



San Diego Mineral & Gem Society, Inc.  
A Non-Profit Educational and Scientific Organization

# THE PEGMATITE

## MAY 2017



### MINERAL DIVISION

*Garry Cannon, Chairperson  
Jim Parrish, Treasurer and Door Prizes*

Friday, May 12, 2017  
7:00pm, SDMG Bldg.

**WE WILL BE HOSTING** the **Junior Division Annual Fund Raiser**. **Lois Lukasky** has tons of door prizes ready for you to win! Come show your support of the **Juniors**, and see what they have been working on in class.

Prior to the raffle, I will give a short talk on “Something to do in Tucson When You’re Tired of Shopping For Rocks.”

After the meeting we’ll have some snacks. Please bring a treat to share. The Club will provide punch, coffee, and tea.



Official bulletin of the San Diego Mineral and Gem Society, Inc.

**Affiliations:** California Federation of Mineralogical Societies  
American Federation of Mineralogical Societies  
American Lands Access Association

**Sister Club:** Kingston Lapidary, Hull, England

**Publication:** *The Pegmatite* is published monthly (except July and August).

**Submission**

**Deadline:** 20th of the month prior to the publication issue.

**Membership:** Anyone with an interest in minerals, fossils, lapidary, gems, or hand-crafted jewelry may join the Society. Contact: [membership@sdmg.org](mailto:membership@sdmg.org)

**Liability:** The San Diego Mineral & Gem Society, Inc., is not and cannot be held responsible and liable for personal injuries, for damage or loss of property at any meetings, field trips, classes, shows, or any event sponsored or recommended herein.

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**Exchange bulletins:** Send to the Society mailing address

The mission of the San Diego Mineral and Gem Society, Inc., is to disseminate knowledge of mineralogy and earth sciences; to encourage the study of these subjects; to conduct classes in mineralogy and lapidary arts; to conduct field trips for the collection and study of specimens; to encourage interest in mineralogy and lapidary arts among young people; and to procure and maintain a collection related to the earth sciences and lapidary arts.



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

May 2017

by Shirley Leeson

[sdmgpresident@sdmg.org](mailto:sdmgpresident@sdmg.org)

We only have this month and next before our society officially shuts down for summer. I hope many of you have the **AFMS/CFMS National Show and Convention** on your list of things to do this summer. The show will be held June 9th to 11th at the Ventura Fairgrounds and can be reached by coastal train, bus, or by car. I hope you have already made arrangements for motel rooms, if you are planning on going for more than a day trip. Ventura is a summer destination, so rates are high and already booked in many instances.

Every year in May, the **Juniors** host the General Meeting, but this year they will preside over the **Mineral Division** Meeting. It will be held on Friday, May 12th at 7pm in the **SDMG** building adjacent to Spanish Village. Please plan on attending and show your support of the **Junior Division**.

The General Meeting planned for Monday, May 22nd at 7pm in the **SDMG** building will be a special presentation by **Anthony Ferrari**. I began reading his blog posts on Quartzsite early on, and enjoyed them so much I invited him to come speak to our Society. As it turned out, he is a member of the **Vista Gem & Mineral Society**. He will talk about collecting in the Black Rock Desert, in northern Nevada, and, of course, Quartzsite, Arizona. More details on page 3.

The final General Meeting of the year will be held on Monday, June 26th. We will begin with the business of **SDMG** for this year and end on a fun note. We will have rock bingo for you. This is something the society did many years ago. Please plan on attending. The usual door prizes will be specially selected for the evening and used as bingo prizes.



## JUNIOR DIVISION NEWS

Sponsored by

Lois Lukasky

and Marvin Dillard

### Hello from the Juniors!

THIS MONTH, on Friday, May 12th, the **Juniors** will host the **Mineral Division Meeting**. It is an annual tradition for them to host a May meeting. If that was not enough to keep them busy, the **Juniors** are hard at work on their display case for

the **San Diego County Fair**, which opens Friday, June 2nd. It will be here before you know it.

**Paul Williams**

Junior Div. Chair pro tem

**SDMG**  
**General Meeting**  
**Monday, May 22, 2017**  
 Shirley Leeson, Chair  
 7pm SDMG bldg  
 Public Welcome!

**G**REETINGS EVERYONE. I hope you are ready for a special program. Our friend, **Anthony Ferrari**, will take us on a whirlwind tour of several places and talk about several important things.

First, **Anthony** had a blog about **Quartzsite** last January that drew my attention. I contacted him, and to my delight I learned that **Anthony** is a member of the **Vista Gem & Mineral Society** – not that far away from San Diego. He consented to take us on a visual journey of his adventures at **Quartzsite**. But in addition, he mentioned he had gone on several field trips, and when he mentioned **Black Rock Desert** in northern Nevada, he had me hooked. It is a place I've heard so much about, and I have seen some of the material from that area, so **Black Rock Desert** is included in the program.

