Is a Green New Deal in Store for 2019?

A Green New Deal is a big, bold transformation of the economy to tackle the twin crises of inequality and climate change. It would mobilize vast public resources to help us transition from an economy built on exploitation and fossil fuels to one driven by dignified work and clean energy.

The status quo economy leaves millions behind. While padding the pockets of corporate polluters and billionaires, it exposes working class families, communities of color, and others to stagnant wages, toxic pollution, and dead-end jobs. The climate crisis only magnifies these systemic injustices, as hard-hit communities are hit even harder by storms, droughts, and flooding. Entrenched inequality, meanwhile, exacerbates the climate crisis by depriving frontline communities of the resources needed to adapt and cope.

Climate change and inequality are inextricably linked.

We cannot tackle one without addressing the other.

A Green New Deal would take on both.

To tackle the climate crisis at the speed that justice and science demand, a Green New Deal would upgrade our infrastructure, revitalize our energy system, retrofit our buildings, and restore our ecosystems. In so doing, a Green New Deal would cut climate pollution while creating millions of family-sustaining jobs, expanding access to clean air and water, raising wages, and building climate resilience. To counteract inequality, those benefits would go first and foremost to the working class families and communities of color that have endured the brunt of the fossil fuel economy.

What would a Green New Deal achieve?

- **Millions of family-sustaining jobs**: Whether replacing lead pipes, weatherizing homes, expanding railways, or manufacturing wind turbines, millions of workers will lead the transition to a clean energy economy. The jobs created must be high-road, union jobs: with family-sustaining wages and benefits, safe working conditions, and training and advancement opportunities.

- **Climate sanity**: A Green New Deal would help us swiftly transition to a clean energy economy. By investing in smart grids for renewable energy distribution, encouraging energy-efficient manufacturing, and expanding low-emissions public transit, a Green New Deal would significantly reduce climate pollution.

- **Clean air and water**: A Green New Deal would replace lead pipes, clean up hazardous waste sites, and reduce toxic air and water pollution from oil, gas, and coal. Those benefiting the

Green New Deal continued on page 10
The View from the Chair

Peter Andersen

The last several months have represented some of the biggest victories in Sierra Club history. Despite the most anti-environmental President in US History, San Diego and California have made great strides in protecting and enhancing our environment. We must continue with the victories to improve quality of life and stop climate change which has contributed to horrific fires, sea rise, higher temperatures, and record drought. The deadly and tragic fires were preventable by improving evacuation plans, not building on sensitive land, and arresting climate change that will produce even more devastating disasters in the future. Our hearts go out to those that lost their lives, their homes, and the lives of their loved ones. Even against these depressing developments we have had major achievements.

On the political front the Sierra Club had major successes. Four out of our five endorsed Sierra Club Congressional Candidates were victorious. Mike Levin joins Susan Davis, Scott Peters, and Juan Vargas to comprise the most pro-environmental congressional delegation in San Diego History! Three of our four endorsed State Assembly Candidates were victorious. Tasha Boerner-Horvath joins Todd Gloria and Lorena Gonzalez-Fletcher as a pro-environmental delegation. We elected a pro-environment County Supervisor, Nathan Fletcher. We elected three Sierra Club endorsed San Diego City Council Members, Jen Campbell, Monica Montgomery, and Vivian Moreno. We won races in Carlsbad, Chula Vista, Del Mar, Encinitas, Escondido, Imperial Beach, Lemon Grove, National City, Oceanside, and Solana Beach. See the column by Brian Elliot, our political chair for more on these races.

Perhaps most impressively, Sierra Club San Diego was crucial in helping pass Prop G for San Diego State University West. This win has initiated an era of Sierra Club San Diego supporting smart development and opposing bad development. We continue to oppose projects that contribute to sprawl, increase traffic, destroy sensitive habitats, release Greenhouse gas, and exacerbate the risk of wild fires, including growth in traffic that prevents evacuation during firestorms. We will continue to support infill, green development, affordable housing, development near transit, bike paths, pedestrian friendly communities, and building on already developed land. We do not oppose development, only stupid development. Our role in helping pass SDSU West is a prime example—a project that will create economic expansion, promote new technology, educate our citizens, build a new multiuse stadium, provide housing for students and faculty, build new laboratories and classrooms, and create a river park along the San Diego River, projects open to community input and compliant with the California Environment Quality Act.

At the State level all six Sierra Club candidates won, headed by Governor Gavin Newsome and Attorney General Xavier Becerra. Similarly, the Sierra Club position prevailed on four of five statewide propositions including the defeat of Prop 3, the bogus Water Bond that was a giveaway of taxpayer money to special interests. Again, see Brian Elliott’s column for more on these state victories.

On the legal front Sierra Club San Diego won a series of major court cases against the County of San Diego with Chatten-Brown, our excellent law firm. The Court of Appeals supported our position a 2016 Threshold of Significance to be used by the County was impermissible, and underscored the need for the County to finally adopt an adequate and enforceable Climate Action Plan (CAP). Our challenge to the County’s 2018 CAP is set to go to trial on December 21st. However, in issuing a preliminary injunction against the County, the trial court concluded that the Club has shown only a probability of succeeding on the merits of its argument that offsets for new projects must be obtained in the County, rejecting the County’s plan to allow out of County, state and country offsets that are often unenforceable and may not result in real reductions. The result is that all sprawl developments are on hold from one end of the county to the other until a final decision by the trial court is issued.

