



Executive Committee Elects New Officers and Welcomes New Members

At the Chapter's December Executive Committee meeting, newly elected members were seated and Chapter officers for 2022 were selected.

The Chapter's Officers for 2022 are Lisa Ross, Chair, David Hogan, Vice-Chair, and Rochelle Hancock, Secretary. Orion Hudgins will return as Treasurer as an ex officio (non-voting) member. The Committee will have some new faces and expertise for 2022. New to the Executive Committee are Zeynep Iglaz, elected to a 2-year term, Dale Russell, elected to a 2-year term and Agatha Wein, elected to a 3-year term. Returning to the Executive Committee are Rochelle Hancock, elected to a 3-year term and David Hogan, elected to a 1-year term.

Rochelle Hancock - Secretary

I am pleased to be part of the Sierra Club San Diego Executive Committee. It is a great group of people who are all dedicated to meeting the goals of Sierra Club, with a focus on San Diego County. Each member comes with a unique set of experiences and skills, and I'm excited to see how we can blend those together to have the biggest impact possible. I've been a member of Sierra Club for over thirty years but was not active in the club until a few years ago when I became the Chapter treasurer. That gave me an education in the complex ways that Sierra Club, as both a 501 (c)3 and a 501(c) 4, manages its finances. Working well with the National office in Oakland is crucial

50TH ANNIVERSARY

It's the San Diego Sierra Club North County Group and Wilderness Basics Course 50th Anniversary! We are celebrating with "NCG50for50" Hike Challenge

JUNE 1, 2021 – MAY 30, 2022

NCG 50 HIKE CHALLENGE

FOR OUR 50TH ANNIVERSARY IS LIVE!

GOALS

- To introduce you to the **San Diego Sierra Club North County Group** and **San Diego North County Wilderness Basics Course (WBC)** group.
- To get you, your family and friends outside enjoying local North County San Diego hikes.
- You might learn a few new favorite trails right in your neighborhood!

DETAILS

- For the list of qualified NCG Hikes and rules, visit our 50 Hike Challenge page: <https://wbc.sierraclubnccg.org/50-hike-challenge/> OR Scan the QR Code
- We have prizes for 5, 10, 25, and 50 hike milestone completions!
- Share your challenge experience with us by posting your photos with the hashtag **#NCG50for50**

50 hike challenge continued on page 10

to our Chapter success, and I believe my insight into those workings will benefit the Chapter. I have the deepest respect for the volunteers who put their environmental passions to work by being part of this Executive Committee, and I am honored to be among them.

David Hogan – Vice Chair

David Hogan is a life-long believer in the mission of the Sierra Club to improve the world for nature and people. David has been an environmentalist his entire career including his most recent position as Director of The Chaparral Lands Conservancy, a group dedicated to restoration of endangered species habitat. David worked at the Center for Biological Diversity to preserve desert and forest wild places in California, Arizona, and New Mexico, and filed legal documents to protect two dozen endangered species including the original documents to list the California gnatcatcher. David

ExCom continued on page 7

HiSIERRAN

Explore, Enjoy and Protect the Planet

Sierra Club San Diego Chapter

8304 Clairemont Mesa Blvd. #101
San Diego, CA 92111
(858) 569-6005

Managing Editor

Judy Thomas (619) 462-5168
thomascreative2@cox.net

Creative Director

Scott Thomas (619) 462-5168
thomascreative2@cox.net
www.thomascreative.com

Advertising

thomascreative@cox.net

Meetings and Activities

www.sandiegsierraclub.org

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A View from The Chair



Lisa Ross

Taking over the reins from Dave Hogan as Sierra Club San Diego Executive Committee Chair for 2022 after his two-year term is an honor. And most certainly he is a hard act to follow.

Under Dave's leadership, with support from George Courser and Peter Andersen's Conservation and Legal Committees, the Sierra Club San Diego Chapter has achieved precedent setting land use and climate action legal decisions, halted sprawl development projects and enhanced wildlife protection.

Fortunately, Dave is staying on the Executive Committee and chairing our legal team committee. Along with Dave, veteran members Rochelle Hancock and David Rousseau will provide continuity and expertise as this challenging year begins where we left off: advocating for effective climate action, environmental justice, and habitat protection.

As we welcome aboard our new ExCom members, Zeynep Ilgaz, Agatha Wein, and Dale W. Russell, PhD, I fondly wish our outgoing team the best. The new ExCom brings nonprofit and business board member experience along with their commitment to strong environmental advocacy.

And so, many thanks to our outgoing ExCom members: Secretary and Foster Lodge Committee Chair Amanda Mascia, Political Committee Chair Fred Rogers, and CCL Alternative Krista

Davidson who helped make our decision process virtually painless during our COVID induced Zoom meetings.

We are also fortunate to have the dedicated expert leadership of North County Coastal "Coasters" Group Chair Sally Prendergast and North County Group Chair Pam Heatherington in areas where development pressures will command our steady attention. I am hoping this year we can develop a South County Group.

On a personal note, I first engaged with Sierra Club San Diego during the rowdy land wars of the 1990's which, along with our ally Endangered Habitats League, produced the nationally recognized Multiple Species Habitat Plans that wisely guided development around protected habitat preserves connected by wildlife corridors.

And so, I have a vested interest in protecting these hard-won public habitat lands against constant development pressures and to expanding the system.

Finally, we are looking forward to bringing back Sierra Club Outings and the Wilderness Basics Course which is at the core of what we do.

We couldn't accomplish any of this without the guidance of our Chapter Director Richard Miller. Together we are Green Strong.

