



Sierra Club San Diego Chapter

HiSIERRAN

Serving San Diego And Imperial Counties

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Visit our website at: www.sandigosierraclub.org

April/May/June 2021

Call for Executive Committee Nominations

The Sierra Club San Diego Nominating Committee is seeking Chapter members to run for the Chapter Executive Committee (ExCom) in the 2021 Election. The committee seeks a diverse pool of candidates, balanced in terms of gender, ethnicity, and geography. The Sierra Club San Diego membership will elect four (4) Executive Committee members in 2021. The two candidates receiving the highest vote will be elected to three-year terms, the next two with the highest vote will be elected to two-year terms. Nominations are due July 31, 2021.

The candidate questionnaire is available at <http://sandigosierraclub.org/> or by emailing scoffice@sierrasd.org.

For more information, please contact the Nominating Committee Chair, Lisa Ross at freudsid@gmail.com.

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Sierra Club's Equity Journey

History of our founders and our journey towards becoming an anti-racist organization

Sierra Club is the largest, most influential grassroots environmental organization in the United States. Our resources and relationships allow us to advance environmental progress in deep and lasting ways. Such accrued power and privilege compels us to fight for the humanity of all people. The current environmental and climate crises is the result of centuries of reckless exploitation of nature, natural resource depletion due to consumption, systemic racism including colonization, slavery. Our founding was steeped in an approach to nature and conservation that often failed to recognize people of color, in general, and, in particular, Indigenous people's connection to lands where new parks and other protected areas were established.

The Sierra Club's Founders

For the first part of its existence, the Sierra Club was an exclusive social outings club established to explore, enjoy, and protect the Sierra Nevadas. Membership was often denied to people of color. The Sierra Club acknowledges the harm such discrimination created.

John Muir, one of the Sierra Club's founders, sparked the move-

Equity Journey continued on page 4

Zero Waste Movement is Gaining Momentum

By Rick Anthony and Ron Askeland
Zero Waste Subcommittee



Zero Waste is a subcommittee of the Conservation Committee and is dedicated to achieving zero waste in San Diego and Imperial Counties.

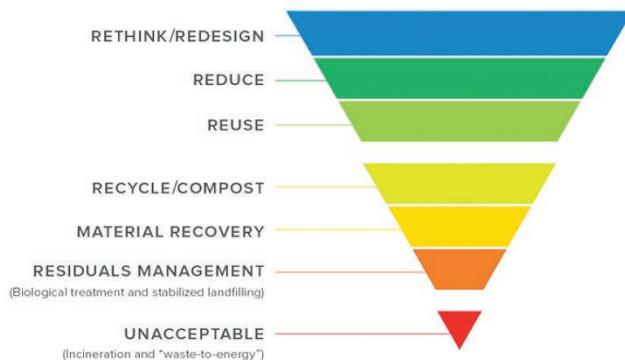
The Sierra Club California Zero Waste Goals:

- Advocate for local ordinances and state bills on zero waste.
- Develop public education programs, engage local communities and businesses.
- Collaborate with other groups to promote environmental justice and fight climate change.

Top priorities of the San Diego Zero Waste Subcommittee:

- Ensure that Zero Waste is included in the San Diego County Climate Action Plan (CAP).
- Enforcement of City of San Diego's ordinance O-21030 which bans polystyrene food containers and requires that single-use utensils and straws be provided only upon customer request (single use plastics ban).
- Reduce methane generation due to food waste in landfills by promoting composting and partnering with other NGOs to reduce food waste.

THE ZERO WASTE HIERARCHY 7.0



© Zero Waste International Alliance zwia.org/zwia

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HiSIERRAN

Explore, Enjoy and Protect the Planet

Sierra Club San Diego Chapter

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David Hogan

The next time you're driving north on Interstate 805 past the Governor Drive Exit, look northwest as you cross the bridge over Rose Canyon for a glimpse of Nobel Hill, a last special patch of San Diego nature that remains threatened by development despite promised preservation of the area.

The San Diego Association of Governments and Caltrans have big plans for Nobel Hill. Years ago, and with little public notice, the agencies approved a major project to widen I-805 from Kearny Mesa to Sorrento Valley, rebuild interchanges at Miramar Road and Mira Mesa Boulevard, and construct new (and huge) on- and off-ramps to connect high occupancy vehicle and bus lanes in the center of the freeway with bus transit stations and parking off the freeway. One of those ramp connections and transit stations is located in the relative boonies of Nobel Hill at some distance from the University community employment center in need of improved connections to mass transit. The transit center parking lot is also at the opposite end of where parking might be needed during a typical commute from south or central San Diego to reach University or Sorrento Valley employment.

Nobel Hill is a hidden gem of natural habitats and part of a critical wildlife movement corridor from Rose and San Clemente Canyons to larger habitat areas on Marine Corps Air Station Miramar and into the San Diego foothills and mountains. Southern mule deer still rest in dense chaparral on Nobel Hill as they feed and move along a wildlife corridor under the I-805 bridge over Rose Canyon. Coyotes, Bobcats, and Gray foxes also frequent the wildlife corridor while endangered California gnatcatchers forage and scold amidst surrounding coastal sage scrub. Endangered vernal pool wetlands and dependent sensitive species like San Diego fairy shrimp and Western spadefoot toads persist on Nobel Hill amidst patches of native grasses and sensitive cryptobiotic soils teaming with special lichens, liverworts, and fungi. Most of Nobel Hill was included in the City of San Diego's natural habitat preserve system under the Multiple Species Conservation Plan.

So why are transportation agencies planning such a seemingly impractical and clearly

harmful project for such a special habitat site? One simple answer is that it's the path of least resistance as one of the few remaining open spaces in the University community. Habitat is seemingly far easier and less costly to bulldoze for a new mass transit center than existing homes or businesses or even parking lots even if the site is far less than ideal. But the bigger answer is that the dominant anthropocentric paradigm dictates that humans are entitled to exploit and dispose of nature however and whenever we desire and that it is our manifest destiny to do so. The same was true for the City of San Diego's nearby Pure Water project facility that destroyed vernal pools and will likely block the last wildlife corridor between MCAS Miramar and Sorrento Valley. And the same will also be true of SANDAG/Caltrans plans to tunnel the train tracks under Del Mar or Del Mar Heights and the University community, of plans by the San Diego Water Authority to build a new aqueduct across Anza-Borrego Desert State Park and under the San Diego mountains, of plans by the City of San Diego to build new fires stations on preserve land near Del Mar Mesa and Chollas Creek, of plans to build more giant wind turbines on the Cleveland National Forest and Bureau of Land Management public lands in the Laguna and Volcan mountains, of plans by the City of San Diego and San Diego Mountain Biking Association to build as many new trails as possible through natural open space, and so many other projects considered essential by any given agency or developer and sometimes even seeming allies that inevitably come at the cumulative cost of the loss of our last special local natural habitat lands.

