



Sierra Club San Diego Chapter

HiSIERRA

Serving San Diego And Imperial Counties

Vol 86 No. 4

Visit our website at: www.sandigosierraclub.org

October/November/December 2026

Special Election Edition

Politics and the Environment

By: Charles Rilli, Deputy Chapter Director, Sierra Club San Diego

Politics and the environment are deeply connected because government decisions directly affect the places where people live, work, and raise their families. Environmental issues can shape political beliefs, influence how people vote, and determine how they participate in the civic process. Concerns about clean air, clean water, public health, and access to natural spaces often motivate people to contact elected officials, attend community meetings, vote, and support environmental organizations.

The Tijuana River pollution crisis is a clear example of this connection. For years, sewage, trash, sediment, industrial waste, and other pollutants have flowed from the Tijuana River into Southern California, creating serious environmental and public-health concerns. Residents have experienced beach closures, foul odors, illness, and potential exposure to bacteria and other contaminants. The crisis also demonstrates how environmental problems can become political problems when communities rely on multiple levels of government to find solutions. For decades, Federal, state, and local officials have debated who is responsible for addressing the pollution and funding the infrastructure needed to stop it. This can result in “passing the buck,” with agencies shifting responsibility rather than taking decisive action. For residents, however, the consequences are immediate. Pollution affects their health and quality of life regardless of which agency is ultimately responsible. Our congressional delegation has helped secure more than \$650 million in federal funding to address this issue. Our state legislative delegation is advancing legislation to address the Tijuana River crisis—including measures to accelerate state funding, protect workers exposed to the pollution, and address the ongoing cross-border flow of contaminated waste. And, under Supervisor Aguirre’s leadership on the Board of Supervisors, taking decisive action to address this crisis remains a top priority.

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Protecting the Outdoors Means Showing Up

By Mark West, Chapter Director, Sierra Club San Diego

For many of us, our love for the environment began far away from politics.

It may have started on a trail in the mountains, watching the sun set over the Pacific, camping beneath a dark desert sky, surfing before work, seeing wildlife in its natural habitat, or simply enjoying a neighborhood park with our families.

Those experiences feel personal. They feel removed from city council chambers, legislative hearings, elections, public comment periods, and government agencies.

But the truth is that politics and the environment are inseparable.

Nearly every place we value—our beaches, parks, open spaces, mountains, deserts, wetlands, rivers, and wildlife habitat—is affected by decisions made by elected officials and public agencies. Whether those places remain protected for future generations often depends on whether ordinary people are willing to participate in the civic process.

That is why loving the outdoors is not enough. We also have to be willing to stand up for it.

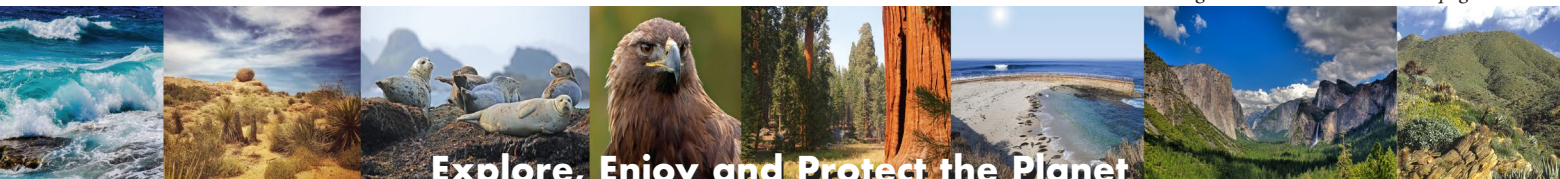
We received a powerful reminder of this recently at the California Coastal Commission.

At its August meeting, the Commission unanimously objected to the first offshore fracking project proposed off California. The proposal involved deep-sea fracking from an aging offshore platform in the Santa Barbara Channel.

Think about what was at stake.

California’s coast is not simply a beautiful backdrop. It supports marine ecosystems, fisheries, recreation, tourism, coastal

Protecting the Outdoors continued on page 4



Explore, Enjoy and Protect the Planet



Lisa Ross

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October/November/December 2026

USPS - 896140

The Hi Sierran is published quarterly by the
San Diego Chapter of the Sierra Club,
4241 Jutland Drive, Ste. #303
San Diego, CA 92117
for members in San Diego
and Imperial counties.

Periodicals Postage Paid at San Diego, CA.

Postmaster: Send address changes to Hi Sierran,
Sierra Club Member Services P.O.Box 7059
Merrifield, VA 22116-7059

Address Correction?

Send your current mailing label and
your correct address to:

Sierra Club
2101 Webster St Ste 1300
Oakland CA 94612
or call Membership Services at
415-977-5653, Monday - Friday
between 9 am and 5 pm, Pacific Time.
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"The truth will set you free, but first it will piss you off." Gloria Steinem (b.1934- d. 2026)

I begin my last column for the HiSierran as Chapter Chair with a sad but grateful nod to Gloria Steinem who inspired so many of us to run a gauntlet of hurdles toward justice and a hardline defense of the planet.

Having the space to morph anger into action via this column on the second page of the highly regarded HiSierran, for which I recently won a first-place honor from the San Diego Society of Professional Journalists, has been a privilege.