Zeroing in on Zero Waste - Your Questions Answered

San Diego Sierra Club Zero Waste Subcommittee

In this issue of the HiSierran we'll be answering questions submitted by two Sierra Club members and discussing diversion of organic wastes from landfills. Please email your questions about zero waste and related issues to zerowastesdsc@gmail.com and we will answer them in future issues of the HiSierran. Zero Waste Subcommittee meetings are held the first Monday of the month at 6:30 PM. If you would like to attend or join the subcommittee, please send an email to zerowastesdsc@gmail.com.

Plastic Film Recycling - Part 2

Our first question, submitted by Midge Hyde, is *"I was disappointed in the reply to Susan McAllister about recycling plastics. The information most of us are looking for is what to do with plastic we must buy i.e. bread wrappers, veggies in soft bags, tags on individual fruit, liners in bottles, under caps. Is there a place to send oddball plastic and combination wrappers, protein bar wrappers etc. Also, how can we tell the difference between plastic and cellophanes, since most recycling does not want cellophane. Making manufacturers responsible for their packaging is important to anyone concerned about the well-being of the planet. It would be great to include information about recycling of oddball bits and pieces that end up in the landfill and an ongoing message to encourage recycling in every issue of the HiSierran. And any grocery store that provides plastic should also offer recycling of those bags."*

Waste Free SD recommends the website www.plasticfilmrecycling.org/recycling-bags-and-wraps/plastic-film-education-individuals/ to learn about plastic bag/film recycling. Plastic film packaging is soft, flexible low density polyethylene (LDPE) packaging such as grocery, bread, zip-top and dry cleaning bags. It's also the wrap around used for many products including paper plates, napkins, bathroom tissue, diapers, and more.

DO NOT RECYCLE ANY PLASTIC BAGS OR FILMS IN YOUR CURBSIDE BIN! Take your plastic bags, wraps and film to a grocery store or other retailer that accepts this material for recycling. Any film packaging or bag that has the How2Recycle Label should be included. Plastic cereal box liners can be recycled (but if it tears like paper, do not include). To find a location, go to www.plasticfilmrecycling.org/recycling-bags-and-wraps/find-drop-off-location/. Local retailers accepting plastic bags and films for recycling include Sprouts Farmers Market, Vons, Target, Ralphs, Kohl's and Albertsons. Not all locations have drop offs, so check first.

DO NOT INCLUDE degradable/compostable bags or film packaging; pre-washed salad mix bags; frozen food bags; candy bar wrappers; chip bags or six-pack rings. These materials go into the landfill or can be sent to an online recycler such as TERRACYCLE for a fee (<https://www.terracycle.com/en-US>).

Your question about cellophane is complicated. True cello-

phane, made from natural sources such as wood, can't be recycled, but it is biodegradable. In the US and some other countries, cellophane has become a generic term for a wide variety of films, even those made from plastic resins instead of cellulose. If you fold a piece of true cellophane it will remain folded like paper. It also burns like paper, while a film made from plastic resins will shrivel, blister and bubble.

Plastic Resin Identification Code

Our second series of questions was submitted by Al Vera. "Please summarize the small triangular recycling symbols/ numbers embossed on almost all hard plastic containers. Which ones can be recycled in San Diego? Does one leave the metal lids on glass jars, glass bottles? Is shredded paper recyclable? What size Styrofoam™ pieces can be recycled? Also, is there some way to get a spot on local TV news programs to show recycling do's and don'ts? If the local news channels would do this once a month, I believe it would make a big difference and clear up a lot of confusion."

The recycling symbol found on plastic products does not indicate that a product is necessarily recyclable nor recycled. The number is a resin identification code that tells you what kind of plastic that material is made of. Plastics that have #1 (PETE) or #2 (HDPE) are the most commonly recycled plastics. Plastics #3, #4, #5, #6 and #7 are generally more difficult to recycle and are not universally collected in local recycling programs.

#1 Polyethylene Terephthalate (PET) is a clear hard plastic often used as single-use food and drink containers and is the most widely recycled plastic in the world. Collected in San Diego City/County.

#2 High Density Polyethylene (HDPE) is a hard plastic not as transparent PET that is often used for household cleaners, shampoo bottles, and yogurt containers. HDPE is accepted worldwide because it is one of the easiest plastic polymers to recycle. Collected in San Diego City/County.

#3 Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC) is frequently used for vinyl and pipes and is not as stiff as PET and HDPE. It is the primary base plastic in a variety of piping, paneling, decking, fencing, and bottles. Due to the high chlorine content in raw PVC (around 56% of its weight), as well as high levels of hazardous additives added to achieve desired material quality, PVC requires separation from other plastics for recycling. There is no PVC recycling available in San Diego.

#4 Low Density Polyethylene (LDPE) is a soft flexible plastic that is often used as: bread bags, frozen food bags, and plastic shopping bags. To be recycled the plastic film

Zero Waste continued on page 8

The Plight Of The La Jolla Sea Lion Rookery

- Not Good

by Ellen Shively, Sierra Club Seal Society

Our local pinnipeds (sea lions and harbor seals) face many hazards in living their short lives in their watery oceanic world – predation, pollution, bad weather, food availability, fishing gear entanglement, injury and illness. In addition, our local rookeries are especially exposed to bad behaviors by large numbers of visitors either uninformed or thoughtless as they eagerly approach the animals unhindered by unposted and unenforced regulations. Even after years of hosting the animals, the city does not have a management plan designed to protect the animals from human harassment or even for visitor safety from the wild animals.

The docents of the Sierra Club Seal Society have endeavored to fill the gap at the rookery in La Jolla while “sharing the shore” with the public and the sea lions. We offer information about the pinnipeds. We ask visitors to safely watch them from a safe distance, recommended as 50 feet or three car lengths apart. Sometimes this includes asking people to stay above on the sidewalk when the crowds are too large, and to be mindful to never impede the animals from their normal movement and social interactions among their own kind.

