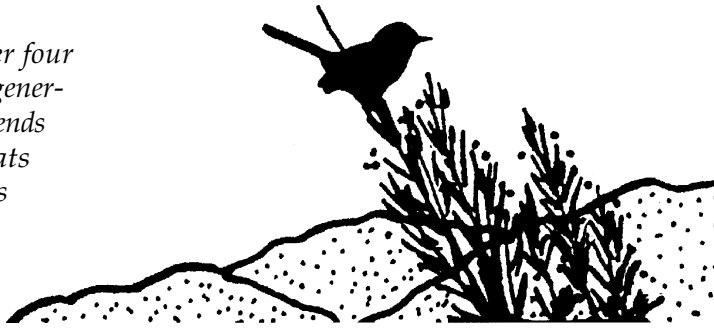


We publish this newsletter four times a year to inform the generous supporters and other friends of the Endangered Habitats League about our activities in the ecoregion.



ENDANGERED HABITATS LEAGUE NEWSLETTER

If you are not yet a member of the Endangered Habitats League, please join us in the ongoing effort to preserve and protect the Southern California ecoregion's irreplaceable plants, animals and places.

First San Timoteo Canyon acquisitions accomplished

"Hats off" to the *San Timoteo Canyonlands Coalition* and the *Riverside Land Conservancy* for their hard work and great progress toward a San Timoteo State Park. Located east of the City of Riverside, "San Tim" is a beautiful, historic valley with well-developed cottonwood riparian and coastal sage scrub habitat. It will be an important component of a future regional Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP). With these first acquisitions, the dream moves toward reality.

The Riverside Land Conservancy and the Canyonlands Coalition contracted with Dangermond Group and Resource Lands Partners to put these complex transactions together. Sources of funds included Natural Community Conservation Planning (NCCP) monies from Proposition 12 via the *Wildlife Conservation Board* and an innovative state program that provides tax credits for habitat. EHL was pleased to write and solicit letters supporting the purchases. We hope that other acquisitions will soon follow, including the purchase of lands optioned by *San Bernardino Valley Audubon Society* as a result of settling litigation with a huge neighboring development project, called "Oak Valley."



San Timoteo Canyon is populated by the least Bell's vireo, a federally listed endangered species that is sensitive to changes in riparian vegetation. Photo courtesy of the Orange County Water District.

Subject: Beasts & Botany

To Live in a Dry Season

by Jess Morton

To every thing there is a season, states the beautiful and classical phrase. To this I would add that for each thing there is also a season more difficult than the others. This is especially true when the season itself is extreme, as is the case today, with our dry season coming in an exceedingly dry year. How is it that each and every thing will survive, despite the extreme conditions.

For many native plants, it seems the strategy is simply to write the year off and try again next year. My friend Tony Baker, who, as *Natural Landscapes*, grows many natives, remarked to me not long ago that all of the native plants in his hillside garden had gone into summer dormancy by March. They had not even bothered to set flower this year. There was too little moisture in the ground to risk the stress of doing so.

Although desert-living plants must be adapted to long, dry—and, as here, hot—seasons, they must have adequate moisture to survive. Many of our plants go dormant in summer. Sagebrush relies on special low-water-loss summer leaves. Metabolic activity is minimal, just

enough to keep the plant alive. However, every strategy has its water cost. When the year has been too dry, something has to be omitted from the normal life cycle or the plant will die. For perennial plants, it is the reproductive part of the cycle that is left

out. For annual plants, the seed does not sprout in a year that is too dry to let the mature plant set seed.

But what of the animal side of the ecosystem? Here, too, there must be strategies for dealing with an unusually dry season. Surprisingly, the answer for many insects is to adopt the same strategy as the annual plants do—sit tight until things get better. How, though, is this done?

Most of us think of an insect like a beetle or butterfly as a creature with wings, capable of skipping town when things get too hot. True enough for some species, like painted ladies or cloudless sulfurs, which may migrate long distances. But that is not true for most species, which are often tied to very local habitats.

This story continues on page 3

Forward-looking states set guidelines for growth and development; California still gives wide discretion to local government

From New Jersey to Maryland to Florida to Oregon and Washington, forward-looking states have set guidelines for the pattern of growth and development. Motivated by the need to conserve farmland and open space, to revitalize cities and older suburbs, and to make efficient use of infrastructure, these states are leaders. Unfortunately, California is not part of this group, and still allows unfettered discretion to local government, no matter how harmful their planning might be.

