie Engelhardt joining the group midweek.

The three glorious lake basins we visited offered the quintessential high elevation landscape. Cheerily greeting us each day were blue gentians, yellow monkey flowers, white heather, magenta paintbrush, and many other Sierra wildflowers. We frequently scrambled over granite boulders, strolled lush green meadows, and sauntered at the edge of numerous lakes. Always above our heads were 13,000-foot towering peaks and precipitous crags.

We happily stayed for two nights at each camp, providing time to explore the beauty and mystery of each area, as well as allowing time for serious anglers to test the cold waters. During our stay at lovely Baboon Lake (renamed White Heather Lake for obvious reasons) Eva inadvertently conducted a science experiment for us one evening. Mistakenly pouring Austrian schnapps into the stove's fuel tank, she wondered why her normally reliable stove wouldn't start. From behind a granite rock came many disparaging words regarding the dysfunctional stove. Only after Gordon's cleaning efforts (and much laughing) did the now sweet-smelling stove return to speed! Conclusion: a multi-fuel stove doesn't mean you can use schnapps.

Our two nights at Topsy Turvy Lake provided a day hike to explore Moonlight Lake and large Echo Lake. Glacial waters feeding this cold lake must encourage the trout. Gordon and Eva brought back enough fish to feed our 7 members plus two visiting friends!

A short but steep cross-country jaunt led us to aptly named Fishgut Lake. We questioned the unusual name until we tasted the filtered water. The fishy taste solved the mystery of the name. We hiked up to Schober Holes on our layover day, once again enjoying a full day of high Sierran exploration and leisure.

Many thanks to leaders Gordon and Eva for organizing and leading our group into the spectacular John Muir Wilderness.  
Georgette Theotig

## **IMPACT OF HOUSING PROJECTS ON AIR POLLUTION REVEALED TO BAKERSFIELD BY SIERRA CLUB ACTIVISTS, NIPP AND LOVE. *ACTIONS MAY AFFECT HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS EVERYWHERE***

The Bakersfield area is growing at an accelerating rate of about 6000 houses per year, and the cumulative impact of this growth on air pollution, biological resources, traffic, and the general quality of life is only beginning to be recognized and addressed by the decision-makers. Much of what progress has been made in this direction is a result of the continuing campaign of the local Sierra Club Chapter.

Until we began this campaign, little attention was given to the cumulative environmental effects of most new housing projects. Each project was treated individually, and each relatively small project's contribution to environmental degradation was considered insignificant. It has taken some effort to get at least some of the City leaders to look at the larger, long-term picture.

Our primary tool in this fight has been litigation and the threat of litigation. Without this legal threat, we have no leverage, and we are just another voice that can easily be ignored. Filing a lawsuit gets their attention. At this point, we have not actually had to go to court, because we have reached formal settlement agreement.

Each of these nine settlements includes funding for cumulative air quality mitigation, mostly at a rate of \$1200 per house and currently totaling approximately \$3,000,000. This money will be spent on projects that will offset the air pollution associated with the developments and help to clean the air, projects such as replacing dirty engines of one sort or another with cleaner ones or funding teleconferencing facilities to keep cars off the freeways (if you have any good ideas for projects, let us know). The fund will be administered by a committee consisting of a Sierra Club representative (Gordon Nipp), a developer, a representative of the Center on Race, Poverty, and the Environment, and a staff person from the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District. Other aspects of the agreements include the developer offering photovoltaics as an option to the homebuyer, the developer contributing to a fund to buy habitat for the endangered blunt-nosed leopard lizard, the developer putting in shielded street lighting to combat light pollution, and the developer doing some landscaping with native

As a result of these private agreements between the Sierra Club and the developers, the City of Bakersfield is considering a zero emissions policy under which developers would fund City pollution-reduction projects that would offset the air pollution from their developments.

Gordon Nipp

*You can help by writing the City of Bakersfield, 1501 Truxtun Avenue, Bakersfield, CA 93301. Ask them to adopt a strong zero emissions policy for new housing developments. Tell them that the pollution-reduction projects to be funded should be new projects, not projects that would be funded anyway under some other program. Tell them that the pollution emission numbers for the housing developments should be determined independent of the developer, not by a consultant hired by the developer. (Incredibly, they tend to let the developer himself figure out how much he should pay.) Tell them also that construction emissions are very real, ongoing, and should be offset. (Developers argue that construction emissions are temporary and thus can be ignored. Note that the pollution-reduction projects to be funded also have a similarly short effective life.) Tell them that they need to address the air pollution problem. We have some of the dirtiest air in the nation, and a lot of people are getting sick from breathing it. Support us by testifying at the City Council meetings even if all you say is that decision-makers need to do something about our abysmal air quality. Call Gordon Nipp (661.872.2432) or Harry Love (661.589.6245) for information.*

### ***If You Haven't Marked Your Ballots—***

#### **PROPOSITIONS—HERE ARE THE POSITIONS OF THE SIERRA CLUB**

**OPPOSE Propositions 1A and 65** - Would lock into the California Constitution the current formulas for allocation of property and sales taxes among local governments, formulas that lead to the courting of big box outfits and shopping malls to the detriment of service and manufacturing jobs and efforts to curb sprawl.

