



GREEN FOOTNOTES

COMMITTEE FOR GREEN FOOTHILLS www.GreenFootHills.org

FALL 2007



View of the Pacific from the bluffs at Wavecrest in Half Moon Bay.

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The Celebration of the Raptors

BY LENNIE ROBERTS

Five years ago, wildlife ecologist Gary Deghi wrote in Green Footnotes about the importance of the mosaic of habitats for wintering hawks, owls, and other raptor species at a large open space area in southern Half Moon Bay known as Wavecrest.

Gary and other Audubon Society members have documented detailed sightings over the years of the extensive use of the Wavecrest area by winter raptors, including Red-tailed Hawk, Red-

shouldered Hawk, White-tailed Kite, Northern Harrier, and American Kestrel, as well as Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Great Horned Owl, Barn Owl and Short-eared Owl. The value of the site as wildlife habitat is enhanced by the presence of rare and vagrant species during the winter or in migration, including: Ferruginous Hawk, Rough-legged Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, Golden Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, Prairie Falcon, Merlin and Swainson's Hawk.

But this extraordinary habitat for

winter raptors was nearing drastic change. A large residential and commercial development project known as Wavecrest Village was under review by the California Coastal Commission, and it was expected that the Commission would be voting later that year on the proposal.

New information about the site, including the identification of more extensive wetlands than had been previously delin-

See *WAVECREST*, page 4



COMMITTEE FOR
GREEN FOOTHILLS

Committee for Green Foothills is a grassroots 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization working to establish and maintain land use policies that protect the environment throughout San Mateo and Santa Clara County.

Founded in 1962, Committee for Green Foothills is leading the continuing effort to protect open space and the natural environment of the Peninsula and Coast. Through grassroots education, planning and legislative advocacy, CGF works to protect and preserve our local natural resources, views and open space.

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From the *President ...*

At this time of year, as we all reflect on the events of 2007, Committee for Green Foothills and our supporters have so many reasons to be thankful! We've enjoyed many legislative successes and celebrated key victories on issues that have tested the determination, resourcefulness and stamina of our regional environmental community for decades. We've completed our five-year strategic plan and expanded the breadth of our educational initiatives to include economic viability for local agriculture and the expansion of cultural/ethnic/economic diversity within the environmental movement.

Our informative mini-farm tour at the end of June introduced CGF Board members and colleagues from other advocacy organizations to key growers and food processing entrepreneurs who are running successful agricultural operations within Santa Clara County. Look for your invitation to a larger public farm tour in the summer of 2008.


We've received a generous grant from the San Francisco Foundation to open an environmental dialogue with historically underrepresented groups. Members of diverse communities have a lot to teach us about reaching out and connecting with them on their own terms — not ours.

After years of unrelenting efforts by CGF and other environmentalists to protect the ecological jewel in Half Moon Bay known as Wavecrest, a wonderful resolution was announced in August by Peninsula Open Space Trust and the

owners of the property. POST will purchase the 216-acre site, permanently protecting its extraordinary winter raptor habitat and extensive wetlands. See "The Celebration of the Raptors" on page 1.

Celebration of one of CGF's proudest victories continued as construction of the twin bores of the Devil's Slide tunnel project began on September 17 in Montara. Our own Lennie Roberts was at the controls of a huge earthmoving machine, making the ceremonial first cut as the crowd roared, "We can dig it!" See our coverage and exciting event photos on page 3.

The success of our September 23, Nature's Inspirations gala fundraiser exceeded even our most optimistic expectations. Thanks to the support of scores of generous sponsors like you, we brought in over \$100,000 to support our popular educational programs and critical advocacy work. With over 40 Honorary Hosts for the event and countless elected officials in attendance, we strengthened our relationships with decision makers on all levels of government while raising money and enjoying an elegant afternoon in the foothills.

All in all it's been an historic year that we won't soon forget. Our many accomplishments and achievements would not have been possible without the support of our members. You continue to stand with us, giving CGF the energy and the confidence to prevail and for that we are most thankful! 

— April Vargas



Above, Lennie Roberts takes the ceremonial first dig of the tunnel.
 Right, from left to right, Chris Thollaug, Shelby and Scott Boyd, April Vargas, Zoe Kersteen-Tucker, Lennie Roberts, Leonard Woren.
 Below right, Lennie Roberts and Tom Lantos talk about the project.

