



HISIERRAN

Working To Preserve The Special Nature of San Diego since 1948

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September/October 2015

City of San Diego Poised to Pass Legally Binding 100% Clean Energy Climate Plan We Need Your Help!

by Nicole Capretz



All politics is local, former House Speaker Tip O’Neal famously asserted, and we couldn’t agree more. We fully support and encourage national and international efforts to address climate change, but cities are often the hubs of innovation and bold experimentation that offer models of success for climate solutions. The City of San Diego, the 8th largest city in the United States, is considering a climate plan that positions itself as an international leader in demonstrating how we can dramatically reduce our greenhouse gases over the next several decades.

San Diego got a step closer to seeing its vision realized last week, as the city released the environmental impact report detailing its proposed Climate Action Plan (CAP). Now it goes through a public review period, and then onto City Council for final approval. We need your help to get this historic plan across the finish line!

Climate Plan continued on page 13

2015 Regional Transportation Plan – Lacks Climate Protection Measures

by Mike Bullock

BACKGROUND: The San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) Board has 21 voting members, who are elected officials, representing the 19 municipal governments in San Diego County. San Diego and San Diego County each have 2 voting members; all others have 1. To be awarded transportation funds, from the federal or state Government, SANDAG must approve a Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and the RTP’s Environmental Impact Report (EIR) every 4 years. The last RTP, approved in 2011, is currently being reviewed and litigated in the California Supreme Court, after having been found to be in violation of California’s Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The violations were related to its failure to achieve the state’s climate mandates and other issues, such as air pollution and health. The lawsuit was filed by the Cleveland National Forest Foundation (CNFF) and the Center for Biological Diversity and was quickly joined by the Sierra Club and our Attorney General Kamala Harris.

On May 21, the SANDAG released its Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for its new Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), for public review and comment. The public comment period for the new (2015) RTP and DEIR closed on July 15, 2015.

Sierra Club San Diego submitted a 20-page letter that voices concern for the failure of the \$168 Billion dollar plan to achieve California’s climate targets, for the years 2030,

2015 RTP continued on page 12

SPROG Chapter Sponsors Two for Youth Training

by Ale Montes & Siyan Liu

The Sierra Club Youth Summer Grassroots Training, also known as SPROG, was held at the Angeles Chapter’s Harwood Lodge in the Mt. Baldy area from July 12 to 19. Sierra Club San Diego was proud to have sponsored two outstanding participants, summer interns Alejandro Montes and Siyuan Liu.

SPROG helps prepare students to lead and organize campaigns. It also does a phenomenal job engaging participants on how to motivate others about the environment and creating the next generation of social justice activists. Students who attend SPROG are provided with the tools to become leaders and make a great impact on communities and our planet. Attending SPROG was inspiring for both interns.

Montes felt that the training “... was by far the most open and conducive learning and growing space I have ever known.” He also said “The tools I learned there to strategize and plan and organize campaigns and the tactics I learned are lessons I can apply in my various campaigns.”

For Liu, SPROG was “...both a wonderful experience as well as an eye-opening learning opportunity for me.” “West Sprog was a week-long intensive program that taught me about environmental activism and methods of becoming an environmental activist myself, from the aspects of campaign planning, leadership development, as well as

Youth Training continued on page 10

HI SIERRAN

Explore, Enjoy and Protect the Planet

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Debbie Hecht

Are You An Environmental Optimist Or A Pessimist?

I had nightmare the other night. My beloved 4- year old grand daughter was all grown up and looking up at the clouds shaking her fist at the generations that went before, saying, "Grandma, how could you do this to us?" Where she was standing was the edge of a cavernous sand and gravel pit that redirected the course of the river that was on fire as it trickled to the ocean, polluted by gas and mining solvents. No one was swimming in the ocean. Everywhere was graded, devoid of vegetation. I didn't see any wildlife. Nature was a quaint memory. Infrastructure was so old that sewer lines were broken and seeping into the rivers and oceans and crumbling water pipes. Houses were still going up everywhere, even though there were neighborhoods of abandoned homes. Rural land lay barren- scraped and raped. It was Apocalypse Now and Armageddon all rolled into one, a movie sequence of brilliant shades of earth tones and fire. My grand daughter was grown and a mother with a small daughter in her arms. I sat bolt upright in a sweat from this nightmare, very upset. When I got over my panic, I thought, "Wow, glad that was a dream." I chuckled a bit at the "good parts" of this dream, she looked skyward, (assuming that's where I went) and I was excited she was a mother, but most important that she cared enough to be angry. In this "Gone With the Wind moment". I saw that her anger and shock at our environment would propel her on, as it does so many of us at the Sierra Club. I discovered I can find the "silver lining" in most black clouds and that I am most definitely an optimist!

It got me thinking about what we need to do to pass on our environmental legacy and "grow" the next generation of conservationists. The next generation needs the values and tools to be able conserve and protect our natural resources and be stewards of the Earth for humans and other species. How can the Sierra Club take more of a leadership position in our community that will affect the environment and therefore the

quality of life in the next 50 to 100 years? We can encourage them to invest in Socially Responsible Stocks and Bonds to steer more money to corporations that do business in socially and ethically responsible ways. We can help write environmentally strong Regional Transportation Plans, Climate Action Plans and Land Use Plans. We can encourage them to use the courts when governments don't do their job to protect the health and welfare of all citizens. We can help elect politically like-minded individuals who support our values in their actions and with good legislation.

In an optimistic article in Huff Post, from Adam Hanft, titled, The Stunning Evolution of Millennials: "\$7 trillion in liquid assets that Millennials will have in their generational clutches within the next five years...Yet despite their personal debt and experiential context, Millennials are surprising long-term optimists, which explains their willingness to park their money in tracking ETFs (exchange traded funds). On this subject, Pew notes: " Millennials are the nation's most stubborn economic optimists. More than eight-in-ten say they either currently have enough money to lead the lives they want (32%) or expect to in the future (53%)." My son is a Millennial, a father and he and his wife fit this demographic.

Well isn't that good news? Are they ethical and moral enough to use their money in "earth-kind" ways? How can we help to educate them? AND how are we leading by example? Do you ever wonder why they listen to us, or don't listen to us? Have we wrecked our credibility by our incongruent actions? Bottom line, do we walk the talk?

So, are you an optimist or a pessimist? When I think of pessimists I always think of Eeyore in Winnie the Pooh: "The sky has finally fallen, I knew it would." Are you someone who says, "You can only do so much"? Or do you say, "My little bit won't help at all, it's too big a problem." Or "Those people will take care of it." Are you a bit of a climate denier? Is it someone else's problem? Or are you an environmental optimist? Do you turn off lights, turn up

View continued on page 15

Just say “NO” to Leapfrog Development at Lilac Hills Ranch

by Debbie Hecht

Sierra Club is against Leapfrog Developments. Leapfrog development is defined as: “the development of lands in a manner requiring the extension of public facilities....Leapfrog development is also referred as urban sprawl as the development of lands in a manner requiring the extension of public facilities. In addition the services are extended on the periphery of an existing urbanized area where such extension is not provided for in the existing plans of the local governing body. [Foster v. Anable, 199 Ariz. 489 (Ariz. Ct. App. 2001)]”.

Because land is cheaper the further it is away from urban areas, developers buy this land and put in large-scale developments with small commercial areas. They are usually connected by rural roads, with the bare minimum of services (police, fire and emergency, libraries, parks etc.) and little infrastructure (sewers, water systems, irrigation). Unless there is a requirement for the developer to provide the infrastructure and services when their plan is approved, taxpayers pay through higher taxes, or there are impact fees paid by the people that choose to buy new homes, The national average for Impact Fees in 1999 was \$19,552*

The Lilac Hills Ranch project is a master planned community encompassing 608 acres with 1,746 residences, The project is located south and west of West Lilac Road approximately one-half mile north of Circle R Drive within the Bonsall and Valley Center Community Plan areas.