For most, the battle for habitat preservation, climate action and environmental justice has been all too exhausting over the past half decade as air, water and endangered habitat protections were whittled away with a thousand big and small cuts from the Trump Administration.

But California's environmental protections also have taken a flurry of incoming attacks, not only from the Trump Administration, but from a Democratic Governor and those legislators whose mythological ideologies equate stifling local public input on projects with creating affordable housing development.

The final spear in the heart of the California Environmental Quality Act could be the heavily industry funded Proposition 45 on the November ballot which would allow a virtual catalogue of polluting industries including data centers, freeways, and landfill gas facilities into our communities with merely a flick of a bureaucrat's pen, leaving the public with hobbled legal recourse.

If the so-called "reforms" listed in the 41-page ballot measure had been in place during the 5-year term of my chairmanship, so much of our litigation and advocacy successes likely could not

have materialized.

Chief among our Chapter's recent accomplishments was the first successful lawsuit challenging the Imperial County approval of a fast-tracked mega data center 200 feet from a residential community argued by our brilliant legal team at Chatten-Brown Law Group.

Our California Environmental Quality Act legal settlements have saved sensitive habitat areas like Proctor Valley, increased the number of compact affordable housing opportunities in Otay Mesa, and challenged inadequate climate planning.

Defeating Proposition 45 will allow us to continue fighting dangerous sprawl development in high fire risk areas and polluting industries like the increasingly ubiquitous data centers which most often threaten economically challenged communities but could go anywhere.

As the Chapter turns to coastal issues like offshore oil drilling, public access to public lands, and Tijuana River Valley air and water pollution, I leave service on the Executive Committee assured that the Chapter is on the solid financial and political footing necessary to take on every challenge.

And so, I offer my profound thanks to our Chapter leadership, Committees, Groups and Members for staying the course despite the unconscionable environmental law rollbacks and especially for their uncompensated time investment, strategic genius, and deep expertise. Serving with all has been the highlight of my activist life.

Ms. Steinem would be proud.

As she reminds us: "The future depends entirely on what each of us does every day; a movement is only people moving."

Signing Off: STAY GREEN

Elections Have Consequences

By Michael King, Conservation Organizer

While it is almost certainly a cliché to remind people that elections have consequences, the last two years have been a stark reminder that, when it comes to the environment, much of what we have built over decades can be systematically dismantled in just a few months. At the national, state, and local levels, officials hostile to environmental protection have moved rapidly to weaken habitat safeguards, remove sustainable transportation infrastructure, and abandon threatened and endangered species.

At the federal level, the Trump administration has proposed repealing the 2001 Roadless Rule, which restricts road construction and commercial logging across approximately 58.5 million acres of national forest. These undeveloped forests provide some of the country's most intact wildlife habitat, safeguard drinking-water sources, store carbon, and offer refuges where plants and animals can adapt to a changing climate. Eliminating these protections would open the door to logging, drilling, roadbuilding, and other industrial development on public lands that have remained largely undisturbed for a generation.

The damage would extend far beyond individual logging sites. New roads fragment habitat, interrupt wildlife movement, spread invasive species, increase erosion, and carry sediment into rivers and streams. They also bring more vehicles and human activity into previously remote landscapes. Once a road is carved into an intact forest, its ecological consequences can persist for decades.

Here in San Diego County, Encinitas has provided a local example of environmental progress being reversed. In February 2026, the City Council voted to remove recently constructed, physically protected bicycle lanes on Santa Fe Drive in front of San Dieguito Academy and replace them with paint-only buffered lanes. The protected lanes had been completed less than a year earlier as part of a \$4.15 million corridor project intended to improve safe access to schools and connect neighborhoods with El Camino Real, Coast Highway 101, and the Coastal Rail Trail. Redesigning the corridor is expected to cost the city more than \$3 million.

A Letter From The San Diego Chapter Executive Committee: No On Prop 45

Dear Sierra Club San Diego Members and Friends:

Please help us defeat a ballot measure in November that would brutally kneecap our efforts to protect Californians from polluting projects threatening our health, natural lands and wildlife.

Proposition 45 aims to roll back laws supporting clean air and water quality by severely limiting critical public oversight of a laundry list of harmful projects, including data centers. Many of the projects our chapter has successfully worked to improve might never have reached a successful conclusion if Proposition 45 had been in place.

Proposition 45 is backed by cash-rich PACs representing oil companies, data centers, and industrial developers. It is only with the kind of grass-roots efforts we in the San Diego Sierra Club

Removing physical protection from a route used by students makes cycling less comfortable and potentially less safe, particularly for children, older adults, and people unwilling to ride beside fast-moving traffic. It also undermines the city's climate and mobility goals by making alternatives to driving less accessible.

Nowhere is the speed and scale of environmental destruction more visible than along the southern border. Billions of dollars in new contracts are funding walls, waterborne barriers, patrol roads, lighting, and surveillance infrastructure across California, Arizona, and Texas. Construction requires blasting mountainsides, grading roads, clearing vegetation, and sustaining heavy vehicle traffic in previously remote areas.

