

## **JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2015 - NEWSLETTER**

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### ***MALIBU BLUFFS PROJECT ON HOLD . . .***

In mid-February, the five mansion bluffside project, known as the Crummer Project, was denied by the California Coastal Commission. At their meeting in Pismo Beach, the Coastal Commissioners unanimously voted to deny the Crummer project in its current form.

The plan included building five mansions on a 24-acre site just south of and adjacent to Bluffs Park in Malibu. The homes averaged about 11,000 square feet each, with a height of 24 to 28 feet. The developer, Robert Gold, had previously agreed to donate some \$2 million to the State of California and \$1 million to the City of Malibu, as well as 1.74 acres to the City of Malibu for a recreation site. The new development would be a visual blight and sight along that scenic section of coastal Malibu. A previous proposed agreement with the City of Malibu stated that the land was to be used for public visitor-serving purposes if it was not developed for use as baseball fields. The Sierra Club and other environmental groups have opposed the Crummer Project in its present form.

The developers are expected to bring back a revised housing project plan to the California Coastal Commission later this year.

### ***ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS***

We have been alerted that the hearing for The Edge (Sweetwater Mesa) project in Malibu, that was scheduled for March, has been postponed until the 2<sup>nd</sup> week in May. The hearing will be before the California Coastal Commission and will take place in Santa Barbara, which is a lot closer than the original San Diego location. We hope for a good turnout from the environmental community to express serious concerns regarding the environmental impacts to this sensitive habitat area. The project consists of a development of five mansions on the rugged hillside terrain above Malibu. This land has already been designated as ESHA (Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Area). The current Edge project violates sections of the California Coastal Act and the Los Angeles County Local Coastal Plan. If a permit is granted, the plan will rip up core habitat, impact the scenic views, and foster further development in the hills above Malibu in the years ahead.

## ***Pacific Coast Highway Reopens -***

The stretch of Pacific Coast Highway, near the County line, was reopened to the public on February 28. It has been closed since November, when this section was damaged by a storm of great intensity. The hillside above this area was weak and vulnerable to rain because of an earlier fire. Workers rebuilt and re-stabilized these slopes, moving some 40,000 yards of rocks and soil.

The Sierra Club Trail Crew had worked on the Chumash Trail and the Ray Miller Trail in this area in 2014, and will schedule some additional maintenance in the next few weeks, now that this portion of PCH is accessible.

## ***Water Quality in Ballona Creek -***

The City of Culver City has completed important projects that have enhanced the water quality of Ballona Creek, coastal waters, and local beaches. The City installed more than 1,000 automatic retractable and connector-pipe trash screens in storm drain catch basins. The screens work to prevent leaves, trash, and other debris from flowing into the storm drain system. In addition, 95 receptacles that accept recyclable and trash materials were placed in major high-use areas of Culver City. Several rain gardens were designed and installed to infiltrate runoff or treat it before it reached the storm drain system. This helps to prevent pollutants from entering Ballona Creek, and eventually the Pacific Ocean. The Ballona Creek Watershed (130 square miles) is the largest watershed in the Santa Monica Bay.

Funding for these projects came from Proposition 50 funds, and was recommended and supported by the California State agencies, including the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission.

## ***Protection for our Deserts -***

Appreciation goes out to U.S. Senator Diane Feinstein who, in February, introduced the California Desert Protection Act of 2015, to the U.S. Senate. The bill will be given an 'S' number and then referred to the Senate Committee on the Environment for consideration.

This important legislation will set aside 400,000 acres as Federal Wilderness areas, 77 miles of National Wild and Scenic Rivers, and 940,000 acres as National Monuments.

This Act will protect one of California's most scenic, wild, and fragile natural areas. Protection of the California desert ecosystem is one of the top priorities of the Sierra Club. The goal is to ensure that this legislation passes through Congress without any additions or amendments, which are detrimental to desert wild land protection.

## ***Wildlife Corridor Moving Forward -***

Good News! The State Coastal Conservancy (SCC) voted unanimously to contribute \$1 million to planning for Phase 2 of the Liberty Canyon Wildlife Corridor, crossing the 101 Freeway in Agoura Hills. The funds will be spent toward completion of the project's environmental assessments and initial designs. This is the largest contribution of funding the project has received, so the Project Study Report can be completed this year.