The proposed plan calls for 90,000 square feet of commercial, office, and retail, a 50-room Country Inn, a 200-unit dementia care facility for Alzheimer patients, and civic facilities that include public and private parks, a private recreational facility, and other recreational amenities, and may include a fire station or a remodel of an existing fire station (Miller Station) and a school (K-8). Of the 1,746 residences, 903 would be single-family detached homes, 164 would be single-family attached homes, 211 would be mixed use residential units and 468 would be age-restricted houses within a senior citizen neighborhood. Also planned within the project site are a Recycling Facility, a Water Reclamation Facility, and other supporting infrastructure. Currently the 608 acres of land is zoned 1 house per two acres and supports mostly agricultural enterprises.

The Sierra Club supports the comments and concerns of the Center for Biological Diversity, the Cleveland National Forest Foundation, the Endangered Habitat League, the League of Women Voters, and the San Diego County Farm Bureau. The concerns raised by these groups are similar to many of the concerns of Sierra Club San Diego.

We recommend that the San Diego County Planning Commission oppose this project because this project:

- Is inconsistent with the General Plan.
- Proposes 1,746 units on land currently zoned for 110 dwellings.
- Is “leapfrog” development disconnected from other significant urban development.
- Is urban sprawl development that would consume acres of productive farmland.

- Is adjacent to wildlife corridors and pre-approved mitigation areas.
- Greatly increases noise and light pollution that will negatively impact the area for wildlife habitat.
- Has 1,746 homes that will each generate an average of 10 car trips per day, per traffic engineering estimates. At build out this would amount to 17,460 car trips per day or 6,372,900 car trips per year for the 1,746 homes. This does not include commercial areas.
- Will require that most residents drive 30 minutes or more between their jobs and their homes.
- Will have little public transportation, and will require building more roads to connect this development with other urban centers for shopping, entertainment etc.
- Will increase extended car trips that will add to Greenhouse Gas Emissions.
- Will make it significantly more difficult for the County's new Climate Action Plan (CAP) to achieve meaningful greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction targets using enforceable measures.
- Will have a poor jobs-housing balance since the 90,000 square feet of commercial (if it is ever really built) will likely produce no more than about 225 jobs (based on estimates of Appendix O's Table of Modelled Land Use on Page 60), while the 1,746 homes will produce about 3,492 workers, for a jobs-to-employees ratio of only about 6.5%. This is too low to support a claim of “mixed use”.
- Fails to meet the requirement that any new “Village” be supported with necessary services and facilities consistent with the Community Development Model and be “designed to meet the LEED-Neighborhood Development Certification or an equivalent.” (LU-1.2).
- Conflicts with the County General Plan's Smart Growth Principles, Goals and Policies requiring amendments to the County General Plan and Community Plans of Valley Center and Bonsall;
- Endangers lives as emergency response times and will not meet the 5 minute rule as required by the County General Plan;
- Negatively impacts state and federally listed animal and plant species and critical habitat.
- Increases demand on water resources in the region and the project does not demonstrate that adequate potable water supply will be available.
- Could raise existing long-time County residents' property taxes to provide infrastructure supporting this development (roads, sewer and water facilities) and services (police, fire, emergency vehicles, libraries, schools, parks etc.)
- Since there is no Climate Action Plan, county rezonings should wait till a CAP is in effect.

The County's General Plan Land Use Element “provides a framework to accommodate future development in an efficient and sustainable manner that is compatible with the character of unincorporated communities and the protection of valuable and sensitive natural resources.” Lilac Hills Ranch violates these agreed upon development principles.

You will likely hear from the developers that this project will provide jobs in an area of the County that has been

Lilac Hills continued on page 15

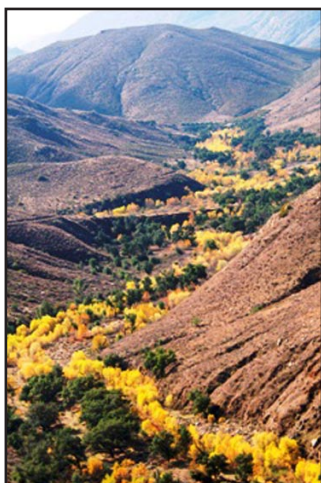
Sierra Talks

Formerly Monthly Meetings

New Sierra Talks are on the first Friday, starting with refreshments and representatives from Chapter groups at 6:30 pm and programs at 7 pm with discussions afterward. The location is the Joyce Beers Center at 3900 Vermont St., San Diego, 92103, across the street from Trader Joe's. Parking is available under Trader Joe's and Ralphs Market. Sierra Talks are free and open to the public. Program Coordinator: Ernest "E.L." Lotecka sdwalks@interactor.cc

September 4th

The San Diego River Park: Past, Present, and Future



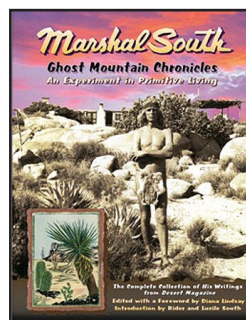
The San Diego River is the historic heart of the City of San Diego and remains one of the most biologically diverse ecosystems in the country. Despite decades of urban development and neglect, restoration efforts and stewardship offer the promise of a better future for the San Diego River. Sarah Hutmacher will be sharing information about the San Diego River Park Foundation's efforts to conserve the San Diego River as

a place for people, water and wildlife. In addition to some background and history, she will share some updates about current efforts in the field of land acquisition, trail planning, and efforts to provide opportunities for underserved youth to experience the trails and exploration that are so important to her (and to you all too!).

Sarah is the Development and Programs Manager for the San Diego River Park Foundation. She studied Environmental Systems with an emphasis in Environmental Policy at UC San Diego, and has worked for the University of California, local government, and in the nonprofit sector before determining that she needed a job that allowed her to connect people with the outdoors! She joined the River Park Foundation team in 2008, and now wears many hats, including helping with fundraising and grants, as well as overseeing the education and outreach efforts. Sarah is an avid backpacker, hiker, runner (or anything else outdoors), and also loves getting out from behind the computer to lead hikes and outings along the San Diego River.

October 2nd

Anza-Borrego through Stories, Legends, and Life of Marshal South



The enigmatic Marshal South, of California's Anza-Borrego desert region, remains a controversial character to this day. Images he described in *Desert Magazine* of his family's experiment in primitive living left a lasting impression that obscured the memory of this man as an acclaimed western novelist. With the publication of *Marshal South Rides Again*, a new generation

is being introduced to these fast-paced, non-stop action cliffhangers that are set in the land he knew best — the desert that surrounded his Ghost Mountain home.

South weaved local tales about the old Butterfield Vallecito Stage Station around stories he had heard about his back-country neighbors to develop his storyline and characters. He wrote what he knew firsthand and gave intriguing descriptions of local landmarks that readers familiar with the Anza-Borrego area may be able to decipher. We will look at the inspiration for these writings and explore Marshal South as a writer and artist. The presentation is based on this new South novel featuring his two Anza-Borrego novels. Prepare for a rollickingly good read as the hero uses his wits to save the day, win the damsel in distress, and acquire the wealth of his dreams.

Historian and guidebook author Diana Lindsay will be introducing the world of Marshal South to those attending. She will also make some suggestions for a visit to Anza-Borrego's Ghost Mountain that include areas where the South family hiked when they lived there during the 1930s and 1940s. Diana has written, co-written, contributed to, or edited numerous books that include: *The Anza-Borrego Desert Region Guidebook*; *Anza-Borrego A to Z: People, Places, and Things*; *Ricardo Breda: Accidental Artist*; and *Marshal South and the Ghost Mountain Chronicles*.

MEAT FREE MONDAYS

Save the planet: One Forkful At A Time!

by Laurel Hopwood

Adopting a plant-based diet is the simplest and cheapest way to combat global warming, reduce water pollution and even save the rainforests. In light of mounting evidence that the raising of cows, pigs and chicken in factories generates enormous amounts of greenhouse gases, everyone is invited to join Sierra Club's Meat-Free Monday Campaign.