In the Bay Area and in Ventura County, hard working activists have put in place many local urban service boundaries, beyond which sprawl cannot occur unless authorized by a vote of the people. Nevertheless, across the rest of Southern California

and in the heritage landscapes of the central coast and Sierra foothills, it simply takes three votes of an "old boy" network of developer-financed politicians to pave over what it took tens of thousand of years to create.

Growth management at the state level can take several forms. In Oregon, urban service boundaries, reassessed every 20 years, are mandated that separate agriculture from cities and towns. In Maryland, state infrastructure funds are restricted to "smart growth" locations. In Florida, local land use plans must conform to state standards. While each of these models has strengths

This story continues on page 2

The Nominating Committee of the Board of the Endangered Habitats League is accepting nominations for the board elections at the annual meeting of the League members to be held in December, 2002.

Please send any nominations, in writing, to the Endangered Habitats League, Nominating Committee, PO Box 3985, Lakewood, CA 90711-3985.

what's inside?

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© JEAN H. ZACH

To endure a very dry year, sagebrush relies on special low-water-loss summer leaves. Metabolic activity is minimal, just enough to keep the plant alive.

Research shows economic activity, employment increase close to parks and greenspace preservation areas

by Phil Lohman

In the early days of the civil rights movement, there was a huge supermarket in Redlands called Sage's and I had a friend named Stan. Stan was a big guy with a gravelly voice and the courtly manner of a small-college dean. Sage's didn't have many minority employees and seemed in no hurry to hire any, which concerned Stan, who was an activist in the black community. So, one day, Stan dropped in on the management at Sage's, lowered his 275 solid pounds into a chair and suggested that Sage's rethink its hiring practices. Why? "Well, because it's the right thing to do, and"—here his voice deepened slightly—"it's good for business." The managers thought it over and within a week, black and Hispanic checkers started to appear at the registers. Stan loved to tell the story. "It's good for business," he'd chuckle, "good for business." As it turned out, it was.

There are many good reasons to do the right thing

There are lots of reasons for doing the right thing. Some of them may seem a little counterintuitive at first, or at least contrary to received opinion. Environmental preservation, for example, is commonly thought to be contrary to economic growth: "All that good land lying around idle, all locked up." Nearby communities will suffer for it, they are warned by building and real estate interests; any slowing of the development juggernaut will result in falling property values. This thinking, readily embraced by city councils, planning commissions and chambers of commerce, has left Southern California buried under a wrack of cancerous sprawl.

It's wrong. Research has consistently shown that population, economic activity and employment tend to increase, rather than shrink, close to wilderness areas, federal and state parks and other areas set aside for greenspace preservation. Between 1960 and 1990, for example, economic growth in rural areas close to national parks and wilderness areas was two to six times that for other rural areas and two to three times that for metropolitan areas. Another recent study by the University of Maine of northern counties in Maine, New Hampshire, New York, Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota showed that employment increased in counties in proportion to the amount of public land in the county managed for conservation purposes.

When they can, people buy where there's open space

On reflection, this doesn't seem so odd. People tend to follow amenities—open space, quiet, clean air—and employment increasingly tends to follow them. We're rapidly moving from an industrial economy, where huge populations are tied to concentrations of capital, to a services economy, where growing numbers of knowledge workers carry the capital in their heads and can shop around for good places to live. And when they can, they buy where there's open space.

Protecting greenspace doesn't hurt local economies, it helps them. It's the right thing to do—and it's good for business.

News from Around Our Southern California Ecoregion

San Diego County

EHL and other stakeholders on the "Interest Group" advisory committee to the County of San Diego's "2020" General Plan Update have completed a set of Goals and Policies. The environmental representatives were successful in obtaining strong policies for biodiversity, open space, and floodplains. These policies will be advanced to the Board of Supervisors for their consideration.