The Sierra Club challenged the four projects the County Board of Supervisors approved before the trial court’s injunction was issued

The View continued on page 6
Election Wins and Losses

California State Offices
WIN Governor – Gavin Newsom
WIN Attorney General – Xavier Becerra
WIN State Controller – Betty Yee
WIN Secretary of State – Alex Padilla
WIN Insurance Commissioner – Ricardo Lara
WIN Sup. of Public Instruction – Tony Thurmond

US Representative
WIN 49th Cong. District – Mike Levin
LOSS 50th Cong. District – Ammar Campa-Najjar
WIN 51st Cong. District – Juan Vargas
WIN 52nd Cong. District – Scott Peters
WIN 53rd Cong. District – Susan Davis

State Senate
LOSS 36th District – Marggie Castellano

State Assembly
WIN 76th District – Tasha Boerner Horvath
LOSS 77th District – Sunday Gover
WIN 78th District – Todd Gloria
WIN 80th District – Lorena Gonzalez-Fletcher

San Diego Unified School
WIN District B – Kevin Beiser

Superior Court Judge
WIN Office No. 37 – Matt Brower

San Diego County Board of Supervisors
WIN District 4 – Nathan Fletcher
LOSS District 5 – Michelle Gomez

City of Carlsbad
LOSS Mayor – Cori Schumacher
WIN City Council, Dist 1 – Barbara Hamilton
WIN City Council, District 3 – Priya Bhat-Patel

City of Chula Vista
WIN Mayor – Mary Salas
WIN City Council, District 2 – Jill Galvez

City of Del Mar
WIN City Council – Dwight Worden

City of Encinitas
WIN Mayor – Catherine Blakespear
WIN City Council, District 3 – Jody Hubbard
WIN City Council, District 4 – Joe Mosca

City of Escondido
WIN City Council, District 1 – Consuelo Martinez

City of Imperial Beach
WIN City Council – Ed Spriggs and Paloma Aguirre

City of Lemon Grove
WIN City Council – Jennifer Mendoza

City of National City
WIN City Council – Mona Rios

City of Oceanside
WIN City Council, District 1 – Esther Sanchez
LOSS City Council, District 2 – Larry Kornit

City of San Marcos
LOSS Mayor – Chris Orlando

City of Solana Beach
WIN City Council – Kristi Becker and Kelly Harless

City of San Diego
WIN City Council, District 2 – Jen Campbell
WIN City Council, District 4 – Monica Montgomery
LOSS City Council, District 6 – Tommy Hough
WIN City Council, District 8 – Vivian Moreno

State Ballot Measures:
WIN YES - Proposition 1 – Veterans and Affordable Housing Bond Act of 2018
WIN NO - Proposition 3 – Water Supply and Water Quality Act of 2018
WIN NO - Proposition 6 – Eliminates Recently Enacted Road Repair and Transportation Funding
LOSS YES – Proposition 10 – Affordable Housing Act
WIN YES -Proposition 12 – Prevention of Cruelty to Farm Animals Act

Local Ballot Measures:

County of San Diego
LOSS NO - Measure B – Preserving Balanced Representation in Unincorporated Areas
WIN YES - Measure D – Full Voter Participation Initiative

City of Oceanside
LOSS YES - Measure Y – Save Open Space and Agricultural Resources (SOAR)

City of San Diego
WIN NO - Measure E – Mission Valley – Soccer City Initiative
WIN YES - Measure G – Mission Valley – SDSU West Initiative
By Jodie Van Horn

The Ready For 100 campaign began with an incredible idea: that the United States can be powered by 100% clean, renewable energy. The idea was initially ridiculed. Skeptics said we could never achieve such an ambitious, idealistic vision. We heard every version of “no,” “can’t,” “won’t,” and “shouldn’t.” We were laughed out of rooms.

So we did what anyone with a bold idea and a dream for a better future does: we persisted, and we organized.

Just three years since Ready For 100 launched, we have helped build a strong, diverse movement of residents, businesses, faith leaders, community groups, and city leaders all across the country who are calling for 100% clean energy for 100% of the people.

Today we celebrate a major campaign milestone: 100 cities and towns across the United States have committed to transition to 100% clean, renewable energy for all, as Cincinnati, Ohio joins the ranks of communities ready for 100% as city #100. The momentum that propelled us toward this milestone reflects the breadth of support for clean energy, and the accomplishment of reaching 100 belongs to everyone.

Let me take you back to just after the 2016 election. Communities of all stripes -- red and blue, urban and rural -- stepped up to move toward a healthier, affordable, more equitable energy future on their own. The 100% clean energy movement grew exponentially as community members and local decision-makers joined hands to move their cities to 100%. (Now, people in over 150 cities are working locally to implement clean energy solutions.)

In 2017, after President Trump declared that the U.S. would pull out of the Paris Climate Agreement, the U.S. Conference of Mayors passed an historic measure that showed the world cities in the United States were ready to lead the transition away from fossil fuels. And over 200 mayors joined Mayors for 100% Clean Energy, proving what communities fighting climate disruption knew from the get-go: that national climate action would be led locally.

At the end of 2016, 21 cities had established this goal. By the end of 2017, that number nearly tripled, to 57. And today, as we near the end of 2018, 100 cities have committed to powering themselves entirely with clean and renewable sources of energy such as wind and solar.

