



**Central Coast Council Meeting
Saturday, February 20, 2016**

**California Lutheran University (CLU)
Alumni Building room 128
3439 Mountclef Boulevard
Thousand Oaks, CA 91360**

AGENDA

8:00 am Bird walk – see directions below

9:00am Introductions and finalization of agenda

**9:15am New Strategic Plan for National Audubon Society
Ariana Rickard, Audubon California**

David Ringer has been appointed the first Chief Network Officer for the National Audubon Society. He comes from a chapter and wants to work with California.

The Strategic Plan has been ratified by the Board and the next steps are to build the business plans and FY17 budgets to implement the plan. An external version of the plan will be online and in print in April.

There is a new conservation strategy on water. The four pillars of the plan are:

1. Science – Bringing science together with conservation
2. Building durable public will
3. Strengthening the network
4. Conservation

The Audubon network is prioritized in the new plan. Additional people will be brought on the chapter team to fill gaps across the country.

**9:30am Heritage Park conversion to California natives
Don Klabunde, Conejo Valley Audubon**

One park at a time, rather than one habitat at a time. Grants from NAS to convert three lawns to habitat. Change over to native plants.

Chapter provided design, signage, and volunteers.

Conejo Valley will send a copy of the master plan to everyone.

Seed balls are waiting for rain melt, then they will self-fertilize and create seeds. Annuals were put in with perennials.

24 people showed up for planting day and work was done in a couple of hours.

130 plants installed, along with a bird house. Milkweed was not approved because the county didn't want any weeds.

**10:00am Major policy and legislative initiatives
Mike Lynes, Audubon California**

Drone bill (AB 2148) from Assemblymember Holden to designate wildlife areas where drone use is not allowed. There is currently not a large drone constituency.

AB 2087 (Levine): This bill would establish Regional Conservation Frameworks (RCF) and Regional Advanced Mitigation Programs (RAMP), which would provide for large-scale, regional planning to identify priorities for conservation lands and species.

There are efforts to reform the California Environmental Quality Act, but concern is that revisions would weaken CEQA.

There are 5 or 6 bills from Republican members that would have negative consequences for birds and wildlife that Audubon California is following.

AB 2198 would facilitate coastal permits for desalination plants. This could be detrimental to coastal habitats.

Governor's budget:

- Prop 1 funding - \$90 million for Central Valley Refuges. 95% of wetlands destroyed in California.
- \$80 million invested in Salton Sea in budget. Salton Sea will be the single largest source of air pollution in area as it dries up.
- \$4 billion for water storage project
- \$100 million to Coastal Conservancy
- \$60-65 million of cap and trade money will go to wetlands

**10:30am California Coastal Commission updates and possible next steps
Mike Lynes, Audubon California**

There are two bills related to the California Coastal Commission.

AB 2002 (Tony Atkins, Speaker out of San Diego): Requires lobbyists to register when lobbying Coastal Commission members. This bill has 18 co-authors. Currently there is no transparency at the Coastal Commission about who they are meeting with regarding proposed projects.

AB 2616 (Burke): Adds three seats to the Coastal Commission to represent environmental justice concerns.

The main problem is who is put on the Commission and who gets to stay. The Commissioners behind the ouster of Lester all have a 50% or lower rating from Surfrider.

Audubon members sent 5,000 emails to the Governor's office; his office remained silent on the firing of Lester.

The editorial boards of the SF Chronicle, LA Times and Sacramento Bee all published articles condemning removal of Lester.

Someone who is more approving of development might get appointed to replace Lester.

The Coastal Commission hearing was broadcast on local channels and online. The Fish and Game Commission hearings are also broadcast live.

10:45am Break

11:00am Sharing Fundraising Ideas

Meetup: \$180/year to host a Meetup group

Audubon Chapter Meetup pages:

Golden Gate Audubon: <http://www.meetup.com/Golden-Gate-Audubon-Society/>

Mount Diablo Audubon: <http://www.meetup.com/Mount-Diablo-Audubon-Society/>

Santa Clara Valley Audubon: <http://www.meetup.com/SCVAS-birders-and-photographers/>

Stanislaus Audubon: <http://www.meetup.com/Stanislaus-Audubon-Events/>

Conejo Valley

Annual auction – Three people try to get donations from community, and managers of local businesses. For bigger corporations, ask has to be done earlier. 100 asks, 50 said yes. Event raises between \$3-5000. Dinner is \$40-50 ticket. Live auction with auctioneer, plus a silent auction and a raffle table where everybody wins. Sample auction items: Stay in a condo in Hawaii, bird till you drop trip. People bring guests, mailers sent to National Audubon members who are not already in chapter. 67 people attended last auction.

Chapter raises several hundred dollars a year through Amazon Smile.

Chapter membership fee is \$20, which covers newsletter costs.

Habitat restoration grant through climate program at NAS.

Looking to start an endowment.

Santa Barbara

Membership fee is \$26

Annual membership appeal in the fall - \$27,000 generated

Raised cash this year more than ever.

Have received \$35,000 in education grants, for underserved elementary school education programs. Eyes in the Sky program is a big chunk of their budget.

Sent letters to lapsed membership list, which had 2000 names.

Santa Barbara hats are \$20, will make \$11 for each one sold. \$15,000 total if all hats are sold.

