



Morro Bay Open Space Alliance

Summer 2018 Newsletter

WHAT WE'RE UP TO...

ANNUAL CERRITO PEAK / EAGLE ROCK BLOCK PARTY

September 22, 2018, 2 - 5 pm

~ Nicole Dorfman

On Saturday, September 22, MBOSA will host our 2nd annual Cerrito Peak Celebration at the trailhead to Cerrito Peak/Eagle Rock. Like last year, there will be food, music, fun activities for children, art, live animals (birds, bugs



and reptiles – oh my!), informational booths, plein-air artists in the woods, and opportunities to climb and explore the peak. New this year will be a Beer and Wine Garden (in a bonafide and beautiful organic garden adjacent to the peak) and an expanded BBQ including seasonal grilled vegetables and hotdogs for those meat lovers among us.

Please join us to celebrate this slice of wilderness in all its cultural, historical and environmental significance. The festivities will run from 2:00-5:00pm and are free and open to everyone, with donations requested for food and adult beverages.



MUNICH, VIENNA, PARIS, MORRO BAY... NAGANO CONCERT A RESOUNDING SUCCESS

~ Glenn Silloway

Kent Nagano, who grew up at the foot of Eagle Rock, lent his long-time commitment to open space and his celebrity to help MBOSA sponsor this concert fundraiser on June 8th. Kent's daughter Karin was the featured performer on piano, playing works by Messiaen, Debussy, and Schubert. She will repeat this program in a tour of European capitols this summer. Just after intermission, the maestro gave a joyous and moving tribute to his upbringing in MB.

The event was an unqualified success in every way. Thank you to everyone who attended the concert. You helped create a uniquely special event for Morro Bay and for the Open Space Alliance. A huge thank you to St. Timothy's Catholic Church for allowing us to use their beautiful venue, with amazing acoustics and a terrific piano. The combination projected the talent of Karin Kei Nagano to its fullest.



MBOSA is still hearing from people about the concert, with comments like, "It was a truly classy event" to wanting Morro Bay to have more events like it. We had about 230 paid attendees, yielding almost \$20,000 toward the purchase of Cerrito Peak/Eagle Rock. The event garnered both paid and earned press coverage, giving MBOSA invaluable exposure in San Luis Obispo County. In the wake of the concert, we have had over \$10,000 in donations for the peak purchase.

Many people have asked us how to get Karin Kei's recordings. If you have not already found them online, here is a link to both of her recordings, Both CDs are on the Analekta label. Mozart: Piano Concertos Nos. #12 and #13 from 2014, and J.S. Bach: Inventions and Sinfonias from 2017.

<https://www.analekta.com/en/artists/karin-kei-nagano/?type=albums>

This event was also a success in another way. Your MBOSA board and dedicated leadership team members Laura Green and Nancy Castle planned, organized, and executed a very complicated event. We are very fortunate to have such an enthusiastic and competent crew!



Merci, Merci from Your Unofficial Foodie Coordinator

~ Dianne Bianco

Let's give a huge thanks to many of our MBOSA members who helped with the food offered at the complimentary champagne reception after the concert. Carol Swain and Marlys McPherson created the delicious cheesecakes and tarts that were readily available. Chocolate truffles were given to all of our concert-goers, thanks to Nicole Dorfman, Laura Green, Tina Metzger, Carol Swain, and Dianne Bianco, who all met for a 1-day truffle fest to create 400 truffles! On event night, Judith Carlson, Donna Stoll, and Eileen Sweeney distributed the truffles to all.

Sculpterra Winery was so generous to donate the lovely sparkling wine, thanks to the persuasion of Laura Green. Thank you to all of who helped to make it such a magical night!

There will be many opportunities to help with food for future MBOSA events. If you would like to be part of the fun, email Dianne at dkbianco7@gmail.com.



MEMBERS, NEIGHBORS, & FRIENDS GATHER for ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE

~Janet Gibson

A fun evening was had by all, but probably no more than Kaius, who came in semi-alligator attire, and was interested in everything. I'm thinking for next year's Open House we all need to follow suit. Maybe come in your favorite nature costume - a wave? an owl? a mountain? The possibilities are as endless as a fall sunset.

Thanks to all who made it such a success, including Becky Bremser of the Trust for Public Land who gave an update on TPL's activities and Toro Creek. Thank you also to our local artists Debby Veldkamp, Jan French, Jeff Odell, Jerry Kirkhard, and Shawn McAlpine who added interest and beauty to the festivities.

A few people have asked about my intro talk on the importance of nature, and yes, I have it in written form. Email me at earthsteward@earthlink.net if you are interested.