The raising of cows, pigs and chicken in animal factories contributes to global warming, as huge amounts of greenhouse-gas emissions are released. The livestock sector generates enormous amounts of the greenhouse gases nitrous oxide (mostly coming from animal manure) and methane (largely produced by the digestive system of ruminants). Close to 1/3 of all fossil fuels produced in the U.S. go towards animal agriculture. Every link in the chain of events that brings a meat-based diet from the factory or feedlot to the table demands huge amounts of electricity. A 2010 United Nations report concluded that a shift toward a vegan diet is necessary to combat the worst effects of climate change.

Water pollution from manure runoff can end up in sources of drinking water. Massive amounts of manure get funneled

into huge waste lagoons, which can break, leak or overflow, polluting sources of water with nitrogen and phosphorus causing oxygen-depleting algal blooms, toxic algae and fish kills.

Water depletion from the immense amount of water required to raise animals and feed-crops is depleting a crucial resource: water. If we continue pumping out the Ogallala Aquifer at current rates, it's only a matter of time before most of the wells in the midwest and southwest will go dry.

There are also human illness concerns. Close to 80% of antibiotics manufactured today are fed daily - like vitamins - to factory raised livestock, to ensure rapid growth. Unnecessary use of antibiotics is taking us to a time when antibiotics will no longer work.

The raising of animals in factories even impacts pollinators! Most corn is genetically manipulated by artificially gene splicing together completely different species, bypassing the natural species barrier. These corn seeds are encapsulated with neonicotene pesticides. Neonicotines are strongly linked to the demise of honeybees, a major pollinator for our food supply.

Rainforests get depleted as millions of trees are decimated for grazing and crop production in the Amazon. Livestock production is responsible for 70% of deforestation in the Amazon region of Latin America, where rainforests are being cleared to create new pastures.

Resolutions are being passed in many cities and schools, calling for residents to refrain from eating animal products one day per week. It recognizes the benefits of a diet consisting of nuts, seeds, grains, legumes, fruits and vegetables to improve personal health and the health of the planet.

Sierra Club's updated Agriculture policy includes this statement: "Personal dietary choices that minimize or eliminate meat and animal products should be encouraged, due to their many benefits, including reducing greenhouse gas impacts, water pollution and inhumane treatment of animals."

More information is included here:

www.neosierragroup.org/meat-free-mondays

To show your support, please consider joining Sierra Club's Grassroots Network Meat-Free Monday Campaign!

<https://content.sierraclub.org/grassrootsnetwork/teams/meat-free-monday-campaign>

Laurel Hopwood, Northeast Ohio Sierra Club volunteer in Cleveland, Ohio.

Email lhopwood@roadrunner.com

(Laurel also chairs national Sierra Club's issues on genetic engineering and pollinator protection.)

1% LAND & WATER FUND- We need your help to fund a poll

We are raising money to do a poll. We only have \$8,000 more to raise. Can you help?

The poll will show how many people in San Diego county will vote to set aside 1% of property taxes each year to purchase and maintain land and watersheds county wide such as:

1. Park lands and open space
2. Protection of watershed lands to preserve water quality and water supply
3. Protection of natural resources, significant habitat or ecosystems, (including buffer zones) to support multi-species habitat conservation plans
4. Trails and access to beaches and mountains;
5. Preservation of forests, beaches, coastal areas and areas of natural beauty
6. Preservation of historic or culturally important land areas and sites;
7. Neighborhood parks, community gardens;

8. Conservation Easements;

9. Land for easements for off- the- street bicycle lanes or mountain bike trails

Setting aside 1% of property taxes is less than 1% of all of the total revenue for the county and would be approximately \$50 million each year. This would NOT raise taxes, just reallocate funds. Two attorneys have given their legal opinion: "a 66.67% majority is only required for a new or increased tax dedicated for a specific purpose. A measure to re-allocate revenues -- without raising any additional taxes -- should not require a 66.67% vote. A simple majority should suffice."

NEED A SPEAKER?

We are also looking for educational opportunities. Do you have a group where we could speak and ask for a letter of support?

More information? Debbie Hecht, Chair of the Steering Committee
808-989-3222 hecht.deb@gmail.com

Wilderness Basics Course 2016

“Experience the beauty of the wilderness with knowledge and confidence!”

10 Week Course Starts:

Escondido - January 5th

San Diego - January 19th

This comprehensive 10-week course consists of 10 Tuesday night meetings and 4 weekend trips to the local deserts and mountains. The weekend trips include car camping, navigation, backpacking and even snow camping (you'll love it). Choose from outings that range from easy to extremely challenging. The Wilderness Basics Course is only offered once a year. It is open to both members and non-members of the Sierra Club.

For More Info and To Register:

San Diego

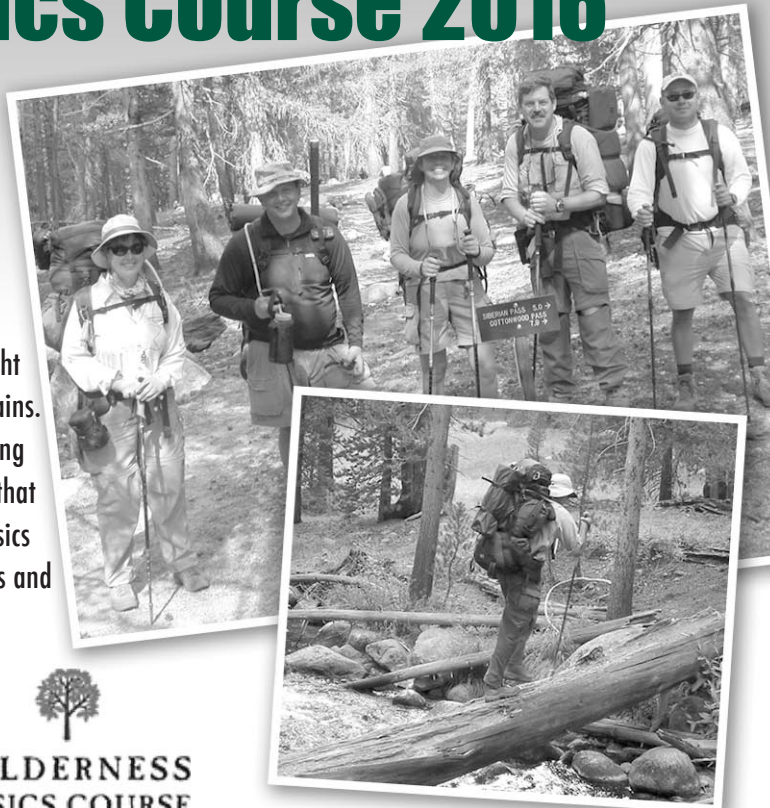
www.wildernessbasics.com

Escondido

<http://wbcnc.sierrasd.org>



**WILDERNESS
BASICS COURSE**



Solana Beach Bag Ban

by Marilee McLean

The Clean and Green Committee of Solana Beach is extremely grateful to our City Council members for having the foresight (and courage!) to adopt a ban on single-use plastic shopping bags. The Council, our committee, and several Solana Beach Sierra Club members worked together for more than three years to accomplish this goal. The campaign required a substantial amount of outreach and perseverance!

To “kick-off” the process of ban adoption in early 2010, our Clean and Green committee worked with Solana Beach Presbyterian Church and other community organizations to plan a city-wide meeting. Our featured speaker was Captain Charles Moore who explained the seriousness of the Gyre of plastic floating in our Pacific Ocean. Over 300 community members attended the meeting and by the end of the presentation most of them were thoroughly convinced that a ban was the right choice for our city, our lagoons and our treasured beaches.