Aside from our presence on site, we have been working diligently to inform city, state and federal officials of the contin-



ued harassments endured by the colony because of the lack of a workable city “Management Plan”. There are no assigned Rangers, the signage telling people how to respect the animals is obscure and unread, people violate a safe spacing from these wild animals and, there are essentially “No Barriers” to animal access.

One of our best efforts so far brought a spark of hope when seven of us spoke in a photo and text group format during the November meeting of the California Coastal Commission during the “non-agenda Public Comment” time. We described wrenching examples of disturbance and violations. Our photos were evidence. They heard us and had a rarely heard follow-up discussion of the dire situation existing in La Jolla as portrayed by our testimony. Their comments included, “It is quite disturbing and a really pervasive issue”. One agreed, “... the situation is out of control”. And, “...otherwise people are just going to continue to engage in this behavior.”

Our interpretation: The Commissioners need to recommend to the city immediate measures to address the situation NOW, not wait for the next pupping season as is now on the timeline.

Our stand is to request the Mayor and City Council for an immediate closure to the public access as the city develops a comprehensive plan for protection of the sea lions at Point La Jolla, Boomer Beach and the Brockton Gate.



Photo Credit F. Moini

Of course, you can add your voice to our pleas to the city officials: call or write your city council representative, the Mayor and ask your friends to do the same. Officials respond to their constituents.

For further information, call or email me: 619-245-8953 (text preferred), or ellenshively@sbcglobal.net



Spear Fisherman Violation

CA Coastal Commissioners Say City Must Act Now to Prevent “Out of Control” Harassment of Sea Lions

In December, the Chapter and the Sierra Club Seal Society urged Mayor Gloria to take immediate action and close the Sea Lion Rookery at Point La Jolla and Boomer Beach due to severe illegal harassment occurring daily. The Club emphasized the need to ensure the protections under the Marine Mammal Protection Act that prohibits individuals from disturbing wild sea lions in their natural habitat.

Point La Jolla and adjacent Boomer Beach is the only rookery on the California coast where people can view sea lions giving birth and raising their young in the wild. TripAdvisor ranks the La Jolla sea lion rookery as the leading outdoor tourist destination in San Diego.

In August, the city of San Diego issued an emergency Coastal Development Permit closing Point La Jolla and part of Boomer Beach due to human harassment and dangers to the public who are often within arms-reach of the large sea lions. The closure was successful, with visitors able to view sea lions from the adjacent sidewalk. When the area reopened September 16th, the park rangers who enforced the closure were reassigned to other areas, resulting in crowds of up to 300 visitors per hour with visitors invading the rookery and subjecting sea lions to taunting, petting,

close up selfies, the separation of moms and pups and preventing them from reuniting to nurse.

At a California Coastal Commission meeting on November 19, 2021, Commissioners reviewed testimonies and photos of recent sea lion harassment and deaths and expressed deep concern over the city of San Diego’s inability to manage human interaction with the resident sea lion colony in La Jolla. Several Commissioners stated that they had visited the La Jolla sea lion colony and Commissioner Sara Aminzadeh was first in describing the situation as “quite disturbing and a really pervasive issue.” Executive Director Jack Ainsworth, also admitted that “The situation is out of control.”

Although Commission staff noted that the city is currently working on a new Coastal Development Permit for the next summer pupping season, it was clear that Commissioners were not satisfied to simply wait for the permit application before action is taken. Commissioner Zahirah Mann declared that “This issue is pressing NOW. What are the other options other than waiting for the city to file a permit application?”. Commissioner Donne Brownsey agreed, stating “I think I’d rather see something sooner rather than later”.

Executive Director, Jack Ainsworth assured the Commissioners that the Coastal Commission will explore other mechanisms to act immediately to address the situation. Donne Brownsey, Vice Chair of the Commission, ended the discussion by declaring “There has to be roping off or fences otherwise people are just going to continue to engage in this behavior”.

Chapter Director, Richard Miller, welcomed the Commissioners views of the situation and their call to action. “The Sierra Club Seal Society with its network of on-site docents, has been regularly documenting and reporting the constant level of harassment which also puts the public in danger. Further to this intervention from the Coastal Commission, we strongly advise the City to agree to another emergency closure due to increasing numbers of visitors and the lack of ranger supervision until the Coastal Development Plan is agreed.”

Seal Club “We have also seen a greater number of pups die from starvation and drowning this year. Last year in November we had 50 surviving pups, this year we have only 34. This level of mortality is higher than found at other rookeries according to leading pinniped experts,” stated Sierra Club Seal Society docent Robyn Davidoff.

Boomer Beach



SD-SEQUEL



San Diegans for Sustainable, Equitable & Quiet Equipment in Landscaping

Group Urges San Diego Air Pollution Control District to Seek Funds to Help

Phase Out Gas-Powered Leaf Blowers

SD-SEQUEL, San Diegans for Sustainable, Equitable, and Quiet Equipment in Landscaping, was formed specifically to seek a transition from gas-powered lawn equipment to electric landscaping equipment. They decided to focus first on the noisy and highly polluting leaf blowers, which not only release a high amount of greenhouse gases that contribute to climate change, but also pose a health hazard to their operators because of toxic air contaminants and noise.

On December 7, 2021, the group urged the San Diego Air Pollution Control District to seek funds from the California Air Resources Board (CARB) to establish a trade-in or buy-back program for gasoline powered leaf blowers.

