Chapter & Group Executive Committee Elections Are Underway - VOTE!

A Democratic Sierra Club Demands Grassroots Participation

The annual election for the Chapter’s Executive Committee and the North County and North County Coastal (Coasters) Groups Executive Committees are now underway. Your participation is critical for a strong Chapter. All Chapter members are eligible to vote in the Chapter Executive Committee elections. Please check the ballot instructions to see if you are eligible to vote in the Group Executive Committee elections. Groups are specific geographical areas and not all Chapter members belong to a Group.

This year members will be able to cast their ballots electronically or by using the enclosed paper ballot. If we receive both electronic and paper ballots for the same membership number, only the electronic ballot will be counted.

To Cast Your Ballot Electronically Online, go to: http://sandiegosierraclub.org/vote/ or see page 11 for ballots

Each candidate provides a statement about themselves and their views. You can learn more by asking questions of your group and chapter leadership and other experienced members you know. Then make your choice and cast your vote!

The Chapter membership will elect five (5) Chapter Executive Committee members. The two candidates receiving the highest vote will be elected to three-year terms, the next two with the highest vote will be elected to two-year terms and the fifth highest vote will be elected to a one-year term.

The North County Group membership will elect three (3) Group Executive Committee members to two-year terms. The North County Coastal (Coasters) Group membership will elect five (5) Group Executive Committee members. The four candidates receiving the highest vote will be elected to two-year terms and the fifth highest vote will be elected to a one-year term.

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

In a typical year less than 5% of eligible members vote in the Executive Committee elections. Our grassroots structure is strengthened when our participation is high. Therefore, your participation is needed in the voting process.

VOTING DEADLINE: 3 pm Monday, November 8, 2021

Zeroing In On Zero Waste - Your Questions Answered

In this issue of the HiSierran we’ll be answering questions submitted by two Sierra Club members. 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.

Plastic film recycling

Our first question, submitted by Susan McAllister, is “What should we do with the plastic bags we are accumulating? I am talking about the plastic bags that enclose bread products, produce bags, the outer wrap of individual items, bubble wrap etc.”

Before we discuss recycling, can any of these materials be reduced or avoided (refused)? Reusable shopping and produce bags are widely available and can reduce the amount of single-use plastic you encounter. To avoid plastic bread bags, try a farmer’s market or buying direct from a local bakery. You can avoid single-use produce bags by bagging produce in your own reusable bags or placing produce directly into the cart. If you’re worried about germs but still want to avoid that plastic produce bag, use a produce wash on your veggies and fruits before cooking and eating. For materials like bubble wrap, try reusing it to pack/ship items of your own or offer for free to groups like Buy Nothing, Craigslist and Facebook Marketplace. Reducing and reusing beats recycling!

Zero Waste continued on page 5
September 3, 2021

I went on vacation during the Anthropocene this summer. Come June and the first summer heat waves, I start to crave more northerly cool rivers and foggy coastal forests, places on which I imprinted as a kid from the backseat of my family’s Volkswagen Bug on summer road trips to visit extended family in Oregon. I love southern California’s chaparral shrublands and desert but there comes a time when one needs the humid cellular relief of a cooler and more verdant landscape. So, I lit out for higher and (usually) greener elevations of the eastern Sierras, southern Cascades, and coast ranges to visit a favorite undammed wild river that flows through some of our last old-growth redwood forests.

Have you heard the term Anthropocene? According to Wikipedia, it’s “… a proposed geological epoch dating from the commencement of significant human impact on Earth’s geology and ecosystems, including, but not limited to, anthropogenic climate change.” Meaning in part, modifications to our planetary biosphere by one animal, humans are now so profound that many scientists consider this period to warrant its own named epoch. There’s debate over when it began with some favoring the first nuclear detonation at Trinity. Others point to James Watt’s (not that James Watt) improvements to the steam engine in 1776 that began the Industrial Revolution, spiked humanity’s burning of fossil fuels, and was the true start of human-induced climate change.

Personal experiences and anecdotes are meaningless in science other than to stimulate imagination and inspire serious study. But my own recent vacations have been redolent of the Anthropocene. Last summer, I travelled up the coast, car camping to minimize close human contact during the pandemic and visiting Big Basin State Park in the Santa Cruz Mountains and the South Fork Trinity River in the northern coastal ranges. One week after my trip, anomalous storms of dry lightening stuck throughout northern California triggering several of the largest wildfires in California history and burning through both of my recent camping destinations.

Again this summer, California’s now-largest Dixie Wildfire burned through much of Lassen National Park just a week after my July visit. The air of much of northern California and Oregon is thick with choking smoke. And the Caldor Fire now threatens the community and my recent campground in South Lake Tahoe.

Extreme drought and resulting ever-larger wildfires are routinely cited by scientists as the inevitable result of climate destruction from continuing greenhouse gas emissions. My friend Van Collinsworth recently summarized things perfectly when he wrote, “The 8 largest wildfires in California history burned in the last 4 years. The 2003 record-setting Cedar Fire in SD County is about to fall out of the 10 largest. 17 out of 20 of the largest fires have burned since the Cedar Fire. Fire weather is now more extreme as documented by these massive burns, despite extraordinary advances in suppression resources and technology. Climate action is fire prevention. Denial of fossil fuel combustion as the cause assures ruin.”

