



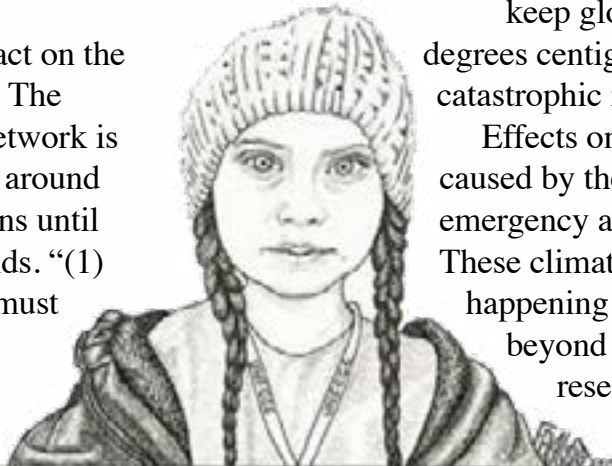
www.EXTINCTION REBELLION.

ORG is an international apolitical network using non-violent direct action to persuade governments to act on the Climate and Ecological emergency. The Worldwide Extinction Rebellion Network is today demonstrating in the UK and around the world and will not stop its actions until governments have met three demands. “(1) TELL THE TRUTH: Government must tell the truth by declaring a climate and ecological emergency, working with other institutions to communicate the urgency for change (2) ACT NOW: Government must act now to halt biodiversity loss and reduce greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2025; (3) BEYOND POLITICS: Government must create and be led by the decisions of a Citizens’ Assembly on Climate and Ecological Justice.

At the end of 2018 the UN Secretary General warned all of us humans that humanity and life on earth now face a “direct existential threat”

# Time To Panic!

By Susan Nash



“ADULTS KEEP SAYING, ‘WE OWE IT TO THE YOUNG PEOPLE TO GIVE THEM HOPE’, BUT I DON’T WANT YOUR HOPE. I DON’T WANT YOU TO BE HOPEFUL. I WANT YOU TO PANIC. I WANT YOU TO FEEL THE FEAR I FEEL EVERYDAY. AND THEN I WANT YOU TO ACT... I WANT YOU TO ACT AS IF YOUR HOUSE IS ON FIRE. BECAUSE IT IS.”  
- GRETA THUNBERG

and that all of humanity must act together, swiftly and robustly to keep global warming under 1.5 degrees centigrade in order to avoid utterly catastrophic impacts to life on Earth.

Effects on global human society caused by the climate and ecological emergency are spiraling out of control. These climate catastrophes’ are already happening and will continue to escalate beyond our wildest imaginings. In researching this article I read

The Uninhabitable Earth, Life After Warming by David Wallace-Wells and Falter, Has the Human Game Begun to Play Itself Out? By Bill McKibben. I am still in shock.

Today we are in the midst of the sixth mass extinction event in roughly 540 million years. Many current life forms will be annihilated

or committed to extinction in a mere 80 years, including most of the pollinator insects which, along with excessive heat and drought, will lead to increased food insecurity. Melting land and sea ice will cause sea levels to rise over 200 feet and the increased acidity of the ocean will cause more extinctions and the loss of the primary food source for millions of

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*Photo by Tom Trakes, CDFW*

## **Mystic Lake: Long Time, No See**

**By Tom Paulek**

**A**n extreme rainfall event in mid-February along the upper reaches of the San Jacinto River resurrected Mystic Lake on the dry lakebed [alkali playa] on the San Jacinto Wildlife Area. The largely clay lakebed restricts percolation of the lake water. The disappearance of this ephemeral water body is caused for the most part by annual evaporation losses. Mystic Lake will remain for several years, providing a habitat boom for a large array of wildlife.

The lakebed is best described

as a wide still-sinking depression in the San Jacinto River. The headwaters of the river occur in the higher elevations of the San Jacinto Mountains in the Lake Hemet watershed. Lake Hemet Dam, a 14,000-acre foot water storage reservoir, was constructed in 1895 to facilitate the development of the San Jacinto Valley. The best predictor of the reappearance of Mystic Lake is water spilling over Lake Hemet Dam into the lower San Jacinto River bed. Once Lake Hemet begins spilling, followed by a continuing or a subsequent extreme rainfall event in the

mountains, it is pretty much guaranteed Mystic Lake will magically reappear.

Mystic Lake has been largely absent the last several decades, in contrast to the decade of the nineties in which it appeared three times in full flood. The lake we view today from Gilman Springs Road is not at its full flood capacity and is capable of holding much more floodwater. Once the lake capacity is reached, floodwaters begin flowing into the historic river channel in front of the SJWA headquarters office, across Davis Road and the

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## Time To Panic!

