



Sierra Club San Diego Chapter

HiSIERRAN

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April/May/June 2022

CEQA Advances Environmental Justice, So Why All the Hate?

By Jennifer Ganata and Aruna Prabhala

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Weakening California's landmark environmental law might increase profits for a few industries, but it could prove costly for communities.

Imagine if a new development proposed in your city would cause the sewage system to overflow after it rains.

Imagine a new warehouse coming in to occupy 3,800 acres in your community, bringing truck exhaust and around-the-clock lighting to your neighborhood.

Now imagine there's nothing you can do about it.

That's what might happen if public agencies across California weren't required by law to consider and mitigate the significant environmental harms of a project. Concerned neighbors, including those from low-income and disadvantaged communities, would not be able to speak out and participate in local land-use decisions.

Since 1970, the California Environmental Quality Act has been advancing environmental justice and protecting vulnerable communities by holding government officials accountable for the health and welfare of the residents they represent.

The state's premier environmental law requires that when housing, warehouses or oil refineries are built, environmental harms have to be carefully studied and reduced. CEQA is an extremely important tool for advancing environmental justice

CEQA continued on page 7

Primary Election - June 7, 2022

All California active registered voters will receive a vote-by-mail ballot for the June 7, 2022, Primary Election.

The last day to register to vote for the June 7, 2022, Primary Election is May 23, 2022

**You Can View Sierra Club Endorsements
On Page 10**

National Sierra Club Elections are Underway - VOTE!

A Democratic Sierra Club Demands Grassroots Participation

The annual election for Sierra Club's Board of Directors is now underway.

Those eligible to vote in the national Sierra Club election will receive in the mail (or by Internet if you chose the electronic delivery option) your national Sierra Club ballot in early March. This will include information on the candidates and where you can find additional information on Sierra Club's web site.



Your participation is critical for a Strong Sierra Club.

The Sierra Club is a democratically structured organization at all levels. Sierra Club requires the regular flow of views on policy and priorities from its grassroots membership in order to function well. Yearly participation in elections at all Sierra Club levels is a major membership obligation.

In a typical year less than 10% of eligible members vote in the Board elections. A minimum of 5% is required for the elections to be valid. Our grassroots structure is strengthened when our participation is high. That means your participation is needed in the voting process.

How can I learn about the candidates?

Members frequently state that they don't know the candidates and find it difficult to vote without learning more.

Each candidate provides a statement about themselves and their views on the issues on the official election ballot. You can learn more by asking questions of your group and chapter leadership and other experienced members you know. You can also visit the Sierra Club's election web site for additional information about candidates:

www.sierraclub.org/board/election

Then make your choice and cast your vote! Voting Online is Quick and Easy!

Even if you receive your election materials in the mail, we encourage you to use the user-friendly Internet voting site to save time and postage. If sending via ground mail, please note your ballots must be received by no later than noon EST Election Day, April 27, 2022.

Explore, Enjoy and Protect the Planet

HiSIERRAN

Explore, Enjoy and Protect the Planet

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A View from The Chair



Lisa Ross

It's hard to avoid using war and conflict metaphors when writing about the decades-long effort to preserve habitat areas that support some of the most endangered species in the country, and more recent activities to curb Green House Gas emissions.

With the enormity of the human and environmental disaster unfolding in Ukraine tragically sinking in, resorting to such language feels like an exercise in linguistic trivialization.

As a palliative, there are local environmental successes to celebrate.

Because of San Diego Chapter Sierra Club Green House Gas (GHG) litigation over ten years, and during the past year's Board of Supervisor's action on a seriously flawed Climate Action Plan, GHG must be fully mitigated within San Diego County.

That litigation has led to stopping at least eight sprawl projects on biologically sensitive lands in high fire areas because they relied on the County's flawed Climate Action Plan for approval and would have produced unacceptable levels of Greenhouse Gas emissions.

The first significant action from the recently Sierra Club endorsed elected County Supervisor majority, was approval of a new Transportation Study Guide using the new regional GHG estimates. These rules will restrict development to infill areas near transit and seriously limit GHG.

Building on these successes, Sierra Club San Diego is working with other environmental organizations and legal teams to create a San Diego County Greenhouse Gas mitigation bank.

Many thanks go to our legal committee: Dave Hogan, George Courser and Peter Andersen along with Executive Director Richard Miller and attorney Josh Chatten-Brown for their expert and unrelenting climate advocacy.

With the GHG precedent, we hope to provide a model for local governments to effectively achieve Green House Gas emission mitigation just as San Diego established a national model for endangered species protection through Multiple Species Habitat Plans.

These plans created preserves connected by

viable wildlife corridors while lifting permitting barriers for housing development that contributed thousands of acres to new preserves.

Unfortunately, as the 25-year anniversary of the City of San Diego's Multiple Species Habitat Plan approaches, failure to adequately protect those conserved areas is accelerating with a flurry of inappropriate development proposals, some at the hands of the City itself.

The green-light by the environmentally tone-deaf City Planning Commission to initiate a Community Plan Amendment for an office building that would choke the only viable wildlife corridor from Carroll Canyon to Torrey Pines State Park, is just one warning sign. City staff proposals to build fire stations on MSCP corridors and designated open spaces in Del Mar Mesa and Chollas are another.

The abdication of responsibility to properly manage the habitat preserves and protected wildlife under its jurisdiction is, simply put, scandalous.

Illegal trails from unregulated recreational users crisscross areas like Del Mar Mesa Preserve to such an extent that from the air this home to endangered habitat looks more like a motor cross course than parkland. And citizen volunteer docents are left to protect the seal and sea lion rookeries in La Jolla from the selfie set virtually on their own.

There is hope that California's Thirty-By-Thirty (30x30) project will ultimately fund conservation of 30% of the state's lands and waterways by 2030. Sierra Club San Diego's Sally Pendergast and Pam Heatherington are making sure that San Diego is well represented in that effort.

However, from our experience unless provisions and funding are made for ongoing management, those lands could be endangered in the long run even under State protections.

