

## Wandering and Wondering

By John Maybury Pacifica Tribune Columnist San Jose Mercury News

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### PACIFICA CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

The Pacifica Climate Committee is calling on City Council to adopt a Climate Action Plan to steeply reduce greenhouse gas

emissions. The committee says:

- There is scientific consensus that we must reduce emissions by at least 25 percent before 2020 to avoid catastrophic climate change.
- As a coastal city, Pacifica is especially vulnerable to sea level rise, stronger winter storms, and coastal erosion. Therefore, we must do our part to reduce emissions.
- The State of California has adopted strong policies to reduce emissions, and counts on cities to do the same.
- Nine cities in San Mateo County already have adopted climate plans. Another four, including Pacifica, have draft plans.
- A Pacifica task force drafted a climate plan in 2012. City Council has yet to act on it. Council meets in a study session on the draft plan on March 5 from 6 to 8 p.m., Council Chambers, 2212 Beach Boulevard, Sharp Park. The draft plan is available on the city website. (Info: Cynthia Kaufman at [kaufman.cynthia13@riseup.net](mailto:kaufman.cynthia13@riseup.net))

### BEAUTIFY PACIFICA

Dave Martinez says the city beautification task force replanting Linda Mar Boulevard medians follows these guidelines and advises all gardeners and landscapers to do the same (see [bayfriendlycoalition.org](http://bayfriendlycoalition.org)):

- Conserve water by planting with low-water-usage plants, California natives, and Mediterranean climate plants, and mulching to help retain moisture in the soil.
- Conserve energy by mulching with leaves from plants, and designing with plant varieties that don't overgrow their boundaries so they don't have to be severely pruned with power tools.
- Send less to landfill. Use correct plants so less is hauled away. Wood chips used on Linda Mar were free and didn't end up in landfill.
- Use low-flow efficient sprinkler systems or drip systems while new plants are being established. Mulch bare soil. The ground is a sponge that will help retain moisture and control runoff. Protect air quality by not using power tools and reducing maintenance. This means fewer truck trips to the site.
- Landscape locally. Buy from local vendors or propagate your own plants for adopted sites.

- Plant with California natives and plants that have berries to help feed local wildlife, and plant flowers to give bees and beneficial insects a place to live.
- Nurture the soil by not rototilling and destroying the soil structure. Apply compost (not topsoil) and mulch with wood chips (not bark or shredded redwood, which is called gorilla hair). Create a sustainable garden by nourishing the soil with organic matter. Mulch is a blanket to the soil and a sponge that absorbs water. Mulch helps suppress weed growth.
- The other Linda Mar medians will be replanted soon. Because of the drought, further planting is on hold until the fall, so that hoped-for winter rains can help establish the new plants. Until then, groups are encouraged to adopt areas where they can start by removing unwanted vegetation, pruning established plants, and preparing the area with compost and mulch.
- Learn about soil organisms for drought-hardy, moisture-holding, sustainable, healthy gardens. Attend the Master Gardeners Lecture "Introduction of the Soil Food Web" by Dave Martinez, March 8 at 3 p.m., Presidio Library, 3150 Sacramento Street, San Francisco. Free and open to the public.

## IN MY MAILBOX

I heard from an interesting woman who recently moved to Pacifica and has great ideas she wants to share with us jaded veterans:

- "Somebody could start a great business in town reconfiguring home watering systems to recycle water or reuse gray water."
- "There was an interesting letter in last week's paper promoting affordable, not low-income, housing to benefit our local workforce. Rather than put up multi-units that would create more traffic, how about adding residential spaces in the business districts?"
- Funds spent for highway widening should be spent on a desalination plant."

## WINTERS TAVERN: ALL ABOUT MUSIC

Shamelessly self-promoting saxman Steve Mackay says: "Winters Tavern, where they say, 'It's all about the music,' continues its transformation into a destination venue, with Phaedra and Phriends, a regular Monday night open mic hosted by Pacifica home gal Phaedra Serrano, who also entertains with her songs and Stratocaster, and is occasionally supported by me on sax. When we say open mic, we mean it. Please bring your bongos, bassoons, and original material. Starting at 8 p.m. 21 and over, no cover. Now you have another chance to see my own Third Thursday Band there February 28, as we host an evening with Phaedra Serrano, The Smokedaddies, and Girls With Guns, fronted by La-Ni Mae Lithman, Philip (Snakefinger) Lithman's feisty daughter! All girls last time I checked! Sea Jay, Corinne, and the whole crew at Winters have been working hard to bring us musicians and music fans, photographers, videographers, and local characters a welcoming home, and they deserve our community support. All this and free popcorn!"

## PACIFICA RAINFOREST

Believe it or not, in the midst of a drought, San Pedro Valley County Park in the back of Linda Mar and two

miles from the ocean, the park's visitor center reports a current rainfall total of 18.9 inches. Lucky us! This must explain why San Pedro Creek continues to flow year-round, drought or not, though some suspect the creek is fed by secret springs and leaks from Lake Pilarcitos and Crystal Springs Reservoir (pure conjecture, of course).

MAYBURRITOVILLE

Email: [mayburrito@goofbuster.com](mailto:mayburrito@goofbuster.com)

Blogger: [PacificaRiptide.com](http://PacificaRiptide.com)

Editor: [Goofbuster.com](http://Goofbuster.com)