



Sierra Club San Diego Chapter

HiSIERRAN

Serving San Diego And Imperial Counties

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July/August/September 2019

Why Transnet Must Be Changed

By David Grubb, Transportation Chair

Transnet is the 1/2 cent sales tax that provides the local share of transportation funding. It is combined with state and federal funds to provide most of the funding for transportation projects in the San Diego region. When the Transnet tax was renewed in 2004, the Sierra Club opposed it because it was too heavily biased toward freeway expansion projects at the expense of other modes of transportation. The SANDAG Board can vote to change the list of projects. We have asked them to consider a more equitable allocation, but they have always refused to consider it.

The new management at SANDAG has realized that change is necessary and has started a discussion of alternatives. Some local elected officials are pushing back against revising the list of projects. Here are some of the reasons that change is necessary, and that sticking with an outdated plan is not an option.

Due to revenue shortfall and cost increases, the Transnet sales tax together with leveraged state and federal funds will not produce enough money to complete all of the projects that were promised in the 2004 ballot measure. Delivering on all of the promises is not an option.

Any attempt to raise additional funds for freeway expansions will be met with strong opposition from the same coalition that defeated Measure A, the previous attempt to backfill the Transnet shortfall.

Climate change is real, it is caused by human activity, and it requires urgent action. Since transportation is the largest source of GHG emissions, and solo driving is the most significant contributor, it must be reduced now. Electric cars and fuel economy standards alone are not enough, we must provide safe, convenient, and affordable alternatives.

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SANDAG Is Developing New Vision For A World-class Transportation System For The San Diego Region

Coleen Clementson, Special Projects Director, SANDAG

SANDAG is leading a broad-based community effort to develop San Diego Forward: The 2021 Regional Plan (2021 Regional Plan). Updated every four years, the Regional Plan combines the big-picture vision for how our region will grow to 2050 and beyond with an implementation program to help make that vision a reality. Earlier this year, the SANDAG Board of Directors approved an action plan to develop a bold new vision for the 2021 Regional Plan that creates a complete and balanced transportation system that meets state greenhouse gas reduction mandates and provides a world-class transportation system for the San Diego region that is sustainable, affordable, safe, and accessible to everyone. This new transportation vision will provide a range of compelling transportation options to provide travelers with options beyond driving alone, recognizing that no single mode (driving, transit, biking, walking) works for every trip type. Additionally, the vision will integrate different ways of traveling to optimize performance of the whole system and enhance mobility options.

In April 2019, SANDAG unveiled key strategies - known as "5 Big Moves" - during a historic joint meeting with the Policy Advisory Committees and the Independent Taxpayer Oversight Committee. The 5 Big Moves set the framework for a bold new transportation vision and draw from the biggest ideas in transportation innovation and planning to improve connectivity, safety, sustainability, and quality of life, ultimately transforming the way people and goods travel throughout the San Diego region. These key strategies will consider policies, changes in land use and infrastructure, advancements in our existing transportation system, and leveraging technology trends to improve performance of our roadways and accommodate all users.

The 5 Big Moves include: Complete Corridors, Transit Leap, Mobility Hubs, Flexible Fleets, and Next Operating System (OS). Complete Corridors maximize use of existing roadways to increase safety, capacity, and efficiency, while the Transit Leap creates a network of high-speed transit to connect travelers to their homes, jobs, and other major destinations in the heart of communities. Mobility Hubs are places where different modes of travel seamlessly converge and provide a suite of transportation services for short and long trips. Flexible Fleets provide on-

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Explore, Enjoy and Protect the Planet

HiSIERRAN

Explore, Enjoy and Protect the Planet

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The View from the Chair



Peter Andersen

Sierra Club San Diego continues on an excellent path. We have been winning lawsuits, opposing bad developments, supporting good developments, sponsoring outings, graduating folks from our wilderness basics course, attaining full status as a local club, and planning for next year local, state and national elections.

Club Elections: No election is more important than our internal elections here at Sierra Club San Diego. We are electing four new Executive Committee members. If you would like to run in the Excom elections please send a short environmental bio to me, Peter Andersen, at westone47@gmail.com by July 25. We will actually have two elections running concurrently for Sierra Club San Diego Excom. We will elect two new people to a one year term on Excom. We have a second simultaneous election to a three year term on Excom. Please consider running for one of these two important seats. The continued success of the club depends on excellent people running for these two offices.

One of the biggest land use fights is over Otay Ranch Village 14. A large coalition of environmental and conservation groups is fighting this dangerous project of over 1100 homes in rural Proctor Valley between Jamul and Chula Vista. This is a fire disaster waiting to happen. According to Cal Fire this area is in the top 1% of communities in California that have worst chance of evacuation in a wildfire. Paradise had six roads, Proctor Valley has one road! In the last two decades Proctor Valley has completely burned twice! It will be a traffic nightmare for Chula Vista and Jamul already impacted by traffic. Proctor Valley is an environmentally sensitive area of coastal sage scrub and includes Multiple Species Conservation Land that should be locked up permanently. If the Board of Supervisors approves this project on June 26 Sierra Club and other environmental organization will be back on court to again defeat the county legally!

Last December Sierra Club San Diego and our excellent environmental law firm, Chatten-Brown, defeated the County's lame Climate Action plan in California Superior Court for the third time. Finally, the county has invited Sierra Club to sit down and help them draft a real Climate Action Plan. Our initial meetings have been productive and this is a great opportunity for a plan that will make a difference in

reducing air pollution here in the county and decreasing greenhouse gas globally. However, if the county approve sprawl developments, like Otay Ranch Village 14, it will indicate the county is not serious about climate action or in following the court's decision that prevents out-of-state mitigation, and will blow up these negotiations entirely. Stay tuned.