And finally, if all this isn't enough, **Anthony** wants to tell us about the program he presents to school children and scouts. Maybe he can sign one of you up to assist him.

Please bring something for the snack table, we will provide punch and coffee. And don't forget our wonderful door prizes – will they go home with you? Only if you plan to attend.



Anthony making a presentation to a scout troupe.

*Highlights from a  
 Rockhounding adventure  
 in northwestern Nevada  
 2015*



Members of the San Francisco Mineral Club visited the Black Rock Desert, Mt. Airy (6,690 ft el.), and Tenopah.



by Anne Schafer, Coordinator

**BY THE ENTRY DEADLINE** on April 28th, 129 exhibitors had submitted 352 entries, including 35 combined from **SDMG** (as a club) and its individual members. Yippee-yah-yay-yo, that makes the third largest number of entries in Fair history. There will be lots of cases filled with spheres, petrified wood, large-scale repoussé, carvings and faceted gemstones, plus educational displays from the **Juniors**, the casting classes, the faceting students, **GIA**, and a few more surprise entries. Lead family minerals are the annual theme mineral for 2017. Trilobites and Marine Fossils are the Fossil theme. Steampunk jewelry is a carryover from last year, plus “**How the West was Fun**” and handmade bola ties are two additional jewelry themes this year.

#### Volunteer! Get a free ticket to the Fair!

**Gem I.D. ~** If you are a current or past member of the Gemological Society, or have a degree in gemology, have we got a job for you! The refractometers and microscopes will be out each

weekend during the Fair, waiting for YOU! Please contact **Jim Porter** at [JLPorter@att.net](mailto:JLPorter@att.net) to sign up.

**Faceting Demos ~** If you would like to show off your faceting skills to the public (and you know how to run an Ultra Tec...), please contact **Bob Hancock** to sign up:

[rtourmaline2@aol.com](mailto:rtourmaline2@aol.com)

**Other Demos ~** Chain making, Fossil prep, Wax carving, Wire wrap, Bead stringing, and the list goes on. If you have a rock or gem related activity that does not involve an open flame, please contact Asst. Coordinator **Rich Yarbrough** to schedule your time slot:

[sdfair@sdmg.org](mailto:sdfair@sdmg.org)

**Info Booth ~** If you like interacting with kids of all ages, and would like to help them screen for a free rock in the sand pile, please sign up for a two-hour slot in the Info Booth. (You can bring a couple show'n'tell items, too, for fun.) Look for the signup sheets in the Casting Room, in the near future or contact Coordinator **Anne Schafer** to schedule your time slot:

[sdfair@sdmg.org](mailto:sdfair@sdmg.org)

#### THE SCHEDULE:

**Entry brochures:** [Download PDF](#) ([sdfair.com](http://sdfair.com))

**Online entry:** [sdiego.fairmanager.com](http://sdiego.fairmanager.com)

**Entry deadline:** Fri, April 28, at 11:59 pm

**Entry delivery:** Sat & Sun, May 27-28,  
9 am to 6 pm

**First day of Fair:** Fri, June 2, 4 to 11 pm

#### Exhibitor

**Appreciation:** Wed, June 7, 6 to 9 pm

**Last day of Fair:** Tue, July 4

**Exhibit pickup:** Thu, July 6, 9 am to 8 pm

**Got questions? We have answers! Contact:**  
**Anne Schafer**, Gems & Mineral Coordinator  
**Rich Yarbrough**, Assistant Coordinator  
[sdfair@sdmg.org](mailto:sdfair@sdmg.org)

## ON THE GO ... TO A SHOW



### MAY .....

#### 5-7 YUCAIPA, CA

**Yucaipa Valley Gem & Mineral Society**

**Yucaipa Music & Arts Festival**

**Venue:** Adams St. & Yucaipa Blvd.

**Hours:** Fri 6:00–9:00pm;

Sat 11:00am – 10:00pm; Sun noon – 6:00pm

**Admission and Parking:** Free. Public welcome.

**Contact:** Lee Peterson, 909-794-0731

or [res09ayd@verizon.net](mailto:res09ayd@verizon.net)

**Web:** [www.yvgms.org](http://www.yvgms.org)

Top quality dealers offering awesome deals on unique and rare gems, minerals, fossils, jewelry, beads, and more. Raffle with wonderful Prizes from the society and its members, including \$1,000 First Prize! Silent Auction, educational, hands-on activities, and demonstrations.