In addition to the 100 cities, 11 counties and two states, California and Hawaii, have adopted 100% clean energy goals. That means that one in seven Americans -- 48.7 million people, total -- now lives in a place committed to 100% clean, renewable energy. Altogether, these cities, counties, and states will reduce carbon pollution by 120 million metric tons by repowering themselves with clean energy. This is the equivalent of taking 26 million cars off the road or retiring 30 average coal-fired power plants.

In practice, this means that residents of Cleveland, Ohio are moving beyond coal; communities in Columbia, South Carolina are developing a local solar industry; cities across Florida are building climate resilience on their own terms; residents of San Diego, California will be able to take their electricity into their own hands; people in Minneapolis, Minnesota will have clean air and cheaper energy; and the City of Atlanta, Georgia will be working to relieve energy burdens that affect low-income communities.

Some still ask: why was this -- the goal of creating a 100% renewable energy future that works for everyone that majorities support and makes utilities take note -- the idea that took off?

The answer is that a bold vision for a healthy and affordable energy future -- a solution to address the climate crisis and replace the injustices of the fossil fuel economy with a more equitable and democratic system of energy production -- is undeniably what a majority of Americans want. Even many naysayers have turned into believers.

Communities are wasting no time in realizing this vision. In states like Colorado and Minnesota, where several cities are committed to 100% clean energy within the same utility service territory, renewable energy is a priority that utilities cannot ignore. Responding to demand from Denver, Breckenridge, Minneapolis, and Saint Paul, Xcel Energy just announced it will be 100% carbon-free by 2050 across all of its service territories. And the cooperative utility in the Front Range of Colorado, Platte River Power Authority, is about to set an aggressive target date to get to 100% carbon-free resource mix by 2030, in large part because three of the four communities that the utility serves adopted a goal of 100% renewable electricity.

Voters in Portland, Oregon just created the Portland Clean Energy Community Benefits Initiative, a measure that will require big businesses to fund clean-energy projects that benefit frontline communities and put local residents first as the city meets its 100% goal.

In Southern California, San Diego and cities in Los Angeles and Ventura Counties are pursuing Community Choice Aggregation as a pathway to reach climate and clean energy goals while allowing communities to have greater control over where their energy comes from.

It doesn’t end with these 100 cities. This is just
Sierra Club Bicycle Section 25th Annual Toy Ride

December 8, the Sierra Club Bicycle Section celebrated the holidays by hosting its 25th annual Jingle Bell Toy Ride. Unwrapped toys were delivered to the Salvation Army. Parents served by this agency will wrap and gift the toys to their children who have been naughty or nice. Fern Siegel who was honored in 2016 by Salvation Army for her community work joined us en-route. Fern, long active in the local Sierra Club, has participated in all 25 Jingle Bell Toy rides to date.

New Year’s Resolution:
Enjoy the Outdoors & Hike!

Many of you may be avid hikers and some may be interested in hiking for the first time. Either way, it’s important to take The 10 Essentials with you on a hike no matter the distance to how far from home.

• Navigation (map and compass and now how to use them)
• Sun protection (sunglasses, sunscreen, hat)
• Insulation (extra warm, dry clothing)
• Illumination (headlamp, flashlight)
• First aid kit (ensure that you have a list of nearby medical facilities, know what to do in an emergency)
• Fire starter (matches, lighter)
• Repair kit (knife, tools)
• Nutrition (enough food for the day and extra food if you need to stay the night)
• Hydration (enough water for the day and extra water if you need to stay the night and/or a method to purify water if available)
• Emergency shelter (rain gear, poncho, space blanket)

In addition, it’s a great idea to have an emergency contact if you don’t return from your hike. Tell a reliable family member or friend your hiking plan. Provide them with the following information: who you are hiking with, the location of the trail head, the route you’ll be taking, when you plan to return and what to do if you don’t return. Remember to check in with your emergency contact when you get back to the car and have cell service, as you would hate for your emergency contact to send out a search & rescue team and you’re at a restaurant celebrating the day!

The Sierra Club San Diego Chapter offers a number of free hikes led by qualified trained instructors to a variety of places including our local parks, mountains and deserts for all fitness levels. Check out the outings calendar at: http://sandiegosierraclub.org/get-outdoors/hike/outings-calendar/

100 Cities continued from page 4
the first mile in a marathon fight for a more environmentally, economically and racially just energy system.

From the Sierra Nevada to the Appalachian Mountains, the Great Lakes to the Gulf, communities are united in support of 100% clean energy. We will keep working on it city by city, state by state. As we look to the future of this campaign, we remain #ReadyFor100% clean, renewable energy for all. Are you Ready for 100?

Let your local leaders know you’re ready for 100% clean, renewable energy -- or if your city is one of the 100 that’s already committed, say thanks now!

Jodie Van Horn is the director of Sierra Club’s READY FOR 100 Campaign.
Big News from the North County

There was a lot of hopeful news in the North County region with the results of the 2018 General Election.

- Sierra Club endorsed candidate Consuelo Martinez won her Escondido City Council race in a landslide. Consuelo will bring a strong community voice to Escondido.

- The anti-environment Escondido mayor Sam Abed was replaced by retired Marine Colonel and Palomar College Director Paul “Mac” McNamara. This upset race has many positive ramifications because it will ensure new leadership at the San Diego Association of Governments and the Local Agency Formation Commission as well. Mayor McNamara has already expressed interest in a more visionary climate plan for Escondido.

- San Marcos elected two new progressive leaders. With the election of Maria Nunez and Randy Walton we hope there will be more support for community, environmental, and climate initiatives.

