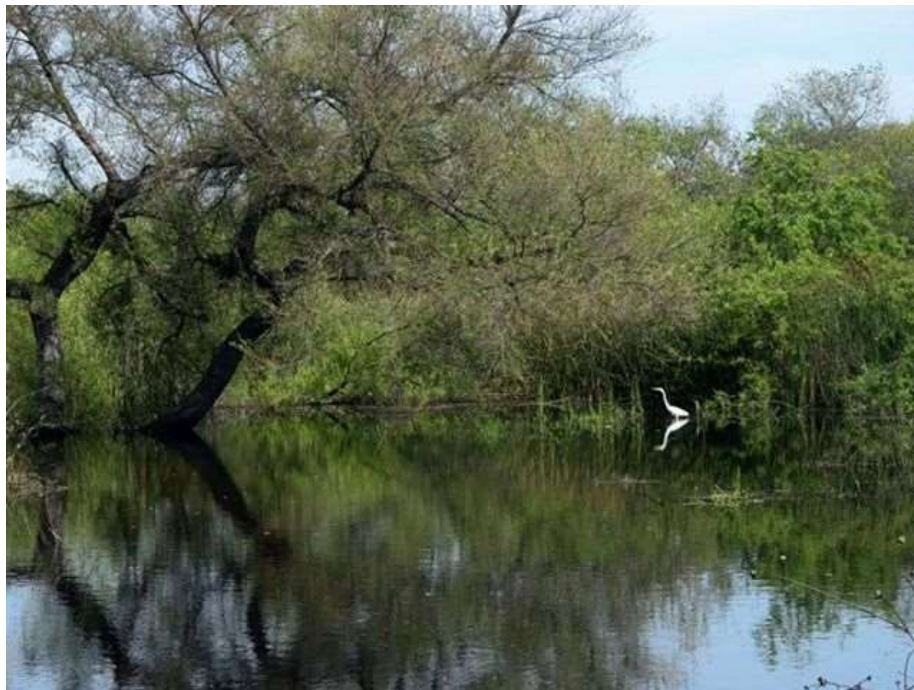




SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA COUNCIL
MEETING NOTES

Hosted by the Palos Verdes/South Bay Audubon Society
<http://www.pvsb-audubon.org/>

Saturday, October 17, 2015
Madrona Marsh Preserve
Torrance, CA



“The strength of the Chapter Network is each individual Chapter...the strength of each Chapter is the Chapter Network.”

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IMPORTANT NOTES:



The “Act Now” icon indicates various opportunities and calls to action for Chapters in the SoCal Council.



The “New” icon indicates new information that was not discussed at the Council meeting itself.



The “Handshake” icon indicates a current or possible opportunity for a Chapter-to-Chapter or Audubon CA-to-Chapter partnership.

CHAPTERS IN ATTENDANCE

1. Kathy Billings – Buena Vista Audubon
2. David Quadhamer – Palos Verdes/South Bay Audubon
3. Tracy Drake – Palos Verdes/South Bay Audubon
4. Jess Morton – Palos Verdes/South Bay Audubon
5. Stacy Herman – Palos Verdes/South Bay Audubon
6. John Small – Guest of Palos Verdes/South Bay Audubon
7. Deni Sinnott – Pasadena Audubon
8. Lynne Jefferies – Laguna Hills Audubon
9. Eva Lydick – Laguna Hills Audubon
10. Dave Weeshoff – San Fernando Valley Audubon
11. Heather Medvitz – San Fernando Valley Audubon
12. Letty Brooks – Whittier Audubon
13. Bob Brooks – Whittier Audubon
14. Vic Leipzig – Sea and Sage Audubon
15. Doug Lithgow – Sea and Sage Audubon
16. Scott Thomas – Sea and Sage Audubon
17. Janet Baumann – Sea and Sage Audubon
18. Al Baumann – Sea and Sage Audubon
19. Drew Feldmann – San Bernardino Valley Audubon
20. Dan Guthrie – Pomona Valley Audubon
21. Mary Parsell – El Dorado Audubon
22. Travis Abeyta - Audubon California

MALLARDS OF MADRONA MARSH

Tracy Drake is a member of Palos Verdes/South Bay Audubon and also serves as the Manager of the Madrona Marsh Preserve. She gave a presentation on the extensive studies and surveys they have conducted on the Mallards at the preserve.



