



Sierra Club San Diego Chapter

HiSIERRAN

Serving San Diego And Imperial Counties

Vol 78 No. 2

Visit our website at: www.sandiegosierraclub.org

April/May/June 2019

Climate Change Impacts in San Diego County

By Richard Miller and George Courser

EDITORS NOTE: The following editorial opinion was published in the San Diego Union-Tribune on January 24, 2019.

San Diego's Sierra Club Chapter is celebrating 70-years in San Diego County. While unabashedly proud of our biodiversity, spectacular beaches, mountains and deserts, the adverse impacts of climate changes are already apparent in our communities, including persistent dry winds, drought, and low plant moisture. In late 2003, Santa Ana winds erupted into the Cedar Fire, the largest and most destructive wildfire in San Diego history. Then, in 2004, more abrupt changes were indicated, mature oak trees began toppling by the scores from Sudden Oak Death.

In 2007 our forests were again dying and crashing down, this time due to a barely visible insect, the goldspotted oak borer. This invasive pest attacked the weakened oaks with vigor, killing 21,000 mature trees and converting almost 1900 acres into highly flammable shrub lands. Finally, in late 2007, the Witch and Guejito Fires exploded across the County, with 500,000 residents required to evacuate to Qualcomm stadium and Del Mar Fairgrounds. These fires raged nearly to the coast, halted in Rancho Santa Fe only by the winds dying back. In only 4-years, San Diego County lost 3,373 homes to record setting fires. Fifteen people died from the Cedar fire, including firefighter Engineer Steven Rucker. The Witch and Guejito fires took two more lives and injured 40-firefighters.

But threats to our flora and fauna, and increased wildfires are not the only impacts of climate change. The excessive heat factor is emerging as a serious threat to human health today according to Dr. Marc Futernick, Chief Emergency Room Doctor of Dignity Hospital in Los Angeles. He states that excessive heat not only causes heat related illness, but also strokes and heart attacks. California Environmental Protection Agency's, Dr. Rupa Basu, also links increased temperatures to cerebral vascular disease, respiratory ailments and negative childbirth outcomes.

Ocean levels are rising and there will be increased flooding and loss of valuable coastal property, all the result of climate change caused by the great increase in release of GHGs. The

overwhelming consensus of the scientific community is that humanity faces catastrophic consequences unless we reduce GHG emission dramatically. Also, the economic consequences of failing to act are far greater than the costs of reducing GHGs. California and many local governments already have made the commitment to achieve aggressive emission reduction goals.

These impacts will worsen dramatically unless our government agencies, and all of us, take prompt and strong action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs). Unfortunately, this urgent environmental message has failed to reach the majority of our County Supervisors. The Sierra Club and many others environmental and local groups have worked for 13-years on a new general plan to guide how the County will reduce GHG's. In 2012, the County committed to adopt a Climate Action Plan (CAP) to reduce the emissions of greenhouse gases in the County. While a CAP was required, the County's first plan was found to be unenforceable in litigation brought by the Club. Six years later in 2018, a CAP adopted unanimously by the Board was again rejected by the Superior Court. Characteristically, the Supervisors

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San Diego Chapter Awards Dinner Celebration

Our Environmental Heritage

Saturday, May 4, 2019

Hilton Harbor Island Hotel



Save The Date

See Ad On Page 11

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The View from The Chair



Peter Andersen

Sierra Club San Diego has been busy advocating and fighting for the environment. The victories by our Sierra Club endorsed candidates last November are making a huge difference at the State, County, and City level. Our legal victories are bringing real substantive Climate Action Plans into fruition. We continue to fight against air pollution, greenhouse gas, traffic, and the risk of catastrophic fires. National Sierra Club has conferred the highest status possible on Sierra Club San Diego. We are proud to be among one of the most active and effective Sierra Club chapters in the nation.

In December Sierra Club San Diego won its third consecutive Climate Action Plan lawsuit against San Diego County's weak, unlawful climate action plan. We hope the County does not appeal the case because an appeal is likely a sure loser in appellate court. Instead we would like to work with the county on a real plan that would protect the environment and stand up in court. Such a plan would require any and all environmental mitigation to take place within San Diego County, not in Peru or Canada so it can reduce our local air pollution and greenhouse gas. It would require new projects to be electric and to rely on renewable energy. It would reduce traffic and vehicle miles travelled. It would retain open space, chaparral, and coastal sage scrub, not just for the plants and animals but because chaparral and coastal sage scrub adsorb large quantities of carbon dioxide. It would require new developments to be carbon neutral and mitigate any excess carbon production here in San Diego County. It would reduce or use methane from county landfills. It would make it priority to clean up the air in San Diego County's poorest and most polluted communities. We want to collaborate with the County on real Climate Action Plan; we tire of constantly having to defeat them in court. We are hoping that as of this writing that

the supervisors will negotiate with us on a real Climate Action Plan.