Devil's Slide

The Tunnel Begins

BY APRIL VARGAS

It's been a long time coming, but on September 17, construction began on the openings for the tunnels at Devil's Slide. Decades of time, energy and commitment from the Committee for Green Foothills and our indomitable San Mateo County Advocate, Lennie Roberts, have made this project a reality. With Lennie at the controls, the historic first cut was made. (<http://www.greenfoothills.org/news>)

The seemingly endless struggle to defeat a planned bypass freeway through McNee Ranch State Park in Montara took on increasing intensity in 1995 when the road slid and the coastal commute became chaos for nearly six months. Recruiting a group of inspired, talented and resourceful local residents, Lennie put the green back into grassroots campaigning and laid the groundwork for success. 35,000 petition signatures and a 74% countywide election victory led to a permanent, community-based solution for Devil's Slide that will preserve the natural landscape while providing increased public access to the spectacular San Mateo County coastline. Completion of the project is set for 2010 and a legendary celebration is sure to follow. **CGF**



Driving with Mel

BY LENNIE ROBERTS

Melvin B. Lane, a consummate conservationist and friend to all who knew him, died July 29, 2007, at age 85. Mel's personal style of humility, friendliness, and civility were essential qualities that enabled him to lead the successful efforts to protect two irreplaceable treasures of the Bay Area and California — San Francisco Bay and the California coastline.

I had the great good fortune to serve with Mel on the Golden Gate National Recreation Area Advisory Commission from 1994 until it "sunsetted" in 2002. The meetings of the Commission were held monthly at Fort Mason in San Francisco. These evening events often extended late into the night, as we heard from the public about thorny or mundane topics ranging from off-leash dog-walking to mushroom gathering.

Whether contentious or boring, our meetings were immeasurably enhanced by a special mode of transportation I was privileged to enjoy — driving with Mel. The sale of *Sunset Magazine* and Books (co-owned by Mel) in 1990 included a provision of a driver for him. Somehow I had the good fortune to be invited to car-pool with Mel in low-key but comfortable style.



Mel Lane at Pigeon Point Lighthouse

Elisabeth Fall 2005, Courtesy of POST

Instead of braving the rush hour traffic each month, with the collateral frazzling of nerves, I would slip into the back seat of the car, start chatting with Mel, and virtually ignore the stream of vehicles outside. Had we run out of topics, there were several daily newspapers and periodicals we could peruse, including the *S.F.*

Chronicle, the *New York Times*, the *L.A. Times*, and of course *Sunset Magazine*.

We discussed the upcoming topics for our meeting agenda, the state of the world, the country, and local politics. Mel's observations were not only well informed, but often included wry observations about the shortcomings of our leaders. There was only one topic — the Stanford trail — where we had to agree to disagree, but always with respect for each other's point of view.

We invariably arrived at the meeting fresh and relaxed, ready to hear from the diverse park constituents. We were the "eyes and ears of Congress" as our Charter stated. I was always glad that Mel's wisdom was added to our collective eyes and ears.

As each meeting ended and we emerged into the usually foggy night, we would see a pair of headlights light up in the parking lot and circle over to the curb to pick us up. Relaxing again in the comfort of the back seat, we enjoyed some light refreshments. Instead of arriving home tense and bleary-eyed, I was relaxed and warmed inside and out by our conversation.

Mel's modesty, wisdom, and wry humor in these conversations were qualities I shall never forget. Besides his steadfast work to preserve so many places for future generations, Mel's personal gift to friends of "being Mel" will long be remembered. **CGF**

WAVECREST, from Page 1

eated by the developer's consultants, and the discovery of the federally threatened California Red-legged Frog, was causing the project to become mired in a re-evaluation process. Community opposition to the project also resulted in the loss of key public elements, including a Boys and Girls Club and an elementary school. The project was going nowhere fast.

Recognizing the importance of the

site's environmental values, community concerns, and economic considerations, a stunning announcement was made in mid-August by Bruce Russell, CEO of Kenmark Real Estate Group and representative of the landowners, and Audrey Rust, of Peninsula Open Space Trust (POST). The two groups had reached an agreement whereby POST would purchase the site's 216 acres for habitat protection, scenic vistas, and public recreation and enjoyment.

Bravo! Accolades and praise are due all

around for this farsighted resolution of a thorny impasse!