The wall then severs migration corridors that mountain lions, jaguars, ocelots, pronghorn, mule deer, and bighorn sheep need to find food, water, mates, and climate refuges. To accelerate construction, the federal government has waived environmental and cultural-resource laws, denying border communities and Tribal nations the protections that would apply to almost any other federal project.

A forest protected for 25 years can be reopened to development. A newly built bicycle lane can be removed before its paint has faded. A wildlife corridor that has existed for millennia can be severed in months. Elections determine who has the power to make these choices—and whether our government protects the places and communities we value or sacrifices them for short-term political gain.

There is only one way out of this mess. Vote. The only tool we have to reverse course and begin to repair the damage and plan a path forward that is cleaner, safer and more prosperous is to change who in our government goes to work in the morning. Every time we go to vote we are making choices about what we value and what and who is protected. We encourage every one of you to think carefully about how your vote, your voice and your values will shape how our environment is protected, preserved and passed on.

Chapter are so good at that we can defeat this harmful ballot measure.

And so, Sierra Club California and our San Diego Chapter, has joined other chapters and over 340 labor, conservation, environmental justice and health advocacy groups in urging our members to join the fight to protect our hard-won environmental laws in California.

With the Trump administration assaulting California's landmark environmental quality laws, the need to act in November is even more urgent. That is why California League of Women Voters, Earthjustice, State Building and Construction Trades and the American Nurses Association all say Vote No.

Please go to the No on Prop 45 website to sign up for updates and volunteer opportunities.

Together, we say NO ON PROP 45.

*San Diego Chapter Sierra Club Executive Committee,
Lisa Ross Chair*

communities, and a way of life that generations of Californians have enjoyed. Another major oil spill could have devastating consequences for all of them.

Yet the protection of that coastline ultimately came down to a government decision.

Commissioners had to vote.

Staff had to evaluate the proposal.

Environmental organizations and members of the public had to participate.

People had to show up and make their voices heard.

That is civic engagement.

The same meeting provided another example much closer to home. The Coastal Commission approved modifications to San Diego's plan to restore 262 acres of wetlands in the northeastern corner of Mission Bay.

For years, organizations and community members have worked to restore this important wetland habitat through the ReWild Mission Bay coalition. That persistence matters. Environmental victories rarely happen overnight. They happen because people organize, attend meetings, submit comments, build coalitions, educate policymakers, and keep showing up even when progress seems painfully slow.

These examples demonstrate something important: environmental protection does not exist outside politics. It happens through politics.

That does not mean environmentalism must be partisan.

Clean air is not Republican or Democratic. Neither is clean water. Wildlife habitat does not check voter registration before providing refuge to a bird or a mountain lion. Our children and grandchildren will inherit the environmental decisions we make today regardless of their political beliefs.

But environmentalism is absolutely political because government decisions determine what gets protected, what gets developed, what gets polluted, and what gets restored.

Local planning commissions decide what development occurs in our communities.

City councils decide how communities grow and where infrastructure is built.

County supervisors make decisions affecting open space, transportation, water, energy, and land use.

State legislators determine environmental laws and funding.

Congress and the President influence everything from offshore drilling and clean-air protections to public lands and endangered species.

And agencies such as the California Coastal Commission make decisions that can determine the future of our coastline for generations.

If people who care about the environment disengage from those processes, someone else will fill that space.

That is why voting matters—but civic engagement cannot

begin and end on Election Day.

We need people attending public hearings.

We need people writing letters and submitting comments.

We need people calling elected officials.

We need volunteers serving on local boards and commissions.

We need community members participating in planning decisions.

We need people supporting organizations that have the expertise and persistence to follow complicated environmental issues for months or even years.

And yes, we need environmentally minded people willing to run for office.

One of the most important things we can do is help develop environmental champions early in their public careers. Today's school board member, planning commissioner, city councilmember, or county supervisor may become tomorrow's state legislator or member of Congress.

If we want leaders who understand climate change, habitat protection, environmental justice, clean energy, and conservation, we need to engage with them before they reach higher office.

At Sierra Club, we often say that the environment needs a voice.

In reality, the environment needs millions of voices.

A wetland cannot testify at a public hearing.

A sea turtle cannot call a member of Congress.

A chaparral ecosystem cannot vote.

A beach cannot organize its neighbors when offshore drilling threatens the coast.

We have to do those things.

That responsibility becomes even greater when environmental protections themselves are challenged. The recent Coastal Commission decision on offshore fracking came as the federal government has sought to limit California's ability to weigh in on projects in federal waters.

Whatever someone's political affiliation, that should remind us how quickly environmental policies can change depending on who holds public office.

Protections that took decades to establish can be weakened surprisingly quickly.

The opposite is also true.

Good leadership, strong laws, committed agencies, and an engaged public can restore wetlands, protect habitat, expand clean energy, preserve open space, and defend our coastline.

That should give us hope. But hope needs participation.

The next time you walk along one of San Diego's beaches, hike through our mountains, visit the desert, paddle Mission Bay, or watch wildlife along our coast, remember that those places did not remain beautiful simply by accident.

Someone fought for them. Someone attended the meeting.

Someone wrote the letter. Someone organized the community.

Someone voted.