I end with a prayer for the return of Ukrainians to a peaceful, free and safe country. And that I again can feel free use metaphors that really characterize the *** to win the *** for the clean energy, conserved waters and lands, and environmental justice.

Zeroing in on Zero Waste - Your Questions Answered

San Diego Sierra Club Zero Waste Subcommittee

In this issue of the HiSierran, we'll discuss responses we received from three Sierra Club members and provide an update on Ninth Annual Zero Waste Symposium held on Feb. 8th. Two reader comments concerned online recycler TerraCycle (<https://www.terracycle.com/en-US>) and the other was about gleaning. Please email your questions about zero waste and related issues to zerowastesdsc@gmail.com and we will answer them in future issues of the HiSierran. Zero Waste Subcommittee meetings are held the first Monday of the month at 6:30 PM. If you would like to attend or join the subcommittee, please send an email to zerowastesdsc@gmail.com.

Plastic Film Recycling - Part 3

Dianne Woelke brought it to our attention that TerraCycle and 8 consumer product companies recently settled a lawsuit based on "Unlawful and Deceptive Recycling Claims". As part of the settlement, TerraCycle and these eight companies (Coca-Cola, Procter & Gamble, Late July Snacks, Gerber, L'Oreal, Tom's of Maine, Clorox, and Materne) have agreed to change their product labels, and TerraCycle has also agreed to implement a supply chain certification program.

In a November 15, 2021 press release, Jan Dell, Founder of The Last Beach Cleanup stated "Today is 'America Recycles Day,' and it's traditionally a day for corporations to greenwash Americans about bad choices in plastic packaging. But we're turning the tables today by announcing the settlement of a lawsuit against TerraCycle and eight product companies, in which we're calling for truth and transparency in labels and claims and demanding that companies get real about their packaging and shift to reusables—or if that's not possible, then truly recyclable and compostable solutions that can be handled in local areas."

California SB 343, signed by Governor Newsom on October 5, 2021, provides "truth in labeling" to familiar recycling symbols on many plastic and packaging products. The measure prohibits the use of the chasing-arrows symbol on products that are not truly recyclable. The bill requires CalRecycle to produce a list on or before Jan. 1, 2024, of commonly recovered materials at recycling facilities in the state. Based on that information, a product could only be labeled recyclable if it is collected in curbside programs that cover at least 60% of the state's population and is

sorted into defined streams and reclaimed at facilities meeting Basel Convention standards. Manufacturers have 18 months after the list's release to get their products in compliance by changing any "deceptive or misleading" language or symbols, meaning consumers could start seeing changes by July 2025 at the latest.

Sierra Club member Paul Kenney writes "Many companies have partnered with TerraCycle to receive their packaging back at no cost to the consumer. Kroger partners with TerraCycle to take back all plastic packaging from any of their store brands - Kroger, Private Selection, Simple Truth, Simple Truth Organic, etc. Once I fill a box, I simply go online to TerraCycle and print off a UPS label (free), and drop it off for shipping. While obviously promoting an increase in their own brands, if you're buying a particular product anyway, I am motivated to buy the products with packaging I know I can return. Also, Colgate will take back toothpaste tubes, floss packaging and other related oral packaging from ANY brand. For people on a budget, but still wanting to do the right thing, these programs are very useful."

Food Recovery: Gleaning

Sierra Club member and Senior Gleaners board member Monte Turner sent information about food gleaning. "We in the food recovery business are excited about the advances we hope compliance with SB 1383 will bring. SB 1383 REQUIRES



PRIORITY be given to edible food recovery and that's where gleaners come in. Several gleaning groups, covering most parts of the county, collect surplus produce--primarily citrus--from backyards, orchards, and farms year-round. Anyone who has walked an urban neighborhood or driven in rural areas has seen rotting fruit piled under trees and rolling on the side of streets. (Drives food recovery zealots crazy.)

Gleaners maintain a joint website to help county residents connect with an organization in their area: www.sandiegogleaners.org. All these non-profit groups give the harvested food to food banks, churches, and food pantries at no charge. Over the

Zero Waste continued on page 7

Food Vision 2030: The Inaugural Gathering of the San Diego Food Systems Alliance

By Laura Hunter

Food. Like water and air for living beings, it's a necessity. Food is culture, the way we grieve, the way we celebrate, and key to our health.

But, the kind of food, how it is produced, who it is available too, who is exploited to deliver it, and who it is denied to, were just some of the essential questions explored by hundreds of attendees at the Inaugural Gathering of the San Diego Food Systems Alliance (Food Alliance) on October 22 at the magnificent Coastal Roots Farm in Encinitas.



The morning opened with a greeting by Esmerelda Hummingbird who acknowledged the land and our indigenous ancestors and brought to our awareness that “We are beautiful beings having a human experience.” She urged “As we gather, let us remember our indigenous ancestors who have been ‘pushed into the rocks’ as they say.”

The reminder that the people who have cared for the land for centuries are still present here and can help us return to some of the old, more connected ways of seeing and living was a beautiful opening.

At its first gathering of its type, the organizers raised up the reality that we live in a system of colonialism, capitalism, and white supremacy and that the work of our time is to move to a more inclusive, healing, mutually supportive system.

And, what better place to start than with food.

The Food Alliance held the event to begin the next stage of implementing its adopted <https://sdfoodvision2030.org> Food Vision 2030. The Food Vision is the result of the input of 3,000 people involved in the many aspects of our local food system and reflects their aspirations and needs.

Setting the tone of all of the interactions of the day, workshops on the Vision were held in tents, named Gratitude, Optimism, Connection, Transformation.

Each session started with a ‘grounding question’ which helped each person establish themselves and explore our individual deeply held beliefs, and to, sometimes, challenge them.



- What can we imagine for ourselves and our world?
- Can we imagine a future that doesn't yet exist? What does it look like?
- What does shifting power in climate change dialogue and action mean to me?
- How can I cultivate a ‘dignity-based’ approach in my life and my work?
- How do we move from a transactional, capitalist, colonial system of feeding ourselves to a system that nourishes and cares for each other?
- How am I part of the current system? What am I willing to do differently to bring about the change we need?

