

# Sierra Club San Diego Chapter HISIERRAN Serving San Diego And Imperial Counties

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Visit our website at: www.sandiegosierraclub.org

October/November/December 2022

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# Chapter & Group Executive Committee Elections are Underway - VOTE!

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### 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: sandiegosierraclub.org/vote/

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 three (3) Chapter Executive Committee members. The two candidates receiving the highest vote will be elected to three-year terms, the next candidate with the 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 three (3) Group Executive Committee members to two-year terms.

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 7, 2022.



# The Ten Pathways to 30 by 30

Since the California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) back in April released their final "Pathways to 30x30" blueprint for how

California will achieve the ambitious goal of protecting 30% of our lands and waters by 2030, our Sierra Club CA 30x30 Task Force is moving to the next phase of our campaign: how we will influence implementation of the state's 30x30 plan toward the strongest protection possible.

To understand better how CNRA wants to proceed on implementation, our 30 by 30 task force is taking a close look at the "Ten

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# Election Day is November 8th

Make Sure To Vote and Get Your Voice Heard! See Page 3 for Voting Guide!

Explore, Enjoy and Protect the Planet

# Hisierran

### Explore, Enjoy and Protect the Planet

### Sierra Club San Diego Chapter

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

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

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

Advertising thomascreative@cox.net

Meetings and Activities www.sandiegsierraclub.org

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### Election Season Is A Very Busy Time At Sierra Club.

Thanks to the hard work of our political committee teams, this year we have endorsed candidates in a record number of down-ballot races, mirroring the national club's commitment to widening environmental protection leadership at all government levels.

On the national level, Sierra Club is investing resources into four targeted state-wide and local races, backing pro-environment candidates in Arizona, Nevada, Minnesota, and Michigan. If this pilot strategy works, we look forward to similar efforts expanding to other states in 2024.

And so, this quarterly High Sierran is an action-packed voter guide for San Diego voters supporting environmental values. While there is no need to remind Sierra Club members to vote the entire ballot, please encourage friends, family, and neighbors to do so likewise. We are proud that so many candidates sought the Sierra Club endorsement in San Diego this cycle, reflecting the depth of the county's citizen interest in environmental issues.

Our candidates have answered detailed questions about their commitment to supporting, enforcing, and introducing legislation on climate action, open space habitat protection, transportation, smart growth, and environmental justice. Importantly, they have pledged to maintain open-door communications with the Sierra Club once in office.

There will most likely be more endorsements that didn't make it in time for this print edition as our political committee continues to interview candidates. Please check out our website for the



### Lisa Ross

most up to date list of endorsements, sandiegosierraclub.org/get-involved/ political/.

With the Chapter's recommendations, they have received the blessing of the entire Sierra Club national network.

On a somber note, we at Sierra Club are mourning the loss of the longest-serving California Coastal Commissioner, Sarah Wan, who epitomized environmental leadership over her 16 years on the Commission and 40 years of activism on behalf of protection and public access to the nation's third longest coastline.

Generous with her time, San Diego County environmentalists appreciated her expert help on a variety of issues before and after leaving the Commission. And she was a fearless believer in transparency by government decision-makers.

Sierra Club San Diego North County Group Chair Pam Heatherington, along with hundreds of future coastal protection champions, proudly points to her initiation into organizing in Wan's training sessions many years ago. She says her activism and mentorship of others today is still inspired and informed by Wan.

We can honor Sarah Wan by re-electing proven environmental legislative representatives and electing new future leaders. Walk precincts, contribute dollars, post signs in your yard and help get out the vote. Links to each campaign can be found in the High Sierran.

Non tax-deductible contributions to our Sierra Club Chapter helps to fund our political program and help us turn out the environmental vote http://sandiegosierraclub.org/donate/.

Thank you for your membership. Vote Green.

# 2022 General Election Candidate, Proposition and Measure Endorsements — November 8, 2022

### U.S. Senate

Alex Padilla

### U. S. Representative

49th Cong. District – Mike Levin 52nd Cong. District – Juan Vargas 53rd Cong. District – Sara Jacobs

### State of California

Secretary of State – Dr. Shirley Weber Attorney General – Rob Bonta Lieutenant Governor – Eleni Kounalakis Insurance Commissioner – Ricardo Lara Superintendent of Public Instruction – Tony Thurmond

### State Senate

18th District – Steve Padilla 38th District – Catherine Blakespear

### State Assembly

74th District – Chris Duncan 77th District – Tasha Boerner-Horvath 79th District – Akilah Weber 80th District – Georgette Gomez

### San Dieguito Union High School District

Trustee Area 1 - Rimga Viskanta Trustee Area 3 - Jane Lea Smith

### County of San Diego

Board of Supervisors, District 4 – Nathan Fletcher Board of Supervisors, District 5 – Tiffany-Boyd Hodgson

### **City of Carlsbad**

City Council, District 1 – Sam Ward City Council, District 3 – Priya Bhat-Patel

### City of Del Mar

City Council – Dwight Worden City Council – Terry Gaasterland

### **City of Encinitas**

Mayor – Tony Krantz City Council, District 3 – Joy Lyndes

### **City of Escondido**

City Council, District 1 – Consuelo Martinez City Council, District 2 – Jeff Griffith

### **City Of Imperial Beach**

Mayor – Paloma Aguirre City Council, District 3 – Anna Webb

### **City of Oceanside**

City Council, District 1 – Eric Joyce City Council, District 2 – Dan Dominguez

### City of Poway

City Council, District 2 – Hiram Soto

### City of San Diego

City Council, District 4 – Monica Montgomery-Steppe City Council, District 6 – Tommy Hough City Council, District 8 – Vivian Moreno

### **City of Solana Beach**

City Council, District 2 – Kristi Becker

### City of San Marcos

Mayor – Randy Walton City Council, District 2 – Jay Petrek

### City of Vista

Mayor – Cipriano Vargas City Council, District 4 – Dan O'Donnell

### Statewide Propositions

Proposition 1 – Right to Reproductive Freedom Amendment - YES Proposition 31 - Flavored Tobacco Products Ban Referendum - YES

### Local Measures

Measure B - City of San Diego – Solid Waste Management Services - YES

# **Executive Committee Candidates Statements**

### <u>San Diego Chapter ExComm</u> <u>Candidate Statements</u>



### Susan Baldwin, AICP (American Institute of Certified Planners)

I am pleased to run for the Executive Committee of the San Diego Chapter of the Sierra

Club. I am a long time member of the club and have been an active member of the Conservation Committee for two years from 2020 to 2022. I have a B.A. in American Studies (1975) from the University of Colorado, Boulder and did graduate work in City Planning at San Diego State University.

I believe my 40 years of professional experience as a city/regional planner (City of Boulder, City of La Mesa, City of San Diego, and the San Diego Association of Governments) and five years of advocacy since my retirement will make me an effective Executive Committee member and provide the Chapter an important perspective on many environmental and planning issues facing the San Diego region. I have a deep commitment to both environmental and social justice issues as evidenced by my career as a planner and my volunteer activities in support of affordable housing and fighting sprawl development, a few of which are listed below:

- San Diegans for Managed Growth -Boardmember, Board President (2018 to present)

- Measure A / Save Our San Diego Countryside (March 3, 2020 Primary Election) - Campaign Manager, Volunteer Signature Gathering Coordinator (2018-2020)

- Parks and Recreation Coalition (PARC), Co-chair, 2020 to present (advocacy related to City of San Diego Parks Master Plan (PMP)

I hope to serve on the Executive Committee to contribute more deeply to the preservation and protection of the San Diego region's unique environment, and to the social justice and climate issues it faces.



I grew up on Long Island, New York, graduating cum laude from State University of New York at Albany in 1978, with a B.A. in Sociology. After

moving to San Diego, I went to law school, graduating in 1982 from California Western School of Law, serving as the Head Notes and Comments Editor of the law school's Law Journal. I was also awarded California Western School of Law 1981 Faculty Award for Consumer Protection Law. After graduating from law school, I was employed as Deputy City Attorney for the City of San Diego for five years, holding posts as a Supervising Trial and Appellate Attorney and Civil Litigation Counsel, where I fought developers for open space in the City of San Diego, including the Mission Trails Regional Park. I am a life member of Sierra Club

ExComm statements continued on page 4

*ExComm statements continued from page 3* and believe in its mission and I am active in the local chapter, serving as the North County Group PolCom Chair and I am on the Executive Committee for both the North County Group and the San Diego Chapter.

I remain in private practice, operating as CARE Law Group PC, now focusing my practice on Estate Planning and offering a pro-active alternative to the destructive nature of probate and litigation. In addition to membership to the California State Bar, I hold a real estate broker's license. I am currently President of the San Marcos Rotary Club, President of San Marcos Democratic Club, Treasurer of San Marcos Youth Baseball, and a delegate to the California Democratic Party.



### **Ron Askeland**

I'm passionate about preserving our planet for future generations. I've been a Sierra Club member since 1984 and serve as Chair of our chapter's

Zero Waste Subcommittee. I'm also a member of our Chapter and State Conservation Committees. I'm a Coleader of SD-SEQUEL (San Diegans for Sustainable, Equitable, & Quiet Equipment in Landscaping) and a board member of the PQ-NE Action Group and the Rancho Peñasquitos Fire Safe Council.

I coauthor the Zeroing in on Zero Waste and SD-SEQUEL articles in the HiSierran. I love spending time outdoors and recently completed all 50 hikes in the NCG 50 Hike Challenge.

During my 35 years of working at Hewlett Packard, I led multiple international R&D teams, including 4 years living in Barcelona. Having a PhD in Chemistry helps me understand the scientific aspects of environmental issues and gives me greater credibility when I provide public testimony at state and local meetings.

As an ExCom member, I would focus on equity, inclusiveness, and social media outreach. I would also like to help streamline the process our Chapter uses to take positions on issues. Most importantly, I want to learn what issues you are passionate about and be your advocate.

### North County Group



Lucero Sanchez

Lucero is the Campaigns Manager at San Diego Coastkeeper where she supports the organization's policy and advocacy work through community

engagement to ensure environmental justice and equity.

Lucero's passion for the environment began in high school, where she spent most of her weekends volunteering at the Aquarium of the Pacific. She holds a B.A. in Environmental Systems from the University of California San Diego, where she specialized in Environmental Policy. Lucero is a firm believer in the need for a multidimensional approach to solving the climate crisis that includes science, governance, and societal transformation. Prior to working with Coastkeeper, Lucero was a campaign organizer, working to elect and re-elect an environmental advocate to Congress. She also serves as the Board President of the League of Conservation Voters San Diego and the Vice-Chair of San Diego County's Environmental Health and Quality Advisory board.

As a young Latina immigrant, she hopes to bring a new perspective to this Board and would greatly appreciate your support.

### Chris Nava



In the past few years I have been actively involved with the North County Group of the Sierra Club. My experience working with a group of dedicated environmen-

talists has impacted my life in numerous ways. I feel that the knowledge that have gained as a member of the NCG has opened doors to understand more fully and appreciate what it means to be a citizen of planet earth, and to be more effective in the work I am engaged in as a team member.