The club is involved in helping local groups fight several sand mines here in San Diego County, the El Monte Sand Mine in the El Monte Valley in Lakeside, the Otay Hills Quarry, and the Cottonwood Sand Mine in the heart of Rancho San Diego. These projects can impact San Diego water quality, create air pollution, and increase traffic. Here is how to get involved at the grassroots level. For the El Monte San Mine opposition contact: <https://saveelmontealvalley.wordpress.com/>

For the Otay Sand Mine see www.friendsofotaymountain.org/

To oppose the Cottonwood Sand Mine contact <https://www.stopcottonwoodsandmine.com/>

These groups represent grassroots activism at its best. The only way to stop such projects is when citizens get involved to protect their own communities.

Finally, it is not too soon to start thinking about the crucial elections in 2020. The California Primary is on March 3, less than 9 months away! One cannot overstate the importance of this election. The local headliner is the three seats up for grabs on San Diego County Board of Supervisors. This will be a battle for control of the majority of the 5 seats on the board. Also scheduled is the Save Our San Diego Countryside Initiative that Sierra Club helped qualify for the ballot. Learn more at <https://saveoursdcountryside.org/> Last but not least is the California Presidential Primary. California has the most delegates to the Democratic and Republican Conventions. This year we are among the first five primaries so we will have an enormous effect on who will be running for President.

We urge Sierra Club members to get involved in protecting our environment. There are dozens of way to be involved! We appreciate you as members but need you to get active in preserving San Diego and our planet.

Call for Executive Committee Nominations



SIERRA CLUB SAN DIEGO CHAPTER

The Sierra Club San Diego Nominating Committee is seeking Chapter members to run for the Chapter Executive Committee (ExCom) in the 2019 Election. The committee seeks a diverse pool of candidates, balanced in terms of gender, ethnicity, age, and geography. The Sierra Club San Diego membership will elect four Executive Committee members in 2019.

Nominations are due July 25 2019.

We will actually have two elections running concurrently for Sierra Club San Diego ExCom. We will elect two new people to a one-year term on ExCom. We have a second simultaneous election to a three-year term on ExCom. Please consider running for one of these two important seats. Please specify term for which you are applying

The candidate questionnaire is available by calling the Sierra Club office at 858-569-6005.

The ideal candidate for the San Diego Chapter Executive Committee is an experienced, effective leader who has a clear vision for the Chapter's future and a proven capacity to work with people to achieve goals and resolve problems. The Nominating Committee will contact potential candidates and will send a questionnaire to those who request one. After reviewing returned questionnaires, the Nominating Committee will select applicants for interviews. To be considered for an interview, candidates must return completed questionnaires to the Nominating Committee by July 25, 2019. The Nominating Committee will announce its candidates at the August 14, 2019, Sierra Club San Diego Executive Committee meeting. In addition to the nomination process, the Club bylaws allow candidates to qualify for the ballot by a petition process, as specified in the bylaws. Petitions are available in the Sierra Club San Diego office.

The Executive Committee, composed of seven elected volunteers and an appointed representative from each Chapter Group, has the legal responsibility and authority to oversee all staff and volunteer activities of the Chapter, to establish the Chapter's conservation priorities and internal policies, and to adopt and implement the annual budget.

People Interested In Serving As An Executive Committee Member Should Be:

- *Dedicated to the purposes and goals of the Sierra Club*
- *Able and willing to accept the legal and fiduciary responsibilities of an Executive Committee member*
- *Able to listen and communicate effectively and work in a team environment*
- *Able and willing to dedicate sufficient personal time to Executive Committee duties*
- *Able to think and plan strategically and politically*
- *Willing to become knowledgeable about environmental and political issues*
- *Willing to become knowledgeable about the structure and operations of the Chapter*
- *Able to demonstrate leadership experience*
- *Able and willing to deal with the broad range of issues that come before the Executive Committee*
- *Able to demonstrate a history of commitment to the principles and values of the Sierra Club or a history of commitment to environmental and social justice issues*

The San Diego Chapter Executive Committee is a working board. All members are expected to devote sufficient time, energy, and creativity to projects and commitments and to carry them through to their successful conclusion.

All Executive Committee Members Are Expected To:

- *Prepare for and attend monthly meetings each year*
- *Participate in conference calls when needed*
- *Communicate regularly via e-mail*
- *Participate in other meetings on behalf of the Executive Committee or the Chapter*

Executive Committee members receive no monetary compensation but may be reimbursed for approved expenses while on Chapter business.

Four Executive Committee members will be elected in the 2019 election. For the first seat (2 positions) the two candidates receiving the highest number of votes will be elected for a term of one years. For the second seat (2 positions) the two candidates receiving the highest number of votes will be elected for a term of three years.

Awards Dinner & Celebration



Life Time Achievement
Jean Costa

The 2019 FEAT awardees were Feeding San Diego, San Diego Earthworks, and the San Diego Regional Water Quality Board. They have made fabulous contributions to the people of San Diego and its environment. Also honored were our volunteers, who have unwaveringly and dependably given thousands of hours to further Sierra Club's priorities, save wilderness and open space, experience our fabulous environment, win elections, and advocate for a sustainable future. These volunteers are the green energy that powers our organization. So, on May 14th we celebrated our community leaders, our partners, our volunteers, and the exciting future of Sierra Club San Diego Chapter!



