

## Meet Our New Co-Coordinators of Volunteers



*Morgan Scarth*

The Sierra Club like so many environmental organizations over the past weeks has seen an outpouring of people who want to get involved in some small or large way to help fight the mis-

guided poli-

cies of the Trump Administration.

To help us coordinate the number of volunteers showing up on our door-

step two Club members, Morgan Scath and Ally Bartz were recently appointed Co-Coordinators of Volunteers.

Morgan and Ally can help you get involved with the Sierra Club by connecting you to important activities within the Chapter. Contact either of them to learn more about what opportunities we have to get you active. You can email Morgan at [morgan.scarth@gmail.com](mailto:morgan.scarth@gmail.com) and Ally at [allybartz@hotmail.com](mailto:allybartz@hotmail.com).

*New Co-Coordinators continued on page 11*



*Ally Bartz*

## Pushing the State to Buy Clean for the Climate

*By Kathryn Phillips*

One of Sierra Club California's major campaigns for 2017 focuses on getting the state to use its purchasing power in a way that's consistent with our goals to reduce climate-disrupting pollution.

The campaign, called "Buy Clean", was conceived by Blue Green Alliance, which is a coalition of environmental organizations and labor unions. Sierra Club was among the original members of Blue Green Alliance when it was founded a decade ago, and Sierra Club Executive Director Mike Brune currently serves as its co-chair.

Sierra Club California has teamed up with Blue Green Alliance's California team to incorporate the Buy Clean approach into California's state procurement policies.

*Pushing the State continued on page 11*

## SAVE THE DATE:

**April 29th**



**People's Climate Mobilization,  
San Diego Mobilization for Healthy  
People, Healthy Communities,  
Healthy Planet, Justice, Jobs and Peace**

The People's Climate Movement is uniting hundreds of thousands of activists against the Trump Administration's dangerous policies. The coalition of organizations that sponsored the hugely successful 2014 People's Climate March in New York City has issued a call for mass demonstrations all across the nation on April 29th: the 100th day of the Trump administration.

Donald Trump is the only world leader who denies the science of climate change, and his presidency threatens the safety and the health of our families and communities. The People's Climate Movement, which includes the Sierra Club, is putting all of its energy toward stopping Trump's attacks on our climate and our communities. On Saturday, April 29, we will come together in San Diego, Washington, D.C. and communities all across the nation to bring our demands—for clean air, water, and land; for our families and communities; for clean-energy jobs and climate justice—to the streets.

**Save this date for a major event  
in San Diego!**

*Sierra Club San Diego is organizing a contingency to march together. To have a real impact, our local event must be large and reflect the interests*

*Climate March continued on page 11*

## SAVE THE DATE

**San Diego Chapter  
Annual Gala Celebration & Awards Dinner**

**June 24, 2016 • 6:00pm – 9:30pm**

**Hilton Harbor Island Hotel  
Voices Caring for Nature**

**Come be a part of an extraordinary night to recognize and commemorate the achievements of those who have contributed their time and effort to safeguarding the environment.**

**Purchase tickets at <https://sierraclubsandiego.mycafecommerce.com> or call 858-569-6005.**

**For more information, contact Richard Miller at [richard.miller@sierraclub.org](mailto:richard.miller@sierraclub.org)**

**Sponsorship Opportunities Available**

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**Ruben Arizmendi**

## San Diego Sierra Club Chapter Chair's Letter To The President

Dear President Trump:

In your speech to Congress on February 28, 2017, among many other things, you stated in part, "My administration wants to work with members in both parties...to promote clean air and clear water..."

On behalf of the San Diego Sierra Club, please allow me to accept your invitation to work with you in promoting "clean air and clear water". Just to be certain, the term "promoting" means to advocate, nurture and work for, in this case, clean air and clear water.

At the onset, I am compelled to remind you that your executive orders with respect to the Dakota Access Line and Keystone Pipeline are not really consistent with either of the goals you stated.

However, as my father was fond of saying, nevertheless and always there more, I am going to take you at your word, and ask that you or someone in your administration contact me at your earliest convenience so that we can address the problems we're experiencing here in San Diego. We have serious challenges concerning lead and other toxins in our school water lines and we have sewage leaks coming across the border from Mexico. Parenthetically, I'm certain that your wall will not be able to help with that. Even so, we remain steadfast in our desire to assist with one of your stated goals, clean air and clear water.

As you undoubtedly know, Sierra Club at the national level and most local levels, including San Diego, have initiated Resist Trump campaigns. I ask that you not send an angry tweet regarding this. There are many ways to resist. Whereas many have chosen to risk your tweet wrath by spouting harsh criticism against all things Trump, I am inclined to side with my wife, Frida. At a national Sierra Club meeting held the weekend following your election last November, Frida suggested that we all simply send love and light to

you. Now, I have to admit, this is a hard pill for most Sierra Club members to swallow. But let's take a closer look at this. Is sending love and light to you resisting you? I would hope you would not see it that way.

Let's analyze this a bit further, love is easy. Let's assert that it is a given that you know the concept of love. Sending you light, however, deserves exploring. Indulge me; close your eyes. What do you see? Darkness? Open your eyes. What do you see? Light? Good. With this light should come the realization that global warming, climate change and fossil fuel footprints are a scientific reality. Bigly, as you might say.

Here, in San Diego, we have a Republican Mayor, Kevin Faulkner, who along with many City officials, has developed a Climate Action Plan that has been touted by many as the best large city plan to combat greenhouse gas emissions, for clean air and clear water. I encourage you and your administration to look at that plan and engage our nation in a mobilization toward meeting the goals set forth in the plan for all of the country, not just San Diego, not just California, but, ideally, the whole world thereby outpacing China, which has recently embraced the Climate change issue in a major way.

This you may not know but Sierra Club is finalizing guidelines for the use of civil disobedience, in part, to promote clean air and clear water, as well as other environmental and human concerns, if need be. The exercise of this constitutional right would be consistent with actions taken by great leaders such as Mahatma Gandhi, Dr. Martin Luther King and Cesar Chavez. For the record, we would prefer not to have to civil disobedience measures.

Additionally, I know that you consider the national Women's March held one day after your inauguration as a personal affront. I am truly sorry you feel that way. When I marched here in San Diego, I saw it as supporting all the women in my life,

*The View continued on page 3*

# SANDAG: Trust Will Not be Built Without Community Involvement

On March 3rd, after weeks of inaction following the revelation of SANDAG's deceptive use of faulty revenue projections, the SANDAG Board of Directors approved an "independent examination" into the agency's economic forecasting scandal. They decided to self-select the so-called "independent investigator" through a private internal selection process. No mea culpa was issued at the Board meeting, and SANDAG's executive, Gary Gallegos, and the Board failed to own up to their role in the four billion dollar deception.

