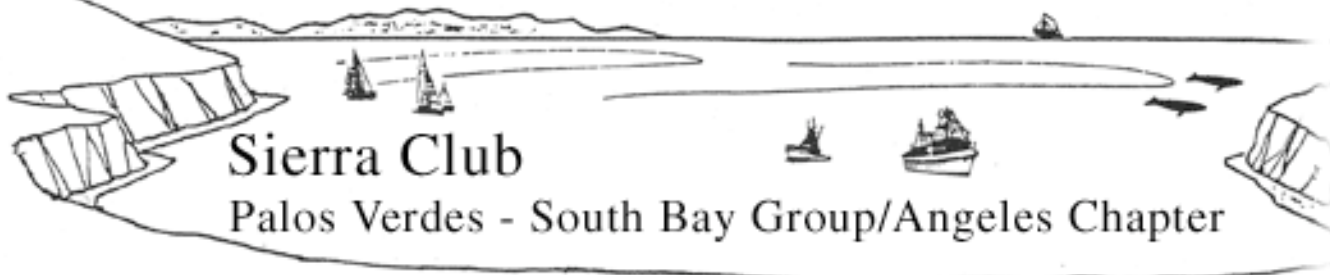


The Foggy View



Since 1976

Supplement to the November 2005 Southern Sierran

Portuguese Bend Preserve Closer to Becoming a Reality!

The Portuguese Bend Preserve is becoming ever closer to becoming a reality. The ultimate goal is to purchase the entire 1,500 acres of open area on the south side of Palos Verdes. The September 15th deadline for raising \$4 million was met.

Palos Verdes Land Conservancy, along with the city of Rancho Palos Verdes and the Sierra Club, has been very busy trying to raise \$27 million to acquire the area which is residence to several endangered species.

Much of the funding came from the Wildlife Conservation Fund through Proposition 50. The City of Rancho Palos Verdes has also committed a large sum of money to make the purchase possible. But as the deadline to raise the last \$4 million drew near, it seemed almost impossible to raise that last bit of money. But it was the generosity of the Annenberg Foundation which gave \$1 million and matched funds over that amount that helped to put us over the mark. Cal State Dominguez donated \$120,000 toward the acquisition and another \$120,000 for grassland restoration in the new preserve and the White Point Nature Preserve.

The Portuguese Bend Preserve will help maintain the rural atmosphere of the Palos Verdes Peninsula. It will help maintain property values. But most importantly, by preserving open space, we will be able to pass on to our children and grandchildren the open areas we enjoyed for so much of our lives. We want to pass on more than pavement to our ancestors . . . and to our native flora and fauna.

So, to everyone who donated and worked so hard to make Portuguese Bend Preserve a reality – XOXOXOXOXO – and thanks!

New Year's Resolutions?

On New Year's Day, take a look around and you will see all sorts of out-of-shape people jogging along the sidewalk in their brand new sweats they just received for Christmas. They will look tired, sweaty, and discouraged. As the days go by, you see less and less of these people until they give up altogether. Jogging is hard work.

Are you one of these people just described? If so, there is still hope! Consider slimming down and getting exercise by hiking with the Palos Verdes-South Bay Group of the Sierra Club. And no, you do not have to drive 50 miles to hike. Many of our hikes are done right here in Palos Verdes. And on these hikes, you will meet some of the nicest people and learn about conservation and the environment at the same time. So, get off the sofa, start walking and, when you feel up to it, join us on one of our hikes. We are anxiously waiting to meet you!

PVSB Group Conservation Status

It's been my pleasure and honor to serve as PVSB Conservation Chair for the past five years. Even though I intend to continue to participate in the Conservation Committee (CC), I've decided to spend more of my available time and energy addressing what I perceive to be the most pressing problem facing the environmental community today and that is population increase and the related topic of consumerism (i.e. emphasis on materialism or resource consumption). It's my view that this is the primary driver in the environmental degradation issue, and that all the conservation we can muster will not be sufficient to quell its impact. Of course I believe that all the effort our group has been expending in opposing unwise land use and supporting natural open space preservation is vital and should continue apace.

Below are some examples of the many issues and projects we have addressed or are addressing:

- 1) Butcher Ranch Project
- 2) Coastal Sage Scrub Ordinance
- 3) Development at the End of Coolheights Drive
- 4) Forrestal Preserve
- 5) Heart Park
- 6) Long Beach – LA Harbor
- 7) Long Point Project
- 8) Lower Filiorum Weed Abatement
- 9) Mountain Biking Impacts
- 10) Natural Communities Conservation Plan
- 11) Ocean Trails Golf Course
- 12) Palos Verdes Landfill - Golf Course
- 13) Point View Project
- 14) Trails
- 15) White Point Nature Preserve

I'd like to take this opportunity to recognize the contributions of the currently active CC members, many of whom are active in other environmental and related organizations and still find time to do research, prepare documents, attend meetings and present our views before the various governmental bodies. Barbara Sattler has been unwavering in applying her boundless energy and competence to numerous issues, generally applying her expertise with respect to native plants and animals to being a strong advocate for habitat protection. Barbara has been involved in many of the issues we've dealt with. Dena Friedson has been involved with the issues associated with the Long Point Project since its inception, and continues to monitor it for the CC. Joan Davidson and Christina Zimmerman have been staunch and competent advocates of our position opposing the South Coast Golf Course, proposed to be developed over an existing toxic waste landfill in PV. Bill Brand and Dave Wiggins have been effective proponents of Heart Park, a vision for the future use of the Redondo Beach Power Plant after it is decommissioned.

Two of our newer members, Sue Castillo and Lori Kessler, both recently joined the Ex Com and have brought fresh ideas and enthusiasm to that body, as well as a strong emphasis on conservation. Sue has taken primary responsibility for the LB-LA Harbor and Ocean Trails. Among other things, Lori has accepted the role of presenting our views before the various governmental organizations. Hersh Kelley, Ex Com Vice Chair, has brought his considerable management experience to bear in helping to organize our CC and has been an effective presenter of our views before the RPV City Council. Al Sattler, a former Conservation Chair, has been a steady source of wisdom and understanding, providing insight regarding Sierra Club history and positions.

There is a steady stream of issues that come to our attention, and of course we do not have sufficient time to address them all. If you would like to contribute to conservation and the preservation of natural open space in our community, please come join us at one of our meetings on the fourth Monday of each month.

Barry Holchin
Conservation Chair

For the most current information regarding activities, meetings and contacts, please visit the PalosVerdes - SouthBay Group website at: www.angeles.sierraclub.org/pvsb/

PV-SB Group, Sierra Club PO Box 2464, PVP, CA 90274 Phone: (310) 378-1477