Sierra Club is one of the few voices for preservation of natural habitat so it's crucial that we remain diligent and work and speak out often in defense of important natural places even when our positions will be unpopular with agencies, developers, communities, recreationists, and others who would prioritize their preferred projects over crucial preservation of nature and biodiversity. We must do everything in our power to protect what's left of our special local nature and, ultimately, life on Earth.

The MSCP - Part II

By Cynthia Wootton

Conservation Committee Secretary

The MSCP/MHCP (Multiple Species Conservation Program/Multiple Habitat Planning Areas) is not just open space. This land is exceptionally rich in biodiversity. It's habitat which provides primary sources of food, nutrition, cover and/or shelter. It includes sites for breeding, reproduction, pollination, and rearing of wildlife offspring on continual, seasonal or migrating basis.

This is a more detailed discussion than the one in the January Hi Sierran because these plans are being developed for the East and North county and within it, the Oceanside Sub-Area. We can help preserve our natural treasures. The Central and South County areas have established plans, but they are always being challenged by developers and other agencies.

Why are they being challenged? Why are species populations dwindling? Aren't various species protected by either federal, state, local agencies, such as the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency), the US and CA Departments of Fish and Wildlife (USFWS) and (CDFW)?

Isn't everything protected by one of the following rules or laws?

- NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act)
- ESA (Endangered Species Act)
- FESA (Federal Endangered Species Act)
- CESA (California Endangered Species Act),
- NCCP (California's Natural Community Conservation Planning)
- CEQA (California Environmental Quality Act)
- HCP (Habitat Conservation Plan)

Didn't the ESA prohibit the "take" of listed species (defined as "to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct.") Yes it did.

However, in 1982, Section 10, the ESA issued an amendment. The USFW was authorized to issue permits for "incidental takes" on condition that an applicant submitted "conservation plan that specifies (i) the impact which will likely result from such taking; (ii) what steps the applicant will take to minimize and mitigate such impacts, and the funding that will be available to implement such steps;" (iii) what alternatives the applicant "considered and the reasons why such alternatives are not being utilized." An HCP (Habitat Conservation Plan) was a required part of an application for an Incidental Take Permit.

However, the private and public sector wanted to achieve a simpler process for implementing projects without having to apply for individual permits and create HCPs. It was decided to make pre-agreed rules between the CDFW, local government agencies, property owners, development interests, environmental groups, and the public.

Consequently, in 1991, CDFW began its NCCP (California's Natural Community Conservation Planning) Program. The goals are such things as:

- long term maintenance and enhancement of biological diversity,
- conservation of viable populations of sensitive species and their habitats,
- determination of corridors to prevent habitat fragmentation and
- prevention of extinction.

The NCCP is the overall program, but each area of Southern California has its own view of what needs protection and what needs development. Hence, MSCP/MHCP areas were developed. The goal is to preserve land that has high biological value and give developers freedom to do projects outside of it, in land that has low biological value. (Of course, for purposes of reducing GHG, fires, climate change and increasing air quality, infill along public transit lines is the best option for development.)

The MSCP/MHCP must carefully identify all the species that are covered. Most important, however, it must carefully outline how to avoid destruction of large populations of covered species. For every "take," it must specifically describe

- what and how much take is allowable,
- what the anticipated effects of the take are,
- how those impacts and damages will be reduced, mitigated, minimized or offset in a specific, planned and timely manner,
- how it will be funded and maintained
- what feasible alternatives to damages are acceptable.
- how long such incidental takes will be allowed,
- how listed species can thrive.

In other words, if anything is ambiguous, developers will find loopholes. There is a safeguard in place, however: CEQA (California Environmental Quality Act). CEQA protects the MSCP/MHCP.

Projects that result in physical changes or damages to the environment or that need zoning changes require CEQA review. This requires an EIR (Environmental Impact Report). In it, the developer should present or be asked to present such things as the following:

- 1) offer a viable plan for reducing or mitigating damages
- 2) indicate how this plan will be funded, or
- 3) offer to exchange land of higher biological value, land that would ensure the survival of the sensitive species they damage.

The EIR must list significant impacts on such things as:

- Agriculture
- Air Quality and Traffic
- Noise and Hazards
- Aesthetics and Cultural Resources
- Utilities and Public Services
- Physical blight

Biological issues that should be listed are such things as:

- 1) effects on conserved habitats, 2) effects on covered species, 3) effects on habitat linkages, 4) effects on preserve configuration and management, 5) effects on ecotones affecting species diversity

MSCP continued on page 7

ment to preserve millions of acres of land from logging and mining, and inspired generations of people to protect nature. The Sierra Club recognizes the importance of Muir's conservation efforts with regard to designation of national parks, national forests, and rangelands, which prevented hundreds of millions of acres from being privatized and transferred into the hands of white logging, mining, and livestock grazing corporations enabled by 19th century colonization laws like the Timber and Stone Act, Homestead Acts, and Desert Lands Act.

John Muir is a complex historical figure and a symbol of the early conservation movement. The Sierra Club acknowledges that John Muir used derogatory language about Black Americans and Indigenous people that created harm. Muir later recognized and appreciated the achievements of Indigenous people and spoke about the equality of all people and the importance of making public lands accessible for all.

Other Sierra Club leaders, particularly Henry Fairfield Osborne Sr., Joseph LeConte Sr., and David Starr Jordan publicly espoused pseudoscientific theories that people of color are evolutionarily inferior to whites. Such theories served as the basis for eugenics, eventually leading to policies such as forced sterilizations, Jim Crow laws, internments, and anti-immigration. There is no evidence John Muir supported their beliefs. The Sierra Club is committed to being an anti-racist organization, and recognizes that anti-racism is central to creating a sustainable and livable world.

Public Lands and Outings

The Sierra Club recognizes that the entirety of the North American continent is traditional homelands to many Indigenous Tribal Nations, including all current Public Lands. European settlers used the Doctrine of Discovery to settle the United States through the forced removal, relocation and eradication of Indigenous communities. For many, this is a painful and enduring memory.

The Sierra Club's efforts to protect natural habitats from commercial exploitation and privatization has established and protected many public lands. However, the Sierra Club recognizes that it often did this without adequately considering the Indigenous peoples' treaties and human rights. The Sierra Club believes that protecting natural ecosystems and wildlife is in harmony with Indigenous rights, increasing access to nature for all, and increasing nature-based climate solutions and resilience to the climate crisis for the most vulnerable communities.