While this investigation is a small step in the right direction, it is not enough. SANDAG has lost the trust of the community and an "examination" alone, performed by a person of their choosing, will not restore that trust. It is only through an exhaustive independent investigation with an investigator chosen by outside stakeholders, a mea culpa issued by the Board for deceiving San Diego families, and meaningful reform to the agency's governing structure that the agency can restore that trust.

The Quality of Life Coalition, a diverse collection of working families, businesses and community and environmental organizations, opposed Measure A for several reasons. We knew the deceptive plan failed to provide the quality transit options, good-paying local jobs, and climate solutions for our community needs. We also knew our 100,000+ members were justified in their hesitancy to trust this agency that has consistently failed to deliver meaningful transportation options.

We are living in precarious times when it comes to faith in public institutions. "Alternative facts" and incessant lies are being pumped out of the White House. Our San Diego community cannot afford to see SANDAG follow down a similar path of deception. We need SANDAG to start doing better for San Diegans right now so we can improve our quality of life, grow a vital local economy, and sustain our environment. Unfortunately, we will never get to a place where the public can approve a SANDAG initiative so long as they choose the easy route over full transparency and community involvement that will prevent future occurrences of public deception.

*The View continued from page 2*

a positive thing. I, like you, had a mother, and currently have a wife, two sisters and two daughters. I would never disrespect them or any other woman for that matter. To the extent your philosophy differs in this regard, please know that if you cannot respect human beings, then I guess I am wasting my time in asking you to respect our national and state parks, our wildlife, including at-risk fauna and flora, our environment. But what about the promotion of clean air and clear water that you and I will be working on together shortly? Can we get this started immediately?

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter and if you do tweet me could you possibly make it a positive one?

Respectfully,

Ruben F. Arizmendi

San Diego Sierra Club Chair

Credibility and trust are not things one can bestow upon themselves. Criminals don't choose their own prosecutors, and an untrustworthy governmental institution that deceived the public by the tune of four billion dollars should not choose its own investigators.

Therefore, to restore public confidence and create the possibility of us supporting any future SANDAG ballot measure, the Quality of Life Coalition is demanding the Board take the following actions:

- **A community-led process for selecting an independent third-party investigator to produce a thorough report and recommendations to avoid future deception. This investigation must include an analysis of:**
- **What Mr. Gallegos and Board members knew about the deceptive projections and when they knew it;**
- **SANDAG's suspect projections for Greenhouse Gas and air pollution reduction;**
- **The impact of the potential adjustment of the year-of-expenditure revenues on the operation and construction of transit projects in the Regional Transportation Plan.**
- **A community-led hiring of a permanent Independent Public Advocate (Ombudsman) who will have a significant degree of independence, full access and represent the interests of the public.**

The Quality of Life Coalition wants a SANDAG we can trust. We urge the Board to take the action necessary to build that trust as well as address our community and Coalition priorities.

Alternatively, we will have no choice but to take our demands to the Attorney General of California and our State Legislature.

The future of our region depends on SANDAG having its house in order, and a new governance structure in place to ensure a scandal of this magnitude never happens again. The Quality of Life Coalition remains committed to protecting our children's future and ensuring we have a regional planning agency that operates openly and responsibly in the public interest and creates a transportation system that provides opportunity and freedom for all San Diegans.

*American Federation of Teachers, Bike SD, Center on Policy Initiatives, California Nurses Association, Climate Action Campaign, Cleveland National Forest Foundation, Coastal Environmental Rights Foundation, Community Budget Alliance, ECO San Diego, Environmental Health Coalition, Escondido Chamber of Citizens, IBEW Local 569,*

*Mid-City CAN (Community Advocacy Network), National Nurses Association, PANA (Partnership for the Advancement of New Americans), Preserve Calavera, San Diego Coastkeeper, San Diego County Bike Coalition, San Diego League of Conservation Voters, San Diego and Imperial Counties Labor Council, San Diego and Imperial Counties Labor Council Environmental Caucus, San Diego 350, Save our Countryside,*

*Sierra Club San Diego, Surfrider Foundation, United Association of Plumbers, Pipefitters, and HVAC/R Local 230, University Professional and Technical Employees*

# Get Active and Help Our Wildlife

By Renee Owens, Wildlife Committee Chair

If you love wildlife and wild places, no doubt right about now you are wondering how our environment is going to survive the next four years without being decimated and sold to the highest corporate bidder. The truth is that the time for relying on regulatory agencies, a handful of John Muirs, or butterflies sitting atop old growth trees to protect Nature is past. It is all hands on deck now more than ever, and that means we need you, even if you have never volunteered a day in your life before. So here are a few questions to get you started: Do you love wildlife? Do you enjoy parks, wilderness, and backcountry enough to protect it? Did you know our county has the highest biodiversity, and highest number of threatened and endangered species in the nation?

The Chapter's Conservation activists can use your help, including our Wildlife Committee. We cover a lot of ground in our volunteer capacity using the tools of advocacy, education, public commenting (for actions under laws like California Environmental Quality Act, National Environmental Policy Act and the Endangered Species Act) lobbying, research, tabling, and media outreach to campaign for all sorts of species on many issues. If you have interest in any of these areas we can find a volunteer niche that works for you. We focus not only on local issues in San Diego and Imperial Counties but also participate in campaigns that are state and nationwide when they impact our region.

We have been working to protect the pinnipeds (seals and sea lions) of La Jolla for years, while fighting to reduce the deadly



impacts of loud sounds from oil exploration and military training on marine mammals. We helped pass key statewide wildlife protections including listing the wolf as endangered and ending the horrific practice of wildlife killing contests. We helped National Sierra Club adopt a policy that bans use of cruel body-gripping traps.

Our Committee is collaborating with the City to maximize non-lethal protections of endangered coastal birds. We are building a campaign to protect the El Monte segment of our San Diego River from a proposed sand mine development that would devastate a region that hosts an astounding biodiversity of rare reptiles and birds. We work with the County to improve the implementation of the MSCP and other habitat conservation plans, we join stakeholder groups, and serve as watchdogs to protect endangered and rare species like gnatcatchers, burrowing owls, golden eagles, Quino checkerspot butterflies, and bighorn sheep, among others. We are in the process of writing updated policy guidelines for open ocean aquaculture, and creating education materials for wildlife rehabbers.