Peter Andersen presenting \$1,000 grant to David Grubb, recipient of the Joanne H. Pearson Memorial award in Environmental Public Advocacy



Richard Miller, Chapter Director with Political Activist Awardee Brian Elliott and presenter, San Diego City Councilman Chris Ward.



Peter Andersen, Chapter Chair presenting the Distinguished Achievement Award to Karenlee Robinson and Paul Webb



Silver Cup Winner
Richard Miller



San Diego City Councilwoman Barbara Bry presenting the Conservation Activist Award to Laura Hunter & Cynthia Wootton



Richard Miller presenting FEAT Award to Feeding San Diego



2019 Feat Award Earthworks
L-R Chris Klein, Carolyn Chase, Peter Andersen



Henry Abarbanel, accepting the FEAT Award for San Diego Water Authority



Peter Andersen, Chapter Chair, presenting Outings Leader Award to Alice Fichandler



George Courser
Conservation Chair



Peter Andersen, Chapter Chair presenting the Rookie Activist of the Year Award to Amanda Mascia



Ruben Arizmendi, Kyle Fischer a & Marco Cervantes



(L-R) Henry Abarbanel, Peter Andersen, Cynthia Gorham, Eric Anderson, Gary Strawn & George Courser



Silent Auction Items



Stefanie Maio



Representatives from Port of San Diego



Peter Andersen presenting Chapter Service Award to Michael Taylor



Peter Andersen and Micah Mitroski of IBEW 569



Dina Campbell accepting the Volunteer of the Year Award from Peter Andersen, Chapter Chair



Marco Cervantes, Republic Services & John Heatherington



Enjoying the Buffet



Call for Nominations

Sierra Club activities are driven by volunteers at the local level and are one of the only environmental groups where volunteers set the agenda. Joining our team is a great way to meet likeminded new friends and make a difference in our local community. Our goal is to foster an environment where people can get involved based on their interests and skills. Now is a great time to get involved and be a part of your local Sierra Club group.

The North County Coastal Group (NCCG) will be holding elections this Fall to fill four (4) vacancies on its Executive Committee. The NCC Group Executive Committee has overall responsibility to assure that the activities and services provided for the benefit of the members are consistent with the Bylaws, Rules, and Policies of the Chapter and National Sierra Club. These activities may include outings, membership services, financial management, conservation and political programs. The Executive Committee meets monthly and attendance is expected. If you would like to submit a name for consideration by the Nominating Committee, or would like more information, contact Carl Pope at seatp3@gmail.com

Names must be submitted by August 1st, 2019.

The North County Coastal Group comprises the zip codes of:

92007 - Cardiff, 92008 - Carlsbad, 92009 - Carlsbad,
92010 - Carlsbad, 92011 - Carlsbad, 92013 - Carlsbad PO Box,
92018 - Carlsbad PO Box, 92014 - Del Mar, 92023 - Encinitas - PO Box,
92024 - Encinitas, 92054 - Oceanside, 92055 - Oceanside,
92056 - Oceanside, 92057 - Oceanside, 92049 Oceanside PO Box,
92051 - Oceanside PO Box, 92052 - Oceanside PO Box,
92067 - Rancho Santa Fe PO Box, 92075 - Solana Beach,
92091 - Ranch Santa Fe.

Candidates may also submit their names through an alternative process by submitting a petition.

For more information go to
<http://sandiegosierraclub.org/get-involved/coastal/>

North County Coastal Group Quarterly Meeting July 10th

Buena Vista Audubon Nature Center

2202 S. Coast Highway Oceanside, 7:00 - 8:30 PM

Please Join us for a Special screening of this award winning documentary - Sonic Sea

Oceans are a sonic symphony. Sound is essential to the survival and property of marine life. But man-made ocean noise is threatening this fragile world. Learn about what you can do to protect life in our waters from the destructive effects of oceanic noise pollution. The Screening will be followed by a discussion with Lisa Levin from the Scripps Institute of Oceanography who will discuss the deep ocean and human impacts on these ecosystems.

Everyone is Welcome and Admission is free of Charge



NCG ExCom Call for Nominations

The North County Group (NCG) will be holding elections this Fall to fill 3 vacancies on its Executive Committee. The Group Executive Committee has overall responsibility to assure that the activities and services provided for the members are consistent with the bylaws, rules, and policies of the Chapter and National Sierra Club. These activities may include outings, membership services, financial management, conservation and political programs. The Executive Committee meets monthly and attendance is expected. If you would like to submit a name for consideration by the Nominating Committee, or would like more information, contact Suzi Sandore at info@sierraclubncg.org.

Names must be submitted by August 1, 2019.

The North County Group consists of the zip codes:
92003, 92025-30, 92033, 92046, 92058-61, 92064-65,
92069-70, 92074, 92078-79, 92081-85, 92088,
92127-28, 92198.

Transnet continued from page 1

A regional transportation plan that is based on the outmoded reliance on freeway expansion defined in Transnet will not meet the state-mandated GHG reductions. It will be challenged in court. In the lawsuits over the 2011 RTP and the County CAP, the courts rejected flawed plans that did not meet climate targets. Another faulty RTP will likely suffer the same fate, setting our region back and putting transportation funding at risk.