These are not just relevant to this gathering but may be questions all members might want to take time to reflect on. These issues build on the recent Sierra Club Teach-In: Save the Planet by Ending White Supremacy. Like many other organizations, is rightly investing time and energy into addressing the racist and exclusionary elements of our history and organization and working toward a more fair, representative, inclusive, and equitable Club and society. It is clear that we cannot stop climate change without a deep systemic change in our society. But, we also are reminded that, if we can imagine it, we can build it!

We have to be ready to let go, to let come

Attendees were challenged to look into the requirements for deep systems change. First, we need to see the habits and policies that hold the current system in place-and our own role in that. Policies, practices, resource flows, relationships and connections, and power dynamics all play a role in the current system and changing it will require changing them. The good news is the current system was made by people and can be re-made by people.

Celebrating good works

It was thrilling to see the businesses, practices, and organizations that are already leading us in a new direction and new relationship with the earth and each other. Here are just a few.

Produce Good- support gleaning, sharing, and growing food for the Charitable Fresh Produce Provision Network.

Brightside Produce which brings healthy foods to National City small markets),

Coastal Roots Farm offered a magnificent setting for the event and has a Pay-what-you-can farm stand.

Olivewood Garden and Learning Center which seeks to inspire youth and adults to be healthy active citizens through organic gardening, environmental stewardship, and nutrition education.

People Leading. Leaders Learning.

The presenters at many of the workshop were people who grow and sell the food, own the restaurants and micro-businesses, cook the food, and those working on human-scale activities. It was also encouraging to see the number of governmental staff, education, and elected representatives in attendance. Workshops featured the practice of Culinary Medicine (which helps patients understand the difference between nutrients and calories), the

Food Vision continued on page 5

role of ‘Teaching Kitchens’, UCSD’s Urban Food Equity Program, the County’s Chronic Disease and Health Equity Unit, and a big focus on Regenerative Agriculture, Carbon Farming --and urban agriculture -- <https://www.sdfsa.org/urban-agriculture>.

In the session on Food, Public Health, and Social Justice (expertly facilitated by Melanie Hall of Kashi), there was an amazing discussion around the need for spaces in urban communities and if we might change the concepts around who owns property and for whose benefit it is managed. For example, since all city or County owned properties, including rights-of-way, are held by those entities for the public, might there be different ways we could use and manage those areas for broader benefits.

We make the road by walking it.

We encourage all Sierra Club member to learn about Food Vision 2030. There are many actions we can take individually, in our families, neighborhoods. Further, there are policies we can help support in our advocacy efforts. I propose we add a question to our candidate endorsement questionnaires about support for implementation of the 2030 Food Vision. Further, I will make a recommendation during our budget development that we take a priority effort to buy locally-produced food when we provide food at meetings and events. I look forward to others’ ideas for implementing this vision in our Club.

I hope more members will look out for and sign-up for this gathering next year to experience more of this amazing movement.

Please join me in supporting the Food Alliance and Food Vision 2030. It is an important part of saving the planet.

Food Vision 2030

GOALS

CULTIVATE JUSTICE: Increase health, wealth, leadership, and power for BIPOC communities across our food system

FIGHT CLIMATE CHANGE: Mitigate climate change impacts and adapt to the changing climate in the food system

BUILD RESILIENCE: Increase integrated nutrition and food security and create an adaptive local food economy

OBJECTIVES

- 1 Preserve Agricultural Land and Soils, and Invest in Long-term Food Production
- 2 Increase the Viability of Local Farms, Fisheries, Food Businesses, and Workers



- 3 Scale Up Local, Sustainable, and Equitable Food Value Chains
- 4 Elevate Wages and Working Conditions, and Improve Career Opportunities
- 5 Expand Integrated Nutrition and Food Security
- 6 Improve Community Food Environments
- 7 Scale Up Food Waste Prevention, Recovery, and Recycling Initiatives
- 8 Increase Leadership by Black, Indigenous, and People of Color Across the Food System
- 9 Build a Local, Sustainable, and Equitable Food Movement
- 10 Plan for a Resilient Food System

Fighting the Cottonwood Sand Mine

Peter Andersen, Vice Chair, Conservation Committee, Sierra Club San Diego

Sierra Club is waging an all-out fight

against a sand and gravel mine on the former Cottonwood Golf Course in the heart of the peaceful Rancho San Diego neighborhood.

George Courser and I have drafted a 25 page letter, on behalf of the Sierra Club Conservation Committee, in response to the draft environmental impact report (DEIR) that opposed this misguided project. In addition, with the

help of many generous donors, Sierra Club San Diego has hired the environmental law firm, Shute, Mihaly & Weinberger who wrote a 40 page letter indicating numerous deficiencies in the DEIR and opposing the sand mine. In addition we hired experts on noise, air quality, and biological resources to testify against the project.

This is one of the craziest and most environmentally damaging projects we have witnessed. First, the proposed mine is in the heart of the Rancho San Diego community in close proximity to two elementary schools, a middle school, and a health care facility that would be negatively impacted by the project. This residential community has no industrial projects and at present is a quiet suburban community. The community will be impacted by substantial noise, air pollution, and high

potential for “valley fever” (coccidioidomycosis) from the project. Hundreds of residences lie within less than a quarter mile of the proposed sand and gravel mine. The mine is in violation of the San Diego County general plan and the Valley de Oro community plan.



Second, the proposed mine is adjacent to the McGinty Mountain Ecological Reserve and National Wildlife Refuge. The McGinty Mountain Reserve was purchased to maintain and protect rare and endangered plants, animal and bird populations, the unique form of coastal sage scrub and chaparral vegetation present, and was designated as an ecological reserve by the Fish and Game Commission in 1993. It contains substantial wildlife and numerous threatened or endangered plants. The reserve is jointly managed by the Nature Conservancy, San Diego County Parks, and the Environmental Trust. Additionally, wildlife corridors would be cut by the project connecting McGinty Mountain to other Multiple Species Conservation Project lands. An adjacent strip mine would produce noise, dust, and traffic right next to the Reserve, damaging this ecological

treasure and the many plant and animal species that inhabit it.