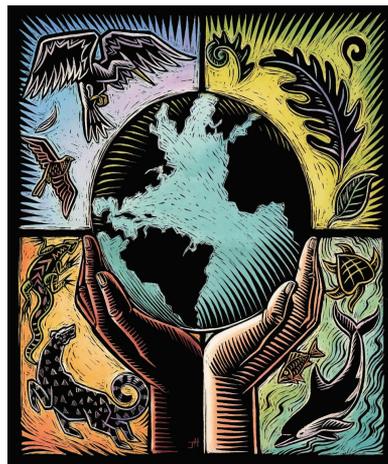
Climate change is already harming our local species and we need to make sure our City adopts and implements the most aggressive actions it can to address it. The Endangered Species Act, our most powerful wildlife law, is under attack like never before.

Meanwhile, the agencies that enforce it are suffering death by a thousand budget cuts. This means we have to work harder than ever to insure our rare species and their critical habitats maintain the protections they need. Yes we have a lot of work ahead. But with your help we have no doubt we can not only move mountains but protect them too. For more information contact the Wildlife Committee Chair, [renee@wildlifezone.net](mailto:renee@wildlifezone.net).

## “Be A Solution” EarthFair 2017

2017 will bring us the 48th anniversary of “Earth Day” and the 28th anniversary for the EarthFair in Balboa Park set for Sunday, April 23rd. With the theme “Be A Solution” it’s not hard to find ways to make a difference at the largest and oldest Earth Day celebration in the U.S.

Each year this event draws 60,000 people. Produced by 400 volunteers, EarthFair features more than 350 exhibitors, special theme areas, a Food Pavilion, a special Kids’ Activity Area, three entertainment venues, the Children’s Earth Parade, the eARTH Gallery art show, and the Cleaner Car Concourse. Avoid traffic by riding your bike, taking public transit, or using the off-site lots and free shuttles.



We are always looking for volunteers to help us at our EarthFair booth. With time commitments of as little as a few hours, you can still have enough time to see the exhibits. If you would like to help, contact one of our Coordinator of Volunteers. You can email Morgan at [morgan.scarth@gmail.com](mailto:morgan.scarth@gmail.com) and Ally at [ally.r.bartz@gmail.com](mailto:ally.r.bartz@gmail.com).

Earth Day, which is celebrated in the U.S. on April 22nd, was created to raise and inspire awareness & appreciation for the Earth’s environment. Founded by U.S. Senator Gaylord Nelson as an environmental teach-in in 1970 Earth Day is celebrated in many countries around the world. The date itself is important

as it marks the start of Spring in the Northern Hemisphere and Autumn in the Southern Hemisphere, however The United Nations celebrates Earth Day on the March equinox, normally on March 20th, a date set in 1969 by a peace activist named John McConnell.

# 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:  
**2017**

**May 10 - 14, 2017**

**Zion National Park**

Trip type: Backpacking and Tent Camping

Registration Opens: April 1, 2017 at 6:00 am

**July 19 - 23, 2017**

**Inyo National Forest adjacent to Yosemite National Park (e.g. Silver Lake, Mammoth Lakes)**

Trip type: Backpacking and Tent Camping

Registration Opens: June 10, 2017 at 6:00 am

**August 23 - 27, 2017**

**Sequoia National Park**

Trip type: Backpacking

Registration Opens: June 24, 2017 at 6:00 am

**October, 2017**

**Sedona, AZ**

Trip type: Tent Camping

Registration Opens: TBD

**For more information or to register for the above Bus Trips, please visit [www.sdsierraclub.org](http://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.*

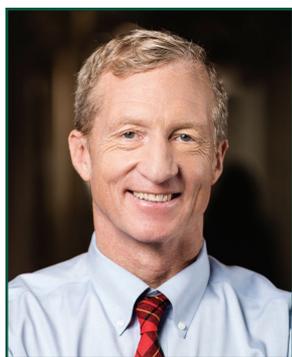
# Environmentalist Tom Steyer to Talk in San Diego

Local Dem Club to Host April Appearance

Longtime Collaborator Diane Takvorian to Lead Off

By Linda Armacost and Jeff Benesch

**Standing room only is expected for the Wednesday, April 5th meeting of the La Mesa Foothills Democratic Club. Keynote speakers will be leading renewable energy advocate, Tom Steyer and Executive Director Diane Takvorian of the Environmental Health Coalition.**



Tom Steyer

In just 45 days, the new administration under Donald Trump has wreaked havoc on the environmental advances made under the previous administration. We've seen executive orders weakening the Clean Water Act, allowing mining operations to pollute drinking water sources with fewer regulations and oversight. The Keystone Pipeline has been given new life and will now

transport dirty oil from Canadian tar sands to American ports. The inevitable catastrophic pipeline breaks will foul drinking water in the upper plains states for generations. And Exxon Mobil, recent home of Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, has been given the green light to expand operations worth billions of dollars in drilling and refining of oil and gas in the fragile ecosystem along the Gulf Coast still recovering from the effects of the Deepwater Horizon disaster and the devastating hurricanes Katrina and Rita. We have yet to see any commitment to renewable energy development that would alter our horrific future of global warming and continued dependency on fossil fuels.

The April 5th meeting of the La Mesa Foothills Democratic Club will continue their Resist Series with the appearance of California's best known environmentalist, Tom Steyer. Steyer is a business leader and philanthropist who believes we have a moral responsibility to give back and help ensure that every family shares the benefits of economic opportunity, education, and a healthy climate.



Diane Takvorian

In 2010, Tom and his wife, Kat Taylor, pledged to contribute most of their wealth to charitable causes during their lifetimes. Tom founded a successful California business, which he left to work full-time on non-profit and advocacy efforts. He now serves as President of NextGen Climate, an organization he founded in 2013 to prevent climate disaster and promote prosperity for all Americans. Tom also served as co-chair of Save Lives California, the coalition to prevent teen smoking and fund cancer research.

Tom will be introduced by his friend and longtime collaborator, Diane Takvorian. Takvorian has led the struggle for social and environmental justice for over 30 years. She is Executive Director and co-founder of Environmental Health Coalition (EHC), an environmental justice organization based in the San Diego/Tijuana region. Founded in 1980, EHC works to protect public health and the environment threatened by toxic pollution through efforts that create a just society.

In 2010 Tom Steyer and NextGen Climate worked with EHC and the California Environmental Justice Alliance to defeat Proposition 23 – the oil company effort to repeal AB 32 – California's Global Warming law. In 2012, they worked together to pass Prop 39 when California voters stood up to corporate interests and closed a tax loophole previously available to large energy companies. To date, Proposition 39 has put nearly a billion dollars into California schools and clean energy projects, saving millions of dollars in annual energy costs.