#### 6-7 ANAHEIM, CA – 56th Annual Gem, Mineral & Jewelry Show

**Sponsor:** Searchers Gem & Mineral Society

**Venue:** Brookhurst Community Center

2271 W. Crescent Ave., Anaheim, CA 92801

**Hours:** Sat 9:00am – 5:00pm;

Sun 10:00am – 4:30pm

**Admission & Parking:** Free. Public welcome.

**Contact:** Margaret Hogarth, 909-815-3045

or [Hogarth.m@gmail.com](mailto:Hogarth.m@gmail.com)

**Website:** [www.searchersrocks.org](http://www.searchersrocks.org)

Rocks, gems, minerals, fossils, beads, rough, slabs, vendors, gold panning, silent auction, hobby supplies, vintage stones, door prizes, gemstones, grab bags, tools, equipment and exhibits. Lapidary supplies and demonstrations. Lunch, snacks and drinks are available.

#### 6-7 JACKSON, CA

**Amador County Gem & Mineral Society**

**Gem & Craft Fair at the Kennedy Mine**

12594 Kennedy Mine Rd (off Hwys 49/88)

**Hours:** 10:00am – 4:00pm daily

**Admission:** Free.

**Parking:** \$2.00.

**Contact:** Gaylene Lichty, 209-245-5388

or [mountaingirl@volcano.net](mailto:mountaingirl@volcano.net)

**Website:** [www.amadorgemandmineral.org](http://www.amadorgemandmineral.org)

(website info may not be current)

see: [www.visitjacksonca.com](http://www.visitjacksonca.com)

Rocks, Slabs, Hand Crafted jewelry, Beads, Gemstones and other hand crafted items.

#### 6-7 RENO, NV

**Reno Gem & Mineral Society**

**52nd Annual Jackpot of Gems Show**

Reno-Sparks Livestock Event Center;  
1350 N. Wells Ave., Reno, NV 89512

**Hours:** Sat 10:00am – 5:00pm;

Sun 10:00am – 4:00pm

**Admission:** Adults \$6.00; Seniors/Students \$4, Kids Free.

**Parking:** Free.

**Contact:** Daniel Ellis, 775-229-4420

or [sailondan55@aol.com](mailto:sailondan55@aol.com)

**Web:** [www.renorockhounds.com](http://www.renorockhounds.com)

Fifty club member displays; hourly door prizes, and over 25 dealers bringing beautiful gems from all over the world. More than a dozen demonstrations on jewelry making.

#### 19-21 SANTA ANA, CA

**West Coast Gem & Mineral Show (Spring)**

**Venue:** Holiday Inn, Orange County Airport  
2726 S. Grand Ave., Santa Ana, CA 92705

**Hours:** Fri and Sat 10:00am – 6:00pm;

Sun 10:00am – 5:00pm

**Admission & Parking:** Free. Public welcome.

**Dealer List:** [www.mzexpos.com/dealer-list](http://www.mzexpos.com/dealer-list)

**Web:** [www.mzexpos.com/west-coast-spring](http://www.mzexpos.com/west-coast-spring)

80 dealers, wholesale and retail.

# WEST COAST – SPRING GEM & MINERAL SHOW



Grape Agate  
Sulawesi, Indonesia  
Photo by Jeff Scovil©

**May 19 - 20 -21, 2017  
Santa Ana, CA**

**Holiday Inn - Orange County Airport  
2726 S. Grand Avenue**

*(take 55 Fwy Exit 8 for Dyer Rd to S. Grand Ave)*

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# JOHN E. GARSOW

## gems & minerals

May 6–7

**Searchers Gem & Mineral Society  
Gem Show**

Anaheim, CA

Brookhurst Community Center

May 19–21

**West Coast Gem & Mineral Show**  
Santa Ana, CA

Holiday Inn, Rm 148

June 3–4

**Glendora Invitational  
Gem & Mineral Show**

Glendora, CA

Goddard Middle School Gym

June 9–11

**CFMS-AFMS Convention & Show**  
Ventura, CA

Ventura Fairgrounds

Facet Rough • Cabbing Rough  
Jewelry • Mineral Specimens

[www.johngarsow.com](http://www.johngarsow.com)

## JUNE .....

### 2–4 LA HABRA, CA

**NOC 2017 Show: Game of Stones**

**Venue:** La Habra Community Center

101 W. La Habra Blvd., La Habra, CA 90631

**Hours:** Fri 5:00–8:00pm;

Sat and Sun 10:00am – 5:00pm

**Admission:** Free.

**Contact:** Armando Perdoza, 909-455-6800  
or [forestandson@yahoo.com](mailto:forestandson@yahoo.com)

**Web:** [www.nocgms.com/show/show.html](http://www.nocgms.com/show/show.html)

Exhibits, prizes, unique rocks, gems, jewelry.  
Tools, geode cutting, Kids' grab bags.