The California Legislature recently passed AB 1363, which directs CARB to determine when it is feasible to ban all small off-road gasoline engines, and approved a \$30 million budget for CARB to aid in easing the costs of transition. But it could take years to get rid of the existing leaf blowers unless aggressive action is taken. SD-SEQUEL has drafted a proposed ordinance for local cities and the County Board of Supervisors to consider that prohibits the use of gasoline powered leaf blowers, which is the most polluting of landscaping equipment. Under the terms of the current draft, the

prohibition would be effective only after a trade-in and/or buyback program is in effect.

Emissions and noise levels from gas-powered leaf blowers present a threat to public health. Smog-forming emissions from small off-road engines in California will surpass those from passenger vehicles this year. Equipment operators are overexposed to toxic fumes, respiratory irritating fine particulates, and unsafe noise levels at close range. The vibration from gas-powered leaf blowers is also known to cause nerve damage in the hands and arms of operators. Children, older persons and people with hearing disorders or neurological conditions like autism are especially vulnerable.

SD SEQUEL Co-Chair Ron Askeland said: “The health hazards posed by gas-powered leaf blowers are an environmental justice issue for both the equipment operators and our most vulnerable populations. Now is the time to act.”

SD-SEQUEL (<http://sd-sequel.org>), founded in 2021, seeks to protect worker health and the environment by advocating for the enactment of an equitable ban on gas-powered leaf blowers in all jurisdictions of San Diego County. Numerous local environmental, good government, and climate groups joined SD SEQUEL, as well as individuals. Supporters include The League of Women Voters of San Diego, San Diego Sierra Club, Clean Earth 4 Kids, Climate Reality Project-SD Chapter, Electrify Now, SD 350.org, and San Diego Audubon.

Flavored Tobacco Is an Environmental Health Problem

Cynthia Knapp, MPH; San Diego Smoke-Free Project, SAY San Diego

Tobacco product waste continues to be the #1 source of litter, and it is extending far beyond cigarette butts. By eliminating specific tobacco products from store shelves, we will protect our environment.

Vaping devices, also known as e-cigarettes, have dramatically impacted our ecosystem with a double dose of hazardous waste in each device. The liquid nicotine in vapes has been deemed acute hazardous waste, but rarely is disposed of as such. The batteries in the devices are also not known to make it into the proper waste receptacle. Rather, these devices, including Puffbar and JUUL, are found in our waterways, beaches, landfills, and open spaces, leeching their toxic chemicals into our environment.

Who uses e-cigarettes? Young people. Our teens and young adults are heavily targeted by the Tobacco Industry with marketing campaigns including models holding skateboards,

wearing letterman jackets, and slinging backpacks over their shoulders. While the advertising lures them in, it's the flavors that hook them.

Over 90% of teens who start vaping use flavored nicotine. With over 10,000 flavors to choose from, including Unicorn Poop, Pegasus Milk, and Candy King varieties, the kid-friendly flavors seem to know no bounds.

In San Diego Unified School District, over 40% of high school students reported having vaped in 2018. This vaping epidemic is a public health and environmental health crisis.

If we want to get the hazardous waste of e-cigarettes out of our environment, we need to end the sale of flavored tobacco, including e-cigarettes and menthol cigarettes (the cigarette of choice for kids and new smokers).

We know that if young people do not start using tobacco products (e-cigarettes, cigarettes, hookah) until they are 21 years old, they will likely never start at all.

Less tobacco users will equate to less tobacco product waste, and a healthier San Diego.

Get involved by going to SanDiegansVSBigTobacco.org or contacting Cynthia Knapp at cynthia.knapp@SAYsandiego.org

co-founded the Coalition for Sonoran Desert Protection and served on the boards of the San Diego League of Conservation Voters and the Executive, Conservation, and Political committees of the San Diego Sierra Club. David seeks to apply his passion for nature and experience in organization management in support of the Chapter.

Zeynep Ilgaz

I am a firm believer in the Sierra Club's ideals and mission. While ensuring that policy decisions are made with an eye on equity, urgent climate action is critical. I am an immigrant from Turkey and have been living in San Diego for over 20 years. In 2008, I founded Confirm Biosciences, local biotech, which was placed on the Inc 500 Fastest Growing Companies list, having an annual growth rate of over 800% for three years running. In addition, Confirm was listed as the Best Place to Work for four years in a row. I am currently the board member of the Rancho Bernardo Community Council. With this experience under my belt, I firmly believe in bringing business, managerial, and leadership skills to help the chapter. In addition, I am very outspoken and am not afraid to advocate for our issues.

I find immense joy in the natural world; its solitude and beauty offer solace and restores me, and so, the lives of those around me. My activism is rooted in that appreciation and my commitment to preserving it.

Dale Russell

I retired from the military after 24 years of service. In addition to being a chronic volunteer with various organizations, I currently serve as an Associate Professor (Research) at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences and as a Human Factors Engineer for the US Navy where I am responsible for the health and well-being of ~60K Sailors. I have served on executive-level committees in multiple organizations (e.g., at the Pentagon)

and I possess a diverse background, in terms of experience, education and research, which I feel would serve the Sierra Club well given the multifaceted nature of the challenges facing both the organization and the planet. My work has necessitated that I routinely interact with stakeholders at all levels, domestically and internationally, and in and outside of government; for instance, I have served as counsel to senior government officials to develop/maintain collaborative relationships, guide programs, secure funding, and promote efforts to advance projects and policies. I have experience managing budgets in excess of \$100M. Lastly, I am an experienced researcher and astute at authoring government reports and scientific articles. It is my intent to soon retire from Federal service and spend my remaining years working on environmental protection matters pro bono for non-profits and local governmental bodies that lack the resources to conduct their own research; to support this intent, I am currently completing a master's degree in Environmental Sciences

Agatha "Aggie" Wein

Agatha "Aggie" Wein is dedicated to Sierra Club's mission to preserve our lands and habitats, and would bring a great deal of knowledge, experience, and perspective to the Executive Committee. Aggie is a UCSD graduate, now living in OB, she has professional experience as an environmental advocate, as well as leading public engagement efforts on critical climate, energy, and environmental justice issues at the U.S. Dept. of Energy and (currently) California Public Utilities Commission. Aggie joined the Club's Political Committee in 2019, where she now serves as Vice Chair. She led several candidate interview committees in the 2020 election cycle, and is now leading the PolComm's Imperial County subcommittee. Locally, Aggie sees conservation of open space and habitats as San Diego County's #1 issue, and pollution as the top concern in Imperial County. Our region must approach development thoughtfully; Aggie knows Sierra Club is truly grassroots and together we can organize to protect our precious lands for all to enjoy in the future.