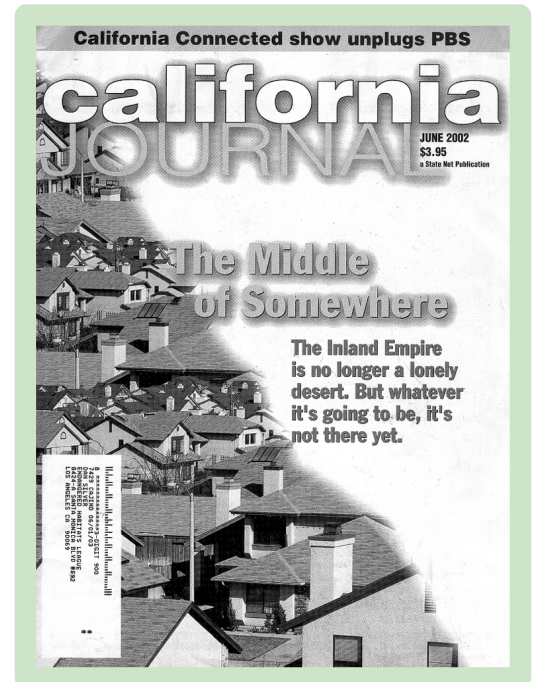
The heart of the new General Plan will be the land use map, showing where development will occur and what will remain rural. EHL organized a detailed study of draft maps for each community, and after long hours, we and our environmental partners on the Interest Group identified many areas where changes were indicated. These formed the basis for recommendations to the group as a whole.

This story continues on page 4

EHL in the News

California Journal, a respected, politically oriented publication widely read by elected officials statewide, featured the Inland Empire in a series of articles in its June 2002 edition. This excellent review—titled, "The Middle of Somewhere"—covered transportation and growth issues in detail, and discussed the importance of the Riverside County Integrated Project to this region-in-transition.

EHL's Coordinator, Dan Silver was interviewed, and identified as "a frequent participant in Inland Empire growth battles." Reflecting EHL's commitment to compact, transit-oriented development as well as to habitat conservation, Silver was quoted as describing the City of Chino's planning efforts as "the single most progressive land use plan I've seen in the Inland Empire."



California Development Limitations Lagging

(continued from page 1)

and weaknesses, and efficacy in achieving objectives has varied, it nevertheless took dedicated gubernatorial leadership to make any progress whatsoever.

Legislature now has a Smart Growth Caucus

In California, the last major effort to tackle state growth management expired in the early years of the Wilson administration. After years of quiescence, however, the Legislature now has a *Smart Growth Caucus* and several bills relating to growth have been offered. Legislation, authored by Sen. Sheila Kuehl, recently passed that requires assurance of water availability before large development projects are approved. Assemblyman Darrell Steinberg's bill to create a pilot project for revenue sharing among Sacramento-area jurisdictions—tackling the perverse fiscal incentives that drive local governments to approve "big box" Walmarts instead of revitalizing downtowns—is stalled due to opposition from some cities. Governor Davis has advanced a modest proposal to create model planning ordinances.

EHL is an affiliate of the California Futures Network

In addition, there is an organization focused solely on state-level growth management, the *California Futures Network*, or CFN, of which EHL is an affiliate. For five years, CFN has been building a coalition of urban, social justice, business, agricultural, and environmental interests with a stake in improved land use planning, and it now drafting a comprehensive policy framework that could be the basis for legislation.

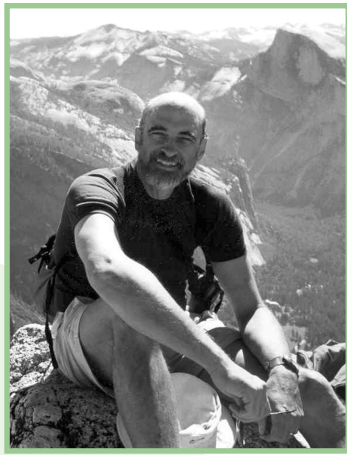
The pace of population increase in California is staggering. Certainly a pattern of growth that is compact and oriented to transit, that spares scenic and productive open space, and that invests in older communities, is in the interest of the State. This agenda can easily be co-opted, however, by development interests who want incentives for infill and redevelopment yet are unwilling to curb sprawl and "leapfrog" development into the countryside. The systemic fiscal problems facing local governments, and community opposition to higher densities, complicate an already difficult set of policy options.