I see the opportunity to serve on the executive committee of the North County Group of the Sierra Club as empowering. As a member of the SC, my advocacy is enhanced by the support f the millions of members who share a common goal of environmental justice and preservation of our natural resources. The NCG has many impressive accomplishments, but the work is far from finished. The Climate Action Plan that has been approved by the city council has yet to move on implementation. Threats to safety and the environment by the Harvest Hills developers will be on the agenda in the near future. NCG will need to mobilize to prevent a vote in favor of the developer. The challenges to a just and healthy environment continue. I would like to be a part of meeting these challenges by taking a role in the executive committee.

### <u>North County Coastal</u> (Coasters)



### Sally Prendergast

Residence - Encinitas Background - Strategic Marketing/Management. Environmental Advocate. Current Chair of The Sierra Club North County Coastal

Group and Board Member of the Sierra Club San Diego Chapter Executive Committee I have been a member of the Sierra club since

1997 but really became active in the North County Coastal Group, about 7 years ago when I volunteered for the interim Planning Committee. In 2016 we officially re-launched the North County Coasters Group and I was elected for a two year term to serve on the Executive Committee Board. Since then I have continue to serve as Chair of the Coasters ExCom, as well as a voting Board Member of the Sierra Club San Diego Chapter ExCom. Over the last 7 years our ExCom has spent our time focussed on endorsements for political candidates, conservation and development issues, and working with environmental partners on a variety of activities from reducing single use plastics to supporting legislation to prevent our open spaces from thoughtless sprawl and being lost forever. This past year I have acted as a representative for our Chapter on a State-wide task force focussed on the 30 x30 initiative (Preserve 30% of our natural lands and resources by 2030). We have also hosted quarterly meetings that have featured speakers on a variety of topics from sea level rise to lagoon restoration. My entire life I have enjoyed and appreciated nature and have been an outdoor enthusiast. I feel deeply connected to our beautiful North County environment and I am passionate about it's preservation. In particular, I am concerned with issues relating to climate change, preserving open spaces and conservation. Now more than ever I believe it is critical that The North County Coastal Group stays focussed on the goal of building a vibrant and active group dedicated to preserving our beautiful North County region, growing our membership and connecting people to the outdoors.

After earning an MBA from Northwestern I worked in the entertainment business where I held a number of strategic marketing and management positions. When we moved to Encinitas I turned my attention to our children and became an avid volunteer in the school district, serving as PTA President and a holding several foundation positions. I have continued to work as a marketing consultant. Over the years I have been involved with a

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### ExComm statements continued from page 4

number of local issues related to development, traffic and conservation and feel grateful to have the opportunity to direct my strategic marketing and management skills to work on behalf of the environment for the Sierra Club.



### John Eldon

While growing up in burning, choking west Los Angeles smog, I developed a keen interest in air pollution, and when I entered UCLA this quickly led me to Project Clean Air. My love of bicyling simultaneously led me to become

active in UCLA's Earth Action Council, which advocated bicycling for transportation. A few years later, the groundbreaking and interdisclinary Doctor of Environmental Science and Engineering program was established, and in 1978 I became one of the early recipients of the D.Env. degree, while researching mathematical modeling of photochemical smog formation at Technology Service Corporation.

My career subsequently took a different turn, when I began designing integrated circuits to perform real time signal processing using some of the same tools I have used and developed in data science. I never lost a passion for environmental protection, and I have served on the Encinitas Environmetal Commission since its creation, and I have taught several sessions of a civil engineering course on air and water pollution at UCSD Extension. My current environmental interests include lifecycle accounting of consumer goods, including waste reduction and resource reclamation, as well as climate change, because I understand the science and math behind the models and projections and the technology used in data collection. Just as my doctoral thesis suggested ways of optimizing smog precursor emission strategies, I am likewise interested in realistic and cost-effective strategies that deliver a win-win for the environment, the economy, and human quality of life.



### 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 people working together to affect

issues that impact our daily lives has become clear. Along those lines, I'd like to see the North County Coastal Group continue to help preserve the functional, natural beauty of our large and small wild areas and help people find ways to experience nature regularly. We also need to do our part to save the planet starting at the local level, both by direct action and by electing responsible people to public office.

I'm currently on the Coaster executive committee, serving as secretary. I'm also a volunteer naturalist/docent for the Nature Collective and a member of the City of Encinitas Urban Forest Advisory Committee. I enjoy learning about the great variety of life that dwells in and passes through this area, and look forward to working with you all to make our Sierra Club fun and effective!

### Sierra Club Endorsed Candidates General Election

Alex Padilla

### U.S. Senate



Following the 2020 Presidential Election, Alex Padilla was appointed by Governor Gavin Newsom to fill the Senate seat vacated by now-Vice President Kamala Harris On January 20, 2021, Alexwas sworn in as Senator and became the first Latino to represent California in the United States Senate.

In his first year in the Senate, Alex fought to secure billions of dollars in COVID-19 relief for California families and small businesses, pushed for bold climate action to improve access to clean air and water, introduced sweeping legislation to increase affordable housing and protect families from wildfires, and has led the fight for voting rights and immigration reform.

### U. S. Representative

### 49th Cong. District – Mike Levin



Since his first term in Congress began in January 2019, Mike has established himself as a leader on climate action and clean energy. Mike served for several years on the board of the Center for Sustainable Energy, based in San Diego, and co-founded Sustain OC in Orange County. Among his accomplishments in Congress, Mike secured \$300 million in the U.S.–Mexico–Canada Agreement to clean up pollution in

the Tijuana River Valley and introduced legislation to ban new oil and gas drilling off California coastline.

https://www.mikelevin.org/

### 52nd Cong. District — Juan Vargas



Juan Vargas has served in Congress since 2013. His environmental record includes support for the Green New Deal to cut carbon emissions, eliminate contaminants from the water, and address social inequities caused by climate change. He helped secure funds to clean up the Tijuana River Valley.

https://www.votevargas.com/

### 53rd Cong. District – Sara Jacob



I am honored to receive the Sierra Club San Diego Chapter's endorsement. As San Diegans, we've seen the impacts of our changing climate firsthand, and I'm grateful to be working alongside the Sierra Club to protect our environment and fight for a livable planet.

At 33, Congresswoman Jacobs is the youngest member of California's delegation and the third youngest member in the 117th Congress. She serves as the Freshman Representative to the House Democratic Steering and Policy Committee, and sits on the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, the House Armed Services Committee, and the House Select Committee on Economic Disparity and Fairness in Growth.

Beyond Congress, Sara is the Founding Chair of San Diego for Every Child: The Coalition to End Child Poverty. Since its inception in fall of 2018, San Diego for Every Child has grown into a broad coalition of groups working toward the goal of halving the experience of childhood poverty in San Diego County by 2030. Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, San Diego for Every Child started the COVID-19 Children's Fund, helping to mobilize millions of dollars in philanthropic and government funding to support child care for essential workers and equitable distance learning for students throughout San Diego County.

Sara has also served in policy positions at the U.S. State Department during the Obama Administration, UNICEF, and the United Nations, and as a *Endorsed Candidates continued on page 6* 

*Endorsed Candidates continued from page 5* Scholar in Residence at the Joan B. Kroc School of Peace Studies at the University of San Diego. She was also proud to use her expertise to serve as a policy advisor to Secretary Hillary Clinton during her 2016 campaign for president.

### State of California



### Secretary of State-Shirley Nash Weber, Ph.D.

Dr. Weber was nominated to serve as California Secretary of State by Governor Gavin Newsom on December 22, 2020 and sworn into office on

January 29, 2021. She is California's first Black Secretary of State and only the fifth African American to serve as a state constitutional officer in California's 170-year history.

Before her appointment, Secretary Weber served four terms as an Assembly Member representing California's 79th Assembly District, which includes parts of the City of San Diego as well as several cities and communities in the San Diego region. Weber also served as a member and chair of the San Diego Unified School District and has twice served as a California Elector, including chairing the California College of Presidential Electors on December 14, 2020.

From 2019 - 2020, she served as chair of the California Legislative Black Caucus (CLBC), which consists of the state's African American legislators and has the goal of promoting equal opportunity for California's African American community. Weber broke records during her tenure by garnering extraordinary support for CLBC's efforts and its projects.

Weber's genuine passion and tireless quest for equality and fairness in all sectors of life have resulted in her pursuit of reforms in education and criminal justice

Secretary Weber is a mother of two adult children, three grandchildren and was married for 29 years to the late Honorable Daniel Weber. She is number six in a family of eight children. Her Parents, David and Mildred Nash, are deceased. Her hobbies are reading and traveling



### Attorney General-Rob Bonta

The son of leaders in the farmworkers' movement, Rob saw firsthand how those without access to power and wealth are too

often cheated and taken advantage of by those with both. Rob's parents taught him that harm done to any one person is a crime against all of us, and he decided to become a public attorney so he could win justice for the people like the farmworker families he knew as a kid. As a Legislator, he became a national leader on criminal justice issues and passed laws to strengthen consumer and worker protections. Born to a proud Filipina immigrant, he is the first Filipino American to serve as California's Attorney General.

At Bonta's direction, the Department is putting more manpower into investigating and prosecuting corporate polluters who violate California law and endanger our health, and the Department is battling multi-national pharmaceutical companies for their role fueling the opioid crisis.

As Attorney General, Bonta is taking on schemes to defraud and cheat law-abiding Californians — wildfire victims, senior citizens, servicemembers and consumers. He is increasing transparency at the Department and expanding access to criminal justice data to enhance public safety.



### Lieutenant Governor-Eleni Kounalakis

Eleni Kounalakis was elected Lt. Governor of California in 2018 as the first woman to be elected to the position. During

her first term in office, she served as a fierce advocate on behalf of California's public university students, fought against offshore drilling on California's coast, made strides to expand gender equality and LGBTQ+ rights, and represented California's interests on the global stage. A native Californian, successful businesswoman, and proud mom of two boys, Eleni is running for re-election to continue fighting for a brighter future for California.



### Insurance Commissioner – Ricardo Lara

Ricardo Lara serves as California's Insurance Commissioner. Following his eight years of elected service in California's

Assembly and Senate, he made history in 2018 as the first openly gay person to ever be elected to statewide office in California history. Raised by a factory worker and a seamstress — Venustiano and Dolores — Ricardo's humble beginnings guide his work as he leads the state's largest consumer protection agency.

As your Insurance Commissioner, Ricardo has taken on tough fights and won for working families — holding the insurance industry accountable while fighting for health care for all, helping California consumers during the unprecedented devastation of the COVID-19 pandemic, and assisting California wildfire victims in rebuilding their lives.