**SUPPORT Prop 59** - Access to government information. Would put the citizen's right to know in the state constitution, where it belongs.

**OPPOSE Prop 64** - Limitations to enforcement of unfair competition laws. Would take away community groups' ability to use the Unfair Competition Law to enforce environmental laws. The UCL has been one of our best tools for holding polluters accountable and defending our air, water and natural resources.

**OPPOSE Prop 68**, Tribal Gaming Compact Renegotiation - Sites that would be eligible to become casinos if this measure passes are in some cases ideal locations for smart growth (infill) or for additions to parks. With limited urban land, we do not support re-use of land as casinos with their heavy traffic impacts and impacts on neighborhoods.

### **A LITTLE OF THIS AND THAT—**

\***Kudos to Don Maben**, Supervisor Second District, for writing a letter to Diane Feinstein asking her to include the Bright Star Wilderness in the California Wild Heritage Act. Also, Supv Maben was the only Kern County Sup. to attend our March Chapter Banquet.

\***Special thanks** to all the folks who have **written articles** for the Roadrunner in all these past years. This really has made the Roadrunner the newsletter of its members. Readers look forward to more of your efforts that tell the stories of our areas from local points of view and more.

\***Special thanks** to the new crew, headed by **Ray and Marisa Albridge**, that is taking over the mailings of the Roadrunner to you.

\*Do you know about the Sierra Club's **Charitable gift annuity**? Call John Calaway at 415.977.5639 for further information. *Good for you, good for the environment.*

\*Remember that you can **read the Roadrunner on the web!** Just put Sierra Club Home Page in Google and you are on the way to the Kern-Kaweah Chapter's web page.

\*Need contacts in the Kern Kaweah Chapter, dates of KK Ex-coms? Call Lorraine at 661.323.5569.

\*Need to contact Roadrunner? Mary Ann at imal@frazmtn.com 661 242 0432

## FINE ADVENTURE FINALE

### LOOKING FORWARD TO FABULOUS 2005

Everyone is welcome, Sierra Club members and non-members, to join in any of the outdoor activities listed below. 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. Unprepared for hike? It will be a no-go for you. Please let the leader know you are intending to participate. E in hike description indicates hike is educational.

**Every Week. Bakersfield. Conditioning Hikes: (tuesday) 7 PM. 4–5 miles. Corner of highways 178 & 184. Gordon, 661.872.2432 or Larry, 873.8107 (KK Chapt.) Note change of day.**

**Nov 10, (wed) 6:00 PM.** - Meet for eats and lots of talk at the Keo Thip Restaurant, Visalia. Call 559. 739.8527 to confirm. (Min King Gp)

**Nov 20 (sat) Pictographs, Lunch With a View, and the Quartz Tower (E)** (1st, Pictographs near Canebreak Rd: 2nd, Pt 6352, 1 mi W of saddle S of Lamont Mdw, 800 ft gain; 2.4 mi RT: and 3rd, Quartz Tower, 1.9 mi W of Lamont Mdw on Long Valley Rd, elev 5500 ft, 190 ft gain, .4 mi RT) A "Threefer" for November! We will explore to find the pictographs just W of the Canebrake Road. Several colorful examples can be found among the boulders, an easy hike from the road. We will then hike to the lunch spot, Pt 6352, with a fine view of Canebreak Flat. This spot has the feel of a much visited "lookout." After lunch, we will hike to the Quartz Tower, a spectacular single monolith of white quartz. This will be an easy day so y'all come! Meet Sat, Nov 20, at 7:30 AM at the Ridgecrest Cinema parking lot. For more information, call Dennis Burge at 760.375.7967 or Jim Nichols 760.375.8161. (Owens Pk Gp)