If You're Not Using Your Car, Donate It to the San Diego Chapter!

When's the last time you even turned your car on? Rather than continue to let your vehicle sit in sad neglect, donate it to the San Diego Chapter. We'll give it a new home and turn your gift into significant funds for our program and services. We make donating your car, truck, motorcycle, or boat easy, the pick-up is free, and you may even qualify for a tax deduction.

Here's How It Works:

- Call 844-6-SIERRA (844-674-3772) or Complete the Online Donation Form at <https://scfch.careasy.org/index.html>. Our Vehicle Donation Support team is available seven days a week and will be happy to answer any questions you may have.
- Schedule Your Free Pick-up: We arrange to have a licensed tow company pick up your vehicle at a time convenient for you. The vehicle will be taken to one of our many sale locations where it will be sold – all at no cost to you.
- We Receive the Funds and You Could Qualify for a Tax Deduction! Vehicle donations are tax-deductible, and we work to get the highest return per vehicle for us and for your tax benefit. In most cases, when the driver arrives for your tax-deductible gift, you'll be provided with the donation receipt. You will be mailed a thank-you letter within 30 days of the sale of the vehicle, which also serves as a donation tax receipt.

Support the San Diego Chapter today and donate your four wheels

must be separated, which includes HPDE film from LDPE film. Collected in San Diego at grocery stores and other retailers.

#5 Polypropylene (PP), used in caps, some yogurt containers, medicine bottles, and straws, is one of the least recycled post-consumer plastics at a rate of less than 1% nationwide. However, it is collected in San Diego City/County.

#6 Polystyrene (PS) is commonly found as packaging, single-use coffee cups and take-out food containers, and trade-marked as Styrofoam™. Recycling is challenging and expensive because it is low density and on average 98 per cent air. The City of San Diego accepts Styrofoam™ packaging and clean food and drink containers, while San Diego County (EDCO) only accepts large Styrofoam™ blocks used for packaging.

#7 Other Plastics is a catch-all category for plastics that don't fit in #1-6 that includes polycarbonates (PC), multi-resin and mixed plastic items. Examples include eyeglasses, Lego™ bricks and computer keyboards. These products are difficult to recycle conventionally. Not collected in San Diego or anywhere.

Reference:

<https://plasticactioncentre.ca/directory/plastic-by-the-numbers/>

Recycling Resources:

City of San Diego:

<https://www.sandiego.gov/environmental-services/recycling>

San Diego County: <https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/dpw/recycling/RecycleRight.html>

Answers To Other Questions:

Please leave the metal lids on glass jars and bottles.

San Diego County recommends that shredded paper be placed in large, clear (and tied closed) plastic bag. The City of San Diego prefers paper bags, but clear plastic bags are also acceptable. Sorters at the recycling center need to see the shredded paper to pull it off the line and sort it appropriately.

Diversion Of Food Waste From Landfills

Over 30% of the food supply in the United States is discarded. Not only is this a waste of energy and water used to produce and transport food, food is also the largest component taking up space in US landfills. Food waste that goes to landfills creates methane which is a potent greenhouse gas. In January 2022, two new regulations are going into effect.

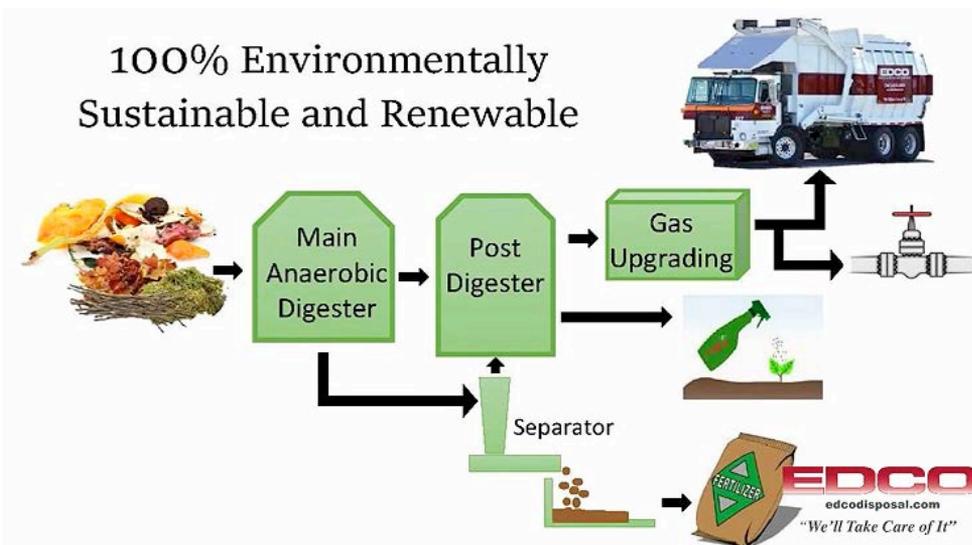
County of San Diego Solid Waste Ordinance 10729 (Article IX, Section 68.591) requires large food generat-

ing businesses to donate surplus edible food to food recovery organizations such as FeedingSanDiego.org. This regulation goes into effect on January 1, 2022 for supermarkets, food service providers, food distributors and wholesale food vendors. January 1, 2024 is the effective date for large restaurants (>250 seats), hotels (>200 rooms), health care facilities (>100 beds) and event venues (>2000 individuals/day).

