



Wandering & Wondering

John Maybury

NO BLACKOUT

British Petroleum (BP) is trying to control photography and newsgathering on its disastrous oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. But you can find out what's happening to the wildlife by searching on National Geographic magazine's website nationalgeographic.com.

THINK PACIFICALLY

Adjective: PACIFIC. Etymology: Middle English pacifique, from Latin pacificus, from pac- + -ficus, -ficó. Date: circa 1548. Definitions and synonyms: tending to lessen conflict, conciliatory; rejecting use of force as instrument of policy; having a soothing appearance or effect (e.g., mild Pacific breezes); mild-tempered, peaceable; capitalized: of, relating to, bordering on, or situated near the Pacific Ocean. Adverb: PACIFICALLY. (Merriam-Webster's 11th Collegiate Dictionary)

WCF FOR VARGAS

Women's Campaign Forum (WCF) in Washington, D.C. has endorsed April Vargas for San Mateo County Board of Supervisors. April is one of five women in California who won

WCF's endorsement. Founded in 1974, WCF is a nonpartisan national network dedicated to achieving parity for women in public office. As political venture capitalists, WCF works to advance women leaders at all levels of political participation, and empower individuals to stand up for issues of critical importance to the health of the nation, including reproductive health.

BUSINESS LOAN SEMINAR

How Can I Get a Business Loan? is a free seminar sponsored by Congresswoman Jackie Speier. The event will be held on August 23. Experts from banks will answer this question, and many more, from small businesses befuddled by today's lending climate. The Small Business Administration and the Small Business Development Center also will answer questions and explain business plans and other services that they offer. Ever wondered how to get qualified as a vendor for the federal government? Experts will reveal the secrets. Seating is limited to the first 150 businesses that reserve. This is a free seminar of ap-

proximately three hours—time that will reap rewards for years to come. Call today to reserve your space: 650-342-0300. Attendees will be advised about the starting time and location once these have been finalized.

BAN THE BAG

"I wanted to report to you on all we're doing to ban plastic bags in California. I also wanted to thank you again. Your support makes it possible for me and the rest of us here at Environment California to keep fighting to pass the ban on throwaway plastic grocery bags (AB 1998). To win, we need to get the ban through the state Senate by the end of August. And to do that, we need the same outpouring of support that helped us win in the Assembly in June. Mobilizing support in every corner of the state, powered by your donations, we're making incredible progress: 858 businesses have signed in support of the plastic bag ban; 6,000 people have signed letters to the governor or key city and county leaders; 246 people have joined our photo rally petition; 21 cities and towns have passed local ordinances calling for a statewide ban or have officially endorsed AB 1998; we've educated more than 100,000 people in one-on-one conversations about our campaign and ways they can make a difference. It's going to be a tough fight to overcome the plastic cabal to win in the state Senate. But one thing is certain, you're giving us a fighting chance." (Dan Jacobson, Legislative Director, environmentcalifornia.org)

NO ON PROP. 23

It's time to start spreading the word: NO on Proposition 23. "No" to global warming pollution. "No" to allowing big polluters like the oil industry to disrupt our climate with impunity. "No" to moving California backward in our drive toward clean energy solutions. The deceptive oil company-funded Prop. 23 is on the November ballot, and we've got to do everything we can to stop it. Pledge to vote "No on 23." And then share this message with your family and friends. The single biggest reason for California's progress on clean energy is the 2006 Global Warming Solutions Act (AB 32), a law we worked hard to put in place in 2006, which limits air pollution and invests in clean energy. The law reduces how much large polluters like oil refineries can emit over the next 10 years. In addition to cleaner air, the law is also spurring increased investments in cleaner cars, alternative fuels, wind power, solar panels, energy efficiency, and other clean energy programs. Here are some of the main reasons to vote No on Prop. 23:

- Prop. 23 is being bankrolled by Texas oil companies so they can keep polluting. As of July 20, 88 percent of the Yes on 23 campaign contributions have come from oil companies like Valero and Tesoro.
- Prop. 23 is intentionally deceptive, trying to fool voters into thinking it's about jobs. Prop. 23 states that California's air pollution and clean energy law, AB 32, shall be suspended until unemployment falls to 5.5 percent for a full year, something that hasn't

happened in more than 30 years.

- Prop. 23 is really a clean-techology job killer. 500,000 people currently work in the clean-tech or green-jobs industry. The clean-tech sector has received \$9 billion in venture capital investments since 2005. If Prop. 23 passes, California will lose jobs and billions of investment dollars to other states and countries.
- Prop. 23 will increase air pollution and reverse California leadership on global warming. AB 32 made California the first state in the nation to cap global warming pollution for the state's biggest polluters, and is leading to significant reductions in air pollution. With Prop. 23, big polluters are trying to undo this important law and move California backward. (environmentcalifornia.org)

SITSEER

■ Cool old radios: californiahistoricalradio.com
■ "Worst driver" videos and safe-driving resources: aaa.com/drivingtips

SWAMI SEZ

"We leave some mistakes for you to find. Enjoy your reading." (announcement in weekly newspaper San Juan Record, Utah)

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