EHC's community organizing and policy advocacy work with disenfranchised communities have eliminated many health risks and enabled thousands of residents to develop into community leaders. Diane has served on international, national, state, and regional advisory boards. In 2016 California Assembly Speaker appointed Takvorian to the California Air Resources Board. In 2009, President Obama appointed her to the Joint Public Advisory Committee for the Commission for Environmental Cooperation. In 2008 Diane received the James Irvine Foundation Leadership Award for her "creative and inspirational leadership benefiting the people of California."

The La Mesa Foothills Democratic Club (LMFDC) meets the first Wednesday of each month. While they welcome all members and guests to their meetings and events, for this special event, they are asking all attendees to donate \$10.00 at the door to offset costs of the program. The LMFDC serves the communities of La Mesa, San Carlos, Del Cerro, Allied Gardens, the College Area, Mt. Helix, Santee, Casa de Oro, and other nearby East County communities. They meet at the La Mesa Community Center, 4975 Memorial Dr., just off University Ave. in La Mesa. Social time begins at 6:30 PM with the meeting and program kicking off at 7 PM. You can follow them on Facebook, and check their website for updates and news at [lamesafoothillsdemocraticclub.com](http://lamesafoothillsdemocraticclub.com).

*Linda Armacost, serves as the President and Jeff Benesch as the Vice President of Programing for the La Mesa Foothills Democratic Club.*

# National Sierra Club Elections are Underway - VOTE!

## A Democratic Sierra Club Demands Grassroots Participation

The annual election for the 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 the Club's web site.

## Your participation is critical for a strong Sierra Club.

The Sierra Club is a democratically structured organization at all levels. The 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 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. Therefore 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 Club's election web site for additional information about candidates:

<http://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 Election Day, April 26, 2017*

# Chapter to Celebrate 70th Anniversary in 2018

## Do You Have a Story to tell?

Next year Sierra Club San Diego will celebrate its 70th Anniversary. Founded in 1948, the San Diego Chapter became the 5th Sierra Club Chapter to be chartered. That means a long history of events, highs and lows, successes, setbacks, outings, activities, celebrations, awards, and the list goes on. Unfortunately there is no one place where the history of the Chapter is available.

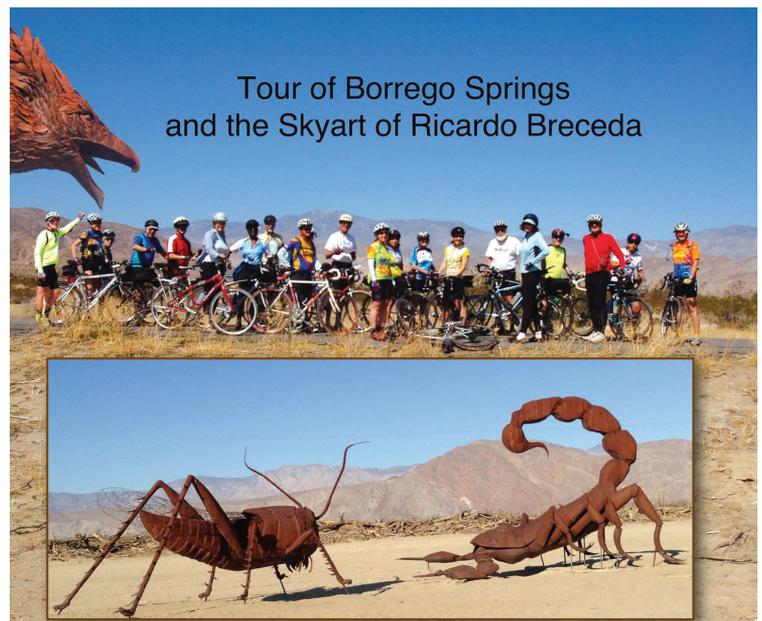
So, we need your help. Do you have a story to tell? Old photos, records, or documents?

If you would like to help us to highlight the important events in the Chapter's history, then send us your story! We also need volunteers for a committee to plan for the celebration next year. Just contact the office at [scoffice@sierrasd.org](mailto:scoffice@sierrasd.org) or call the office at 858-569-6005

## Get Ready to Ride

Enjoy the outdoors and make friends too. Explore the backroads, parks, and urban neighborhoods of San Diego County by bike with Sierra Club Bicycle Section riders. We offer week-end and week-day bicycle rides at varying levels and distances; bike-and-bird outings in Mission Bay Park; Coaster rides along the coast; Chinese Lunar New Year celebrations, weekends in Anza Borrego Park, Solvang, Agua Caliente and more. We also participate in city-wide efforts to rid bike paths of debris, deliver holiday toys, and support CicloSDias. We also hold potluck suppers, travel slide shows, annual Green Flash beach barbeque, and our very-own book club. We do it all! Join us!

Our monthly schedule of road rides is posted on-line and in our monthly OutSpoken newsletter. Check us out: [www.sandiego.sierraclub.org/bicycle](http://www.sandiego.sierraclub.org/bicycle) or e-mail Jerry Fitzsimmons at [membership@sdscls.org](mailto:membership@sdscls.org).



# SAN DIEGO

## Chapter Activities

All Activities are held at the Chapter Office 6:30 pm 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](http://www.sdeln.org)

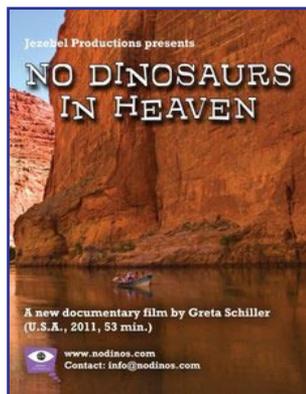
### 2nd Friday Movie Night

April 14, 6:30 pm

Movie: NO DINOSAURS IN HEAVEN

53 Minutes

This documentary examines the problem posed by creationists who earn science education degrees, only to advocate anti-scientific beliefs in the classroom. A visually stunning raft trip down the Grand Canyon, led by Dr. Eugenie Scott, debunks creationist explanations for its formation. The film intelligently argues that public education must resist the encroachment of religion in the form of anti-evolution creationism and that science literacy is crucial to a health democracy.

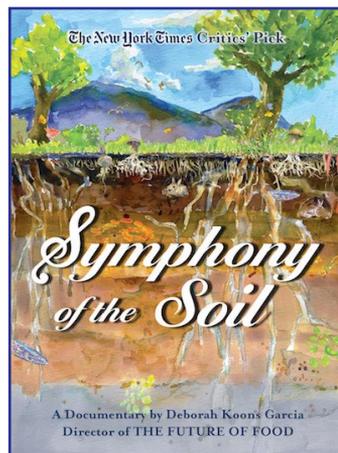


May 12, 6:30 pm

Movie: SYMPHONY OF THE SOIL

1 Hour 44 Minutes

Drawing from ancient knowledge and cutting edge science, this film is an artistic exploration of the complex and dynamic nature of soil and the elaborate relationships between soil, water, the atmosphere, plants and animals. The film also examines our human relationship with soil, its use and misuse in agriculture, deforestation and development, and the latest scientific research on the key role of soil in ameliorating the most challenging environmental issues of our time.