As a State Senator, Ricardo authored legislation that would create a single-payer health care system for California and he wrote the Health4All Kids Act — which now covers all California children with full-scope Medi-Cal regardless of immigration status. As your Insurance Commissioner, he continues to lead efforts to help reduce the number of uninsured Californians, strengthen our clinics and public health system, and lower costs for all. Ricardo also serves as Co-chair of the Special Committee on Race and Insurance within the National Association of Insurance Commissioners, where he works with his peers to find solutions to address widespread health disparities.

Ricardo is ready to continue the fight for stronger consumer rights and wants all Californians to know: He'll always be on your side.

Insurance Commissioner Lara was born in Los Angeles County, California and earned a BA in Journalism and Spanish with a minor in Chicano Studies from San Diego State University. He also currently serves as the President of the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO).



### Superintendent of Public Instruction – Tony Thurmond

Tony Thurmond is California's 28th and current State Superintendent of Public Instruction. He

has been a lifelong educator, public school parent, and public servant who has served the people of California for sixteen years in elected office. At every step, Tony has kept California's kids as his top priority. He knows how to get things done and get results Tony is the first Afro-Latino to serve as the State Superintendent of Public Instruction in California. Tony's mother was an immigrant from Panama who came to San Jose, California, to be a teacher. Tony's father was a U.S. soldier who didn't return to his family after the Vietnam War. Tony met him for the first time when he was an adult. After Tony's mother died when he was 6, Tony and his brother were raised by a cousin who they had never met until they showed up on her doorstep.

In his first term, Tony committed to making sure school is safe for all students in an increasingly diverse California. He worked to address implicit bias in schools, train teachers and administrators on how to support LGBTQ students, develop an inclusive ethnic studies curriculum, and close the achievement gap.

Tony believes that we need to spend more

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Endorsed Candidates continued from page 6

money on schools, not prisons. He fought for more money to invest in education and allocated millions of dollars to schools to use for programs to reduce chronic absenteeism and suspensions.

### State Senate



### 18th District -Steve Padilla

A longtime leader in California, Steve Padilla's priorities are delivering for communities that have been hard hit by the pandemic,

tackling income inequality and economic recovery, expanding access to healthcare, strengthening public education, leading on climate, and taking action to combat racial injustice.

Steve Padilla has spent his life in service to others and making life better in his hometown. At 18, he joined the Chula Vista Police Explorer Scouts ultimately becoming a Police Detective specializing in protecting seniors and kids from domestic violence and abuse.

Years later, Steve Padilla made history as Chula Vista's first Latino and first LGBTQ Mayor, and previously, when he was elected to the City Council, was the first person of color ever to serve in city office. Steve also serves on the California's Coastal Commission, the powerful state agency charged with environmental protection and conservation along our coast.

With over thirty years of dedicated service to community, Steve Padilla has built a reputation as a proven progressive leader, including jump-starting Chula Vista's Bayfront development to create 7,000 jobs in our region; leading state efforts at the Coastal Commission to combat sea-level rise; and helping pass Chula Vista's COVID-19 eviction moratorium and small business relief programs.



### 38th District -**Catherine Blakespear**

Our region deserves a State Senator with a track record of getting things done for over a decade. As a threeterm mayor of the City of

Encinitas and former city councilmember, I have supported small businesses, passed tough laws to crack down on guns and made our city one of the safest in California, and created a cleaner environment for us all.

My record of results: Cut red tape and secured emergency grants to keep small businesses open during the pandemic. Banned ghost guns and passed tough safe gun storage requirements and red flag laws. Always stood up for a woman's right to a safe, legal abortion.

Made Encinitas the first city to require 100% renewable power and adopted a gold-standard climate action plan. Reduced traffic, cut pollution, and gave residents more clean transportation options. As your State Senator, I will work to: Strengthen the economy, create good paying jobs, and fight inflation. Champion small businesses and create good-paying jobs. Will ensure a clean, reliable water supply for ourselves and generations to come. Protect our communities and neighborhoods from gun violence to save lives and reduce crime. Protect choice and keep fighting for the reproductive rights of every California woman.

I have the record of results we need in Sacramento to make sure every California family can thrive, and that's why I'm asking for your support today. I would be honored to serve you and I ask for your vote this November.

### State Assembly



**Chris Duncan** Prior to running for elected office, Chris served his country as

a federal prosecutor, working to end human

trafficking and government corruption. As Mayor Pro Tem of San Clemente, Chris has helped our area's response and recovery from the pandemic, provided support for local businesses, and helped lead the fight against a local effort to ban a woman's right to choose.

Chris understands that climate change is real, and will support reasonable and effective legislation to reduce greenhouse gasses, ensure cleaner air and water, and protect our coastline and oceans. He's

been a leader on environmental issues championing Community Clean Energy to increase the use of green energy choices and working with Congressmember Mike Levin to protect our coastal communities. As a member of Rep. Levin's SONGS Task Force, he's also committed to ensuring the planned dismantling of the San Onofre Nuclear Power Plant happens in a clean, safe, and efficient manner.

In Sacramento, Chris will work to improve our water infrastructure so communities, farmers, and businesses around the state can survive and thrive through future droughts. He'll focus on using incentives and developing programs to ensure California is at the leading edge of building the clean energy economy of the future and creating green jobs, and

work to find solutions to the most impactful issues facing our communities, including reducing homelessness and expanding affordable housing options, implementing common sense gun safety measures, and keeping our neighborhoods safe.



### 77th District - Tasha Boerner-Horvath

I'm a mom, businesswoman, former PTA leader, and passionate environmental advocate in the California State Assembly. The future of California, and the

planet, is unwritten, and I believe that we are at an inflection point that will set the course for our children and for future generations. We have an opportunity to turn the corner on the climate crisis if we make smart investments in renewable energy that will pay dividends for decades. We can work now to make our state and planet livable.

Combating climate change is my top priority in the State Assembly, and it's what drives me every day. That's why I recently authored bills like AB 2204 to keep us on track to meet SB 100 and other clean energy goals, AB 1738 to help expand our electric vehicle charging infrastructure, and AB 1873, a tax credit that will help fund that expansion. I am proud that San Onofre State Park and Trestles Beach are protected today because of AB 1426, legislation I wrote to preserve and protect that area in perpetuity.

I am focused on building a greener, stronger, and healthier California, and I would be honored to have your vote for State Assembly.

www.Tasha4Assembly.com



### 79th District -Akilah Weber

Dr. Weber is the incumbent Assembly Member previously endorsed by Sierra Club. During the 2021 Assembly session she sponsored, among other

bills, an act to add a provision in the California Education Code relating to landslide and erosion early warning systems. She also co-sponsored joint resolutions protecting coastal and marine waters (AJR2) and protecting wild, free-roaming horses and burros (AJR5).

https://drakilahweber.com/



### 80th District -**Georgette Gomez**

Georgette Gomez served on the San Diego City Council from 2016 to 2020, including being the first LGBTQ Latina City Council President. A former Community

Organizer, the Club endorsed her candidacy both times. While on the city council Georgette was a solid vote for habitat protection, took leadership to protect our climate, and worked to address home-

Endorsed Candidates continued on page 8

*Endorsed Candidates continued from page 7* lessness. She led the charge to require developers to include affordable housing.

https://georgettegomez.org/

### San Dieguito Union High School District



### Trustee Area 1 -Rimga Viskanta

www.voteforviskanta.com Rimga Viskanta received her undergraduate degree in Environmental Sciences from the University of

Virginia and a Master's degree in Public Administration from the University of Southern California

She currently works as a Senior Management Analyst for the City of Solana Beach where she manages a range of environmental sustainability programs. She coordinated a variety of citywide initiatives including a single-use plastic utensils ban, organic recycling programs and currently is spearheading an update of the City's Climate Action Plan. Part of her work includes coordination with regional governments including recent involvement in the County of San Diego's regional decarbonization efforts. Rimga believes that there is an opportunity to fold school districts into regional efforts especially in the areas of building decarbonization, transportation electrification, and natural climate solutions such as replacing large grass turf areas on school campuses with native vegetation and habitat. Rimga was elected to the Encinitas Union School District (EUSD) (K-6) Board in 2016 and served until 2020. EUSD was the first school district in California to receive the federal government's Green Ribbon School Award from the U.S Department of Education. Rimga also voted for initiatives at EUSD to support the nation's first certified organic school farm which provides a learning lab for students as well as produce for the school lunch program. If elected to the San Dieguito Union High School District (SDUHSD) Board (Grades 7-12), Rimga will champion green initiatives for middle schools and high schools, especial-

for middle schools and high schools, especially those already successfully implemented at the elementary school level.



### Trustee Area 3 -Jane Lea Smith

Jane Lea Smith is a former special education teacher, vice president of an educational non-profit foundation, and parent of a 2022

graduate of San Dieguito schools. In addition to her involvement in education, Jane Lea has a demonstrated passion for habitat conservation and preserving native ecosystems in support of a healthier planet for future generations.

Jane Lea currently serves as co-administrator of the San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy's Exploring Our Sense of Place (ESP) program, an educational hiking program focused on connecting residents with the natural beauty and precious value of their local watershed. As environmentalists, Jane Lea and her family have made conscious choices to conserve resources, including replacing their lawn with native landscaping, installing a gray water system, capturing all water on site through rain barrels and contouring, and following green home design practices.

With 10 school sites across several communities, the San Dieguito district has to the potential to be a model of environmental responsibility. As a trustee, Jane Lea will prioritize the environment in decision making, and she will push for progress through intentional practices that protect the future of our planet.

### **County of San Diego**



### Board of Supervisors, District 4 -Nathan Fletcher

Supervisor Fletcher has been a champion of the environment since being

elected to the San Diego County Board of Supervisors. As current Board Chair, and with a now environmentally-favorable Board with a 3-2 majority, Supervisor Fletcher has pushed for a progressive, pro-environment agenda that includes development of a comprehensive and legally enforceable Climate Action Plan. https://www.nathanfletcher.com/



San Marcos.

As a current elected Director on the Vallecitos Water District, Tiffany has championed common sense advancements to make water affordable and accessible. She led the effort to make the workplace more equitable and even fought shut-offs for ratepayers who couldn't pay during the COVID-19 pandemic. Tiffany defends our beaches and waterways to protect our North County resources. Tiffany will be a strong advocate for families, workers, and the environment.

https://tiffanyboydhodgson.com

### **City of Carlsbad**



### City Council, District 1 – Sam Ward

Sam Ward is a Carlsbad father, homeowner, and attorney with 20 years of experience protecting consumers and prosecuting

corporate corruption.

He knows climate change is and will continue to profoundly impact our lives. Our neighbors will be some of the first and most impacted by the consequences of climate change.

