

AUGUST 2015 NEWSLETTER

It has been a busy summer for us all- with some gains and some losses in our efforts to protect the natural lands and waters of coastal north county. Recent highlights include:

- Working with Scenic San Diego we were able to defeat the damaging digital billboard along # 78 in a critical location in the regional wildlife movement corridor. The light would have been equivalent to a full moon 365 days a year- with images changing every 4 sec. We can sleep easier with that light turned off.
- Under the guidance of Karen Merrill, the head of our Preserve Calavera tracking team , we have agreed to "adopt" two pinchpoints in local wildlife movement corridors. Cameras and on-the ground tracking will provide the data needed to come up with a plan to fix these problem areas. This is part of a larger project led by CNLM as followup to an important study we helped fund last year.
- We plan to initiate the first CA Naturalist Certification Program in this area in the spring. The California Naturalist program uses a science curriculum, hands-on learning, problem-solving, and community service to instill a deep appreciation for the natural communities of the state and to inspire individuals to become stewards of their local resources. Our lead instructor, Paige DeCino will be partnering with Isabelle Kay at UCSD to offer this opportunity.
- The long awaited plan to restore the Buena Vista Lagoon has finally been released. Four alternatives are being evaluated: freshwater, saltwater, a saltwater/freshwater hybrid and no project (which means there will soon be no lagoon).



The new technical studies confirm the earlier results- saltwater provides the greatest biodiversity, resiliency to sea level rise, and enhances vector control. You can find the details at

<http://www.keepSanDiegoMoving.com/BVLagoon>. Comments are due on September 1, 2015 and can be emailed to lauren.washington@sandag.org.

- Over 200 people attended the all-day public hearing on the proposed new General Plan and first Climate Action Plan for the city of Carlsbad. Numerous speakers supported our priority issues of preserving 40% open space and setting a goal for 100% clean energy by 2035. After three days of deliberation the Planning Commission recommended approval, but with no substantive changes to the things we most care about. But we are not done yet! In September this will go to the City Council for final approval. Let's hope they agree that a promise is a promise- and that parks and open space benefit the entire community and are an essential part of making Carlsbad the world class city they aspire to be.



- **Our priority issue of concern is the Caruso 85/15 initiative.** With more annual visitors than Disneyland we think people really need to pay attention to the details of this project- and not just the pretty pictures of a winsome girl frolicking through a field of flowers. Should a billionaire LA developer get to decide what gets built in Carlsbad? Should a 585k sq ft shopping center be built next to a priceless coastal lagoon? Should this project be allowed to bypass CEQA and instead pollute our air and water, add to traffic congestion, and take us a step closer to the climate tipping point?

We say no! Our thanks to North County Advocates who funded technical studies to refute Caruso's claims that they did adequate analysis and mitigation of the true impacts of this project. Under the initiative process the City Council will get to decide to adopt the initiative out right- or do the right thing and put it on the ballot so the people of Carlsbad can decide. We urge you to -right now, take a few minutes and **call the Mayor and Council** - ask them to listen to the people they represent- and put this on the ballot for all to decide. Call Mayor Hall at 801-8055, Council Member Blackburn at 505-4569, Wood at 498-3232, Packard at 473-7388, and Shumacher at 450-6180. See our website for more information. To hear what people are saying go to <https://www.facebook.com/citizensfornorthcounty>

CALENDAR

August 8 Sat

8:00 - 10:00 AM

Introduction to Wildlife Tracking Class

Join a knowledgeable San Diego Tracking Team instructor for FREE informal “dirt-time” lessons in the art of wildlife tracking. Learn how to identify the tracks and scat of coyotes, bobcats, raccoons, deer, and other wildlife in our area! No reservation is necessary. Just show up at the Penasquitos canyon ranch house. Information at www.sdt.org. Rain cancels. Once you see how much fun this is sign up for class and join our Preserve Calavera Wildlife Tracking Team.

August 25 Tues

6:00 PM

Carlsbad City Council Meeting- 1200 CBV Dr.

City Council decision to adopt the Caruso initiative or place it on the ballot. Make those calls in advance. Then attend this critical meeting and help the Mayor and Council make the right decision.

August 28 Fri

5:30 PM Social

6 -7:30 Program

Panel Presentation on Community Choice Energy- What Is It and How Can It Be Good for Business and Good for the Economy?

Join a new group working on climate action in Oceanside for this informative presentation. The Oceanside CAP'ers are hosting this presentation featuring Ty Tosdal, noted local energy attorney who advises the two CCA programs in the state, Pete Hassapopoulos with the Sierra Club and others to discuss the ins and outs of Community Choice Energy. The City of San Diego is soon to release their feasibility study, Solana Beach just decided to look into it , and Carlsbad gave it a nod in their first Climate Action Plan. How could it work in north county? Presentation will be held at the Buena Vista Nature Center on S. Coast Highway on BV Lagoon in Oceanside. Refreshments will be served.

Upcoming Events:

Sept 1 -Deadlines for comment on the BV lagoon restoration.

Sept 9 - Wed

Oceanside city workshop on the HMP.

Sept 19 - Sat

BV Creek Clean-up.

Sept - Carlsbad City Council decision on the General Plan. Date TBD.