- 🦆 For the last 15 years, they have been conducting daily bird surveys at the preserve.
- 🦆 The preserve is approximately 50 acres of isolated island habitat.
- 🦆 It is a birding hot spot because it is the last seasonal wetland in L.A. County.
- 🦆 Over many years, a very committed man named Jun Saito has conducted a detailed survey of Mallards at the preserve.
- 🦆 He developed a way to identify individual females by the unique black and orange patterns on the bill of each bird. He gave each individual bird a name such as “Nancy” or “Dorothy.”
- 🦆 He monitored birds from birth to first flight. The preserve has film and photos of every family.
- 🦆 His studies found the following about the Mallards:
 - Females in their first year of life make poor mothers. They leave their chicks alone too long. For example, “Dorothy” was a first year mother last year and she had 6 babies with 4 surviving.
 - By their second year, females are more protective of their chicks. “Dorothy” is back this year and all of her kids have survived.
 - Chicks are threatened by predators including Cooper’s hawk and Canadian Geese.
 - Open water is actually not safe for Mallards. They are safer in the vegetation and upland area at the edge of the pond.
 - Males are very promiscuous. After the babies are born, they will stick around and harass females. Once the chicks leave, the male will stay with the mate for up to 4 days before leaving.
 - Females accept 20% of stray chicks that are very young - up to 8 days old. However, they will kill stray chicks after this time.

- ✎ The time of birth has a direct effect on the survival rates of chicks as follows:
 - Last week of March to end of April - 67% survive
 - 1st week of May to end of May – 35% survive (increased predation)
 - June and on – 0% survive

PRUNING DURING THE NESTING SEASON

Scott Thomas from Sea & Sage Audubon gave a presentation on a newly formed task force in Southern California, Pruning for Wildlife, who are committed to a comprehensive campaign on pruning during the nesting season that in the long-term can benefit nesting birds and the quality of urban forests.



- ✎ Pruning for Wildlife is a newly created organization/task force which Sea & Sage Audubon is a part of it. Sea and Sage Audubon has long had an Urban Sanctuaries program focused on problems with tree trimming and other landscaping issues.
- ✎ The new task force has created flyers, workbooks, a website, contacts, networks, direct action against HOAs and tree trimmers, and communicated with cities, rehabbers, etc.
- ✎ A major success includes partnerships with Orange County Parks and local State Parks. They have agreed to set polices that limit trimming during the breeding season and always avoid active nests. Several cities have also tried to do better and have hired good arborists. Homeowner associations have not been so cooperative.
- ✎ The challenges faced by the task force include public opposition (putting safety and aesthetics over wildlife value), costs, laws and regulations not strong enough or administered consistently. Other problem we face is that after we talk to people then city staff turns over. The biggest issue is that tree trimmers want to work year round.
- ✎ Laguna Hills Audubon had a major success in convincing a major homeowner's association to reduce trimming.
- ✎ One responsible trimmer is Sims Tree Health Specialists. They operate a learning center in Riverside, about 2 acres that is actually an arboretum. They have a training program called

Wildlife Awareness. It runs two hours and teaches about trees, birds, nests, and the law. They may develop an official arborist certification program.

- ✎ Scott met Gillian Martin at Sims who suggested creating an organization/program to properly train arborists which is how the task force started.
- ✎ The Pruning for Wildlife project has participation by Southern California Edison, SoCal Gas, Calfire, Sea and Sage Audubon, Pasadena Audubon, Pomona Audubon, Cavity Conservation Initiative, West Coast Arborists, and many other organizations.
- ✎ The mission of the task force is to reduce harm to birds in nesting season and protect and enhance habitat in urban forests.
- ✎ Gillian Martin and task force have developed a 3-year plan with three main goals:
 1. Develop Best Management Practices (BMPs) for industry, public, and private agencies. Basically, some arborists are pretty good, especially the larger ones. Small businesses are harder to deal with because they are under more pressure and constraints.
 2. Develop educational material
 3. Do research and compile science into educational materials
- ✎ Additional goals are standardized training and a certification program. The program has several fiscal partners.
- ✎ One open question is whether or not to apply for 501c3 status. For now Cal ReLeaf will serve as fiscal manager.
- ✎ Gillian developed an estimated 3-year budget totaling \$45,000.



The task force would like to get more Audubon Chapters involved in Southern California. Please contact Scott Thomas or Travis Abeyta if you would like additional details.

✎ QUESTIONS

- *Drew Feldmann* - San Bernardino Valley Audubon was contacted about the project and loves it. However, the budget is not complete and needs further clarification. This is why his chapter did not initially endorse the project. Can chapters have a more detailed budget? ANSWER - Scott Thomas will provide a detailed budget to interested chapters

- *Drew Feldmann* - How long are task force meetings? ANSWER - 4 hours plus a bird walk after
- *Letty Brooks* - Does SIMS charge for class? ANSWER – They charge a small fee
- *Dan Guthrie* - Have you had any luck getting people to not remove dead fronds from palm trees? ANSWER – They have had difficulty in OC with palms because of fire and concerns from the fire department

CEQA AND THE WORLD LOGISTICS CENTER

Drew Feldmann from San Bernardino Audubon gave an update on recent developments regarding the World Logistics Center in the San Jacinto Valley IBA which could have statewide implications. Drew provided a link to more information on the decision which can be found [HERE](#).