The State of California is taking action on climate change. If local elected officials do not exercise their local control responsibly, the state may step in, as shown by the passage of AB805. That changed the balance of power at SANDAG so it no longer resides with the smaller, rural cities that promoted freeway expansions, but to the densely populated areas in the urban core that want more public transit options.

Expanding freeways does not reduce congestion. It induces additional driving, and the congestion level soon returns to where it was before the expansion. This is now well-understood by most professional planners, but not yet by some members of the public and elected officials.

It is absolutely mandatory to reduce solo driving now! That will reduce congestion, ease the conditions at the choke points, and reduce both greenhouse gas emissions and criteria pollutants. So the critical question for elected officials is: What are you going to do to reduce solo driving to, from, and within your community sooner rather than later?

Of Pinnipeds and Petitions and Pluck

By Ellen Shively,

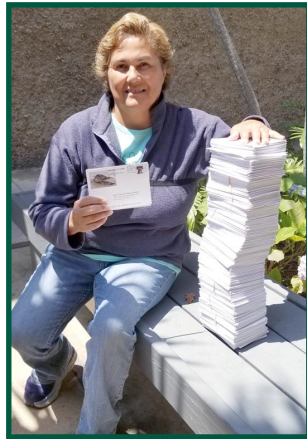
The unsettled scene of the marine pinnipeds (both harbor seals and sea lions) of La Jolla seems never to quell with all interest groups continuing to pull their chain in whichever direction they favor or disfavor protecting the small harbor seal resident population of one small beach and seawall. The current management plan - “open mixed use during the summer and closed beach during the pupping season has worked well. In anticipation of the ending of a five year trial period the docent group has initiated a petition signing and postcard distribution campaign for the past two months and will be (or has been when you read this) considered for renewal during the 13 June meeting of the California Coastal Commission here in San Diego. (It will be decided by the time you read this, so I proposed to the editor I write two endings to this article.)

When I sent out a request for letters to long time supporters, one seal advocate’s reply included the statement, “ I’ll be glad to send a letter. God, this will never end! “ That pretty well sums it up. Over the years, the beach has been opened and closed, the rope has been erected then removed, mayors have declared emergency measures to protect the seals, law suits have stacked up, millions of words and dollars have been spent for either side of the “open beach- closed beach, protect the seals or get rid of them” controversy.

As it turns out, the Commission is bound to make decisions based on the law - covered by federal, state and local declarations, the California Coastal Act and the Public Trust Doctrine. The true test will be,”has the management plan met

SANDAG continued from page 1
demand, shared electric vehicles that connect between communities. The Next OS is the “brain” of the transportation system and will turn real-time data from different vehicle types and infrastructure into actionable information that enables all 5 Big Moves to work together and deliver a seamless multimodal travel experience.

A conceptual framework of projects, programs, and policies that could be included in the 2021 Regional Plan is currently being developed and will be shared for public review and comment in late 2019. Then SANDAG will explore potential financial and pricing strategies and, through fall 2020, focus on evaluating the proposed network to ensure it meets state sustainability requirements and achieves desired outcomes. Once performance results are finalized, the Board will consider approval of a preferred scenario, including the final mix of projects, programs, and policies to be included in



Our Administrative Assistant Marty Marquez with the stack of over 1,300 postcards to the California Coastal Commission urging their support for the La Jolla Seals. Photo: Pam Thomas

all the standards required in these documents. So the speakers cannot dramatize the public acts of defiance or romanticize the bonding moments of seal moms and pups . The hard facts of the laws and tenants must meet strict guidelines. So appreciate the hard work that will have gone into making this campaign successful in renewing the very good management plan (we hope). And rejoice in your participation in signing those petitions and postcards, and even attending the hearing.

Special thanks, in whichever the outcome, to Richard Miller, Dave Grubb, Dave Hogan, encouragers, and all the docents of the Sierra Club Seal Society for shepherding the petition signing and organizing the speakers, and to the many others who helped. Like democracy, good outcomes of a campaign don’t just happen . It takes activism and involvement.

Late breaking: The CCC voted to re-instate closing Casa Beach in La Jolla for the seasonal pupping season from December 15 thru May 15th and open the beach for human recreation during the other seven summer months. Thanks for the wonderful participation of so many Sierrans who attended the meeting, spoke on behalf of the issue and helped with the long campaign leading up to the day of decision, June 13th. The Seal Society will double their efforts to provide education for the many tourists visiting the beach and will begin efforts to advocate for better protections for the neighboring sea lions at the Cove. If you are interested in this wonderful outdoor conservation advocacy, please contact our coordinator at her email address: ellenshively@sbcglobal.net for more information.



Photo: Jennifer Leigh Warner, photographer, at experiencewildlife.com.

the 2021 Regional Plan. Then, the environmental review process and subsequent public review period will take approximately one year. The SANDAG Board is expected to consider approval of the Regional Plan in late 2021. You’re welcome to get involved in the vision development process. Learn more at SDForward.com, sign up to receive email updates at SDForward.com/subscribe, and visit the SANDAG Vision Lab.

About SANDAG

The San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) is the San Diego region’s primary public planning, transportation, and research agency, providing the public forum for regional policy decisions about growth, transportation planning and construction, environmental management, housing, open space, energy, public safety, and binational topics. SANDAG is governed by a Board of Directors composed of mayors, council members, and supervisors from each of the region’s 18 cities and the county government.