The Sierra Club acknowledges that for the first half of its existence it ignored and excluded Indigenous inhabitants, and people of color from its outdoor and advocacy activities. In 1976, it launched the Inner City Outings program, now Inspiring Connections Outdoors, to improve equitable access to nature for children and young adults from underserved communities.

Indigenous Rights

The Sierra Club is committed to actively promoting and advocating for the rights of Indigenous peoples, supporting their efforts for Free Prior Informed Consent (FPIC), honoring

Treaty rights regarding land and water, increasing access on federal lands for cultural practices and gathering, protecting of sacred sites on federal lands, and building power for Tribal partners at the grassroots and all levels of government. The exploitation of lands goes hand in hand with the exploitation of people.

Environmental Justice

Earth Day 1970 helped expand the focus of the Sierra Club beyond wilderness, outdoor recreation, and land conservation to also include environmental conditions that affect the health and well being of all people. As the Sierra Club and the conservation movement expanded to add protecting clean air and clean water to preserving wild lands, its white dominant culture hindered its ability to engage all Americans, especially Black, Indigenous, people of color (BIPOC). Beginning in the early 1980's Sierra Club leaders partnered with social justice groups to improve environmental protections for underserved communities. In the 1990s, Sierra Club passed a national Environmental Justice Policy and launched an Environmental Justice Program establishing full-time staff in five low-income and BIPOC communities across the nation. In the early 2000s the Sierra Club hosted gatherings for Environmental Justice leaders, delivered Dismantling Racism trainings and helped environmental justice groups secure new funding.

Population Control and Immigration

In the 1960s the issue of the environmental impact of population growth gained national and Sierra Club recognition. The Sierra Club focused initially on access to, and education about, family planning to achieve population stabilization. Some Sierra Club volunteer leaders pushed a position that to protect the United States and global environment it was important to limit the total number of Americans including US immigration numbers. From 1989 - 1996, the Sierra Club had a national policy to greatly limit immigration. That policy was changed in 1996 by national votes of the board and membership to be neutral on immigration. In response to the vote, an anti-immigration slate of candidates ran for the Board of Directors in 1998 and placed the issue before a vote of the membership; again Sierra Club membership voted it down. In 2004, anti-immigration advocates again tried to elect an anti-immigration slate to the Board of Directors. Sierra Club volunteer leaders organized a campaign (Groundswell Sierra) and defeated the anti-immigrant candidates.

The public position of neutrality on immigration changed in 2013 when the Board of Directors voted to endorse a path to citizenship. Support for DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals), DAPA (Deferred Action for Parents of Americans), and the Dream Act followed. Recently the Sierra Club actively opposed Trump Administration initiatives such as the southern border wall, inhumane detention, and mass deportation.

Today

Just as John Muir's writings indicated a shift in his perceptions of Black and Indigenous people, the Sierra Club is also shifting to better support diverse peoples who strive for a clean environment and a society rooted in justice. The Sierra Club can become an anti-racist leader and build the type of all-inclusive movement needed to improve global environmental health and advancing social justice only by owning how white supremacy and racism have shaped the founding and history of the Sierra Club and the environmental movement.

Sierra Club seeks to create and foster an inclusive organizational and workplace culture — a culture that grows, nurtures, and retains diverse and engaged teams of staff and volunteers. Sierra Club also seeks to become an organization that is reported as being a welcoming and inclusive place to practice allyship, work, volunteer, and enjoy the planet. Today, the Sierra Club celebrates the historic and current contributions of Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) to protecting nature. We show up in solidarity and partnership with BIPOC-led organizations and affinity groups. The Sierra Club has committed to advancing environmental justice consistent with the Jemez Principles. Sierra Club values the culturally specific relationships of all communities with nature and leverage our power to advance anti-racism initiatives.

Sierra Club engages a diversity of people to enjoy and protect nature through programs such as Inspiring Connections Outdoors and Military Outdoors. In close partnership with local communities, Sierra Club works to conserve more open lands and parks near communities of color and economically disadvantaged communities. Sierra Club advances land and water conservation strategies that contribute to climate resilience for those most vulnerable, reduces pollution, increases access to clean water, supports the stewardship vision of Tribal Nations, and restores large intact landscapes and wildlife corridors in a just and inclusive manner.

San Diego Has A Gas Problem

By Karl Aldinger, Conservation Organizer

Almost without exception, all homes in our region are electric. That is to say, they have electricity running through them to power lights, computers, televisions, and anything else with a plug. But most California homes are not All-Electric. In fact, California and San Diego have methane gas in 90% of our homes and buildings, powering a combination of hot water heaters, furnaces, or simply to cook food on a stovetop, all via combustion of gas. We even use gas to dry our clothes. San Diego has a gas problem.

I'm the Conservation Organizer for Sierra Club San Diego, and my work is focused on urgent solutions for the Climate Crisis. I've witnessed Sierra Club members work hard to retire coal and gas that produces electricity. The fact is, gas was never a cleaner source of energy, and despite some slick marketing, it doesn't, and never has, burned clean. It actually gives off nitrous oxides, carbon monoxide, and fine particulate matter (PM2.5). These are all bad for our health, producing asthma and other chronic health outcomes. When we burn gas in our kitchens, and don't operate the ventilation hood, those toxins stay in our indoor breathing space. Many households of those who rent, have smaller living spaces or non-functioning vent hoods, leading to increased concentrations of toxins and disproportionate health effects in our communities of concern. Two studies that Sierra Club helped participate in last year, examined the many long-term health effects of gas in our buildings. We held a webinar on this subject, and you can watch it by typing this into a web browser: bit.ly/gashealth

Gas combustion from our buildings also represents 10-12% of our region's greenhouse gas emissions, including nitrous oxides and carbon dioxide. And fugitive methane from leaks in California gas production and transmission make that number even higher. In order to address the Climate Crisis we need to begin phasing out these gas appliances. The first step in doing that is to stop the expansion of gas infrastructure and appliances in the San Diego region. The California Energy Commission, CEC, has been working to do this across the state at a snail's pace, but has signaled that the building codes for new construction must stop new gas infrastructure in order to meet state mandated Climate goals. The California Air Resources Board committed in November 2020 that it would "In consultation with the California Energy Commission and other agencies, support updates of the California Building Standards Code for stronger kitchen ventilation standards and electrification of appliances, including stoves, ovens, furnaces, and space and water heaters, in the 2022 code cycle for all new buildings in order to protect public health, improve indoor and outdoor air quality, reduce GHG emissions, and set California on track to achieve carbon neutrality." Another webinar about our advocacy for Building Electrification can be seen here: bit.ly/101be

Currently, the shift to All-Electric buildings has been happening through cities and counties writing ordinances (local laws) to stop using gas in new building projects. Known as Reach Codes, these ordinances alter the building code, and can be written to prefer electric appliances over gas, or even more effectively, completely gas-free buildings, called All-Electric. The CEC must authorize these ordinances as they amend the energy efficiency rules that they enforce in the state building code. New construction homes in California now require rooftop solar, so matching that with all-electric appliances during construction is a particularly cost effective, sustainable win. When we build new projects without gas at all, there are major savings in not trenching and extending gas lines to and through new buildings. But that will mean a shift in our local workforce's jobs, so we must also support workers whose jobs are threatened by this necessary transition.