WEBSITE HELP

Are you fairly handy with a computer and would like to help polish up our website? There's so much going on that we plumb forgot. Little things, like updating the board roster and posting events should take no more than 2-4 hours per month. It's fairly easy to learn, so doesn't require any website experience. If this sounds like you, email us at: info@mbopenspace.org



CHEVRON TORO HILLS STATUS and PROP 68

~ Glenn Silloway

In our past newsletter we updated the status of the effort to acquire Chevron's Toro Hills property for conservation. As you know, the strategy has shifted to acquiring parcels piecemeal — but in a strategic sequence that reflects the top priorities that the conservation team defined.

A new wrinkle in the story is Prop 68, the Parks, Environment, and Water Bond that was approved by 57.5% of voters in June 2018. The proposition authorizes issuance of \$4 billion in general obligation bonds for state and local parks, environmental protection, water infrastructure and flood protection projects. According to Becky Bremser of the Trust for Public Land (TPL), the Chevron Toro Hills conservation project is a "shovel ready" project that TPL hopes to qualify for funds under this proposition. She says the state is anticipating earmarking \$1 billion in bonds in this fiscal year, which may give an established project like Chevron an advantage.

The conservation team, led by TPL, selected priorities including maintaining open space between Morro Bay and Cayucos; helping create a new section of the California Coastal Trail; keeping the dog beach; and maintaining the viewsheds along that stretch of Highway 1. Given these priorities, you can see why the conservation team has made acquisition of parcel #1 (the northern parcel that straddles Highway 1) the top priority. Two more priority parcels in TPL's strategic plan are the 'shore plant' that is next to Highway 1 south of Toro Creek road and the parcel containing the old Texaco pipeline that leads from Del Mar Park up into the Toro Hills along Alva Paul Creek. Both of these offer great opportunities for passive recreation and/or beach access, high priorities of the Coastal Commission as well as Morro Bay residents.

One problem is that these higher priorities are also in parcels that have significant outstanding remediation issues. As you may remember, one of the reasons to switch to a piecemeal approach to acquisition was that Chevron has not completed required remediation on a number of parcels. Both the shore plant and the Alva Paul pipeline corridor will need a lot of work to make them suitable for public uses.

So, once more: dueling priorities. The idea of trails leading up into the Toro Hills from Del Mar is so great that we're really pulling for that option to be accelerated.



GENERAL PLAN UPDATE on SPHERE OF INFLUENCE

~ Glenn Silloway

The process to update the General Plan is rapidly reaching conclusion — at least until the Council takes hold of it. We have talked before about the revised Sphere of Influence (SOI), and here is an update.

In short, not much has changed in the past 1.5 years. The SOI proposed in the General Plan update covers the area in the Chevron Toro Creek parcels above North Morro Bay and down into Toro Creek Valley. It greatly expands the current SOI, but makes great sense given the developmental potential of the Toro Hills property. The City needs to have a say in how that land is used.

The map included here is taken from a city diagram. It shows the SOI in red-hatched area, all of which is outside the city's current limits.



This area includes two of the high priority areas in the Trust for Public Land conservation plan. The Chevron Shore Plant is on the east side of Highway 1, just south of the small purple area. And the Alva Paul Creek parcel runs from the green blob north of the blue Del Mar Elementary School toward the NE (the green blob is Del Mar Park).

These county lands will remain in the County, zoned as agriculture. Each parcel in this zone may permit one dwelling plus a secondary dwelling unit, though the utilities they need are problematic to say the least.

Some of these parcels may become more active pieces in the chess game that is attempting to create a conservation in the Toro Hills.

BIG NEWS !

~Dianne Bianco

Morro Bay Open Space Alliance now has 100 individuals and families on its roster! The momentum is building and our ranks are swelling faster than ever. Not bad for our first years. The community is starting to recognize us and our mission to preserve open space in and around Morro Bay; not to mention the fact that we know how to throw a memorable party!

If you've not joined as yet, please do. If your membership has lapsed, please renew online at mbopenspace.org or send in the form below.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Sept. 22 Cerrito Peak / Eagle Rock Block Party

Oct. 6 Harbor Festival (10am - 6pm)



Newsletter production by Janet Gibson, with articles from Nicole Dorfman, Glenn Silloway, Dianne Bianco, and Janet Gibson.

Yes, I want to help!

www.mbopenspace.org

- ____ \$25 Individual
- ____ \$50 Family/Household
- ____ \$100 Contributor or Business
- ____ \$250 Advocate
- ____ \$500 Patron
- ____ \$1000 Steward (lifetime member after 3 years)
- ____ \$2500 Guardian of the Land (lifetime member)

MBOSA is a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization questions? Contact us at info@mbopenspace.org

Tax ID: 81-2375834

Visit the website to join, or cut and return the following:

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