**Nov 20–21 (sat-sun) (E) Carrizo Plain Service Trip and Carcamp.** The Carrizo Plain National Monument, a beautiful and remote grassland, is the home of 18 endangered species as well as pronghorn antelope. Unlike deer, antelope will not jump a fence but will simply run into the fence. Our job will be to help a wildlife biologist remove these fences. We will also have the opportunity to visit Painted Rock, a Native American pictograph site, and Wallace Creek, the classic example of a stream offset by the San Andreas Fault. Limit 20. Contact Ldr: Wendy Van Norden, 818.990.9085. (CNRCC Desert Com) **REPEAT TRIP January 8–9, 2005.** Leaders: Cal and Letty French, 805.239.7338,

**Nov 22 (mon) Kern-Kaweah Sierra Club Chapter and Kerncrest Audubon Chapter Meeting with Supervisor Jon McQuiston.** Meet with our Supervisor, hear about his political background. It is an opportunity to discuss with Jon our general and specific philosophies and concerns as well as asking him about his. Topics can include anything, like fragmentation, corridors, water/air quality, Endangered Species protection, urban sprawl, etc. If there is a specific topic that you want to ask about, let Jon's office know ahead of time so that he can look up information on it and be prepared to comment. His Bakersfield office is at 661. 868.3654. Brent Rush is his aide. Maturango Museum. 7:30 PM (Owens Pk Gp)

**Nov 27 (sat) San Emigdio Road to Ridge Tops. (E)** Wonderful views south to Mt. Pinos Range, north to the Valley and if a clear day, to the Sierras. View of an old limestone quarry, a bit of California mining history. A relatively easy climb, just perfect for after a Thanksgiving meal. Opportunity to analyze different growth patterns on north and south slopes. Meet at 8 AM at PMC parking lot. Call Dale, 661.242.1076 or Ches, 661. 242.0423 for more info. (Condor Gp)

**Dec 4 (sat) Condor Group Holiday Party.** Bring a dish to share and a wrapped white elephant. All are invited and welcome. Call Ches, 661.242.0423 for further info. (Condor Gp)

**Dec 8 (wed) Regular meet and eat session.** 6 PM. Visalia. Call 559.739.8527 for place. (Min Kg Gp)

**Dec 11 (sat) Sacatar Trail (E)** (2.5 mi SW of Red Hill, 6500 ft max elevation, 2500 ft gain, 10 mi RT) The Sacatar Trail was the only route into the Owens Valley from the West before the road over Walker Pass was built. Cattle, soldiers, and commercial traffic used this trail. It is the only route through the new Sacatar Wilderness Area. Exploring the first 5 mi of the trail provides a fine Dec workout and great views of Red Hill, Little Lake, and the Coso Station region. Moderate hike due to distance and elevation gain. Meet Sat, Dec 11th at 7:30 AM at the Ridgecrest Cinema parking lot. For more information, call Dennis Burge at 760. 375.7967 or Jim Nichols at 760.375.8161. (Owens Pk Gp)

**Dec 17 (fri) Kern Kaweah Chapter Holiday Party** 6 PM. Bakersfield. Join the Ungers for the festivities. Reserve and receive directions by calling 661.323.5569. Please bring hors d'oeuvres to share.

**Dec. 19 (sun) Kaweah Group Holiday Party.** 5 PM in Porterville. Join us for a hearty holiday dinner, and get an

## **BRINGING YEAR LONG PLEASURES, SIERRA CLUB CALENDARS ARE PERFECT GIFTS FOR FRIENDS, FAMILY AND YOURSELF!**

They are beautiful as always—the photos of the outdoor world and its inhabitants that are found on this year’s Sierra Club wilderness calendar. Starting from the cover with a picture of our western dry lands that stirs the heart to a beauty of Yosemite’s El Capitan with the Merced River at its foot, it is a trip to some of the most memorable wild areas, large and small, in the United States. The engagement calendar, a week by week date book, also features nature photos. These calendar “trips” come for the bargain price of just \$10 each (look at the back of the wall calendar and you’ll see that the suggested price is \$17.95). They make wonderful gifts and knowing that purchasing one of these beauties helps our Chapter’s conservation efforts adds a special satisfaction for your purchase.

To make a purchase in Porterville, contact Pam Clark, 559.784.4643. For Bakersfield and Tehachapi, contact Georgette Theotig, 661.822.4371. The calendars will also be available at the Chapter's Dinner in November.

Sierra Club notecards will also be sold by the Condor Group to support activities re: Tejon Ranch development plans. These cards have photos of wild places and art photos of nature. 20 cards for \$10.