In recent months Sierra Club San Diego has joined with 18 other local organizations to form the San Diego Building Electrification Coalition (sdbec.org) to help advance this transition off of gas in our buildings. Understanding that cities in our regions have Climate Action Plans and specific goals to lower GHGs, we are advocating for the adoption of these Reach Code Ordinances, to speed up the transition. We're also helping to spotlight the efficiency gains that All-Electric homes can make if they use high efficiency appliances, including Heat Pump Water and Space Heaters, and induction stovetops. If you're interested in helping us advocate for healthier and more sustainable buildings here in our region, you can contact me at karl.aldinger@sierraclub.org

Environmental Groups Ask San Diego Cities To Ban Single-Use Plastics

Sierra Club's San Diego Chapter has signed on to a joint statement encouraging all San Diego cities to introduce policies phasing out single-use plastic, the leading cause of pollution — a threat to the world's oceans, as well as our food, health and climate. The statement is a collaborative effort on the part of the San Diego Chapter's North County Coastal Group and several other local environmental groups that are part of the San Diego Plastic Free Seas Coalition. Nearly 20 other organizations, including Oceana, Surfrider San Diego, San Diego Climate Action Network, and San Diego 350, signed the statement (below). The goal is to encourage leaders across the county to develop and pass municipal policies phasing out single-use plastic items with an ambitious implementation timeline that is also fair to local businesses. For additional information about this statement, please contact Fran Goldstein, North County Coastal Group Executive Committee Member, at fygoldstein@gmail.com.

Text of Statement

The undersigned organizations have joined together to strongly encourage all San Diego County municipalities to phase out single-use plastic products that are the [leading cause of pollution threat](#) to the world's oceans, as well as our food, health and climate.

[Many countries](#) around the world have implemented policies governing the production and use of single-use plastic, which are the most effective way to stem the flow of plastic pollution into our ecosystems and streets. Unfortunately, the United States has so far failed to implement any similar nationwide policies. Instead, California, Hawaii and New Jersey are among the states taking action, as are counties and cities across the country. For example, five San Diego County cities have already passed ordinances that restrict plastic bags, polystyrene foam, plastic straws, and other single-use plastic products. We hope all San Diego cities will join them in introducing similar policies.

The time to take action on the plastic crisis is now! Nearly 40% of all plastic produced is for packaging, most of which is used once and then discarded. This comes with a tremendous cost to individuals, communities, wildlife, and ecosystems.

Plastic Production Is Growing...

Plastic pollutes throughout its entire lifecycle, starting with fossil-fuel extraction, and continues through its manufacture, transport, disposal and degradation. Left unchecked, plastic production is expected to increase by more than 40% over the next decade. Unless we make major policy changes to significantly counter this, plastic production will account for 20% of [global fossil-fuel consumption](#) by 2050.

... With Devastating Impact

Roughly two-thirds of all plastic ever produced has been released into the environment and remains there in some form. Plastic pollution affects every street, park, stream, river, coast and ocean

in California, with single-use products being the top littered items found at cleanups throughout the state. As these items fragment into smaller particles, known as microplastics, they concentrate toxic chemicals and increasingly contaminate our food and drinking water sources. [Microplastics](#) have been found in tap water, bottled water, table salt, fish, shellfish, and agricultural soils. Exposure to these plastics and associated toxins has been linked to cancers, birth defects, impaired immunity, endocrine disruption and other serious health problems.

Cleanup Is Expensive and Ineffective

Throughout California, communities have focused efforts on reducing the burden from single-use packaging since the 1980s. Moreover, taxpayers and local governments spend more than [\\$420 million annually](#) on ongoing efforts to clean up and prevent litter in streets, storm drains, parks and waterways. Not only is cleanup expensive, but it cannot keep pace with the production of single-use disposable items which continues to grow exponentially.

Recycling Doesn't Work

Existing recycling infrastructure can't keep pace either. [Less than 9% of plastic](#) is recycled, and that percentage has been dropping since the implementation of China's National Sword policy, which severely restricts the amount of foreign waste China accepts. For most single-use plastics, the cost of recycling exceeds the scrap value of the plastic material. This has resulted in the loss of markets for plastic packaging that was previously considered recyclable. These materials are now either piling up in recycling centers, being landfilled, or sent to illegal facilities in Southeast Asia where they are being incinerated or illegally dumped.

Plastic Pollution's Impact Is Widespread

The impact on our marine ecosystems and wildlife is devastating, as evidenced by facts such as these:

[An estimated 17.6 billion pounds of plastic](#) enter the marine environment every year. This is roughly equivalent to dumping a garbage truck full of plastic into the oceans every minute.

Scientists have found plastic floating on the surface of the ocean, washing up on the world's most remote coastlines, melting in Arctic sea ice, raining onto the Rocky Mountains, and even sitting at the deepest part of the ocean floor.

In a recently released [report on plastic pollution](#) in U.S. waters, Oceana found evidence of nearly 1,800 marine mammals and sea turtles swallowing or becoming entangled in plastic since 2009 — often leading to death from starvation or suffocation. Of those, a staggering 88% were species listed as endangered or threatened with extinction under the Endangered Species Act.

Because of the leadership of more than [100 cities in California](#), we know that sensible plastic reduction policies can be achieved. We pledge to work to support city leaders and councils to develop and pass municipal policies phasing out single-use plastic items in, with an ambitious implementation timeline that is also fair to local businesses.

- Explore advocating for a voluntary version of a Pay-As-You-Throw system--without raising taxes--for residential collection of trash, recycling, and composting, where it exists.
- Ban gasoline-powered leaf blowers.
- Collaborate with other organizations that share similar goals.

To learn more about the Zero Waste Subcommittee or get involved, please contact George Courser at gcourser@hotmail.com.

8th ANNUAL ZERO WASTE SYMPOSIUM

Zero Waste San Diego, in collaboration with Zero Waste USA, held a very successful Zero Waste Symposium on February 9, 2021. Over 170 people attended the online event held on Zoom. Sixteen local, national and international speakers from government agencies, companies and non-profits gave presentations on a wide range of topics including World Clean Up Day, EDCO's Anaerobic Digester, the circular economy and zero waste lifestyles.

