



**Central Coast Council Meeting
Saturday, October 24, 2015**

**Cheadle Center for Biodiversity and
Ecological Restoration
UC Santa Barbara campus
Harder South Building 578
Santa Barbara, CA 93106**

NOTES

Attending:

Don Klabunde	Conejo Valley
Chrystal Klabunde	Conejo Valley
Stephanie Little	Morro Coast
Doug Tait	Morro Coast
Dave Tyra	Morro Coast
Rosalie Valvo	Morro Coast
Virginia Gardner	Santa Barbara
Mark Holmgren	Santa Barbara
Andy Lanes	Santa Barbara
Lee Moldaver	Santa Barbara
Dolores Pollock	Santa Barbara
Cherie Topper	Santa Barbara
Bruce Schoppe	Ventura
Joyce Schoppe	Ventura
Ariana Rickard	Audubon CA

AGENDA

8:00am Bird walk around the UC Santa Barbara Lagoon



9:00am **Introductions and finalization of agenda**

9:15am **Major policy and legislative initiatives**
Mike Lynes, Audubon California

SB 350 passed, (major climate change bill), after the fuels reduction mandate was removed.

Two bills that Audubon CA sponsored, Assembly Bill 498 and Assembly Bill 1482 passed. Assembly Bill 498 will make it state policy to protect wildlife corridors and Assembly Bill 1482 will require state agencies to coordinate their response to global warming.

SB 718, which would have provided a funding mechanism for wildlife rescue and rehabilitation during such non-petroleum spills, died in committee.

Drought

Audubon California has been going to DC to work on federal legislation aimed at drought. Working with partners from Nature Conservancy, NRDC, and Sierra Club to include environmental protection measures in drought bill.

Feinstein's latest bill is 100 times better than drafts from six months ago. Feinstein is very friendly with farmers.

Salton Sea

When the Salton Sea is allowed to shrink, it will become the greatest source of air pollution for the area. Need to think about dust mitigation.

Audubon California would like to apply the lessons learned from Owens Lake to the Salton Sea. Will also compile information on what species are most vulnerable and what are their habitat needs, which will guide the restoration plan.

9:30am **Intro on national efforts at climate change**
Dave Tyra, Morro Coast Audubon

9:45am **Climate science**
Ariana Rickard, Audubon California

10:15am **Break**

10:25am **How to communicate values on climate change**
Dave Tyra, Morro Coast Audubon

10:45am **Chapter climate change projects**
Don Klabunde, Conejo Valley
Doug Tait, Morro Coast Audubon

Doug Tait, Morro Coast Audubon

Morro Coast Audubon is working on banning styrofoam from Morro Bay. They are working with SLO Foam Free and looking at the SLO ordinance.

This is a human health and economic issue. They have attended City Council meetings at Pismo Beach and Morro Bay.

11:15am **New ideas on chapter climate change projects**
Andy Lanes, Santa Barbara Audubon

Andy Lanes, Santa Barbara

Citizen science programs connect people to the environment. One program, sponsored by the National Phenology Project, looks at the seasonality of biological events.

For more information about the California phenology project, please visit:
<https://www.usanpn.org/cpp/node/8>.

In one education program at Santa Barbara Audubon, chapter members taught elementary school students to monitor a plant garden. Each student received an adoption certificate of one plant.

11:45am **Resources – Audubon Works, Climate Audubon website**
Ariana Rickard, Audubon California

12:00pm **Tour of ornithological collections**
Mark Holmgren and Andy Lanes, Santa Barbara Audubon



Mark Holmgren shows a specimen to Santa Barbara, Morro Coast, and Conejo Valley Audubon members.

12:15pm **Lunch break**

12:30 pm **Breeding Bird Atlas collaborative project**
Mark Holmgren

1:00pm Chapter Reports

Santa Barbara Audubon

A great, 10 minute video about “Meet Your Wild Neighbor”, a program of the Eyes in the Sky elementary school wildlife education program that serves low-income students in 1st through 3rd grade, can be found on the Facebook page of “Eyes in the Sky (a program of the Santa Barbara Audubon Society)”. Look for the post from September 6th.

Developed a strategic plan for 2015-2020.

Started an educational program with the Police Activities League on March 14th. 12 kids - young teens, in early junior high school. Santa Barbara Audubon is providing curriculum.