- Community activist Corinna Contreras was narrowly elected to the Vista City Council in a very important change in progressive leadership for that city.

Sierra Club North County Group has formed a new Conservation Committee. Please email conservation@sierraclubncg.org on how to participate or for more information.

The North County Group would like to welcome two new members to the Executive Committee, Angie Butler and Lisa Allen, and welcome back two previous members, Doug Grover and Suzi Sandore.

At the December meeting, the committee installed the following officers:

- Chair - Suzi Sandore
- Vice-Chair - Angie Butler
- Treasurer - Lisa Allen
- Secretary - vacant
- Chapter Representative - Doug Grover
- Political Representative - Amanda Mascia

We are currently seeking a volunteer for the Secretary position, if you are interested or would like more information, please contact Suzi Sandore at hikersuzi16@gmail.com.

Situation in Escondido: The North County Group is fighting against the Newland Sierra project. This giant development on a two lane road is a disaster waiting to happen in a fire prone area that would be gridlocked in a fire, cause everyday gridlock on Interstate 15, and create a new city North of Escondido.

Sierra project. This giant development on a two lane road is a disaster waiting to happen in a fire prone area that would be gridlocked in a fire, cause everyday gridlock on Interstate 15, and create a new city North of Escondido.

- We have vowed to continue fighting for the environment, prevent sprawl development. It would require development where there are adequate roads, transit, schools, and other infrastructure. Anytime a development violates one of the Sierra Club’s Responsible Trade Division in Washington DC, is an active member of Sierra Club San Diego Political Committee who is a welcome addition to a new generation on the Excom. David Hogan, an experienced Sierra and environmental activist, is Director of the Chaparral Lands Conservancy, was formerly with the Center for Biological Diversity, and was a past member of the Sierra Club Executive, Political and Conservation Committees. Amanda Mascia, an experienced marketing and communication professional, who has worked on numerous political campaigns, and is a member of the Democratic Party Central Committee brings a love of nature and a wealth of political experience to the Excom. They bring youth, experience, and enthusiasm to our newly configured Excom. It is a pleasure to serve with them.
Quality of Life Coalition Helping Build a Stronger Community

The San Diego Chapter supports and participates in a number of local coalitions and strives to develop new relations with allies to further our conservation, equity, environmental justice, democracy, labor and other goals. One of these is the Quality of Life Coalition.

The Quality of Life Coalition (QoLC) is a coalition of over two dozen non-profit organizations including environmental, environmental justice, and labor groups throughout the county. The QoLC was founded in 2016 to influence the direction of a SANDAG ballot measure then called the Quality of Life measure. Our attempts to influence the measure were not successful, so the focus shifted to the defeat of Measure A, which would have irresponsibly diverted funding toward highway expansion projects detrimental to public health and the environment. After playing a pivotal role in Measure A’s defeat, the coalition helped with the development and passage of AB805 in 2017, which reforms the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) and requires SANDAG’s Regional Transportation Plan (a regional blueprint for the future of transportation throughout the county) to comply with a number of environmental requirements that decrease pollution and greenhouse gas emissions in an equitable fashion.

Over the next few months, the QoLC will be advocating to ensure SANDAG adopts a 2019 Regional Transportation Plan that provides our region with a cleaner, healthier, more equitable transportation future. In addition, the QoLC is working on habitat preservation at Mission Bay’s De Anza Cove, supporting the development of affordable housing throughout the county, managing stormwater run-off and water quality, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions through climate action plans and other measures. Working together has empowered the Sierra Club and our allies to enact major positive change that would have been impossible to do individually. We look forward to keeping you updated on future efforts at the Quality of Life Coalition as the coalition continues its incredible work on a wide variety of environmental and social issues.

Sierra Club Defends Against Sprawl and Climate Change

by George Courser, Conservation Committee Chair

San Diego County Supervisors, with two now facing term limits, appear desperate to pass projects with defective and unenforceable climate action plans (CAP). Regrettably, instead of placing construction in existing villages, building on to dedicated roads, water and infrastructure, the supervisors have chosen SPRAWL. Built away from jobs, shopping and services, car-centric sprawl creates green house gases (GHG), air pollution, traffic congestion and an increased chance of wildfire.

Sprawl is often identified as bringing living rooms to the edge of wild lands, creating the dangerous Wild lands Urban Interface or WUI. The horrible California Wildfires of 2017 and 2018 are in many cases sprawl projects located in the WUI. In these situations people, property and nature are threatened. Approval of four such projects - all without proper Climate Action Plans - is where Sierra Club was forced to appeal to the Court to prevent any construction prior to settlement of the Climate Action Plan.

As a basic conservation principle, lawsuits and litigation are the very last options Sierra Club considers. Litigation can be a distraction from our goals and is employed in only the most blatant of cases. In order to provide the most thorough vetting, proposed cases are also scrutinized by our National legal staff as well as a panel of Club leaders.

Four particular projects have attempted to “amend” the County’s General Plan of 2011, all having failed climate action plans. Each one attempted to move GHG “offsets” out of the County, depriving County residents of air quality mitigation, leaving residents to deal with increased vehicle miles traveled, added congestion and time in traffic. Harmony Grove South, Valiano and Otay 250 all were approved by the supervisors although all required out-of-County mitigation for the quantity of green house gases the projects would generate. Sierra Club’s legal team of Chatten-Brown & Carstens filed suit in conjunction with the Elfin Forest Harmony Grove Town Council and neighborhood groups who were forced to contend with only a two-lane road for residents to escape a wildfire with their animals.

