



Channel Islands Tour April 22-27, 2018



Do you know the way from San Jose?



Drive down 101 past fields:



... fields of posts,



... fields of grapes,



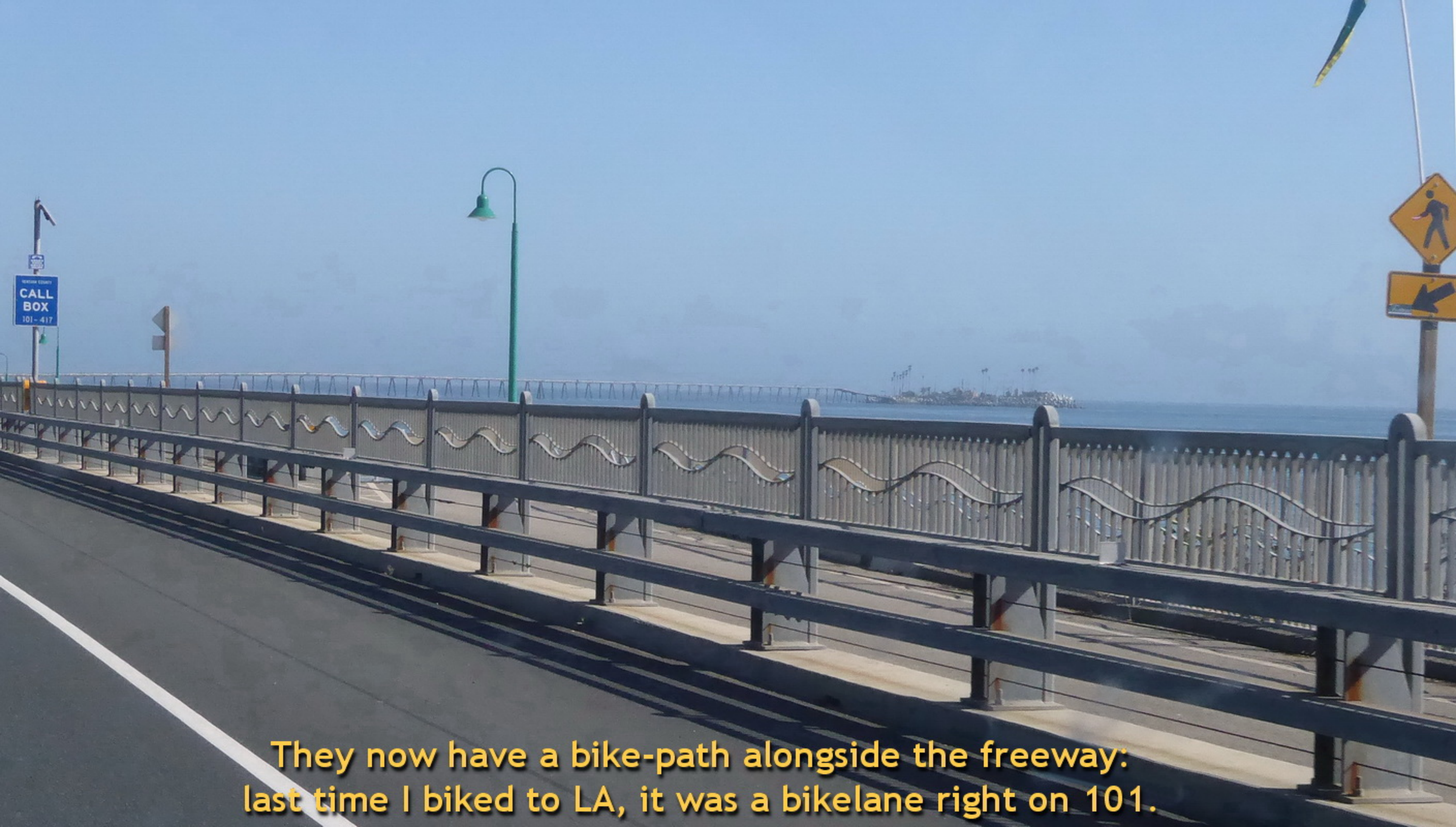
... fields of oil.



Take a short-cut via CA-154:



a quick decent into Santa Barbara.



They now have a bike-path alongside the freeway:
last time I biked to LA, it was a bikelane right on 101.



The little roadside town of La Conchita



Looks like the recent hillside fires even singed the palms.



The Ventura Crowne Plaza -- our home away from home,



... and the drying wetsuits of the
visiting Patagonia conventioners.