ZERO WASTE DECLARATION:

The following Zero Waste Declaration was adopted in December, 2020. Signatories include the Zero Waste International Alliance and Zero Waste USA.

The first Earth Day was over 50 years ago. Recycling, its natural industrial child, was envisioned to complete the resource circle, save the wilderness, generate jobs, and build the back end of the Gross National Product (GNP) all at once.

We believe the Earth calls us each and all to move swiftly towards Zero Waste.

This Zero Waste World will be founded on environmental and social justice principles that help create vibrant communities in harmony with nature:

CENTER EQUITY:

We stand in solidarity with and support the efforts of frontline communities and Black, Indigenous and People of Color. We envision a just and inclusive system resulting in a sustainable and regenerative future, while advocating for policies and practices that ensure human safety, equitable access to resources and opportunities, and elimination of toxins and pollution that negatively impact ecological health.

REDESIGN:

We insist that manufacturers minimize and, where possible, eliminate hazards and redesign products for highest material and energy efficiency, focusing services and products to embody durability, repairability, reuse, with recycling and/or composting as a final option, in that order.

BAN WASTEFUL PRODUCTS:

We will ban products that are demonstrated to be wasteful by design, or contaminate recycling or composting programs, or are problematic in the environment.

MAKE PRODUCERS RESPONSIBLE:

We insist companies minimize and, where possible, eliminate the hazards their products pose to the environment and human health throughout the entire life cycle of the product, from resource extraction to final disposition. Further, producers should be held financially responsible for remedies of their product's impacts – including costs for health care, management of discards, and environmental clean-up.

SEPARATE AT THE SOURCE:

After redesign, we will collect all discarded materials and products separated

at the source and further sort them into higher quality fractions for reuse, recycling, or composting, with nothing left out and nothing left over.

RESCUE FOOD AND COMPOST ORGANICS:

We will establish and support programs to rescue food for people and animals, and to recover organic materials to make and use compost and mulch to reduce and sequester greenhouse gases.

SUPPORT AND EXPAND REPAIR AND REUSE:

We will support existing reuse and repair organizations and infrastructure and expand opportunities for reuse and repair through outreach and education, promotion, and investment.

BUILD ZERO WASTE INFRASTRUCTURE:

We will invest in Zero Waste infrastructure, including resource recovery parks, to safely salvage usable items and parts and handle all discards as resources to be refined.

END WELFARE FOR WASTING:

We will end subsidies for resource extraction and support choosing recovered materials first for manufacturing.

ADVOCATE AND ADAPT AS NEEDED:

We will use our power as advocates and professionals to show what is possible and help policymakers avoid mistakes in meeting the goals that we help them envision. Responses to new challenges such as pandemics, natural disasters, and weather-related emergencies should not create barriers to move towards a just world of vibrant, resilient, Zero Waste communities, in harmony with nature.

To achieve a worldwide culture that sustains the planet in perpetuity, we stand together!

and 6) effects on species of concern not on the covered species list.

Before a project begins, a recognized agency with approved technical expertise must produce a DEIR (Draft EIR).

Once all the impacts are identified by a DEIR, there must be: interagency coordination in the review, public participation in the planning, and an opportunity for comments. The public can review the veracity and inclusiveness of the DEIR, the feasibility of its alternatives and mitigations, the funding specifics.

Comments should be in writing and should focus on whether the EIR asks the right questions and provides enough information to describe the likely impacts of a project. The responses should be at similar level of detail as the comment.

If the official comments are not resolved in the corrected final EIR; but the city or county still approves the project, then the project can be challenged in a court of law if there is a good enough case. In cases of acquisitions and exchanges of land, the WCB (Wildlife Conservation Board) is the deciding agency.

Sign Up to Protect the La Jolla Sea Lions

By Ellen Shively

Photos Courtesy of Pam Thomas & Carol Archibald



At one of our Seal Society docent meetings, we asked each other why people like to come to the local beaches so much. Sometimes the crowds overwhelm the La Jolla coast, with locals, guests, lots of children, dogs, and chairs. Many come to take a “selfie” near the adult sea lions or newborn harbor seal pups still nursing. Distracted parents may watch as children run free on the uneven surface with a good chance of slipping on the wet pitted surface of La Jolla Point. “They are not used to being so close to large sized marine mammals” offered one of the newer docents.

Another suggested the late evening was the perfect setting to close out the day as the sun dipped out of sight. Scenic as it is, we agreed that our marine mammals are subject to daily conflicts with visitors who are either unaware of the distress our “sharing the coast” causes, or they just think the lack of oversight and signage are a license to contact the animals at will. These two beaches have a history of citizens claiming their “rights of access” as humans.

Since 2014, the harbor seals at Casa Beach have won one reprieve – beach closure during pupping season. It has been a spectacular success, with at least fifty pups being born yearly. None of negative impacts are evident that we are now seeing at La Jolla Point with its sea lion colony.

For two years, the Seal Society docents have been monitoring this beach. One survey we did asked visitors if they were aware of safe viewing distances, city prohibitions on dogs, and their opinion if the animals had a right to be protected in a popular urban setting. The result explained why this beach had so many stress-causing interactions with the animals. Many people didn’t seem to have a “wildness ethic” or sensitivity about disturbing the animals.

After touring the beach with two city council members and talking to hundreds of visitors at La Jolla Point, we have initiated efforts to bring about needed safeguards to protect the sea lions. The Chapter’s Conservation Committee signed on to our Letter of Support. Now, we will request the city council to enact common sense steps to manage the La Jolla Point sea lion colony in a protective way. Certainly responsible people will endorse these provisions.

We need help, so are appealing to Sierra Club members /friends/family/ associates to help our treasured, vulnerable sea lion colony by:

Signing our petition which is accessible on the Chapter website: <http://sandiegosierraclub.org/seal-society/> or by using the QR code below to sign the petition

Sending a letter of support from an organization you work with on their letterhead; we can send you a template.

Volunteering as a docent to educate the public and protect seals and sea lions in these highly visited areas.” For any questions, contact Ellen Shively ellenshively@sbcglobal.net



Sierra Talks

**These Sierra Talks will be Broadcast Live at 7:00pm on Facebook at
<https://www.facebook.com/sierradubs/>
Check Our On-Line Calendar for Updated Info**

April 2

Black bears: The human-animal link

Black bears are considered to be one of the most intelligent land animals of North America, as they possess the largest and most convoluted brains relative to their size of any land mammal. This physiological feature is also what many experts agree can stray wild born bears into trouble. The saying "too smart for their own good" is often associated with wild black bears, as they are faced with ongoing threats from habitat destruction, over-hunting, international trade, and human ignorance. The presentation will include the plight of wild born black bears, the human-animal link, and how government agencies and sanctuaries work hand in hand to save habituated black bears from a grim fate. From this discussion, you as citizens of nature will learn how you can help ensure wild black bears remain where they belong - in the wild.