- ✎ Drew described the continuing threat of the World Logistics Center, a proposed 41 million square foot warehouse immediately adjacent to the San Jacinto Wildlife Area which is part of the San Jacinto Valley IBA.
- ✎ San Bernardino Valley Audubon filed suit along with the Center for Biological Diversity and various other partners. There have been nine suits involving 14 partner organizations.
- ✎ In August 2014, the California Supreme Court ruled on a case from Tuolumne County that local jurisdictions are exempt from CEQA in regard to any project where the jurisdiction has acted to enact the language of a voter supported initiative.
- ✎ The developer of the World Logistics Center (WLC) paid an organization \$5 for every signature they collected from the public to support the project.
- ✎ Drew is extremely concerned that the CA Supreme Court decision will derail all lawsuits they currently have and they will be tossed out.



As a disclaimer, Audubon California cannot provide legal advice in regards to this issue. Any information provided is simply a support service for chapters and should not be used as a substitute for the advice of competent legal counsel.

Mike Lynes has conferred with some CEQA attorneys and received the following information:

- ✦ **While this issue has received a lot of attention lately, it's not new law. The ability to use an initiative to do an end-run around CEQA has always existed and is founded in the Election Code and the State Constitution, which provides for the initiative process. Because the Constitution trumps any legislative or court-made law, this is arguably not a problem that could be fixed even if CEQA were to be amended.**
- ✦ **Although developers can sometimes use this to get a city or county out of doing CEQA, most of the time, a developer eventually needs some other permit, such as from the Department of Fish & Wildlife or from an air/water quality control board, that will require CEQA. So, it is our understanding that while a city or county can essentially exempt itself from CEQA for its permitting purposes, it cannot create an exemption that applies to other permitting agencies. Therefore, developers who try this are generally not successful in using the loophole to get out of CEQA review.**
- ✦ **Closing this "loophole" may not be the best approach because many environmental organizations and community groups have successfully used it to prevent bad development and actually used the loophole to pass slow-growth and "green" initiatives that would allow a city or county to bypass CEQA review.**
- ✦ **There is broad consensus across the conservation organizations that trying to "fix" CEQA will likely have many unintended consequences that will weaken the bill. The Brown Administration and the current legislature cannot be trusted to "fix" CEQA in a way that really protects the environment. So, even if developers may infrequently exploit this "loophole," which has been there for decades, it is the preferred option to trying to "fix" CEQA and opening a whole set of new problems.**
- ✦ **Mike Lynes will continue speaking with colleagues about this issue and we will keep you updated.**

AUDUBON CALIFORNIA BOARD MEETING REPORT

Vic Leipzig, our SoCal Council representative on the Audubon California Board, gave a report out on information presented at the September 2015 Audubon California board meeting held at the Audubon Center at Richardson Bay.



- ✦ The Board Meeting opened with reflections and memories of the recently deceased Wes Craven, a valued Audubon CA board member. His wife will serve on the board in his place. A

few board members were not in attendance due to attending Wes's funeral. The eulogy was given by famed ornithologist Frank Gilt.

- ✎ Comments by Audubon CA on working with chapters stands out nationwide to extent by which Audubon CA is working with chapters in comparison with rest of country.
- ✎ The programs at Richardson Bay were presented and have been summarized below.
 - *Educational Program* – The program targets underserved youth, both in breadth (summer camp, 4-6 years old, targeting hundreds of children) and in depth (Audubon Youth Leaders program, changing the direction of youth headed the wrong way, high school aged, 11 kids enrolled in a 9 month program). One thing of note that Chapters might want to consider, unlike many youth programs which focus on pre-teens, the Audubon Youth Leaders program is focused on high school aged youth.
 - *Water Bird Program* – Richardson Bay is critical habitat for Surf Scoter and Greater and Lesser Scaup. This is particularly relevant to Surf Scoter populations which have declined over 50% in the last 50 years. We learned about the special relationship between these birds and herring. Herring eggs are deposited in Richardson Bay on eel grass, as well as washing up on shore in huge numbers. These eggs are what bring the birds by the 10s of thousands into Richardson Bay. Audubon CA has made it a priority to protect the herring and has cultivated relationships with the fishing industry to develop sustainable herring practices and policies. The Waterbird program will have a festival on Feb 6th. If Chapters would like to participate by either having a table at the event, or by offering a walk, contact Kerry Wilcox (kwilcox@audubon.org).
 - *Sonoma Creek Marsh Restoration Project* – This is the largest project ever undertaken by Audubon CA. It is funded by state and federal agencies. Due to historical hydraulic mining, this marsh filled with sediment. With no meandering channels the marsh crashed. The project's goal is to restore the marsh by creating a meandering channel through it to allow water to flow in and out again. The biggest challenge the project faced was permitting. It was treated like a Shopping Mall development and had to trudge through a difficult permitting process. The good news is that all permits are in place and work has begun!
- ✎ When surveyed, 90% of Chapters in CA indicated that diversifying their Chapter and Board, specifically as it relates to age, as their highest priority. In response, Audubon CA will hold two workshops (Northern and Southern CA) on ways to increase diversity in January 2016. The workshops will be most effective if at least two members from each Chapter attend.