### **TEJON TIME OUT**—please

Please go to the **Savetejonranch.org** website. Read the information, see the pictures of Tejon Ranch and—then sign on to the letter to Gov. Schwarzenegger re: the Ranch. This is another step in letting the state officials know that there are people who do care about the proposed fate of this biological wonderland and the unnecessary sprawl-inducing potential of Centennial City (23,000 homes on the drawing board along highway 138, close to the intersection with I-5).

### **SCHWARZENEGGER’S ENVIRONMENTAL RECORD. HMMM!**

*The following are some quotes from an article written by Bill Allayaud, State Director of Sierra Club Staff in Sacramento, the very effective group working for our environmental interests.*

How did Arnold do on environmental bills in 2004? He came into office saying “the environment? That will be no problem for me—I believe in the environment,” or something to that effect. He went on to say he believes that a strong economy and healthy environment are not in conflict, which are nice words to hear from a Republican leader.

Meanwhile, he is piling up huge monetary contributions from corporations, has appointed a very mixed bag of people to high-up posts that affect the environment, has come out in support of Proposition 64, which we strongly oppose, hurt us on the budget last summer relative to getting more fees from polluters, and pushed the Hearst deal through the State agencies. So, his record has been up and down. See for yourself!

#### **SUMMARY OF KEY BILLS**

**AB 923** (Firebaugh) Support. This raises significant new money for the Carl Moyer program, helping to reduce emissions of dirty diesel engines. SIGNED

**AB 2042** (Lowenthal) Support. Prohibits air pollution at the Ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles from exceeding baseline levels. VETOED

**AB 2683** (Lieber) Support. Will repeal the 30-year rolling exemption that applies to the Smog Check and Smog Check II programs; therefore, cars built after 1974 will never be exempt from smog regulations. SIGNED

**SB 1478** (Sher) Support. Makes numerous changes to the California Renewable Portfolio Standards Program and the Renewable Energy Program. VETOED

**SB 1648** (Chesbro - Sierra Club CA Sponsor) Support. Reforms the management of Jackson Demonstration State Forest in Mendocino County. VETOED

**SB 1369** (Kuehl - Sierra Club CA sponsor) Support. Increases the requirement for defensible space from 30’ to 100’ in the most fire-prone areas of the state. SIGNED

**SB 391** (Florez) Support. Requires the perpetrators of pesticide drift poisonings to compensate the victims. SIGNED

**AB 338** (Levine) Support. Requires CalTrans to use increasing levels of rubberized asphalt concrete made from recycled tires. VETOED

*(cont’d on p. 8)*

HELP PROTECT  
AMERICA'S LAST WILD FORESTS

*Make this your first card of the  
holiday season.*

*Send a postcard to*

Chief Dale Bosworth

Att: Roadless State Petitions

USDA Forest Service,

PO Box 221090

Salt Lake City, UT 84122

Tell him that you want

*complete protection of all Roadless  
Areas.*

*that he should do all that can be done  
to protect our wild forests.*

Sign your name and address, add a stamp  
and put it in the mail as soon as possible!

*(cont'd from p. 7)*

**AB 1369** (Pavley - Sierra Club CA sponsor) Support. Bans sale of mercury-added thermostats for residential and commercial use after Jan. 1, 2006. SIGNED

**AB 2901** (Pavley) Support. Requires the sellers of cell phones to take them back from consumers for recycling. SIGNED

**AB 2093** (Nakano), **AB 2672** (Simitian), and **AB 471** (Simitian) Support all three. These bills tighten up regulations for cruise ships entering state water for air and water emissions. All SIGNED

**AB 2055** (Wolk) Support. Strengthen the open space element in general plans. VETOED

**AB 2476** (Wolk) Support. Would have the Delta Protection Commission look at land use impacts on key resource areas. VETOED

**AB 2572** (Kehoe - Sierra Club CA sponsor) Support. Requires water meters to be installed in Central Valley cities not covered by last year's bill, including the City of Sacramento. SIGNED

**SB 1459** (Alpert) Support. Restricts bottom trawling in State waters. SIGNED

**AB 2600** (Laird and Leslie) Support. Creates the Sierra Nevada Conservancy. SIGNED

**AB 2918** (Laird) This bill deals with desalination of seawater and powerplants. I included it here because this bill was raised at the RCC meeting last weekend in SLO. Turns out we opposed the bill in its early form, but dropped opposition when it was amended to simply be a study. SIGNED

As David Brower said, "politicians are like weather vanes; our job is to make the wind blow." We are pursing our lips. *The more of us who make the wind blow, the greater are the chances for environmental protections. Sign up now for "Alerts." Email alunger@juno.com or call Art at 661.323.5569.*