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humans. Pollution and loss of soil will cause many premature deaths and reduction in quality of life due to malnutrition for billions.

The current rise in global temperatures of nearly 1.5 degrees C is already causing sea level rise, desertification, increased intensity of wildfires, water shortages, crop failures, extreme weather events such as flooding, disease and millions of displaced climate refugees. All of which is already leading to increased wars and conflicts around the world.

We urge you to check out the [Extinction Rebellion.org](https://www.extinctionrebellion.org),

the [Green New Deal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Green_New_Deal) [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Green New Deal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Green_New_Deal) and other groups demanding our elected officials (city, county, state and federal) enact emergency legislation now to reach zero fossil fuel emissions world wide by 2025.

As sixteen-year-old Greta Thunberg said at the United Nations and at school strikes for climate justice:

*“Some people, some companies, some decision-makers in particular, have known exactly what priceless values they have been sacrificing to continue making unimaginable amounts of money. And I think many of you here today belong to that group of people.”*

*“For 25 years, countless people have stood in front of the united nations climate change conference asking our nations’ leaders to stop the emissions. But clearly, this has not worked, since the emissions just continue to rise. So I will not ask them anything. Instead, I will ask the people around the world to realize that our political leaders have failed us because we are facing an existential threat and there is no time to continue down this road of madness.”*

**If your elected representatives are not voting for the Green New Deal and Zero GHG Emissions—It is Time to Panic!!**

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## Mystic Lake-Long Time, No See

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Ramona Expressway and into Canyon Lake and Lake Elsinore.

The Riverside County Flood Control’s 1975 “Master Plan for the San Jacinto River Basin” recognized the importance of the Mystic Lake floodplain, referring to it as the “existing ponding area” and the “temporary pond”. This still current flood control plan points out that the existing elevated Ramona Expressway must be bolstered to act as an improved dam to create an expanded ponding area upstream from the Expressway. The culvert under the Expressway should be sized to permit a maximum release of 6,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) downstream from the Expressway. This would greatly reduce the amount of flow in the

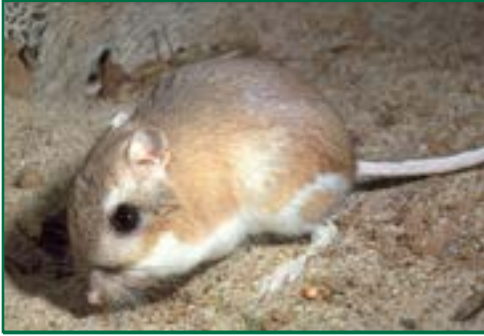
once-in-one-hundred-year flood from 58,250 cfs to 6,000 cfs and greatly minimize the downstream flood control impacts and costs.

None of the above flood control features have ever been implemented and the river in flood stage now flows over the Ramona Expressway, making it impassable and subject to washout. The new Mid-County Parkway Project proposes to build a new bridge over the entire floodplain at the intersection of the Ramona Expressway and the San Jacinto River. The new bridge span, presumably, would allow the once-in-one-hundred-year flood flows to pass unimpeded and cause downstream havoc. These contradictory flood control and transportation objectives have not yet been explained by the Riverside County Transportation Agency.

The climate catastrophe is real, is happening right now, and will rapidly get worst. Last year UCLA climate scientists published their prediction in “Nature Climate Change” [April, 2018] that California will experience a much greater number of extremely wet and extremely dry weather seasons. The UCLA scientists predict there will be a major increase in the likelihood of severe flooding events and there will be many more quick changes in the weather from one extreme to other. Given the inevitability of Climate Change, Mystic Lake will return more often in the future. We can also expect to see the severe disruption of our county transportation system when the San Jacinto River floodwaters begin flowing over the Ramona Expressway.

## The MSHCP FlimFlam!

By Tom Paulek



The San Bernardino Kangaroo Rat (SBKR) is a federal Endangered species. SBKR is **one** of **146** plants and animals subject to “take” under the Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP). The California Fish and Game Commission is now reviewing a petition to list the SBKR as an Endangered species under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA).

**T**he MSHCP Flimflam, described in this article, places the San Bernardino Kangaroo Rat and all 146 MSHCP covered species at risk of extinction.

The federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) prohibits the “take” (kill, capture and habitat destruction) of listed, endangered or threatened species. The California Endangered Species Act (CESA) prohibits the “take” of endangered or threatened species listed by the California Fish and Game Commission. Under the 2004 Western Riverside County Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP) “take” of **146** plant and animal species is permitted for 75 years throughout western Riverside County, in exchange for the assembly and management of coordinated MSHCP Conservation Areas, one of which is the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) San Jacinto Wildlife Area.