Third, the project is located in the actual riverbed of the Sweetwater River. This 57-mile-long river starts high in the Cuyamaca Mountains and flows to San Diego Bay, crossing many sensitive ecosys-

tems and wildlife preserves. Polluted water will flow into these ecosystems and the Sweetwater Reservoir that provides drinking water for nearly a quarter million residents of San Diego County.

Finally, the proposed sand mine will produce hundreds of truck trips and millions of tons of greenhouse gas at a time when preventing climate change should be our highest priority.

For more information or involvement please contact
Sierra Club Members:

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STOP COTTONWOOD SAND MINE**

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**Donate to help us fight this
horrible project. Go to
<http://sandiegosierraclub.org/donate/>**

Electric Home Cooktop Program

San Diego Induction Cooktop Loaner Program

For the last year The San Diego Green Building Coalition has provided induction cooktops to be loaned out for free in an effort to convince folks that cooking without natural gas has many benefits. The Carlsbad Sierra Club team joined this effort by providing the north county region with loaner cooktops and pans. The Electric Home Cooktop Program is designed to help homeowners, contractors, designers and

anyone who loves to cook in learning more about induction cooktops. This program supports the building electrification effort sweeping the state as we address climate change. To reserve your cooktop (throughout San Diego area) for 3 weeks and learn more about induction cooking go to www.ehomecooktops.com.

**ELECTRIC
HOME
COOKTOP
PROGRAM**

because its review process requires that local communities – including those with fewer resources and more barriers – be notified when toxic and polluting projects are coming to their neighborhoods. Yet the more CEQA helps communities, the more critics cry foul. These critics, who are mostly linked to powerful and polluting industries, blame CEQA for a plethora of state ills, from the housing and affordability crisis to a stalled economy.

But those allegations just don't stand up under scrutiny.

In October, for example, The Housing Workshop published a report that found local zoning laws and rising development costs, not CEQA, are to blame for the state's housing crunch. The study also found that the number of lawsuits and rate of litigation continue to be low despite population growth. Since 2002, CEQA lawsuits have averaged fewer than 200 a year.

Thanks to CEQA, many projects are improved, reducing pollution and other harms to local communities – all without anyone stepping in a courtroom.

Take the Mission Bay Project. When environmentalists raised concerns over this University of California campus expansion, which was expected to

increase overflows in San Francisco's sewage system, developers agreed to several mitigation measures without going to court.

Developers agreed to separate the development's stormwater from the city's system and take other measures to reduce stormwater pollutants. It's hard to fathom what might have happened if those concerns couldn't have been raised through the environmental review process brought on by CEQA.

In southeast Los Angeles, a judge ruled last month that the city of Cudahy had violated state law by approving a school on a hazardous waste site. CEQA gave this low-income and predominantly Latinx community an avenue to contest a project that could have exposed children to arsenic, lead and other contaminants.

So why does an effective environmental justice law get so much hate?

When it comes to bringing a development project to fruition, time is money. No developer wants land to sit idle. But studying environmental impacts and addressing neighbors' concerns take time, and that scrutiny can put a project on pause.

Close scrutiny of a massive warehouse project was how one community in Riverside County got a host of greenhouse gas and air pollution reduction measures.

After a years-long legal battle, developers

of the World Logistics Center agreed to an electric vehicle fleet, rooftop solar and other mitigation measures worth \$47 million. Without CEQA, the project on 3,800 acres in Moreno Valley would have brought 14,000 daily truck trips to a working-class community already overburdened by pollution.

There are many other examples that prove CEQA should not only be preserved but strengthened. We must resist efforts to water down the law through a streamlining process that bypasses key provisions of CEQA. The law has already been modified to expedite some high priority development and infrastructure projects. Communities that have been disproportionately impacted by pollution and poverty will suffer the most if lawmakers continue to weaken CEQA.

Weakening California's landmark environmental law might increase profits for a few powerful industries. But it would wreak havoc on communities that would endure the consequences for years to come.

Jennifer Ganata is a senior staff attorney at Communities for a Better Environment and a member of California Environmental Justice Alliance.

Aruna Prabhala is the director of the Urban Wildlands program for the Center for Biological Diversity.

years, these groups have kept millions of pounds of organic waste out of landfills while feeding hundreds of thousands of hungry people. All of the gleaning labor is done by volunteers and most of the groups operate with only volunteer support or minimal paid staff." All the gleaning groups are swamped with the spring citrus harvest and need more volunteers to prevent fruit on hundreds of trees from going to waste.

Joining a volunteer Gleaning crew can be a very rewarding experience. Sierra Club Zero Waste Subcommittee Member Lisa Kaczmarczyk has taken part in gleaning actions through the organization "Produce Good" (<https://producegood.org/>). She has this to say about her experience:

"Early in the pandemic there was a local U-Pick blueberry farm in North County that suddenly had fields of berries that were going to spoil. So, I joined a small group of other volunteers who masked up and headed into the rows of bushes with our little buckets. It was a wonderful opportunity to save this fruit and know that it was directed to people who were hungry. Another time I joined a small team who salvaged food from a local farmer's market. It is amazing just how picky some people are – they won't buy produce that is a little too small, a little too big, or has a funny shape. We rescued many boxes of perfectly good produce that day, directing it to a local food distribution center. Gleaning is fun, it's easy and it makes such a difference!"

Zero Waste Symposium

The Ninth Annual Zero Waste Symposium was held on February 8th and gathered more than 200 participants in a day long discussion on the repair and reuse economy. Both San Diego County Supervisor Fletcher and San Diego City Council President Elo-Rivera endorsed working toward Zero Waste. The League of Women Voters presented a great video regarding reform of the People's Ordinance which provides free trash removal to most single-family homes within the City of San Diego. At the end of the symposium, around 30 people hung out and discussed how to make repair and fixit events sustainable.