The Chapter Network Managers (Desiree Loggins, Ariana Rickard, and Travis Abeyta) have recently taken an intensive training on Culture Shift & Inclusion and will help lead the trainings.

- ✦ Golden Gate Audubon Society's Example of Diverse Outreach – During the spring of 2014, the trees above the Oakland post office were trimmed, resulting in the destruction of several Black Crowned Night Heron nests. At first the tree trimmer was vilified, but in the end he felt awful and paid for the rehabilitation of the nestlings that had been displaced. The incident had occurred simply because the tree trimmer didn't know about the nesting birds. Motivated to make a change, he has worked with Golden Gate Audubon to develop educational flyers, in both English and Spanish, as well as conducting workshops for arborists that educate them on safe practices for nesting birds. Currently this training is only in English but they hope to soon develop a workshop in Spanish.
- ✦ A major topic of discussion at the meeting was drought. Andrea Jones, Meghan Hertel, Michael Lynes, and Garrison Frost discussed the current state of the drought and its effects on birds. Below are a few highlights.
 - CA birds are choosing not to nest because of drought. This is particularly dire for short-lived songbirds, as 4 years of failed nesting attempts are hard to recover from.
 - There is evidence that the drought is having a substantial effect on the breeding success of birds. Severely reduced breeding success has been documented for Willow Flycatcher, Red-tailed Hawk, Barn Owl, and Bell's Vireo. Waterfowl are also affected, with breeding success at 47% below normal levels.
 - The drought has resulted in refuges being allocated only 60-70% of the minimum amount of water needed! Since there is not enough water to meet minimum needs, managers must decide which season they can support, with the majority choosing fall and winter, rather than the spring breeding season.
 - We face significant obstacles when seeking water for wildlife during a drought. Currently, environmental use of water is seen as unduly affecting Agricultural land. A current poll in the LA Times shows that the public opposes environmental actions because of the drought.
 - CA public sees the terms "drought" and "climate change" as the same, and they list the drought as one of their top three concerns. So while they may not support environmental uses of water, they will get behind programs that reduce the effects of drought.

- While fire is a necessary element for a healthy landscape, poor land management decisions have left our lands with far too much fuel. Compound that with the dry conditions caused by the drought and we will continue to experience larger and hotter fires than in the past.
- In addition, climate change is affecting the bark beetle. Normally, cold winters reduce populations, but warmer winters are allowing much larger populations to survive. Add to this forests that are weakened due to drought, and the bark beetle is expanding at rates much higher than in the past.



Given the above, Chapters in CA can help in the following ways:

- 1. *Change the dialogue on drought* – We must bring the effects the drought is having on our state’s birds to the center stage. We can do this by collecting stories, photos, and videos of these effects on the local birds in your Chapter’s territory.**
- 2. *Connect the dots to climate change* – As previously mentioned, climate change and drought are seen as synonymous in the public eye. We can use this fact to bring attention to climate change programs through the drought.**
- 3. *Educate policy makers* – Chapters should stay abreast to important legislation, pursue drought relief measures, meet with or write letters to their local/state politicians, and coordinate work with other like-minded agencies.**
- 4. *Be a voice for birds* – Work with other Chapters in the SoCal Council to get the word out about drought, increase monitoring, protect IBAs, and create fruitful partnerships.**

AUDUBON CA POLICY UPDATE

Juan Altamirano, Associate Director of Public Policy for Audubon CA, was not able to attend but Travis Abeyta provided a brief policy update on important legislation that has passed and which has been signed into law. Details can be found below.



- ✦ **SB 32 (Pavley):** Would have codified the framework for meeting California’s climate goals for 2050 and authorized the Air Resources Board to establish interim targets.
 - **Audubon CA Position - SUPPORTS**
 - **Status - Failed on Assembly Floor**

- ✦ **SB 350 (de León):** Sets greenhouse gas reduction goals for 2030 through a 50% increase in renewable energy generation, and a doubling of energy efficiency in existing buildings. Petroleum reduction goals were stripped out in the Assembly.
 - **Audubon CA Position - SUPPORTS**
 - **Status - Signed into law**

- ✦ **SB 788 (McGuire) - California Coastal Protection Act of 2015:** Would have closed a loophole that allows new offshore oil drilling in state waters off the coast of Santa Barbara.
 - **Audubon CA Position - SUPPORTS**
 - **Status - Failed in Assembly Appropriations Committee**