Both the federal and state endangered species statutes provide for exceptions to their “take” prohibitions. The federal exception requires applicants to submit a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP). If approved by the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), the applicant will be issued an incidental “take” permit. The California “take” exception is authorized pursuant to the Natural Community Conservation Planning Act (NCCP-Fish and Game Code §§ 2800-2835). After approval of the NCCP Conservation Plan, the CDFW permits the “take” of any covered species whose conservation and management is provided for in the NCCP approved by CDFW.

The NCCP Act section 2826 provides: *“Nothing in this chapter exempts a project proposed in a natural community planning area from Division 13 (commencing with section 21000) of the Public Resources Code [California Environmental Quality Act] or otherwise alters the applicability of that division.”* The holding of our California Supreme Court bolsters this legislative intent: “CESA can be harmonized with CEQA.” (*Mountain Lion Foundation v. Fish and Game Commission* (1997) 16 Cal. 4<sup>th</sup> 105, 111.)

In enacting the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the Legislature declared it is the policy of the state to “Prevent the elimination of fish and wildlife species due to man’s activities, insure that fish and wildlife populations do not drop below self-perpetuating levels, and preserve for future generations representatives of all plant and animal communities.” (Public Resources Code § 21001(c)). *“Public agencies should not approve projects if there are feasible alternatives or feasible mitigation measures available, which would substantially lessen significant environmental effects.”* (Public Resources Code § 21002). *“The purpose of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is to identify the significant effects on the environment, to identify alternatives to the project, and to indicate the manner in which those significant effects can be mitigated or avoided.”* (Public Resources Code § 21002.1(a)).

Western Riverside County and Cities, the MSHCP “take” permit holders, routinely disregard substantial evidence in the record that their CEQA Project is subject to **Mandatory Findings of Significance** under CEQA Guideline 15065(a)(1). CEQA requires that an agency contemplating an action having the “potential

*Continued on page 6*

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## DAVE BRAMLET 1954-2018

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We lost a good friend to the San Jacinto River and a champion of the unique alkali habitats of western Riverside County in August 2018. Dave had been working with the Friends of the Northern San Jacinto Valley (SJWA) since 1991 and led a field trip to the San Jacinto Wildlife Area on behalf of the group nearly every spring since. All those who attended appreciated Dave's enthusiasm, his deep knowledge of the SJWA and its unique botanical resources, and his eagerness to share his vast knowledge.

Dave was one of the first to bring the unique alkali habitats along the San Jacinto River and west of Hemet to the attention of the public, the botanical community, and the Wildlife Agencies. The fact that he led me on a fact-filled field trip to the region a few days before I joined the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service had a huge impact on my 7-year career with the Service. Dave apparently first visited the San Jacinto River in about 1988 while working on a survey job. He spent many days there looking for rare plants and coming to understand this special habitat over the subsequent years. Without Dave Bramlet, the Service might never have added San Jacinto Valley saltbush (*Atriplex coronata* var. *notator*) to the Federal Endangered Species list, as he tirelessly wrote letters on projects and submitted data to the Service



*Dave Leading Plant Walk San Jacinto Wildlife Area, March 29, 2014 (photo by Greg Ballmer)*

during the 1990s.

Dave was heavily involved in various southern California botanical groups. He was on the Board of the Southern California Botanists from 1984-1989 and from 2004-2015. He briefly was editor of *Crossosoma*, the society's journal. He stayed on as editor the following year and served on the Board from 1984-1989. Dave was also an active member of the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) most of his years, and remained on the Orange County Chapter Rare Plant Committee until the end, but frequently tackled issues in Riverside County.

Dave worked closely with the SJWA not only in leading field trips, but also in helping the CDFW staff prepare California Environmental Quality Act

(CEQA) documents, but also in commenting on EIR's for many projects that adversely impacted the SJWA.

In the industry, Dave was known for his excellent and sometimes stubbornly detailed botanical survey work. In science he was known for his knowledge of plants in general, rare plants, plant communities, and especially rare *Atriplex* species. He was also a co-author of *Vascular Plants of Western Riverside County, an Annotated Checklist* (2004) and was actively assisting in preparation of a second edition at the time of his passing.

Dave, you will be missed.

*Fred Roberts  
Rare Plant Botanist,  
San Bernardino/Riverside  
Chapter, CNPS*

# Butterfly Field Trip at the San Jacinto Wildlife Area

## Wildlife Walk

### Butterfly Field Trip

Saturday, May 4, 2019, 10am to 12 noon.