Videos will soon be available at
<https://zerowastesandiego.org>.

City Proposed Coastal Development Permit for Sea Lion Seasonal Closure is Deficient

By Carol Archibald, Seal Society Docent

On February 4, the City of San Diego submitted a Coastal Development Permit (CDP) application to the California Coastal Commission to for the seasonal closure of the Sea Lion rookery at Pt. La Jolla and Boomer Beach beginning May 25th and ending on September 15th during the sea lion pupping period. The original proposed closure area was the same as the emergency CDP issued by the city last year in August.

The Chapter's Sierra Club Seal Society has concerns about the City's CDP application. We adamantly disapprove of the recently updated closure boundaries that will shrink the closed area by half and the closure dates which lack science-based evidence and don't reflect the biological needs of sea lion mothers and pups, and don't address public and sea lion safety issues.

The sea lion rookery consists of Point La Jolla and Boomer Beach. Photo and video evidence show sea lions use all of Boomer beach for birthing, nursing, mating, and for pups learning to swim. In 2021, 40% of sea lion births took place on Boomer beach.

The proposed boundaries allow a large area for public ocean access and shrinks the closure area by over half compared to last year's approved Temporary Emergency Closure boundary. The proposed boundary fails to provide public safety and adequate separation of sea lions and people. In fact, it places people in close contact with nursing pups and wild, territorial 800-pound bulls, creating a major public safety hazard.

If people are allowed to enter Boomer Beach as depicted on the updated map (see below), management will be difficult. We advocate for limited ocean access on what ocean advocates call the "historic trail" which remained open during the Temporary Closure. This trail was described by Chief Lifeguard Gartland as the safest way to access the ocean. All ocean access must be monitored by rangers to minimize disruption of sea lions resting on the beach. The boundaries used for the Temporary Emergency Closure, while not optimal worked well and is a compromise that balances ocean users and sea lion's biological needs. It should be noted that all 17 other seal rookeries in California are closed to all public access during pupping season.

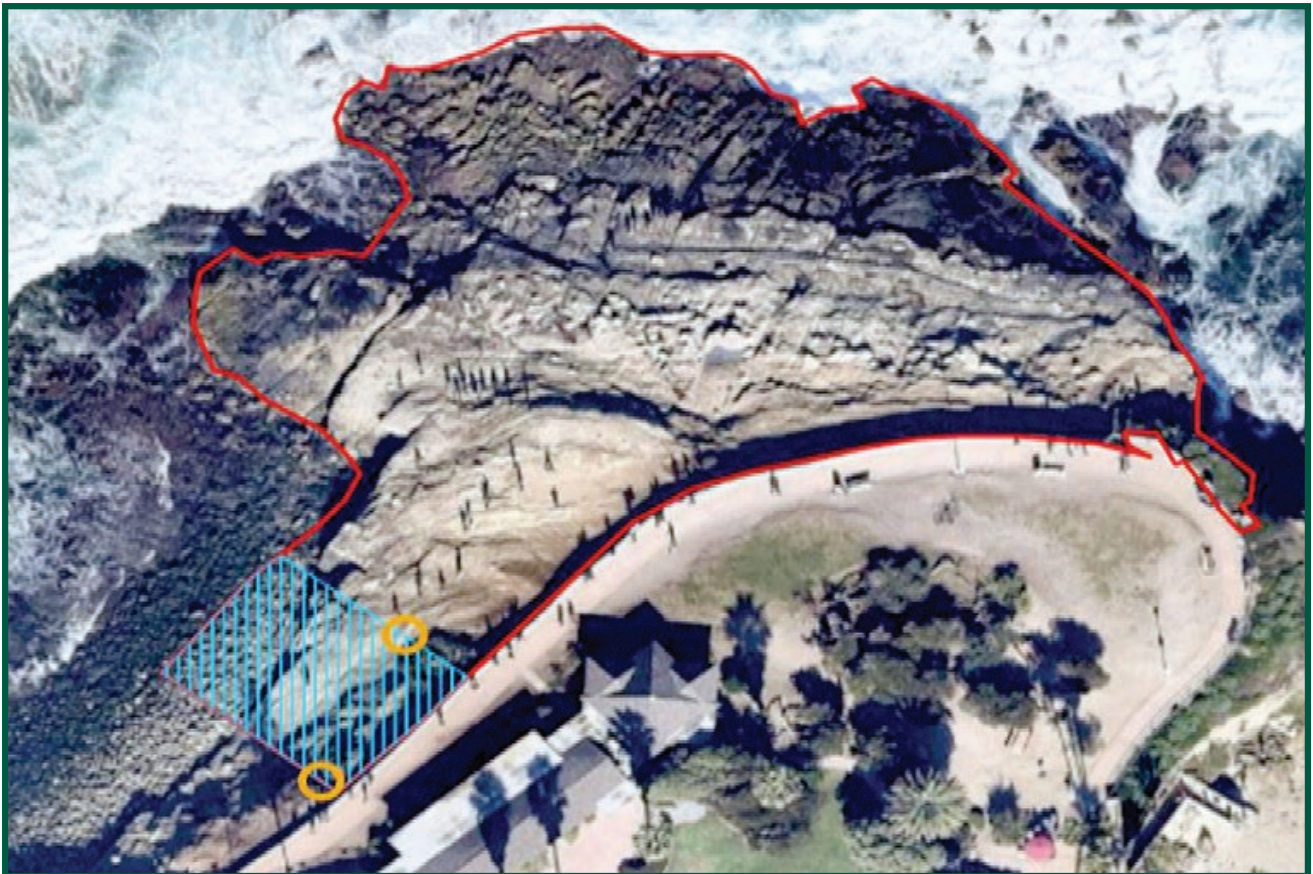
Revised map showing large Seasonal Closure Boundary

Seasonal Closure Boundary: red line

K-Rail: yellow circle

Ocean Access for Recreation: blue area

Sea Lion Closure continued on page 9



PROPOSED CLOSURE DATES OF MAY 25 - SEPTEMBER 15 ARE NOT WORKABLE

The proposed closure dates do not meet the requirements and purpose of the closure, i.e.; protecting sea lion moms and pups from human interaction, aligning with the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), and ensuring public safety. The pupping season closure dates must be a minimum of May 1 – October 31. Birthing records show six births on Boomer Beach in 2021 in the last week of May, which matches birthing dates on the Channel Islands where 99% of sea lions are born (*source: Sharon Melin, NOAA Technical Paper 2017*).