- ✦ **AB 1482 - Climate Adaptation:** This bill would require the agency, by July 1, 2017, and every 3 years thereafter, to update the state’s climate adaptation strategy, as provided. The bill would require the agency, by January 1, 2017, and every 3 years thereafter, to release a draft climate adaptation strategy, as provided. The bill would require state agencies to maximize specified objectives, including, among others, promoting the use of the climate adaptation strategy to inform planning decisions and ensure that state investments consider climate change impacts, as well as promote the use of natural systems and natural infrastructure, as defined, when developing physical infrastructure to address adaptation. This bill also would expand the duties of the council to include identifying and reviewing the activities and funding programs of all state agencies, instead of only the state agencies that are members of the council, to coordinate specified state objectives, including, among others, meeting the goals of the state’s climate adaptation strategy.
 - **Audubon CA Position - SUPPORTS**
 - **Status - Signed by Governor**

- ✦ **SB 246 - Climate Adaptation:** This bill would establish the Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program to be administered by the Office of Planning and Research to coordinate regional and local efforts with state climate adaptation strategies to adapt to the impacts of climate change, as specified. The bill also would require, within one year of an update to the Safeguarding California Plan, the Office of Emergency Services, in coordination with the Natural Resources Agency, the Office of Planning and Research, and relevant public and private entities, to review and update, as necessary, the Adaptation

Planning Guide, as specified. The bill would establish an advisory council, as specified, to support the goals of the Office of Planning and Research as identified by the bill. The bill would require the Office of Planning and Research to establish a clearinghouse for climate adaptation information, as specified. (2)The Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act, with specified exceptions, requires that meetings of a state body be open and public and that all persons be permitted to attend. Existing law establishes the Strategic Growth Council and requires the council, among other things, to identify and review the activities and funding programs of member state agencies that may be coordinated to improve air and water quality. Existing law also requires the council's meetings be open to the public and subject to the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act. This bill would specify certain council meetings that are not subject to the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act.

- **Audubon CA Position - SUPPORTS**
- **Status - Signed by Governor**

🦋 **SB 246 – Adaptation Local Land Use Planning:** This bill would, upon the next revision of a local hazard mitigation plan on or after January 1, 2017, or, if the local jurisdiction has not adopted a local hazard mitigation plan, beginning on or before January 1, 2022, require the safety element to be reviewed and updated as necessary to address climate adaptation and resiliency strategies applicable to that city or county. The bill would require the update to include a set of goals, policies, and objectives based on a vulnerability assessment, identifying the risks that climate change poses to the local jurisdiction and the geographic areas at risk from climate change impacts, and specified information from federal, state, regional, and local agencies. By imposing new duties on cities and counties, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program. The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement. This bill would provide that no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason.

- **Audubon CA Position - SUPPORTS**
- **Status - Signed by Governor**

🦋 **AB 498 – Wildlife Corridors:** This bill would declare that it is the policy of the state to encourage, wherever feasible and practicable, voluntary steps to protect the functioning of wildlife corridors through various means, as applicable. Existing law provides for the establishment of conservation banks, defined as publicly or privately owned and operated sites that are to be conserved and managed for habitat protection purposes in accordance with an agreement with the Department of Fish and Wildlife. Existing law provides for the issuance of credits by a conservation bank to, among other things, reduce adverse impacts to fish or wildlife resources from certain activities. Existing law also provides for the

establishment of mitigation banks, as defined. This bill would include within the authorized purposes of a conservation bank the protection of habitat connectivity for fish and wildlife resources. This bill would provide that the fact that a project applicant does not take voluntary steps to protect the functioning of a wildlife corridor prior to initiating the application process for the project shall not be grounds for denying a permit or requiring additional mitigation beyond what is otherwise required by law to mitigate project impacts.

- **Audubon CA Position – SUPPORTS; Bill Sponsor**
- **Status - Signed by Governor**

🦋 **AB 864 - Oil spill response: environmentally and ecologically sensitive areas:** This bill would require, by January 1, 2018, any new or replacement pipeline near environmentally and ecologically sensitive areas in the coastal zone to use best available technologies to reduce the amount of oil released in an oil spill to protect state waters and wildlife. The bill would require, by July 1, 2018, an operator of an existing pipeline near these sensitive areas to submit a plan to retrofit the pipeline, by January 1, 2020, as provided. By creating a new crime, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program. The bill would require the State Fire Marshal to adopt regulations relating to the above provisions by July 1, 2017. The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement. This bill would provide that no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason.

- **Audubon CA Position – SUPPORTS**
- **Status - Signed by Governor**

🦋 **SB 295 - Pipeline Safety:** This bill would require, commencing January 1, 2017, the State Fire Marshal, or an officer or employee authorized by the State Fire Marshal, to annually inspect all intrastate pipelines and operators of intrastate pipelines under the jurisdiction of the State Fire Marshal, and would require the State Fire Marshal to adopt regulations implementing this provision by that date. The bill would prohibit the State Fire Marshal from becoming an inspection agent for specified interstate pipelines unless all regulatory and enforcement authority over those pipelines is transferred to the State Fire Marshal from the federal Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration. The bill would require the State Fire Marshal to revise specified fees assessed to cover the costs associated with this measure.