This wildlife crossing, when completed, will serve as a corridor for mountain lions (aka cougars) and other large and small wild animals to cross from the Santa Monica Mountains to open space on the other side of this major, heavily traveled 101 Freeway. This corridor will greatly help to protect and preserve these wildlife populations in the Santa Monica Mountains in future years. Thanks to the State Coastal Conservancy, to Senator Fran Pavley, and to all the environmental organizations who have worked to help get this Corridor plan moving forward without further delay.

## ***CALIFORNIA CONDORS***

By James Hines, Sierra Club Los Padres Chapter

"A majestic California Condor soars over the Ojai Valley in Southern California looking for a feeding area. She and her young have not eaten in over a week, she left her nest this morning searching, then she spots the carcass of a deer recently killed by the lead bullet of a hunter. She lands approaches and starts to feed, when full she launches off headed back to her nest. Food for all but sickness and

possible death as well from lead poisoning. The State of California has yet to fully implement a measure passed in 2013 to BAN all lead ammo used by hunters in CA. Now Condors are faced with an even greater danger with the introduction in the CA State Assembly of AB 395, which if passed would REPEAL the ban on lead ammo in California.

This legislation by Chico, CA Assemblyman James Gallagher is a grave threat to the lives of endangered condors and other carcass feeding wildlife in our state. Lead bullets are the bullets which keep on killing long after their intended victim is killed. We cannot allow this special interest legislation to destroy one of the most majestic endangered birds in our nation, California Condors."

## ***ENVIRONMENTAL LAW***

Activists are invited to attend a Workshop on "Oil Production, Distribution and Fracking", the latest in an on-going Environmental Law Series.

The workshop, presented by the Sierra Club, will feature such topics as: Local Anti-Fracking Ordinances, Finding the Law; California State Regulations of Oil Production and Fracking; and, related topics. One of the speakers will be Dean Walraff of the Sierra Club. The workshop is free and a free lunch will be served. Parking is \$3. The workshop will be held at Loyola Law School, 919 Albany St., Los Angeles, CA 90015.

For further information and to make reservations: [sclslsworkshop@gmail.com](mailto:sclslsworkshop@gmail.com).

## ***IN MEMORY of JANE LEWIS***

Jane Sanford Lewis, a long-time activist in the Sierra Club and the Santa Monica Mountains Task Force, passed away on February 4, 2015. She was 96. Jane was a retired Professor of Nutrition and Public Health at California State University Los Angeles and had won numerous awards for her outstanding teaching over the years.

Jane was one of the earliest and more active members of the Santa Monica Mountains Task Force, founded in 1972. Early on, she joined the Sierra Club Trail Crew, which the Task Force sponsors, spending many hundreds of hours over the years helping to maintain trails in the Santa Monica Mountains. As a member of the SMMTF, she hosted our monthly meetings at her home in Tarzana, always providing fruit and vegetables from her large garden. She organized and put out the Task Force Newsletter and served as membership Chair for many years.

Her activism included taking part in the on-going environmental battles and campaigns to stop wanton development and save open space in the Santa Monica Mountains.

Jane was an experienced leader, and led countless hikes for the Task Force and the Sierra Club. She took time to "bag" peaks, and earned a Sierra Club 100 Peaks Badge. She climbed Mt. Whitney and other major peaks.

Jane leaves behind a loving family, including three daughters. Some of her Sierra Club friends have been her longest, dearest friends. She is greatly missed.