Over the next several months Council members Lesa Heebner, Mike Nichols and Dave Roberts and City of Solana Beach liaison Danny King joined us as we staffed several booths throughout the community. Many Solana Beach Sierra Club members contributed to the effort. We gave out thousands of reusable bags! We greeted friends and neighbors at supermarkets, pharmacies, school assemblies, community concerts and churches---answering questions and explaining the importance of shopping sustainably and protecting marine life. We paraded our

infamous “Bag Monster” costume all over the city and talked with kids at numerous events. At the Boys and Girls Club Summer Camp we helped the campers make their own reusable bags. Our public relations effort was intense and prolonged but, in the end, it proved to be successful.



Front row: (L to R) Marilee McLean, Captain Charles Moore, Mary Jane Boyd, (back row) Tom Theriault, Steve Goetsch, Roger Boyd, Jack Hegenauer, Judy Hegenauer, Lane Sharman

Clean and Green members-- along with many Solana Beach Sierra Club supporters--- attended Council meetings both before and after the bag-ban ordinance was adopted. Our united outreach continued and finally in October of 2012 the ban was officially adopted. It was of course a “hot issue” in the City Council election of 2012 but thankfully Lesa Heebner was re-elected to Council in spite of a serious challenge by the “ban deniers”. In March of 2013 the ban was once again challenged but good sense and strong advocacy prevailed and the ban remains in effect today.

Again we thank our 2012 City Council for having the vision to proceed with this plastic bag ordinance. We also thank Councilmen David Zito and Peter Zahn who continued to uphold the ban after their election to Council. Together we all stood firm in our conviction to protect our environment and keep Solana Beach “Clean and Green!” The teamwork of our council, our committee, and our strong Sierra Club “support crew” was a winning combination in building a more sustainable community. We certainly wish the same success for other cities as they act to eliminate single-use Plastic Bags.

Integrity of Florida Canyon Native Preserve

by Alan Bennett, Native Plan Steward

The efforts of the San Diego Parks & Recreation Department to take care of our city's crown jewel, Balboa Park is to be applauded. The historic purpose of City Park, originally a "...gift to the citizens of San Diego as a reserved wilderness" has evolved over time. But the heart of the park has retained that promise of "wilderness". The designation of Florida Canyon as a one hundred and fifty acre native plant preserve in the 1989 Balboa Park Master Plan keeps a fragile part of the park's original promise alive.

We are heartened by the recently witnessed work that was focused on removing dead Redwood trees (*Sequoia sempervirens*) on the south side of Morley Field Drive, between Park Boulevard and Florida Drive. This is long overdue.

Those trees have been suffering and dying for over forty (40) years on the wrong side of the hill, out of a maritime coastal weather pattern, with inadequate water and trying to penetrate San Diego Sandstone. It is our understanding the original grove was planted in 1972 and has been replanted about every ten years when about one-third of the trees have died.

We would also hope the city will reconsider having Strawberry trees (*Arbutus 'marina'*) in the median of Florida Drive at the southern tip of the preserve. These are a beautiful canopy exotic which would be appropriate somewhere else in Balboa Park. The fruit will drop and provide a very slippery pavement surface just as people are changing lanes or slowing down southbound for the light at the 26th Street/Florida Drive/Pershing Drive intersection. Traffic northbound is going to be accelerating like crazy and turning to the left so they can enjoy the 50 mph speed (for about a mile) up Florida Drive. It could be a visual distraction as drivers take their eyes off the roadway and traffic to discern what exactly the red spots are in the trees. Will birds eat the fruit and then fly out into traffic?

PolComm Postings

Dispatches from the Political Committee

by Davin Widgerow,
Chair Political Committee

The Political Committee is continuing our relationship-building activities with candidates and candidates-to-be at our meetings ahead of our 2016 elections endorsement season. PolComm is also hard at work engaging officeholders in variety of environmental issues, and on advancing several continuing projects.

We hosted Mara Elliott and Justin DeCesare as guests at our July meeting. Mara is a candidate for City Attorney for the City of San Diego. Mara has nearly 20 years of public sector legal experience. She currently serves as Chief Deputy City Attorney, in which capacity she leads the City's legal team responsible for reforming city contracting practices, strengthening city audits and enforcing environmental protection laws. Mara also advises the City's independent Audit Committee and the City Council's Committee on the Environment. Previously, Mara served as general counsel to community college and K-12 school districts as well as counsel to the County of San Diego and the San Diego Metropolitan Transit Development Board. Mara serves on the League of California Cities' Public Records Act Committee and was an editor of the California Municipal Law Handbook. In her spare time, Mara chairs a committee of the San Diego Lawyers Club, and works to advance the status of women in the law. She serves as trustee of the San Diego County Law Library and was recently honored as Advocate of the Year for her work for the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. Mara answered multiple questions from the Political Committee about her work in the City Attorney's office, on the City's draft climate action plan, and on her work analyzing environmental issues for the City Council.

Justin DeCesare is a candidate for San Diego City Council District 7, which is currently represented by Scott Sherman. Justin is a local businessman and broker in the Real Estate industry, and the President of the Tierrasanta Community

Council. He is an 8-year veteran of the United States Navy, and the father of two young children. Justin spoke extensively to the Committee about his vision for District 7, especially with regard to development projects and their associated impacts on open space, as well as the need for public transit. He also answered questions about protection of Mission Trails Regional Park, preservation of open space in District 7, and the future of Qualcomm Stadium and potential land uses on the site.

PolComm was thrilled to see our efforts bear fruition, as Rep. Scott Peters signed on as a co-sponsor to reauthorize the landmark Land and Water Conservation Fund. We continue to lobby our other local congressional representatives to co-sponsor this critical conservation program. We also are also continuing to coordinate with our local elected officials to persuade the Public Utilities Commission to adopt environmentally progressive energy net metering regulations. PolComm will also be tackling various continuing projects, including reviewing and redrafting candidate questionnaires and other documents ahead of the 2016 endorsement season, in crafting a judicial endorsements policy, and in revamping our bylaws. We welcome our members' input on all these projects.

Our Committee continues to grow, and in July we added two new members to our ranks. Nicole Capretz is a leading environmental advocate and executive director of the Climate Action Campaign, which is working to educate citizens about San Diego's draft climate action plan and lobbying elected officials to pass this bold plan in all its components. Nicole has a distinguished list of accomplishments in San Diego policy, government, and activism, and we are thrilled to have her become part of our team. Sarah Fields was also added to our Committee. Sarah has a Masters degree in Urban Planning, and currently works for State Senator Marty Block. Prior to working for Senator Block, she worked for San Diego Habitat for Humanity. She is a native-born resident of San Diego. PolComm is constantly looking for new members, especially from areas south of I-8, so please contact us, come to a meeting, and see if what we do is of interest to you.

SAN DIEGO Chapter Activities

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

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

2nd Friday Movie Night September 11, 6:30pm

Movie: YEARS OF LIVING DANGEROUSLY: Episodes 7 and 8
120 Minutes

This ground breaking, Emmy-winning Showtime documentary television series, consisting of 9 episodes, explores the human impact of climate change.

Episode 7: REVOLT, REBUILD, RENEW

Episode seven covers the economic costs of global warming. Jessica Alba follows Climate Corps fellows as they work to help US companies to save money and improve profits through energy efficiency and sustainability management. Thomas Friedman studies how the effect of global warming on the US wheat crop (and the wheat crop in other exporting nations) caused a spike in wheat prices in the Middle East, helping to provoke the Arab Spring. Chris Hayes explores the economy of another area adversely affected by Hurricane Sandy, Far Rockaway, discovering that the most economically vulnerable people have been the most severely affected, losing their jobs because of lack of transportation, or having to move away altogether.

Episode 8: A DANGEROUS FUTURE

Michael C. Hall travels to Bangladesh to see how climate change will impact workers and the poor in developing countries in the coming decades. He finds that in low-lying, flood-prone, densely populated Bangladesh, sea level rise and the lengthening of the monsoon season, both caused by global warming, have already caused a migration of coastal people to Dhaka and other cities, and even across the border into India, because they have lost their homes or livelihoods. Matt Damon explores the public health emergencies around the nation and world caused by more frequent, intense, and longer heat waves, which kill more Americans than hurricanes, floods, tornadoes, earthquakes and lightning combined and cause health problems associated with dehydration, such as premature birth. Thomas Friedman continues his Middle East investigation in Yemen, where the scarcity of water is already leading to local fighting.

