

SCB Davis 2003-04 Activities

Bay Area Conservation Biology Symposium 2004: The objective of the BACBS is to create a forum for Bay Area graduate students and faculty to share and discuss recent scientific findings and policy issues relating to the field of conservation biology. The ultimate goal is to foster and encourage collaboration among Bay Area biologists working on related conservation issues and to inspire further research in this increasingly important discipline. This is an excellent opportunity for Bay Area students and faculty as well as those working for government agencies and private consulting companies to meet and exchange ideas.

The lion's share of our effort this year was directed toward hosting the symposium at UC Davis on January 31, 2004. It was a huge success! Over 200 Northern and Central California graduate students, academic faculty and members of government and private agencies participated. A symposium schedule of speakers and posters can be viewed on our website, along with photos of the day's events. Funds raised during the symposium will contribute to our group's conservation-related activities.

Position Papers: The Position Paper Committee of SCB is committed to preparing statements that reflect the collective opinion of its members. We tackle issues that are important to Californians locally as well as statewide. It is the Position Paper Committee's task to convey the dedication and scientific expertise of SCB in describing vitally important conservation issues to Californians, whether they are our legislators or for the general public's benefit. The 2003-2004 position papers are available on our website.

- SCB's Position for Support of the California Watershed Protection and Restoration Act: AB 1405
- Letter of support for Consolidated Proposal No. 96: Community-based Restoration of the Lower Putah Creek Watershed
- Comment Letter to USFWS on the California Tiger Salamander Proposed Listing - 10/31/2003
- Support California state Wild and Scenic River designation for Cache Creek - 2/17/2004
- Letter to the Bureau of Reclamation regarding redevelopment of Lake Berryessa 4/15/2004

Followup to position letter on AB 1405:

Assembly Bill 1405 passed by the state

In the 2002-2003 academic year, Davis SCB wrote a position paper in support of the California Watershed Protection and Restoration Act: AB 1405-This letter was written to Beth Jackson, the state assemblyman who is chair of the Assembly Natural Resources Committee asking her to support Assembly Bill 1405 in order to enable the development of closer collaboration between state agencies and local watershed groups trying to improve the quality of their watersheds. On October 15, 2003 (at the start of the 2003-2004 academic year), AB 1405 was signed by Governor Davis. The bill's passage occurred during the last month of Davis' time in office.

Picnic Day table: Our booth at this year's Picnic Day, UC Davis' annual showcase of campus groups and activities, consisted of an endangered species/habitat game, highlights of our group's recent activities, and two position letters: one supporting a closer examination of proposed "megadairies" and another on proposed changes to Lake Berryessa.

NorCal SCB listserv: a new listserv was developed for regional communication of conservation related activities.

Proposition Potluck – held just before the March election, we educated one another on candidates, issues, measures, ballot initiatives in order to be better informed voters and advocates of environmentally sound policies and politicians.