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**WE SELDOM ASK ... BUT... WE NEED YOUR HELP TO SUPPORT OUR CONSERVATION WORK. YOUR DONATIONS HELP THE SMMTF TO PRESERVE AND PROTECT RESOURCES & OPEN SPACE IN THE SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS.**

**WHAT WE DO: HOLD ACTION MEETINGS; LEAD HIKES; BUILD TRAILS; ADVISE POLICY MAKERS; LOBBY GOVERNMENT; MONITOR LAND USE; SUPPORT LEGAL ACTIONS; PUBLISH A NEWSLETTER; IDENTIFY PRIORITIES; PROMOTE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION. PLEASE DONATE...\$15 TO \$50 DOLLARS, OR MORE. *THANK YOU!***

**Send your check, made out to SMMTF, to our treasurer:  
Mary Jane McMaster, 9046 Beverlywood St, Los Angeles, CA 90034**

## ***SMMTF WEBSITE***

Visit the Santa Monica Mountains Task Force website. You can access the website and be up-to-date on all Task Force conservation news, scheduled activities, events, trail work, outings, and other timely information: [smmtf.org/](http://smmtf.org/)

If you have conservation news, events, photos or other Sierra Club related information that could be posted on the website, email full descriptions to our webmaster Bill Vanderberg, so he can evaluate these items for posting: [bill.vanderberg@ca.rr.com](mailto:bill.vanderberg@ca.rr.com)

If you prefer to receive future SMMTF Newsletters by email, please let us know by emailing Sue Palmer at: [rumpuskat@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rumpuskat@sbcglobal.net)

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*Newsletter Written by Taskforce Management Committee Representative –  
MaryAnn Webster, Chair  
Joan Weaver, Editor*





The Santa Monica Mountains Task Force is an activist committee dedicated to encouraging the protection of the Santa Monica Mountains while promoting the understanding and awareness of their natural values. The goals encompass maintaining open space and acquiring additional parkland. To achieve these goals, members participate in monthly meetings, recommend policy on the Santa Monica Mountains, lead outings to acquaint the public with the mountains, build and maintain trails.

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### ***SMMTF ACTIVITIES - March-April 2015 - <http://smmtf.org/calendar.php>***

#### **Mon 3/9/15 [Bi-Monthly SMMTF Committee Meeting](#)**

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Tue 3/3/15	<a href="#">O: Tue Conditioned Hikers: Las Virgenes Cyn Figure 8</a>	 Outing	Hike	Strenuous
Tue 3/3/15	<a href="#">Tue Moderate Hikers/Calabasas Peak and Red Rock Canyon from Stunt Rd</a>	 Outing	Hike	Moderate
Tue 3/3/15	<a href="#">O: Tue Tiger Hikers</a>	 Outing	Hike	Strenuous
Sat 3/7/15	<a href="#">O: Santa Monica Mountains Trail Work</a>	 Outing	Hike	Moderate
Tue 3/10/15	<a href="#">O: Tue Conditioned Hikers: Caballero Canyon into Northern Topanga State Park</a>	 Outing	Hike	Strenuous
Tue 3/10/15	<a href="#">O: Tue Moderate Hikers/Zuma Ridge Trails to Buzzard's Roost (2507'):</a>	 Outing	Hike	Moderate
Tue 3/10/15	<a href="#">O: Tue Tiger Hikers</a>	 Outing	Hike	Strenuous
Sat 3/14/15	<a href="#">O: Mishe Mokwa Trail to Sandstone Peak</a>	 Outing	Hike	Moderate
Sun 3/15/15	<a href="#">O: Baldwin Hills Ramble</a>	 Outing	Hike	Moderate
Tue 3/17/15	<a href="#">O: Tue Conditioned Hikers: Sandstone to Danielson Monument</a>	 Outing	Hike	Strenuous
Tue 3/17/15	<a href="#">O: Tue Moderate Hikers/ Sycamore/Serrano Cyns</a>	 Outing	Hike	Moderate
Tue 3/17/15	<a href="#">O: Tue Tiger Hikers</a>	 Outing	Hike	Strenuous
Sat 3/21/15	<a href="#">O: Santa Monica Mountains Trail Work</a>	 Outing	Hike	Moderate
Tue 3/24/15	<a href="#">O: Tue Conditioned Hikers: Santa Ynez Cyn, Musch Trail, Garapito Trail &amp; Trailer Cyn</a>	 Outing	Hike	Strenuous
Tue 3/24/15	<a href="#">O: Tue Moderate Hikers/Temescal Park to Inspiration Point</a>	 Outing	Hike	Moderate