Community Choice Energy (CCE), sometimes call Community Choice Aggregation is sweeping California cities and counties. It creates a competitive marketplace for people to purchase electric energy from multiple providers. Sierra Club, along with a coalitional of other environmental organizations was able to pass CCE for the City of San Diego by a 7-2 vote. Our endorsed candidates Barbara Bry, Jennifer Campbell, Georgette Gomez, Monica Montgomery, Vivian Moreno, and Chris Ward all voted in the majority as did Mark Kersey. CCE was also supported by Mayor Kevin Faulconer. It is estimated that CCE will save consumers two billion dollars in the City of San Diego alone over the next 25 years. Even more importantly, CCE will enable every San Diegan to buy 100% renewable energy generated by solar, geothermal, hydroelectric, and wind power.

Even more amazingly, by a 5-0 vote, the County approved a study to see if CCE would be good for the County of San Diego. With our friend Diane Jacob, the Chairwoman of the Board of Supervisors, and our wonderful Sierra Club endorsed candidate, Nathan Fletcher leading the way, the other supervisors Greg Cox, Kristin Gaspar, and Jim Desmond saw the light and joined in passing this historic measure. While we will not have the final analysis until October, the prospect looks good for a plan that can deliver lower rates and provide greener energy for all people that live in the county of San Diego.

The City of San Diego and the County of San Diego joins other cities in the region in the process of adopting or exploring CCE including Chula Vista, Carlsbad, Encinitas, La Mesa and Oceanside. Solana Beach is the first city in the county to adopt and move forward with a CCE program.

The View continued on page 7

California Energy Commission Makes a Big Move to Phase Out Gas Use in Buildings

CEC Prioritizes Building Electrification as a Critical Strategy to Cut Climate and Air Pollution

Did you know that gas appliances in our homes and buildings consume more gas than all of California's power plants and are a major source of climate and air pollution? Buildings are among the top three largest sources of climate pollution in California and roughly 90% of residential and commercial buildings in California use gas. Luckily California is beginning its part to put an end to this pollution.

In February, the California Energy Commission (CEC) laid out an historic path to clean, healthy buildings by unanimously approving the update to the 2018 Integrated Energy Policy Report (IEPR). This statewide policy report lays out recommendations on a broad range of topics that will require action if California is going to meet its climate and clean air goals without compromising energy reliability or affordability for consumers.

Rachel Golden, Senior Campaign Representative for the Sierra Club's My Generation Campaign stated "This is a big deal. The passage of this statewide report comes just six months after former Gov. Brown signed SB 100 into law and issued an executive order to put California on the path toward a future free of fossil fuels. The IEPR is yet another example of California's regulators proving that they know we must act quickly to cut greenhouse gas emissions, including accelerating use of clean energy inside our homes and businesses. Today's decision is the beginning of a major transition toward healthy zero-emission homes and buildings that are powered with clean energy."

Some of the highlights of the report included:

- **Climate impacts:** In California, building sector greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions are second only to transportation, when accounting for electricity use, water use, and wastewater treatment. The majority of these emissions are from onsite gas combustion, largely for water and space heating. As a result, each new opportunity for truly impactful investment in energy efficiency and fuel choice is precious. If the decisions made for new buildings result in new and continued fossil fuel use, it will be that much more difficult for California to meet its GHG emission reduction goals.
- **Health impacts of gas:** In addition to GHG emissions, nitrogen oxides (NOx), carbon monoxide, and other pollutants that are products of fossil fuel combustion can harm human health. Increasing concentrations of NOx contribute to ground-level ozone, another chemical that can be detrimental to human health. Ozone is also a major component in smog. In metropolitan areas of California, ozone concentrations frequently exceed existing health-protective standards in the summertime. An estimated 93 percent of Californians live in ozone nonattainment areas. Additional ventilation requirements are needed in buildings that use gas equipment and appliances to minimize the indoor air pollutants caused by incomplete combustion. By decarbonizing buildings, California is striving to make changes that reduce smog and support human health.

- **Solution:** There is a growing consensus that building electrification is the most viable and predictable path to zero-emission buildings. This consensus is due to the availability of off-the-shelf, highly efficient electric technologies (such as heat pumps) and the continued reduction of emission intensities in the electricity sector.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Compared to issues such as community choice energy and transportation, building decarbonization has been woefully ignored in climate policy throughout the county. Unfortunately, this is also the case at the state level, where the California Energy Commission's new energy code (set to be adopted in January 2020) will not encourage building electrification to the extent needed to hit state or local climate goals.

In response to this need to decarbonize buildings, Sierra Club San Diego is establishing a new volunteer program to fight for lower building emissions throughout the county. We will be doing this by advocating around building electrification (so that buildings will no longer have to rely on natural gas as their primary energy source) and the adoption of reach codes, which are city-wide ordinances that support more aggressive emissions targets than those set by the state.

Much like our transportation-focused SANDAC volunteer program, our new building electrification campaign will pair volunteers with local city staff and elected officials for the purposes of educating them on the importance of building electrification and pushing for the adoption of reach codes. Accomplishing this throughout the region could dramatically cut our carbon footprint while spurring green job growth and reducing energy costs for consumers.

Over the last few years, the devoted volunteers of Sierra Club San Diego have played a pivotal role in countless environmental victories, from land conservation to community choice energy to transportation. Now, in this moment of massive climate successes throughout our region, we need to make sure building decarbonization isn't forgotten or swept under the rug.

If you'd like to volunteer or want more information about our new volunteer program, email kyle.rentschler@sierraclub.org.

