

MORE MESA PRESERVATION COALITION



MMPC e-Update

Spring 2016



You Can Help

Many thanks to all those supporters who responded to our appeal for funds needed to fight development. We will be talking more about this in later issues.



Redmaids

Also, our supporters come from near and far. Be sure to tell all your friends about More Mesa and why it is so important to save it.

Thanks so much!

What's Happening With Potential Development?

It has been quiet and we have heard nothing about potential development.

Ask The President

Q: What happened to the caves on the western cliffs of More Mesa?

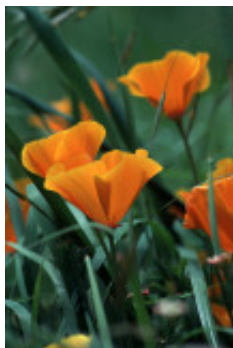
A: The Caves are no more ...

In several previous issues of our updates we discussed the dangerous erosion of the cliffs of the various sections of More Mesa. In [October of 2014](#), an incident where someone was hurt while in a cave on the western side of More Mesa precipitated a discussion of the Geology of More Mesa's cliffs. Specifically, we noted that the east side consists of a very old formation that erodes slowly, while the west, a much younger formation, erodes very quickly. In fact, sea cliff retreat in the this younger formation has been demonstrated to be about 10 inches a year, the highest rate observed along this portion of the South Coast. What this all means is that the western cliff is steep, unstable and unpredictable. At the time we advised everyone to stay out of the caves since they too, were judged unstable, unpredictable and very dangerous.

But now they are gone! Those very same caves collapsed last month. County firefighters conducted a precautionary search and found no evidence of any victims being trapped during the collapse. Fire Captain Dave Zaniboni issued a stern warning that it is extremely dangerous now that the bluffs



Valerie Olson
President, MMPC

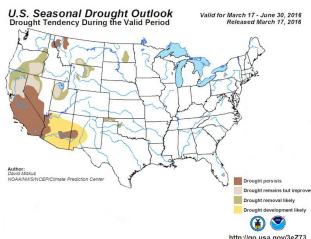


California Poppies

It is the mission of the More Mesa Preservation Coalition, to preserve More Mesa, in its entirety, for all times. We've been at it since 2001.



Owl's Clover



Miniature Lupine

that the bluffs have caved in.

The Bad News: Once again, we remind everyone that the cliffs on the edge of More Mesa are **UNSTABLE, UPREDICTABLE**



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AND DANGEROUS. Please stay off the trails leading down from More Mesa and take extreme care when using the Coastal Trail.

Please be safe!

Ecology - El Niño, Boom or Bust?

Since late last summer, forecasters and modelers have been predicting significant rain for our area from the strong El Niño crossing the equatorial Pacific. Indeed, MMPC felt it was an important enough topic that we developed a special section to help supporters understand the El Niño [phenomena](#).

Unhappily, the long-awaited storms from the south never materialized in Southern California, even though storms from the north dropped some badly needed snow in the mountains, and many of those areas are recording average and above average precipitation. The total for Santa Barbara's current "rain year" is about 70% of average, while Los Angeles is less than half their average.

However, as recently as [early March](#), forecasters were predicting the beginning of heavy precipitation in Southern California; rain which would then continue throughout the entire month. These predictions raised high hopes for another "March Miracle", of the kind we experienced during the El Niño of 1990-1991. So far these hopes have been unrealized and are rapidly dwindling as we get closer to April 1st, the date when the amount of rainfall we usually get decreases dramatically.

Normally during a strong El Niño, winters tend to be wetter than average from California across the southern Rockies to the Gulf Coast. One of the strongest El Niños on record has been in play this winter, and while every El Niño has its quirks, this one has gone against the grain in several ways, most notably with regard to precipitation. As a result forecasters are definitely not in accord on this particular El Niño. NOAA, forecasting a continued drought (See map in side bar) is of the same opinion as Ken Clark, expert meteorologist with AccuWeather.com in Southern California. Clark says we are "running out of time for El Nino to help". A very few others are saying "not so fast". For example, Bill Patzert, climatologist with NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory cautions "Don't throw El Niño under the bus until the end of April". He predicts "We are not done with rain".

I guess we can keep on hoping!

[This Month on More Mesa ... Mother Nature does her thing, even during a record breaking drought!](#)

In spite of what is shaping up as another drought year, More Mesa is green and blooming. In one recent short walk we spotted four different species of poppies, California Brittlebush, Blue-eyed Grass, Redmaids, Owl's Clover and Miniature Lupine. Several of these were in profusion and all a joy to look at.

From all the photos above, you can see it's lovely out there!

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