But who among the applauding humans would have predicted the celebration of the raptors? This Fall there has been an unprecedented congregation of White-tailed Kites at Wavecrest. Well over a hundred of these phenomenal acrobats have been counted hovering, diving, and feasting on an abundance of voles. Do the kites know their future is suddenly more secure? We'd all like to think so. **CGF**

Good News in the Legal Department

By BRIAN SCHMIDT

Global warming enforcement settlement

California Attorney General Jerry Brown settled a lawsuit against San Bernardino County, filed for its failure to consider global warming impacts of projects analyzed under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). California law requires governments to consider the impacts of their actions, and the Attorney General argued that San Bernardino ignored the climate change impacts.

And how does this affect us in the San Francisco Bay Area? The City of San Jose used reasoning identical to San Bernardino's in order to avoid reaching a conclusion about whether developing Coyote Valley contributes in any significant way to global warming. However, the law requires analyzing whether a project is a small part of a cumulatively significant contribution to an environmental effect like climate change.

Here is San Bernardino's initial position, from the settlement document:

It is the County's position that the General Plan EIR, after providing substantial disclosure and analysis of greenhouse gas emission and climate change issues, and including a factual and reasoned determination, appropriately concluded that there is no available methodology for determining whether greenhouse gas emissions attributable to the General Plan Update are significant. Accordingly, it is the County's position that the County correctly determined, based on substantial evidence, that further discussion in the General Plan EIR of greenhouse gas emissions and climate change would be speculative.

San Jose's position has been the same.

In the settlement San Bernardino shifts significantly from where it was. The heart of the settlement is here:

[The County will determine a] target for the reduction of those sources of emissions reasonably attributable to the County's discretionary land use decisions and the County's internal government operations, and feasible Greenhouse Gas emission reduction measures whose purpose shall be to meet this reduction target by regulating those sources of Greenhouse Gases emissions reasonably attributable to the County's discretionary land use decisions and the County's internal government operations.

Basically, the settlement ducks the issue of whether the emissions are significant (what the county wanted to avoid concluding) in return for promising "feasible" reductions (what the California Attorney General wanted). A lawsuit by environmental groups is still in place, though, so this may not be the final word. And we'll see what San Jose produces when it revises its EIR.

Clean air decision favors clean air vehicles, opens the door for "buy local food"

A federal appellate court case rules that Air Management Districts can order local governments and their contractors to purchase clean fuel vehicles. Besides helping fight climate change and air pollution, this removes a legal hurdle for a "buy local food" idea we've discussed at CGF — that local governments should preferentially buy locally-grown food. The same, rather arcane "preemption" arguments that the oil industry was using against the clean fuel vehicle policy could have been used against a "buy local" policy, but this decision seems to remove that barrier entirely. **CGF**

(Standard disclosure: Brian worked on an Air District case defending the district in a previous job, over six years ago.)

A Hanson Quarry Update

By BRIAN SCHMIDT

A proposed expansion, complete with a new quarry pit — we at the Committee for Green Foothills submitted comments on what the environmental analysis should cover. We will comment on the resulting document.

A legal analysis of the extent the quarry is "grandfathered" and exempt from permit requirements — may be in the works. It will require our review.

The long-ignored easement violation by the quarry — for an easement meant to limit the visual and environmental damage from the quarry. We keep trying to get it addressed.

The rock dump on the Cupertino ridgeline — Hanson has done some but not all of the work they said they would do to fix it. We've followed it for years.

The land swap — between the quarry and Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District is complete. A good idea that rectifies some of the quarry's environmental damage to neighboring land by exchanging ownership whereby MidPen received three acres for each acre it gave up.

Obviously, the quarry bears watching! **CGF**

Coyote Valley Development

Too Early to Declare Victory

By BRIAN SCHMIDT

It's true that San Jose has withdrawn its Draft Environmental Impact Report (Draft EIR) under intense criticism from Committee for Green Foothills, and from other organizations and agencies all the way up to the California Attorney General. It's also true that the current City Council and mayor now seem committed to preserving and updating the City's General Plan, with strong "triggers" that preclude rapid development of Coyote Valley. But contrary to rumors, Coyote Valley development is far from "dead."

Some background on the Coyote Valley Draft EIR

Why, one may wonder, did the Coyote Valley Draft EIR sweep the environmental impacts under the rug? The answer lies in the role that the Coyote Valley developers, hiding behind the name of the Coyote Housing Group, played in picking the consultants who ultimately wrote the Draft EIR. The City of San Jose hired the developer's consultants for the important job of writing the EIR, without considering others who had no vested interest in the outcome.