Protecting the Outdoors continued on page 5

Public lands provide another important example of the relationship between politics and the environment. The Antiquities Act of 1906 gives presidents the authority to establish national monuments to protect areas of historic, cultural, or scientific significance. Since its passage, the Act has been used to protect hundreds of millions of acres of land and marine areas. President Joe Biden used the Antiquities Act to protect more than 1.6 million acres during his single term. In contrast, the Trump administration has characterized the law as “federal overreach,” arguing that it has been used to place unnecessary restrictions on public lands and that monument designations should focus on specific historic or scientific objects.

However, protecting large landscapes for biodiversity, wildlife habitat and connectivity, intact ecosystems, and conservation is critical to maintaining the natural systems that provide clean water, food, a stable climate, and human health. In July 2026, President Donald Trump significantly reduced the boundaries of the Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monuments in Utah, shrinking each by roughly 90 percent. The Antiquities Act only mentions creating monuments, with no direct rules on making them smaller or canceling them. We know reducing these protections will threaten wildlife, biodiversity, cultural resources, and the ability to stabilize our ecosystem, while opening more public land to resource extraction and development.

Ultimately, environmental politics is about more than nature. It is about public health, communities, economic interests, connection to nature, and the stability of our planet. Environmental decisions reflect political priorities—and those decisions can shape how citizens view their leaders and participate in democracy.

Protecting the Outdoors continued from page 4

And someone decided that protecting these places was worth the effort.

Now it is our turn.

You do not need to be an environmental scientist, lawyer, lobbyist, or political expert to make a difference. You simply need to care enough to participate.

Vote. Learn who represents you. Attend a meeting. Speak during public comment. Join a conservation campaign. Volunteer. Bring a friend. Support organizations doing this work every day.

Democracy, like conservation, works best when people participate.

If we want future generations to inherit the beaches, mountains, deserts, wetlands, wildlife, and open spaces that define San Diego and California, we cannot stand on the sidelines.

Protecting the outdoors means enjoying it.

But it also means showing up for it.

Sierra Club Youth Column



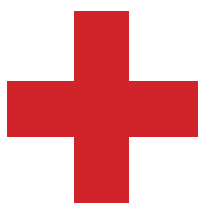
Madeline Adams

As midterm elections draw closer, now is a more important time than ever to reflect on how we—as American citizens—are going to serve current and future generations. The Sierra Club’s mission to explore, protect, and enjoy the planet doesn’t just extend to the here and now, but to the young people who still have many years to come and to the children that

live thereafter. The most instrumental tool that we have at our disposal is our ability to vote for the representatives that will ideally work in tandem with our values. At such a divisive and critical point in U.S. politics, the responsibility falls on us as voters to use our influence to conserve all of the natural world possible.

The Sierra Club’s endorsed candidates in the midterm elections this year reflect our organization’s ideals. Our endorsements provide a more straightforward way for you to vote for government officials that will serve our country’s long-term interests in fighting for the climate. This, in turn, will be vital to ensure that our government works for young people by not giving in to short-term corporate greed for profit. However, it can be very difficult to believe that we are capable of making much of a difference when individually, we have very little impact. That is why the Sierra Club prints and distributes this quarterly newsletter to the thousands of chapter supporters in the San Diego and Imperial Counties: to amass you all behind the common cause of fighting the future of our climate. With all of your votes and voices, we can make a real difference.

Many citizens have become disillusioned when it comes to politics—especially in regards to the environment. At the federal level, there have been longstanding, basic climate protections stripped away and a multitude of environmental regulations, conservation sites, and green projects that have been attacked. We tend to focus on the overwhelmingly negative news that marks our efforts in climate action. For younger folks who are coming into the adult world with this great burden already placed upon us, hope is not easily come by. For these reasons, the Sierra Club San Diego chapter plays an even more important role in mobilizing our large and beautifully diverse county to work towards a better future. I have seen the Sierra Club’s ability to generate change many times, most often through regular, passionate people like you. Yes, we have wonderfully capable lawyers, policymakers, and highly educated workers to carry out the Sierra Club’s mission, but community involvement from interested groups of people who are opposed to a certain development that will destroy a precious habitat or all the sewage draining into ocean waters we swim in oftentimes precipitates the change. That is why I encourage you, no matter where you are or what walk of life you hail from, to look into the Sierra Club’s (and other local environmental organization’s) many opportunities for volunteering and community involvement. And don’t forget to look at our endorsements and vote!



American Red Cross

Wilderness and Remote First Aid by Simple Continuing Education

There are three classes offered with the following dates please choose either the January or April classes

Must attend both part 1 and 2 to complete the course

Part 1 for January 9th

(Zoom online – link will be emailed upon paid registration)

Saturday, January 9, 2027. 9am-5pm

Part 2

(in Briar Crest Park 9001 Wakarusa Rd. La Mesa, CA 91941)

Sunday, January 10, 2027. 9am-5pm

Part 1 for January 23rd

(Zoom online – link will be emailed upon paid registration)

Saturday, January 23, 2027. 9am-5pm

Part 2

(in Briar Crest Park 9001 Wakarusa Rd. La Mesa, CA 91941)

Sunday, January 24, 2027. 9am-5pm

Part 1 for April 17th

(Zoom online – link will be emailed upon paid registration)

Saturday, April 17, 2027. 9am-5pm

Part 2

(in Briar Crest Park 9001 Wakarusa Rd. La Mesa, CA 91941)

Sunday, April 18, 2027. 9am-5pm

What you will learn/practice:

When Help is Delayed: - Emergency Action Steps

- Emergency Moves and Prioritizing Care

Physical Exam and Report Record Transfers and Evacuations

Preventing Disease Transmission & Use
of Tourniquets

Preventing Infections - Head and Spinal Injuries

Chest and Abdominal Injuries - Burns and Shock -Hypothermia -

Major Bites and Stings

This option combining virtual classroom and in person skills and scenarios is recognized by the American Red Cross as long as participant attend all sessions.