### 3–4 ESCONDIDO, CA

**Palomar Gem & Mineral Club**

**63rd Annual Gem, Jewelry & Mineral Show**

**Venue:** California Center for the Arts

340 N. Escondido Blvd., Escondido, CA 92025

**Hours:** Sat 10:00am – 5:00pm;

Sun 10:00am – 4:00pm



**77th Annual CFMS-AFMS  
Convention & Show**  
*hosted by*  
**Ventura Gem & Mineral Society**

June 9 – 11, 2017

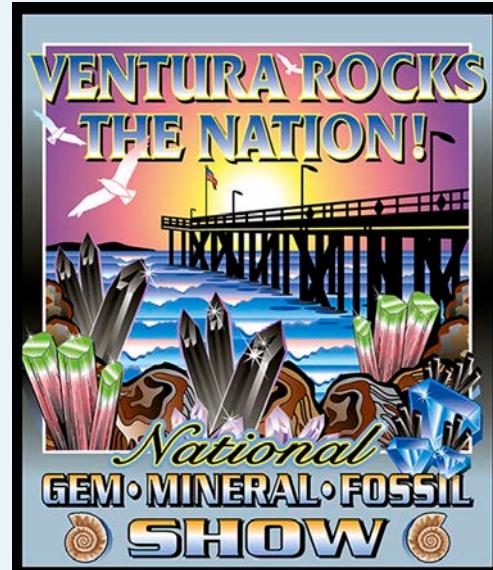
**Ventura County Fairgrounds**

10 Harbor Blvd., Ventura, CA 93001

Fri & Sat 10am – 5pm, Sun 10am – 4pm

**Contact:** 805-312-VGMS or [info@vgms.org](mailto:info@vgms.org)

**Web site:** [2017CFMS-AFMSShow.com](http://2017CFMS-AFMSShow.com)



**Admission:** Adults \$5.00; Kids 12 and under Free with paid Adult admission.

**Parking:** Free.

**Contact:** Dawn Vickers, [dawnjvickers@gmail.com](mailto:dawnjvickers@gmail.com)  
or [2017pgmcshow@palomargem.org](mailto:2017pgmcshow@palomargem.org)

**Web:** [www.palomargem.org](http://www.palomargem.org)

Dealers selling gems, rock rough, finished stones, jewelry, findings and supplies, beads, other rock related products. Free gem identification, lapidary and jewelry demonstrations, educational displays.

**3-4 GLENDORA, CA****Glendora Invitational Gem & Mineral Show****Sponsor:** Glendora Gems & Mineral Society**Where:** Goddard Middle School Gymnasium  
859 E. Sierra Madre, Glendora, CA 91741**Hours:** Sat, 10:00am–5:00pm  
Sun, 10:00am–4:00pm**Admission:** Free.**Contact:** Bonnie Bidwell, 626-963-4638  
or [Ybidwell@aol.com](mailto:Ybidwell@aol.com)**17-18 CAMBRIA, CA****Annual Summer Gem & Mineral Show****Sponsor:** San Luis Obispo Gem & Mineral Club**Where:** Cambria Vets Hall  
1000 Main Street, Cambria, CA 91741  
**Hours:** 10:00am–5:00pm daily  
**Admission and Parking:** Free.  
**Contact:** Kim Noyes, 805-610-0603  
**Website:** [www.slogem.org](http://www.slogem.org)  
Dealers selling gems, minerals, fossils, carvings, jewelry, beads, jade, crystals, meteorites, lapidary and metaphysical items. Jewelry-making demonstration. Free door prizes and free drawing at the end of the show on Sunday. Reasonably-priced, incredibly-tasty Santa Maria-style barbecue outside on the patio in back.**JULY .....****8-9 CULVER CITY, CA****54th Fiesta of Gems****Sponsor:** Culver City Rock & Mineral Club**Where:** Culver City Veterans Memorial Aud.

4117 Overland Ave., Culver City, CA 90230

**Hours:** Sat 10:00am–6:00pm;  
Sun 10:00am–5:00pm**Admission:** \$7.00 (weekend pass);  
children under 12 free.**Parking:** Free.**Contact:** Janice Metz, [janicemtz@yahoo.com](mailto:janicemtz@yahoo.com)**Website:** [www.culvercityrocks.org/fiesta.htm](http://www.culvercityrocks.org/fiesta.htm)

Club displays and exhibits, Kid Zone, craft demonstrations, book sales, tool dealers, 30+ gem and jewelry dealers, free hourly door prizes, grand prize raffle.