EHL is part of ongoing effort to find common ground

Recently, EHL participated in an effort coordinated by the *Urban Land Institute*, a relatively progressive development industry body, to identify common ground among interests. We continue to actively participate in the California Futures Network. Thus, as it continues to work locally on land use, transportation, and habitat, EHL will also seek reform at the state level that synchronizes land use planning and environmental protection.

Lohman Named Executive Director

Hi! I'm Philip Lohman and I'm the Endangered Habitats League's new executive director. My job will be to help the EHL board and staff build on the League's successes. I'll be doing fundraising, organizational development, member recruiting and services, outreach and administration. EHL has grown to the point where Dan, Michael, Jane, Pete, Jess, Jack and the staff are so buried in program and project work that someone has to focus on the organization itself. That's me.



Phil Lohman

In some ways I'm an oddball. I've done a lot of things: Marine, steelworker, philosophy professor, freelance writer and, for the last twenty years, project manager and corporate executive with a multinational technology consulting firm. But along the way, I've had a parallel life as an environmental activist ("the suites on Friday, the streets on Saturday," as a friend put it). Beginning with the Mineral King battle in the late 60s, I've been involved in environmental causes and campaigns with the Sierra Club, Audubon, local activist groups and political campaigns. Right now, in addition to working with EHL, I'm vice president of the Los Cerritos Wetlands Land Trust and an active board member of the Friends of the Seal Beach National Wildlife Refuge. My heart, as Yogi Berra might have said, is in the environment right up to my nose.

I hope to meet every one of you at some point. In the meantime, if you have questions, ideas or want to offer help to EHL, please write to me at Endangered Habitats League, PO Box 3985, Lakewood, CA 90711-3985.

We in EHL—members, supporters, board and staff—have won some important battles but we're going to win more and we're going to win them together! Best wishes,

Phil

Dry Season Strategies (from page 1)



© RICHARD ARNOLD

Most of our blue butterflies spend their lives in the ground as pupae. They don't emerge until local climate conditions are favorable.

so be it. As another classical line has it, "Wait till next year!"

Many of our endangered blue butterflies are examples of this habitat specificity. They do not go far, often not more than a few tens of meters from where they emerge. So how do they survive a year with no flowers for nectar and no fresh leaves or seed for caterpillars?

The trick is not to emerge at all! In truth, most of our blue butterflies' lives are spent as pupae in the ground, where they wait for conditions to be right for emergence. If that is not this year,

You can leave a legacy to our Southern California Ecoregion through the Endangered Habitats League

Writing a will and including a bequest to the Endangered Habitats League allows you to choose where your estate will go and, in many cases, can help you to reduce taxes on your estate. EHL extends its appreciation to all of our donors for their dedication and support.

If you wish, EHL will mail you some information on planned giving opportunities.

The Endangered Habitats League is a non-profit organization. All contributions are tax-deductible to the full extent allowed by law.

Dan Silver

Coordinator and Newsletter Editor

Jane Block

Director, Riverside County

Jack Bath

Director, San Bernardino County and EHL Secretary

Pete DeSimone

Director, Orange County

Michael Beck

Director, San Diego County

Jess Morton

Director, Los Angeles County and EHL Treasurer

Phil Lohman Executive Director

Gifts That Honor or Thank a Friend or Loved One

Endangered Habitats League is pleased to receive gifts that:

- ⇒ Honor someone on a special occasion such as a birthday, anniversary or graduation
- ⇒ Memorialize someone who died
- ⇒ Just say "Thank you!" to a friend or loved one.

Following your instructions, EHL will send a beautiful acknowledgement card to the person honored or to the family of the deceased.

Please fill out the form below and mail it with your donation. Please print.

I/we are enclosing a special gift in the amount of

\$ _____

In Honor of _____

In Memory of _____

To celebrate her/his/their _____

To Thank _____

Send the acknowledgement card to _____

Address 1 _____

Address 2 _____

City/State/Zip _____

Indicate on the acknowledgement card that this gift is being made by:

Your Name (s) _____

Address 1 _____

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Home phone _____ Fax _____

Office phone _____ Fax _____

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Endangered Habitats League

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Los Angeles, CA 90069-4267

Tell a Friend about EHL

Endangered Habitat League's regional environmental perspective allows us to focus on those battles that are critically important to the ecosystem we all cherish!