Participants must ...

- Have history of adult CPR training prior to attending (BLS CPR meets this requirement)
- Be capable of performing strenuous activities (such as bending, lifting, kneeling, etc.)

As a result of the course, participants will ...

Earn a 2-year Wilderness Remote First Aid card from the American Red Cross

Be prepared for:

- Minor Emergencies • Scouting • Hiking • Backpacking • Living or Working in Rural Areas • Sierra Club Treks • Disasters



Cost: \$250 for 2-day Wilderness Remote First Aid Course

(due before the first class)

\$175 (discounted rate) for Sharp employees, Sierra Club and Scouting members.

\$50 for Adult CPR w/AED

(offered before the course for this additional fee)

To meet CPR requirements, provide proof of CPR training in the past or do one of the following.

- 1) Complete Adult CPR w/AED through American Red Cross, American Heart Association or other OSHA approved provider.

Dates reflect all three classes:

For Both January Classes

- 1) Attend online instruction with our instructor on Friday, December 18, 2026 from 6-8pm online via Zoom AND demonstrate skills on Sunday, January 10, 2027 during class. Send payment by Friday, December 18, 2026

For April Class

- 1) Attend online instruction with our instructor on Friday, April 9, 2027 from 6-8pm online via Zoom AND demonstrate skills on Sunday, April 18, 2027 during class. Payment, due by Friday, April 2, 2027

To register (or ask questions),

- 1) Call or email Kevin Opheim (619) 300-4219
(24 hours a day)

- 2) Send payment, by due date

With Venmo, use email or phone number

KevinO@MySimpleCE.com

Continuing Education: Provider approved by the California Board of Registered Nursing,

Provider Number #16990 for 4.0 contact hours (\$20 additional fee)

Wilderness Basics Course 2027

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

WBC Starting Dates:

Escondido - January 5th

San Diego - January 12th

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.

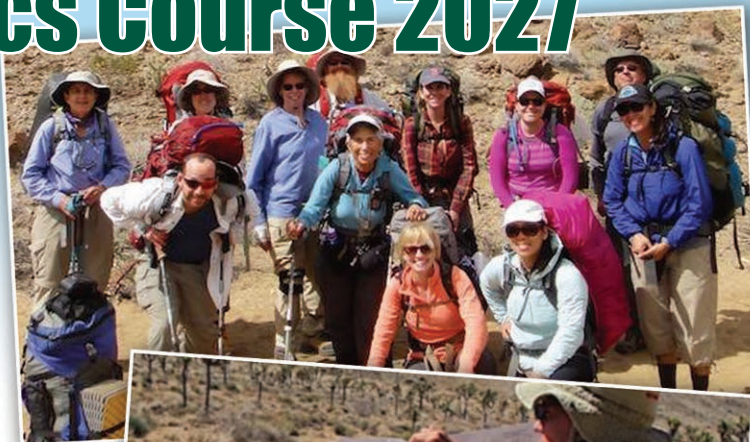
For More Info and To Register:

San Diego

wildernessbasics.org

Escondido

wbcncg.thinkific.com



Did I Find the Trail or Did the Trail Find Me?

by: Rik Brown

Plan, build, break, rinse and repeat. Then do it again. Where's the point of failure? What can go wrong? What's my plan Z if my preceding 25 contingency plans fail? I'm a self-doubting, hyper independent, systems thinker. That's a potent tri-fecta, and I'm in constant friction with my own mind because of it. I'm working on it.

My whole life I've had a passion for the outdoors. Hiking, camping, trail running, bush crafting, bouldering, amateur mountaineering — whatever, I'm game. When I was in the military my buddies thought I was weird because I actually liked bivouacking. Sleep in a self-dug fox-hole in the elements? Let's go! I've been engaging in outdoors activities for as long as I can remember, understanding there



were relationships between them but not quite seeing the linkages.

Backpacking was the missing connective tissue. Systems within systems, each relying on the other, keeping you alive and relatively comfortable (or hopefully better than miserable) in remote locations. Many potential failure points. Stakes that are real. Risks that can be mitigated, but first you have to know where to start. For me, that's where the Wilderness Basics Course (WBC) came in.

After years of waiting for the right moment, I got honest with myself. Family, work, responsibilities, anxieties — none of that is going anywhere. It's all part of the journey, and that's okay. What matters is the present. This time, right now, and what we choose to do with it. WBC was the push I needed, a proof-of-concept fundamental learning environment that quietly began reframing how I interact with the world and the people in it.