As Councilmember, Sam Ward will:

Proactively address the impacts of sea level rise, fires, and environmental degradation to coastal communities; Work with subject matter experts to prepare for public safety and property damage from extreme weather events, droughts, floods, and heat waves;

Provide real solutions to Carlsbad's housing crisis while maintaining Carlsbad's unique community character; Reduce homelessness in our communities with evidence-based, humane policies; Increase public safety with enhanced coordination between police and social services; And invest in Carlsbad's local economy and businesses. Sam is the Moms Demand Action Gun Sense Candidate and endorsed by: Sierra Club North County

Congressman Mike Levin

Assemblymember Tasha Boerner-Horvath

County Supervisor Terra Lawson-Remer

Dozens of leaders and organizations across Carlsbad

Additionally, Sam is a taxpayer watchdog on the Carlsbad Unified School District's Bond Oversight Committee, ensuring taxpayer dollars are benefitting local children. He is a former policy advisor and dedicated community volunteer, having served elected officials at the local, state, and federal level, and as Chair of Planned Parenthood Affiliates of California.

Vote for the leader with experience and deep community ties, who will preserve Carlsbad's unique community character and prepare our city for the future.

www.WardforCarlsbad.com



City Council, District 3 -Priya Bhat-Patel

Priya Bhat-Patel is a working mom, public health expert, and Carlsbad City Councilwoman who has consistently taken action

to address climate change, environmental sustainability, and conservation. These efforts include working with local businesses to tran-

Endorsed Candidates continued from page 8 sition away from single-use plastics, providing flexible options for residents to equitably support the transition to 100% renewable energy, and successfully advocating for green alternatives to continue to make public transportation accessible and affordable. Priya has made it a priority to protect Carlsbad's environment and natural resources while representing the city on the Clean Energy Alliance (CEA) and as a board member of the North County San Diego Transit District.

https://www.privabhatpatel.com/

### City of Del Mar



### City Council -**Dwight Worden**

Club member, and Surfrider member, I have advocated for the environment since the 1970s. I represented the Sierra Club and other

environmental groups in important environmental litigation. In my eight years on the Del Mar City Council I have championed our Climate Action Plan, Sustainability Advisory Committee, zero waste program, water recycling, Sea Level Rise Adaptation Plan, plastics reduction, lagoon and wetlands preservation, including "blue carbon," building electrification, and SANDAG's Regional Transportation Plan that will revolutionize our transportation system, addressing climate change and reducing congestion. Climate change is, in my view, the existential challenge of our times.

I understand and support Sierra Club positions on inclusivity, equity, and environmental justice. I advocated for these policies during my legal career, have published on these topics, and work to implement these policies on Council and in my role as a member of the San Dieguito River Park JPA Board. I am an active bicycle commuter and hiker. I have a home compost system, solar on the roof, and a "worm condo" that I have had for twenty years for food waste. I strive for a sustainable lifestyle for myself and my community.

I am proud to be a lifetime member of the Sierra Club, and of my decades of work to make the San Diego region a more sustainable and better place to live. If re-elected I pledge to work tirelessly for a sustainable future.



### City Council -**Terry Gaasterland**

I am running for re-election to provide the leadership needed to protect our natural resources and quality of life in Del Mar and the

region as we move into the future. San Dieguito Lagoon and wetlands flank

Del Mar to the north, with Los Penasquitos Lagoon to the south. Crest Canyon offers long winding trails to the east. To the west, our beautiful Del Mar Coastal Bluff, with sandy beaches below and two miles of trails, is the last remaining accessible natural coastal bluff in the San Diego region.

These beautiful natural spaces surrounding Del Mar are under threat from overdevelopment due to State mandates. We must protect these resources for our community, our region, and future generations.

We must relocate the railroad tracks off the fragile bluff by 2035. In the interim, we must establish safe crossings across the tracks to access the trails and beaches below.

Del Mar's Sea Level Rise Adaptation Plan depends on maintaining a healthy lagoon and wetlands and protecting land adjacent to the wetlands from overdevelopment so they have space to migrate upland as the sea level rises. We must avoid building State-mandated high-density housing in floodplains, along wetlands, or on fragile bluffs.

Just 30 miles to our north, spent nuclear waste is stored in containers about 100 feet from the high tide line at San Onofre. The waste must be relocated to a safer inland storage site through continuous regional cooperation.

I bring my training and experience as a scientist and professor to address these problems.

### **City of Encinitas**



Mayor – Tony Krantz I have had the honor of serving the residents of Encinitas as a Councilmember and an

since 2012. Today, I humbly ask for your vote to continue serving you as Mayor.

Experience Matters. During my decade of service on the Council, the City has made very important progress on critical issues, perhaps most importantly the implementation and management of our Climate Action Plan, which I will preserve and expand as Mayor. I will advocate tirelessly for our friends and partners in Sacramento and Washington to step up to the plate and help Encinitas with the real environmental issues we are facing as a result of the climate crisis; including, but not limited to, coastal erosion.

As an elected official, I have also had the pleasure of working with colleagues and community members that have diverse opinions and I have always done my best to find solutions on important issues-such as homelessness and housing-that are in the best interests of the City. I'm proud of what I've accomplished on the Encinitas City Council.

Politics in our country, County and City have become more polarized. As your mayor, I will work to create an atmosphere where everyone feels comfortable joining in community conversations. We live in one of the most beautiful places on our planet and we all want to make it even better, while keeping it operating sustainably. Working together will help us to achieve that goal.

To see more about what we've accomplished and my endorsements, please visit my website at www.tonykranz.com



### City Council, District 3 – Joy Lyndes

City Councilmember & Businesswoman Encinitas needs experienced, effective, forward-thinking and pas-

sionate leadership to improve and protect our special City. I've led in environmental protection, public safety, and fiscal management, reflected in the City's AAA bond rating. I've authored an open-space initiative, helping Encinitas become a model of environmental stewardship. We are one of the safest cities in the county. I've supported efforts to address workforce housing, homelessness and traffic control while preserving our unique community character and quality of life.

Prior to my appointment to City Council, I proudly served on the Environmental Commission and Historical Society.

I own a local landscape architecture firm and know that local business is the heart of our economy. It's key to vitality, stability, community and economic development. My practice covers not only landscape planning and design, but has also included environmental planning. I am an Eco-district Accredited professional. I understand that land use planning must prioritize open space, trails, and nature.

I will continue to promote a healthy, vibrant and prosperous community, and listen to my constituents with the goal of unifying the community toward better housing, roadways, trails, traffic control, public safety, local business success and environmental stewardship. I have a clear view of our future, united behind these common goals.

Endorsements: Congressman Mike Levin, Assemblywoman Tasha Boerner-Horvath, Supervisor Terra Lawson-Remer, Mayor Catherine Blakespear, and many more! www.joy4encinitas.com

Endorsed Candidates continued on page 10

### **City of Escondido**



### City Council, District 1 – Consuelo Martinez

As your Council member since 2018, I have stood up to special interests and put our residents first. I've delivered for Escondido by:

Making City Hall more accessible and efficient Adding more affordable housing and senior housing Attracting new businesses and local jobs Revitalizing our parks and cleaning up our neighborhoods Relocating the water treatment facility to a better location For the first time, Escondido has prioritized climate action on the city council. We now have diversified representation on our public boards and commissions. I championed the protection of renters during a devasting pandemic and have lowered campaign contribution limits to decrease the influence by outside, big-money interests. If re-elected, I will continue to invest in a cleaner, greener, equitable and safer Escondido for all.

Join me by supporting my campaign: www. consuelomartinez.com

#OneEscondido #SomosEscondido



### City Council, District 2 – Jeff Griffith

I recently retired from the Fire Service after 33 years of public service. I have transitioned from a Fire Captain to a teacher. I am now a

Palomar College faculty, teaching the next generation of EMTs and Paramedics.

I was elected to the Palomar Health Board in 2012 and I have served for the past 10 years. Palomar Health is the largest community healthcare district in California and the largest employer in North San Diego County. It has been my passion for keeping our communities safe and healthy.

The Wildland fires that I fought 30 years ago are not the same as the current fires threatening our communities statewide. There is no longer a "Fire Season", it is a consistent danger to our lives and health. Because of climate change it is only going to get worse,

Escondido did pass a strong climate action plan, but due to changes of City Council members, not enough action has been taken. I want to ensure that our city will be a leader in sustainability and reduce our impact on our shared environment.

I do look at politics as public service the same way I look at my lifetime as a public safety professional. Please trust my experience and dedication and vote to elect Jeff Griffith to the Escondido City Council.

www.ElectJeffGriffith.com

### **City Of Imperial Beach**

### Mayor – Paloma Aguirre



I'm running for IB Mayor to keep fighting for our community. Whether it's the sewage crisis, sea level rise, or keeping our streets safe, we need someone who not

only has the grit but the experience to take on these fights.

Serving as Imperial Beach's council member has been the greatest honor of my life. As a first generation Mexican-American who fell in love with Imperial Beach back in 2003 while surfing its waves, I never would have imagined that today I would have the opportunity to serve as Imperial Beach's next Mayor.

We've made tremendous progress these last three years-particularly as we faced so much loss due to covid. We came together as a community and worked to bring help to those who needed it. I want to build on that momentum and work to address IB's existential threats such as protecting the federal funding we secured for sewage infrastructure to help stop the sewage and climate crisis, prioritizing public safety including keeping our streets well lit, adapting to sea level rise, and fighting to keep people housed in Imperial Beach.



### City Council, District 3 – Anna Webb

I'm Anna Webb, a small business owner with a BA in Communications, and I'm running for Imperial Beach District 3. I appre-

ciate the support of the Sierra Club and its members. District 3 is the most impacted by climate change including stronger storms, storm surge and coastal erosion. In addition, it is most impacted by the transboundary sewage pollution from Tijuana that flows into IB to our precious estuary and into the ocean.

When elected I will continue the progress that's been made over the past 8 years. We are at a critical point in mitigating the transboundary pollution from Mexico and I will engage the county and state for additional funding as well as provide oversight on the project.

I'm an environmental advocate and believe we need to review solutions to be more self-sustainable, reduce our carbon footprint and bring renewable energy. Our public transit can be improved as well and I will work with the SCEDC to find ways to keep our working families nearby rather than traveling north to work.

I've served as the Imperial Beach representative and serve as Secretary on the Community Advisory Committee for SDCP. In 2020 I served on the Mayor's Task Force on Coronavirus on the team providing business owners with resources for critical funding.

I'm endorsed by Congressman Juan Vargas, State Senator Ben Hueso, Assemblymember Chris Ward, Mayor Serge Dedina, Councilmember Ed Spriggs, Sierra Club and more. Please visit my website to learn more about me and my endorsements. https://webbforibcouncil2022.com/

### **City of Oceanside**



City Council, District 1 – Eric Joyce

I am a special education teacher, father and school board member living in Oceanside. My campaign for City Council is grassroots and community

centered, driven by the goal of prioritizing ethical, transparent, and collaborative leadership in City Hall, including through the creation of new and stronger pathways for community involvement and leadership. On the council, my efforts will center on building a more equitable and sustainable Oceanside: I will push for greater investment in our youth and vulnerable communities, working diligently to offset inflation; I will work together with our community to strengthen and rebuild trust in our democratic systems; and I will streamline sustainability throughout all City Council measures, making meaningful progress on our Climate Action Plan.