SAN DIEGO

Chapter Activities

**All Activities are held at the Chapter Office 6:30pm unless otherwise stated:
8304 Clairemont Mesa Blvd., Suite 101, San Diego, CA 92111.**

Our entrance is on the west end of the front building of Kearny Office Park, just west of I-163 and on the north side of Clairemont Mesa Blvd. Other environmental and activist events are posted at www.sdeln.org

2nd Friday Movie Night 6:30pm

Note: No Reservations needed, ever!

July 12, 2019

Movie: From Paris to Pittsburg (2018)

1 hour and 17 minutes

Narrated by Rachel Brosnahan, this documentary shines a light on the many forgotten communities and people affected by climate change, as well as, solutions for how we can fight back, become more resilient, and reduce our carbon footprint. The examples described in this film are inspiring and give us hope for the future.



August 9, 2019

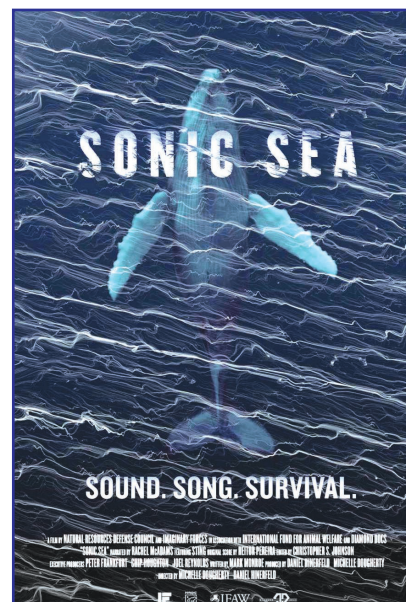
Movie: Documentary with 2 discussions about the new 5 G technology (2018) 2 hours

The Sierra Club opposes 5 G technology. Here's why: We've heard about all the benefits of 5 G, but what are its human costs? This film gives us a comprehensive look into the very real negative consequences of this unproven technology, yet to be tested for human safety. Concerned scientists (such as Dr. Martin Pall, Professor Emeritus, Washington State University), engineers, and dedicated investigators of this technology will tell you what the news media won't, that all glitter is not gold.

September 13, 2019

Movie: The Sonic Sea (2016) 1 hour

Note: Due to an error on a previous date for this movie, we are showing it again, since very few people saw it. This Emmy Award winner depicts the devastating impacts of industrial and military ocean noise on marine life. The film explores the critical role of sound in the sea, and the sudden dramatic changes that human activity is inflicting on the ocean's acoustic habitat. These changes threaten the ability of marine mammals and other inhabitants of the sea to function and ultimately, to survive.



Chapter Outings

**Chapter Outings are now an
online listing only.**

With the time gap between publishing and delivery of the HiSierran through the mail we believe this is the best way to get you up to date listings.

Go to: sandigosierraclub.org

Then click on "Get Outdoors"

Sierra Talks

Sierra Talks are on the first Friday, starting with refreshments and representatives from Chapter groups at 6:30 pm and programs at 7 pm with discussions afterward. The location is the Joyce Beers Center at 3900 Vermont St., San Diego, 92103, across the street from Trader Joe's. Parking is available under Trader Joe's and Ralphs Market.

Sierra Talks are free and open to the public. Program Coordinator: Ernest "EL" Lotecka sdwalks@interactor.cc

July 5

San Diego Canyons: Grassroots Success Story

San Diego Canyonlands (SDCL) promotes, protects and restores the natural habitats in San Diego County's canyons and creeks. The presenter, Eric Bowlby, is SDCL's Executive Director for ongoing community involvement in stewardship and advocacy, and collaboration with other organizations. These programs include building Friends Groups for San Diego's canyons and creeks, planning and implementing Canyon Enhancement Planning to improve habitats and access in open spaces, and environmental education events. In 2017, SDCL finished construction on the City Heights Canyons Loop Trail system, creating a 5-mile trail network between 4 urban canyons in the underserved community of City Heights.



Eric served as Executive Chair of the Sierra Club, San Diego Chapter was subsequently hired to run the Sierra Club's Canyons Campaign. In 8 years he built the Campaign and established over 45 neighborhood-based "friends groups". In 2008, Bowlby established a new non-profit "San Diego Canyonlands" dedicated to canyons conservation that has grown to nine staff. He also served for ten years on the City Wetlands Advisory Board and still serves on the City's Open Space/Canyons Advisory Committee.

August 2

Hiking the tracks to the Goat Canyon Trestle – Legally!

Local hikers know of the landmark Goat Canyon Trestle (GCT) hidden away in the Anza-Borrego desert's remote Carrizo Gorge. It's a strenuous cross-country boulder-scrambling cholla-infested ordeal just to get a glimpse of it from a distance, and getting there by bush-whacking along the bottom of the gorge is a long steep battle against thorns and dense vegetation. Some hike



do so. Reena Deutsch will describe her prolonged but eventually successful attempts to obtain permission from the railroad owners to lead organized hikes along the tracks. She will share four hikes through 16 tunnels and over numerous small trestles. See the ancient, unstable, breathtaking terrain of Carrizo Gorge and the awesome, but intimidating 185' tall, 633' long, curved wooden GCT.

Reena started researching our local San Diego & Arizona Railway's history after her first view of its GCT. She has lectured on the SD&A since the 1990s and authored the book "San Diego & Arizona Railway – The Impossible Railroad". She took the sweeping Goat Canyon Trestle photo.