I had no idea a community like this existed. Like-minded outdoors enthusiasts, gear nerds, people with trail stories and life stories worth hearing. Similar to me in some ways, dramatically different in others. I've learned from everyone I've met and I'm a better version of myself for it.

WBC gave me the confidence and the framework to take on longer, more ambitious objectives, including completing the John Muir Trail (JMT) (looking at you Pacific Coast Trail (PCT)), which I'll rank as the fourth most impactful experience of my life, right behind marrying my wife/best friend and the births of our three children. What the trail taught me, what it keeps teaching me, is that it's the only environment where the fully integrated version of me doesn't need to be translated for anyone else's consumption. No performance. No societal expectations. Just me, running clean.

As a middle-aged person, I'm still humbled by what I'm learning. I'm excited for the next switchback, the next false peak, the next 1,500 feet of elevation gain (touché, Golden Staircase).

Hope to see you out there.

Sierra Club Endorsed Candidates Statements

United States Representative



49TH District - Mike Levin

Currently serving in his fourth term in Congress, Mike is a member of the powerful House Committee on Appropriations, where he serves on the Subcommittees on Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies and Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and

Related Agencies. Throughout his time in Congress, more than 35 of his bills have been signed into law by presidents of both parties.

Mike was raised in South Orange County, by a Mexican-American mother and a Jewish-American father. He is the grandson of Mexican immigrants on his mother's side.

Since flipping the 49th district from red to blue in 2018, Mike's top priorities in Congress have been combating climate change, protecting our coast, protecting our natural resources, supporting our small businesses, coastal communities, schools, and working to strengthen benefits and services for our veterans. Mike has also been a champion for a woman's right to make her own healthcare decisions, and for the LGBTQIA community.

Since taking office in 2019, Mike is proud to have secured over \$1 billion in federal funding for the district. For a detailed list of the funding, please visit:

<https://www.mikelevin.org/#funding>

The independent and nonpartisan Center for Effective Lawmaking rates Mike among the top five percent most effective lawmakers in the House of Representatives.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) named Mike Levin their 2024 Legislator of the Year because of his tireless and effective advocacy on behalf of veterans and their families.

<https://www.mikelevin.org/>

House of Representatives in 48th District



Marni von Wilpert

Marni von Wilpert is a San Diego City Councilmember, lifelong public servant, and former prosecutor who flipped San Diego's most conservative city council seat blue – and she's ready to do it again in Congress.

Raised in North County San Diego and a Peace Corps alum, Marni has spent her career fighting for working families — from helping write the Protect The Right To Organize Act (PRO Act) in Congress to prosecuting price gougers, polluters, and wage theft back home.

On the City Council, she authored California's first ghost gun ban, launched affordable housing grants for teachers, raised wages, reduced emergency response times, expanded access to clean energy, and fought to combat the opioid crisis while protecting taxpayers and strengthening public safety.

Marni is running for Congress to tackle the skyrocketing cost of living, protect reproductive freedom, defend equal rights, and make Washington work for working families — not just the wealthy few.

With a proven record of service, results, and winning tough races, Marni is the battle-tested fighter we need to flip CA-48, beat MAGA extremist Jim Desmond, and lower costs for Californians.

San Diego City Council, District 4



Martha Abraham

A healthy environment is essential to the health, safety, and quality of life of our community.

Protecting our environment means protecting the health, quality of life, and future of every neighborhood. My campaign is grounded in the belief that every community deserves access to

parks, open space, clean air, and resilient infrastructure that can withstand the impacts of climate change.

Communities of color have borne a disproportionate share of pollution while receiving fewer environmental investments. I am committed to advancing environmental justice by ensuring these neighborhoods have a voice in decisions that affect their health and environment.

As a City Council candidate, I will champion policies that preserve our natural areas, expand parks and green spaces, and invest in climate resilience through sustainable infrastructure, urban tree canopy, and responsible land-use planning. Protecting our open spaces and preparing for a changing climate are essential to creating healthier, stronger communities for future generations.

With gratitude and determination, www.martha4sandiego.com

San Diego City Council District 8



Antonio Martinez

For Antonio Martinez, District 8 isn't just where he lives, it's home. A lifelong resident of the community, Antonio was raised by his grandmother, who taught him the values that continue to guide him today: work hard, stay humble, and never forget where you come from.

Antonio became the first in his family to attend college, graduating from the University of Pennsylvania. Although his education took him across the country, his heart and commitment remained with the community that raised him. He returned home determined to use his opportunities to serve others and help open doors for the next generation. Antonio began his career as a healthcare educator at the Nestor Community Clinic, working directly with local families and helping connect them with vital information and resources. He later continued his public service through congressional work, helping residents navigate government and ensuring their voices were heard.

As a Governing Board Member of the San Ysidro School District, Antonio has worked to give local children the opportunities they deserve. He has helped strengthen educational programs, advocate for improvements to aging school facilities, and promote greater transparency and accountability.

Antonio's story is rooted in the same neighborhoods, families, and experiences that make District 8 special. He understands both the challenges our communities face and their incredible potential.