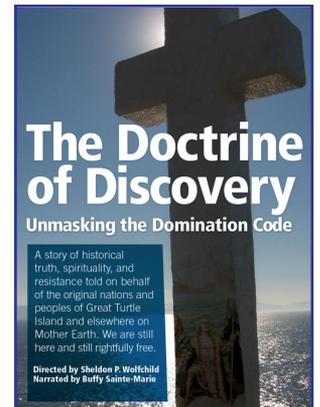


June 9, 6:30 pm

Movie: THE DOCTRINE OF DISCOVERY – Unmasking the Domination Code

50 Minutes

Co-produced by Steven T. Newcomb, indigenous law research coordinator at the Education Department of the Sycuan Band of the Kumeyaay Nation in San Diego County, this 2015 documentary reveals the historical roots of the so-called “right of discovery”, which allowed conquerors and colonizers of the Americas to claim all lands not inhabited by Christians. On May 4, 1493, a papal edict called for indigenous nations to be “dominated” for the propagation of the Christian Empire. This film dispels many of the myths we have been told about the birth and “development” of our country and those of the rest of the Western Hemisphere. A discussion, led by Mr. Newcomb’s wife, Paige, will follow the film.



## 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://sandiegosierraclub.org>

Then click on “Get Outdoors”

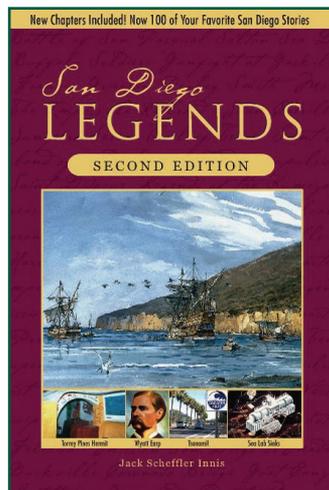
# Sierra Talks

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](mailto:sdwalks@interactor.cc)

**April 7**

## San Diego Legends, Continued

In this photo-rich presentation, Jack Innis returns to take us on an underground tour of a real-life Secret Smuggler's Cave he discovered along the county seashore. Jack will also tell the heart-wrenching story, The Legend of La Loma. Lastly, he will bring to life the mysterious circumstances regarding the shooting death off the San Diego coast of a Hollywood producer aboard William Randolph Hearst's mega yacht, Oneida. This story has an unusual twist.



Jack's career as San Diego's Legend Hunter began in 1999 when a magazine publisher gave him free rein — and every column inch in one entire publication — to tell history his way. Jack opted to hunt the annals of history to uncover legends, stories, and myths. The small magazine sold 10,000 copies and spawned subsequent books and articles containing stories once heard only around campfires. He has made more than 100 speaking appearances and is a frequent guest on XETV Channel 6 morning show, San Diego Living.

**May 5**

## Madagascar: Land of Ghosts

A story of exploration, conservation and tragedy in the rainforests of Madagascar. Conservationist Bill Toone shares his journey into a world halfway around the world. Madagascar's unique people, wildlife and terrain will both fascinate and resonate. Starting his career as a



wildlife biologist with the San Diego Zoo, Bill Toone studied the endangered California condor and the causes of its decline. That work grew into a conservation program of world renown; and Bill soon found himself featured in newspapers and magazines, sitting next to Johnny Carson on the Tonight Show, and filming wildlife documentaries in the Costa Rican rainforests with Olivia Newton-John.

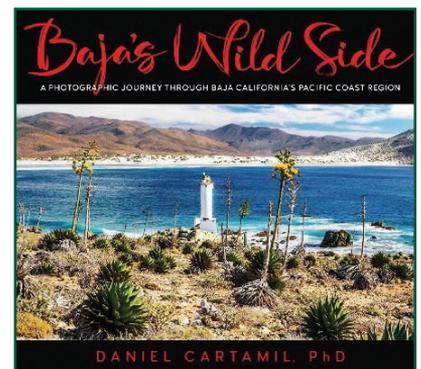
Based on his insights from Madagascar and elsewhere, Bill created ECOLIFE Conservation, an organization dedicated to a world in which humans and Nature live harmoniously. Bill and ECOLIFE build stoves in remote villages that improve the lives of families and reduce tree cutting for fuel. They install water-harvesting systems, and create programs to help people feed themselves healthy food, rather than plants and animals poached from the forests.

**June 2**

## Baja's Wild Side

This presentation features photography and stories exploring Baja California's Pacific coast region. With breathtaking images, it chronicles a fragile paradise of remote landscapes, wildlife, and cultural treasures on the verge of being overtaken by modern civilization. From the high sierra, to ancient cave paintings hidden deep in the desert, to the surf-pounded Pacific, you will discover Baja's little-known "Wild Side."

Daniel Cartamil, PhD, is an expert in shark biology at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography in La Jolla, California. Dan's fluency in English and Spanish, along with the support of locals, academic colleagues, and artisanal fishermen, have provided him unparalleled access to Baja's spectacular landscapes. Dan is also an environmental consultant and leads adventure photography tours in Baja California.





## The North County Group Sierra Club visits Vista High School

by Dan Conger

February brought a unique pairing of Vista High School seniors and the Sierra Club North County Group. Vista High School teachers Kelee Thompson and Tamara Marks set up a project for their students to read one of two novels, either John Krakauer "Into the Wild" or Cheryl Strayed "Wild". To add to real world interaction, they offered extra credit to students to hike on any section of the Pacific Crest Trail in San Diego and looked for someone to speak about their backpacking experience. When the teachers reached out to the Sierra Club, I was able to join

them to discuss my experiences and why I go outdoors. While I'm not a through hiker, my summer trips in the Sierra Nevada were more than the students knew about and offered some relevance to their novels.

My presentation shared information on why people venture outdoors, where they go and what a day in the life of a backpacker looks like. Students followed up with questions such as "Are you ever scared of wild animals?" (No, I'm more likely to scare myself with a crazy book than some animal), "How do you train for long distance backpacking?" (Start small and work up because it's more about experience than physical strength. That comes eventually) and the omnipresent "What do you do about the poop?" (Leave No Trace, dig, squat and pack out the paper)

It was a great opportunity to share a little about the outdoors with high schoolers and to give them some grounding for their novel project. Anytime the Sierra Club can interact with student and our schools, it's a welcome invitation.