San Jacinto Wildlife Area Office Parking Lot  
17050 Davis Road, Lakeview, CA

#### Contact:

Sue Nash, 909-228-6710; snashlaw@gmail.com

Dr. Gordon Pratt will lead The Friends of the Northern San Jacinto Valley's annual "BUTTERFLY FIELD TRIP" at the San Jacinto Wildlife Area. Dr. Pratt will meet us at 10 am at the SJWA parking lot and show preserved butterflies and insects that are observed in the local area. The purpose of the field trip will be to observe as many butterflies and other diurnal insects as possible on the San Jacinto Wildlife Refuge. Since this season has had a high rainfall, it is likely there will be butterflies that are not normally observed on the refuge. In addition to collecting



Buckeye (*Precis coenia*) Photo by Dr. Gordon Pratt

and releasing butterflies observed, Dr. Pratt will be searching for caterpillars of local butterflies. Bring a butterfly net if you have one and a picnic lunch if you wish. For more information, contact Sue Nash at snashlaw@gmail.com; 909-228-6710.

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## MSHCP FlimFlam!

*Continued from page 4*

to...reduce the number or restrict the range of an endangered species" (Guidelines, 15065 subd. (a)), must find that the project "may have a **significant effect** on the environment." (Guidelines § 15065). Instead, the County and City MSHCP "take" permit holders now rely on a lesser significance threshold--that the actual biological impacts of the CEQA project [direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts of "take"] may only be considered potentially significant if the project would conflict with the provisions of the 2004 MSHCP.

The initial failure to identify the "take" of MSHCP covered species as a significant impact ultimately allows the CEQA lead agency to avoid making the Findings required by Guidelines § 15091: "*No public agency shall approve or carry out a project for which an EIR has been certified which identifies one or more significant environmental effects [impacts] of the project unless the public agency makes one or more written findings for each of those significant effects..*"

Most troubling is that Riverside County and Cities fail to identify the "take" of MSHCP covered species as a **Mandatory Significant Impact** in their CEQA review of projects. This **corrupts** the entire subsequent CEQA review of the "take" of MSHCP-covered plants and animals. This is the MSHCP Flimflam that puts all 146 MSHCP-covered species, including the San Bernardino Kangaroo Rat, at risk of extinction.

### California Department of Fish and Wildlife:

*"The Fish and wildlife resources are held in trust for the people of the state by and through the department."* (Fish and Game Code § 711.7(a))



## Directions to the SJWA

All walks begin in the San Jacinto Wildlife Area headquarters parking lot, 17050 Davis Road, Nuevo CA. Tel. (951-928-0580) Because Davis (Theodore) Road is closed from Moreno Valley the only access is north off the Ramona Expressway — despite what your GPS may tell you. There is now a traffic light on Davis Rd.

**From Moreno Valley:** go south on Perris Blvd; east on Ramona Expressway; north 2.3 miles on Davis Rd.

**From San Jacinto/Hemet:** go west on Ramona Expressway; north 2.3 miles on Davis Rd.

**From Interstate 215:** go east on Ramona Expressway; 2.3 miles north on Davis Road.

USE EXTREME CAUTION. If raining, call area office for road conditions: (951) 928-0580.

## Information About the San Jacinto Wildlife Area

**T**he San Jacinto Wildlife Area is 19,000 acres of wildlife habitat managed by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. Its lands are partial mitigation for the State Water Project, the project that brings water from northern California to southern California so that we can live and work here.

It is a Stephens' kangaroo rat reserve for the Riverside County Habitat Conservation Agency (RCHCA); it is a cornerstone reserve in the Riverside County Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Agency (MSHCP), the county reserve system which is supposed to protect and preserve the county's

endangered animals and plants.

Tens of thousands of waterfowl and shorebirds winter in the northern San Jacinto Valley. It is a known resting point and/or wintering site for migrating birds traveling the Pacific Flyway. The northern San Jacinto Valley is known for its large number of wintering birds of prey (peregrine falcon, bald eagle, ferruginous hawk, prairie falcon).

The SJWA is considered one of the premier hunting areas in southern California. All state-owned wildlife areas allow hunting. Hunting fees help support the acquisition of wildlife habitat throughout the state of California. The

northern San Jacinto Valley is considered a Significant Natural Area by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

The northern San Jacinto Valley and Mystic Lake are considered Important Bird Areas by the National Audubon Society. The San Jacinto Wildlife Area represents an \$80 million investment of the taxpayers' money. The San Jacinto Wildlife Area includes the 10,000 acre Davis Road Unit (includes 2,000 acres of Mystic Lake) plus the 9,000 acre Potrero Creek Conservation Unit. San Jacinto Wildlife Area, 17050 Davis Road, Lakeview; (951) 928-0580; <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/lands/wa/region6/sanjacinto/index.html>

FRIENDS OF THE NORTHERN  
SAN JACINTO VALLEY  
P.O. Box 4266  
Idyllwild, CA 92549

NEWSLETTER  
Spring 2019

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The Friends is a 501(c)(3) organization.

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