Chapter Membership Meeting

Saturday, May 18, 2019, 10:30 am -12:00 Noon

Otto Center

2920 Zoo Drive, San Diego, California 92101

Member meeting for those interested in learning more about the San Diego Chapter. Meet Chapter leaders and hear about our latest conservation campaigns, outings programs and activities, or just how to get more active and do your part for the environment.

Find out what Sierra Club San Diego is all about. From conservation to politics, hikes, backpacking and social events, we have so much for you to explore!

RSVP at <http://sandigosierraclub.org/>

EARTH FAIR 2019

Sunday, April 28 Balboa Park 10AM – 5PM



Protect our CLIMATE
30th SAN DIEGO EARTH DAY 2019

Exhibit • Volunteer • Sponsor • Attend

WWW.EARTHDAYWEB.ORG

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Tuesday, April 9

6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Carmel Valley Library - Seminar Room
3919 Townsgate Dr. San Diego, CA 92130



For more information and to RSVP visit
www.sierraclubsolarprogram.org

C10-839077

Taco Tuesday Bicycle Rides

Thirty-five years and still rolling! Can't beat that for perseverance. The Bicycle Section was founded in 1984 by two stalwart San Diego Chapter members, Lee Siegel and Rusty Runholt. Today, adult riders of all ages explore the backroads, parks, and urban neighborhoods of San Diego County and beyond. Weekend and weekday rides at varying speeds and distances. Ride the Coaster to Oceanside with COL Jerry Fitzsimmons on his socially-paced Taco Tuesday rides. Work up an appetite as you cruise the coast, then treat yourself to a taco feast. Who says you can't have your taco and eat it too?

Check out our monthly schedule of road rides:
www.sandiego.sierraclub.org/bicycle. Join us!



NCG Conservation Committee members were very active in the past few months. A major hearing at the city of Escondido yielded an exciting new direction for the Climate Action Plan. The new Mayor and City Council stated they intend to 'join the climate revolution' and directed staff to develop 'the best plan ever'. Members also mobilized around the Community Choice energy hearing at the County of San Diego which was won in a unanimous vote. Led by Supervisors Jacob and Fletcher, the County will now proceed with a study to look at how to implement energy choice for our region. The NCG Conservation Committee is getting active around climate, housing, and habitat protection. We have regular meetings and trainings on various aspects of the environmental issues, challenges, and opportunities in our region. If you are interested in making a difference for your family, community, or the earth, join us. Contact us at conservation@sierraclubncg.org

Save the Date!

The NCG Annual Picnic will be Saturday, June 1, 2019 at Dixon Lake in Escondido. For all the details go to <https://sierraclubncg.org/>.

You can now make a Tax-Deductible Donation to the North County Group to help us with our education and conservation efforts in the North County. Go to <https://sierraclubncg.org/> for more information.

Get Active!

Chapter Political Committee

Are you interested or active in local politics? The Chapter Political Committee may be right for you! The Political Committee is a group of Sierra Club volunteers who share an interest in the political process and who recognize the importance of an informed voter public as a critical element in our efforts to protect our wild areas.

The purpose of the Chapter Political Committee is to help the Chapter in its efforts to preserve the environment through nonpartisan grassroots political action. The Committee is responsible for making recommendations to the Chapter Executive Committee to support or oppose local candidates for elected office and positions on local ballot measures and initiatives. Political Committee activities include evaluating political issues and positions, planning and conducting the endorsement and support of candidates for public office, and developing and leading the efforts necessary for those processes.

Political Committee members are appointed by the Chapter Executive Committee and serve for a term of three (3) years.

The Committee's goal is to have no less than 9 voting members. The committee can still conduct business if below that number but will continue to make a diligent effort to recruit Committee members. Prospective members must have been a member of the Sierra Club in good standing for at least one year prior to appointment and have participated in no fewer than two (2) Political Committee meetings in the 12 months preceding the application for voting membership.

Sierra Club members do not have to be voting members to participate in the Political Committee's work and activities. Only voting members may participate in final deliberations and political action decisions.

The Committee meets monthly on the second Thursday at 7pm at the Chapter office. Meetings become more frequent as the political season heats up. The Political Committee

membership application can be found at <http://sandiegosierraclub.org/get-involved/political/> or by contacting the Chapter office.

Selection Criteria for Voting Membership on the Committee

- **Be a Sierra Club member in good standing for at least one year prior to appointment.**
- **Participated in at least two (2) Political Committee meetings within 12 months prior to applying.**
- **Be supportive of Sierra Club purposes and goals.**
- **Ability to work with diverse group of volunteers, staff and be part of a team.**
- **Ability to keep an open mind about what action (if any) the Club should take in an election, regardless of personal preference.**
- **Able to attend Political Committee meetings held monthly and other committee meetings and activities as necessary to achieve the goals of the Political Committee.**
- **Actively participate in the endorsement process and activities for target candidate campaigns.**
- **Be willing to take leadership roles and meet deadlines.**
- **Be conscientious about reading correspondence and e-mail.**
- **Able to participate in assembling information on candidates through review of legislative records, questionnaires, interviews, past Sierra Club contact, and assessment of the campaign.**
- **Willingness to become familiar with and to follow the Sierra Club Political Committee Compliance Guidelines.**
- **Able to support political action decisions, even if you may have disagreed.**
- **Willingness to learn about environmental issues important to the Club.**
- **Be willing to avoid even the appearance of partisan sympathies during the pre-endorsement process of examining candidates.**
- **Ability to act in the best interest of the Sierra Club if a member or leader in another organization.**
- **Completed Membership application.**



Sierra Club

North County Coastal Group

Quarterly Meeting

Wednesday, April 10th

7:00 pm to 8:30 pm

Alga Norte Community Park

6565 Alicante Rd, Carlsbad

Guest Speakers:

Barbera Hamilton and Priya Bhar-Patel

Join us for a special discussion with the newest

Sierra Club endorsed City Council members, as they review their environmental priorities and answer your questions.