To achieve these goals, I will re-establish the Oceanside Youth Commission, creating pathways for our youth to gain civic experience and contribute meaningfully to local government. I will also create a new Climate Action Committee, connecting dedicated climate action community leaders with City Council officials to collaborate on innovative and urgent solutions to the climate crisis.

As the largest city in North County and third largest in San Diego County, Oceanside bears a responsibility to lead initiatives for climate action, such as increasing public transportation systems and both preserving and creating accessible green spaces. I will champion a more walkable and bicycle-safe city, as well as a more integrated one, connecting our unique and diverse neighborhoods to support local businesses, reduce our carbon footprint, and overall increase every Oceansider's quality of life.

### City Council, District 2 – Dan Dominguez



Daniel Dominguez has lived in Oceanside for over 25 years. Having raised his family and run a small business, he knows exactly what our community

needs to thrive. Endorsed Candidates continued on page 11 *Endorsed Candidates continued from page 10* Daniel is committed to protecting our environment from the adverse effects of climate change and creating a sustainable future.

Daniel will work to preserve our farmland, protect, and restore Oceanside Beaches to build a more sustainable future.

As Councilmember, Daniel Dominguez will:

Apply his years of experience in the energy business to advocate for green energy and Community Choice Energy.

Champion community-centered smart growth policies in Oceanside and oppose sprawl developments.

Work to address the homelessness crisis, support affordable housing and strengthen existing rent protections.

Support our seniors and retired veterans by ensuring access to food and other daily necessities and expanding local services.

Promote safer communities by supporting community-centered policing and crime reduction policies and having adequate staffing of firefighters and paramedics.

Daniel is the Moms Demand Action Gun Sense Candidate and has been endorsed by: Sierra Club North County, UNITE HERE Local 30, Southwest Regional Council of Carpenters, San Diego County Democratic Party And many more.

### **City of Poway**



### City Council, District 2 – Hiram Soto

Poway is a beautiful place to live, with treasured parks, open spaces and trails. If elected to the Poway City Council, I pledge to pre-

serve sensitive habitat areas and work collaboratively to help Poway become a model of sustainability.

I'm a nonprofit leader in the sustainable energy space helping communities across the country transition away from dirty and expensive fossil fuels and into cleaner and cheaper renewable energy — and doing so in an equitable way.

In Poway, our work begins by passing a Climate Action Plan. We are the only city in the county without one. Poway is especially susceptible to wildfires. We lost almost 150 homes / structures in the 2003 and 2007 wildfires. We remain highly vulnerable to a changing climate, and we must do our part to reduce our greenhouse emissions.

I am honored to receive the endorsement of the Sierra Club. Like you, I am committed to protecting our environment and leveraging American innovation to help fight climate change to the benefit of all.

### **City of San Diego**



### City Council, District 4 — Monica Montgomery-Steppe

Elected in 2018, Councilmember-Montgomery-Steppe has been a consistent and

strong voice for the environment on the San Diego City Council. Councilmember Montgomery-Steppe sits on the San Diego MTS Board Representative and Alternate Executive Committee Representative as well as the MTS Representative on the SANDAG Transportation Committee.

https://www.monica4sandiego.com/



Tommy Hough has a long-standing commitment to environmental justice, protection of public lands,

City Council, District 6 -

**Tommy Hough** 

and climate action, and a legacy of work with ReWild Mission Bay, San Diego Audubon, Surfrider, and leading San Diego County Democrats for Enviornmental Action. He is a San Diego County Planning Commissioner.

https://tommyhough.com/

### City Council, District 8 – Vivian Moreno

I am so proud to have earned the endorsement of the Sierra Club for my reelection to the San Diego City Council. I am one of

the strongest supporters on the City Council of meaningful actions to combat, mitigate and adapt to climate change. I voted against the SDGE Franchise Agreement because it gives Sempra Energy (a fossil fuel company) a veto over meaningful climate action by the City for the next two decades. I voted for the Rewild Mission Bay Wildest Alternative supported by the Audubon Society and the Sierra Club because wetland restoration is one of the best tools we have to mitigate and adapt to climate change as well as to improve water quality and restore populations of fish and marine life. I also believe that we must target our climate change adaptation efforts at lower-income communities that are most at risk. Because of my advocacy, the city created the Climate Equity Fund, which takes a portion of our gas and electric franchise fees and tax revenue and puts it into a special fund that will help communities at risk from climate change adapt. The Climate Equity Fund can be used to pay for amenities such as parks and open space or

planting more street trees, all of which help mitigate rising temperatures. I look forward to continuing to work with the Sierra Club to protect our environment in my second term.

### **City of Solana Beach**



City Council, District 2 – Kristi Becker

Solana Beach has been a leader on environmental issues. During my term on City Council, we passed many ordinances that

address the climate emergency. We banned single-use plastics, required building electrification, electric vehicle charging and battery storage infrastructure in all new construction and substantial remodels, and required solar electric systems on commercial buildings.

One of the most impactful environmental actions we accomplished to reduce greenhouse gas emissions was establishing the first independent community energy supplier called Clean Energy Alliance (CEA). CEA competes with SDG&E so residents and businesses can buy clean renewable electric power, rejecting carbon power plants. Initially, three cities were members of CEA. Since the formation of this agency, four more cities have joined CEA. Management of this agency requires unique qualifications and experience. For the last two years, I have served as Chair of CEA and I have been our City's representative on the Board since 2018.

Protecting our beaches is a top priority for me. We had a successful beach sand replenishment project and secured Federal funding for future sand replenishment projects. As a member of SANDAG's Shoreline Preservation Working Group, I will pursue a regional approach to beach preservation.

Parks and open space are critical elements of infrastructure for livable neighborhoods. I support revitalization and expansion of La Colonia and Fletcher Cove Parks.

I would be honored to have your vote for re-election to Solana Beach City Council, District 2

### **City of San Marcos**

### Mayor – Randy Walton



As a member of the San Marcos City Council, Randy has emphasized the care and protection of the community. During Covid, he championed

the Discover our Recovery Business Promise program, and the Sunny San Marcos business sustainability program to support local breweries. He also created the San Marcos Civic

Endorsed Candidates continued on page 14

## Mutt Kupshuw - 'Éexil Kwáavichush National Monument

# A new campaign to protect southern California's chaparral ecosystems and Tribal cultural values

*By David Hogan, Executive Director, The Chaparral Lands Conservancy* 

A global hotspot for biological diversity. Special cultural places and resources to Indigenous people. Outdoor recreation backyard to millions of southern Californians. Sublime natural quiet and views. These are just a few of the values supporting designation of a proposed new Mutt Kupshuw/ʿÉexil Kwáavichush National Monument on federal public land in southernmost California.

Pronounced "Mutt cup-show Éch-hill kwáh-ve-chush" and meaning "take care of the land" in local Luiseño and Kumeyaay/ Diegueño Native American languages, a new National Monument would help ensure that federal land centered around California's southern Pacific Crest is better protected and managed far into the future.

### Location of the Monument

The proposed Mutt Kupshuw - 'Éexil Kwáavichush National Monument would be located on approximately 480,000 acres of the Cleveland National Forest and adjoining Bureau of Land Management lands in the foothills, mountains, and desert of eastern San Diego County, southern Riverside County, and western Imperial County (map). The proposed Monument includes six places that could become units of the new Monument including Beauty Mountain, Palomar Mountain, Desert Vistas, Upper San Diego River, Laguna Mountains, and Las Californias. Large areas of conserved lands in Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, Cuyamaca Rancho State Park, and Volcan Mountain Preserve among many others border and connect proposed Monument units to provide ecological connectivity across this special landscape.

### California's Unique Chaparral Nature

Many values support designation of the proposed National Monument including important natural, cultural, historic, and other resources. But the one primary and unifying resource found across the area is California's unique and rich chaparral shrublands ecosystem. Chaparral is ubiquitous and forms the original natural



vegetation cover across foothills and mountains of the area alongside a relatively few areas of conifer forests, oak woodlands, mountain meadows, and desert scrub. Contributing to the concentration of biodiversity and ecological importance of the area, much of the proposed Monument is located along the very edge of the California Floristic Province where the semi-arid Mediterranean climate and vegetation transitions in just a few miles across the Pacific Crest from a narrow 50-mile band along the Pacific coast to 1000 miles of arid southwestern continental deserts.

Just like forests can consist of various kinds of trees, chaparral vegetation is defined by dominant single or associations of shrubs such as chamise, manzanita, mountain mahogany, and scrub oak. Chaparral shrublands make up the majority of wildlands in California and are the core nature experienced by millions of visitors to natural parks and preserves around our largest cities.

Unfortunately, chaparral still attracts neg-

ative attention from fire agencies and disaster media as a threat to people rather than for its true values as a globally unique ecosystem and Californians' connection to nature. Western culture also seems to love tree forests to the exclusion of other important natural communities and chaparral is overlooked at best or at worst wrongfully perceived and managed as temporarily frustrated tree forests. Key messages of the campaign for the new Monument will elevate the ecological importance and improved protective management of chaparral.

### **Indigenous People**

The name of the proposed Mutt Kupshuw - 'Éexil Kwáavichush National Monument was recommended by local Tribal leaders and reflects an incredible cultural history and continuing presence of Indigenous people. Despite a history of genocide and oppression, San Diego County is still home to thousands of Native Americans and has 18 reservations, more than any other county in the United States and several of which would border the proposed Monument.

All of the proposed Monument area was the original territory the Cahuilla, Cupeño, Kumeyaay/ Diegueño, and Luiseño people. Yet to this day, Indigenous people are disenfranchised from connections to their original lands and sacred sites when they are barred access to private land and resource management and use. Despite the location of original territories on federal lands, opportunities for Tribal nations and people assist in land and resource management is limited by government agency culture and bureaucracies. A new National Monument must recognize and honor the essential cultural history of the region and empower Tribal Nations in management of the Monument.

### Other special values

Chaparral shrublands and other natural communities in the proposed National Monument are a part of the California Floristic Province biodiversity hotspot, one of 36 places with the richest concentrations on native animals and plants on Earth. San Diego County is also home to more listed endangered species than any other county in the continental United States and many imperiled animals and plants are found in the Monument including the infamous California gnatcatcher, endemic butterflies like Hermes copper and Laguna Mountain skipper, plants like Cuyamaca cypress and San Diego thornmint, and even a population of native rainbow trout. And the proposed Monument includes the only documented locations of movement by Mountain lions and Peninsular bighorn sheep between California and Baja California. Establishment of the Monument would permanently protect a particular concentration of California's special biodiversity, support regional habitat conservation plans, and support federal and state goals to conserve 30% of our Nation's lands and waters by 2030.

Historic values of the proposed Monument include many unique historical events and places that have shaped local and even National history. The Monument would include parts of the route followed by the Cupeño people in the early 20th Century when they became the last Tribe in the United States to be forcibly removed from their home. Two of the most significant wildfire tragedies in U.S. history took place in the mid-20th Century when twelve firefighters each were killed in the Hauser Creek and Inaja fires and that resulted in changes used to this day in wildfire engagement. The "Impossible Railroad" and early trails and roads connecting San Diego to the continental United States wind through the area. And the Laguna Mountain Recreation Area will be 100 years old in 2026.