- **Audubon CA Position – SUPPORTS**
- **Status - Signed by Governor**

🦋 **SB 414 - Oil Spill Response – Best Available Technology:** This bill would require the administrator, in cooperation with the United States Coast Guard, to establish a schedule of drills and exercises that are required under the federal Salvage and Marine Firefighting regulations. The bill would require the administrator, on or before January 1, 2017, to submit to the Legislature a report assessing the best achievable technology of equipment for oil spill prevention, preparedness, and response and to update regulations governing the adequacy of oil spill contingency plans before July 1, 2018. The bill would require the administrator to direct the Harbor Safety Committees for various regions to assess, among other things, the presence and capability of tugs within their respective regions of responsibility to provide emergency towing of tank and non-tank vessels to arrest their drift or guide emergency transit. (2)The act requires the administrator to study the use and effects of methods used to respond to oil spills and to periodically update the study to ensure the best achievable protection from the use of those methods. This bill would require the administrator, in conducting the study and updates, to consult current peer-reviewed published scientific literature. The bill would require the administrator, by May 1, 2016, to request that the federal California Dispersant Plan be updated, as provided, and to provide support and assistance in that regard. (3)The act requires the administrator to license oil spill cleanup agents for use in response to oil spills. This bill would require the administrator, if dispersants are used in response to an oil spill, to submit to the Legislature a written notification of, and a written justification for, the use of dispersants and a report on the effectiveness of the dispersants used, as provided. (4)Existing law establishes the Oil Spill Technical Advisory Committee and requires the committee to provide recommendations to, among other entities, the administrator on the implementation of the act. This bill would require the committee to convene a taskforce to evaluate the feasibility of using vessels of opportunity for oil spill response. The bill would require the taskforce to provide recommendations to the administrator and the Legislature on whether vessels of opportunity should be included in oil spill response planning. (5)The act makes a person who causes or permits a spill or inland spill strictly liable for specified penalties for the spill on a per-gallon-released basis. The act provides that the amount of penalty is reduced by the amount of released oil that is recovered and properly disposed of. This bill would eliminate that reduction in the penalty by the amount of oil recovered and properly disposed of.

- **Audubon CA Position – SUPPORTS**
- **Status - Signed by Governor**

🦋 **AB 243 (Wood):** Establishes new, and expands existing, regulations and programs to reduce environmental impacts of medical marijuana cultivation.

- **Audubon CA Position – SUPPORTS**

- **Status - Signed into law**
- 🦅 **AB 693 (Eggman):** Creates the Multifamily Affordable Housing Renewables Program, to provide opportunities for everyone to benefit from renewable energy installations.
 - **Audubon CA Position – SUPPORTS**
 - **Status - Signed into law**
- 🦅 **AB 888 (Bloom):** Prohibits all plastic microbeads in personal care products and favors environmentally sound alternatives.
 - **Audubon CA Position – SUPPORTS**
 - **Status - Signed into law**

AUDUBON WORKS AND OTHER RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO CHAPTERS

Travis Abeyta gave a short presentation on using [Audubon Works](#) and discussed some other resources available to Chapters. A summary and links have been provided below.

Please contact Travis if you have any questions or need assistance with any of these resources or setting up an Audubon Works account.



🦅 Audubon Works

- **Your Profile** – Here you can decide how often you want to receive email digests from Audubon Works of different Groups or posts that you are following.
- **[California State Chapter Group](#)** – Here you will find a lot of information, resources, and other tools specifically for Chapters in California.
- **[Other Groups](#)** – There are many other nationwide Groups that have been set up to help Chapters. These revolve around certain programs or issues such as the [Chapters Group](#) or the [Audubon Adventures Program Users Group](#).
- **[Resource Library](#)** – You can search the resource library for fact sheets, presentations, webinars, and other documents posted nationwide. You can also filter the resources for those only applicable to certain topics or states.
- **[Petition Tool](#)** – You can use the petition tool craft, send, and track petitions in your Chapter territory.

- [Events Calendar](#) – Here you can post your Chapter’s events which will broadcast them nationwide. Eventually, the events you post on Audubon Works will automatically populate on our Audubon CA website. Anyone who visits the site will know about your Chapter’s events!



We have recently uploaded the Planning Tools Manual, developed for Audubon Chapters by Paquita Bath of Aligning Visions, to Audubon Works. It can be found [HERE](#).