Having failed so badly to identify the environmental impacts in the EIR, one would expect that the consultants who wrote it would be replaced — or, at the very least, that others would have an opportunity to bid. Although the Committee repeatedly pointed out the enormous bias in a process that allows developers

to essentially write EIRs, the City is allowing the same consultants that wrote the original EIR to revise it.

Fiscal analysis based on rosy assumptions

The Draft Fiscal Analysis, purportedly showing a tax surplus for the City, relied on unrealistic property tax growth projections based on highly inflated housing valuations. The Committee challenged these projections, and the City promised some unspecified revisions. The revisions, however, will be done by the same consultants that prepared the first draft and who were originally selected and hired by the Coyote Valley developers.

And finally, while the current political climate is not favorable to Coyote Valley development, the City is trying to correct what it considers to be a problem — that more employees live in San Jose and work elsewhere than the reverse. San Jose resents its "bedroom" status to cities to the north. This situation hurts San Jose financially, so it now wants to reverse its situation, aiming for 1.1 jobs for every employed resident and making other cities become San Jose's bedroom community. Coyote Valley development, which theoretically has more jobs than housing, could be drafted into this effort despite its many environmental flaws.

So while we have cause for celebration, any declaration of victory over the Coyote Valley development proposal should wait — more hard work lies ahead. **CGF**



Coyote Valley as seen from Northern Morgan Hill.

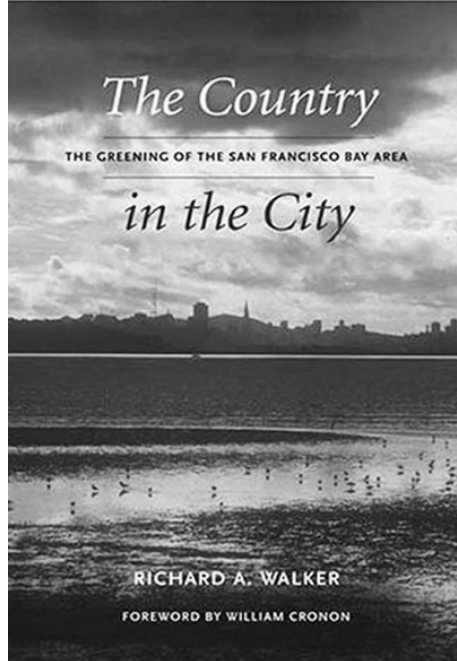
Country in the City: An Evening with Richard Walker

BY WENDEE CROFOOT

Richard Walker, author of "The Country in the City" gave an excellent presentation of the history of the Bay Area Greenbelt on July 19th at the PCC. His popular and informative book drew a lively audience that filled every seat in the room well before the lecture began.

Walker is a lifelong resident of the Bay Area and has many personal ties to the organizations about which he writes. The title of his book, "The Country in the City" reflects the desire most people in the Bay Area feel for a bit of "country" or open space in the urban landscape in which they live and work. He traces the beginning of the continuing local struggle to save open spaces all the way back to John Muir's unsuccessful fight to save Hetch Hetchy.

Walker reminded listeners that the environmental movement in the Bay Area has long been strongly linked to movements for social justice. He described how predominantly upper class women have used their political and financial resources to fight for local land use which would benefit society as a whole. This has resulted in the designation of many of the Bay Area's open spaces for community use such as walking, hiking, biking, or gathering together in nature. In many other parts of the U.S., by contrast, the fight for open space has often been waged by the



wealthy, for the wealthy – as, for example, when "No Trespassing" signs have been posted prohibiting all but a select few from gaining access to certain areas. He cited land surrounding the Chesapeake Bay as a prime example of this practice.

Walker reminded his audience that open space has always been political. He underscored the fact that, even here in the Bay

Area, every acre has been a fight, and no land except that in trusts and in public ownership has ever been saved.

Where do we go next with open space?

Walker said that most of California's state parks were bought during the Depression, when land values had collapsed, and it is harder than ever now to purchase land, especially in Silicon Valley. He emphasized the need to find ways of reaching across the social divide to include those who are underrepresented in every environmental agency. He also said that the Central Valley needs attention because it is a rapidly growing area with no urban planning for open space. He stressed the need for more public funding for acquiring open spaces, and the concern that open spaces be made available to all, regardless of social class, color, and age.