## Save the Date! June 10, 2017 North County Group Sierra Club Annual Picnic

Join the North County Group on Saturday, June 10th, for our Annual Picnic at Dixon Lake! The picnic is from 12-3pm and is open to all Sierra Club members, family, friends, and past students of the Wilderness Basic Course. BBQ lunch and beverages will be served, just bring your own chair or blanket. Watch our website and Facebook page for more details. <http://sierraclubncg.org/>

## North County Group Car Camp

September 22-24, 2017 The North County Group of the Sierra Club is hosting a car camping trip for up to 25 people in the beautiful Laguna Mountains. Spend the weekend enjoying friends, the outdoors and exploring the area. We'll provide the camp spot, fire wood, organized day hikes and a Sunday pancake breakfast. You provide all the fixins for traditional car camping; pretty much anything you can fit in your car. Sorry, no RVs. \$30 per person, RSVP to [conger.daniel@gmail.com](mailto:conger.daniel@gmail.com)



## What's New From The Coasters?

The North County Coastal Group, also known as "The Coasters," has officially relaunched. We would like to congratulate our newly elected Executive Committee members - Mark Jenne (Secretary), Alice Hammond, Mayela Manasjan (Vice Chair) and Sally Prendergast (Chair), as well as Carl Pope who was appointed to the Executive Committee. Additionally, we are grateful to announce that Rob Morris will serve as Treasurer. Thank you to all who participated in this election. There is still one vacancy on the Executive Committee for a dedicated volunteer. If you're passionate about the environ-

ment and want to be a part of setting the direction of our North County Coastal Group please contact Sally Prendergast at [Sallyp123@mac.com](mailto:Sallyp123@mac.com) - we would love to meet you!

## Save the Date! Next Quarterly Meeting April 10th 7:00 to 8:30

Alga Norte Community Park  
6565 Alicante Road, Carlsbad

We were overwhelmed and so grateful for the amazing turnout at our last Quarterly meeting - at least 140 people were in attendance and ready to get involved! As we re-launch the North County Coastal Group it is inspiring to know that we have so many enthusiastic members. We're looking forward to seeing everyone at our next meeting in April - details will be forthcoming.

What Can You Do Now? Our Goal with this new group is to support the Sierra Club Mission to "Explore, Enjoy and Protect our Planet," while addressing issues and providing outdoor opportunities that are important to our North County Coastal area.

Here are some immediate ways that you

can get involved:

**City Ambassador** - We are looking for a few volunteers to become Information Ambassadors for their city - Ambassadors will help us stay up to date with important issues, developments and activities in each of the coastal cities. This will help our group stay informed and ready to mobilize on hot button issues. Contact Mayela at [mayelaphoto@gmail.com](mailto:mayelaphoto@gmail.com).

**Conservation Group** - Volunteers will help jump start a "Coasters Conservation Group." This group will work with the San Diego Chapter Conservation Committee while bringing North County issues and priorities to the forefront. Contact Alice at [aliceh.john@gmail.com](mailto:aliceh.john@gmail.com).

**Outings** - Our San Diego Chapter offers a number of ways to enjoy our beautiful region from sponsored hikes to Basic Wilderness Training Courses. Our Coasters group will be a galvanizing force for our area to tap into all that is currently available while exploring opportunities that are unique to our region. Contact Carl Pope at [seatp3@gmail.com](mailto:seatp3@gmail.com).

**Social Media Guru** - We are looking

*Coasters continued on page 12*

**Morgan Scarth**-Morgan joined the Sierra Club because of her passion for environmental and social justice as well as her passion for outdoor spaces. She was motivated by the threat the new administration poses to the environment, and is particularly eager to resist policies that place economic gains over the health of people and the environment, and firmly believes that we can have a thriving economy without the heavy use of fossil fuels and the damage they cause. She is also passionate about food politics and is extremely interested in sustainable agricultural practices. Morgan is excited to work with the large influx of volunteers and help them get engaged with the Sierra Club of San Diego.

Morgan graduated from University of San Diego in May 2016 with a B.A. in Behavioral Neuroscience and currently works as a business analyst for an election software company. She has intern and volunteer experience with several non-profit organizations in both San Diego and her home state of Connecticut. Morgan is a life-long lover of the environment. She spends her free time trail running, backpacking, rock climbing and hiking, and is passionate about protecting the outdoor spaces she and many others enjoy.

**Ally Bartz**-Ally joined the Sierra Club after attending her first meeting with the Sierra Club regarding local methods to

resist Trump and his environment and social justice threatening plans. With such a potentially menacing future for our country, she wanted to become more proactive in combatting these policies and get involved at a more local level. The Sierra Club stood out to her for its historical presence in the United States, as well as its parallel beliefs about protecting the environment and now the Resist Trump initiative. Ally looks forward to helping the Sierra Club with the large influx of volunteers and connecting with the many wonderful like-minded members of the Sierra Club. Ally also hopes to bridge the generational gap by reaching the millennial generation to get them to become more involved.

Ally graduated in May 2015 with her Bachelor's Degree in Criminology and Justice Studies from California State University, San Marcos. She works with the YMCA of San Diego as a case manager for former foster and probation youth in North County and loves being an advocate for disadvantaged youth. Ally has always had a passion in politics and advocating for those that have their voice silenced, especially Mother Nature. Ally grew up camping all throughout California and enjoys camping, hiking, and exploring the wonders of our natural world to this day. Ally looks forward to bringing her passions and eagerness to the San Diego Chapter of the Sierra Club.

*Pushing the State continued from page 1*

The Buy Clean approach got a big push when Assembly members Rob Bonta and Susan Eggman jointly introduced Assembly Bill 262 on February 1.

That bill would require that state agencies that contract for big infrastructure projects, plus the University of California, and the California State University system, take into consideration the greenhouse gas emissions in the supply chain when they're reviewing bids for those projects.

It combines information disclosure and purchasing requirements to recognize manufacturers who produce the least amount of climate pollution while making any of five products: cement, steel, glass, insulation and asphalt. On launch day, the bill's supporters represented labor, manufacturing, environmental, environmental justice, and health groups.

Over the next month, Sierra Club California staff and volunteers will be helping refine the bill and building the support list before it goes to its first committee hearing in March.

The Buy Clean bill will be one of the priority bills for in-district lobbying. You can learn more about the Buy Clean Campaign on the [buycleancalifornia.org](http://buycleancalifornia.org) website.

If you'd like to get involved in helping your chapter or group learn more about the Buy Clean Campaign, or if you'd like to get involved in in-district lobbying for the Buy Clean bill, contact Meg Gunderson in our office at [Meg.Gunderson@sierraclub.org](mailto:Meg.Gunderson@sierraclub.org).