Ms. Melin states “sea lion birthing season starts on May 15”. If closure doesn’t occur until May 25th, some pups will be born with people standing over them, throwing sand on them, and petting them as photographed last year. These actions affect pup survivability and are prosecutable under the MMPA.

If using the seal rookery closure at Children’s Pool as a comparison, it closes 6 weeks prior to the first birth. This backs up the proposed closure for sea lion pupping season to April 10th. Children’s Pool is also closed for 5 months while the proposed closure dates for sea lions is less than 4 months.

Sea lions spend more time on land than seals, are reliant on their moms for nourishment for 11 months, and require additional development time without human interaction. 800-pound sea lion bulls also remain in the area through November posing a public safety threat to unsuspecting visitors.

Seasonal closure dates and biological differences between seals and sea lions

Seals	5 months closure	Starts 6 weeks before birthing so pregnant moms can rest	Pups can swim at birth	Nurse 6-8 weeks	Public safe, few males present during closure
Sea lions	proposed 4 months closure	Starts during birthing period when pups are being born	Pups can’t swim well for 3-4 mo., subject to drowning	Nurse 11 months	Public unsafe, males defend territory, bulls can lunge, chase, bite people

The proposed CDP application needs to be amended to meet the purpose and intent of the closure. It must be based on scientific evidence while balancing public access and safety of people and sea lions. The Sierra Club Seal Society recommends the reinstatement of Emergency Temporary Closure boundaries with the “historic trail” ocean access point along with daily Ranger presence. The closure dates for sea lion pupping season must be set at a minimum of May 1st to October 31st to ensure public safety from territorial bulls and pups’ survival.

The area between the red and yellow lines reflect the proposed ocean access area. The blue line is the Emergency Temporary Closure boundary and while not optimal is recommended. As shown here, sea lions use all of Boomer Beach including under the words “sea lion rookery”.



Sierra Club Endorsements

Primary Election, June 7, 2022

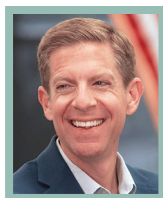
Sierra Club San Diego's Political Committee made a number of important endorsements. The committee evaluated past environmental records of candidates, completed questionnaires and interviews in making these endorsements.

We urge you to consider the environment when you vote. Only by electing candidates who share the view of the Sierra Club on the importance of the protection of the environment can we make our state the model for the rest of the nation.

Sierra Club San Diego's tax exemption status – 501(c)(4) – allows us to make endorsements for candidates and ballot measures.

Please visit our website for the latest endorsement recommendations at <http://sandiegosierraclub.org/>

U.S. Representative

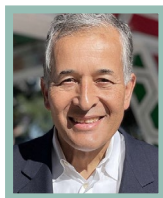


49th Cong. District – Mike Levin

Since his first term in Congress began in January 2019, Mike has established himself as a leader on climate action and clean energy. Mike served for several years on the board of the Center for Sustainable Energy, based in San Diego, and co-founded Sustain OC in

Orange County. Among his accomplishments in Congress, Mike secured \$300 million in the U.S.–Mexico–Canada Agreement to clean up pollution in the Tijuana River Valley and introduced legislation to ban new oil and gas drilling off California coastline.

<https://www.mikelevin.org/>



52nd Cong. District – Juan Vargas

Juan Vargas has served in Congress since 2013. His environmental record includes support for the Green New Deal to cut carbon emissions, eliminate contaminants from the water, and address social inequities caused by climate

change. He helped secure funds to clean up the Tijuana River Valley.

<https://www.votevargas.com/>

San Diego County



Board of Supervisors, District 4 Nathan Fletcher

Supervisor Fletcher has been a champion of the environment since being elected to the San Diego County Board of Supervisors. As current Board Chair, and with a now environmentally-favorable Board with a 3-2 majority, Supervisor Fletcher has pushed for a progressive, pro-environment agenda that includes development of a comprehensive and legally enforceable Climate Action Plan.

<https://www.nathanfletcher.com/>



Board of Supervisors, District 5 Tiffany Boyd-Hodgson

Dr. Tiffany Boyd-Hodgson is a mom, scientist, and small business owner from San Marcos.

As a current elected Director on the Vallecitos Water District, Tiffany has championed common sense advancements to make water affordable and accessible. She led the effort to make the workplace more equitable and even fought shut-offs for ratepayers who couldn't pay during the COVID-19 pandemic. Tiffany defends our beaches and waterways to protect our North County resources. Tiffany will be a strong advocate for families, workers, and the environment.

<https://tiffanyboydhodgson.com>

State Assembly



79th District – Akilah Weber

Dr. Weber is the incumbent Assembly Member previously endorsed by Sierra Club. During the 2021 Assembly session she sponsored, among other bills, an act to add a provision in the California Education Code relating to landslide and erosion early warning systems. She also co-sponsored joint resolutions protecting coastal and marine waters (AJR2) and protecting wild, free-roaming horses and burros (AJR5).

<https://drakilahweber.com/>

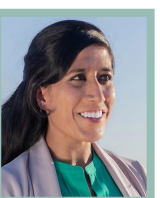


80th District – Georgette Gomez

Georgette Gomez served on the San Diego City Council from 2016 to 2020, including being the first LGBTQ Latina City Council President. A former Community Organizer, the Club endorsed her candidacy both times. While on the city council Georgette was a solid vote for habitat protection, took leadership to protect our climate, and worked to address homelessness. She led the charge to require developers to include affordable housing.