We truly need your assistance to continue this work. Please help us spread the word about EHL's activities by telling a friend about our work or by sharing this newsletter with a co-worker or acquaintance. Your ideas and efforts to help EHL expand its support base are always welcome.

Riverside County

The *Riverside County Integrated Project's* new General Plan began hearings at the Planning Commission. The Commission was not friendly to the higher density community centers that EHL supports as an alternative to sprawl. However, the "Certainty System," originating with EHL, that disallows amendments to the plan that would convert rural lands to development for 5 years, was better received. EHL also distributed a letter to the Commission showing the excess of land designated for development compared with the actual need for such land and with the ability to pay for traffic improvements.

The draft *Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan* has just been released for public review. While clearly deficient in some areas, the benefits of 153,000 acres of new land protection are immense. An effort by one Supervisor to delay the MSHCP pending identification of new highway route to Orange County was held off, but attempts to insert this controversial and potentially damaging route into the plan in some form are ongoing. EHL will closely monitor the situation.

EHL was prepared to litigate the "Murrieta Springs" project due to impacts to the endangered quino checkerspot butterfly and other species. However, it appears that an acceptable agreement to purchase most of the property has been reached. Similarly, we are encouraged by negotiations underway regarding properties in the hills east of Lake Elsinore that support California gnatcatchers. EHL filed extensive comments on all these projects.

San Bernardino County

EHL's litigation against Lytle Creek North project remains active. This project would impact rare floodplain habitat and preclude a viable multiple species plan for the area. There are rumors that a conservation plan for the Delhi Sands flower loving fly and its dune habitat is underway, but the track record of these jurisdictions does not encourage optimism.

Regarding another threatened biologic community, EHL was pleased to endorse a plan prepared by an independent consultant that would guide Dept. of Fish and Game purchases of vanishing alluvial fans, which are broad floodplains at the base of the mountains containing rare sage scrub plants and animals.

We have also been working with the City of Ontario to identify a land trust to manage the habitat mitigation fees resulting from the settlement of our litigation, and expect a decision soon.

Orange County

On July 2, 2002, the Orange County Planning Commission received a progress report on the *SCORE South County Outreach and Review Effort* process instituted by Supervisor Tom Wilson to provide public input into planning for the 23,000 acres that remain of the historic Rancho Mission Viejo. EHL, a SCORE participant, noted the

Trillium

The precision of white brings to these green tangles
a point of calm, a way of living within the self
amid the wind and flurries of rain, dreaming
three petals and leaves; love, like green spades
with which the forest turns over the heart's hour,
and under the dream, the knot-backed salamander
slides, hiding the orange flame of his belly.

The passage of the flower is no ordinary thing,
not the shatter of petals on a windy pavement,
but a withdrawal of substance into the will;
an anthem of change that is without withering;
an aging translucence that hums of a love
that is not above being beautiful, the comma
which gives itself to the coming summer and seed.

Visible through the petal now, my fingers
have become strangers to their usual selves;
a ghostly hand journeys the dank passages
which are a forest's transmutation of time and rain;
my touch senses that there has been a great travail
to accomplish this simplicity, and through the petals,
still evident veins, the last lavender threads its way.

Jess Morton

excellent background information provided the group and the constructive nature of the discussions to date. On July 22, 2002, SCORE received input from state and federal agencies about those areas needed to protect upland and aquatic natural resources through the Natural Community Conservation Plan and Special Area Management Plan, or NCCP/SAMP, programs. At this time, it is unclear if this sketchy information will be sufficient to allow SCORE to begin to site developed uses in limited areas that do not compromise ecosystem function.

The Heart and Soul Coalition, dedicated to preserving Orange County's quality of life through a "win-win" solution on the Rancho Mission Viejo, ran a stunning full-page newspaper ad in the July 9, 2002 *Orange County Register*. Reaching nearly one million people and showing broad community support, the ad called for "Keeping a Promise to Our Children" to preserve OC's natural treasures. Radio spots aired the next week. The predictably anti-environmental *Register* followed up the ad with a blatantly inaccurate "hit piece" attacking The Heart and Soul Coalition. EHL is a supporter of the Coalition, and EHL members are urged to join as individuals, which is free of cost (www.ocheartandsoul.org).

Endangered Habitats League

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Los Angeles, CA 90069-4267