October 9, 6:30pm

Movie: YEARS OF LIVING DANGEROUSLY: Episode 9
60 Minutes

Episode 9: MOVING A MOUNTAIN

Michael C. Hall concludes his journey to Bangladesh, where rising seas are expected to submerge 17% of the country. He learns that global warming is a human rights, public health and foreign policy issue. M. Sanjayan questions top climate scientists in their fields who collect data from the past, such as ice core samples, that explain how our climate is changing. Friedman interviews President Barack Obama on climate change. He finds that climate can change so fast that it can wipe out a civilization and that "action taken to curb greenhouse emissions could have a measurable, helpful impact." Obama acknowledges that, to avoid the worst effects of global warming, we must leave some fossil fuels unexploited. He tells Friedman that "if you profess leadership in this country at this moment in our history, then you've got to recognize [that global warming] is going to be one of the most significant long-term challenges, if not the most significant long-term challenge, that this country faces and that the planet faces. ... when [the effects of climate change] start multiplying, then people start thinking '... We're going to reward politicians who talk to us honestly and seriously about this problem.'"

Chapter Outings

Chapter Outings are now an online listing only.

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

Go to: <http://sandigosierraclub.org>

Then click on "Get Outdoors"

**Sierra Club & Impact Investors Present
Investing in Renewable Energy
Wednesday, September 16, 2015, 6:30 PM
8304 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard
#101, San Diego, CA 92111**

Shane Yonston, Principal Advisor at Impact Investors and 12-year veteran in the field of Socially Responsible Investing (SRI), will discuss the current landscape of investments in the renewable energy sector. In recent years, political gridlock and competition from fracking have stifled market performance

but meanwhile, technology continues to advance, driving costs down while demand marches steadily upward. Today the capacity of renewable energy exceeds that of nuclear power and 87% of Americans believe the government should implement programs for wind or solar. In June this year, First Solar's CEO was quoted saying that by 2017, they will be under \$1.00 per watt fully installed. With all of this progress, is now the right time to invest in this sector or will politics and big oil keep us from moving forward? Come explore these questions and more at our next SRI workshop!

Please sign up with by contacting hecht.deb@gmail.com or call 808-989-3222.

Inspiring Connections Outdoors

Bill Tayler
San Diego, ICO Co-Chair



Snorkeling in La Jolla Cove

Pushing kids beyond their self-imposed limitations and helping them learn to love nature (not to fear it) are two of the goals we have on every ICO outing. And teaching kids how to snorkel is a great way to do both. While many of the kids have been to the beach, most have never been snorkeling. And even in San Diego, some kids who come on our trips have never been swimming outside of a pool. One of our favorite places for ICO snorkel outings is La Jolla Cove.

While there are always a few kids who take to snorkeling naturally, but for many of them it is an experience that creates a great deal of fear and apprehension, both because they will be breathing through a tube with their face below water and because they are not used to being able to see all of the marine life around them while they swim. But with mentoring and encouragement from an experienced ICO volunteer (and sometimes with an adult arm and hand to hold on to), most of the kids eventually venture out from the beach and into the nearby shallow water. Then, after they have some time to observe everything that lives below the surface (and realize that the fish have no interest in biting them), the kids usually lose their fear and begin to enjoy spotting all the different types of marine life: garibaldi, sea bass, kelpfish, halibut, schools of mackerel, lobsters, anemones, hermit crabs and, occasionally, sea lions swimming by.

In just one day of snorkeling, even kids who have never been swimming outside of a pool usually lose their fear and become confident, adventuresome and eager to see more. And when it's time to leave, we hear them asking how soon they can come back and do it again. And sometimes we hear them saying that they will come back with their families. Being part of such a profound transformation – one that often will stick with them for life and allow them to pass on their newfound love of the ocean to others – is both extremely gratifying and a very fun way to spend the day.

Inspiring Connections Outdoors is a Sierra Club outreach program that provides free wilderness experiences to urban youth, to help them realize the wonders of 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

New Volunteer Orientations –

6:30 to 7:30 pm every 3rd Thursday of the month on odd numbered months (Feb, May, etc) at the San Diego Chapter office: 8304 Clairemont Mesa Blvd., Suite 101. Anyone interested in ICO is welcome to attend. Please contact Allan Fein for more information: email hikeral@me.com or call 858-449-3333.

Join us on an ICO Trip – Want to see us in action? Join us as a guest on a day trip. Please contact Bill Tayler at btayler@taylorlaw.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

Contact info for this article:
Bill Tayler, e-mail:
btayler@taylorlaw.com



Meet Our Summer Interns

Sierra Club San Diego would like you to meet our summer interns; Caitlin Morse, Alejandro “Ale” Montes and Siyuan Liu. The Club’s Internship Program seeks to engage students with an interest in learning about conservation and environmental issues with the Sierra Club San Diego’s projects, leaders, and activities.

Caitlin Morse



As a Sacramento native, I grew up by the American River, which sparked my passion for the environment. I am currently a senior at UC San Diego majoring in Environmental Policy and minoring in Human Rights. I am also a part of the UCSD Student Sustainability Collective, which is a team of students that work on sustainability projects on campus. My involvement with the Collective has taught me the importance of using an intersectional approach

to sustainability and has triggered my interest in environmental justice. I am also passionate about climate change, conservation, and clean energy. After I graduate, I plan to attend law school to continue working on these issues as an environmental lawyer.

During my internship with Sierra Club this summer, I am working on a few projects. First, I am working on a land conservation research project to show the decrease in open space and natural area in San Diego due to development throughout the past century. Additionally, I am compiling a list of San Diego City Council votes on environmentally-related topics that will help to produce the 2013-2014 Environmental Quality Report Card. Lastly, I am involved in the My Generation Campaign, where I am learning about community organizing for Community Choice energy.

Alejandro “Ale” Montes



I come from a first generation middle class Colombian family and have been fortunate enough to live in the Northeastern area of San Diego County for almost all my life. My hobbies and interests are playing guitar, skateboarding, and physical exercise.

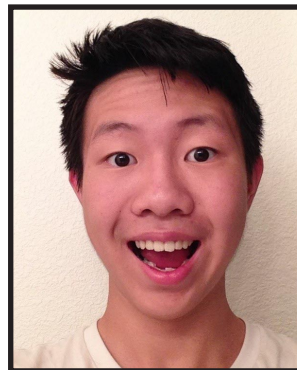
I struggled for a good while after high school, but the universe decided to put me through a tribulation that would begin my personal and professional growth in a way I had not thought possible.

That transformation began with my involvement as an intern for the San Diego Chapter of the Sierra Club, and has led me on a journey of personal growth and activism, to the microcosm of hope for the future that I gained at the week-long environmen-

tal and social justice training hosted by the Sierra Student Coalition.

This is what we get out of fighting this fight—an ignition of personal growth, an expansion of our consciousness, the ability to travel, to speak on our passions, and validation of our convictions.

Siyuan Liu



I was born and raised in a small industrial city in China. My childhood was surrounded by soot, smog, and haze created by the coal mines and power plants nearby. Thus, when I came to San Diego, I was impressed to see the blue sky and white clouds, and even more surprised to see there are dedicated San Diegans, like the Sierra Club, who are dedicated

to protect San Diego’s pristine nature. I am now very proud to be a member of the Sierra Club and put in my efforts to protect the environment as well.

I’m currently a senior at my high school in 4S Ranch and participating in the Internship Program at the local office, working with the chapter’s development coordinator Mr. Richard Miller and Davin Widegrow.

In the eight months since I’ve joined the club, my main duty has been sorting out the event attendees and entering them into the club’s database. Recently another intern, Ale Montés, has taught me how to process document review notices: summarizing documents sent by government agencies and putting them in the Sierra Club database for further examination.