How do we respond to climate change?

Walker ended by saying that global climate change provides us with new opportunities to rethink urban density, transportation, and the issues involved in agribusiness and local food production. His comprehensive insights provided an informative evening that was very much enjoyed by all attendees. **CGF**



Don Edwards San Francisco National Wildlife Refuge

Nature's Inspirations: Celebrating the Arts!

By CORRINA MARSHALL

On September 23rd, CGF welcomed an enthusiastic crowd of Honorary Hosts, Sponsors, and special guests for an afternoon in the beautiful Los Altos Hills home of Jan and Bob Fenwick. If you were among the 200 attendees who hiked up the hill to enjoy the stunning 360-degree views of gardens, open hills and oak trees topped by ever-changing late summer skies, you will agree that it was an event well worth the climb.

The afternoon featured an art exhibition and Silent and Live Auctions with prizes such as a lunch in Washington D.C. with Anna Eshoo, a hike with Pete McCloskey, lunch with "The Country in the City" author, Richard Walker, and a stargazing adventure with local astronomy buff, Andrew Pierce. Throughout the afternoon, the Fenwicks' terrace provided a perfect setting for viewing the paintings and photographs of a select group of talented local artists, including Alan McGee (Jane Gallagher Winner), Tomiko Bailey, Tad Doxsee, Karen Leoni, Julia Munger Seelos, and Kevyn Warnock. If you missed your chance to buy that perfect piece for your home or office, please don't hesitate to contact CGF for the artists' contact information. These generous artists will be happy to donate 40% of the sales price to CGF!

Local resident Bruce Kaiser was the auctioneer for the afternoon's main event. Throughout the gathering, an abundance of great wines from generous local vintners teamed up with a variety of hors d'oeuvres furnished by Panache Catering — great food paired with great wine, all in the service of CGF's mission celebrating and protecting the open spaces of this community.

To the Fenwicks, to all of the partners and vendors who made this event so successful, and to the congenial and outstanding crowd of the Peninsula's finest, including two babies, who shared the day — THANK YOU. CGF was honored to have you as our guests and salutes your generosity in making this CGF's most successful fundraiser ever! **CGF**



Cait Hutnik

Above, Holly Van Houten, Patrick Laprocina and Victoria Laprocina at the exhibition and auction.

Middle, Auctioneer Bruce Kaiser acknowledges the latest bid.

Bottom, CGF Board Member Mary Davey welcomes guests.



Cait Hutnik



Cait Hutnik



Matt Burrows

About to enter the garlic processing building at George Chiala Farms are, left to right, Tim Chiala, Sue LaTourrette, Margaret MacNiven, April Vargas, Corrina Marshall and Bill Whitmer.

Down on the Farm

By WENDEE CROFOOT

Last summer on June 25th, members of the board and staff of CGF enjoyed a day-long tour of three family-run farms and farm businesses in Morgan Hill.

The day started at The Grass Farm with a welcome by Jenny Derry and Nicole De La Rosa of the Santa Clara County Farm Bureau. The Grass Farm has been the place to purchase sod locally since 1969. William Y. Gil presented an overview of the farm's business and the issues involved in farming as a leaseholder on an annual lease rather than as a landowner.

The tour next traveled to Andy's Orchard, owned and operated by Andy Mariani. There we picked peaches directly from the tree, sampled twelve different types of cherries, and stocked up on unique fruit offerings from the store. The cherry-tasting events at Andy's Orchard will typically draw many visitors back to his farm, and it was a pleasure to be

welcomed by the owner himself. Andy Mariani continues to farm his small lot while being surrounded on all sides by new housing developments.

The farm tour proceeded to George Chiala Farms, where they grow many different vegetables and process vegetables grown on their farms from Santa Clara to Mexico in a local factory. This was a unique opportunity for a private tour where we could see (and smell!) what industrial level processing of hot peppers and garlic is like. Hair nets and long pants were mandatory! We met three generations of the Chiala family and many of their employees. The day ended at Guglielmo's winery with a picnic lunch and wine tasting for all.

All of the farmers we visited expressed a strong desire to continue the tradition of farming in the Valley of Heart's Delight,



Eating fresh peaches at Andy's Orchard are, left to right, Nicole De La Rosa, Brian Grayson, Mary Davey, Brian Schmidt and Andy Mariani.

while also being concerned about farming's future.