September 6

Amphibian & Reptile Atlas of Peninsular California: Citizen Science

The goal of the Amphibian and Reptile Atlas is to combine both museum collection data and observations from citizen scientists to help better understand the biodiversity of our region. The Atlas is a binational effort covering southern California to the tip of Baja California and accessed through a user-friendly website: herpatlas.sdnhm.org. The Atlas contains information from the San Diego Natural History Museum's herpetology database and over 40,000 citizen science observations and counting, thanks to their adoption of iNaturalist.org. Did you know that you can help scientists better understand the amphibians and reptiles (herps) of southern California? Come learn how to participate and what's been learned so far from the person who launched the Atlas.

The presenter, Bradford Hollingsworth, PhD, San Diego Natural History Museum Curator of Herpetology, has had a life-long interest in the diversity of amphibians and reptiles. His research focuses on the systematics and biogeography of amphibians and reptiles of the Southwest, including the Baja California peninsula and its associated islands. He is responsible for the care and maintenance of Museum's 78,000 amphibian and reptile research specimens and regularly teaches as an adjunct professor at San Diego State University.



Sierra Club Opposes Proposed Quarry and Landfill in Otay Mesa

The Sierra Club opposes a new quarry and landfill in south San Diego County and has joined a coalition of stakeholders and organizations, the Friends of Otay Mountain to make sure the project is brought into the light and the community and public become informed and engaged.

An application to develop the project, the “Otay Hills Construction Aggregate and Inert Debris Engineered Fill Operation”, has been making its way through the County of San Diego permit process since 2004. The project is located on 434 acres in the unincorporated County of San Diego in east Otay Mesa west of the Otay Mountain Wilderness, east of the Otay Mesa Energy Center/Calpine, and south and east of the Otay Mesa Detention Center.

The project applicant, Otay Hills LLC, an affiliate of Superior Ready Mix Concrete, is proposing a 500-foot deep pit mine and landfill on 105 acres of the project site to be developed over 120 years. The project will require a Major Use Permit and Specific Plan Amendment, a change in General Plan zoning designation, and numerous other permits and agreements.

The County of San Diego is in the process of preparing a draft Environmental Impact Report with a potential release for public review and comment in July 2019. The US Fish & Wildlife Service will prepare a separate Environmental Assessment.

The quarry and landfill operations will have significant adverse impacts on endangered species, wildlife, habitat, air quality, land use, water quality, GHG emissions, noise pollution, traffic and aesthetics. The project falls within the boundary of the Multiple Species Conservation Plan and the area hosts numerous sensitive and endangered species and habitats including:

- **Animal species** Quino checkerspot butterfly, Western burrowing owl, Golden eagle, and Coastal California gnatcatcher
- **Plant species** Otay tarplant, variegated dudleya, Dunn’s mariposa lily, San Diego barrel cactus, San Diego marsh elder, and Tecate cypress
- **Habitats** mule fat scrub, coastal sage scrub, southern mixed chaparral, chamise chaparral, and grasslands

In recent news, the project was denied a Clean Water Act permit with prejudice, an extremely rare decision indicating the extent of major environmental problems. The special landscape in the foothills of Otay Mountain is at risk and needs to be protected for nature and people. The position of Friends of Otay Mountain is, “not the right project, not the right location.”

To learn more and get involved:

- **View the website** <http://www.friendsofotaymountain.org/>
- **Follow the Friends of Otay Mountain on Facebook and help get the word out** www.facebook.com/FriendsOfOtayMountain/
- **Contact Stephanie Peck at** FriendsofOtayMountain@gmail.com or 858-531-5257

Safeguard Our San Diego Countryside (SOS) Initiative

Vote YES in March 2020 - Call for volunteers and donations

*By George Courser and Susan Baldwin,
San Diegans for Managed Growth Boardmembers*

The Safeguard Our San Diego Countryside (SOS) Initiative will be on the March 2020 Presidential primary ballot after a successful petition drive in 2018. All voters who live in the County of San Diego will vote on this initiative — voters who live in the county unincorporated area and those who live in the 18 cities. The intent of the initiative is to defend the County General Plan.

The SOS Initiative is meant to encourage housing in the smart growth areas that the consensus-based San Diego County General Plan established in 2011, after 10 years of stakeholder outreach and at a cost of \$18 million. The plan allows approximately 65,000 units to be built “by right,” in areas that were designated for housing because they are closer to jobs, help lower greenhouse gas emissions, protect wildlife habitat and present a much lower likelihood of fire danger to existing and future residents.

What SOS does is protect the democratically-developed land use policies in the County General Plan by requiring developer proposals that change the existing rules in rural or semi-rural areas to go to a vote of the people, not just the Board of Supervisors. It does not apply to the over 65,000 “by right” parcels that are buildable right now. It does not apply to villages, specific plans, or projects of 5 units or less and it does not apply to projects that are required to comply with housing state law.

In 2018, a dedicated team of hundreds of volunteers and signature gatherers including many Sierra Club San Diego Chapter members collected 107,000 signatures county-wide to get the initiative certified and placed on the March 2020 ballot. It is endorsed by top environmental and land use planning organizations.

Sprawl developers and land speculators do not like the general plan’s smart growth principles and they certainly do not like the SOS initiative. They would rather have the Board of Supervisors make exceptions to the plan for their benefit. By a simple vote of 3 supervisors, they can gain an instant increase in the value of their land based on their own interests, not based on a democratic, consensus-based general plan. At the moment there are upwards of 15,000 units being proposed in rural and semi-rural, extremely high-risk fire-prone areas of the county, effectively re-writing the plan on a piecemeal basis based on the profit-motive of developers not on sound planning principles.