Now, Antonio is running for San Diego City Council District 8 to give back to the community that gave him so much and to make sure every family, every neighborhood, and every voice has a seat at the table.

Candidates continued on page 9

Del Mar City Council



Meghan O'Ryan Spieker

Meghan O'Ryan Spieker is a Del Mar Planning Commissioner, former business litigator, and nonprofit leader with a longstanding commitment to protecting California's natural resources and communities.

For more than 10 years, Meghan has served on the board of the California Wildlife Officers Foundation (CalWOF), which provides citizen support to the wildlife officers who protect California's lands, waters, and wildlife. California wildlife officers are on the front lines of protecting our environment, enforcing laws against poaching and other environmental crimes, and responding to threats to our natural resources. Meghan is proud to support their work and the important role they play as environmental stewards.

Before entering nonprofit leadership, Meghan practiced business litigation for 16 years at major international law firms, representing public companies and their officers and directors in complex disputes. She subsequently served as Founding Board Chair of Free to Thrive, a San Diego nonprofit providing legal services to survivors of human trafficking; as a Trustee of Francis Parker School; and in leadership roles, including President, with Teen Volunteers in Action.

As a Planning Commissioner, Meghan strives to serve with rigor, courtesy, and equanimity. She believes Del Mar can meet the challenges of growth while protecting the community's character, natural environment, and long-term sustainability.

Meghan lives in Del Mar with her husband and four sons. She earned her undergraduate degree from UC Berkeley and her law degree, with honors, from Georgetown.

Del Mar City Council



Jas Grewal

Del Mar is at a turning point with important issues that must be properly handled.

This election will decide if we follow the Community Plan that has successfully guided Del Mar for more than 50 years or choose expensive ideas that could create unreasonable

debt and weaken City essential services.

As a 34-year resident of Del Mar, being a Planning Commissioner for the last 3 years, a former member of the City's Finance Committee for 8 years, Chair of the Citizen's Taskforce for the 6th housing Element, and Del Mar's representative at the Clean Energy Alliance Advisory Board, I understand the issues Del Mar is facing.

As a retired banker, I know the importance of careful planning and financial discipline. Borrowing millions of dollars to speed up projects we are already paying for over time could put Del Mar at serious risk, especially if the economy slows down.

If elected, I will help rebuild relationships with regional agencies, find practical ways to meet State housing rules, support moving the train off the bluffs without tunneling under homes or

businesses, protect our fast emergency response times, improve wildfire and sea-level-rise safety without managed retreat, and preserve Del Mar's special character.

I believe City Council members should be good stewards of our land and put residents' interests first. I will be a leader Del Mar deserves serving with honesty, ethics, and integrity.

Please see Jas4DelMar.com for my civic experience, business background and decades of involvement.

I would be grateful for your support.

Mayor of Encinitas



Rimga Viskanta

Rimga Viskanta is a candidate for Mayor of Encinitas and has lived in the city for two decades, where she raised three children.

She previously served on the Encinitas Union School District Board from 2016 to 2020, including a term as Board President

in 2020. She currently serves as Vice President of the San Dieguito Union High School District Board of Trustees, elected in 2022, and has twice served as Board President. In this role she helped bring electric school buses to the district, facilitated the formation of its first districtwide Sustainability Committee, and is pushing for electrification measures in the district's facilities master plan update process.

She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Sciences from the University of Virginia and a Master of Public Administration from the University of Southern California. She served as Senior Management Analyst for the City of Solana Beach, where her sustainability work included overseeing the update and implementation of the City's climate action plan, citywide organics recycling, building decarbonization reach codes, and native habitat initiatives.

As Mayor, Rimga will prioritize climate readiness, safer streets, and smarter growth. That means adopting an updated Climate Action Plan for Encinitas, building mobility infrastructure, installing more solar power on city facilities, and protecting open spaces and rewilding as much public and private property as possible. She is honored to have the Sierra Club's support and asks for your vote on November 3.

California 38th Senate District



Senator Catherine Blakespear

Senator Catherine Blakespear represents California's 38th Senate District, serving coastal communities across northern San Diego and southern Orange Counties. She is Chair of the Senate Environmental Quality Committee, the first woman ever to hold the

position. Under her leadership the committee evaluated more than 120 bills in 2025 alone affecting California's air, water, and the products Californians use every day, and she helped craft the landmark renewal of California's cap-and-invest program, which holds the state's largest polluters accountable and directs the proceeds toward clean transportation,

clean air, and clean water.

Senator Blakespear has authored 24 bills signed into law, including legislation banning plastic bags at grocery store checkouts and protecting the property tax exclusion for rooftop solar and battery storage.

This session she authored SB 954, restoring environmental and public health guardrails weakened by last year's overly broad CEQA exemption for industrial manufacturing. She carried it through both houses with a coalition including California Environmental Voters, the Natural Resources Defense Council, and Earthjustice. She also helped drive the Legislature's response to the Tijuana River Valley pollution crisis, chairing a joint Senate and Assembly hearing and writing SB 1046 to protect lifeguards, park rangers, and other workers exposed to toxic cross-border pollution. Both bills await the Governor's signature.

Sierra Club California has endorsed her re-election, and the Sierra Club Angeles Chapter honored her with its 2026 Political Leadership Award.