Experiencing planetary climate destruction during a fossil-fueled vacation road trip is a trivial and supremely privileged experienced compared to those who have lost their entire communities, livelihood, and even lives to climate change, especially those in poverty and people of color. But it’s still a direct personal experience of climate destruction, made even more incredible and surreal by the knowledge that the worst effects of climate change really got underway, and with effects much more pronounced in the geologically tiny period of time just since my
Organizing our Climate and Labor Movement

By Karl Aldinger - SD Chapter Conservation Organizer & Progressive Workers Union Member

What do most teachers, some electrical workers, and me have in common? One answer is that we're members of a union. Yes, Sierra Club is unionized, and I'm happy to be sharing that with you in this article. Do you know who else is working at signing their first union contracts? Members of 350.org national, the Union of Concerned Scientists, and Greenpeace USA. These are all members of a burgeoning new group called the Progressive Workers Union. We work together to collectively bargain for fair working conditions, secure reasonable salaries, and protect each other when workers' complaints to management aren't being heard. I know that may be a shock to some, but even a bunch of planet saving, environmental-justice-loving workers sometimes need to support each other to keep the workplace the best it can be. This doesn't mean that management isn't also a bunch of planet saving, EJ loving workers too. They are. But power dynamics in any organization can marginalize workers, be it a company, a non-profit, or a learning institution. The union is there to help speak for the workers, inform the workers, be informed by the workers, and bargain with management or even in the case of union trade workers, with signatory contractors.

So I'm in a union, but why tell all of you that? We live in tumultuous times, when discussions and even arguments will flare about minimum wages, what's fair in the workplace, or what does an employer have the right to do or not to do, say or not say to their employees. These aren't just touchy feely issues. Sometimes they mean the difference between a living wage in an industry and people working two jobs but still struggling. Generally, when we have organized labor and collective bargaining, workers are empowered to NOT be walked all over. We're allowed to stand up for better conditions, pay, or equity within our ranks, in regards to our gender, race, or any number of other ways people get marginalized at work. And unions have a long tradition of lifting up wages and benefits for non-unionized workers in the same fields. That is a phenomenon we usually fail to notice until there are no longer any unions in a space, and workers are undergoing serious exploitation.

Ok, so I've established, I think, that unions can be a great thing. So let me talk about some peoples' negative perceptions of what they may think unions actually do. Some believe that unions coddle or protect bad workers. Some believe that unions use their power excessively and will run industries into the ground, demanding more benefits and wages than that industry can actually afford.

To the first concern, I'd say, protecting bad workers sometimes happens but there is no excuse for it, and union members shouldn't stand for or support it. Unions are not there to protect bad workers, and I'd be the first to condemn a union that does that. They do have a role of being a first line of defense for a worker accused, but any reasonable union will also objectively assess each case and decide if a worker deserves protection, for example if they were marginalized and/or have done no wrong. On the other matter of unions overextending their power, yes, there are points in our history where objective parties would agree that union leadership has overstepped fighting for the workers' best interests to the detriment of a company or even an industry. Those are the exceptions, and not the rule.

So what do I think of unions? In my job, in regional coalition efforts, I interact more often with labor organizers, policy leads, or leaders, and not so much with rank-and-file union workers, though I'd say it's more fair to say we all interact in a positive way with union members everyday without even thinking about it. I've found all the union folks I work with to be caring and responsible. They have to be, because they lead or organize at a union. They are peacemakers, advocates, and protectors of their members. When I work with them in coalition they may have two hats on, both advocating for responsible policy about renewable energy, or transportation for example, while at the same time looking out for the best interests of their workers.

I've learned to see union workers as people just like me and you. A union doesn't define you as a person, but for many, being a member of a union can be a really positive influence on their life and career. Unions aren't a scary or tricky thing for me to try to understand. They're just a collection of workers, combined together to help give them a strong voice in the times when they need it. As is the case with our democratic government, some of us participate in the group more than others, but our unity helps keep us connected to a greater cause.

Sometimes, I work on issues where Sierra Club's policy preference or advocacy isn't in complete alignment with the best interests of some union members. I could choose to think of them as opposition. But instead, there is another option I can choose. I can work to understand the position of the union worker, and I can respectfully share my position with union leadership. We can try to find a way to work together. The environmental movement and the labor movement are not two distinct and separate groups of people, though some might try to tell you that's the case. We're all people working towards positive outcomes, towards objectives that matter deeply to us and that are rooted in justice and protection of the vulnerable. We're not, nor have we ever been enemies, except when we let a lack of communication and unwillingness to see the world from each others’ perspectives, make us believe we are enemies.

So why am I telling you all of this? Unions hold great potential to uplift the otherwise marginalized workers in our community now and tomorrow in the changing workforce that the Climate Crisis will require. Union leadership is beholden to union members just like our democratically elected politicians. If we are to have the best chance at protecting our climate, our planet, and each other along the way, that keeping an open mind about union workers and our willingness to work with them is critical. This movement must be strong, and we get there by working to bring everyone along.
**Update On Sierra Club Seal Society Campaigns**

*Ellen Shively, Sierra Club Seal Society*

Two years ago, we were successful in our years’ long efforts to insure greater protection for La Jolla’s harbor seals with the annual closure of Casa Beach to human traffic for the winter pupping season. Visitors can now enjoy the interaction among the members of the colony as they give birth, nurse and nurture their young and use the beach to warm themselves, rest and move freely about.

The group has since brought to light the similar plight of the sea lions at the nearby Boomer Beach and Point La Jolla. The sea lions had been considered a nuisance to coastal businesses with their noise and blamed for causing the odorous ambiance along the cliffs at the Cove. When the city began to spray the rocks, and opened a gate to allow public access to the mammals, the disturbed colony moved over to its current location.

For the past two years, docents have tried our best to educate the public about the unique natural treasure of the sea lion colony. Nowhere else on the CA mainland coast can you see these wild animals this close in an urban setting. The births occur on the rocky outcrop and bluffs, a perfect habitat to protect the pups before they are old enough to safely swim the oceanic waves and currents.