The presenter, Bobbi Brink is Founder and Director of Lions, Tigers & Bears, a non-profit big cat, bear, and exotic animal sanctuary in Alpine. Bobbi is a leading expert on *Ursus americanus* aka the black bear. She and the sanctuary have earned multiple leadership recognitions and awards for service.

May 7

Written in the Land: Indigenous Heritage in Southern California

The Imperial Valley and Southern California are a region rich in history. For over 10,000 years, they have been home to a multitude of indigenous groups who called its mountains, deserts, and coastal shores home. Spanning both sides of our modern international border, these people – the Kumeyaay, Cahuilla,



Quechan, Cocopah, and Pai Pai (among others) – were, and still are, masters of their environments. Still present on their ancestral lands today, the history and heritage of these groups is likewise still present all around us. Their artifacts – tools, artwork, and villages – and stories tell a collective story of adaptation, understanding, and ingenuity in a land of extremes. Theirs is not a dead past but rather a living history, and one whose lessons we may still learn from today.

The presenter, David Breeckner PhD, is the Executive Director of the Imperial Valley Desert Museum, located in the heart of the Yuha Desert in Ocotillo, California. His passion is exploring that land through desert and mountain hikes, where the evidence of those stories is still visible today. He specializes in the archaeological study of ceramic and non-ceramic material culture.

June 4

The Peregrine Falcon – Fastest Animal in the World!

This presentation will illustrate the Peregrine's

highly specialized physical features and aerial skills, adaptations required for successfully capturing prey while reaching speeds over 200 miles an hour. Their natural history, courtship behaviors, and remarkable comeback from near extinction in the mid-1960s will be covered. Featured is a selection of the presenter's photographs taken as a nest site monitor supporting banding at Cabrillo National Monument for the past six seasons. Video clips are included!

The presenter, Don Endicott, volunteer naturalist, has done two popular Sierra Talks programs previously. 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 the San Diego Humane Society Project Wildlife. He monitors nesting Peregrine Falcons for the National Park Service and US Fish & Wildlife Service.



Traditional Territories





North County Coastal Group

Call for Nominations – How You Can Make A Difference

The Sierra Club North County Coastal Group (Coasters) is a part of the San Diego Chapter and covers coastal communities from Del Mar to Oceanside. The great thing about the Sierra Club is it is one of the few environmental organizations where the priorities and activities are driven by the volunteers. The Coasters are a small, welcoming group

that is currently focused on local conservation and land use issues, political endorsements, environmental education and working with our partners to enact positive change for the environment in our local communities.

We have an Executive Committee (ExCom) that meets monthly and is responsible for organizing our Group's activities and volunteers and to ensure that our activities are consistent with the Chapter and National Sierra Club. Being a member of the ExCom is an excellent way to learn more about our local environmental issues and to meet like-minded people who want to work together on behalf of our environment. We will be holding elections this Fall to fill 3 seats on our Executive Committee. If you would like to be considered, submit a name for consideration by the Nominating Committee, or would like more information, contact Barbara Collins at becollins92@gmail.com.

**Names must be submitted by
August 13th, 2021.**

Please provide a bio (no longer than 150 words) and a picture

The North County Coastal Group comprises the zip codes of:

92007 - Cardiff, 92008 - Carlsbad, 92009 - Carlsbad, 92010 - Carlsbad, 92011 - Carlsbad, 92013 - Carlsbad PO Box, 92018 - Carlsbad PO Box, 92014 - Del Mar, 92023 - Encinitas - PO Box, 92024 - Encinitas, 92054 - Oceanside, 92055 - Oceanside, 92056 - Oceanside, 92057 - Oceanside, 92049 Oceanside PO Box, 92051 - Oceanside PO Box, 92052 - Oceanside PO Box, 92067 - Rancho Santa Fe PO Box, 92075 - Solana Beach, 92091 - Rancho Santa Fe.

Candidates may also submit their names through an alternative process by submitting a petition.

For more information go to <http://sandiegosierraclub.org/get-involved/coastal/>

Planned Giving and Bequests Are Vital

Bequests are a vital and continuing resource that strengthens the Sierra Club's ability to preserve our natural heritage for future generations. Most donors plan their gifts in the form of a general-use gift. This general support is the most helpful to us because it allows us to direct funds to our most crucial conservation priorities. However, should you have a specific environmental or programmatic interest, or if you wish to establish an endowment, we would be happy to assist you in planning a gift that meets your interests and the long-term goals of the Sierra Club and Sierra Club San Diego Chapter.

Bequests to the San Diego Chapter

Bequests to the San Diego Chapter supports the conservation work in the area in which you reside. This funding enables the Chapter to continue to protect the natural splendor of San Diego and Imperial Counties for years to come. Planned Gifts are particularly important to the Chapter as they can provide significant resources to allow continued conservation activities over an extended period of time. Bequests to the Sierra Club San Diego Chapter are not tax deductible; however, charitable (tax-deductible) bequests can be designated to the San Diego Chapter through The Sierra Club Foundation.

National Sierra Club and the Sierra Club Foundation

Bequests to the National Sierra Club can fund national and regional lobbying activities. This support is particularly valuable because legislation is usually the final step in formally establishing national parks and wilderness areas, setting standards for clean water and air, protecting our precious coastlines, and achieving other environmental goals. However, since lobbying is not a charitable activity, bequests to the National Sierra Club are not tax-deductible for estate tax purposes.

Consider the Benefits of a Life Income Gift

If you are planning a bequest, you may wish to consider the financial benefits of a life income trust. Many people have realized significant advantages by using a major portion of a planned bequest for the establishment of such a trust. If you would like to see how a life income trust might benefit your specific situation, the Planned Giving Office would be happy to prepare a financial analysis for you. Information is also available to you on how a Charitable Gift Annuity or Charitable Remainder Trust can benefit both you and the Sierra Club.

Further Information: If you have any questions about planning a bequest for Sierra Club or the Sierra Club San Diego Chapter, or if you are interested in learning more about life income trusts and other deferred gifts, please contact Richard Miller at (858) 569-6005, or email richard.miller@sierraclub.org.

The ideal candidate for the San Diego Chapter Executive Committee is an experienced, effective leader who has a clear vision for the Chapter's future and a proven capacity to work with people to achieve goals and resolve problems. The Nominating Committee will contact potential candidates and will send a questionnaire to those who request one. After reviewing returned questionnaires, the Nominating Committee will select applicants for interviews. To be considered for an interview, candidates must return completed questionnaires to the Nominating Committee by July 31, 2021. The Nominating Committee will announce its candidates at the August 11, 2021 Executive Committee meeting. In addition to the nomination process, the Club bylaws allow candidates to qualify for the ballot by a petition process, as specified in the bylaws. Petitions are available by emailing scoffice@sierrasd.org.