**School Closure Schedule 2017**

Closure date	Description
Sat, July 1 – Sun, July 9	Fourth of July shutdown, one week.
Mon, July 10 – Fri, Sept. 1	Optional Summer Class Period, two months. (Instructors must notify School Director if you plan to hold summer classes.)
Sat, Sept. 2 – Sun, Sept. 10	Labor Day shutdown, one week.
Mon, Sept. 11	Fall classes begin.
Fri, Sat & Sun, Nov. 3, 4, 5	Gem Diego Show shutdown, three days. (Everyone's help is needed with your club's show.)
Thu, Nov. 23 – Sun, Nov. 26	Thanksgiving shutdown, four days. Reopens Mon, Nov. 27.
Mon, Dec. 18, 2017 – Mon, Jan. 1, 2018	Christmas and New Year's shutdown, two weeks.
Tue, Jan. 2, 2018	Classes begin.

**BLM Field Tour &  
Desert District Advisory Council  
Business meeting****June 2017****CANCELLED**

DOI is reviewing department function and process.

All meetings of advisory boards and councils, including DAC and all other BLM RAC's, subcommittees, and subgroups are suspended during this review.

## Multi-Club Field Trip Kramer Junction and Beyond

**May 27–29, 2017**

Contact: Joe Goetz  
(626) 260-7239  
or Jay  
(626) 602-5849

KRAMER JUNCTION is always a great field trip and a great camping spot to explore nearby areas such as the Princess Pat Mine and other area Tungsten mines, Opal Mountain, North Edwards or Castle Butte. So, you know it's not going to be boring. There is great collecting right there at the junction as well. There is moss and flower agates as well as jasper some petrified palm and opalite. There is a large area to explore and who knows what we'll find (the best stuff has been found when we were "lost"). Typically, where we camp not 30 feet away are some of the widest seams of agate I have ever seen.

This can be done in a single day, but it is much more enjoyable to be there each day of the trip. It is really nice to be camping there, because when you wake up, you are there. It is really neat to walk around with a cup of coffee and find rock. You can relax and not worry about making it to camp before the group leaves to head out to explore and collect choice material.

The time to be in camp is before 8:30 am, because that's when you'll find out where we are going and what will be collected. If by chance you are a little late call on the cell and let us know. This way then we could wait by the road for you to show up. Should you miss us, we'll probably have left a map and directions on how to get to the area we have headed to. Bring a lunch, lots to drink, sunscreen, a hat, sunglasses, a rock hammer and something to put you collected material into.

It could just happen that we all might be popping wheelies on the way home.

Somewhere in Calif driving in circles.

Be prepared to sign a liability waiver and agree to abide by AFMS Code of Ethics.. **SDMG is not a sponsor of this field trip and accepts no liability.**

## Public Lands Update

IT'S OFFICIAL, California has a state dinosaur. The bill to designate *Augustynolophus morrissi* as an official symbol of the state passed on April 6th. AB 1540 was authored by Assemblymember **Richard Bloom** of the 50th Assembly District. **San Diego Gem & Mineral Society** joined the **Southern California Paleontological Society** in supporting passage of the bill. The primary objective of the bill is to increase children's interest in science.

If you missed the back story about the bill and how **Augustynolophus** came to the fore among dinosaur candidates, see the articles by **Karol McQueary** and **Andrew Hoekstra** in *The Pegmatite* April 2017 at: [www.sdmg.org/peg-online/sdmg-pegmatite-2017-apr.pdf#page=15](http://www.sdmg.org/peg-online/sdmg-pegmatite-2017-apr.pdf#page=15) (or short url: <https://goo.gl/hqiqz2>).

Stay abreast of what California's new ambassador for science and education is up to and [follow @augustynolophus](https://twitter.com/augustynolophus) on Twitter.



Augustynolophus, reproduced courtesy of @augustynolophus.

Stay current  
with [News.bytes](http://News.bytes)

*The BLM California newsletter*

*An overview of BLM's public meetings  
on route designations  
in San Bernardino County*

by Randy Banis  
Chairman, Desert District Advisory Council

THIS MAY 3, 2017 PUBLIC MEETING is related to the ongoing WEMO routes lawsuit. Usually, each time the BLM asks for an extension of time from the courts to finalize the new WEMO route plan, the plaintiffs request temporary relief. At one point, the plaintiffs asked to limit green stickers to OHV open areas, but the judge rejected that as draconian.

In this case, the plaintiffs are reaching for low hanging fruit — something easier to get. The plaintiffs have identified ~140 miles of BLM Barstow-area dirt roads that are periodically maintained by San Bernardino County road crews. The county does this to serve its residents and private property owners in the check-board ownership areas generally adjacent to the desert towns and cities.

Apparently, according to state law, such maintained roads cannot be used by OHV and CHP has the authority to cite. So, the plaintiffs and BLM have agreed that BLM will propose a temporary street-legal only designation for these ~140 miles of county maintained roads. This meeting is the third and last of three public meetings BLM is holding, and comments are due by May 12, 2017. This is a proposed action under NEPA, so there is no guarantee that BLM will decide in favor of the agreement, but it is up to us to give the BLM a reason to do otherwise.