SPROG Youth Training continued from page 1

media outreach.”

Sierra Club San Diego will greatly benefit from the training these two young men have received.

The Sierra Student Coalition is a broad network of high school and college-aged youth from across the country working to protect the environment. Their mission is simple: “to train, empower, and organize youth to run effective campaigns that result in tangible environmental victories and that develop leaders for the environmental movement.” With more than 13,000 students and 250 groups nationwide, the coalition develops environmental leaders through award-winning grassroots trainings programs and works to maximize campus-based effectiveness through the creation and maintenance of state and regional networks of high school and college students.



North County Group Activities

Save the Date!

**NCG Fall Meeting - Wednesday,
Sept. 30, 2015**

To the Roof of Africa – Kilimanjaro

Join the North County Group for an engaging presentation when Jaye Gleyzal shares the highlights of her 2006 climb to the top of Kilimanjaro. Get tips on prepping for a high elevation trek, hear tales of adventure, and enjoy the show!

Our second presenter is from The Escondido Creek Conservancy, who will introduce us to the organization and

their conservation efforts and projects within the Escondido Creek watershed.

There will also be time to socialize with other Sierra Club members and meet the North County Group staff, and refreshments will be served. The meeting will be held Wednesday, Sept. 30, 2015 from 7-9PM in the Mitchell

Room at Escondido City Hall, located at 201 N. Broadway, Escondido. We hope to see you there!

Volunteer needed! The North County Group is looking for a vol-



unteer to spend a few hours a month to update and maintain our website, SierraClubNCG.org. Knowledge and familiarity with WordPress a plus. Contact Suzi Sandore at hikersuzi@hotmail.com.



North County Coastal Group Activities

The North County Coastal Group (AKA the Coasters) is the geographic division of the San Diego Chapter for the north coastal area, Del Mar to Oceanside. We organize a variety of Sierra Club activities in coastal North County, including outings, social events, and conservation efforts.

In 2015, we are returning to a full meeting schedule. The meetings will be on the third Tuesday of every month. Our meetings are from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Encinitas Community Center, 1140 Oakcrest Park Dr, Encinitas, CA.

In September, we will return to the strawberry fields. Back in July we heard about

the proposed shopping mall from the perspective of the developer. On September 15, we will hear some of the concerns that environmental organizations and local residents have expressed about the proposal. To stay informed about the proposal, you can sign up for our "Berries" email list at <http://sierrasd.org/berries/index.htm>. Due to the popularity, we barely had enough chairs for all who attended. We will again ask that you RSVP for this meeting, so we can provide a place for you to sit. RSVP by clicking on the event in the activities calendar, and clicking the "Register" button at the top right corner.

In October, we will take a larger view of land conservation with an update on the Multiple Habitat Conservation Plan, or MHCP. The MHCP is a comprehensive conservation planning process that addresses the needs of multiple plant and animal species in Northwestern San Diego County. The MHCP encompasses the cities of Carlsbad, Encinitas, Escondido, Oceanside, San Marcos,

Solana Beach, and Vista. The MHCP will contribute to a coordinated preserve system for the San Diego region. With the preserve area defined in advance of development, builders will know where new homes, employment, and commercial centers can be placed.

The MHCP was adopted by the SANDAG Board of Directors on March 28, 2003. However, since the MHCP was adopted, only the City of Carlsbad has completed their Subarea Plan. The other cities have made no substantial progress in over 10 years. At our October meeting, we will discuss what can be done to get the plans back on track.

For more news and activities, you can sign up for a monthly Coaster News email at <http://lists.sierraclub.org/SCRIPTS/WA.EXE?A0=SANDIEGO-NORTHCOUNTY-NEWS>,

Or you can find our meetings and events on the San Diego Activities calendar at <http://sandiegosierraclub.org>

2035, and 2050. SANDAG's primary responsibility is to reduce driving or Vehicle Miles Travelled (VMT); the state's primary responsibility is to ensure that our state's fleet of vehicles is as clean of emissions as possible, by the time of the target years. The goal is to reduce Greenhouse Gases (GHG) that cause climate change. We won't have all electric vehicles, with electricity from all renewables by 2035, because most cars last 15 years.

Table 1, taken from our letter, is based on SANDAG's work. It shows the unacceptable outcome of implementing the RTP. For year 2020, the proposed Plan achieves less than a 1 percent reduction in VMT; in 2035, the reduction is less than 2%.

Figure 1 is taken from the RTP. It shows that the RTP is not achieving the state's climate mandates, outlined in Governor's Executive Orders B-30-15 and S-3-05.

Our comment letter on the 2015 Regional Transportation Plan explained 17 reasons why the proposed Plan and its Draft Environmental Income Report is incomplete and needs to be rewritten:

1. Its failure to adequately explain our climate crisis, including the negative impacts of climate destabilization, why the crisis exists, potential for harm, and how (quantitatively and qualitatively) to avoid climate destabilization.
2. Its failure to identify a path that will support climate stabilization and avoid negative impacts).
3. Its failure to explain that, considering our climate crisis, the primary purpose of any Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), is to reduce driving.
4. Its failure to identify the impacts of the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), instead of generally including the impacts of the land use changes and the state mandates for cleaner cars. This is a failure because it is misleading because the land-use changes (zoning changes), that are assumed in the target years, are provided to SANDAG by the municipal governments. They can be assumed to take place, whatever RTP is adopted, including the "no project" case. Similarly, the state mandates for cleaner cars will take place regardless of what RTP is adopted, including the "no project" case. By including the land-use changes and the clean-car mandates, without running the "no project" case, SANDAG made their proposed RTP look better than it really would be. Regardless of what parameters are being considered, the only way to determine what is being accomplished by the proposed RTP is to compare the results of the proposed RTP case to the results of the "no build" case. Often, SANDAG ran the proposed RTP case with the land-use changes and the state mandates for cleaner cars and compared the results to the 2012 case, with the 2012 case considered to be the "as is" case. Doing that made it impossible to see the source of the improved results.
5. Its failure to quantify what the proposed plan achieves in terms of reducing greenhouse gas (GHG).
6. Its failure to quantify the 2035 Vehicle-Miles-Travelled (VMT) reduction that is needed so that Light-Duty Vehicles (LDVs) will support our state climate mandate, assuming that the state achieves its mandates on cleaner cars and cleaner fuels.

7. Its failure to quantify the VMT-Reduction that is needed so that LDVs will achieve an interim climate-stabilizing target, assuming an aggressive but achievable transformation of our fleet of LDVs into one which is vastly more efficient.
8. Its failure to identify a set of feasible or infeasible mitigation measures to be set by SANDAG to achieve driving reductions sufficient to support climate stabilization.
9. Its failure to account for the fact that transportation fuel is a capped sector, under the cap and trade system put into effect by Assembly Bill (AB) 32.
10. Its failure to justify the managed lanes and other freeway expansions, given the need to reduce driving, to support climate stabilization.
11. Its failure to identify the elimination of Managed Lanes and other freeway expansions as an obviously-feasible mitigation measure.
12. Its failure to identify the electrification of the Coaster Train as a simple feasible mitigation measure.
13. Its failure to identify methods to use the Smart Growth Incentive Funds (SGIFs) to maximize the reduction in VMT.
14. Its failure to identify methods to use the Active Transportation Funds (ATFs) to maximize the reduction in VMT.
15. Its failure to include a feasible mitigation measure to progress towards the widespread implementation of a comprehensive system to mitigate the incentive to drive and the economic injustice of bundled-cost car parking, starting with demonstration projects.
16. Its failure to include a comprehensive Road-Usage Charge (RUC) pricing and payout system to unbundle the cost of operating roads.
17. Its failure to include measures to support other sources (not transportation) of GHG in San Diego County achieving the Reference 3, climate-stabilizing target of 80% below the 1990 level by 2030.