Special Presentation - Zero Waste with Marina Qutab

Can you live a zero-waste life? Can you buy food that's not wrapped in single-use plastic? What about when you travel? The first step is awareness, and the knowledge that you can take action. It really is up to each of us and all of us to save the world. But we don't have to do it alone - as this month's guest presentation to Sierra Club, Marina Qutab will give us valuable tips on sliding into a zero-waste lifestyle. After her presentation, she will also take questions.

Meeting FREE of Charge and Open to the Public!

Find Your Place to Help Protect the Environment

Can you volunteer?

The Chapter does as much as it does because many volunteers donate generous amounts of time to making it all work. We can always use more hands. Some of the ways you can help are listed here. If you are interested in any of these opportunities or if you don't see your perfect job, contact Marty Marquez at 858-569-6005 or martha.marquez@sierraclub.org

Going Green

Are you a member of the Sierra Club looking for a way to get involved with protecting that special natural area, plant, animal, or quality of life? The Chapter's Conservation Committee is looking for motivated people to address these and other issues in the San Diego and Imperial Counties area. Answer this call and we will train you as a Sierra Club conservation activist. In addition to helping your favorite cause, you'll have access to the opportunities and resources of the Chapter, you'll learn valuable leadership skills, and you'll get connected with other environmentalists and groups.

Event Planners and Party Organizers

Like to give parties or organize events large or small - whale watching, wine tasting, even gala dinners? Experience welcomed, but certainly not required. Events are scheduled regularly so come join us at any time.

Marketing and Graphic Designers

The Chapter has many ways that you can put your skills in marketing and graphic design to work for the environment. Consultants to help committee's create innovative and appealing web pages, reports, publications, guides and other materials are just what we need.

Web Techies and Designers

Looking for a way to turn your web design expertise into a web showcase or be the master of the web? Help us to bring our website up to date! Looking for the right techie(s) who can work with volunteers. Check out our website at www.sandiego.sierraclub.org.

Budding Writers Yearning to be Free

Ever have the yearning to be a famous author or tune up on your writing skills? The Hi Sierran Committee is always on the lookout for roving reporters to write our articles. Commitments as low as two or three articles a year are welcome.

The View continued from page 2

Sierra Club San Diego was an early and strong supporter of SDSU West, the new campus, on the old Qualcomm Stadium site. With our support SDSU West was passed by the voters and Soccer City was defeated. SDSU West has all the elements of an excellent project that would benefit the City, the University, and the economy. From an environmental standpoint its pledge to do a full CEQA review, and to create a San Diego river park were key elements in our support for this project.

Now we enter another phase of the project. Sierra Club San Diego must make sure the SDSU project is environmentally sound. SDSU has just completed a scoping process that included public meeting that I attended and a scoping document that was circulated. Sierra Club San Diego responded to the scoping document with 15 points that SDSU needs to include in their Draft EIR that will be finished this summer. We commented on their need for public access to the new campus, recycling all the materials from the old Qualcomm Stadium, cleaning any residual pollution from the Kinder Morgan petroleum tank farm adjacent to the project, the need for a project that emits no additional greenhouse gas, the need for an all-electric project, the need for solar energy collectors on the project, plans for flood control, plans for public transit in addition to the trolley to reduce vehicle miles travelled to and from the campus, the importance of any mitigation projects all of which must be IN the county of San Diego, the importance of plan to adhere to the states new "buy Clean" Law, and the provision of affordable housing on the site!

Once again, Sierra Club does not oppose development. We like good development in the right place that adheres to strict environmental standards. We favor good development that is near public transit and jobs, on the numerous vacant lots in entire San Diego Metro area, and development that produces good jobs, helps the environment and avoids sprawl. While negotiation with developers is often unpopular with local residents and environmentalists, in the absence of organized political or legal action, it is sometimes the only choice. But always, Sierra Club San Diego will attempt to make the best choice for the environment.

Speaking of development, following our legal victories against the Climate Action Plan by San Diego County, several developers want to talk to Sierra Club about settlements. Here are the principles that Sierra Club San Diego follows. We will not negotiate with sprawl developments that increase the risk of fire, overload our roads with traffic, and increase air pollution and greenhouse gas. If a development is near transit and jobs, if it can mitigate virtually all their greenhouse gas on the project site, and if we can improve the development through negotiation, then we will talk to developers. It is important we not oppose everything, but instead attempt to stop bad, damaging projects and improve good projects. In all cases, Sierra Club San Diego will do what we and our legal team calculates is the best outcome for the environment and the people of San Diego.