During this same period Sierra Club returned to court requesting a stay on the County to prevent the projects to begin construction without proper climate action plans. The stay was granted and a preliminary injunction issued to prevent groundbreaking. However the County anxiously approved the notorious Newland Sierra north county project that was to be constructed in the Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone on the site of the previously failed Merriam Mountains project. Now facing an injunction, the County rapidly required that no construction could occur until the climate action plan was settled.

Amazingly, and never before accomplished in the County’s 170-year history, the Golden Door Spa successfully gathered signatures in a referendum against Newland Sierra which further forbids construction until the voters have a chance to weigh in March of 2020. Sierra Club hopes to have guidance on the CAP from the court in very late December or January. In the meantime, we thank everyone for their support and understanding of these important issues that could impact the quality of life in San Diego for decades.
March 8, 2019 @ 6:30pm
Movie: The Garden (2009) 2 hrs
Note: Because of the computer glitch that misinformed Sierra Club members that all seats were taken on August 10, we are showing this film again. This will inform the many people that have not heard of the fate of the community garden. This film tells the story of a huge community garden in one of the country’s most blighted neighborhoods, South Central Los Angeles. Created as a form of healing after the L.A. riots of 1992 by mostly immigrant farmers from Latin America, this urban farm was destroyed, and the land sold to a wealthy developer by the L.A. City Council in a closed-door session. The farmers organized and fought back, to no avail. The Garden raises challenging questions for Americans about liberty, equality, and justice for the poorest and most vulnerable among us.

2nd Friday Movie Night
Note: No Reservations needed, ever!

January 11, 2019 @ 6:30pm
Movie: Dark Money (2018) 1hr 35min
This political thriller examines one of the greatest current threats to American democracy: the influence of untraceable corporate money on our elections and our elected officials. The film follows an intrepid local journalist in Montana working to expose the real-life impacts of the U.S. Supreme Court’s Citizens United decision. Dark Money uncovers the shocking truth of how American elections are bought and sold.

February 8, 2019 @ 6:30pm
Movie: 2 films approximately 70min combined;
The Story of A Forest (2018) & A Darker Shade of Green
REDD Alert and the Future of the Forest (2018)
New York based Global Justice Ecology Project, whose main goal is to stop the spread of genetically modified trees in the U.S. and abroad, has sent us these films. The first one features interviews with scientists and activists who share their insight and expertise on the potential harm of genetically engineered trees on ecosystems, communities, and indigenous people. The second film discusses the dangerous effects of lead on indigenous peoples.

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: sandiegosierraclub.org
Then click on “Get Outdoors”
January 4
On the Edge of Land and Sea

In the Rocky Intertidal Zone at Cabrillo National Monument, one of the most extreme ecosystems on earth, plants and animals are tested every day. From the crashing waves on the shore at high tide to the desiccating wind and sun when the water recedes, this is an environment characterized by stress. If anything is to survive such a barrage of natural pressures, preparation is essential. Some creatures have chosen to hunker down and build strongholds in the form of hard shells and coverings. Others deal with the hazards brought on by predators utilizing claws and spines. Regardless of the tests that arise, those who live in this area have developed tools or “adaptations” for success -- because here passing the test could mean your very survival.

Join Alex Warneke to learn all about the amazing and unique animals that call the Rocky Intertidal home. Alex recently served as a Ranger and Science Communicator for the National Park Service, where she inspired thousands a year to love the watery world. She earned her Master’s degree in chemical ecology from San Diego State University and is a strong proponent of unconventional science communication for extending the broader impacts of science to the general public.

February 1
New Regional Botanical Discoveries, Resources, and Projects

Learn about some of the most recent new plant species found and described in our region, tools for better understanding the local flora, conservation-oriented tasks, and digital projects that include public participation. Much of our recent floristic knowledge and local botanical resources are a result of the San Diego County Plant Atlas project, which was developed by and based at the San Diego Natural History Museum. This multi-year project was designed to improve scientific knowledge of regional plants through better documentation by using volunteers from the community (parabotanists) to properly survey, collect herbarium-quality voucher specimens, and record field data about plants in natural areas throughout the County.

The presenter is Jon P. Rebman, Ph.D. director of the San Diego County Plant Atlas project and Curator of Botany, San Diego Natural History Museum. He is a very active collector of scientific specimens with his personal collections numbering over 34,500. In respect to our region’s extremely rare flora, Jon is currently conducting extensive botanical research via binational collaboration throughout the Baja California peninsula. Hear about the progress on this conservation project and see images of some of these “never been photographed before” plants.

March 1
HELP! San Diego Lifeguards to the Rescue

This presentation is a compelling comprehensive history of lifeguards along the San Diego Coast. It will follow the evolution and acceptance of the need for public safety and the development of agencies to provide that service. In the early pre-lifeguard years, citizens provided the aquatic rescues in bay and ocean. Later, private lifeguards were implemented at bathhouses along the coast, and finally, after a great tragedy, the City’s lifeguard service was created. From the ashes of tragic incidents has grown a dedicated professional service that sees its greatest gift being the ability to save another person’s life.