## Marching for Women's and Human Rights



Hundreds of Chapter members and supporters joined with tens of thousands to march in both the San Diego and San Marcos Women's March for women's rights, our safety, our health, our families and our communities. The marches were held the day after the inaugura-



tion of Donald Trump and signaled to the Trump administration that we are gravely concerned about the impacts of climate change and the implications of an Administration that promotes climate skepticism, advancement of fossil fuels, an extractive economy, racism, bigotry and sexist oppression.

*Tired of sitting on the sidelines? Want to get involved? Contact one of our Coordinator of Volunteers for ways you can begin to make an impact with Sierra Club San Diego.*

Ally Bartz - [allybartz@hotmail.com](mailto:allybartz@hotmail.com) or

Morgan Scarth - [morgan.scarth@gmail.com](mailto:morgan.scarth@gmail.com)

*Climate March continued from page 1*

*of all constituencies impacted by the Trump agenda. We are in this together. Each of us has the ability and the responsibility to take action to protect our planet and our local communities!*

*You can RSVP on our website (<http://sandigosierraclub.org/>) and watch for updates and details on the April 29th mobilization.*

# Living Green

Wholesale Solar Equipment Division

Residential-Commercial  
**CALL 760-612-0100**

*Coasters continued from page 10*

for volunteers to help us create and manage our website and Facebook page. Effective communication with our “Coasters Group” is the key to our success and critical during this politically charged time! Contact Sally at [sallyp123@mac.com](mailto:sallyp123@mac.com).

**A Few Upcoming Meetings and Events - Look for more information as we get closer to the dates:**

- 1) Climate March - April 29th**
- 2) Coasters Quarterly Meeting - April 10th 7:00 to 8:30 details TBD**
- 3) Eco Fest - May 7th**

If you are interested in any of these opportunities, would like more information and /or have some other ideas to help build our Group please contact Sally Prendergast @[sallyp123@mac.com](mailto:sallyp123@mac.com).

The Coasters are the geographic division of the San Diego Chapter for the North coastal area, Del Mar to Oceanside.



*Record Turnout! Executive Committee members Mayela Manasjan and Sally Prendergast at the North County Coastal Group's last quarterly meeting.*

## In-District Lobbying: Not as Hard as You Think

*By Meg Gunderson*

California has been a leader in the fight against pollution—including climate pollution—and in clearing the path for renewable energy, energy efficiency, advanced auto technology and more.

That leadership is more important than ever now as the federal government's agenda shifts toward enabling dirty energy. One way to help California stay in the lead is to encourage our state legislators to continue doing the right thing, over and over again, through activist lobbying in their home districts. They need to hear from their constituents at home that they should support legislation that advances our goals to preserve the environment and public health.

**It's not as hard as you might think.**

***Teaming up with Sierra Club California, you can be an activist lobbyist in your own backyard.***

Sierra Club California has an “In-District Lobbying” effort that is a chance for Sierra Club California activists from around the state to have a positive impact on statewide environmental priorities without leaving the comfort of their home region.

It's an opportunity to build confidence in your activist skills as well as grow relationships with other activists, legislators and their district staff.

We want Sierra Club volunteers from around the state to feel included, consulted and engaged in the legislative process. You don't have to have prior knowledge of the legislative process; interest and willingness to learn are all that's required. Sierra Club California will offer resources and direction.

This year, we're starting our in-district lobbying efforts with a focus on a few key legislators during the legislative Spring Break, Apr 10-14. And now is the time to get involved.

If this sounds appealing to you, please contact me here: [meg.gunderson@sierraclub.org](mailto:meg.gunderson@sierraclub.org).

**We'll make it easy and energizing for you to participate.**

**You can get a head start by visiting our website's advocacy page.**

**<http://www.sierraclub.org/california/district-advocacy>**



**SIERRA  
CLUB**

# Inspiring Connections Outdoors

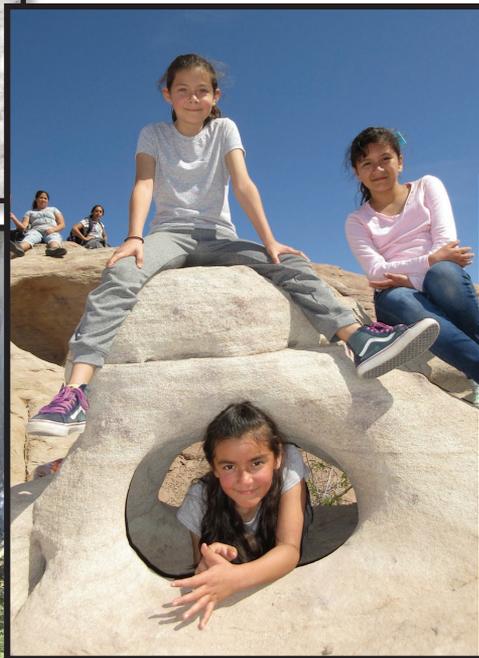
Bill Tayler  
San Diego, ICO Co-Chair



## Winter Wonderland, Waterfalls, Wind Caves and Whales

by Bill Tayler

In February and early March, we took groups of students from Stephen W. Hawking II STEAM Charter School on four very different types of trips, taking full advantage of the outdoor diversity that San Diego County offers. First, we took them on an after-school snow trip to Mount Laguna, which for many of them was their first time sledding and playing in snow. Three days later, we hiked up Borrego Palm Canyon, stopping for lunch on a large rock overlooking one waterfall and ending at the waterfall near the main palm tree grove. When the kids commented on how cold the water was, we reminded them of the snow in the mountains and talked to them about how snowmelt feeds the waterfalls in the desert. Later in February, we spent a Saturday exploring the wind caves, arches and slot canyon near West Borrego Butte. Dry, desolate and dramatic, this area of Anza-Borrego offered our young hikers a completely different type of desert experience. Lastly, in early March – thanks to the generosity of Sierra Club members who sponsored us – we took a group of students on the Chapter’s annual whale watching trip. For most of them, it was their first time seeing whales in the wild (and being on a boat in the ocean). Four very different trips with one thing in common: excited kids learning to explore, enjoy and protect all that San Diego has to offer!



*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](http://www.sandiegosierraclub.org)*

### **Volunteering With ICO –**

*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.*

*For information about volunteering with ICO, please contact Bill Tayler by email ([btayler@taylorlaw.com](mailto:btayler@taylorlaw.com)) or by telephone (858-531-5442)*

**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](mailto: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](mailto:btayler@taylorlaw.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.

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*Payment must be made at time of submission by check to:*

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*8304 Clairemont Mesa Blvd. #101*

*San Diego, CA 92111*

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# Classified Ads

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## 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 Richard Miller at the Chapter Office:

858-569-6005 or

[richard.miller@sierraclub.org](mailto:richard.miller@sierraclub.org).