SAN DIEGO

Chapter Activities

All Activities are held at the Chapter Office 6:30pm unless otherwise stated:
8304 Clairemont Mesa Blvd., Suite 101, San Diego, CA 92111.

Our entrance is on the west end of the front building of Kearny Office Park, just west of I-163 and on the north side of Clairemont Mesa Blvd. Other environmental and activist events are posted at www.sdeln.org

2nd Friday Movie Night

Note: No Reservations needed, ever!

May 10, 2019 – 6:30pm

Movie: The Sonic Sea (2016)

60 minutes

This Emmy Award winner depicts the devastating impact of industrial and military ocean noise on whales and other marine life. The film explores the critical role of sound in the sea, and the sudden, dramatic changes human activity is inflicting on the ocean's delicate acoustic habitat – changes that threaten the ability of marine mammals to function and ultimately, to survive. The film features the former Navy pilot who proved that naval sonar kills whales, and also the musician and environmental activist Sting, whose interview connects the sonic world of marine life with our sonic world on land.

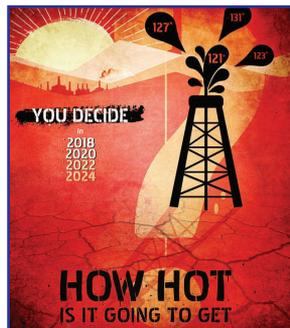


June 14, 2019 – 6:30pm

Movie: How Hot is it Going to Get? (2018)

1 hour 20 minutes

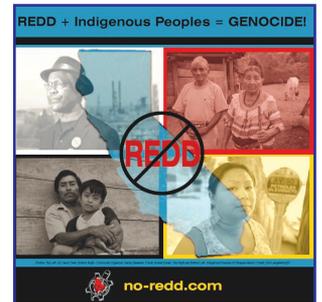
This film is a new feature-length global warming documentary that asks a simple question and reveals both the Fahrenheit answer to the question and how young voters can change the answer. The film lays bare the chief hurdles in getting global warming recognized as fact and achieving real policy change in the U.S. to ensure a livable Earth for current and future generations. Included are interviews with Millennial-generation voters, political experts and climate scientists who give lucid analysis of the clear and present challenge to prevent a Soylent Green-like future on Earth.



July 12, 2019 – 6:30pm

Double Feature: Movie: A Darker Shade of Green – REDD Alert and the Future of Forests (2012) 28 minutes

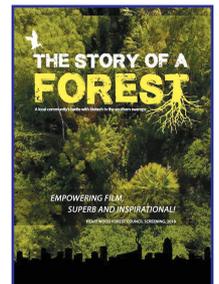
Carbon trading is the focus of this film. REDD, or “reduced emissions from deforestation and forest degradation,” is one of the most controversial issues in the climate change debate. The basic concept is simple: governments, companies or forest owners in the South should be rewarded for keeping their forests instead of cutting them down. The devil, as always, is in the details. REDD is a false solution, because it does not reduce greenhouse gas emissions from fossil fuels.



Movie: The Story of a Forest (2018)

37 minutes

In 2004, a group of activists in South Florida stumbled upon a plan from biotech industry giants, supported by the governor’s administration, to clear a vast swath of land in the Northeast Everglades to accommodate the Scripps Biotech Research Institute. The activists launched a 10-year campaign to stop development, during which civil disobedience arrests, lawsuits, scandal, corruption, tree sits, and blockades resulted in both victories and losses. Their goal: to protect biodiversity in the Briger Forest and the Florida wetlands.



Chapter Outings

Chapter Outings are now an online listing only.

With the time gap between publishing and delivery of the HiSierran through the mail we believe this is the best way to get you up to date listings.

Go to: sandiegosierraclub.org

Then click on “Get Outdoors”

Sierra Talks

Sierra Talks are on the first Friday, starting with refreshments and representatives from Chapter groups at 6:30 pm and programs at 7 pm with discussions afterward. The location is the Joyce Beers Center at 3900 Vermont St., San Diego, 92103, across the street from Trader Joe's. Parking is available under Trader Joe's and Ralphs Market.

Sierra Talks are free and open to the public. Program Coordinator: Ernest "EL" Lotecka sdwalks@interactor.cc

April 5

Mystery Cat:

Southern California's Elusive Mountain Lion Join volunteer naturalist Don Endicott for a presentation of Southern California's seldom seen apex predator, puma concolor cougar. Don will share the incredible attributes and signature behaviors of the big cats, show how relationships between mountain lions and people have changed over time, outline their key contributions to a healthy wilderness environment, and address the challenges and threats facing our local apex predator. Don's presentation features still photos, sound tracks, and video footage of seldom seen behaviors, including nursing kittens and bonus footage of two trail encounters filmed by a hiker and a bicyclist. He will describe and demonstrate how to respond if you should meet a mountain lion in the back-country.



Don is a National Association of Interpretation Certified Interpretive Guide and Mission Trails Regional Park Trail Guide as well as public educator for the San Diego Natural History Museum and San Diego Humane Society Project Wildlife. He supports information exchanges with UC Davis's California Mountain Lion research project team. An avid hiker and climber, Don has enjoyed over 50 years exploring and photographing wildlife and wilderness settings throughout California and the western States.

