

SCB Meeting Minutes 6 November 2006

- **Introduction**

1. The election roundtable discussion was a success and Pete would like to thank all who came and participated.
2. Pete mentioned that there was a climate change conference in September and the talks are all downloadable at <http://mri.scnatweb.ch/content/view/141/73>.

- **Upcoming Activities**

1. Natural History Hike at Cold Canyon – Dr. Phil Ward, a myrmecologist and all around natural historian, has agreed to lead a hike at the UC natural reserve Stebbins Cold Canyon. The hike will be Sunday November 19th at 9am. If you are interested in participating please email Michael Branstetter (mgbranstetter@ucdavis.edu) and indicate whether or not you would be willing to drive. Cold Canyon is right next to Lake Berryessa on highway 128.
2. SCB Party – SCB, Davis Chapter will be throwing a party in December as a way to have some fun while promoting group cohesiveness and interaction. The party will include a showing of Gore's film "An Inconvenient Truth" and potentially music by Jim Thorne's band Chicken Tractor. Once the exact time and date are decided an email will be sent out.
3. Benefit Concert – Michael Branstetter and Pete Epanchin introduced the idea of having a biodiversity benefit concert to raise money that will be donated to some conservation group. The concert will consist of several local bands, perhaps grad student bands, and will be held at a local venue in Davis. To raise money either tickets will be sold or there will be some suggested minimum donation. The owner of the Graduate has already expressed a willingness to put on such an event. If you have any comments, know of some good bands, or are interested in helping organize please email Michael Branstetter or Pete Epanching (mgbranstetter@ucdavis.edu, pnepanchin@gmail.com). More will be said about this at our next meeting.
4. Winter Quarter Undergraduate Seminar Series – This seminar will take place next quarter on Wednesday's from 5-6pm and will include talks from graduate students about their research. The schedule has been filled. If you would like more info email Noa Pinter (nmpinter@ucdavis.edu).
5. Spring Quarter Graduate Seminar Series – This is an SCB organized graduate level seminar series that will take place in the Spring. There was some confusion about who will give the talks. Some thought that it was largely for a forum for exit seminars, but speakers may be brought in by SCB as well. More details on this in the future.
6. Bay Area Biodiversity Symposium 2008 – This is a one day event bringing together bay area students who do conservation related research. In 2008 UC Davis will be hosting the event and it is not too early to

starting thinking about preparations. Come to meetings if you want to learn more and start helping out.

7. WIDSI – There was a WIDSI meeting last Wednesday where the future direction of WIDSI was discussed. If you missed this meeting, but would like to participate in WIDSI please contact Annie Leonard (asleonard@ucdavis.edu). Laura said that she would like to organize an exchange between WIDSI students and Bolivian students.

- **Talk: Climate Change Policies in California by Fereidun Feizollahi**

Fereidun works for the Air Resources Board. A description of what the ARB is and what their goals are can be found below (taken from the ARB website):

The California Air Resources Board is a part of the California Environmental Protection Agency, an organization which reports directly to the Governor's Office in the Executive Branch of California State Government.

The Mission of the California Air Resources Board: To promote and protect public health, welfare and ecological resources through the effective and efficient reduction of air pollutants while recognizing and considering the effects on the economy of the state.

The Major Goals of the Board are to:

1. *Provide Safe, Clean Air to All Californians*
2. *Protect the Public from Exposure to Toxic Air Contaminants*
3. *Provide Leadership in Implementing and Enforcing Air Pollution Control Rules and Regulations*
4. *Provide Innovative Approaches for Complying with Air Pollution Rules and Regulations*
5. *Base Decisions on Best Possible Scientific and Economic Information*
6. *Provide Quality Customer Service to All ARB Clients*

What follows is a slide by slide summary of Fereidun's talk:

- CA Climate Impacts 2100 – It is predicted that by the year 2100 there will be 75% less snow pack (this doesn't mean less water), a 1-2 foot rise in sea level, 70 more extreme heat days/year, 80% more likely ozone days, 55% more large forest fires, and twice the number of drought years.
- Assembly Woman Fran Pavley – She is a democrat from Agura hills. She was a history teacher for 25 years, but became upset about government inaction over climate change and decided to run for office. She was mayor four times and has been on the CA legislature for three terms. She is responsible for the climate action registry and the bills AB1493 and AB32.
- Climate Action Registry – The climate action registry was established in 2000 and asked for the voluntary reporting of GHG emissions by members. This was a good first step, but it was “toothless.”

- AB 1493 Requirements – Passed in 2002, AB 1493 mandates that the ARB will develop and implement greenhouse gas limits for vehicles beginning in model year 2009. The overall goal is to reduce CO2 emissions 33% by 2016. Someone state that this wasn't very significant, and Fereidun agreed, but said it shows that CA is doing its part. Car companies have sued the ARB and are currently in court over it. One of the reasons stated by the car companies for the lawsuit is that AB 1493 interferes with the President's foreign policy.
- Governor's Executive Order – Arnold set incremental goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The goals are as follows:
 - 2010 reduce to 2000 levels
 - 2020 reduce to 1990 levels
 - 2050 reduce to 80% below 1990 levels
- CA Climate Change Emissions – A majority of CA emissions come from transportation (41%) and industry (22%).
- Climate Action Team – A multi-agency team of department directors chaired by the Cal/EPA secretary. The group was charged with recommending strategies to meet the governor's executive order. They decided that the goals were ambitious but achievable and came up with 40 strategies. They also decided that it would be good for the economy.
- AB32 2006 – This bill set the statute for the Governor's 2020 target and made the ARB the state agency charged with monitoring.
- AB32 Timeline
 - 1/1/07 ARB maintains statewide inventory
 - 6/30/07 List of discrete early actions
 - 1/1/08 Mandatory reporting of emissions Adopt 1990 baseline/2020
 - 1/1/09 Scoping plan of reduction strategies
 - 1/1/10 Regulations to implement early action items
 - 1/1/11 Regulations to implement scoping plan
- Governor's Executive Orders – Executive order S-17-06 signed on October 16, 2006. This order let the Cal/EPA secretary continue its leadership role, established a market advisory committee, and said the ARB should collaborate with the secretary and climate action team to develop a market-based program.
- Market-Based Mechanisms – The mechanisms are intended to facilitate achievement of cost-effective reductions in GHG emissions. These mechanisms include emissions exchanges, banking, credits, and other transactions that result in the same reduction as direct compliance.
- Market-Based Mechanisms – Reductions must be real, quantifiable, verifiable, additional, and enforceable by ARB.
- Criteria for rulemaking – Regulations will be designed to be equitable, low cost, and encouraging of early action. There will be no disproportionate impact on low-income communities. There will be credit given to those who do early reductions.
- Goals – The goals of the program are to create a model that is copied by other states and nations, that is the most cost-effective approach, that generates economic benefits due to improved efficiency and business creations, that reduces emissions to 1990 levels by 2020.

- Summary – AB32 is a major initiative with many new responsibilities and it is a significant step up in reducing GHG emissions.