📌 Audubon California Website

- [SoCal Chapter Council Webpage](#) – Here you will find information specific to the SoCal Chapter Council only including Council meeting information, agendas, past meeting notes, presentations, and other documents. This is also where you can find an archive of the bi-monthly SoCal Chapter Council Updates.
- [The Chapter Network Webpage](#) – Here you can access an interactive map that shows all the territories of Audubon chapters in California. It also includes a “Find Address or Place” box where you can simply type in a location and it will zoom in to the Chapter territory.
- [Chapter Resources Webpage](#) – Here you will find resources for the CA Chapter Network such as current grant opportunities, Audubon Works instructions, capacity building support, and the development of interactive, online birding trail maps for your Chapter.
- [Press Center Webpage](#) - Audubon CA’s communications team is one of the leading voices for birds and conservation in the Golden State, and a resource for Chapters looking for information on topics such as birds, habitat conservation, climate change, wildlife policy, and a variety of related issues. Representatives of our organization appear in the press regularly and are happy to share their expertise.
- [The Audublog](#) – Here you will find news and updates about conservation and birds in California. I will make sure that each Chapter in the SoCal Council has an article posted about an important project or issue in their territory.

- 📌 **SoCal Chapter Council Bi-Monthly Update** – The first update was sent in late August and can be found on the SoCal Chapter Council Webpage. I will be sending the September/October update at the end of this month.

- 🦉 **Audubon CA Chapter Policy Call (Coming Soon)** – The Audubon CA policy team will be holding its first Chapter Policy Call this year. More details to come!
- 🦉 **Chapter Funding Manual (Coming Soon)** – The CA Chapter Network Team is finalizing a funding manual that will help Chapters navigate the process of applying for funding from National Audubon Society and Audubon CA. Stay tuned!

CHAPTER REPORTS

The Chapters in attendance each provided a quick 5-10 minute overview of their most important activities, goals, projects, and issues. The reports have been summarized below.



🦉 Buena Vista Audubon

- This year has been really successful for expanding their horizons
- Finished prop 84 project on building
- Land acquisition program for McCutcheon property (across from Nature center at Buena Vista Lagoon. They will be able to purchase it (preserved through CF&W); grant from the state that Audubon CA led us to
- **Participated in “Share Our Shores” programs with San Diego Audubon – Includes both classroom education on Snowy plovers and Least terns and fieldtrips to nesting sites. Will be able to conduct the program themselves this year.**
- Have become more involved with conservation issues
- Have been fighting a large Carusso development project in Carlsbad; got the project on the ballot through a signature petition.
- Very proud of being all volunteer organization other than their part time Nature Center manager



🦉 Pasadena Audubon

- 100% volunteer
- They have 3 new board members
- A large endowment as allowed them to hire a part-time Program Manager/Volunteer Coordinator NOT an Executive Director. A job description and job offer will go out in a month or so. The salary can be supplemented with grant writing. Santa Barbara Audubon and San Diego Audubon were very helpful in the process.



- **They can offer grants to other Chapters and accept applications online. The project must support Pasadena Audubon's mission. Contact Pasadena Audubon for additional details.**
- Hahamongna Watershed Park – recent lawsuit about air pollution from traffic/trucks and 206 species in park; delayed them and they will capitulate.

Luguna Hills Audubon

- Smallest chapter (3 zip codes, 2 cities); Laguna Woods retirement community
- Highly urbanized which is the future for many if not most areas
- They were able to put aside a large portion of an area where there will not be applying cosmetic pesticides. Only a few people know where the area is located which allows them to experiment to see if anyone complains or notices.
- A creek runs through the retirement community that is mowed and not natural. They are in the process of changing it to a riparian habitat which some public are opposing. Need education to teach them the importance of the change.
- Working with Cavity Conservative initiative on tree trimming practices
- Have had almost a complete turnover in board; Lynne Jefferies is the new president

San Fernando Valley Audubon

- This year the Chapter participated in Coastal Cleanup Day at Sepulveda Basin (connection with Heal the Bay)
- They are starting a new bird walk at Hansen Dam this month (check website for exact date and details)



- **December 5, 2015 – 2nd Annual Birdfest at King Gillette Ranch. San Fernando Valley Audubon, Santa Monica Bay Audubon, Conejo Valley Audubon and other organizations collaborate to put on the well-attended event.**
- May 7th, 2016 – 2nd annual Bird LA Day; Please let Dave Weeshoff know if your Chapter is interested in participating)
- They are trying to stop the Hidden Creeks Development in the North San Fernando Valley
- Santa Susanna Field Lab – Complex battle at the hazardous waste site, if you have interest please contact Dave Weeshoff
- Keeping eyes on CA high speed rail to see if tunneling, construction, alternative routes, or other issues will threaten local bird species and habitat
- Recently created a branding committee to look at their Chapter's image and methods of communication to appeal to youth.