The main problem has been that the public had little guidance on interacting with the animals. Incidents of disturbances, harassment and even cruel behavior occurred. Last Memorial Day weekend’s scene of two sea lion deaths occurring because of thoughtless humans was observed by two of our docents and reported to the press. Within weeks, the City approved the assignment of park rangers and erected new signs admonishing the public to respectfully “Stay Back” from the sea lions birthing place.

The La Jolla Light then published plans to resume the annual 4th of July fireworks traditionally set off within 30 feet of the rookery at Scripps Park. The Sierra Club suggested alternative venues such as “sound and light” shows and using minimal blast noise devices now available. The City of San Diego then determined that a permit from the California Coastal Commission was required due to the proximity of the proposed fireworks to the rookery. This finally culminated in a “temporary closure” of the Point and Beach, effective from August 11 thru September 15. Our question now is, “What next? Will we return to the earlier open beach situation with laissez- faire lack of crowd control? Time will tell, and we will continue to docent and educate anyone who will listen, and lobby decision makers for improved protection for the sea lions of La Jolla.

We continue to press city officials for a long-term management plan and an annual closure so needed during the pupping season. We are in contact with decision makers to bring about the protection for the sea lions for a bit of the coast needed for their wellbeing.

If you go, please view the sea lions from the safety of the surrounding sidewalk. Walking on the Point is uneven, slippery and a health hazard. And the animals do need the space provided by the beach.

To join the docent training program, please contact: ellenshively@sbcglobal.net, or call HP: (619) 479-3412.
Items like plastic bags, bread bags, bubble wrap, air pillows and case wrap CAN be recycled but not in your blue bin. Please return these items to participating stores using the free locator at HYPERLINK “http://www.WasteFreeSD.org” www.WasteFreeSD.org. If these items are placed in your curbside recycling bin, they negatively impact the sorting process, can clog and damage machinery and pose hazards to workers. Plastic bags and other “tanglers” cause shutdowns requiring workers to manually cut out and landfill these materials (as illustrated below).

Recycled plastic film can be made into many useful materials, such as composite lumber for decking and benches or reprocessed into small pellets that can be used to make new products.

California Assembly Bill 1371, which would have established an At-Store Recycling Program for plastic packaging and carry out bags, did not pass in this year’s legislative session. AB-1371 is a priority bill for the CA Sierra Club.

Longer term, the responsibility for plastic pollution needs to shift from the consumer to the producers. According to CalRecycle, “Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), is a strategy to place a shared responsibility for end-of-life product management on producers, and other entities involved in the product chain, instead of the general public; while encouraging product design changes that minimize negative impacts on human health and the environment at every stage of the product’s lifecycle. This allows the costs of processing and disposal to be incorporated into the total cost of a product. It places primary responsibility on the producer, or brand owner, who makes design and marketing decisions.”

The ballot initiative California Recycling and Plastic Pollution Reduction Act was recently certified and will be on the statewide November 2022 ballot. This initiative would place restrictions on the use of single-use plastic packaging and foodware, increase recycling and take-back programs and impose a fee, paid by the producer, of 0.5-1.0 cents on each item. Fee revenues would be used to fund statewide recycling programs (50%), plastic pollution mitigation (30%) and local government programs - with an emphasis on disadvantaged communities (20%).

**Lids and caps - Leave them on or take them off?**

A second Sierra Club member writes “I enjoyed the article in the recent HiSierran regarding recycling. I wish more residents paid attention to what they put in their blue bins!! I have 2 questions that I’d like to pose:

Plastic lids and caps - Do we leave the caps on, or take them off? Same for lids of food containers such as glass jars and coffee canisters.

I often notice non-recyclables in my neighbor’s blue bin (which drives me crazy). At what point is the recycling stream contaminated when non-recyclables are included with recyclables?”

Whenever possible, it is best to avoid single use plastic bottles by going with reusable bottles, such as stainless steel. When you do need to recycle a plastic bottle - leave the cap on. After recyclable materials are sorted and baled at the Material Recovery Facility or MRF, plastic manufacturers buy the plastic bales then wash and grind the bottles into pellets or flakes. Cap material is separated from bottle material during a water bath float/sink process, the cap flakes sink and the bottle flakes float. Both materials can then be recycled into new items. The lids should also be left on other types of containers. If the lids are separated from the containers before the sorting process, they are often lost through the spinning gears of the sorting machinery and may not get recycled.

Leaving the cap on plastic bottles also reduces litter and decreases the terrible effects of plastic lids on wildlife. Plastic pollution kills huge numbers of seabirds, marine mammals and other creatures. Discarded bottle tops and other plastics can be mistaken as food and become trapped in animals’ throats and digestive tracts.

**Non-recyclables in blue bins**

First off, get to know your neighbor before talking to them about what to put in their blue bin. The “why” behind not putting something in the blue bin is important. Once you understand the why, it is easier to do the right thing.