The presenter is Michael T. Martino who has served in every capacity as a lifeguard with California State Parks, including seasonal lifeguard, lifeguard peace officer, lifeguard supervisor, Public Safety Superintendent, and finally Aquatic Specialist, which is the Chief Lifeguard in the state park system. Michael taught English in San Diego high schools while working seasonally as a lifeguard. He has a Master’s Degree in Rhetoric and the Teaching of Writing and was a report-writing instructor at the CSP’s Peace Officer Academy for over 10 years.
most would be the communities of color and low-income families who today endure disproportionate exposure to toxins.

- **Lower costs**: A Green New Deal would help working class families slash their energy bills and reduce their transit costs by offering more energy-efficient homes, access to affordable wind and solar power, and more reliable options for affordable public transportation.

- **Community resilience**: Communities need greater resources to ensure safety and growth amid rising climate risks. A Green New Deal would help climate-exposed communities build bridges that can withstand floods, restore wetlands that buffer hurricanes, and shield coastslines from sea level rise.

- **Greater racial and economic equity**: The disproportionate benefits of a Green New Deal would go to the working-class families and communities of color that have endured disproportionate economic and environmental hazards for decades. A Green New Deal must counteract systemic racism and economic exploitation by giving hard-hit communities priority access to new job opportunities, cost savings, pollution cleanup projects, and climate resilience initiatives.

### What policies are part of a Green New Deal?

A Green New Deal is not a single law, but a suite of economic policies to deliver better job opportunities, less climate pollution, cleaner air and water, and more resilient communities. Here are three examples.

- **Infrastructure Renewal**: We have a major, job-creating opportunity to repair, upgrade, and expand our country’s neglected roads, bridges, energy grid, and water systems. This is not only a matter of fixing what’s broken—it’s a chance to build a cleaner, more affordable, and more resilient infrastructure system that supports workers and frontline communities for coming generations. Specific projects in a Green New Deal infrastructure overhaul would include: expanding access to light rail and low-emissions public transit, replacing lead pipes, building a smart grid for increased wind and solar power, replacing stormwater systems to prevent flooding and toxic runoff, and restoring wetlands and other natural buffers that protect communities. Each project must fulfill high-road standards:
  - **Create family-sustaining jobs**: Each project should be required to pay workers prevailing wages, hire locally, offer training opportunities, and sign project labor agreements with unions.
  - **Tackle pollution and climate change**: Priority should be given to projects that build resilience or reduce climate and local pollution, and the materials used should be climate-resilient, energy efficient, and produced via clean manufacturing.
  - **Level the playing field**: Priority should be given to projects that benefit low-income families and communities of color, with community benefit agreements used to ensure support for community-defined priorities.
  - **Help communities, not corporations**: This infrastructure transformation should be large in scale, driven by public funds, and spent on public infrastructure, so that tax dollars support the resilience of communities, not the profit margins of CEOs.

- **Weatherize America**: Each time that a homeowner, business, or local government decides to weatherize a building, it supports jobs, slashes energy bills, and cuts climate pollution. A nationwide Green New Deal plan to weatherize buildings from coast to coast would create hundreds of thousands of retrofitting jobs, save families billions of dollars, and move us closer to climate sanity. We could achieve these goals with new national energy efficiency standards for public and private buildings, with public investments to help energy utilities implement the standards. The building weatherization projects enabled by this funding should be required to pay prevailing wages and focus training opportunities in working-class communities. New national standards for more energy-efficient appliances and industrial processes would create even more high-road jobs in manufacturing and engineering, while further cutting energy costs, toxic emissions, and climate pollution.

- **Buy Clean**: Each year the federal government spends billions of our tax dollars to buy goods, from steel for bridges to paper for offices. As part of a Green New Deal, a new “Buy Clean” law would ensure that these government purchases help fuel the transition to a clean energy economy and the creation of good jobs for those who need them most. Buy Clean standards would require, for example, that tax dollars be spent on goods manufactured with clean and efficient practices that protect our air, water, and climate. These standards also would require that government contractors pay family-sustaining wages, hire and train local workers, and locate job opportunities in working-class communities and communities of color.

### Isn’t a Green New Deal pretty hypothetical?

None of this is hypothetical. It’s already happening. From coast to coast, broad local coalitions are leading the way in pushing state-level Green New Deal policies that create good jobs, cut climate and local pollution, and counteract racial and economic inequity. As Donald Trump desperately tries to divide us, unions, environmental groups, and racial justice organizations are joining forces to chart the path for a Green New Deal. Their local successes offer momentum, and a model, for a nationwide mobilization under a new administration. Here are just a few examples:

- **Weatherization in Illinois**: One month after Trump’s election, the Illinois Clean Jobs Coalition succeeded in getting the Future Energy Jobs Act signed into law, after two years of organizing and advocacy by unions, green groups, consumer associations, and environmental justice organizations. Among other things, the law sets new energy efficiency standards and invests in weatherizing buildings across the state. The gains for Illinois offer a glimpse of what a nationwide weatherization plan could offer: the creation of over 7,000 new jobs in the state each year, reduced air and climate pollution, and $4 billion in energy savings for Illinois families, with priority access for low-income households.

- **Buy Clean in California**: In 2017, California enacted a landmark Buy Clean law – the handiwork of a statewide coalition of labor and environmental allies. The law states that when California spends taxpayer dollars on steel, glass, and insulation for infrastructure projects, the state must prioritize companies that limit climate pollution throughout their supply chain. Thanks to the law, California will now leverage its spending to encourage climate-friendly manufacturing and local job creation – a sample of what a much larger, nationwide Buy Clean law could achieve.