🦅 Whittier Audubon

- Small chapter; have some new talented board members
- A local environmental issue that might interest everyone is a recent oil drilling proposal. The courts stopped the project due to prop. 1 and the land has been protected for perpetuity
- Improved their website
- Went paperless with newsletter. Was a large cost which now lets them spend money elsewhere such as binoculars for children
- Have a well-attended Sycamore Canyon monthly bird walk
- Audubon Adventures - Happy it went online; the new kit looks to focus on global warming but it has not been released yet. The Chapter is having trouble with how common core curriculum and Audubon Adventures work together; how do they pitch it?

🦅 Palos Verdes/South Bay Audubon

- For 2 years have been working at Rolling Hills Prep School on their Blue Butterfly Restoration project; navy property
- Harbor City Greenway (used to be Wilmington drain) is now open. It is located north of Harbor Park and was restored as part of Prop O; created a riparian habitat for Least Bell's Vireo
- Harbor Park project – Also part of prop O; Set to be completed and open in April 2017; approximately 200,000 cubic yards of sediment will be removed from the lake; it also will be capped and oxygenation systems will be installed.
- Harbor Park was named for a former President of Palos Verdes/South Bay Audubon, Ken Malloy.


🦅 San Bernardino Valley Audubon

- The Chapter's expansive territory is as big as the states of Maryland and Connecticut.
- The area has the lowest per capita rates of college graduates in the state; low income
- The World Logistics Center could be a long term research of urbanization effect on wildlife areas
- **Audubon CA stepped up and helped San Bernardino Valley Audubon apply for funding for litigation arising from the WLC project and offered support//guidance on how to proceed.**
- Cadiz project – Dry lake that is 10-15 miles north of Morongo (pump 50,000 acre feet of water to OC); filed suit – lost case in OC, case on appeal. Last week Bureau of



- Land Management ruled that the place where they want to build pipeline crosses over rail lines so will need to file federal EIS.
- Dave Goodward of San Bernardino Valley Audubon found a Tricolored blackbird colony east of Newbury springs in the Mojave desert; they continue to get grants for the project
 - Nestle Case – Nestle has a permit to pump water that expired in 1998; have only been required to pay the Forest Service \$540/ year; sued by other conservation groups (CBC); chapter didn't want to sue because they do land swap deals with the Forest Service.
 - Good news on Salton Sea is that the governor has assigned a coordinator for the Sea. However, there is not additional staff or budget yet; health issues really have raised concerns (Pacific Institute Report)
 - Salton Sea Authority has released a revised plan; Chapter is guardedly optimistic about their plan
 - Pedro Nava – grew up in the Salton Sea area and pointed out that Imperial County has the highest rate of pediatric asthma in the country
 - NAS magazine contacted San Bernardino Valley Audubon about measure L; Drew mentioned WLC and they are interested in writing a story about it
 - The final 2 paper issues of their Chapter newsletter will go out in 2015 and will be going paperless in 2016

Sea and Sage Audubon

- One of their key members became ill and was hospitalized; things came to a standstill without her. Consequence was to establish a document repository on Dropbox (have to pay for it due to file size; roughly \$100/year). They also created an Archives and Records Committee.
-  **With Paquita Bath's help they revisited their Strategic Plan and established a committee that started with enthusiasm but waned. However, they have reignited the passion and first looked at their mission statement and adopted a new one earlier this week. It will be used to direct their strategic plan.**
- Housing development by Chevron Corp at Coyote Hills (Coastal Sage scrub habitat); the Friends of Coyote Hills backed by Sea & Sage oppose the project; new proposal will go to the Fullerton city council soon
- Similar situation to other projects in OC; usually a local conservation organization takes the lead and Sea & Sage will take a supporting role
- Banning Ranch Development – 400 acres in Newport Beach; Sea & Sage spoke in opposition at Coastal Commission meeting; project has been postponed for 90 days; serious negotiations underway between developer and environmental organizations

- Partnered with Banning Ranch Conservancy who wants absolutely no development at all
- Sea & Sage has worked with El Dorado for a long time on conservation issues.
- Have not yet gone paperless for newsletter; still consider it an important outreach tool

El Dorado Audubon

- Attended a long hearing by the Coastal Commission on Banning Ranch; it gave Mary Parsell great pleasure to say that USFW said that the entirety of the land is critical for gnatcatcher



- **The Chapter continues to work on Los Cerritos Wetlands with the help of Sea and Sage Audubon, Palos Verdes/South Bay Audubon, Whittier Audubon, and Audubon CA supporting their efforts. The conceptual restoration plan was released in August.**
- Want to bring public in more to see the area
- Have some new board members but need more new people

Pomona Valley Audubon

- Newsletter sends out in print twice a year; also put newsletter in stores and nature centers
- Have a High School and college bird club
- Giving out free owl pellets to teacher's in their area
- Very worried about wildlife rehabilitation in their area
- Education is going well
- Don't have much conservation except for what you can do in your own yard; wants to figure out how to attract birds to the new water tolerant landscaping.