As mentioned earlier, plastic bags and other “tanglers” such as clothing, rope and hoses are major contaminants in the recycling bin. Other materials that do not belong in the blue bin include:

- **Hazardous wastes such as batteries and electronics** - for disposal locations, visit WasteFreeSD.org
- **Organic wastes** - consider composting
- **Diapers, pet waste** - place in the trash
- **Bio-hazardous waste “sharps” such as needles and syringes are prohibited in both the recycling and the trash bin** (see WasteFreeSD.org for disposal)
- **Liquids** - containers need to be empty and dry
- **Scrap metal** - scrap metal recyclers can be found at WasteFreeSD.org

There are different thresholds at which a recycling bin is deemed too contaminated to be serviced as recycling. A contaminated recycling bin can sometimes be salvaged depending on quantity and type of contaminant, whether it is localized and what other materials are in the bin. For example, a few full bottles of used motor oil would technically be a small amount of contamination by percentage. But motor oil is considered a hazardous waste and if the bottles leaked in the recycling bin and contaminated the good recyclables, then the entire recycling bin would need to be landfilled. If the contamination is relatively non-problematic (i.e. food soiled paper, mixed-material items, broken furniture) then the amount of contamination that can be accepted in a recycling bin may be much higher before it is rejected and sent to the landfill.

For more information see: sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/dpw/recycling/RecycleRight.html (county) or sandiego.gov/environmental-services/recycling (city).
Executive Committee Candidates Statements

San Diego Chapter ExComm Candidate Statements

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.

Your appreciated vote will enable me to work with determined dedication to the protection of our beautiful environment.

Rochelle Hancock

Thirty-plus years ago, I learned about the Sierra Club, and knew I wanted to be part of this organization. I’ve been a member for half my life, and I served as the Treasurer of the San Diego Chapter for two years. Now I serve as an interim member of the Executive Committee for the San Diego Chapter. As a child, I learned to love nature spending summers at our cabin in the Colorado mountains. As an adult, I have come to realize that this special world should not be taken for granted. Our planet needs our appreciation, our respect and most of all, our protection from those who would harm and exploit its incredible resources. The Sierra Club is a powerful force and voice in the world. Its size, resources and organizational abilities enable it to address environmental issues on every level, from local to national. I can think of no other organization I would rather be involved in, and so I am running to continue to serve on the Executive Committee. I believe my experience with National office, my understanding of Sierra Club financial processes, and my administrative skills benefit the Chapter.

My professional background is in finance, specifically banking and research grant administration for the University of California and San Diego State University. I live in Ramona with my husband, two horses, four goats, two dogs, two cats, and a turtle.

Agatha 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 (see this election as exhibit A) and together we can organize to protect our precious lands for all to enjoy in the future.

North County Group

Joe Houde

I am passionate about resolving our climate crisis. I am a board member of North County Climate Change Alliance and represent NCCCA at the San Diego Green New Deal Alliance. At SDGNDI I am a member of several committees: Transforming Political Power, Training and Education and JEDI. At SD350 I am a member of the CAP committee. I am also a Climate Reality Leader. In these various roles I make frequent oral and written comments to various government agencies and boards. Professionally I have led seminars in many countries and universities with combined audiences of tens of thousands of adults.

As a long-time Sierra Club member, I have enjoyed trips into the Grand Canyon, the Adirondacks, the Boundary Waters Canoe 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 multi-faceted 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 out 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. It would be my pleasure to serve your and the planet’s interests.

Dale W. Russell, PhD, LLM, MBA

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) in military education and research, which I feel would bring a great deal of experience and leadership skills necessary to support the Executive Committee. In my role as a military officer, I have worked with determined dedication to the mission. While ensuring that policy decisions are made with an eye on critical world should not be taken for granted.

I am a firm believer in the 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. I believe my experience with National office, my understanding of Sierra Club financial processes, and my administrative skills benefit the Chapter.

My professional background is in finance, specifically banking and research grant administration for the University of California and San Diego State University. I live in Ramona with my husband, two horses, four goats, two dogs, two cats, and a turtle.
Candidate Statements continued from page 6

Area, the Atchafalaya Swamp and more. As a member of Outward Bound, I have enjoyed mountaineering in the Rockies, hiking and climbing in Joshua Tree, rafting thru Cataract Canyon and sailing in the Florida Keys. I have also trekked to the base camp at Mount Everest, through the Okavango Delta and rafted on the Zambesi near Victoria Falls. I love being out in nature.

I live in Vista and ask for your vote to join the ExCom for the North County Inland Chapter.

**Alan Geraci**

My journey with the Sierra Club began in college at SUNY Albany (New York). Someone at my campus union hall had a Sierra Club table. He pitched the political and hiking subsets of the Club and I was sold. I became a member and began participating in events and hikes. Jump forward 40 years to my adult life in San Diego. Climate change in my community became the new motivation for me to again get involved. For too long my city and county have been run by developers and I fought for reform. I knew, once again, in order to deliver healthy, safe, affordable neighborhoods for my community, I had to be involved. As a public interest attorney and political candidate, I dedicated my professional life to fighting for environmental betterment: To address the growing need for affordable housing.

To reduce traffic on our streets,

To protect clean air/water and open spaces with an updated Climate Action Plan, I am a former San Diego Deputy City Attorney, I fought developers to protect preserved open space, to establish new open preserves, and fought for clean air and water for the residents of the city of San Diego.

Most important of all, as an Executive Board Member, I will listen to your concerns and I will continue to voice the interests of our Club at public meetings and to ensure our local government addresses the needs of all our neighborhoods.

I ask for your vote and support.

**North County COASTAL**

**Paige DeCino**

I’ve been part of the Carlsbad My Generation Sierra Club team since its inception in 2015. Our team was the driving force in lobbying the city to help form the Community Choice Energy provider, the Clean Energy Alliance, along with Solana Beach and Del Mar which launched earlier this year. Prior to that I taught high school science for more than 20 years after more than a decade of doing lab research in the biomedical field. With my local conservation group, Preserve Calavera, I’ve worked to bring nature closer to people primarily through our California Naturalist certification course and multiple public outreach efforts. I help run our North SD County Watershed Monitoring Program which assesses the health of 3 watersheds in the Carlsbad area. My most current efforts with the Sierra Club focus on working with the SD Building Electrification Coalition to push for a faster path to 100% renewable energy. I’d like to see the Coaster Executive Committee work to aggressively address climate change and do all we can to protect and expand our natural open spaces, both issues I’m actively involved in.