May 3

The San Diego County Bird Atlas

The Atlas puts each species into its context with respect to breeding biology, migration, habitat use, and conservation. It is unusual among bird atlases in covering winter distributions as well as breeding distributions. In his presentation, the author Philip Unitt will address not only the surprises the



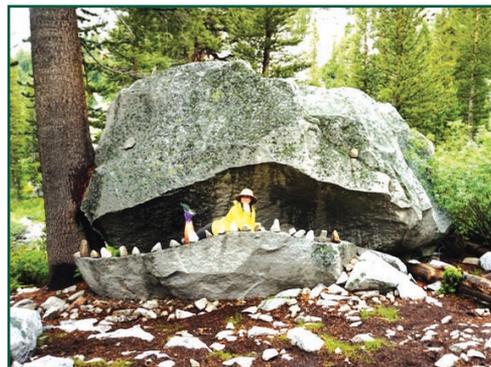
of rare species in need of conservation, how it has been used to understand birds' response to fire and habitat fragmentation, and how it has served as the basis for modeling distributions in general.

Phil is Curator of birds and mammals at the San Diego Natural History Museum. He has published nearly 50 articles and book chapters on the distribution, ecology, identification, and conservation of birds. Phil also is a co-author of *Birds of the Salton Sea*. Since 1986 he has served as editor of *Western Birds*, the regional journal of ornithology for western North America, and co-authored article on the effects of California's massive wildfires on birds.

June 7

Hiking the Pacific Crest Trail in Southern California

Shawnté Salabert spent two years researching, hiking, photographing, and writing about the Pacific Crest Trail for her book *Hiking the Pacific Crest Trail: Southern California*, covering the ground between its



southern terminus in Campo, California and Yosemite National Park's iconic Tuolumne Meadows. During that time, she confronted fears and pushed her limits while also learning what was truly important in life - and falling more deeply in love with California in the process. During her presentation, she'll share stories of trail magic, wild weather, emotional rollercoasters and more, along with practical information on section hiking the trail, during a photo-heavy virtual tour of the first 942.5 miles of this world-class hiking path.

Shawnté is a Los Angeles-based freelance writer with a taste for wild spaces. Her work has appeared in *Los Angeles Magazine*, *Outside*, *California Sunday Magazine*, *Backpacker*, *Alpinist*, *Modern Hiker*, and *Adventure Journal*, among other outlets. She is an ambassador for the American Hiking Society, and a trip leader and Wilderness Travel Course staff member with the Sierra Club.

Empowering Climate Reality Leaders

By Amélie Catheline

Must We Change? Can We Change? Will We Change?

The climate crisis we all face comes down to these three simple yet powerful questions. Former Vice-President Al Gore adeptly answers all of them and empowers Climate Reality Leaders to do the same. The Climate Reality Leadership Corps three-day training is intense and inspires anyone who attends whether they are a long-time climate change/ environmental activist or they are barely aware of the issue.

In August 2018, Climate Reality Project hosted a training in Los Angeles for 2,200 participants from 40 different countries across the globe. Being so close to San Diego, it was impossible to pass this opportunity up. There were nearly one hundred San Diegans that participated in the training.

Mr. Gore opened the training with a presentation describing the latest science of climate change. During the two-hour session he discussed the local and global impacts of climate change that are negatively affecting people's lives and our shared environment. While it was difficult to see the devastations caused

by so many recent worldwide natural disasters (extreme hurricanes, typhoons, floods, droughts and wildfires) all due to climate change, it served as a critical reminder that we must continue to do everything possible to take climate action.

Mr. Gore's response to "can we change?" was much more opti-



Climate Reality Leaders give presentation at the Sierra Club San Diego North County Coastal Group Quarterly Meeting in January 2019. Left to right: Carter Stafford, Niels Lund, Mayela Manasjan, Amélie Catheline.



Group picture of the newly-minted 2,200 Climate Reality Leadership training in Los Angeles, August 2018

mistic. He shared examples of multiple global solutions that we can do about climate change. Guest speakers included scientists, politicians, firefighters, artists and environmental justice activists who shared their knowledge, perspectives, actions and explained why it is important to advocate for clean air, water and solutions that will protect the planet for all current and future generations.

This exceptional training prepares Climate Reality Leaders to strengthen

their resolve and further their climate advocacy. It is an empowering training with exceptional speakers and panelists. The presentations and workshops provide hands-on experience and practical tools that anyone can apply immediately. Last but not least, it is amazing opportunity to make new friends, network with

people from around the globe and learn from each other!

Will you join the millions using their voices and everyday choices to tackle the climate crisis? For more information about the Climate Reality Project or to apply to an upcoming training please visit: www.climate-realityproject.org

Amélie Catheline is a member of the North County Coastal Group Executive Committee.

Climate Change continued from page 1

this month voted 3-2 to appeal the trial ruling, even further delaying the benefits of an enforceable and verifiable Climate Action Plan for San Diego County.

Sierra Club requests our Supervisors to drop their political posturing (and years of litigation) and ensure that future development does not risk the health and welfare of County residents, and our environment. Reducing air pollution and greenhouse gases is everyone's responsibility and challenge.