The current issue and past issues are available to read online at

<http://sandigosierraclub.org/news/newsletter/>

### 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 2017

Deadline is June 1st

To submit by email, please email to:

[info@thomascreative.com](mailto:info@thomascreative.com)

Submissions are subject to approval for content and subject matter.

## Go Solar With Sungevity And The Sierra Club

When you go solar with the Sierra Club and Sungevity, you will receive a special \$750 discount and Sungevity will send the Sierra Club \$750 to protect local wildlife and wild lands, keep our air and water clean, and move us toward a clean energy future.

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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://sandigosierraclub.org/donate>

## Committees & Contact Information

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

### CHAPTER STAFF

**Development Associate:** Richard Miller  
858-569-6005  
email: richard.miller@sierraclub.org

### VOLUNTEER STAFF

#### **Coordinators of Volunteers**

Ally Bratz 760.522.1303  
ally.r.bartz@gmail.com

Morgan Scarth 203-470-2580  
morgan.scarth@gmail.com

#### **STEERING COMMITTEE**

Meets 2nd Wednesday 6:30 pm Chapter office

**Chair:** Ruben Arizmendi

619-787-0676  
rfalawsierraclub@gmail.com

**Vice-Chair:** Dr. Peter Andersen

619-857-4233  
westone47@gmail.com

**Secretary:** Karenlee Robinson

619-572-8451  
klrobinson@cox.net

George Courser  
858 231-0156  
gcourser@hotmail.com

Brian Elliott  
brian.d.elliott@gmail.com

Fred Rogers  
fred.e.rogers@gmail.com

Paul Webb  
pbwebb3@cox.net

**Treasurer (Non-Voting):**

Rob Morris  
rmorris@san.rr.com

**Assistant Treasurer**

Rochelle Handcock  
rae\_1024@yahoo.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)

The Executive Committee meets 2nd Tuesday.  
Contact Chair for time and location.

**Chair:** Kelly Conrad  
760-703-3464  
KellyJConrad7@gmail.com

### COMMITTEES

#### CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

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

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

#### International

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

#### Transportation

Call for meeting information  
Mike Bullock (760) 754-8025  
mike\_bullock@earthlink.net

#### Wildlife

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

#### POLITICAL COMMITTEE

Meets 1st Tuesday at 7:00pm Chapter Office

**Chair:** Brian Elliot  
brian.d.elliott@gmail.com

#### FOSTER LODGE COMMITTEE

Meets 4th Wednesday 6:30pm

**Chair:** Paul Webb  
pbwebb3@cox.net

#### OUTINGS COMMITTEE

Meets quarterly, contact Chair for date and location.

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

#### Leadership Review & Safety Committee

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

Meets quarterly, call for information.

#### Bus Trips

Mike Fry (858) 748-5166

#### Chapter Outings Leadership Training (COL)

Jim Jafolla  
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

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

#### SECTIONS & SOCIAL COMMITTEES

##### Bicycle

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

##### Family

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

##### Photography

www.sandiego.sierraclub.org/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.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  
info@thomascreative.com

#### SIERRA TALKS, MONTHLY PROGRAM

1st Friday of every month

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

## Create an Environmental Legacy.

Bequests have played a key role in Sierra Club's environmental successes over the years.

Planning now may make your gift more meaningful and reduce taxes on your estate. We have many gift options available. We can even help you plan a gift for your local Chapter.

**For more info and confidential assistance, contact**

Gift Planning Program  
85 Second St, 2nd Floor  
San Francisco, CA 94105  
(800) 932-4270  
planned.giving@sierraclub.org



## San Diego Chapter

8304 Clairemont Mesa Blvd. #101

San Diego, CA 92111

*On the north side & just west of the 163.*

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

Phone: 858-569-6005

[www.sandiegosierraclub.org](http://www.sandiegosierraclub.org)

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## GUEST OPINION

### Bigger and Higher Walls are Not the Solution

*By Ellen Shively*

If history teaches us anything, the fantasy that a higher, longer wall will solve the problem of undocumented entry of desperate people suffering from poor international economic policies should be a lesson learned.

From the original erection of surplus metal slats left over from Viet Nam's helicopter landing strips back in 2005, the neighbors from the south continue to seek entry to the U.S. The Border Patrol's 24 hour surveillance from night illuminating cameras, helicopters, constant jeep patrols and stepped up crossing lanes have not stopped the determined, despite challenging heat, dehydration, remote tunnels and dog patrols to cross the border.

The proposed addition of over 1000 miles of massive construction must not be approved until the Congress, who hold the purse strings, has vetted the intended and unintended consequences of this extreme proposal. Cost estimates range from an optimistic 12 billion to a more realistic 25 billion dollars. Who can pay this? The original wall scheme received a waiver of over 30 environmental laws, such as the Clean Water Act, the Endangered Species Act and on down the line. The first iteration of the wall, a mere 650 miles between California and Texas has already shown the maintenance problems of this divisive structure.

When asked how the Mexican people feel about the existing wall between the two countries, a former member of the San Diego Sierra Club now living in Tijuana responded: "The planned wall is an insult to Mexicans and does not address the underlying reason that push Mexicans to seek the hard

work for such low pay that no American will accept. Nor does it recognize why companies hire these undocumented workers". In fact, some of the trade agreements have allowed corporations to buy up smaller farms in Mexico which once sustained these same workers.

A long time environmental activist in Imperial County has posited that the billions of dollars involved would be better spent over the border to improve the opportunities for employment and

social welfare that has caused the problems of undocumented migration in the first place. If we helped the government to the South improve their business prospects, provided better infrastructure and living conditions, the need for undocumented migration would disappear.

The national Sierra Club has a campaign called "Borderlands" which has helped define the current situation and advocates Sierra Club member involvement, especially by members of Chapters bordering Mexico, California, Arizona, New Mexico and Texas.

Please write your local congressional representatives to vote "No" on this ineffective, expensive and destructive proposal.

If you have ideas about how Sierra Club San Diego members should organize to be a voice for opposing this project, please attend the next two Conservation Committee meetings where we'll discuss how to implement this bad idea. (The Conservation Committee will meet at

the Chapter office on Tuesday, April 10, and Tuesday, May 8 at 6:30 pm. For more information contact George Courser at [gcourser@hotmail.com](mailto:gcourser@hotmail.com) ).

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*Ellen Shively is a long time Chapter activist who has served in almost all leadership positions in the San Diego Chapter. Since the early 1990's Ellen has worked on protecting the seals at Casa Beach (La Jolla) and is a strong advocate for social justice and the environment.*