Chapter is working with several local groups, such as the Urban Creeks Council, Sierra Club, and the Environmental Defense Center in a coalition to protect chaparral. They have written several letters of advocacy about this essential habitat.

Winter Bird Count for Kids will take place in January.

Conejo Valley

Three yards done in last couple of months as part of the Lawns to Habitat program.

Bonnie Clarfield-Bylin, VP of the chapter, is now spearheading effort to cap open pipes. These pipes are on Kern Preserve. They are also locating other open topped pipes to pursue. They are especially common in mining areas.

Annual dinner and auction will be March 12, 2016. This is the main fundraiser for the chapter, and brings in about \$3-5K. Around 30 – 50 people attend.

Education Chair is working on putting Audubon Adventures in the schools.

Morro Coast

20th Annual Morro Bay Winter Bird Festival will be January 15-18, 2016.

CBC dates – main one will be December 19, Carrizo Plain will be January 2nd

Trident Winds is proposing 100 wind turbines in the ocean off Morro Bay. A telephone conference with Garry George, Trident Winds (three principals), Rosalie Valvo and some others from Morro Coast took place on October 30. A similar project off of coast in Oregon is being proposed in Coos Bay.

Sweet Springs Preserve – location of Morro Shoulderband Snail, an endangered species. Chapter needs an incidental take permit from USFWS to complete improvement construction plan. The Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) has been sitting on USFWS desk for six months. No idea of timing for them, as it is a low priority.

Estimated cost to construct a bird walk and blind at Sweet Swings Nature Preserve is \$300-400K. Preserve is used by migrating waterfowl as a resting area. Need more detailed proposals from construction to pin down actual cost. Some money for the project has been raised over the years, but there is no targeted fundraising because they don't have a timeline yet.

Education Committee is working with local schools in Morro Bay and Paso Robles. One of their volunteers is a former teacher, bilingual, and has helped develop a relationship with a school with a bilingual program in Paso Robles. The presentations are done in Spanish and English. More than 350 – 400 kids are involved in the program, and it is growing. Curriculum is also expanding. They also sponsored a trip with 4H, took disadvantaged girls on a field trip, and are planning to work with Boy Scout troops, and camps.

Conservation Committee is working with Pacific Wildlife Care to make fish cleaning stations bird friendly in Port San Luis and Morro Bay. Brown Pelicans and other birds are choking on fish carcasses and hooks.

The Chumash National Marine Sanctuary has been proposed off the coast of Morro Bay. This is sacred ground for the Chumash and would help protect many species of birds.

Ventura

Chapter applied and received funding to support monitoring of Snowy Plovers and Least Terns on Ormond Beach and Hollywood Beach. The monitors have been funded over last several years.

Ormond Beach – There are two older power plants in Ventura County in Oxnard that are being replaced with a new plant. The City of Oxnard opposed to putting another one on the beach.

The old power plants have to be decommissioned, but there is no requirement that they be taken down.

Ormond Beach is owned by Coastal Conservancy. There is a new project manager, who is oriented towards action to accomplish conservation. There is now a MOU between the City of Oxnard, Nature Conservancy and Coastal Conservancy to be able to do things like putting up fences.

Hollywood beach is more developed than Ormond Beach. 2/3 of beach went away after dredging. 200 LETA nests before now only 20 last season and all failed. There is also English beach grass and invasive grass on dunes. Would like to do restoration of these dunes.

Chapter also has a program to trap cowbirds. Four males established territories in the Ventura River watershed. Birds are expanding out of Santa Clara River.

Education Chair is working with education and outreach person at USFWS to piggyback on work with school groups to sponsor trips to the beach to see SNPL.

Oil and gas issues in Ventura County. Citizens for Responsible Oil and Gas (CFROG) would like to influence the county to require an in depth environmental review of fracking and drilling projects. County Conditional Use Permits (CUPs) are vested rights. Existing permits did not have to do any environmental review. There are also new drilling rights on a couple of properties.

**2:00 pm Hanging Chads and/or new and unresolved issues to put a button on
Frequency of Council meetings?**

Next meeting – February 20, 2016 hosted by Conejo Valley Audubon

Meeting adjourned – 2:30pm