Most of these miles are actually 3 or 4 long roads, such as Camp Rock Road in Johnson Valley. BLM asserts that there are green sticker alternatives for each of the closed roads, but I'm not able to verify that. Although these closures would be temporary, I would expect that if adopted temporarily now, they will likely become part of the eventual final WEMO decision, now due in 2020.

CORVA experts alerted us to a provision in state law that allows the designation of "combined used" roads, which I've supplied to county representatives and Rep. Cook's office. Other than something like that, I see little wiggle room here until I hear from those who are affected.

In my opinion, the burden here falls on green sticker users to help identify where these proposed closures interfere with their access to recreation. Rockhounds that use these roads driving ATVs, UTV's or non-street legal buggies to access collecting areas would be directly affected.

**BLM seeks public input on  
proposed route designations  
in San Bernardino County**

**Open House**  
**Wednesday, May 3, 2017**  
**5:30 – 6:30 pm**

Barstow Field Office  
(Main Conference Room)  
2601 Barstow Rd, Barstow, CA 92311

Representatives from the BLM will be available to answer questions regarding location of routes, and maps will be available for viewing. Representatives will also explain the process involved in proposing the route designations and how the public can formally participate.

*Initial public review  
and comment period  
closes May 12, 2017*

*Submit written comments  
at the meeting  
or email Matt Toedtli at:  
[mtoedtli@blm.gov](mailto:mtoedtli@blm.gov)*

**For information contact:**

Stephen Razo  
BLM California Desert District  
External Affairs  
951-697-5217 or [srazo@blm.gov](mailto:srazo@blm.gov)  
or visit the BLM Web site at:  
<https://www.blm.gov/node/11505>

Lastly, another hit from the White House last week — all DOI advisory boards and councils, including the DAC and all other BLM RAC's, and their subgroups and subcommittees, were temporarily suspended from meeting while the department conducts an internal review process of their mission and function. That means that the DAC's June meeting has been canceled, but the BLM Desert Manager feels that our November meeting will occur.

## The Rime of the Mojave Mariner

by Lisbet Thoresen

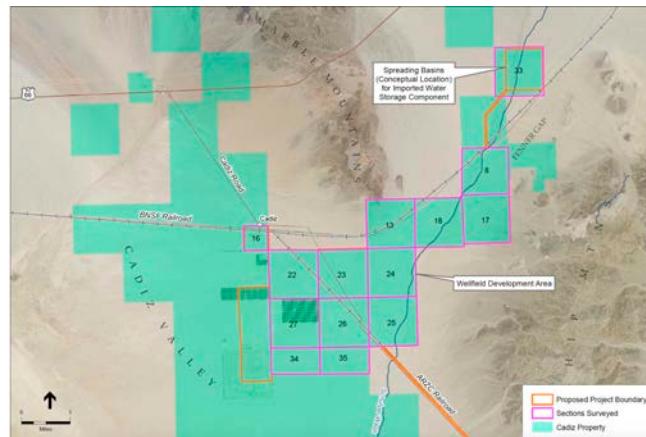
Public Lands Representative for SDMG  
and PLAC-South Chair for CFMS

**T**WO PROJECTS TAPPING AQUIFERS in the Mojave Desert have been greenlighted to proceed. The **Cadiz Water Project** will export ground water to customers in Orange County, which will enable them to keep their lawns green. The **Eagle Mountain hydropower project** will provide a back-up source of power to desert-based renewable energy utilities when solar or wind energy generation is sub-optimal. Environmental impact studies were waived or deemed flawed for the projects, and they are going forward without opportunity for public comment.

The Cadiz project is on private land located adjacent to the Marble Mountains. It is surrounded by the newly created **Mojave Trails National Monument (MTNM)**. Cadiz Inc. proposes to export nearly 16.3 billion gallons a year for 50 years from the Mojave Desert aquifer to Orange County's Santa Margarita Water District (SMWD). This project is being spun as a conservation effort by the company, which claims that extracted ground water will be replenished by rainfall. **Shaun Gonzales** points out in his blog post on the [Cadiz water scheme](#) that privately contracted hydrology reports estimate 10.6 billion gallons of rainwater per year will recharge the aquifer, which is an outlandish calculation – even the ground water in Orange County, where the water table is higher, doesn't come close to the volume projected for the Mojave.<sup>[1]</sup>

The Cadiz company proposes drilling up to 34 wells in the middle of **MTNM**. The threats to fragile habitat and the prospect of groundwater collapse are dire, which **Gonzales** and other conservationists critical of the project have pointed out repeatedly for many years.