**Barbara Collins**

Since 1993 I’ve been a member of the Sierra Club because I believe in its vision and principles: to enjoy, preserve and protect the planet. Over many years I’ve enjoyed hiking, biking, camping and backpacking to explore and become renewed by Mother Earth. Since 2018, I have been a member of the Coasters Political Endorsements Committee and a Co-chair of the Sierra Club Oceanside Team. I recently began to serve on the Coasters Conservation Committee. I’ve also been an active volunteer with other NGO’s including Brother Benno’s which serves low income families and homeless people in North County. Professionally, I have successfully worked to enact state and local policies to increase residential energy efficiency and sustainability for over 30 years.

Collective action is the most effective ways to bring about the changes needed to respond to the climate crisis and environmental degradation. Participating in the Sierra Club, one of the largest and most recognizable environmental organizations in the country, is a powerful way to take collective action. We need to transition to a clean energy economy. The technology is already here, its cost-effective and readily available. We need to advocate for and enact the policies locally and nationally that will move us toward driving down carbon emissions so we can build a better future. Equally important, we need to build resilience into our communities to withstand the effects of the climate extremes we are already experiencing. We must work collectively within our local communities and on the state and national level to achieve these goals for the planet.

I also believe that Sierra Club must work toward a more equitable, inclusive and just society. We have recognized for a long time that the most vulnerable people with the fewest resources are also the most negatively impacted by bad environmental policies. I support the Sierra Club joining in the public debate that erupted throughout the country in 2020 to examine our history and the current policies that have deprived people of color, women and other minorities from equal rights and an equitable share of our country’s prosperity.

I would be honored to serve on the Coasters ExCom to work for local North Coastal communities that are sustainable and resilient. Thanks for your consideration!

**Harold Sanderfer**

One of my goals as a potential Executive Committee member is to further strengthen the communication and connection between community volunteers and Chapter leadership.

In the winter of 2016, seeking an outlet for the post-election angst in which I was mired, I attended the quarterly meeting of the North County Coastal Group of the San Diego Sierra Club Chapter. At the meeting I volunteered to work with the MyGeneration Group on bringing Community Choice Energy (CCE) to the City of Encinitas. I also volunteered to serve on the Political Committee for the North County Coastal Group. I have been an active Sierra Club member since that time.

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**Permit Application Process Underway for East Otay Mesa Landfill**

*By Stephanie Peck*

A scarcely remembered but destructive land use project in South San Diego County is currently undergoing environmental review pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). In June 2010, county voters approved ballot measure Proposition A, an ordinance which set in motion the authorization to site the East Otay Mesa Recycling Collection Center and Landfill (EOML), a new Class III solid waste landfill, in the East Otay Mesa area of unincorporated San Diego County. The ballot measure was initiated by the project developer and promoted on the argument that the county was going to run out of landfill capacity imminently. Few details were required for the measure to get on the ballot or made available about the planned landfill, and no environmental review or needs assessment accompanied the authorizing measure.

The proposed project would occupy approximately 340 acres of a 450-acre site in the Otay Mountain foothills, just west of the Otay Mountain Wilderness, east of the Otay Crossings Commerce Park, and one-quarter mile north of the Mexican border.

The San Diego County Board of Supervisors is not the permitting authority for solid waste landfills. The county’s Solid Waste Local Enforcement Agency (LEA), in concurrence with the California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle), approves solid waste facility permits. The LEA becomes the “lead agency” for the project permit process. The county would typically have authority over local condition permitting, such as the applicable Major Use Permit. However, Proposition A was structured to give the project proponent local land use approvals which normally would require Board of Supervisors action:

- the General Plan was amended to designate the EOML site as Public/Semi-Public with a Solid Waste Facility Designator
- all applicable County sub-regional and community plans and maps were amended with the General Plan amendment
- the County Zoning Ordinance was amended to change the zoning to Solid Waste Facility
- the landfill was “hard-wired” into the County Integrated Waste Management Plan by amending the Siting Element of the CIWMP to add the site as a disposal location

As a result of how the initiative was structured, the Board of Supervisors does not have legislative authority over the project, and the project developer is not required to obtain a Zoning Designation Change or Major Use Permit. Building and grading permits must still be obtained from the county, and the project proponent will need to obtain numerous federal, state and other local permits and approvals for landfill development and operations. The applicant must meet all requirements of the Solid Waste Facility Permit (SWFP) including evidence of CEQA compliance, and a Final, Certified EIR is required before CalRecycle reviews and decides on concurrence.

It is expected the proposed landfill will have significant environmental, ecological, biological, public health, and community impacts to the East Otay Mesa region and border area. The landfill will have significant adverse and irreversible impacts on endangered species, wildlife, habitat, air quality, land use, water quality, GHG emissions, noise pollution, traffic and aesthetics. The natural landscape in and around the Otay Mountain area is at risk and needs to be protected. The area is host to numerous endangered, threatened and sensitive species, plants and habitat including the Quino Checkerspot Butterfly, Western Burrowing Owl, Golden Eagle, and Coastal California Gnatcatcher, Otay Tarplant, Variegated Dudleya, Dunn’s Mariposa Lily, San Diego Barrel Cactus, San Diego Marsh Elder, Tecate Cypress, Mule Fat Scrub, Coastal Sage Scrub, Southern Mixed Chaparral, Chamise Chaparral, and Grasslands. Issues of concern include wildlife migration, connectivity and corridor linkages; impacts to critical habitat; impacts to air and water quality; and GHG and methane emissions.