<https://georgettegomez.org/>

City of Carlsbad



City Council, Dist 3 Priya Bhat-Patel

Since being first elected in 2018, Priya Bhat-Patel has voted in favor of many environmental measures. Some of these include creation of our local CCA, electrification in building reach codes, sustainability roadmap with single-use plastics ban, EV expansion in city vehicles and charging stations, and a climate emergency declaration.

<https://www.priyabhatpatel.com/>

Endorsements continued on page 11

City of San Diego



City Council, District 4 Monica Montgomery-Steppe

Elected in 2018, Councilmember-Montgomery-Steppe has been a consistent and strong voice for the environment on the San Diego City Council. Councilmember

Montgomery-Steppe sits on the San Diego MTS Board Representative and Alternate Executive Committee Representative as well as the MTS Representative on the SANDAG Transportation Committee.

<https://www.monica4sandiego.com/>



City Council, District 6 Tommy Hough

Tommy Hough has a long-standing commitment to environmental justice, protection of public lands, and climate action, and a legacy of work with ReWild Mission Bay, San Diego Audubon, Surfrider, and leading San Diego County Democrats for Environmental Action. He is a San Diego County Planning Commissioner.

<https://tommyhough.com/>

Help Grow the San Diego Homegrown National Park

Let's begin the age of restoration

Nature's Best Hope, Doug Tallamy's book outlines what individuals can do to address climate change that is easy, helps wildlife, and is enjoyable—plant more native plants everywhere we can.

Tallamy proposes that landowners set goals to convert half of their lawn to native plants that support local bird, butterfly, and pollinator species. Even a moderate success would be a massive increase to wildlife corridors, health of local bees and other pollinators, and support to birds both in migration and nesting success.

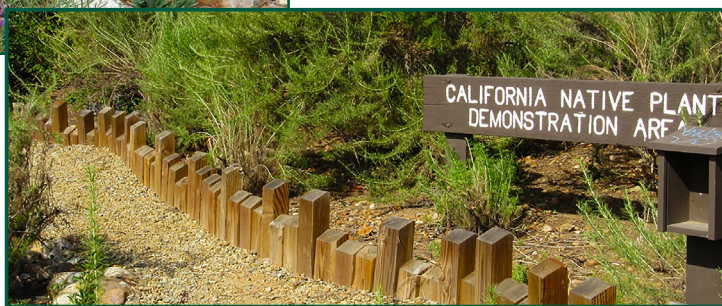
Wild species, pollinators and birds specifically, are in a drastic decline. A main reason is loss and changes in native habitat. One reason is due to habitat destruction and introduction of invasive or exotic plants that 'out-compete' native plants. This changes the habitat into one that cannot support many important species.

Many people think that the designation of National and State parks will suffice to protect our local ecosystem, but it isn't enough. Wildlife need corridors, migra-

tion routes, and more widely dispersed habitat to use.

The good news is we can reverse some of those impacts by creating a more productive habitat by planting native plants in our yards, neighborhoods, patios, and cities.

We have replaced many natives with introduced species. Because these plants and wildlife did not evolve together, introduced plants have much less (or no) ecological value. There are lots of native plants that can serve the same



'function' as those plants we introduced. Changing out exotic species with native plants, will help a lot and you will get more birds and butterflies as a result.

Even a modest or partial conversion of traditional grass or yard planted with non-native plants can be a big support for wildlife.

Tallamy suggests we start by identifying local native plants that support butterflies/

caterpillars and pollinators. This will, in turn, support birds' reproduction and migration successes.

We also have to learn a few things like, why you shouldn't confuse Goldenrod with ragweed, and why night time flood lights are a serious problem for moths and other insects, and which exotic species, like Heavenly Bamboo (Nandina) berries, are toxic to wild birds. We can learn about native and solitary bees and what their needs are and how they differ from hive bees.

We can learn a lot about the life-cycle of butterflies and what helps them succeed.

He recommends several steps toward helping the Homegrown National Park.

We live in such a beautiful area with so many beautiful native plants we can use

in our yards. I know we can start creating the Homegrown National Park here.

I'm looking for others who are interested in helping the planet in this

way. I don't know how we'll do it yet, but if you are interested, please contact me at laurahunter744@gmail.com

**Let's create the
San Diego Homegrown
National Park
together!**

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: 2022

April 27-May 1, 2022

Grand Canyon

July 13-17, 2022

Mammoth

August 17-21, 2022

Yosemite

Sept. 28-Oct. 2, 2022

Sedona

Please continue to check the website for updates regarding specifics such as cancellations, sign up dates, costs, deadlines, unforeseen date changes, COVID requirements 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



From Sand to Snow All in One Day

by Bill Tayler

In late February, we took a group of 16 very enthusiastic students from Hawking STEAM Charter School in San Ysidro for a day of exploring the Myer Creek/Boulder Creek area near Mountain Springs just east of Jacumba. We spent about 5 hours hiking the sandy washes and stopping frequently to give the kids plenty of time to climb rock piles, test their jumping skills, check out the different types of cactus, chill in the shade of the small caves and palm oases along the way, do some rock-hounding for the pieces of quartz and mica that litter the wash, and otherwise take in all of the magnificent things the desert has to offer (especially the unrestricted freedom to be a kid!).

And on the way back, we stopped along Sunrise Highway in the Laguna Mountains to give the kids (and adults!) a chance to play in the 14 inches of snow that had fallen just days before. For several of the kids, it was their first time ever seeing snow, and they definitely made the most of it!