Specifically, the Club asks the Board to adopt a Climate Action Plan that include the following land use measures:

- **Reduce vehicle miles traveled (VMT), the largest contributor to air pollution, by adopting actionable smart growth policies that support infill development rather than sprawl.**

- **Stop approving massive developments in areas classified by CAL FIRE as Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones.**
- **Support smart growth and redevelopment within urban areas and rural villages and oppose sprawl development in sensitive natural habitat.**
- **Prioritize building new homes and upgrading existing buildings to be zero-emissions and climate-friendly.**

The Board of Supervisors must adopt a Climate Action Plan that contains enforceable measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. We also urge the Board to use their voice and vote at the San Diego Association of Governments to advocate and support smart regional public transportation planning.

Richard Miller is the Chapter Director of the San Diego Chapter
George Courser is the Conservation Chair of the San Diego Chapter

San Diego Chapter Awards Dinner Celebration

Our Environmental Heritage

Join us as Sierra Club San Diego recognizes and commemorates the achievements of the Chapter, community organizations, leaders and volunteers who have contributed their time and effort to protect the environment of our region. The event will include a reception, silent auction, hearty food stations and awards program.



Fantastic Environmental Action Taken (FEAT) Awards

Feeding San Diego
San Diego EarthWorks
San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board

Joanne Pearson Memorial Award

David Grubb

Chapter Volunteer Awards

Silver Cup To Be Announced	Life Time Achievement Jean Costa	Distinguished Achievement Karenlee Robinson Paul Webb	Chapter Service Michael Taylor	Volunteer of the Year Dina Campbell
Outings Leader Alice Fichandler	Political Activist Brian Elliott	Conservation Activist Laura Hunter	Conservation Activist Cynthia Wooten	Rookie Activist Amanda Macia

Saturday, May 4, 2019

Flow Dinner Reception & Silent Auction 6:00 pm

Program 7:30 pm

Deserts & Coffee 9:00 pm

Hilton Harbor Island Hotel

1960 Harbor Island Drive, San Diego 92101

Individual Tickets - \$100

Tickets may be purchased at www.sandiegosierraclub.org

Sponsorships

Sponsorship packages are available from \$1,000 to \$5,000

CONTACT Richard Miller at (858) 569-6005 or richard.miller@sierraclub.org

Sierra Club Bus Trips

Part of the largest grassroots environmental organization in the country, Sierra Club provides environmentally friendly outdoor adventures.

Since 1982 the San Diego Chapter has been offering bus trips to a variety of National and State Parks.

What makes these trips special is that they are organized by a fantastic team of volunteer leaders and nobody pays them for their efforts. They do it out of an appreciation for these special places and a passion for sharing them with you. We look forward to having you join us on a bus trip to explore, enjoy and protect the planet.



Save the date for the following trips: 2019

April 3-7, 2019

Death Valley - Furnace Creek Campground

Trip Type: Backpack and Bus camp/Day Hikes

May 1-5, 2019

Zion - Watchman Campground

Trip Type: Backpack and Bus camp/Day Hikes

July 10 -14, 2019

Hoover Wilderness

Trip Type: Backpack and Bus camp/Day Hikes

August 14-18, 2019

Yosemite

Trip Type: Backpack and Bus camp/Day Hikes

September 18-22, 2019

Big Sur

Trip Type: Backpack and Bus camp/Day Hikes

For more information or to register for the above Bus Trips, please visit www.sdsierraclub.org.

Like us on Facebook



CST2087766-40. Registration as a seller of travel does not constitute approval by the State of California. Locations and dates are subject to change due to permit availability.

Inspiring Connections Outdoors

Bill Tayler
San Diego, ICO Co-Chair



Whale Watching

by Greg Shadoan

In January, San Diego ICO took students from the Hawking 2 STEAM Charter School on the San Diego Sierra Club's 2019 Whale Watching Trip. Many of the kids had never been on a boat before, and most of them had never seen any whales or dolphins in the wild. We joined fellow Sierra Club members and friends to venture out of San Diego harbor to where Pacific Gray Whales are migrating along our coastline. We were lucky enough to have the opportunity to see both adults and calves from afar

and up close. All in all, we saw about 8 Gray Whales and at least 100 Common Dolphins who were playfully swimming alongside our boat as well as "surfing" in our wake! It was a great day out on the ocean with the San Diego ICO kids, and it was definitely an experience they'll always cherish.

We'd like to give special thanks to Richard Miller for arranging to have San Diego ICO join this trip and to the wonderful Sierra Club San Diego members who donated the funds to buy the kids' tickets for this trip. San Diego ICO thanks you for your generous support of our program!

Inspiring Connections Outdoors is a Sierra Club outreach program that provides free outdoor experiences to under-served youth, to help them exploring the outdoors, develop the skills to do it safely, and nurture a desire to protect natural spaces. Please visit our website at www.sandigosierraclub.org

Volunteering With ICO – For information about volunteering with ICO, please contact Greg Shadoan (gregshadoan@yahoo.com).