Our letter also offered feasible mitigation measures that are being overlooked by SANDAG, such as: (1) dropping the traffic-inducing freeway expansions that are in the proposed Regional Transportation Plan and (2) using SANDAG's Smart Growth Incentive Funds to get cities to improve their off-street parking ordinances in a way that will increase fairness (by mitigating the smaller wage and increased cost forced on everyone, regardless of how often they use the "free" parking) and decrease driving.

The letter also posed a total of 69 questions. Our hope is that our elected officials will acknowledge the urgency of our climate crisis and we can collaborate to produce an acceptable Regional Transportation Plan.

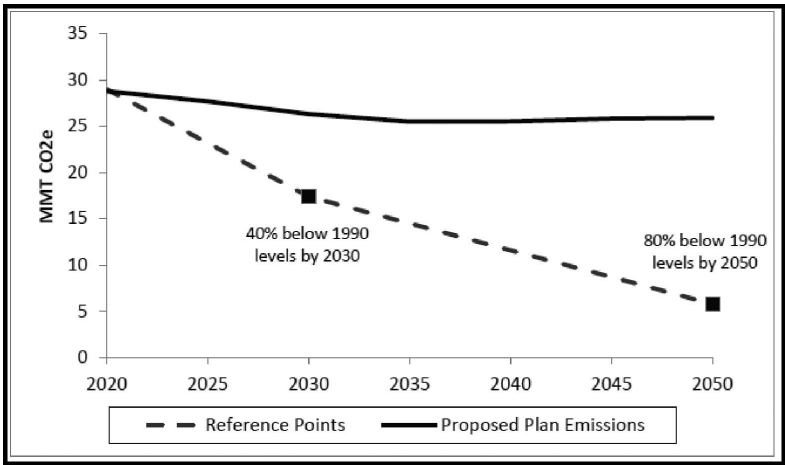
In any case, the final SANDAG vote on the proposed Plan and its FEIR is expected to take place in late fall. The meeting will affect transportation decisions in our county for the next 4 years and beyond.

For more information or to get involved, contact Transportation Chair Mike Bullock at mike_bullock@earthlink.net and stay tuned for our emailed action alerts.

Table 1 Vehicle Miles Travelled (VMT) Benefit of the \$168 Billion Dollar, Proposed Regional Transportation Plan

Proposed Plan's Climate Performance, VMT per Year				
Year	No Project	Proposed Plan	Proposed Plan's Reduction	
			net	Per-cent
2020	82,157,143	81,557,143	600,000	0.73%
2035	91,007,647	89,307,647	1,700,000	1.87%

Figure 1 - Proposed 2015 Regional Transportation Plan Emissions and Emissions of Executive Orders B-30-15 (Dashed Line from 2020 to 2030) and S-3-05 (Dashed Line from 2030 to 2050)



Principle author of this article: Mike Bullock, who is a retired satellite systems engineer, our Transportation Subcommittee Chair (7years), an elected member of the San Diego County Democratic Party Central Committee, UCSD guest lecturer on Climate/Transportation, Master Swimmer, bicyclist, and grandfather of 4.

Climate Plan continued from page 1

Four landmark elements are part of this proposed Climate Plan for 2035:

- 100% clean electricity powering all San Diego homes and businesses
- 50% of commuters living in the urban core taking alternative modes of transportation -- biking, walking and public transit
- Zero Waste
- 35% Urban Tree Canopy

By focusing on the biggest drivers of carbon emissions in the community—land use, transportation, clean energy, zero waste management and climate resiliency—the CAP outlines a path to reducing greenhouse gases in line with statewide mandates by Governors Jerry Brown and Arnold Schwarzenegger. Those executive orders, together with Assembly Bill 32,

require California’s GHG emissions to return to 1990 levels by 2020, 40 percent below 1990 levels by 2030, and 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2050. The City’s CAP aims for a 50 percent reduction in carbon emissions by 2035, even accelerating the timeline set by the state.

The CAP’s environmental impact report (an analysis required of all major California projects and programs), offers further proof of the plan’s strength and feasibility. However, it also shows where the plan still needs improving.

100% Clean Energy by 2035

The plan commits the city to obtaining 100 percent of its energy from clean-energy resources (solar, geothermal, wind) by 2035. This in part would make the CAP one of the most ambitious climate plans in the nation. The good news: it’s

already been proven possible in multiple California cities. We can obtain a clean energy grid—and save money while doing it—through Community Choice Energy, which, in a nutshell, allows a city to break free from monopolistic energy companies, pool its population’s buying power and purchase clean energy from sources of its choosing. It restores local control and local accountability to our energy choices, while giving an option to all residents and businesses.

The original CAP draft, proposed by Todd Gloria while he served as interim mayor, called for the city to consider a CCA program to reach its clean energy goals. The current CAP draft, in our opinion, gives the city too much leeway by calling on the city to consider Community Choice Aggregation “or another program.” San Diego Gas & Electric, a powerful monopoly owned by Sempra Energy, will fight tooth and nail against being excluded from San Diego’s power grid. San Diego can’t afford to compromise its clean energy future by giving SDG&E a loophole in the CAP to exploit.

50% of Urban Core Commuters Using Bike, Walk, Transit

Changing how we get to work within the city is also critical—and it’s a large part of the CAP. Auto emissions are the single biggest source of greenhouse gases in San Diego. To lower that, we need to get San Diegans in the urban core to get out of their cars and onto bikes and public transit.

In 2009, an estimated 87 percent of commuters drive to work in San Diego’s urban core communities (these areas are mapped as “transit priority areas” in the CAP). The CAP calls for that share of commuters to drop to 50 percent by 2035, with the rest of commuters walking, biking or using transit. It’s a laudable target—to get there though, the plan needs to outline exactly how it will do so. Namely, it needs to commit to infrastructure improvements that change the landscape for bikers and public transit users. SANDAG’s Regional Transportation Plan should play a big part in this too, since it will dictate which transportation projects are funded first. Right now, the RTP funds free-

Climate Plan continued on page 14

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Classified Ad

Join the California Wolf Center



at the San Diego Hall of Champions on October 9, 2015 at 6pm for an exciting fundraising event you won't forget! You can Be a Champion for Wolves and help make wild wolf recovery a reality! Reservations are required so call 760-765-0030 or visit our website at **californiawolfcenter.org** today!

Climate Plan continued from page 13

way expansion first and foremost, which is harmful prioritizing.

The simple truth is that biking won't be a realistic option for many San Diegans until they see more protected bikeways. Public transit won't be a good enough option until we build more affordable housing near bus and trolley corridors.

San Diego already has a great way to create communities like this; we just haven't fully embraced it yet. It's called the City of Villages strategy, which calls for walkable, mixed-use development near public transit corridors. By doing this, we can create vibrant, environmentally friendly neighborhoods where we won't have to rely on cars to get from A to B.

The city adopted this City of Villages policy in 2008. The problem is that city leaders simply encouraged the adoption of the plan instead of making it enforceable. This makes it an ignorable suggestion when planning new communities instead of the required standard. If we want to reduce the amount this city drive the way the CAP states we will, we need to make this type of city planning the norm for our communities. That means making City of Villages an enforceable part of the CAP's Housing policy.

San Diego can't wait to act on this either. Right now, several of San Diego's fastest growing communities are updating their Community Plans, documents that outline how the communities will grow for the next 20 to 30 years. If the city doesn't act now, these plans will be set in stone without following the housing and land-use tenets outlined in the CAP. We can't miss this window to include the community in creating an outline for an environmentally sustainable future that will protect our kids for decades to come.

Lastly, and perhaps most importantly, the plan needs a firm outline for implementation. If we are to realistically meet the

required GHG emissions reduction by 2020, the City Council needs to allocate staffing and resources for implementation. San Louis Obispo, which passed their climate plan in 2011, provides an excellent model for putting staff in place to oversee implementation.

What You Can Do

This plan still has plenty of time to change. Overall, the CAP will set San Diego on the right path toward protecting our future, but we can still do more.