- **Infrastructure Renewal in Pittsburgh**: The unions, community groups, and environmental organizations that make up Pittsburgh United’s Clean Rivers Campaign have been pushing for job-creating green infrastructure projects that could drastically reduce flooding in some of Pittsburgh’s vulnerable neighborhoods. They are one of many local coalitions across the country calling for, and often securing, public investments in green spaces to absorb rainwater, replacement of lead pipes, more resilient roads, and other critical infrastructure upgrades. Such fights help lay the groundwork for a national infrastructure renewal plan to simultaneously boost community resilience and create good jobs.
California Invests $50 million in Healthy All-Electric Homes for San Joaquin Valley Communities

By Rachel Golden

Today the California Public Utilities Commission made a landmark decision to bring clean, safe, and affordable energy to over 1,600 low-income households across the San Joaquin Valley. Today’s vote is a tremendous step forward, signalling the large-scale transition from fossil fuels to clean energy happening across California.

In a 4-1 vote, the Commission approved over $50 million for Pacific Gas & Electric, Southern California Edison, and third parties to launch clean energy electrification pilots in eleven communities. These pilot programs will save families roughly $1,500 per year by improving household energy efficiency and replacing fossil fuel-powered appliances (like propane furnaces and water heaters) with advanced electric appliances.

The Commission also approved a much smaller budget of $5.6 million for Southern California Gas to extend gas pipelines and install gas appliances to approximately 200 homes in one community, and to seek financing to extend gas pipelines to two other communities. This is a fraction of the $33 million budget originally proposed by the gas company.

This decision is an important signal of California’s transition from fossil fuels to clean energy.

In total, the pilot programs should ease the energy burden faced by the communities, and also provide valuable data for the Commission, utilities, and stakeholders to design a scalable program that provides healthy, clean energy homes across the Valley. Ultimately, in accordance with the guiding legislation AB 2762, the Commission seeks to improve access to affordable energy for not just the pilot communities, but for the over 170 disadvantaged communities that have for generations relied on costly and polluting propane and wood for heating.

Continued investment and attention is greatly needed in the San Joaquin Valley. The region is home to some of the worst air pollution in the country, with all counties consistently flunking the American Lung Association’s report card. Despite being one of the most agriculturally rich regions in the nation, the San Joaquin Valley experiences record rates of poverty with insufficient infrastructure and services. In cold winters, families do not have access to affordable and safe energy to comfortably heat their homes, and come the summer heat waves, lack of efficient air-conditioning can send energy bills skyrocketing.

The clean energy electrification pilots approved today will improve indoor air quality, lower energy bills, and enhance comfort and climate resiliency with no cost to the residents:

• Unlike gas and propane appliances that produce harmful indoor air pollution, electric appliances can operate efficiently without polluting our homes. It’s important that Valley homes be a respite from the region’s toxic air pollution.

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Seal Society Members and the Seasons in La Jolla

By Ellen Shively

Over the summer, there are many days when the harbor seals are not resting on the sands of Casa Beach. During this “shared use” period, many people enjoy the water. Only as the sun sets, will the seals return for their much needed six to eight hours of rest, warming up and reoxygogenating their tired muscles. Our docents talk about the seals need for the beach, compare their bodies with that of the sea lions just to the north at the Cove and their long history of using this location.

As the winter months arrive, the days get shorter, the air and water colder and fewer people use the beach for recreation other than “seal watching”. It is also the beginning of the “pupping season”. Unlike us, the harbor seals and some other mammals give birth during a “window” of three or so months the same time each year, depending on the availability of prey, optimal water temperatures and, in the case of a popular urban beach, relative safety from human disturbances. Most of the pups at this latitude are born between late January and mid April. Soon, the beach is full of mother-pup bonding, and are voluntarily inseparable. With her rich milk, the pups gain weight quickly, almost doubling their birth weight by the time they are weaned in 6-7 weeks. During this time, the mother must teach basic survival skills if the young are to survive. A month or so later, the mating season begins, and after a six-week resting period, the adult female may be pregnant again.

When there are no seals to watch in the summer, the docents have begun to drift over to the sea lions just a 15-minute walk to the Cove. You can hear the “alpha” males bleating their call to a harem of females, and a territorial declaration. The colony behaviors are often in contrast to the docile harbor seals. They are very active, crawling over each other to reach somewhere. These mothers may nurse for a year or more, but the inseparable bonding is not as evident in the later stages of nursing. This rocky outcrop has little notification warning visitors about safety precautions. We’ve observed visitors approaching the animals as though this were a petting zoo. We try to warn people about the effects of their closeness on bothering the sea lions, but as soon as we leave, another set of visitors repeat the same actions. If you visit these beaches and see any activities which could distress the animals, you may call or email your City Council person. If enough reports of violations of the Marine Mammal Protection Act are submitted, perhaps the Park and Recreation Department would improve the educational signage at this unprotected site.

If you’d like to take the interesting training program we offer, and sign up for 2-3 shifts at the beach per month to protect these animals and help visitors understand the life stages of both of these unique treasures found at our urban beaches, please email me at ellenshively@sbcglobal.net or call 619-479-3412.

Sierra Club Seal Society Docents in La Jolla Christmas Parade
Join fellow Sierra Club members and friends as we venture out to locate gray whales. It will be the height of the grey whale migration along our coast and your opportunity to see whales from afar and up close. Past trips have seen as many as 15 whales.