CGF actively seeks ways to support and collaborate with Peninsula farmers in preserving our common agricultural heritage. The Farm Tour was both a wonderful and educational event in itself and a preview of the even more ambitious tour planned for the early summer of 2008. We hope to welcome the entire CGF family to that event — look for news on our website and in coming issues of Green Footnotes. **CGF**

The Spirit of Infill

By BRIAN SCHMIDT

From time to time, and twice this year, the Committee for Green Foothills has seen proposals to change land use designations intended to allow more development on the basis that the change constitutes *infill*. We don't automatically oppose infill proposals, as they can make land use planning more consistent and reasonable, but we do need to examine them carefully based on their merits.

Wise infill proposals

The best argument for infill is when land under county jurisdiction is entirely surrounded by land under city jurisdiction. The land almost certainly will develop to city standards someday. Rather than waste government resources sending the county sheriff to serve the area when the city police could do so, it should be annexed. Another reasonable example of infill occurs when a parcel is almost but not completely surrounded by more intense land uses, say a small agricultural parcel surrounded by rural residential development on three sides.

Questionable infill proposals

Unfortunately, though, we often see developers use infill as a way to justify questionable development proposals. Developers seem to view any border between land designations as an excuse for "infill" as they define it — an excuse to expand the area where increased development is allowed.

A proposal recently before Santa Clara County — a lot along Watsonville Road south of Morgan Hill where the landowner has asked for re-designation from limited-development Hillside to more-intense Rural Residential, used the infill argument in its proposal. Although some inappropriate development exists in nearby areas, most of the surrounding Watsonville Road area is undeveloped.

How to evaluate proposals using infill arguments

So what should the County do in the Watsonville Road case and in other cases using infill as a basis for increased development? Some criteria that the County should consider in examining developers' infill proposals to see if they meet the spirit of infill include:

Inequity — *is the current zoning designation grossly unfair when*

compared to neighbors? Infill is warranted when a parcel is surrounded by parcels with more intense development designations. By contrast, the Watsonville parcel is surrounded by Hillside- and Agriculture-designated property.

Inevitability — *is the area destined for other land use?* Infill is warranted if most of the surrounding lands have been developed. In many situations, though, like the Watsonville Road parcel, a mix of development exists, where some parcels are overdeveloped and some are not. An important part of land use planning is not to imitate past mistakes with present ones. If the area has mixed use but is not wholly developed, the change in land use is not inevitable.

Contiguity — *does changing the designation make land use types more compact or more intertwined?* Infill is warranted if most of the surrounding lands have the same designation. The Watsonville parcel, for example, only borders Rural Residential designations for about 37% of its length, so changing its designation would actually have the net effect of making land use designations more intertwined. The problem is shown by the effect on a neighboring parcel that now only borders Rural Residential on one side for 31% of its length. If the change occurs, this parcel would border Rural Residential on two sides for 40% of its length and become a new target for development.

Uneconomic — *we often see the "farming is dead" argument used for changing agriculture designations, although farming still seems to carry on.* Infill may be warranted in agricultural designations where parcels are too small or not viable for agricultural use. The Watsonville parcel, for example, is designated Hillside, allowing a mix of agriculture and residential on 20 acre lots that are suitable and viable for growing hay.

What makes best policy

As a general rule, if there is no legal or ethical obligation to allow the applicant's request for increased development, the county needs to look at what makes best policy. In only one or possibly two areas of Santa Clara County jurisdiction — the Stanford core campus and possibly in San Martin — can one reasonably claim that more development should occur there, and not just inside city limits. For these reasons, the infill policy should be adhered to very carefully. **CGF**

We don't automatically oppose infill proposals, as they can make land use planning more consistent and reasonable, but we do need to examine them carefully based on their merits.

Pg&E's Climatesmart Program Offers "Climate Neutral" Home Energy Use


By CORRINA MARSHALL

Recent discussions between Committee for Green Foothills and Pacific Gas and Electric (a sponsor of a number of CGF's educational events) on ways to help the environment have centered on a new program by PG&E to offer customers the opportunity to "neutralize" the greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs) from their household energy use. This voluntary program, called ClimateSmart, uses 100% of the special funds collected from enrolled customers to help fund environmental projects in California that reduce or capture an amount of GHGs emissions equal to those created by the household's energy use.