The proposed Monument would also help protect the resiliency of natural lands and resources in our era of extreme climate change. The Monument would provide key climate values like carbon storage in the relatively huge and dense roots of chaparral shrubs which live on following wildfire. And ecosystem connectivity would allow animals and plants to move upward and northward in elevation and direction as they're harried by increasing temperatures and drought.

Areas included in the proposed Monument include extraordinarily popular outdoor recreation destinations for millions of nearby southern California residents. Destinations like the Pacific Crest Trail, Laguna Meadows, Cedar Creek and Three Sisters waterfalls, and snow play areas on Laguna and Palomar mountains attract visitation rivalling some of the Country's most popular national parks but with far less infrastructure and services. A new Monument would permanently protect these destinations, enhance recreation, and help improve equitable access to nature for all.

### **Threatened Lands and Resources**

At first glance, land in the Mutt Kupshuw - 'Éexil Kwáavichush National Monument may appear as if it's already protected by nature of federal ownership. But these lands actually exist in an obscure patchwork of conservation and conflicting multiple use management with the majority of federal lands still available for development. Threats have included energy and utility development, landfills, mining, and under-management. Biodiversity and wildlife corridors and other ecological connections are at risk from development and climate change. Culturally sacred places have been developed, vandalized, or looted. And Tribes' access to original territories, traditional resources, and cultural uses have been limited.

### **Campaign Origin & Progress**

The idea for a new national monument in this special region originated years ago with The Chaparral Lands Conservancy<sup>1</sup> following the bitter loss of the Sunrise Powerlink. The Monument campaign took off following inauguration of President Biden and the renewed possibility support for major conservation initiatives. Thanks to the early support of several environmental organizations, an experienced campaign organizer was retained and a broad coalition formed to pursue designation of the Monument with a an Antiquities Act proclamation during President Biden's current term.

The coalition for the proposed Mutt Kupshuw - 'Éexil Kwáavichush National Monument has been busy meeting with our membership with presentations to agencies, stakeholders, and elected officials. We've secured nearly 100 endorsements for the Monument from groups, businesses, and individuals including San Diego & Imperial Counties Labor Council, Julian Chamber of Commerce, San Diego County Democratic Party, Anza-Borrego Foundation, San Diego River Park Foundation, Camp Stevens (Episcopal Camp) Julian, and Dr. Bronner's Magic Soaps among many others.

### **Benefits of the Proposed National Monument**

National monuments are designated to protect federally-owned lands and waters with significant cultural, historic, ecological, and scientific values for conservation and enjoyment by future generations. The proposed Mutt Kupshuw - 'Éexil Kwáavichush National Monument would:

Keep beautiful undeveloped mountain and desert lands as they are.

Protect and support Indigenous cultural uses and places. Protect biodiversity and help address climate change. Enhance outdoor recreation and equitable access to nature for all. Increase resources for conservation management and improved visitor experience.

### Benefit nearby communities.

Establishment of a new Mutt Kupshuw - 'Éexil Kwáavichush National Monument would ultimately benefit nature and people by reducing the threat of harmful future development and providing improved management to protect and maintain this special place and resources as a centerpiece of interconnected and protected natural lands and would help ensure our communities can enjoy these precious natural lands for generations to come.

. Not to be confused with the California Chaparral Institute, also based and doing awesome work in San Diego County.

#### Endorsed Candidates continued from page 11

SMILE Award to honor those community members who work tirelessly to improve our community.

Randy also led the San Marcos effort to reduce the prevalence of single-use plastic by passing city's first single-use plastics reduction ordinance and led the city in its move to community choice power.

Randy also served on for 10 years on the Governing Board of San Marcos Unified School District. During his tenure, SMUSD built or rebuilt five schools, ten schools were named California Distinguished Schools, and two schools became California Gold Ribbon Schools. Today SMUSD is considered one of the top school districts in the region.

Randy also donates a tremendous amount of time to the community, and is most proud of The San Marcos Promise, a non-profit he helped create whose mission is to create viable pathways to college and career for local students. He also served as a board member and coach in San Marcos Youth Baseball and coached the San Marcos High surf team to three state championships.

Randy received his undergraduate degree from the UCSD, and a law degree from California Western School of Law, and for more than 15 years has operated Walton Law Firm in San Marcos.



### City Council, District 2 – Jay Petrek

Jay Petrek is campaigning for San Marcos City Council District 2 and is honored to receive the Sierra Club endorsement.

During Jay's 37-year career with the City of Escondido as Community Development Director and Assistant City Manager under the direction of conservative City Councils, he was active in numerous municipal projects that had wide-reaching environmental benefits. Jay's efforts included the city's purchase of Daley Ranch, a 3,200-acre open space preserve; preparing Escondido's first Climate Action Plan; overseeing three General Plans incorporating the city's environmental policies; preparing the city's Parks, Trails, and Open Space Masterplan; drafting successful grant applications for funding segments of the Escondido Creek trail, collaborating with Escondido Disposal on processing their anaerobic green waste digestion facility; and working with the city's Utilities Department staff on processing a state-of-the-art membrane filtration and reverse osmosis facility (MFRO) to deliver high quality recycled waste water.

Jay was appointed by the San Marcos City Council to serve on a citizen's committee that worked with staff in drafting the city's Ridgeline Protection Ordinance designed to protect prominent ridges in San Marcos from damaging development. He currently serves on the San Marcos General Plan Advisory Committee tasked with working with the community, staff, and consultants on drafting the city's long-range planning policies, including environmental policies, that reflect the aspirations and values of the community. Learn more about Jay at www.petrek4sanmarcos.com

### City of Vista



### **Mayor – Cipriano Vargas** President, Vista Unified

School District I'm running for Mayor of Vista because it's time for a change at City Hall. Crime is up. Homelessness is out of

control. The cost of gas, food and housing is through the roof. People are hurting, and the City of Vista has no real plan to help.

I will fight for the working and middle-income people of Vista. I'll build affordable housing, seek relief for renters, implement a Climate Action Plan, and attract good-paying jobs so people aren't forced to move away.

Affordable Housing/ Rent Relief: Growing up in Vista, I can remember when working families could afford to live here, but today skyhigh prices are squeezing families out of Vista. I'll provide relief for renters and build housing for veterans, nurses and other hard-working people of Vista..

Homelessness: I'll build a Homeless Veterans/ Children's Shelter. Homelessness in Vista is up by 49%. I'll ensure every homeless person has safe places to sleep, especially children and veterans.

Our Environment: I will work with staff on the implementation of our Climate Action Plan, help pave the way for renewable clean energy, and will expand and protect our open spaces throughout the city.

I'm fortunate to have Public Health Nurses, Congressman Mike Levin and the Sierra Club supporting me for Mayor of Vista. Together, we can stand up for the working and middle-income people of Vista.



### City Council, District 4 – Dan O'Donnell

As we move further into this new decade, the impacts on our planet and our environment becomes even more clear. Here in

Vista, we need to be doing everything we can to lower our footprint and our impact on the environment. As someone who cares deeply about the future of Vista and our environment, I am committed to implementing our Climate Action Plan at a more rapid pace and investing in new technologies that will not only allow us to have a positive impact on our environment, but it will allow us to create a more beautiful and vibrant community here in Vista.

As a member of the Vista City Council, I will fight to protect our open spaces, increase our tree canopy, and work to keep our waterways clean. I will advocate for a more rapid implementation of our Climate Action Plan, so that we can transition to electric fleets, increase our bus routes, and build better options for public transportation. I will continue to advocate for single use plastic bans, more EV charging stations, and work with county and state officials to secure funding for our solar projects.

I am proud to carry the endorsement of the Sierra Club, and I look forward to working together to create a brighter future here in Vista and all across North County San Diego! Thank you for your support!

### **Statewide Propositions**

### Proposition 1 — Right to Reproductive Freedom Amendment - YES

A "yes" vote supports amending the state constitution to prohibit the state from interfering with or denying an individual's reproductive freedom, which is defined to include a right to an abortion and a right to contraceptives.

A "no" vote opposes this amendment providing a right to reproductive freedom in the state constitution.

This measure will amend the California Constitution to establish a right to reproductive freedom, which is defined to include a right to an abortion and to choose or refuse contraceptives. Sierra Club works to advance environmental and social justice, and support for Proposition 1 is consistent with those values.

### Proposition 31 - Flavored Tobacco Products Ban Referendum - YES

A "yes" vote is to uphold the contested legislation, Senate Bill 793 (SB 793), which would ban the sale of flavored tobacco products.

A "no" vote is to repeal the contested legislation, Senate Bill 793 (SB 793), thus keeping the sale of flavored tobacco legal in the state.

The measure will ban the sale or possession with the intent to sell flavored tobacco products or tobacco product flavor enhancers, including flavored "vaping" products and menthol cigarettes. It is aimed at reducing youth vaping and protecting young people from tobacco addiction and its negative health effects. It would also reduce the environmental impacts of tobacco production and waste.

## Zeroing in on Zero Waste - Your Questions Answered

### San Diego Sierra Club Zero Waste Subcommittee

In this issue of the HiSierran, we'll answer a question submitted by a Sierra Club member and review the Zero Waste Subcommittee's progress towards our five 2022 goals. Please email your questions about zero waste and related issues to zerowastesdsc@gmail.com and we will answer them in future issues of the HiSierran. Zero Waste Subcommittee meetings are held the first Monday of the month at 6:30 PM. If you would like to attend or join the subcommittee, please send an email to zerowastesdsc@gmail.com.

### **Recycling of Packaging Materials**

A Sierra Club member asked about recycling of a wide range of packaging items and how much of the material placed in blue bins ends up in the landfill.

We reached out to the City of San Diego Environmental Services Department and the County of San Diego Department of Public Works and received the following guidance:

If the recyclable item in question is smaller than a credit card, then it should go in the trash as these types of small items typically fall through the sorting mechanisms at the recycling center. Examples include the aluminum seal of a yogurt container, thin plastic seal on oatmeal packaging, plastic insert in an olive oil bottle and an olive oil bottle's metal lid.

Mixed materials, such as a powder cleanser container that is cardboard and metal, are usually landfilled as the materials can't be separated for recycling.

### Local Measures

### Measure B - City of San Diego — Solid Waste Management Services - YES

San Diego operates under a 103-year-old law that created a deeply unfair, fiscally irresponsible and environmentally unsustainable system. If your home is an apartment or condo you are forced to pay for trash collection service yourself. Under existing law, eligible single family residential properties and multi-family residential properties with up to four residences on a single lot receive City-provided solid waste management services funded by the City's General and Recycling Funds. The City is required to collect, transport and dispose of solid waste from these residential properties and is prohibited from charging a fee for these services. Measure B would allow the City Council to establish a fee for City-provided solid waste management services at a future date.