Many Sierra Club members would like to know more about California SB 1383 which addresses Short-lived climate pollutants: methane emissions: dairy and livestock: organic waste: landfills. Starting in 2022, California will require residents and businesses to recycle organic waste, and all jurisdictions must provide organic waste collection services. Fines for non-compliance go into effect on January 1, 2022, but municipalities may be able to avoid fines by showing a "good faith effort".

EDCO, a Southern California residential and commercial waste disposal company, has been very proactive diverting food waste from landfills. EDCO's residential customers in San Diego County can now put both green waste and food scraps, including meat, into the green EDCO cart. EDCO provides free caddies that are kept in the kitchen to deposit food waste and scraps before taking them out to the green waste cart. The organic wastes are processed in EDCO's new Anerobic Digester facility, which opened in February. The digester turns organic waste into byproducts which can be reused. Solid and liquid byproduct can be used as fertilizer, while the biogas byproduct is refined and used to power EDCO's vehicles.

The City of San Diego currently utilizes a CASP composting system (or Covered Aerated Static Pile) that incorporates air injection and Gore-Tex™ covers at the local Miramar Greenery. This CASP system offers great control over the composting process, providing air circulation and the ability to maintain the proper moisture and oxygen levels to promote efficient and rapid composting. The compost produced from this system is of high quality and low pathogen levels and is free for residents of the City of San Diego.



Sierra Talks

Programs will be live streamed at 7 pm on Sierra Club San Diego Chapter Facebook home page

<https://www.facebook.com/sierraclubsd/>

You can Post questions/comments there during & after the program.

(Video will be at https://www.facebook.com/sierraclubsd/videos/?ref=page_internal)

January 7

The Making of Beauty and the Beast: California Wildflowers and Climate Change

Rob Badger and Nita Winter take you behind the scenes on their 27-year journey photographing wildflowers throughout California and the West.

Photographing these beautiful landscapes

and individual flowers evolved into their documentary art project, *Beauty and the Beast*, focusing on California's amazing plant diversity.

Internationally acclaimed conservation photographers Rob and Nita have been life partners and creative collaborators for more than three decades. Their work has been featured in *Time*, *Mother Jones*, and *Sierra* magazines, the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *San Francisco Chronicle* and the *Los Angeles Times*. They are the recent recipients of the Sierra Club's 2020 Ansel Adams Award for Conservation Photography.

February 4

Anza-Borrego: A Photographic Journey (and more)

Ernie Cowan has been an Outdoor/Nature writer for more than three decades, documenting his observations and travels from the Arctic Circle to the Eastern Sierra. But his true love is the vast expanse of Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. His travels and adventures there resulted in this presentation/book that shares both beautiful images as well as heartfelt impressions of alluring natural treasure. including stories that may inspire



us to seek these wild places. Ernie will also share high-points from his latest publication, "There's a Marmot in My Pack" (Amazon), a collection of his best nature and outdoor columns written over the past decade.

Recently Cowan spent eight years under contract with the State of California to explore, map, and document in photographs the 28,000-acre Carrizo Impact Area. This

remote area of Anza-Borrego Desert State Park has been closed to the public since 1942 when it was designated a military bombing range. It is a unique area of geological,

archeological, and historical significance that hopefully someday can be returned to public use.

March 4

Strength From Nature

Cara Wilson-Granat discusses the natural cycles and animal behaviors that teach us about the special inner

power each person possesses, the importance of learning from difficult moments, and the beauty that can be found in the most unexpected places

and beings. Everything from a scraggly weed to a mighty forest has something to say. She hopes that her work will inspire you to seek out the teachers waiting just outside your door!

Cara is an Author/Storyteller/Inspirational Speaker, TEDx speaker, animal and nature advocate. Her books and talks embrace a universal theme of hope over adversity. In addition to her book "Strength from Nature—Simple Lessons of Life Taught by the Most Unlikely Masters: The Nature Teachers", she is also the author of "Tree of Hope" and "Love, Otto". Cara lives in Colorado with her husband, Peter, and Maine Coon cat, Boo.



#NCG50for50

LIST OF QUALIFIED HIKES IN NORTH COUNTY

NCG 50 HIKE CHALLENGE / JUNE 1, 2021 – MAY 30, 2022



1. Battle Mountain Trail
2. Bernardo Mountain
3. Black Canyon
4. Blue Sky Reserve to Lake Ramona
5. Boden Canyon
6. Buena Vista Park Loop
7. Caballo Trail to Stanley Peak
8. Cedar Creek Falls
9. Clevenger Canyon North
10. Clevenger Canyon South
11. Coast to Crest San Pasqual Valley
12. Daley Ranch - Boulder Loop
13. Daley Ranch - Cougar Pass Trailhead/
Engleman Loop
14. Daley Ranch - Ranch House
15. Del Dios Highlands Preserve Trail
16. Double Peak Trail
17. Elfin Forest Recreational Reserve
18. Ellie Lane Trail
19. Fry Koegel Trail
20. Hellers Bend Preserve
21. Highland Valley Trail
22. Inaja Trail Apple
23. Iron Mountain Trail
24. Lake Hodges - North Shore
25. Lusardi Loop Trail
26. Los Jilgueros
27. Love Valley
28. Lower Doan Valley and French Valley
29. Monserate Mountain Trail
30. Mt Gower Trail
31. Mule Deer Trail to Denk Mountain
32. Mule Hill Trail
33. Observatory Trail Overloop
34. Pamo Valley
35. Paradise Mountain Trail
36. Piedras Pintadas Trailhead
37. Questhaven Road Nature Trail
38. Rancho Guajome
39. Raptor Ridge
40. Santa Fe Valley Trail
41. Santa Margarita County Preserve
42. Santa Ysabel Open Space Preserve East
43. Santa Ysabel Open Space Preserve West
44. Sycamore Canyon Preserve
45. Tooth Rock Trail
46. Twin Peaks Trail
47. Van Damm Mountain
48. Vista Conservancy Nature Trail
49. West Side Road
50. Wilderness Gardens Preserve

Are Fire Districts Increasing Fire Risks?