How to Donate – We appreciate your support helping us to provide exciting, safe adventures free of charge. To receive a tax credit for your donation, please make your check payable to "Sierra Club Foundation/San Diego ICO" and send to:

San Diego ICO
c/o Mike Gilligan,
3446 N. Mountain View Drive,
San Diego, CA 92116



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Payment must be made at time of submission by check to: Sierra Club San Diego
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Send ad to: info@thomascreative.com

Submission Deadlines for HiSierran Newsletter:

If you would like to submit an advertisement, story or article please remember these important deadlines:

Upcoming Issues:

July/August/September 2019

Deadline is June 1st

To submit by email, please email to both:

info@thomascreative.com
richard.miller@sierraclub.org

Submissions are subject to approval for content and subject matter.

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richard.miller@sierraclub.org.

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SAN DIEGO CHAPTER

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San Diego, California

92111-1315

Donate online:

<http://sandiegosierraclub.org/donate>

Committees & Contact Information

Meetings are held at the Sierra Club office or conference room unless otherwise indicated.

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Conservation Organizer: Kyle Rentschler
kyle.rentschler@sierraclub.org

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Meets 2nd Wednesday 6:30 pm Chapter office.

Chair: Peter Andersen
619-857-4233
westone47@gmail.com

Vice-Chair: David Hogan
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hoganhomestead@gmail.com

Secretary: Amanda Mascia
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North County Coastal Group Rep.

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Fred Rogers
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Treasurer (Non-Voting):

Rochelle Hancock
rae_1024@yahoo.com

Assistant Treasurer (Non-Voting)

Orion Hudgins
orion@orioncpa.com

NORTH COUNTY COASTAL GROUP (COASTERS)

Contact Rep or check website for meeting information.

Rep: Sally Prendergast 760-525-5156
sallyp123@mac.com

NORTH COUNTY GROUP (INLAND)

http://sierraclubnbcg.org
Contact Chair for time and location.

Chair: Suzi Sandore
760-484-3440
hikersuzi16@gmail.com

COMMITTEES

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

Meets 2nd Monday at 6:30 pm Chapter Office.

Chair: George Courser 858-231-0156
gcourser@hotmail.com

International

Call for meeting information
Jean Costa (619) 463-0721

Transportation

David Grubb 760--753-0273
DavidGrubb@sbcglobal.net

Wildlife

Renee Owens 619-201-1965
renee@wildlifezone.net

POLITICAL COMMITTEE

Meets 1st Tuesday at 7:00pm Chapter Office

Chair: Fred Rogers
ferogers@gmail.com

FOSTER LODGE COMMITTEE

Meets 4th Wednesday 6:30pm

OUTINGS COMMITTEE

Meets quarterly, contact Chair for date and location.

Chair: Kevin Neal
sd.outchair@gmail.com.

Leadership Review & Safety Committee

Chair: Michael Taylor (619 -948-2062)
sd.lrsc@gmail.com

Meets quarterly, call for information.

Bus Trips

Mike Fry (858) 748-5166

Chapter Outings Leadership Training (COL)

Stefanie Maio
sd.col.training@gmail.com

Pacific Crest Trail

Rob Langsdorf (858) 454-4777
SDSCPCTS@yahoo.com

SEAL SOCIETY

For meeting and docent information:

Ellen Shively
ellenshively@sbcglobal.net
619-479-3412

WILDERNESS BASICS COURSE (WBC)

Held annually beginning in January

San Diego

Michael Taylor
info@wildernessbasics.com
www.wildernessbasics.com

Escondido

Lee Ledford (858-485-1063)
lledfor1@san.rr.com
wbc.sierraclubnbcg.org

SECTIONS & SOCIAL COMMITTEES

Bicycle

Call for meeting information. Jerry Fitzsimmons
(858) 224-3437 Membership@sdscls.org.
www.sandiegosierraclub.org/get-outdoors/bicycle

Family

Jennifer Douglas
(858) 344-5490
jenniferdouglasvettel@gmail.com
www.meetup.com/SDSierraClubFamily

Photography

www.sandiego.sierraclub.org
Steven Cirone
stevencirone@gmail.com

Social Sierrans- formerly Singles.

Dina Campbell
dinacampbell07@gmail.com

INSPIRING CONNECTIONS OUTDOORS

(ICO)

Call or check website for meeting information.
www.sandiegosierraclub.org

Chair: Bill Tayler, (858) 272-8574
btayler@taylerlaw.com

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richard.miller@sierraclub.org

Hi Sierran Newsletter

Managing Editor: Judy Thomas
info@thomascreative.com

SIERRA TALKS, MONTHLY PROGRAM

1st Friday of every month

Program Manager: Ernest "EL" Lotecka
(760) 533-2725
sdwalks@interactor.cc

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San Diego Chapter

8304 Clairemont Mesa Blvd. #101

San Diego, CA 92111

On the north side & just west of the 163.

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9:00am – 5:00pm

Phone: 858-569-6005

www.sandiesierraclub.org

Seal Society



San Diego

An active year for the Sierra Club Seal Society docents. The seals and sea lions need our help to educate the many visitors and advocate for continued protection at the upcoming California Coastal Commission meeting here in San Diego. The request we are making will be for a continuation of the Casa Beach closure during the annual pupping season (December 15-May 15th) and placement of a "guideline rope" across the 152 foot beach during the summer recreational "open beach" season for the remaining seven months. To access the two petitions, see it on the Chapter's web site. For information on joining the docents, please contact Ellen Shively at 619-479-3412 or email: ellenshively@sbcglobal.net.