The Executive Committee, composed of seven elected volunteers and an appointed representative from each Chapter Group, has the legal responsibility and authority to oversee all staff and volunteer activities of the Chapter, to establish the Chapter's conservation priorities and internal policies, and to adopt and implement the annual budget.

People interested in serving as an Executive Committee member should be:

- **Dedicated to the purposes and goals of the Sierra Club**
- **Able and willing to accept the legal and fiduciary responsibilities of an Executive Committee member**
- **Able to listen and communicate effectively and work in a team environment**
- **Able and willing to dedicate sufficient personal time to Executive Committee duties**
- **Able to think and plan strategically and politically**
- **Willing to become knowledgeable about environmental and political issues**
- **Willing to become knowledgeable about the structure and operations of the Chapter**
- **Able to demonstrate leadership experience**
- **Able and willing to deal with the broad range of issues that come before the Executive Committee**
- **Able to demonstrate a history of commitment to the principles and values of the Sierra Club or a history of commitment to environmental and social justice issues**

The San Diego Chapter Executive Committee is a working board. All members are expected to devote sufficient time, energy, and creativity to projects and commitments and to carry them through to their successful conclusion.

All Executive Committee members are expected to:

Prepare for and attend monthly meetings each year

Participate in conference calls when needed

Communicate regularly via e-mail

Participate in other meetings on behalf of the Executive Committee or the Chapter

Executive Committee members receive no monetary compensation but may be reimbursed for approved expenses while on Chapter business.



The Sierra Club North County Group is seeking members to run for the North County Executive Committee (NCG ExCom) in the 2021 Election.

The committee seeks a diverse pool of candidates, balanced in terms of gender, ethnicity, from the North County area.

The North County Group membership will elect three (3) Executive Committee members in 2021. The Group Executive Committee has overall responsibility to assure that the activities and services provided for the members are consistent with the bylaws, rules, and policies of the Chapter and National Sierra Club. These activities may include outings, membership services, financial management, conservation and political programs. The Executive Committee meets monthly and attendance is expected. If you would like to submit a name for consideration by the Nominating Committee, or would like more information, contact Pam Heatherington at info@sierraclubncg.org.

Nominations are due by July 31, 2021.

The North County Group includes the following cities and zip codes.

Bonsall, Escondido, Fallbrook, Oceanside zip code 92058, Pala, Palomar Mtn., Pauma Valley, Poway, Ramona, San Diego zip codes 92127, 92128 & 92198, San Marcos, Santa Ysabel, Vista, and Valley Center.

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 Tentative Trips: 2021

July 14-18, 2021

Hoover Wilderness – Carpool.

One car camp/day hike group and 3 backpacks planned. More information is available on the Chapter website.

Coordinator: Karen Nelson, karen.nmi.nelson@gmail.com.

August 18-22, 2021

Yosemite National Park – Carpool.

5 backpacks, and a possible car camp option. Check updated website for more details. Coordinator: PJ Jeffery, pjeffery1@sbcglobal.net.

Sept. 16-19, 2021

Santa Rosa Island – Bus trip tentatively planned.

Short backpack to campground. Day hikes planned.

Coordinator: Alice Fichandler, alicelandorbill@cox.net.

Oct. 1-5, 2021

Zion National Park – Bus trip tentatively planned.

Backpacks and bus camp/day hikes planned.

Coordinator: Kristi Anderson, kablueiis@gmail.com.

Please continue to check the website for updates regarding specifics such as cancellations, sign up dates, costs, deadlines, etc.

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



Providing Opportunities for Spontaneous Discovery and Fascination with Nature

by Pete Kronfeld

One fine early spring day, four ICO volunteers took a dozen students from Hawking 2 STEAM Charter School, along with an intrepid fourth grade teacher, on a day hike in Mission Trails. The hike was along the Oak Canyon Trail, with a scenic detour along the Grasslands Loop Trail. In addition to hiking through the beautiful canyons and fields of this readily accessible nature gem in the heart of San Diego, the kids had the opportunity to partake in some of their favorite activities: climbing trees and scrambling up rocks. And near the end of our adven-

ture, a child spotted a gopher snake crossing the trail. With some guidance from the adults, the kids had the opportunity to learn how to hold it gently and calmly so that it felt supported and comfortable. After a few photos, the snake was safely sent on its way.

These types of nature activities, the physical (hiking, tree climbing, rock scrambling) and the sensory (seeing, smelling, hearing, touching), which are always important to children's social and emotional development, are especially important now when COVID-19 has led to school closures causing children to lose many of their social connections, unable to have regular face-to-face interactions with friends and teachers.

Whenever I volunteer on one of these outings, inevitably a child will share an interesting rock that they find on the hike. This reminds me of something Richard Louv discussed in his wonderful book, Last

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.sandiegosierraclub.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

Child in the Woods: the importance of "fascination" (which is spontaneous and restorative) over "directed attention" (which is fatigue-inducing) in developing a sense of well-being. The opportunity of discovery provided by access to nature is an important aspect of a child's education, and one of the reasons that I have found volunteering on these trips so satisfying.



Classified Ads

Classified Ad Rates and Information:

Sierra Club Members (up to 25 words)

Private party

\$10 + \$.50 per additional word.

Business-\$15 + \$.50 per additional word.

Non-Members (up to 25 words) *Private party*-\$15 + \$.50 per additional word.

Business-\$20 + \$.50 per additional word

Payment must be made at time of submission

by check to: Sierra Club San Diego

8304 Clairemont Mesa Blvd. #101

San Diego, CA 92111

Send ad to: info@thomascreative.com

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We PROMISE we will NOT share your email.

If you would like to get the HiSierran online, contact the Chapter office :

858-569-6005 or scoffice@sierrasd.org

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
Deadline June 1st, 2021**

**To submit by email,
please email to both:**

thomascreative2@cox.net

richard.miller@sierraclub.org

**Submissions are subject to
approval for content and
subject matter.**

Check Out Just Some Of Our Sierra Club Products At A Great Price:

<http://donate.sierrasd.org/products>



**Wolf Tote Bag
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Show your support for wolf protection. Great for shopping and the beach. Has large zippered pocket. Approx 15" H x 12" W



**Cup with Sierra Club Logo
Price: \$11**



**Cotton Canvas 1892
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**E-conscious organic/recycled ball cap with John Muir silhouette and Sierra Club San Diego.
Price: \$20.00
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Like What You Are Reading?

**Support your local Chapter's work
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Please make your check payable to Sierra Club San Diego or use your credit card.