Head out on Ventura Pier,



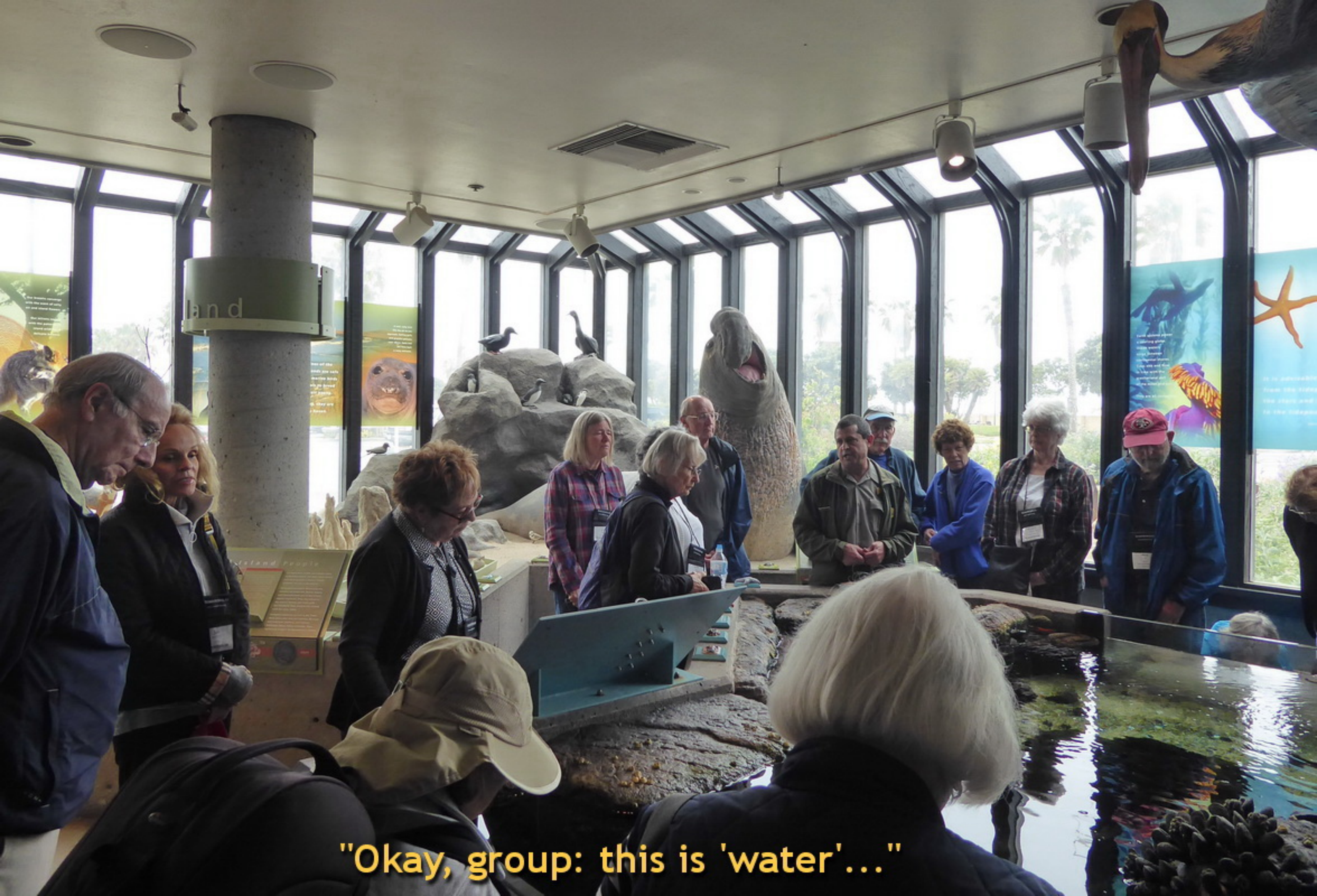
... and watch surfers pass pines and palms.



Monday: ready to start the tour!



First: some on-shore studies:



"Okay, group: this is 'water'..."



Palm trees taller than sailboat masts.



Tuesday: head out to Anacapa Island on "the Islander"



Passenger Boarding Ramp

Various groups wait to board the boat.



A bunch of old sea-farers bundled against the brisk breeze.



"All right, men, fall into formation!"





Approaching Anacapa



**A pair of sea-lions
watch us enter the harbor.**



"Should we wait and watch you disembark?"



"Nah!"





And the stairs only go halfway up...





"What are you doin' here?!"





Margery Spielman -- naturalist!



giant coreopsis



island mallow



"Tip-toe .. thru the sea gulls..."



"Birds"



***yawn!* -- sitting on eggs is for the birds!**





Inspiration Point



We were there!



Inspecting the eggs.



... but first,



Carl Benz, naturalist.



A well-guarded lighthouse.



An old lighthouse Fresnel lens.