Voting YES on Measure "B" will:

• Guarantee free trash and recycling bins, delivered to you by the City

• Allow the City to provide new trash services, such as bulky item pickup and weekly recycling

• Provide additional resources to clean up trash in public places such as parks, canyons and around homeless encampments

• End the practice of forcing apartment residents to pay more than others

• Ensure short-term vacation rentals and "mini-dorms" pay their fair share toward City services like everyone else

• Enable San Diego to achieve our Zero Waste and Climate Action Plan goals

Vote YES on Measure B to ensure San Diegans receive the world-class public services they expect and deserve.

Plastic film materials should not be placed in normal recycling bins because they clog recycling center sorting mechanisms. (For more information on plastic film recycling, please see the Zeroing in on Zero Waste articles in the October '21 and January '22 HiSierran newsletters.)

In general, more than 85% of the materials placed in blue bins gets recycled. You can help improve this percentage by following the above recycling guidelines.

### Zero Waste Subcommittee 2022 Goals

Here's a mid-year update on the Zero Waste Subcommittee's progress towards our five 2022 goals.

1) Phasing out gas-powered leaf blowers

Articles on SD-SEQUEL (San Diegans for Sustainable, Equitable, & Quiet Equipment in Landscaping) were published in the January and July '22 editions of the HiSierran. SD-SEQUEL was a first-year exhibitor at Earth Fair in Balboa Park. Provided public comments about the pollution caused by gas-powered landscaping equipment at the City of San Diego Environmental Committee's Climate Action Plan hearing and the San Diego County Board of Supervisors CAP meeting. Collaborated with the California Air Resources Board to improve their \$27M statewide voucher program for electric landscaping equipment which will launch in November. Working with the San Diego Air Pollution Control District to improve outreach for their upcoming \$3M trade-in program for gas-powered landscaping equipment.

2) Methane reduction by diverting organics from landfills, including edible food recovery.

Published HiSierran newsletter articles on diversion of food waste from landfills (January '22) and gleaning to recover surplus backyard produce (April '22). The City of San Diego is behind on compliance with SB 1383 and needs to start collecting food waste from city residents and publicize the organic waste collection program.

3) Reinstating the Polystyrene Foam and Single Use Plastics Ordinance.

Submitted comments on the Polystyrene Foam and Single Use Plastics Ordinance EIR to the San Diego City Council and urged them to reinstate the ordinance. The City Council plans to bring the Ordinance forward for consideration this Fall.

4) Divert material from landfills and preserve resources by increasing reuse and repair.

Our Zero Waste article in the Spring '22 HiSierran highlighted the Ninth Annual Zero Waste Symposium held on February 8th which gathered more than 200 participants in a day long discussion on the repair and reuse economy. Attended San Diego City Council President Sean Elo-River's press conference to support ballot Measure B, which would allow the City to provide new recycling services.

5) Phasing out synthetic turf at schools, playgrounds, and sports fields.

Submitted comments to San Diego County requesting that they eliminate the four synthetic turf replacement projects in their future budget and replace aging synthetic turf with natural grass. Brought this issue before the San Diego City Council Environmental Committee.

# Extending our Community Involvement: Progress Report from the Seal Society

"Change happens because of individuals who team up with others or inspire others. And soon you've got 10 or 100 or 1,000, and then you've got a movement." Sylvia Earle, Marine Biologist and author, "This Changes Everything."

Following last May's hard won success with our campaign efforts to protect our La Jolla sea lions rookery during the pupping season, we're finding our victories are not the rock solid and self-perpetuating permanent fixture we had envisioned. Predictably, the situation must be nurtured and even expanded. Aalso, we must look at the management plan along with the city once the pupping season closure ends and the beach is re-opened to the public for "shared use". Education about the marine life complexities by the docents is on-going with the influx of new visitors daily. Grounds maintenance crews are working to keep the viewing area cleaned up. Reporting the movements and welfare of the sea lions from place to place along the shore is a requirement. As our campaign chair reminds us, "It's like having a full time job!" "Minus the pay" I added.

The work of supporting the sea lion colony has led to more insights on how to further our progress, so we composed a short survey to ask visitors their opinion at Point La Jolla while insuring the respondents remain anonymous. Sample questions include " Do you think the Sea Lion rookery should be closed year round?"; Do you think it will be safe to walk down into the rookery when the beach is opened?"; "Are you satisfied with viewing the sea lions from the sidewalk?" So far, the responses have indicated the public is generally satisfied with the experience.

In addition to being the only "on-site guides", we have realized that we need help from non-docents for some specialized tasks. One of our community outreach requests has led to a "Counting Team". After placing requests in the Hi Sierran, local businesses and word of mouth, we have a contingent of helpers counting the number of people visiting at various times of day, as well as counts of the number of SL adults and pups seven specific locations within the closed area and beyond. We will report these numbers to the authorities to help assess the impact of the closure on the normal sea lion behaviors.

Another way in which we are involving the community is recruiting local senior level college students for a specific project of interest to them that relates to our needs, while providing some course credit. Several options are: to observe the public compliance with the restrictions to beach access; how to manage the human desire for a close encounter with wildlife versus safety considerations; developing an education program and signage targeted at international visitors; and identifying controversial issues around the sea lion rookery in an urban setting.

Finally, after months of fundraising, tracking "incidents and violations of the marine mammal protection act" and reviewing Guest Commentaries and Letters To the Editor, we are ready to bring in a paid Intern to help us with the many additional tasks our all - volunteer docents have been carrying out. We are in the preliminary stage of interviewing prospects' applications. We are seeking a mature and savvy student to assist with mapping our campaign strategy; able to interact with the volunteers, the media and local officials; attend and track community committees, manage our social media; help with educational programs and give administrative support with proficiency in various platforms on the computer. We hope the pool of candidates will have a background in biology, ecology and research, and have a passion for wildlife conservation.

If any or all of these opportunities are something you or someone you know would be interested in, please spread the word and contact us at: scsealsociety@gmail.com for further information.

Ellen Shively, Docent, Sierra Club Seal Society 30 by 30 continued from page 1 Pathways to 30 by 30" described in the main "Pathways" Document.

### What ARE their ten listed action steps? YOU can learn about them with us!

1. The first emphasis is "Regional"; that is conservation needs to be tailored to a specific part of California--no one size fits all.

2. Call for "strategic land acquisitions". Yes, clearly acquiring key conservation lands is essential and may underpin many other ways to make progress. However, it generally costs the most money: we can't buy up all the land we wish to.

3. Voluntary "conservation easements". Buying lands isn't always possible--due to unavailability or expense--but easements across lands, for corridors, can sometimes substitute.

4. Better conservation of lands that are "already public". Yes--how about working for stronger designations on our public lands-such as more national monuments or wilderness on federal lands--or maybe more state wildernesses? And more protective management of those lands.

5. Institutionalize "advance mitigation". This one always sounds medicinal to me--a bit formidable--but it just means that because some necessary development projects will have impacts we can't prevent, we need to assure durable protection for more than just 30 percent of lands--we need to make up for unavoidable harm.

6. Restoration and stewardship. Of course! it's not all new lands to protect: we must work to restore ecological integrity to damaged lands and provide strong stewardship overall.

7. Strengthen Coordination Among Governments. Absolutely vital--get the feds and state lands managers to cooperate and work together--they have done little enough of that in the past.

8. Invest for maximum conservation: Wise move. If you're spending money on conservation, do it in a way that gets the most bang for the buck.

9. Complementary conservation measures: Ok--that means not every conservation action will yank up the total of lands protected BUT can help in other useful ways to boost effectiveness of our 30x30 measures.

10. Evaluate, monitor and adapt. Check to make sure what you're doing is really helping -- if not--adapt to make it better. 30 by 30 continued on page 17

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# Walk and Talk for Trees Escondido

Sierra Club, Urban Corps of San Diego, and the city of Escondido are working together to pilot test an effort to get more trees planted in urban areas. Urban Corps members will be talking to residents about trees and offering free tree plantings in Escondido. Sierra Club members and others interested in more tree planting in urban areas are invited to join the Corp members every Saturday to November 5th for a 2 hour session. Kids with an accompanying adult are invited!

Each team will have both English and Spanish speakers and will include an Urban Corps member. All materials will be provided. We will be signing residents up for trees which will be planted in the winter—the best time for planting.

We think that talking directly to residents can educate about the benefits of trees and answer any questions or concerns they might have. Sierra Club will share bilingual materials on planting trees at home and other climate actions individuals can take to increase resilience and reduce climate warming emissions.

This is an important pilot project which, if successful, can be replicated throughout North County.

### Let's bring more trees to North County!

30 by 30 continued from page 17

### Not a bad list. What is working in YOUR Chapter? And what else is the 30 by 30 task force up to?

Coming up, we are supporting lobbying efforts around the state budget to secure more funds for 30x30, refining the Local each Chapter's Conservation Priorities to zero in on those priorities ripe for action now; and we're ramping up our campaign's communications efforts to get the word out about our work.

www.sierraclub.org/california/sierra-clubs-california-30x30-campaign

### To get involved in your Chapter, contact

Vicky Hoover, co-chair, CA 30x30 task force (Vicky.hoover@sierraclub.org)

# Setting the Record Straight on Sea Lions and Seal Concerns



*Sea lion mom and pup bond. Photo Courtesy of Roxy Grant* 

### By Robyn Davidoff, Seal Society Chair

Sea lions are not the cause of La Jolla problems as recently printed in a local press article: (La Jolla Light, August 25th, p.22, "Environmental report is needed to study impacts of seals and sea lions in La Jolla".) Her response is extracted here from the longer original response.

Tourism has been increasing as La Jolla successfully promotes itself as a top San Diego destination with fine dining, shops, wildlife, and scenery. In fact, the Cove is rated as one of the most beautiful beaches in America according to TripAdvisor. Irresponsible tourism, lack of parking and public transportation, and a shortage of park support services fuel most local concerns. It is a fallacy to attribute these to the natural Californian marine environment including sea lions and their plump pups. La Jolla is privileged to have marine reserves, a deep underwater canyon and kelp forest that attract marine life and mammals including seals and sea lions, garibaldi (California's state fish), leopard sharks, sting rays, and even turtles. The statistics show that seal numbers have not been increasing since the Children's Pool was closed for pupping season in 2014 and sea lion numbers have remained steady at below 200 since the extensive counts undertaken for the 2017 Hanan report commissioned by the city.

The presence of sea lions and seals do however, create amazing sights and experiences for visitors from all over the world as La Jolla is the only place where pinnipeds give birth and raise their young in an urban environment. Plus, it's free! Tourists spend hours mesmerized by the sights of a seal pup birth, sea lion pups playing by the water's edge testing their swimming skills, and male bulls fighting for territory and the right to mate. Many businesses such as dive shops, snorkel tours, and kayak tours and even restaurants and shops rely on La Jolla's wildlife habitat to attract customers year-round. Sea lions regularly body surf the waves at Boomer Beach and perform amazing airborne 360 degree flips out of the back of a wave just for fun. They also climb on top of each other and rest in a position that looks like a yoga pose honoring the sun. They are highly intelligent and curious by nature and often interact with divers. Simply, they entertain the public.