Tue 3/24/15	<a href="#">O: Tue Tiger Hikers</a>	 Outing	Hike	Strenuous
Sat 3/28/15	<a href="#">O: Santa Monica Mountains Trail Work</a>	 Outing	Hike	Moderate
Tue 3/31/15	<a href="#">O: Tue Conditioned Hikers: Backbone Trail east from Kanan Dume Rd to Castro Pk</a>	 Outing	Hike	Strenuous
Tue 3/31/15	<a href="#">O: Tue Moderate Hikers/ Santa Monica's Hidden Staircases</a>	 Outing	Hike	Moderate
Tue 3/31/15	<a href="#">O: Tue Tiger Hikers</a>	 Outing	Hike	Strenuous
Sat 4/4/15	<a href="#">O: Santa Monica Mountains Trail Work</a>	 Outing	Service	Moderate
Tue 4/7/15	<a href="#">O: Tue Conditioned Hikers: Zuma Canyon</a>	 Outing	Hike	Strenuous
Tue 4/7/15	<a href="#">O: Tue Moderate Hikers/Upper Mandeville Cyn Loop</a>	 Outing	Hike	Moderate
Tue 4/7/15	<a href="#">O: Tue Tiger Hikers</a>	 Outing	Hike	Strenuous
Sat 4/11/15	<a href="#">O: Santa Monica Mountains Trail Work</a>	 Outing	Service	Moderate
Sat 4/11/15	<a href="#">O: New hike in N San Fernando Valley</a>	 Outing	Hike	Moderate
Sat 4/11/15	<a href="#">O: Serrano Valley via La Jolla Canyon</a>	 Outing	Hike	Moderate
Tue 4/14/15	<a href="#">O: Tue Conditioned Hikers: Trippet to Topanga Lookout on the Backbone Trail</a>	 Outing	Hike	Strenuous
Tue 4/14/15	<a href="#">O: Tue Moderate Hikers/Kanan Dume Backbone Trail</a>	 Outing	Hike	Moderate
Tue 4/14/15	<a href="#">O: Tue Tiger Hikers</a>	 Outing	Hike	Strenuous
Sat 4/18/15	<a href="#">O: Santa Monica Mountains Trail Work</a>	 Outing	Service	Moderate
Sun 4/19/15	<a href="#">O:32nd Annual Great Rendezvous Hikes: Hondo Canyon</a>	 Outing	Hike	Moderate
Sun 4/19/15	<a href="#">O:32nd Annual Great Rendezvous Hikes: Garapito Canyon</a>	 Outing	Hike	Moderate
Sun 4/19/15	<a href="#">O:32nd Annual Great Rendezvous Hikes: Santa Ynez Canyon</a>	 Outing	Hike	Moderate
Sun 4/19/15	<a href="#">O:32nd Annual Great Rendezvous Hikes: Dead Horse Trail</a>	 Outing	Hike	Moderate
Tue 4/21/15	<a href="#">O: Tue Conditioned Hikers: Mugu/La Jolla Ramble</a>	 Outing	Hike	Strenuous
Tue 4/21/15	<a href="#">O: Tue Moderate Hikers/Chumash Trail - La Jolla Cyn</a>	 Outing	Hike	Moderate
Tue 4/21/15	<a href="#">O: Tue Tiger Hikers</a>	 Outing	Hike	Strenuous
Fri 4/24/15	<a href="#">O: 34th Annual Santa Monica Mtns Trail Days/Pt Mugu State Park Apr 24-26</a>	 Outing	Service	Moderate
Sat 4/25/15	<a href="#">O: 34th Annual Santa Monica Mtns Trail Days/Pt Mugu State Park</a>	 Outing	Service	Moderate
Sun 4/26/15	<a href="#">O: 34th Annual Santa Monica Mtns Trail Days/Pt Mugu State Park</a>	 Outing	Service	Moderate
Tue 4/28/15	<a href="#">O: Tue Conditioned Hikers: Sara Wan Trailhead to top of Bulldog Mtwy</a>	 Outing	Hike	Strenuous
Tue 4/28/15	<a href="#">O: Tue Moderate Hikers/Santa Monica Palisades Park Walk</a>	 Outing	Walking	Moderate
Tue 4/28/15	<a href="#">O: Tue Tiger Hikers</a>	 Outing	Hike	Strenuous