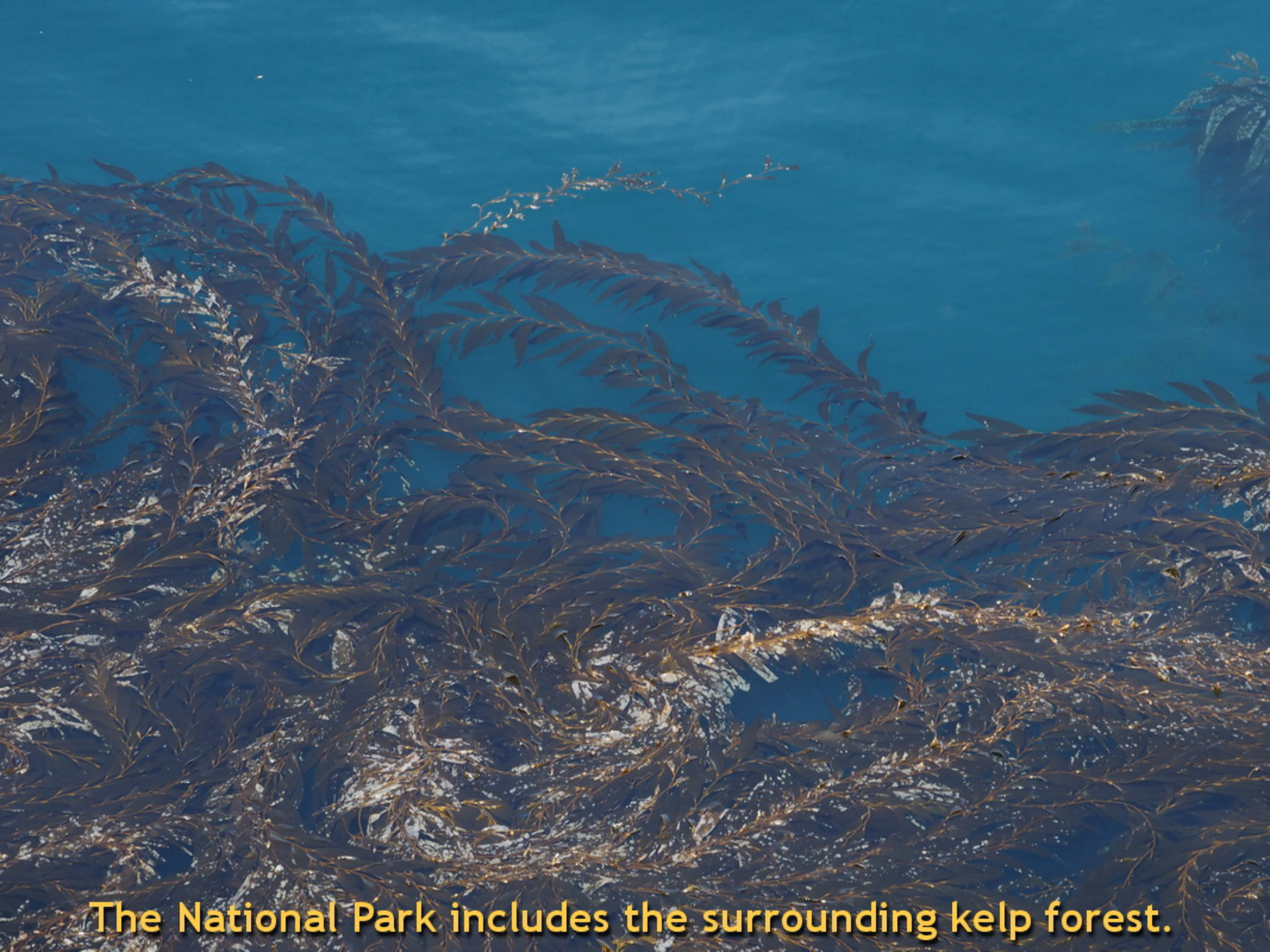




The Committee has decided, ...



...you're voted off the island.



The National Park includes the surrounding kelp forest.







Head home by going past Curdled Cave on Lake Lachrymose (!)