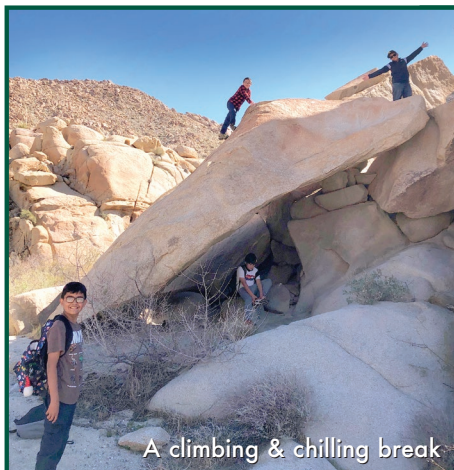
The day was a great reminder of how fortunate we are to live in a place where we can explore the desert and then play in the snow all in the same day. It's a great place to be a kid, and it's our mission to bring those types of opportunities to as many kids as we can. If you'd like to be part of it, we're always looking for new volunteers to join in the fun

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



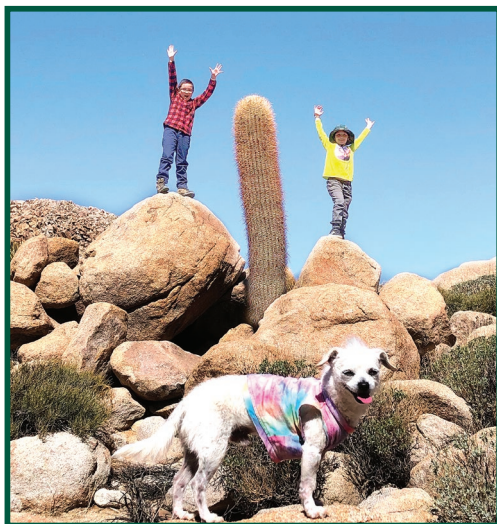
A climbing & chilling break



Taking flight!



Making a snow angel



The barrel cactus grow tall!



Happy Kids!

Classified Ads

Mount Laguna Home for Sale.

Unique, modern, solar home surrounded by National Forest in beautiful Noble Canyon. 1300 sq ft, pure well water, and views! hoganhomestead@gmail.com

Writing a book?

Climate Reality Leader, "Book Sherpa" with long experience editing and designing fiction, nonfiction, children's books. Recent projects include Dave Finnigan's upcoming Green Actioneers Family Action Guide. See www.bit.ly/awtkend. Chiwah Slater, 442-615-0399, awritetoknow@gmail.com.

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

Save Trees-Opt Out Of The HiSierran Paper Edition

Enjoy The Full Color Online Edition

It is very expensive to mail hard copies of the HiSierran! Would you rather get yours online and help save trees and save money for conservation? We can email you when a new copy is posted online with a link.

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 3, 2022**

**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.

Sierra Talks Canceled

The Sierra Talks monthly program has been temporarily (hopefully) canceled. Organizer, El Lotecka has decided to "retire" after hosting and overseeing this highly successful program.

Six years ago, after Manny Kugler had retired from the monthly programs, El formed a team and started Sierra Talks at the Joyce Beers Center. There were a variety of stimulating speakers along with snacks and socializing with up to seventy-some attendees. After the COVID shut-down, El started presentations online which allowed a greater variety of speakers, more outreach and hundreds of video views.

The San Diego Chapter is grateful to El for his leadership, time and dedication to the Chapter, our members, and the environment. Thank you El

We are looking for someone to take the lead in continuing this important program. If you would like to help, please contact us at scoffice@sierrasd.org.

We will help train you!

Like What You Are Reading?

**Support your local Chapter's work
in the San Diego region!**

☐\$25 ☐\$50 ☐\$100 ☐\$200 ☐Surprise us! \$_____

Please make your check payable to Sierra Club San Diego or use your credit card.

Please select payment method:

☐ MasterCard ☐ Visa ☐ Discover ☐ American Express

Card Number: _____ CVV: _____

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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://sandiegosierraclub.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
Contact Chair or check website for location

Chair: Lisa Ross (2023)
lisa@lisaross.com
www.lisaross.com

Vice-Chair: David Hogan (2022)
760-809-9244
hogansierraclub@gmail.com

Secretary: Rochelle Hancock (2024)
Rae_1024@yahoo.com

North County Group Rep:
Pam Heatherington
858-524-6979
pjheatherington@gmail.com

North County Coastal Group Rep.
Sally Prendergast
760-525-5156
Sallyp123@mac.com

Zeynep Ilgaz (2023)
zilgaz@zilgaz.com

David Rousseau (2022)
bayparkdr@yahoo.com

Dale Russell (2023)
619-736-1802
dalerussell05@fulbrightmail.org

Agatha Wein (2024)
agathawein@gmail.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)

Meets 3rd Wednesday at 6:30 pm currently via Zoom <https://sierraclubncg.org>

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

Transportation

David Grubb 760--753-0273
davidzgrubb@gmail.com

Wildlife

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

Zero-Waste

Meets 1st Monday at 6:30 pm
Contact the Committee at
zerowastesdsc@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: Agatha Wein,
agathawein@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.lrsc@gmail.com

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.sierraclubncg.org

SECTIONS & SOCIAL COMMITTEES

Bicycle

Call for meeting information. Jerry Fitzsimmons
(858) 224-3437 Membership@sdscbs.org
www.sandiegosierraclub.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.sandiegosierraclub.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



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.sandigosierraclub.org

Support Your Passion for a Just and Sustainable World

Create a legacy that protects and restores the natural world for future generations by naming Sierra Club's San Diego Chapter in your will or trust. Or, name Sierra Club Foundation as the beneficiary of your retirement plan for the benefit of your local chapter and leave less highly taxed assets to your loved ones.



To learn more about the advantages of making a planned gift and to become a member of the Rachel Carson Society, please contact us.



SIERRA CLUB
SAN DIEGO CHAPTER

Julia Curtis • (800) 932-4270 • giftplanning@sierraclub.org • myplan.sierraclub.org

Check out just some of our Sierra Club products at a great price:

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



Travel Blanket

Price: \$14.95

This fleece travel blanket features the Sierra Club logo and comes in blue, white and red plaid. It features a packing strap when not in use with a convenient carrying strap.

Dimensions: 40" wide x 60" long

Dimensions Rolled: 11" long by 6" in diameter

Color: Blue, White and Red Plaid

Cotton Canvas 1892
Retro Sierra Club
Rucksack

Sale Price: \$21.50



Cup with Sierra
Club Logo

Price: \$10.99



E-conscious organic/recycled
ball cap with John Muir
silhouette and
Sierra Club San Diego.

Price: \$20.00

Emerald Forest color cap with
oyster colored stitching.