This is the 11th year that we have offered this chartered trip. The boat is modern, spacious, and comfortable. Unlike other whale watching cruises that only last a few hours and barely get you out of San Diego harbor, we really get out to where the whales are migrating along our shores. We also do not pack you on like sardines; we have a limited number of seats as opposed to hundreds. Bring your cameras and binoculars to make this a memorable whale watching trip.

Cost for Adults is $55 and a Child 6-13 yrs old is $30

Reservations can be made online at https://sierraclubsandiego.mycafecommerce.com by calling 858-569-6005 or by check, made payable to “Sierra Club San Diego” and mailed to: Whale Watching Trip, San Diego Chapter Sierra Club, 8304 Clairemont Mesa Blvd, Ste. 101, San Diego, CA 92111. Please include the name, address, email, and telephone number of each person.

No tickets will be issued.

By making payment you are officially registered and will receive notification and confirmation.

For questions or more information, email scoffice@sierrasd.org or call 858-569-6005.

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George Courser Awarded for Conservation Work

At the annual Sierra Club California summit meeting in November, Chapter Conservation Chair George Courser was awarded the prestigious Sally and Les Reid Award for Conservation. This award recognizes a California conservation activist who has worked tirelessly on behalf of the environment. George currently serves as the Chair of the Chapter Conservation Committee, a board member of the Chapter Executive Committee, a member of Sierra Club California Nevada Regional Conservation Committee, and founder of the environmental justice committees at both Sierra Club San Diego and Sierra Club California.

In nominating George for this award, Chapter Chair Peter Andersen stated, “Over the past decades George has been a leader in dozens of major projects including: several successful lawsuits on the climate action plan for San Diego County, successful opposition to several major San Diego projects that circumvented the California Environmental Quality Act process, positive resolution of the Gregory Canyon Landfill, fighting environmentally dangerous general plan amendments, the fruitful defeat of measures A and B on the ballot in San Diego, and numerous smaller projects and battles. He is active in finding a binational solution to the massive pollution in the Tijuana River that threatens both countries and the Pacific Ocean beaches, leading a lawsuit that fights the bundling of general plan amendments in San Diego, fighting the environmentally destructive border wall, opposing offshore drilling, and fighting for every Californian to have clean and safe drinking water.

Perhaps most importantly, George has been a leader at the state level in expanding and diversifying the club’s membership and impact. He has founded and actively maintains and environmental justice committee and provides weekly newsfeeds both at the local level and state level. These actions are vital in protecting the most impacted Californians by environmental degradations and damage to their health. This is also an important part of Sierra Club’s effort to diversify and include new people in our important environmental coalitions.

I can think of no person more deserving of the Sally and Les Reid Award for Conservation than George Courser.”

Sierra Club California agreed.
Congratulations George.
Three Classic Fall Trips: Yosemite, Joshua Tree and Sedona

This fall, San Diego ICO took students from the Hawking 2 STEAM Charter School on three camping trips that they will remember forever. In September, we spent 5 days in Yosemite: camping in the Valley, hiking the high country, swimming in the Merced River, and watching both the wildlife (even a bear) and the climbers on El Cap. In October, we camped for 3 days in Joshua Tree, rambled around in the Wonderland of Rocks and hiked up Rattlesnake Canyon. And in November, we spent 5 sunny days camping and hiking in Sedona, visiting some of our favorite spots (Fay Canyon, Soldier Pass Arches, Bell Rock, Chicken Point) and exploring a new one (Long Canyon). We all wished each trip could last just a bit longer, and we are all looking forward to what 2019 brings!

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.sandiegosierracclub.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:
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**California Invests continued from page 11**

- The electrification pilots are also expected to lower total energy bills by roughly $1,500 annually. Residents who opt for a controllable heat pump water heater could see even higher savings by heating water during off-peak periods when electricity is lower cost.

- The electrification pilots are also cost-effective when compared with gas, allowing more homes to be served with a lower overall program budget. For example, efficiency upgrades and electrification are estimated to cost $17,000–$35,000 per house, whereas outfitting homes with gas will cost on average $49,000 per home.

- Advanced electric appliances like heat pumps allow residents to efficiently heat and cool their homes. This will improve health and comfort, and help residents weather the temperature swings that will worsen with a changing climate.

The success of this pilot can also be attributed to the sustained participation of Valley communities over the past three years, supported by environmental justice and community groups who have worked to ensure that the proceeding is rooted in the realities and needs of these frontline communities. Continued community engagement and education as well as local workforce development and training will be another marker of the success of the pilot programs.

While many important details remain to be worked out early in 2019, today’s decision is an important signal of California’s transition from fossil fuels to clean energy. From the electric grid, to cars and buses, to inside our homes, California is on the cusp of a pioneering shift to 100% clean energy. It is most appropriate that low-income communities that live in some of the worst pollution in the state, should be prioritized in this movement to clean and affordable energy.

Rachel Golden is a senior campaign representative for the Sierra Club’s My Generation campaign.
Meetings are held at the Sierra Club office or conference room unless otherwise indicated.

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Coordinator: Needed

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Trip Type: Backpack and Bus camp/Day Hikes

August 14-18, 2019
Yosemite
Trip Type: Backpack and Bus camp/Day Hikes

September 18-22, 2019
Big Sur
Trip Type: TBD
Coordinator: Needed

For more information or to register for the above Bus Trips, please visit www.sdsierraclub.org.

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