cormorants

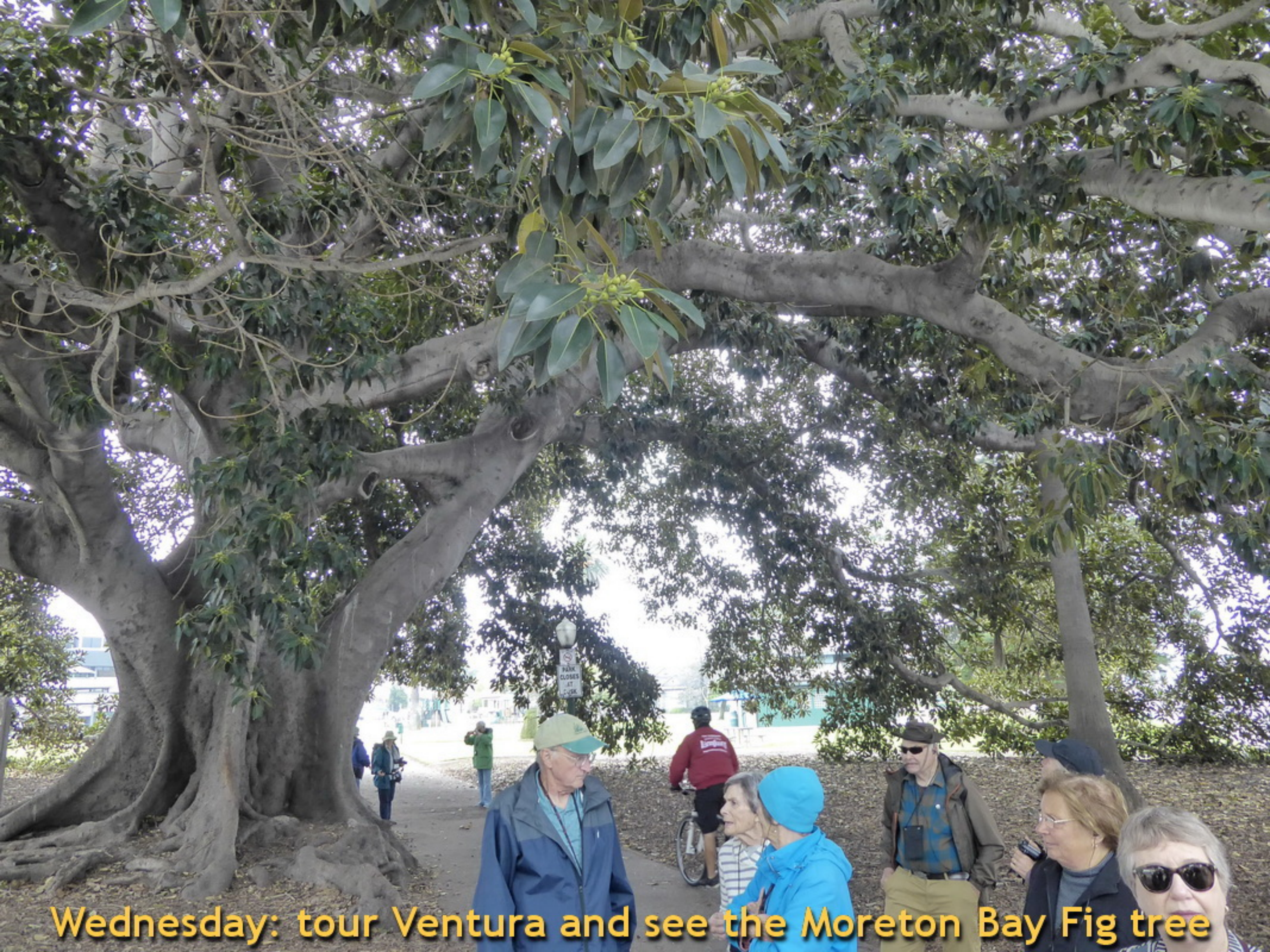


Western Grebe



a peck of pelicans flying in a pattern.





Wednesday: tour Ventura and see the Moreton Bay Fig tree



Gordon Grant's 1930s murals grace the Ventura Post Office.



Visiting Ventura Victorians



The sidewalk by the hotel is the Pacific Coast Bike Route to LA, ...



... but this is the route I took in '04. (It hasn't changed a bit!)



The nearby hills show the scars of the recent fires...



The fire came right to the edge of town,



... and it did burn the nearby park,



... but there's still a great view of town!



Ventura City Hall: the town saved it from the wrecking ball.





**Back to our hotel
on the other side of the tracks.**



... where we can watch surfers by the pier.



Thursday: out to Santa Cruz Island.
(Hey! That one sea-lion is hogging half the space!)



A Steller Sea Lion.



**There might not be any new oil drilling by the Channel Islands,
but there are still a number of old oil platforms...**



(we took this photo on porpoise...)



The inauspicious approach to Santa Cruz Island, ...



... but this time there was no climb to reach land!



... although there was a climb soon thereafter!



Looking down on the beach.





Made it!



It's a pretty desolate landscape.





Meanwhile, back on the canyon floor, a pair of Island fox frolic.



Small, hungry, and willing to beg...



Feed me!



The Island Scrub Jay



channel island song sparrow



Sara Orangetip



island gopher snake



lizard



people.



Goodbye! Time to set sail for the mainland!



Goodbyes from Susan, John, and Margery.



A final group dinner.

MAXIMUM
CAPACITY
60



and parting comments from our host, John Callahan.



Friday morning: hit the road back home.