Please write an email and/or letter to the City with these talking points, any of your own recommendations as well:

- Support for ambitious and binding goals of CAP to reduce our overall carbon footprint in half by 2035
- Support for local control of our energy future using Community Choice Energy
- Improve measures to enforce the City of Villages growth strategy
- Stronger commitments to increase active transportation and transit infrastructure
- Stronger commitments for a concrete, precise outline for implementation
- Stronger commitments to future-proofing our City and ensuring we are prepared for a much hotter, drier San Diego with rising seas.

Public comments on the plan can be mailed to Rebecca Malone, associate planner, City of San Diego Planning Department, 1222 First Avenue, MS 501, San Diego, CA 92101 or emailed to DSDEAS@sandiego.gov referencing the Project Name and Number in the subject line. The deadline for this is Sept. 29.

This is our one chance to pass the strongest climate plan possible for San Diego. Together, let's do this!

Please join our campaign at www.climateactioncampaign.org. Stay updated by following us at @sdclimateaction on Twitter and Instagram, or by liking Climate Action Campaign on Facebook.

2016 Sierra Club Calendars



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Item	Cost	Qty	Total
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Lilac Hills continued from page 3

slow to recover from the recession. We agree, but, these will be short-term construction jobs. The negative impacts will be much longer lasting, with County taxpayers paying the cost in higher property taxes to pay for bonds to make up for the lack of infrastructure and services.

Sierra Club San Diego is against this density increase in this rural part of the county, far from the urban core and services. The Sierra Club believes that this is inappropriate land use and opposes Leapfrog developments and sprawl in general. "Suburban sprawl is irresponsible, poorly planned development that destroys green space, increases traffic, crowds schools and drives up taxes. Smart growth is intelligent, well-planned development that channels growth into existing areas, provides public-transportation options and preserves

farm land and open space." From Sprawl Costs Us All: <http://vault.sierraclub.org/sprawl/report00/sprawl.pdf>

*Approximately 60 percent of U.S. cities with more than 25,000 residents now impose impact fees to fund infrastructure needed to service new housing and other development (GAO, 2000). In 89 jurisdictions selected for study in California, the state in which impact fees are most heavily used, the average amount of fees imposed on single family homes in new subdivisions in 1999 was \$19,552, with fees ranging from a low of \$6,783 to a high of \$47,742 (Landis et al., 2001).

From Housing and Urban Developments: Impact Fees and Housing Affordability:

<http://www.huduser.org/periodicals/cityscape/vol8num1/ch4.pdf>

View continued from page 2

your thermostat in summer and down in the winter? Don't waste water? Replace your lawn with drought tolerant plants? Invest in Socially Responsible Corporations? Support Smart Growth principles? Support transit? Ride a bike? Drive a car with low emissions and high gas mileage? Recycle clothing? Do you live minimally? Do you agree that if everyone did a little bit it would make a big difference? Do you eat less meat? Carry re-usable bags?

Please help the Sierra Club to make changes by electing good people to political office and get good legislation passed. Are you knowledgeable in the field of Climate Change, Transportation or

Land Use? We can use your help. Are you politically interested? *We can use your help.*

We can use your help to leave the world a healthy place for our children and grandchildren. Working together we CAN make a difference! So, are you an environmental optimist or a pessimist?

Warm regards!

Debbie Hecht, Chair Sierra Club San Diego Steering Committee

PS- The ocean is 72 degrees and so refreshing after our hot days. Get out and get immersed in your environment.



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

Development Coordinator: Richard Miller

email: richard.miller@sierraclub.org

www.sandigosierraclub.org

Committees & Contact Information

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

STEERING COMMITTEE

Meets 2nd Wednesday 6:30 pm Chapter office

Chair: Debbie Hecht

808-989-3222

hecht.deb@gmail.com

Vice-Chair: Joe Zechman

619-709-6268

joezechman@hotmail.com

Secretary: Karenlee Robinson

619-572-8451

klrobinson@cox.net

Treasurer (Non-Voting): Rob Morris

858-204-1865

rmorris@san.rr.com

Nick Ervin

858-761-1659

desertguy1@sbcglobal.net

Paul Webb

pbwebb3@cox.net

Davin Widgerow

dwidgerow@gmail.com

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

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

Chair: Nick Ervin

Desertguy1@sbcglobal.net

International

Call for meeting information

Jean Costa (619) 463-0721

Transportation

Call for meeting information

Mike Bullock (760) 754-8025

mike_bullock@earthlink.net

Wildlife

Ellen Shively (619) 479-3412

ellenshively@sbcglobal.net

OUTINGS COMMITTEE

Meets quarterly, call for information.

Chair: Starla Rivers (619)-630-9132

sd.outchair@gmail.com

Bus Trips

Mike Fry (858) 748-5166

Chapter Outings Leadership Training (COL)

Jim Jafolla

sd.col.training@gmail.com

LEADERSHIP REVIEW & SAFETY COMMITTEE

Michael Taylor (619 -948-2062)

sd.lrsc@gmail.com

PACIFIC CREST TRAIL

Rob Langsdorf (858) 454-4777

SDSCPCTS@yahoo.com

SKI

Mike Fry (858) 748-5166

POLITICAL COMMITTEE

Meets 1st Tuesday

Chair: Davin Widgerow

dwidgerow@sierrasd.org

FOSTER LODGE COMMITTEE

Meets 4th Wednesday 6:30pm

Chair: Paul Webb

pbwebb3@cox.net

WILDERNESS BASICS COURSE (WBC)

Held annually beginning in January

Stefanie Maio

http://sandiego.sierraclub.org/wbc/

San Diego

Stefanie Maio

info@wildernessbasics.com

http://www.wildernessbasics.com

Escondido

John Tomlinson (858) 486-4853

jctomlinson@cox.net

http://sandiego.sierraclub.org/wbc/nc/index.htm

NATURE KNOWLEDGE WORKSHOP

Annual June Weekends, call for information.

Barry Hite (619) 479-8133

NKW@sierrasd.org

SECTIONS & SOCIAL COMMITTEES

Bicycle

Call for meeting information. Jerry Fitzsimmons

(858) 224-3437 Membership@sdscbs.org.

www.sandigosierraclub.org/get-outdoors/bicycle

Family

Jennifer Douglas

(858) 344-5490 jenniferdouglassvettel@gmail.com

www.meetup.com/SDSierraClubFamily

Photography

www.sandiego.sierraclub.org/photoclub

Social Sierrans- formerly *Singles*.

Michael Taylor (619)-421-3821

www.sandiego.sierraclub.org/singles

INSPIRING CONNECTIONS OUTDOORS (ICO)

Call or check website for meeting information.

www.sandigosierraclub.org

Co-Chair: Bill Tayler, (858) 272-8574

btayler@taylorlaw.com

Co-Chair: Ed Barber, (619) 464-0780

rebsd@yahoo.com

PROGRAM COMMITTEES

Fundraising/Membership

Richard Miller (858) 569-6005

richard.miller@sierraclub.org

Hi Sierran Newsletter

Call for meeting information (858) 569-6005

Chair: Debbie Hecht

hecht.deb@gmail.com

Managing Editor: Judy Thomas

info@thomascreative.com

NORTH COUNTY GROUP (INLAND)

The Executive Committee meets 2nd Tuesday.

Contact Chair for time and location.

Chair: Suzi Sandore (760)-484-3440

NORTH COUNTY COASTAL GROUP

See the Coastal North County web page for meeting info.

www.sandigosierraclub.org/get-involved/coastal

Chair: Dave Grubb (760) 753-0273

davidgrubb@sbcglobal.net

LEGAL COMMITTEE

Contact Chair for time and location.

Chair: Davin Widgerow

dwidgerow@sierrasd.org

SIERRA TALKS, MONTHLY PROGRAM

Chair: Ernest "EL" Lotecka

(760) 533-2725

sdwalks@interactor.cc