



**Central Coast Council Meeting  
Saturday, March 30, 2019**

**MVS Center for Integrative Decision-  
Making  
CA State University Channel Islands  
1 University Drive  
Camarillo, CA 93012**

**NOTES**

Attendance:

Chrystal Klabunde	Conejo Valley	Kat O’Dea	Ventura
Don Klabunde	Conejo Valley	Cassie Rogers	Ventura
Janice Levasheff	Santa Barbara	Bruce Schoppe	Ventura
Dolores Pollock	Santa Barbara	Joyce Schoppe	Ventura
Debra Barringer	Ventura	Alicia Smith	Ventura
Cynthia Hartley	Ventura	Jim Susha	Ventura
Vince Kinsch	Ventura	Ariana Rickard	Audubon CA
Leo Martinez-Vallin	Ventura		

Articles featuring Kat O’Dea and the Audubon college chapter program:

<https://www.audubon.org/news/conservation-trailblazers-campus>

<https://www.audubon.org/news/national-audubon-society-gives-students-reins-new-campus-chapter-program>

College chapter programs at Cal State – Channel Islands, University of FL, Green Bay, UNC, and San Diego City College.

**9:45am Major policy and legislative initiatives  
Mike Lynes, Audubon California**

Governor Newsom – not particularly strong environmental conservation background, but placed Wayne Cawfoot in charge of Natural Resources Agency. He is the former Executive Director of California Water Foundation.

January draft budget had sparse funding for environmental conservation issues like Fish and Wildlife. Wade is pushing back on that, so should be more funding in final budget.

Jared Blumenfeld in charge of CA EPA. He headed Region 9 EPA.

Jay Chamberlain heading Natural Resources in California State Parks, eager to work with chapters on coastal issues. Audubon can play a stronger role with how we interact with CA Parks.

Audubon CA is co-sponsoring a bill, AB 454, to protect migratory birds in California. Under federal government's interpretation, migratory birds no longer protected from oil spills, wind turbines, pesticide applications, collisions with transmission lines, etc.

First hearing on Tuesday on AB 454. Very tough, oil industry, farm bureau opposing it and wind and solar industrial associations are opposing it because they are claiming it is going to chill renewable energy development in the state. Industry wants to be able to kill birds without any penalties.

Federal government will release guidelines on allowing incidental take some time this year, a new interpretation of Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

Audubon CA is also sponsoring a bill on coastal resiliency and adaptation, AB 552 from Assemblymember Stone. Soft shorelines to deal with sea level rise. Should not be a controversial bill.

Finally, Audubon CA is sponsoring a bill on working lands. State trying to achieve 0 carbon by 2045. \$400 million annual investment in Natural and Working lands (farms or timber harvest areas and ranches) to go to our priorities.

Salton Sea – state has made very slow progress. Ecological change – fish eating birds have almost disappeared. Tilapia has declined by significant numbers. Pelicans and other fish eating birds are probably going back to the coast.

Sustainable groundwater management – program led by Sammie Arthur.  
Samantha Arthur - Conservation Project Director  
Sacramento, (916) 737-5707 ext. 115  
[sarthur@audubon.org](mailto:sarthur@audubon.org)

Audubon CA supports AB 1371, which will ensure adequate environmental reviews for offshore wind projects.

Support another bill that will provide access to natural issues and funding of environmental education. Funding for buses and other means to visit natural areas.

Endangered species protections - There is a state bill to protect birds like Snowy Plover that have federal protection but not state protection.

Fire and vegetation management – need to protect safety and property in a responsible ecological manner. Newsom has fast tracked environmental review of vegetation management. Audubon managed to add some ecological measures to SB 901, which passed last year. Fire folks wanted to cut down larger trees. Cal Fire is the lead on fire and vegetation management in state.

Desert conservation project – Cadiz water project. Pump water out of desert and send it to Los Angeles. Hearing happening in Assembly soon.

Audubon CA supports another bill to provide clean drinking water to all Californians via a tax on major water users like ag and industry. 1 million people in California do not have access to clean drinking water.

CEQA – Audubon CA signed a joint letter supporting CEQA. Please email Ariana ([arickard@audubon.org](mailto:arickard@audubon.org)) to receive a copy of the letter.

**10:30am Wildlife Connectivity and Wildlife Corridor County General Plan Amendment, Abigail Convery**

<http://www.scwildlands.org/>

**11:00am Using Drones to monitor Snowy Plovers  
Cynthia Hartley, Ventura Audubon**

**11:30am Priority Setting for Chapters  
All**

*Conejo Valley*

When considering projects, they must meet this criteria:  
Matching goals of the group  
Local  
If there's someone in the group who is willing to work on it.

*Santa Barbara*

Must consider the length of commitment  
Local  
Pressing  
Meets mission statement

Try to keep it to 3-4 major projects

*Ventura*

If someone is interested in something. Started strategic planning process.

**12:00pm      Lunch**

**1:00pm      Chapter Reports**

*Ventura*

Nest fencing up – Snowy Plover pair are already on the beach

Central Coast Birding Trail map – Jim Susha has a draft available for review. This will be turned into an online story map. Interactive map on Ventura Audubon's website.

SURF student – Student Undergraduate Research Fellowship – working on the beaches with Cynthia on shorebird monitoring.

*Conejo Valley*

Ventura County Science Fair – last weekend. Winning project was around pigeon milk.

Auction – 70 people attended, made \$2,000 net.

New leadership – Frank DeMartino is now President.

Lawns to Habitat - \$10,000 grant last year, now working on second half of grant. Hundreds of yards converted so far.

Master Gardeners talk last week about birds' use of native plants.

Birds n Brews – organized a couple events. Afternoon bird walk with brews. Advertise on newsletter and on chapter Facebook page.

Garden Tours – second annual garden tour in April. Showing people native plant gardens and list of birds attracted to native plants.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo research – trying to create Yellow-billed Cuckoo detector. Use recorder to get audio of Cuckoos. Putting microphones on detectors.

*Santa Barbara*

Eyes in the Sky program – six birds for educational purpose. Director retired. New Director, Hannah Atkinson, former falconer.

Winter Bird Count for Kids - Young Birders guide redeveloped.

Website was getting hacked – new protections up. Website was down for a week.

Working on new Breeding Bird Atlas. People submitting data on locations throughout county.

Creating Communications Chair to help with website. Separate position from Publicity.

*CSU – Channel Islands*

Increased membership by 22 – up to 86 members. 30 are active. Share 90% of membership with Surfrider.

Sustainability week – leader for CSU system. Now a bee campus – Apiary on campus.

Student chapters can now apply to National Audubon Society grants like Audubon in Action and Plants for Birds grants.

Kat is leading her first on campus bird walk. Second bird walk is Raptors in the morning.

Presenting a poster at the National Convention – Reading a bird's minds with GIS.

**Next meeting: Saturday, September 21**  
**Coal Oil Point Nature Center at UCSB**  
**Hosted by Santa Barbara Audubon**