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Contributions to the Sierra Club are not tax-deductible as they support the Sierra Club's effective citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts

Return instructions:

Cut out this form and mail it with your check to:



**SIERRA CLUB
SAN DIEGO CHAPTER**

8304 Clairemont Mesa Blvd, Ste #101

San Diego, California

92111-1315

Donate online:

<http://sandiegosierraclub.org/donate>

Committees & Contact Information

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all in-person meetings have been cancelled and meetings have moved on-line or by phone conference. Please check our Activities Calendar (<http://sandigosierraclub.org/news/activities-calendar/>) on how you can participate.

CHAPTER STAFF

Chapter Director Richard Miller
858-569-6005
richard.miller@sierraclub.org

Administrative Assistant: Marty Marquez
858-569-6005
martha.marquez@sierraclub.org

Conservation Organizer: Karl Aldinger
760-331-7885
karl.aldinger@sierraclub.org

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Meets 2nd Wednesday 6:30 pm Chapter office

Chair: David Hogan (2021)
760-809-9244
hogansierraclub@gmail.com

Vice-Chair: Lisa Ross (2020)
lisa@lisaross.com
www.lisaross.com

Secretary: Amanda Mascia (2021)
858-880-8917
amandamascia77@gmail.com

North County Group Rep.
Pam Heatherington
pjheatherington@gmail.com

North County Coastal Group Rep.
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sallyp123@mac.com

Krista Davidson (2021)
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kmdavidson910@gmail.com

Rochelle Hancock (2021)
rae_1024@yahoo.com

Fred Rogers (2021)
619-587-8762
ferogers@gmail.com

David Rousseau (2022)
bayparkdr@yahoo.com

Treasurer (Non-Voting):
Orion Hudgins
orion@orioncpa.com

NORTH COUNTY COASTAL GROUP (COASTERS)

Contact Chair or check website for meeting information.

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

NORTH COUNTY GROUP (INLAND)

<http://sierraclubnecg.org>

Contact Chair for time and location.
Chair: Pam Heatherington
858-524-6979
pjheatherington@gmail.com

COMMITTEES

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

Meets 2nd Monday at 6:30pm
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

Zero-Waste

Michelle De Nicola
619-752-0379
michelle.denicola@gmail.com

SEAL SOCIETY

For meeting and docent information:

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

POLITICAL COMMITTEE

Meets 4th Thursday at 7:00pm

Chair: Fred Rogers
ferogers@gmail.com

OUTINGS COMMITTEE

Meets quarterly, contact Chair for date and location.

Chair: Bob Stinton
sd.outchair@gmail.com

Leadership Review & Safety Committee

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

Meets quarterly, call for information.

Bus Trips

Mike Fry (858) 248-3630

Chapter Outings Leadership Training (COL)

Stefanie Maio
sd.col.training@gmail.com

Pacific Crest Trail

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

WILDERNESS BASICS COURSE (WBC)

Held annually beginning in January

San Diego

Bryan Pray
info@wildernessbasics.com
www.wildernessbasics.com

Escondido

Kelly Conrad
slpypup@gmail.com
www.wbc.sierraclubnecg.org

SECTIONS & SOCIAL COMMITTEES

Bicycle

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

Photography

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

INSPIRING CONNECTIONS OUTDOORS (ICO)

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

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

PROGRAM COMMITTEES

Fundraising/Membership

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

Hi Sierran Newsletter

Managing Editor: Judy Thomas
thomascreative@cox.net

SIERRA TALKS, MONTHLY PROGRAM

1st Friday of every month

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



WHAT WILL YOUR LEGACY BE?

Ensure your environmental legacy by naming Sierra Club or your favorite Sierra Club Chapter in your will or trust. These gifts cost you nothing now. You can hold on to your assets for as long as you need them and you can change your beneficiaries at any time.

If you have named Sierra Club or your Chapter as a beneficiary or would like to discuss doing so, please contact us today

LORI SULLIVAN

Director of Gift Planning
2101 Webster St, Suite 1300
Oakland, CA 94612

(800) 932-4270
gift.planning@sierraclub.org
myplan.sierraclub.org





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.sandiegosierraclub.org

Built to Burn: New Report details the danger of development in high fire zones

By Laura Hunter

Report on Development in Fire Zones



A very important report (directly relevant to the local proposal Harvest Hills) has been issued by the Center for Biological Diversity last week. Built to Burn, California's Wildlands Developments are Playing with Fire, Bold Land-use Reforms Needed Now to Ensure Safer, Sustainable Future.

The authors report on the science around the relationship between land use, location of development, and fire prone areas. It documents the increasing trends of fire risks to lives and property and makes recommendations to reverse the trends. Not surprisingly, the report's major recommendation is for legislation to stop building new homes in highly fire-prone wildlands.

This is highly relevant to Escondido since the proposed Harvest Hills is just such a project that will endanger the lives of current and future residents, radically increase fire risks, and degrade human and environmental health in the region. The report outlines many factors and studies that should raise concern among our local fire personnel, decision-makers, and the general public in Escondido.

Some key points:

- ✓ Most destruction to human communities from fire has been caused by human-ignited fires in mixed shrubland habitats.
- ✓ The problem is getting worse. 15 of the 20 most destructive California wildfires have occurred in the past five years.
- ✓ Reckless land-use planning is causing fires to be more destructive. Development in highly fire-prone areas increase unintentional ignitions, places more people at risk, and destroys habitats that support high levels of biodiversity.
- ✓ Placing developments in highly fire-prone habitats ultimately increases fire threat over time. Continued sprawl is causing more frequent fires, which convert shrublands to non-native grasses that ignite more easily throughout the year.
- ✓ Placing more homes in highly-fire-prone areas increases the chances of causing larger and more destructive wildfires.
- ✓ In the 2017 Camp Fire, about half of the homes built to fire-safety codes were destroyed in the blaze.
- ✓ Health impacts from wildfires, particularly increased air pollution from fine particulates (PM2.5) in smoke, disproportionately affect vulnerable populations, including low-income communities, people of color, children, the elderly, and people with pre-existing conditions.
- ✓ When local officials approve more development in fire-prone areas instead of focusing on increasing affordable housing near city centers, we all pay the price. Californians suffer from unsustainable firefighting and recovery costs, degraded ecosystems and smoky air. And firefighters literally put their bodies on the line when these developments are threatened by wildfire.
- ✓ The science is clear. Placing more homes and people in highly fire-prone areas leads to more human caused ignitions and puts more people in danger.

You can read the full report at: <https://www.biologicaldiversity.org/programs/urban/pdfs/Built-to-Burn-California-Wildfire-Report-Center-Biological-Diversity.pdf>.