Environmental justice issues are present, not only in siting a landfill in an already environmentally-burdened part of the county and non-attainment air basin but also in the landfill’s proximity to the US/Mexico border. Several cooperative agreements, Sub Area Plan policies, and collaborative programs are in place that speak to avoiding or precluding pollution generating or harmful industries being located near the Mexican border. As well, there are Border Patrol safety and operation issues that need to be identified and evaluated.

Eleven years later, the county has exceeded initial waste diversion goals and is proactively implementing programs and policies to meet local and state targets for waste diversion and reduction of methane emissions from landfills, including to fulfill requirements of state legislation SB 1383, AB 341, and AB 1826. The Board of Supervisors is advancing a bold vision to prioritize sustainability, climate action, conservation of open space and environmental justice. The question of landfill capacity is not at issue, and the social and political culture is moving in the direction of achieving zero waste rather than the development of new landfills.

Though the applicant began the initial technical studies for the draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) following the issuance in 2011 the Notice of Preparation, the permit application process has moved slowly. The project was tied up for a few years in a federal lawsuit over San Diego and Riverside Fairy Shrimp issues on the property. In May 2019, the County of San Diego Department of Public Works began coordination of the CEQA preparation on behalf of the LEA. Presently, the county is coordinating with applicant consultants in the preparation of the technical studies and EIR chapters, and a definitive project timeline has not been issued. Completion of the draft EIR may be within the next year.

Sierra Club San Diego has taken a position to oppose the East Otay Mesa Landfill and will keep its membership apprised about the project. The project is being monitored by a growing coalition Protect Otay Foothills. Community concerns and opposition will need to be voiced as the permit application is reviewed. To learn more and get involved, visit http://protectotayfoothills.org, and contact Protect Otay Foothills at info@ProtectOtayFoothills.org.
October 1
The San Diego River Park

Along the San Diego River’s 52 mile length, the river runs through a diversity of communities, pristine habitats, and urban areas -- from the mountains of Julian, CA to the Pacific Ocean at Ocean Beach. The San Diego River Park Foundation is a nonprofit organization dedicated to creating a better future for the River. The presentation by Sarah Hutmacher will share efforts to engage the community to protect and enhance wildlands and natural spaces. You will get an inside peek at research and conservation efforts related to large mammals like mountain lions and badgers, small mammals like bats, aquatic species like rainbow trout and newts, majestic endangered oaks, all the way down to tiny invertebrates, and efforts to conserve the habitats on which they depend.

Sarah Hutmacher is the Chief Associate Director of the San Diego River Park Foundation, having joined the team in 2008. Sarah has a background in Environmental Policy, and oversees the trash-free river program, land management program, and research program.

November 5
San Diego’s Wild Parrot Rescue

You will learn about the colorful parrots and the SoCal Parrot (SCP), a 501c3 nonprofit in Jamul, that rescues and rehabilitates wild parrots from all over Southern California -- the only organization in the region working exclusively with wild, naturalized parrots. It bridges the care gap that naturalized parrots fall into because they are neither native wildlife nor truly domestic. In addition to daily rescue work, SCP advocates for wild parrots by participating in community outreach and educational programs.

Presenters: Brooke Durham is the Director and Co-Founder of SoCal Parrot inspired by a pair of naturalized nestling wild Amazon parrot chicks. Brooke is an advocate for wild parrot conservation across the globe. Sarah Mansfield, Operations Manager at SoCal Parrot, who promotes the SCP mission to provide the best care to all of the parrots rescued and ensure they can be successfully released back into the urban wild to continue living their lives flying wild and free.

December 3
California Indian Basketry: Ikons of the Florescence*

The North American Indian tribes produced many of the finest baskets. And of these, the ones woven by several of the tribes located in Central California and Western Nevada are considered perhaps the best of the best, true art masterpieces with both artistic as well as symbolic markings. In this presentation, many of these wonderful baskets will be illustrated and the truly outstanding artisans who created them celebrated. Also beautiful baskets from the same period, but whose weaver is unknown will be identified. *Will be defined.

The presenters are: Wayne A. Thompson a recognized expert in the study of masterpieces of Native American California and Arizona coiled baskets, and is often consulted by museums, collectors, dealers, and academics. And Eugene S. Meieran, who graduated from MIT in Materials Science (ScD), author of numerous articles, and is an avid collector of Pueblo ceramic art.
The work with the MyGeneration Group contributed in part to Encinitas joining San Diego Community Power as one of the five founding members. Our work included meeting with elected officials, speaking at public meetings, tabling at community events and gathering signatures of support for CCE from the public.

In 2016, with the Political Committee I was involved in the efforts to screen, interview and recommend several successful candidates in the five north county beach cities, candidates for state office races and congressional races. Most of the endorsed candidates were successful in their election races. In 2019 I became chair of the Political Committee. For the 2020 our team vetted dozens of candidates, revised candidate questionnaires, interviewed selected candidates and made recommendations for Sierra Club endorsement.

Mark Jenne
In 1981 the Sierra Club caught my eye as the best way to work against the anti-environmental bias of the Reagan administration, and I’ve been a member ever since. During that time the ability of local groups to affect issues that impact our daily lives has become clear. Along those lines, I’d like to see the North County Coastal Group help preserve the functional, natural beauty of our large and small wild areas, help people find ways to experience nature often, and help elect responsible people to public office.