Eyes in the Sky Open House and Silent Auction raised \$11,000. 500-600 people attended.

Auction items - Surf lessons, wine tasting, time spent with star birders. Binoculars and scopes.

Birdathon – separated into bird-premiere trips – charge \$3000 total.

Pelican Dreams showing - \$1000 net. 2 showings, Morro the Pelican attended.

Bringing Back the Wild – a film featuring Coal Oil Point Reserve. Film made by Michael Love:
http://www.quastrapro.com/quastra_productions_films

Chapter has had more success with very small private, family foundations.

Ventura

20 years of monitoring Snowy Plovers and Least Terns on Ormond and Hollywood Beach. Monitoring has to be done year after year, and almost no one wants to fund projects perpetually. Science is not interesting to funders, and would prefer to engage people and school kids. Allegedly getting money for monitoring from USFWS this year.

This is the 3rd year the chapter has raised funds for monitoring.

Chapter is currently trying to raise funds for education and stipend for Walter Fuller, who has been caretaker at Ormond Beach for 20 years.

Operating budget and fundraising are separate.

Main fundraiser is the annual appeal.

Birdathon in April. All digital distribution of newsletter. Birdathon information used to go out in April newsletter with a return letter.

Chapter now sends one letter a year and combines it with an announcement of the annual meeting. Raised \$5000 with that, which is half of the chapter's budget. National and odds and ends cover the rest of costs.

Ventura Hillside Conservancy partnering with chapter on cowbird trapping on Ventura River to restore Least Bell's vireo. Supported by Southern CA Edison. \$5000 last two years. \$2000 this year.

Under \$50,000 in annual revenue.

12:00pm Audubon California updates: Brown Pelican Survey and Audubon Assembly
Ariana Rickard, Audubon California

Brown Pelican survey will take place on Saturday, May 7 from 5-7pm. Audubon California is looking for volunteers to cover all roost locations throughout the state. See website for more information and map of roosts:

<http://ca.audubon.org/brownpelicansurvey>

Cherie Topper shared a website that allows users to track the daily movement of banded pelicans that have been rehabilitated and released:

<http://www.atlanticseabirds.org/owcn-map>

Audubon California is currently planning on holding an Assembly meeting for all Audubon chapters in Tenaya Lodge the weekend of November 4-6. Details coming soon!

**12:30pm Offshore wind farm proposal in Morro Bay
Update provided by Morro Coast Audubon**

A lease request was submitted by Trident Winds to the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) in the Department of the Interior.

The project would be 24 nautical miles from San Simeon and 28 nautical miles from Morro Rock. Project proponents need 33 permits and it will probably be five years before construction can begin.

Turbines would be one km apart on floating foundations.

A marine life study in Oregon Coos Bay is being used for the biological assumptions for this proposal.

There is a lower density of birds further out, but two birds that might be impacted are Shearwaters and Short-tailed Albatross.

**12:45pm Beaches are Habitat – Sharing the Shore event
Bruce Schoppe, Ventura Audubon**

Saturday, March 12. Flyer up in store windows all over Channel Islands and south Oxnard area, potential attendance of 100 people. Free. Invited political folks, Board of Supervisors. At least one strong supporter in the City Council. Budgeted \$2500.

Table top exhibits from Partner organizations – TNC will have a table, donated \$250 to help fund it. Chapter would like to make this an annual event.

1:00pm Chapter Reports

Conejo Valley

Auction – March 12

Santa Barbara

Winter bird count for kids at Lake Los Carneros held on January 23. Doubled number of kids this year, 30 last year. Received funding from city of Goleta and snacks donated by Trader Joe's. Bought t-shirts for kids, ages 8 – 16. Engaged underserved community. Spanish and English flyers distributed to coffee shops and schools, kids club, churches, and neighborhood markets. Announcements in local media. 77 kids signed roster. Waivers and photo release in English and Spanish. Boys and Girls Club sent a van of kids. 66 species. 1 hour long walk. Started with binocular bootcamp, and whole thing is three hours.

Protect Nesting birds – tree trimming brochure. \$500 for 2500 copies. Richard Figuero – former Science Chair designed brochure and hat.

March – first afterschool outdoor adventure with the Police Activity League. Curriculum – walk to nearby park for birding. New program. 9 sessions once a week. Committee of six. Two hour program, from 4 – 6pm. Police Activity League will transport kids.

Ventura

New Education Chair – will visit classrooms for lessons on shorebirds, plovers and terns.

CS UCI – augment docent program for beaches. At least one plovers and terns program presented to class. 27 students at Ormond Beach field trip training program with Cynthia Hartley.

Beach clean ups – February 20 and 27 at Ormond Beach run jointly with Surfrider, before plovers and terns arrive.

Proposed ordinance at Oxnard to ban dogs, drones, and animals on the beach. Process has been slowed because now it might need to be an amendment to the local coastal plan, done by the staff of the Coastal Commission.

The Nature Conservancy is applying for Prop 1 funding for Ormond Beach, which is part of the MEGU IBA. This would be the largest potential restoration of wetland in southern California.

2:00 pm Hanging Chads and/or chapter feedback for State and National Audubon – new and unresolved issues to put a button on

September 10, 17, 24 – Morro Coast will host?