"By the end of 2009, PG&E expects the ClimateSmart program to reduce participants' combined carbon footprint by an amount equivalent to taking 350,000 cars off the road for a year. This will amount to 2 million tons of CO2 removed from the atmosphere through ClimateSmart."

Relations Representative for PG&E, states that, "By the end of 2009, PG&E expects the ClimateSmart program to reduce participants' combined carbon footprint by an amount equivalent to taking 350,000 cars off the road for a year. This will amount to 2 million tons of CO2 removed from the atmosphere through ClimateSmart."

Some GHG-offset programs have raised questions as to their vetting, accounting standards, and scientific reliability in achieving the emission offsets they promise. ClimateSmart appears to be a conservative and conservationist project that avoids the pitfalls of other programs.

Extensive information about ClimateSmart can be found on PG&E's website at www.pge.com/climatesmart. There is an online calculator at www.pge.com/about_us/environment/calculator/estimator.html to determine the cost of enrolling in ClimateSmart. 

The funds amount to less than \$5 a month for the average residential household, and much less for households using less electricity.

The California Climate Action Registry verifies the GHG reductions attributable to the ClimateSmart program. They involve a portfolio including projects for conserving forest ecosystems and others for reducing emissions from livestock farms. There are also plans to add additional undertakings, such as the expansion of urban forests and the reduction of emissions from transportation, to the portfolio. All are planned to guarantee measurable and verifiable GHG reductions as the ClimateSmart program expands. Some of these programs could ultimately occur in our local area and provide additional environmental benefits to our communities.

PG&E inaugurated ClimateSmart by becoming the first customer to enroll in the program. Darren Deffner, Senior Government

The Committee is watching...



Peter LaTourrette

Gazos Creek Watershed – where the Ainsley Forest LLC has done extensive grading and land clearing on a 960-acre parcel without benefit of appropriate grading and Coastal Development permits

Half Moon Bay – where citizens presented nearly 2,000 signatures in support of developing a new park at the 21 acre Pilarcitos Creek site that is being sold to the City by Peninsula Open Space Trust

Henry Coe State Park – where half the park burned in a wildfire set by humans, but where wildfire has also been absent for too long, and where careful environmental planning is now necessary

Los Gatos – where the Committee has heard several complaints in recent months about lax development standards, in particular a new proposal to put development dangerously close to a stream

Midcoast Local Coastal Program revision – which is being evaluated by the Coastal Commission for compliance with the California Coastal Act

Moffett Field – where Google's plans to develop one million square feet of office space could have significant open space effects depending on where these people will be housed

San Jose – which has allowed developers to select and hire the consultants used for its environmental and financial review documents, raising questions about whether the acknowledged problems with the Coyote Valley documents will simply be repeated

San Mateo County Rural Lands – where an audit by the State Department of Conservation has determined that landowners on 46,000 acres of San Mateo County Lands may be ineligible for substantial tax breaks for pre-

serving agricultural land under the state's Williamson Act

Stanford Shopping Center and Medical Center expansions – with over a million square feet of development and requested intense development that could have significant environmental impacts

The Committee Applauds ...

Cañada College – which is obtaining approvals for Cañada Vista, an innovative housing project for faculty and staff on an underutilized parking lot