As recently as 2009, plans for commercial



The Cadiz water project is surrounded by the Mojave Trails National Monument.

exploitation of the area were derailed, precisely because of environmental concerns. **President Trump** rescinded the requirement for federal review, and he appears to be foregoing the requirement for public review and comment, as well. The Cadiz project will now go forward as part of the administration's objectives to promote infrastructure projects.

In an editorial for *The Desert Sun* (April 3, 2017), **Mariana Maguire**, Southern California associate director for conservation for the **Conservation Lands Foundation**, and **Frazier Haney**, conservation director at the **Mojave Desert Land Trust**, wrote:

“The depletion of the aquifer threatens both the fragile ecosystems across the East Mojave Desert and the protected landscapes that provide sustainable economic benefits to several gateway communities, including Barstow, Needles and Twentynine Palms.”<sup>[2]</sup>

Quoting the [Pacific Institute](#), an independent group of water experts, **Shaun Gonzales** wrote:

“[...]over-pumping by Cadiz could lead to irreversible damage to the groundwater basin. If water is pumped much faster than nature can replace it, the ground settles and compacts, reducing its capacity to store water.”<sup>[3]</sup>

1.) <http://www.mojavedesertblog.com/2017/04/the-absurdity-of-cadiz-water-export.html>  
or short URL: <https://goo.gl/DLFTwy>

2.) <http://www.desertsun.com/story/opinion/contributors/valley-voice/2017/04/23/valley-voice-making-case-stringent-review-mojave-groundwater-harvesting-project/305798001/>  
or short URL: <https://goo.gl/0dnW7f>

3.) See note 1; [http://pacinst.org/app/uploads/2013/02/public\\_comments\\_0314123.pdf](http://pacinst.org/app/uploads/2013/02/public_comments_0314123.pdf).

**“Water, water, everywhere,  
And all the boards did shrink;  
Water, water, everywhere,  
Nor any drop to drink.”**

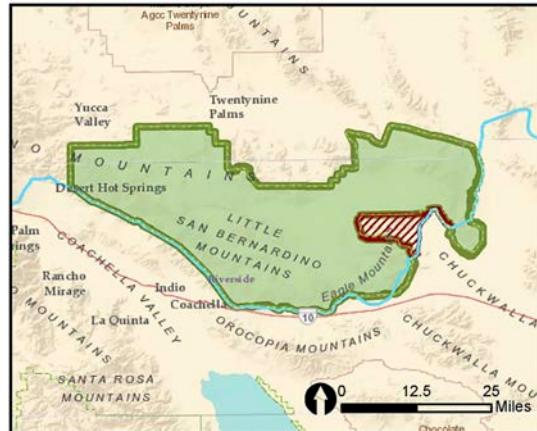
The **Eagle Mountain hydropower project** is a pumped storage facility that will extract an estimated 32.6 billion gallons of water over the next 50 years from the Chuckwalla aquifer. The water will fill a defunct mining pit as a contingency power supply for utility scale wind and solar farms in the desert when their output is off-peak/sub-optimal. The planned pump station will be located in a keyhole-shaped area surrounded on three sides by the **Joshua Tree National Park (JTNP)**.

The first protective designation applied to **Joshua Tree** was as a **National Monument** in 1936. The area currently under contention was taken out of the monument in a controversial land swap authorized by Congress in 1950. The deal made available thousands of acres to accommodate commercial mining, primarily for steel production, including the Kaiser Eagle Mountain Iron Mine. It went bankrupt in 1987, and in the decades since, the Eagle Mountain area has been the object of bitter battles over restoring its conservation status versus developing it for new and different economic opportunities. Part of the area, but not all of the land taken in 1950 was restored to the monument, and under the California Desert Protection Act of 1994 **Joshua Tree** was designated a **National Park**.

### **Rockhounds, be careful what you wish for**

The latest campaign for economic exploitation at Eagle Mountain was defeated in 2009, but the land did not revert to the **JTNP**, as many conservation proponents would have liked. Instead, the area remained in private hands. Some Rockhounds thought that was a victory for them, or at least, it was preferable to a protective designation that permanently and forever debarred hobby collecting. Recent trends in land use policy are proving that recreational uses and conservation values have low priority, and lost rockhound habitat is not likely to be restored where it competes with economic opportunity.

And now it appears that Eagle Mountain not only will debar hobby collecting, but also may debar life itself in the desert. Cadiz and Eagle Mountain are not small sacrifices for a greater good. Cadiz has not had environmental review and previous federal review of



Joshua Tree National Park boundary, 1994 to present.  
Map: National Park Service.

Eagle Mountain was found to be scientifically flawed and occurred without scientists being able to set foot on the property. Such laxity and disregard for environmental harms will pervade wide areas far beyond their above-ground footprints. Their contaminating effects will spread like a virulent, irreversible contagion.