By George Courser, Chair, Conservation Committee

Peter Andersen, Vice-Chair, Conservation Committee

Ron Askeland, Member, Conservation Committee

Let's be clear: Fire fighters are heroes and we increasingly rely on their skill to protect us from the growing risk of wildfires. Equally clear is that both the City and County of San Diego are at considerable risk for wildfires. Recognizing this risk, Sierra Club San Diego has fought to prevent sprawl development in the heart of State of California designated "Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones." When Sierra Club and other citizens testify at the San Diego City Council and the San Diego Board of Supervisors, we are often met with exceedingly optimistic testimony from local fire officials. These City and County fire officials typically testify that developments do not increase fire risk; that new homes are virtually fireproof; and evacuations from wildfire can be orderly and safe.

Ignitions in the urban wildfire interface.

Cal Fire Director Thom Porter understands the risk of wildfire in the backcountry. Recently in the Sacramento Bee, he stated "You've heard me say this before: Every acre can and will burn someday in this state. Be ready now." Almost all contemporary wildfires in California (95-97%) are caused by humans in the wildland urban interface" Over half of the City of San Diego, and most of San Diego County are located in high or very high fire hazard severity zones.

Fireproof homes

In the recent Thomas fire in Ventura, "fireproof homes" built to the latest state standards burned to the ground. Homes can be made more first resistant; they cannot be fireproof. The best way to limit fire risk is to avoid building homes in highly fire-prone wildfire zones." Despite these recommendations, City and County officials have routinely approved new sprawl developments in high wildfire zones with the blessing of local fire officials.

No Evacuation Plans

San Diego County and City fire officials are also complacent about evacuations during wildfire. Fire officials point to San Diego Firesafe programs, but those are not evacuation plans, they are plans for clearing brush around one's home and other fire safety measures. Local fire officials continue to maintain that phased evacuations are the solution. But this flies in the face of reality. When a wildfire approaches every person hits the road simultaneously, resulting in traffic gridlock. In several California fires, people have burned to death in their cars while trying to evacuate.

Unwarranted Optimism

The bravery and skill of firefighters cannot be doubted. But this very skill and competence may lead to excessively optimistic predictions of wildfire risk and the efficacy of evacuations.

Moreover, a clear conflict of interest exists. County Fire districts are dependent on development fees from new projects for funding. No new development, no funding. Millions of dollars of development money are allocated by the County to firefighting districts if new development is approved in their service area. San Diego County circumvents its responsibility of directly funding fire agencies because FIRE MITIGATION FEE ordinance revenue is only obtained when the County approves new development. If fire agencies oppose development because of excessive wildfire risk, their much needed revenue gets cut off.

San Diegans should be concerned that their safety is being compromised by an outdated County ordinance that raises home prices, covertly increases its tax base, and pushes new development into Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones.

For decades, County Fire Authority officials have approved dangerous new housing developments in areas subject to extreme Santa Ana winds, sometimes on the exact site of previous wildfires. Although antithetical to their mission of fire safety, County Fire Authority officials were witnessed going to great lengths to approve even developments that lacked a secondary emergency evacuation route.

This County ordinance serves as a mutually self-perpetuating revenue enhancing and entitlement scheme between developers and Fire Districts administered by County management. The City of San Diego has a similar conflict of interest, with new fire stations funded by Facilities Benefit Assessments.

Final Analysis

The result of these formularies are that the County and City, fail to provide fire stations for their own Fire Departments without reliance on revenue from new development. The present funding mechanisms hold fire departments hostage to developers and approval of their new developments.

County and City officials need to:

First, stop approving housing in the high wildfire areas of the county.

Second, fund fire districts from general revenues, not development fees. This would dissociate the insidious link between new development and fire officials' optimistic projections on wildfire risk and evacuation potential.

Sierra Club Bus Trips

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

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

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



Save The Date For The Following Tentative Trips: 2022

March 23-27, 2022

Death Valley

April 27-May 1, 2022

Grand Canyon

July 13-17, 2022

Mammoth

August 17-21, 2022

Yosemite

Sept. 28-Oct. 2, 2022

Sedona

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

www.sdsierraclub.org

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CST2087766-40. Registration as a seller of travel does not constitute approval by the State of California.

Locations and dates are subject to change due to permit availability.

Inspiring Connections Outdoors

Bill Tayler
San Diego, ICO Co-Chair



Experiencing a Minor Miracle in Laguna Meadows

by Bill Tayler

“Noooooo! Why would you do that to us?” This was the reaction I received from one girl after telling a group of kids on a recent hike that we were all going to sit in complete silence for 5 minutes on a large shaded flat rock, covered with Kumeyaay grinding morteros and surrounded by tall pine trees, just off the trail in Laguna Meadows. They were not being punished – we were all doing this to be able to listen to the wind in the trees, the birds, and whatever else we could hear. But to those kids – who came to climb rocks and burn off energy – my idea sounded a lot like punishment.