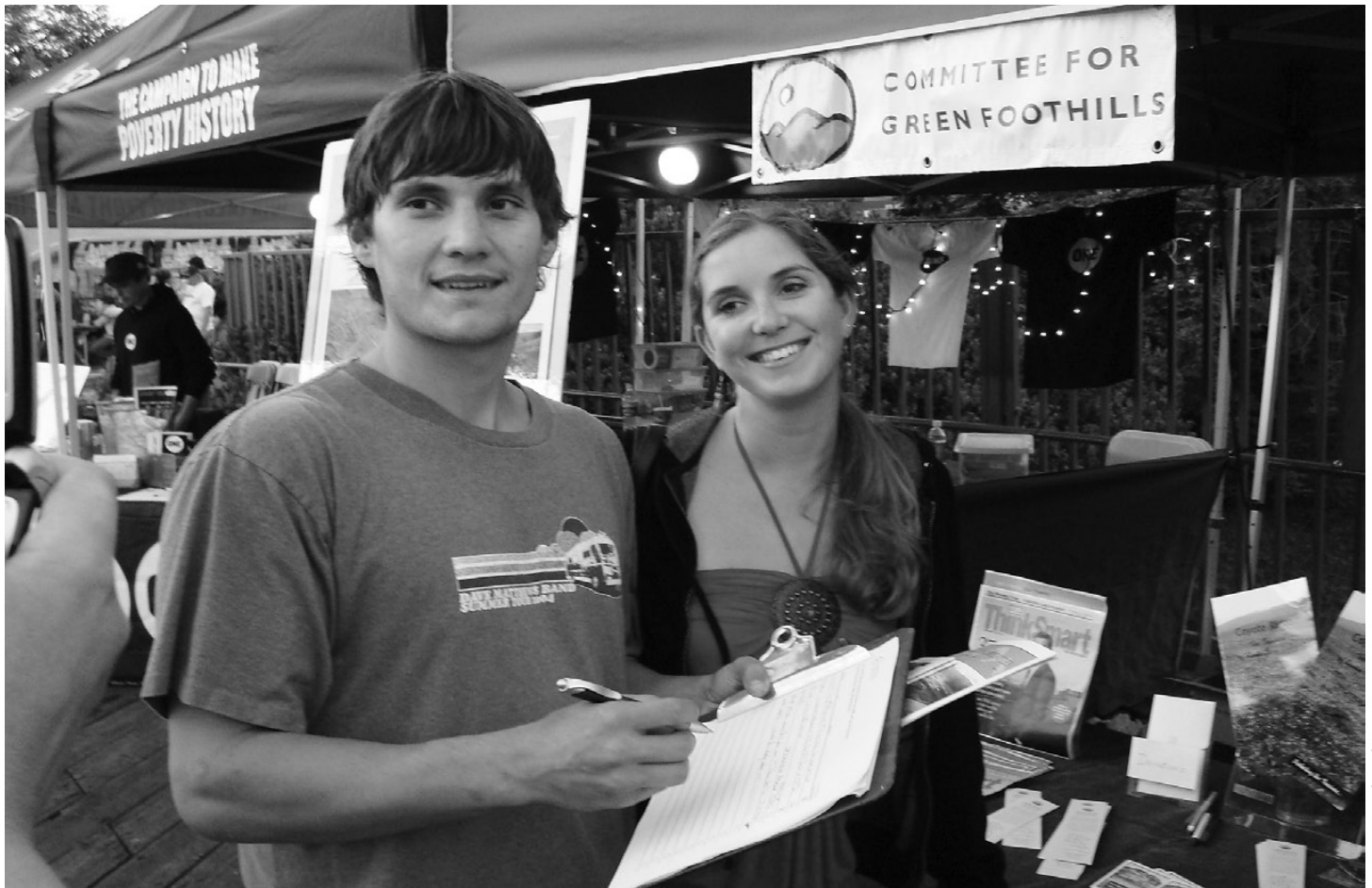
California Department of Fire and Forestry – for rejecting the massive, perpetual logging proposal submitted by the San Jose Water Company to log the redwood forests above Los Gatos

Foothill College – for recognizing the importance of environmental issues and potential impacts of bringing new vineyards to the South Bay

Portola Valley – which is moving forward to restore Corte Madera Creek to a natural flowing stream at the new Town Center

Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors – for unanimously rejecting a precedent for sprawl in the form of a proposal to redesignate land from less-intense Hillside uses to more-intense Rural Residential use in an area far beyond Morgan Hill city limits

San Mateo County Board of Supervisors – who unanimously approved a new provision that will require a Conservation Easement to be dedicated to the County as a condition of subdivision in the Resource Management Zoning District, thus ensuring that once development occurs on these sensitive lands, the remaining lands will remain in open space



Silicon valley Bicycle Coalition

New members sign up at our concert table.

THANKS, REVERB! Committee for Green Foothills “tabled” at the John Mayer and Dave Mathews Band concerts this summer! We want to thank Reverb — an organization that links touring acts to the non-profit organizations they want to support — for giving us the opportunity to get our name and information in front of 20,000 people.

Do you have an opportunity to help CGF be more visible?
Please call us at (650) 968-7243 x314 or email us at info@greenfoothills.org.



**COMMITTEE FOR
GREEN FOOTHILLS**

3921 E. Bayshore Road
Palo Alto, CA 94303

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