Among all the ill-conceived plans to commoditize public lands for industrial scale energy projects and other uses, draining California's drought-savaged desert of its precious lifeblood, its ground water, is the most pernicious yet. The value proposition that presumes large-scale renewable energy utilities built anywhere are “green” and sustainable is oxymoronic. Many are demonstrably brown and unsustainable. The **Trump** administration, with support from California Governor **Jerry Brown**, late Riverside County Supervisor **John Benoit**, and others, have supported the hydropower project. As with Cadiz, the public has been deprived of the opportunity to review and comment on Eagle Mountain.

Surely, the poet Coleridge could not have envisioned a more peculiar irony when “water everywhere” might describe an aquifer, a freshwater underground ocean, and “nary a drop to drink” was not the plight of being adrift on the salty sea without a canteen, but the rapacious siphoning of a whole natural reservoir system beneath ones’ feet.

We will be encouraging our gem-mineral society affiliates and regional federations across the United States to prepare letters opposing the Cadiz water project, Eagle Mountain, and others like them. In the meanwhile, do your part, and send a letter of your own. Download a sample letter at: [www.sdmg.org/calnatmonuments/Zinke letter Oppose Cadiz Water Project individual.rtf](http://www.sdmg.org/calnatmonuments/Zinke%20letter%20Oppose%20Cadiz%20Water%20Project%20individual.rtf)



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Email [school@sdmg.org](mailto:school@sdmg.org) for class availability before attending any class to find out when the class starts and ends, if special materials are required and whether you qualify to attend. Fee is \$5.00 per class; it is usually easier for instructors if payment is made for a full month; cash or checks only, please. **Classes are open to members only** and students must read and follow the **School Rules** available in the classroom and at:

<http://www.sdmg.org/class-schedule/school-rules.pdf>

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	Wed	9 – 11:30am	Jim Claypool
	Wed	12:30 – 3:00pm	Jim Claypool
	Wed	7 – 9pm	Andy Anderson
	Thu	7 – 9pm	Jon Evans
<b>FACETING</b>	Tue	noon – 3pm	Elbert McCune
	Tue	7 – 9pm	Jerod Schneider
	Wed	9am – noon	Bob Hancock
	Wed	noon – 3pm	Donna Beers
	Wed	7 – 9pm	Elbert McCune
	Thu	7 – 9pm	Bill Brisebois
<b>BEG. SILVER FAB.</b>	Tue	6 – 9pm	Stephanie Griffin
	Thu	9am – noon	Denny Turner
	Thu	1 – 4pm	Denny Turner
<b>BEG. METALS FAB.</b>	Sun	5 – 8pm	Andy Anderson
<b>INT. METALS FAB.</b>	Sat	4 – 7pm	Andy Anderson
<b>SILVER FABRICATION</b>	Tue	9 – 11am	Lois Lukasky
	Tue	noon – 3pm	Lois Lukasky
	Wed	7 – 9pm	Al Fuente
	Thu	7 – 9pm	Ellen Riceman
	Fri	9:30am – noon	Dee Smith
	Fri	12:30 – 3:00pm	Dee Smith
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<b>ADVANCED METALS</b>	Wed	9am – 3pm	Jackie Leverone
<b>CASTING</b>	Mon	1:30 – 7:00pm	Rocio Bergum
	Tue	9am – 2pm	Dave Smith
	Fri	5 – 7pm	Rich Yarbrough
<b>STONE SETTING</b>	Mon	by appointment	Miguel Asmar
<b>ROCK CARVING</b>	Mon	9am – 1pm	Jan Kunsa
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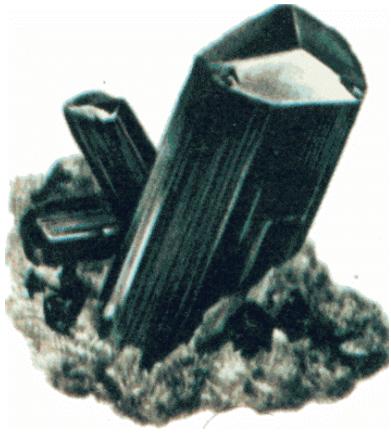
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## San Diego Mineral & Gem Society, Inc.

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14	15 SDMG Board Mtg 7pm, SDMG Bldg	16	17	18	19 West Coast Gem & Min Show Santa Ana - begin	20
21 West Coast Gem & Min Show Santa Ana - end	22 SDMG General Mtg 7pm, SDMG Bldg	23	24	25	26 SD Fair Deliver exhibits 9am-6pm 	27
28 SD Fair Deliver exhibits 9am-6pm 	29	30	31	1	2 First Day - SD Fair 4-11pm 	3