Amelie Catheline
As we face many environmental challenges including climate change and biodiversity loss, I demonstrate my passion for nature in my professional and personal activities. I have been the President of the Solana Beach Eco Rotary Club in 2019-2020 and I keep volunteering for Rotary International by helping other clubs in our region to implement environmental projects. Overall, I am particularly interested in identifying opportunities to promote water conservation, food security, and zero waste.

Since becoming a Sierra Club member in 2017, I have been volunteering my time with the North County Coastal Group, as a member of the Executive Committee. I have helped make connection with our coastal communities and local organizations to provide outreach to our members and promote the overall mission of the Sierra Club to explore, enjoy and protect the planet. I look forward to continuing this effort. Thank you for your consideration.

Chapter & Group Executive Committee Ballot Instructions

This year we are offering members the ability to cast their ballot(s) online.

All Chapter members are eligible to vote in the Chapter Executive Committee election. Where you live determines if you can vote in the Group Executive Committee election. If you do not live in one of the Group cities listed below, you are NOT eligible to vote in the Group elections. If you live outside of a Group city, but have opted to be a member of a different Group, please vote in that Group’s election

If you live in these cities, please vote in the North County Group election!
Bonsall, Escondido, Fallbrook, Oceanside zip code 92058, Pala, Palomar Mtn., Pauma Valley, Poway, Ramona, San Diego zip codes 92127, 92128 & 92198, San Marcos, Santa Ysabel, Vista, and Valley Center.

If you live in these cities, please vote in the North County Coastal (Coasters) Group election!
Cardiff, Carlsbad, Del Mar, Encinitas, Oceanside zip codes 92052, 92054, 92056 & 92057, Rancho Santa Fe, and Solana Beach.

Do I have a Single or Joint membership? The mailing label on this newsletter will indicate whether your household has a single (“SNGL”) or joint (“JNT”) membership. This will be found above your name and before your 8-digit membership number.

Examples:
JNT 12345678 = Joint membership, Membership number (8-digits).
SNGL 12345678 = Single membership, Membership number (8-digits).

How to Vote:
ONLINE: go to http://sandiegosierraclub.org/vote/
BY MAIL:
You must write your membership number on the outside of your mailing envelope (below your return address is a good place). Your membership number is required for your vote to count (this is how the election committees can verify that you are a member). Your membership number is the eight (8) digit number that appears above your name and mailing address.

Executive Committee Candidate Statements can be viewed at http://sandiegosierraclub.org/executive-committee-candidate-statements/

Problems or questions? Please email the Chapter office at scoffice@sierrasd.org or call 858-569-6005.
Do I have a Single or Joint membership? The mailing label on this newsletter will indicate whether your household has a single ("SNGL") or joint ("JNT") membership. This will be found above your name and before your 8-digit membership number.

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Executive Committee Candidate Statements can be viewed on page 6

Problems or questions? Please email the Chapter office at scooffice@sierrasd.org or call 858-569-6005.

All ballots must be received by 3 p.m., Monday, November 8, 2021.
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 28-May 1, 2022
Grand Canyon

July 13-17, 2022
Sequoia/Kings Canyon

August 17-21, 2022
Yosemite

Sept. 28-Oct. 2, 2022
Sedona

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

www.sdsierraclub.org.

Like us on Facebook

CST2087766-40. Registration as a seller of travel does not constitute approval by the State of California. Locations and dates are subject to change due to permit availability.
Inspiring Connections Outdoors

Bill Tayler
San Diego, ICO Co-Chair

Restarting ICO Trips With a Hike to Annie’s Canyon and Cardiff State Beach

by Bill Tayler

It had been nearly 15 months since our last ICO outing when, on a beautiful September morning, we took a group of 12 students from Hawking STEAM Charter School on our first ICO hike since COVID put us into a shutdown. We hiked up a short and easy trail on the south side of San Elijo Lagoon, pausing a few times to take in the views and to watch fish and crabs in the water, until we reached Annie’s Canyon. The kids loved working their way up the narrow slot (even though a few of them found it a bit scary), and most wanted to climb through it again. But the ocean beckoned. So after taking in the lagoon and ocean views from the top of Annie’s Canyon, we hiked back down the lagoon, crossed over the PCH, and made our way to Cardiff State Beach. The kids spent the next hour or so happily playing in the waves and relaxing on the beach. Everyone – kids and adults – had a wonderful day, and I think we all felt very happy to be back doing ICO outings!
Mount Laguna Home for Sale.
Unique, modern, solar home surrounded by National Forest in beautiful Noble Canyon. 1300 sq ft, pure well water, and views! hoganhomestead@gmail.com

Save Trees-Opt Out Of The HiSierran Paper Edition
Enjoy The Full Color Online Edition
It is very expensive to mail hard copies of the HiSierran! Would you rather get yours online and help save trees and save money for conservation? We can email you when a new copy is posted online with a link.
We PROMISE we will NOT share your email. If you would like to get the HiSierran online, contact the Chapter office: 858-569-6005 or scoffe@sierrasd.org

Submit an advertisement, story or article please remember these important deadlines: Upcoming Issues:
October/November/December Deadline September 1st, 2021

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.

