

for the

Common Good

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celebrating successes, collaborations, and innovations

We Are Not Alone: The Future Is Now

By Ruth Ann Angus

Racing through the darkness the cybernetic probe Hadrian-X searched intently, its one large cyclopean eye scanning the void. Attuned and alert its audio receptors strained for any blip of noise that might be forthcoming from the vast and endless universe. Launched in the year 2100 from the water planet by humans, Homo-sapiens, its venture would take it farther than any previous exploration had gone. Hadrian-X was charged with the awesome and final quest to find out if life of any sort exists anywhere else in this universe. The mission would end the controversy that had raged with scientists and layman alike for millennium — whether we are alone.

This tale, part fiction and part reality, is not far fetched. Here at the threshold of the 21st century, humans wonder and explore as best they can to answer that question. All the while, the answer lies here on our own wonderful and unique world. Life abounds all around us, from the infinitesimal one-celled creature to the largest creature ever known, the blue whale. The question we have to ask ourselves is how much our lives, not just the quality or quantity of them but our very existence itself, depend on the existence of the myriad of creatures that inhabit this planet. The passion of environmental groups active during the past few decades has been to awaken humanity to this very fact. We are not alone.

For the Common Good is a newsletter conceived to honor the works of these environmental organizations. It is a publication dedicated to recognizing community achievements that protect, conserve, or restore the natural resources of the Morro Bay watershed. Sponsored by the Friends of the Estuary, our goal is to identify mutual goals to protect the environment that are shared by diverse members of the greater community of San Luis Obispo County, while preserving traditional land-use in harmony with environmental enhancement.

It is our hope that this publication will help to illuminate the common issues faced by our community in our efforts to manage watershed resources now and in the future. Our goal is also to highlight the tremendous accomplishments of community volunteers whose efforts make up the key ingredient to achieving sustainable policies and practices to maintain traditional uses and enjoyment of the watershed and estuary of Morro Bay.