Could these playful sea lions be responsible for the relatively new juvenile white shark nursery off of Torrey Pines? Dr. Lowe who heads the SharkLab at Cal. State Long Beach says "no". The shark nursery near the Scripps Pier is over a mile away from the sea lion rookery and the Cove. Dr. Lowe says the white shark nursery has been moving down the coast from Santa Barbara probably attracted by warmer water. These juveniles feed on the abundant sting rays and bat rays and not on seals and sea lions. How does he know? No remains of seals or sea lions have been found in dead juvenile white shark's stomachs. SharkLab has been tagging juveniles for many years and has found that they leave the San Diego coast for deeper water when they reach adulthood. Juvenile sharks in Torrey Pines waters may look large but appear to co-exist with people surfing, paddle boarding or otherwise sharing their ocean. Over the past few years, the city has reviewed multiple requests for an EIR and each time the city determined it was not necessary nor required by law. The Ca. Coastal Comm. agreed.

Ocean goers, and other interested parties must work together to protect La Jolla's areas of special biological significance from destructive human activity (pollution, trash, harassment, erosion, and over use) Seal and sea lions are part of La Jolla's environment and part of its ecosystem. The Sierra Club Seal Society continues to seek realistic ways to achieve solutions based on environmental expert opinions, data collection, and experience in managing human-wildlife interactions. We "welcome sensible discussions rather than attributing blame for unrelated items to the unique sea lions" and seals of La Jolla.

# Wilderness Basics Course 2023

"Experience the beauty of the wilderness with knowledge and confidence!"

### **WBC Starting Dates:**

Escondido - January 10th

## San Diego - January 17th

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

### For More Info and To Register: San Diego

www.wildernessbasics.com

Escondido wbc.sierraclubncg.org

## Click Bait Or: How One Link Changed Everything (And Introduced Me To WBC)

### Sarah Bassiouni

Although I'm an (elder) millennial, I'm not a social media aficionada. I have a Facebook account but I check it very rarely. Yet, without that very medium, I wouldn't have been lucky enough to learn about WBC. In November 2021, I stumbled across a post describing a course designed to help folks feel more comfortable hiking and backpacking. I clicked on the link and, after reading the description, signed up for it thinking it would be a weekly lecture format with maybe a day trip. I was excited by the prospect, but little did I know what life-changing fun was in store.

My road to WBC was more scenic than direct. Midwest born and bred, I loved nature but never had formal exposure to

camping and hiking. Over time, I gradually felt more comfortable in the outdoors but felt afraid to go on a longer trip because what if something went wrong? When I moved to San Diego in 2017, I endeavored to explore more, and I did. But again, I felt limited by my inexperience (and a strong self-preservation instinct).

Then came WBC. During the first class, I realized I hadn't read the description too carefully: it wasn't a day trip but four(!) overnight trips. As someone whose gear list started and ended with my well-



WILDERNESS

BASICS COURSE

WBC desert outing at Goat Canyon Trestle Bridge 2/13/2022, led by Kelly Conrad. Photo: Samyuktha Dayananda, MSBME.

worn Lowa hiking boots, the outings structured in increasing intensity was essential. It gave me time to rent or borrow gear, and then try out in a supervised fashion. Throughout, WBC was replete with judgment-free environments where I could ask and learn. There is something deeply vulnerable about joining a space

ULL DERNESS BASICS COURS

**RESTRALISHED** 

(alone) where you know very little, even if you're eager to learn. That first night, I walked into the library, saw the sea of unfamiliar masked faces, and wondered if I'd made a mistake. But I quickly learned how WBC staff and leaders are eager to create a warm and welcoming space for all. They met our newbie vulnerability with compassion and kindness: no question was dismissed as too silly or obvious. This atmosphere let me ask questions and build a foundation of knowledge that I continue to use.

It wasn't just me: I met likeminded people who are now dear friends. Wanting to continue what I'd learned; I became a Chapter Outing Leader Level

1 in July 2022. I'm now in Michigan pursuing doctoral studies but am in the process of organizing official hikes with my local Sierra Club. (Of course, when cold Midwestern winters

strike, I'm ready to visit my found family back in San Diego too.) I sometimes think back to how one little click resulted in so many amazing experiences. WBC gave me a toolkit of knowledge, skills, and experiences that I'm deeply grateful to have. I'm proud to share my WBC experiences with others and am excited to see how I progress as a backpacker. If you also want the outdoors to feel like a space where you too belong and can thrive, I recommend WBC wholeheartedly.

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# **Inspiring Connections Outdoors**

### **Bill Tayler** San Diego, ICO Co-Chair



# Summertime Is For Enjoying the Water, in the Mountains and the Ocean

### by Bill Tayler

"That's not a lake, that's heaven!" Such was the reaction of one of our 5th grade campers upon first seeing beautiful Skelton Lake, nestled among granite outcroppings at an elevation of about 10,000 feet in the eastern Sierra near Mammoth Lakes. Swimming (for hours!) in the cold waters of Skelton Lake is only one of many great memories from our 6-day camping trip in mid-July to Coldwater Campground. We also hiked to (and swam in) small but stunning TJ Lake (where we also saw a marmot), and we spent two days swimming in and lounging on the shores of McCloud Lake (which was a favorite of the kids because the hike to it is fairly short and comparatively easy).



Heading to the beach at TJ Lake

Meanwhile, back in San Diego, we also took kids on 9 snorkeling trips to La Jolla Cove over the summer. Some of the kids who became experienced snorkelers last summer were back for more (snorkeling season is the favorite time of year for many of them, even those who love hiking), and we also introduced a whole new crop of younger kids to the wonders of snorkeling with Garibaldi, sea bass and sea lions. We often see the first timers start the day completely unwilling to even put their faces in the water and breathe through the snorkel, but somehow they usually end the day completely enthralled with snorkeling, asking when they can go again. I never tire of seeing this transformation, opening a new world to them and at the same time watching their self-confidence soar as they learn a new skill. As one of our volunteers put it, "We take them by their little hands and show them a whole new world. It's so great." Can't wait to do it again next summer.

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

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

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

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



New snorkeler Diego with a lobster shell



Ctober/November/December

Ready for swimming in Skelton Lake



Veteran snorkeler Hailey with an abalone shell

# **Chapter & Group Executive Committee Ballot Instructions**

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

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 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.

All ballots must be received by 3 p.m., Monday, November 7, 2022. Paper ballots should be mailed or hand delivered to: Elections-San Diego Chapter Sierra Club, 8304 Clairemont Mesa Blvd. #101, San Diego, CA 92111. You must write your membership number on the outside of the mailing envelope!

# **Remember To Vote**



# Chapter and Group Executive Committee Ballots

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# **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

#### Writing a book?

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

### **Classified Ad Rates and Information:**

Sierra Club Members (up to 25 words) Private party

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

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### 858-569-6005 or scoffice@sierrasd.org

### Submission Deadlines for HiSierran Newsletter:

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

January/February/March 2023 Deadline December 1, 2022

### To submit by email, please email to both: thomascreative2@cox.net richard.miller@sierraclub.org Submissions are subject to approval for content and

subject matter.

# I.T. Technicians Wanted

The Chapter does as much as it does because many volunteers donate generous amounts of time to making it all work. We can always use more hands. The Chapter will soon be moving to new office space, and we need IT people to help us in determining what we need, set up our computers, and what other tasks we need to do.

If you can help, contact Richard Miller at 858-569-6005 or richard.miller@sierraclub.org

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### Statement of Ownership, Management and Circulation (USPS Form 3526)

### **Committees & Contact Information**

# Due to COVID most meetings have moved on-line. Please check our Activities Calendar (http://sandiegosierraclub.org/news/activities-calendar/) on how you can participate.

### **CHAPTER STAFF**

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

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

Conservation Organizer: Karl Aldinger karl.aldinger@sierraclub.org

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE** 

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

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

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

Secretary: Rochelle Hancock (2024) Rae\_1024@yahoo.com

**North County Group Rep:** Pam Heatherington pjheartherington@gmail.com

North County Coastal Group Rep. Sally Prendergast Sallyp123@mac.com

Alan Geraci (2022), alan@alangeraci.com

David Rousseau (2022) bayparkdr@yahoo.com

Dale Russell (2023) dalerussell05@fulbrightmail.org

Agatha Wein (2024) agathawein@gmail.com

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

#### NORTH COUNTY COASTAL GROUP (COASTERS)

Contact Chair or check website for meeting information. Chair: Sally Prendergast sallyp123@mac.com

### NORTH COUNTY GROUP (INLAND)

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

**Chair:** Pam Heatherington pjheatherington@gmail.com

#### **COMMITTEES**

#### **CONSERVATION COMMITTEE**

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

### <u>Transportation</u>

Meets 3rd Wednesday at 5pm David Grubb davidzgrubb@gmail.com

<u>Zero-Waste</u>

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

### SEAL SOCIETY

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

### POLITICAL COMMITEE

Meets 4th Thursday at 7:00pm Chair: Agatha Wein, agathawein@gmail.com

#### **OUTINGS COMMITTEE**

Meets quarterly, contact Chair for date and location. Chair: Chair: Bob Stinton sd.outchair@gmail.com Leadership Review & Safety Committee Chair: Michael Taylor sd.lrsc@gmail.com **Bus Trips** Mike Fry mnfry@cox.net **Chapter Outings Leadership Training (COL)** Stefanie Maio sd.col.training@gmail.com **Pacific Crest Trail** Rob Langsdorf SDSCPCTS@yahoo.com

#### WILDERNESS BASICS COURSE (WBC) Held annually beginning in January

San Diego Kristi Andersen info@wildernessbasics.com www.wildernessbasics.com Escondido

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

# SECTIONS & SOCIAL COMMITTEES Bicycle

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

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

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#### INSPIRING CONNECTIONS OUTDOORS (ICO)

Check website for meeting information. www.sandiegosierraclub.org Chair: Bill Tayler, 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



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### LORI SULLIVAN

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

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





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

## **2023 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.



WILDERNESS 2023

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OF	RDER F	ORM	
ITEM	COST	QTY	TOTAL
Engagement Calendar	\$14.95 \$13.46 <del>\$15.95</del> \$14.36		
Subset to X / 7 5% 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 9211. Save shipping costs by picking up at our office.		Subtotal: Sales Tax:	
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To pay by credit card go to http://donate.sie or call 858-569-6005	errasd.org/	GRAND TOTAL:	. <u></u>
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ENGAGEMENT 2023



Travel Blanket Price: \$14.95

This fleece travel blanket features the Sierra Club logo and comes in blue, white and red plaid. It features a packing strap when not in use with a convenient carrying strap. Dimensions: 40" wide x 60" long Dimensions Rolled: 11" long by 6" in diameter Color: Blue, White and Red Plaid 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 stiching.