Five minutes went by, and no one made a sound. When I told them it was over, the same girl immediately piped up, but this time with, “I liked that - can we do it again?” And the other kids chimed in with the same request. So we did it for another 5 minutes. And after those 5 minutes ended, the kids wanted to do it again, but I told them that we need to start hiking back. Most of the kids told me how calming and relaxing it was, and all of the things they were able to hear. One boy said that he felt like he could hear better even after it ended because he’d had a break from all the noise.

As we walked the trail, different kids kept asking if we could stop and do it again. So after we did a bit more rock climbing, I took them to a different shaded rock for more. As we all got comfortable, one of the kids asked if I could set the timer for 10

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

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

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

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

minutes this time. The other kids agreed that this was a good idea, so I did. And for 10 minutes, they stayed silent and listened to woodpeckers pecking, birds singing, and wind whistling through the trees. And after 10 minutes, many of them wanted to do it again. Sadly, we didn’t have time to do any more quiet listening that day, but they all said they’d like to do it again on future hikes. And we will be.



Classified Ads

Mount Laguna Home for Sale.

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Writing a book?

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

Classified Ad Rates and Information:

Sierra Club Members (up to 25 words)

Private party

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

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

Non-Members (up to 25 words) Private

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

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

Payment must be made at time of submission

by check to: Sierra Club San Diego

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Send ad to: info@thomascreative.com

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858-569-6005 or scoffice@sierrasd.org

Submission Deadlines for HiSierran Newsletter:

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

April/May/June

Deadline March 1st, 2022

To submit by email, please email to both:

thomascreative2@cox.net

richard.miller@sierraclub.org

Submissions are subject to approval for content and subject matter.



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San Diego, California

92111-1315

Donate online:

<http://sandigosierraclub.org/donate>

Committees & Contact Information

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

CHAPTER STAFF

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

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

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

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Meets 2nd Wednesday 6:30 pm Chapter office
Contact Chair or check website for location

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

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

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

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

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

Zeynep Ilgaz (2023)
zilgaz@zilgaz.com

David Rousseau (2022)
bayparkdr@yahoo.com

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

Agatha Wein (2024)
agathawein@gmail.com

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

NORTH COUNTY COASTAL GROUP (COASTERS)

Contact Chair or check website for meeting information.

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

NORTH COUNTY GROUP (INLAND)

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

Chair: Pam Heatherington
858-524-6979 pjheatherington@gmail.com

COMMITTEES

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

Meets 2nd Monday at 6:30pm
Chair: George Courser 858-231-0156
gcourser@hotmail.com

Transportation

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

Wildlife

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

Zero-Waste

Meets 1st Monday at 6:30 pm
Contact the Committee at
zerowastesdsc@gmail.com

SEAL SOCIETY

For meeting and docent information:

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

POLITICAL COMMITTEE

Meets 4th Thursday at 7:00pm

Chair: Fred Rogers
ferogers@gmail.com

OUTINGS COMMITTEE

Meets quarterly, contact Chair for date and location.

Chair:Chair: Bob Stinton
sd.outchair@gmail.com

Leadership Review & Safety Committee

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

Bus Trips

Mike Fry (858) 248-3630

Chapter Outings Leadership Training (COL)

Stefanie Maio
sd.col.training@gmail.com

Pacific Crest Trail

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

WILDERNESS BASICS COURSE (WBC)

Held annually beginning in January

San Diego

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

Escondido

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

SECTIONS & SOCIAL COMMITTEES

Bicycle

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

Photography

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

INSPIRING CONNECTIONS OUTDOORS (ICO)

Call or check website for meeting information.
www.sandigosierraclub.org
Chair: Bill Tayler, (858) 272-8574
btayler@taylorlaw.com

PROGRAM COMMITTEES

Fundraising/Membership

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

Hi Sierran Newsletter

Managing Editor: Judy Thomas
thomascreative@cox.net

SIERRA TALKS, MONTHLY PROGRAM

1st Friday of every month

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



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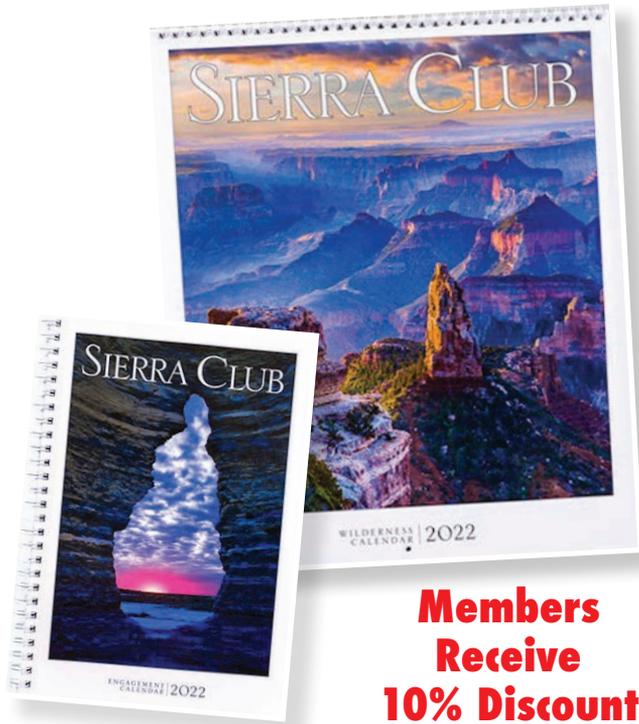


San Diego Chapter

8304 Clairemont Mesa Blvd. #101
 San Diego, CA 92111
On the north side & just west of the 163.
 Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9:00am – 5:00pm
 Phone: 858-569-6005
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