Contrary to the sprawl developers’ claims, SOS does not stop construction of any housing. It only reinforces the more

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Herbicide Use at San Diego Schools

By George Courser, Conservation Chair

Bayer/Monsanto's Roundup® brand glyphosate herbicide has become one of the most contentious "household" brands in the United States. Roundup® has proven to be the unchallenged

bestselling weed killer in the history of herbicides. However, in contrast with that success in the marketplace, have come more than 13,000 human health lawsuits, many related to cancers.

With litigation awards at times reaching into the \$ billions, Bayer has recently created massive advertising campaigns declaring the safety of Roundup® if applied according to label instructions. However, and simultaneously, Bayer pronounced they will invest \$5.6 billion in improved herbicide products.

These mixed messages have proven devastating to the value of the merged companies. Since acquiring Monsanto, Bayer has lost 44% of its market value. Consumer awareness of the environmental impacts of "everyday" products has never been more focused and concerned.

Your Sierra Club San Diego Conservation Committee has not only closely followed developments, last year we initiated our own study regarding herbicide use in numerous San Diego County school districts. We were most fortunate in selecting our UCSD graduating senior Helen Tade as our Intern. Helen had numerous challenges and responsibilities, key among them was processing data from literally hundreds of public schools. With the impetus and directions from members Elizabeth Fattah

and Michelle De Nicola, your Conservation Committee constructed a series of questions regarding herbicide applications in our public schools.



To ensure careful and correct responses from the districts, our requests for data were presented under the California Public Records Act. The following 10-questions were employed to help us better understand the extent of herbicide use in our public schools:

1. Are herbicides currently utilized by the School District on student accessible school grounds?
2. If so, what school campuses have herbicides applied?
3. Does the District utilize the State of California form DPR-HSA-118 (Rev. 12/16) Pesticide Use Reporting for Schools and Child Day Care Center Employees regarding employee application of herbicides? Please provide.
4. Is there an Integrated Pest Management Program in place in all schools?
5. Were all herbicides, in all schools, applied by licensed pesticide applicators?
6. If not, please advise all categories of staff authorized to discharge herbicides, i.e. gardeners, landscapers or janitorial staff.
7. Are all staff members applying herbicides trained in proper application methods required under the California Healthy Schools Act?
8. How many outdoor school day hours are students at risk of contacting surfaces or vegetation which has been treated with herbicides?
9. Is the potential for herbicide use a component of the school landscape planning for new and remodeled/re-landscaped schools?
10. Is there a School District policy, published or informal, which suggests that herbicide

application is economically preferred over employee labor to remove weeds?

The eleven public school districts surveyed were Bonsall Unified, Cajon Valley Union, Carlsbad Unified, Chula Vista Elementary, Encinitas Union, Escondido Union High, Grossmont Union High, La Mesa-Spring Valley Unified, Lemon Grove Unified, National Unified, and San Diego Unified School District. Of the eleven districts surveyed, only two do not use herbicides – Carlsbad Unified School District and National Unified School District. Another important school district to note is Bonsall Unified – they are in the process of phasing out herbicide use.

The results of the Public Records Acts requests were both wide ranging as well as surprising. What stood out immediately was a lack of consensus regarding best practices. Policies appeared to be formed around goals of school ground appearance set by individual staff members with herbicide application being a secondary concern. With two districts having completely abandoned herbicide use and third in process, we were surprised that the remaining districts did not at least have field studies or mention any individual school site tests being performed.

We were encouraged overall and intend to follow-on with suggestions to all the schools we surveyed, hoping to spread the word that their districts could also be herbicide free. Sierra Club San Diego's North County Coastal Group (The Coasters) were early activists and influencers in reducing herbicide use and educating schools and local governments.

The chapter is in the process of creating a "White Paper" regarding herbicide use in schools, public parks and public places. Please look for follow-up information as we move forward in our attempts to eliminate the potential for children to contact herbicides.

Please contact me for a copy of Helen Tade's 18-page project paper.

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sustainable smart growth general plan which is better for our region, for housing affordability, environmental justice, sustainability, fire safety, and for a better, smarter San Diego.

How Can I Help?

The SOS initiative is a county-wide initiative and our outreach will need to reach voters in every district throughout the County. A donation to the campaign will help us fund the

necessary communications needed to inform the general public and to counter an avalanche of special interest-backed opposition. Please visit the SOS website to make a donation and/or to volunteer on the campaign: www.saveoursdcountryside.org. Donations may also be made by using this link:

<https://secure.anedot.com/safeguard-our-san-diego-countryside-2020/donate>

Thank you!

Sierra Club Bus Trips

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

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

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



Save the date for the following trips: 2019

July 10 -14, 2019

Hoover Wilderness

Trip Type: Backpack and Bus camp/Day Hikes

August 14-18, 2019

Yosemite

Trip Type: Backpack and Bus camp/Day Hikes

September 18-22, 2019

Big Sur

Trip Type: Backpack and Bus camp/Day Hikes

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

Like us on Facebook



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

Inspiring Connections Outdoors

Bill Tayler

San Diego, ICO Co-Chair



Anza-Borrego Desert Superbloom Camping

By Greg Shadoan

This March, San Diego ICO took students from Hawking 1 STEAM Charter School to Coyote Canyon in Anza-Borrego Desert State Park for a car camp outing. Spring is a nice time to drive through the mountains, and the kids were delighted to see so many colorful patches on the hillsides and then amazed at the wide fields of gold as we descended down into the desert on the way to our campsite. For most of the kids, this was their first time going on a camping trip, much less doing so at such a primitive site. Since we had no water or restrooms of any kind, we taught everyone how to dig cat holes and pack out waste, which is always amusing with first-timer kids! It was also a great opportunity to teach some other basic LNT principles to our group. Of course, we spent most of our time exploring, climbing rocks and hiking, seeing many different types of flowers, ocotillo and various cactus and chaparral blooming while doing so. Many of the kids even enjoyed tasting a few of the fresh ocotillo leaves (just like the desert bighorn sheep!). While

exploring, we saw multiple kinds of colorful caterpillars almost everywhere on the ground and on plants, as well as many beautiful moths and butterflies fluttering all about in the air around us. We also took some of the group on a night hike, sharing all of the wonderful smells and sounds of the desert after sunset.