View from the Chair continued from page 2

classified Ads
Mount Laguna Home for Sale.
Unique, modern, solar home surrounded by National Forest in beautiful Noble Canyon. 1300 sq ft, pure well water, and views! hoganhomestead@gmail.com

classified Ad Rates and Information:
Sierra Club Members (up to 25 words)
Private party $10 + $.50 per additional word.
Business-$15 + $.50 per additional word.
Non-Members (up to 25 words) Private party-$15 + $.50 per additional word.
Business-$20 + $.50 per additional word.
Payment must be made at time of submission
by check to: Sierra Club San Diego 8304 Clairemont Mesa Blvd. #101 San Diego, CA 92111
Send ad to: info@thomascreative.com

Statement of Ownership, Management and Circulation (USPS Form 3526)
United States Postal Service Form 3526 (Oct/Nov/Dec 2021)

Statement of Ownership, Management and Circulation
1. Publication Title: Hi Sierran
2. Publication Number: 896140
3. Filing Date: October 1, 2021
4. Issue Frequency: Tri-Monthly
5. Number of Issues Published Annually: 4
6. Annual Subscription Price: $12
7. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarter of Publisher:
   8304 Clairemont Mesa Blvd. #101, San Diego, CA 92111
8. Complete Mailing Address of Publisher,
   Editor & Managing Editor: Same as above.
9. Editor Name and Mailing Address: Judy Thomas c/o Sierra Club San Diego 8304 Clairemont Mesa Blvd. #101 San Diego, CA 92111
10. Owner: Sierra Club San Diego Imperial County Chapter 8304 Clairemont Mesa Blvd. #101 San Diego, CA 92111
11. Known Bondholders, Mortgages and Other Security Holders Owning or Holding 1 Percent or More of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages or Other Securities: NONE
12. Tax Status: Has Not Changed During Preceding 12 Months.
13. Publication Title: Hi Sierran
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view from the Chair continued from page 2

childhood family trips in the Volkswagen and almost the exact period of my 52-year lifetime.

My favorite emerald green river and nearby redwood forest haven’t burned recently, but I still take a hard look with love each time I depart in case the view is my last before they are inevitably and radically changed in the remainder of my lifetime.

Yet this is no cause for despair and inaction. Smaller personal lifestyle changes aren’t going to be effective in addressing the exponentially larger contributions to destruction of our precious Earth by corporate villains and their political pawns. But imagine the incredible outcome if each of us took on just one cause, one issue that touches your heart on which you can make a difference in reducing the worst effects of the Anthropocene.

This is my last column before I step down from the Sierra Club San Diego Executive Committee. Thank you to our membership for the honor of electing me to Excom, to a great Excom team, and to staff for their incredible work and support. Please consider how you can engage in Sierra Club leadership and activism as a means to make your personal contribution to creating a better world.
CHAPTER STAFF

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

Administrative Assistant: Marty Marquez
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Conservation Organizer: Karl Aldinger
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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Meets 2nd Wednesday 6:30 pm Chapter office
Chair: David Hogan (2021)
760-809-9244
hogansierraclub@gmail.com

Vice-Chair: Lisa Ross (2020 to 2023)
lisa@lisaross.com
www.lisaross.com

Secretary: Amanda Mascia (2021)
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amandamascia77@gmail.com

North County Group Rep.
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North County Coastal Group Rep.
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kmdavidson910@gmail.com

Rochelle Hancock (2021)
rae_1024@yahoo.com

Fred Rogers (2021)
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ferogers@gmail.com

David Rousseau (2022)
bayparkdr@yahoo.com

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

COMMITTEES

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

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

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

Transportation
David Grubb 760-753-0273
DavidGrubb@sbcglobal.net

Wildlife
Renee Owens 619-201-1965
reneewildlifzone.net

Zero-Waste
Contact the Committee at zerowastedsc@gmail.com

SEAL SOCIETY

For meeting and docent information:
Ellen Shively
ellenshively@sbcglobal.net

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: 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
SDSPCTS@yahoo.com

WILDERNESS BASICS COURSE (WBC)
Held annually beginning in January
San Diego
Bryan Pray
info@wildernessbasics.com
www.wildernessbasics.com

Escondido
Kelly Conrad
slhypup@gmail.com
www.wbc.sierraclubncg.org

SECTIONS & SOCIAL COMMITTEES

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

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

INSPIRING CONNECTIONS OUTDOORS

(ICO)
Call or check website for meeting information.
www.sandiegosierraclub.org
Chair: Bill Tayler, (858) 272-8574
btayler@taylerlaw.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

If you have named Sierra Club or your Chapter as a beneficiary or would like to discuss doing so, please contact us today.

LORI SULLIVAN
Director of Gift Planning
2101 Webster St, Suite 1300
Oakland, CA 94612

(800) 932-4270
gift.planning@sierraclub.org
myplan.sierraclub.org

WHAT WILL YOUR LEGACY BE?

Ensure your environmental legacy by naming Sierra Club or your favorite Sierra Club Chapter in your will or trust. These gifts cost you nothing now. You can hold on to your assets for as long as you need them and you can change your beneficiaries at any time.
2022 SIERRA CLUB CALENDARS
Save on shipping costs! Both calendar styles are available for purchase in the Chapter office. Just give us a call to make sure someone can help you at 858-569-6005, Monday - Friday, 9am-5pm.

Cotton Canvas 1892 Retro Sierra Club Rucksack
Sale Price: $21.50

E-conscious organic/recycled ball cap with John Muir silhouette and Sierra Club San Diego.
Price: $20.00
Emerald Forest color cap with oyster colored stitching.

Check out just some of our Sierra Club products at a great price:
http://donate.sierrasd.org/products

Members Receive 10% Discount

ORDER FORM

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Sales Tax 7.75%
Shipping: $4.50 for first calendar and $1.50 for each additional calendar. Please make checks payable to “Sierra Club San Diego” and mail to: Sierra Club San Diego, 8304 Clairemont Mesa Blvd, Ste # 101, San Diego, CA 92111. Save shipping costs by picking up at our office.

To pay by credit card go to http://donate.sierrasd.org/ or call 858-569-6005

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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
www.sandiegosierraclub.org