Please consider supporting San Diego ICO's important mission of introducing all of our youth to the transformative power of the great outdoors. You can help us by donating and/or by volunteering, which enables us to provide children from

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.sandigosierraclub.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

underserved areas with the desire, access and knowledge to explore, enjoy and protect our planet!



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Submission Deadlines for HiSierran Newsletter:

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

October/November/December 2019

Deadline is September 1st

To submit by email,
please email to both:

info@thomascreative.com

richard.miller@sierraclub.org

Submissions are subject to
approval for content and
subject matter.

Letter To The Editor:

By Gerald Lance Johannsen, Carlsbad
(36 Year Member of Sierra Club)

My Post-Earth Day Blurp, About What Is Likely Pending Worldwide

"All Roads Lead to Rome." In the first Century AD, all roads did seem to lead to Rome. It was the center of the civilized world, which had, for all practical purposes, been conquered by Rome. So most roads did radiate out from, or into the Roman capital city.

Now a new similar coined phrase, for the 21st Century, might be this: "All human activity, leads to Earth's decimation." Everyday, a new scientific report seems to be published, about our Earth's failing biological systems, due to warming, habitat removal, and contamination of earth, water and skies. I love to see proof that any bio systems "winning". The overwhelming evidence is that there is impending armageddon, for both humans and all other life, due to the direct or indirect effects of human activity. Maybe the tipping point has already been reached and passed. Optimists among us, hope that we are not there yet, since that would mean, that the mess, we homo sapiens have made, is fixable.

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92111-1315

Donate online:

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Committees & Contact Information

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

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orion@orioncpa.com

NORTH COUNTY COASTAL GROUP (COASTERS)

Contact Rep or check website for meeting information.

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760-525-5156
sallyp123@mac.com

NORTH COUNTY GROUP (INLAND)
http://sierraclubncg.org
Contact Chair for time and location.
Chair: Suzi Sandore
760-484-3440
hikersuzi16@gmail.com

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Meets 2nd Monday at 6:30 pm Chapter Office.
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gcourser@hotmail.com

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DavidGrubb@sbcglobal.net

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renee@wildlifezone.net

POLITICAL COMMITTEE
Meets 1st Tuesday at 7:00pm Chapter Office
Chair: Fred Rogers
ferogers@gmail.com

FOSTER LODGE COMMITTEE
Meets 4th Wednesday 6:30pm

OUTINGS COMMITTEE
Meets quarterly, contact Chair for date and location.

Chair: Kevin Neal
sd.outchair@gmail.com

Leadership Review & Safety Committee
Chair: Michael Taylor (619 -948-2062)
sd.lrsc@gmail.com
Meets quarterly, call for information.

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ellenshively@sbcglobal.net
619-479-3412

WILDERNESS BASICS COURSE (WBC)
Held annually beginning in January

San Diego
Michael Taylor
info@wildernessbasics.com
www.wildernessbasics.com

Escondido
Lee Ledford (858-485-1063)
lledfor1@san.rr.com
wbc.sierraclubncg.org

SECTIONS & SOCIAL COMMITTEES
Bicycle
Call for meeting information. Jerry Fitzsimmons
(858) 224-3437 Membership@sdsccs.org.
www.sandiegosierraclub.org/get-outdoors/
bicycle

Family

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

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

Social Sierrans- formerly Singles.
Dina Campbell
dinacampbell07@gmail.com

INSPIRING CONNECTIONS OUTDOORS (ICO)

Call or check website for meeting information.
www.sandiegosierraclub.org
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SIERRA TALKS, MONTHLY PROGRAM

1st Friday of every month
Program Manager: Ernest "EL" Lotecka
(760) 533-2725
sdwalks@interactor.cc

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San Diego Chapter

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On the north side & just west of the 163.




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

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How it works

Get Started

Create a user account and complete your energy profile.

Take Action

Get inspired by learning about local resources that can help you take action and earn points.

Work Together

Join a team or neighborhood group to share ideas to help earn points and win prizes.

Take action

Choose Green Electricity

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Recycle And Compost

Plant Low Water Landscaping

This initiative is part of the City of Chula Vista's Local Government Partnership program, which is funded by California utility customers and administered by San Diego Gas & Electric under the auspices of the California Public Utilities Commission.*

Bicycle Section Riders Support Earth Day Festival

Sunday April 28, 15 Bicycle Section riders visited EarthFair in Balboa Park where the Sierra Club San Diego Chapter hosted an informational booth. Bicycling from Mission Bay Park and back via the Spruce Street suspension bridge, we demonstrated that clean, green transportation rules — no fumes, parking hassles, or traffic jams. Join us next time! www.sandigosierraclub.org/get-outdoors/bicycle