Before the Senate, she served six years as Mayor of Encinitas, where she adopted an ambitious Climate Action Plan and moved the city to 100 percent renewable power. A former attorney and reporter, she holds degrees from Northwestern University and the University of Utah College of Law.

California State Assemblymember, District 77



Tasha Boerner

My name is Tasha Boerner, and it's been my honor to represent portions of San Diego County in the California State Assembly since 2018.

I'm a mom, businesswoman, and a former PTA leader who got my start in public service by fighting to get a stop sign installed near my kids' school. After first hitting a wall of bureaucracy, we eventually succeeded. The experience taught me the value of listening, being persistent, and finding common ground in order to get things done.

I'm proud to have earned a 100% rating from the Sierra Club California last year, and I'm honored to have your organization's endorsement. My priorities include building green energy infrastructure, safeguarding water, protecting open space, and making corporate polluters pay their fair share.

Prior to my service in the State Assembly, I worked for Fortune 500 companies, nonprofits, and higher-education institutions. I received a B.A. in Political Science from the University of California, Berkeley and a M.A. in International Studies from Claremont Graduate University. I'm a proud mom of two children. I hope to earn your vote.

**Election Day is
November 3rd
Remember to Vote!**



Encinitas City Council, District 3



Arielle Golden

I am a passionate Encinitan, MBA and community organizer who has championed our local interests through the perspective of food and agriculture.

I have led major efforts to strengthen food security both in our region and globally. My work as the elected chair of the North County Food Policy Council united nearby cities, nonprofits and private entities to build a more cooperative and resilient food system. As our representative on the California Food Policy Council, I made sure North County's priorities were heard at the state level and worked to develop city-specific plans for our region's Organics (food waste) Recycling programs.

In the private sector, I brought together plant-based manufacturers and distributors to increase sustainable production worldwide. I enjoy the challenge of engaging in a room filled with different perspectives, negotiating and listening to create solutions that work.

I am running for Encinitas City Council to represent District 3, which includes my home and community in Cardiff.

I am committed to fighting for our community needs, listening to the voices of all neighbors, and improving our quality of life.

Encinitas City Council, District 4



Brad Lefkowitz

Brad Lefkowitz's connection to the Sierra Club began before he was born: his parents met at a Sierra Club singles event in the late 1970s. Their shared love of the outdoors became part of the family he grew up in and the values he now hopes to bring to the

Encinitas City Council.

Brad is a small-business owner, husband, and father of two children who attend Encinitas public schools. His work as a landscape designer focuses on sustainable landscapes, climate-appropriate planting, native plants, water conservation, rainwater capture, and responsible stormwater management. Working throughout the region has given him firsthand experience with the environmental and infrastructure challenges facing our communities.

Since 2023, Brad has served on the City of Encinitas Urban Forest Advisory Committee, including one year as chair. He has worked to improve the city's tree policies, protect mature trees, expand the urban canopy where appropriate, and promote safer, more resilient landscapes in areas facing serious wildfire risk.

Brad is running for City Council to restore Encinitas's environmental leadership. His priorities include protecting open space, keeping beaches and waterways clean, updating and implementing the city's Climate Action Plan, improving walking and biking infrastructure, and making thoughtful land-use decisions that align growth with infrastructure.

Brad believes environmental leadership must be practical, forward-looking, and grounded in science. He will bring his professional experience, collaborative approach, and deep commitment to the natural environment to every decision at City Hall.

Encinitas Union School District Board of Trustees



Jillian Cocayne

Jillian is a working mother and a special education parent whose daughter attends La Costa Heights Elementary in the Encinitas Union School District. She has spent over two years doing the work to prepare for the role of school board trustee. She has attended more Encinitas Union School District public meetings than any other community member — budget adoptions, facilities reviews, city coordination meetings and late-night controversies. She serves on the Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee for Measure Z, the district's \$158.3 million facilities bond, and as a parent representative on the Special Education Parent Council.

She has more than 20 years experience in nonpartisan governmental policy across Washington D.C., London, and Brussels. That experience is not glamorous and entails sitting through hearings, reading legislation and picking out the language to improve to get the right result. These skills are what are going to make her a valuable school board member.

Attention to details is also what meaningful environmental commitments require. EUSD named environmental stewardship a priority in 2009. Since then the District has developed effective programs but they will continue to deliver results only if someone on the board is paying attention year after year, through budget cycles and board turnover. Jillian will be that person.

Jillian Cocayne ~ Does the work. For Our Students.

Encinitas Union School District Board of Trustees



Bill Shen

I am a native Californian and the child of immigrants. California public schools carried me to Stanford - I have lived the promise of a high-quality public education.

As a professional corporate and non-profit board member, my day job involves reading budgets, testing assumptions, and holding management accountable.

Closer to home, I serve on the board of Coastal Roots Farm, our region's regenerative organic farm and food justice non-profit. I chaired Yes on Measure Z, the 2024 school facilities bond that is now funding modernization across EUSD. I am a PTA board and School Site Council member, a founding member of Parents of EUSD, and the parent of three children in EUSD.

On the board, I will work to make climate a standing part of how EUSD governs its nine campuses: cleaner, more efficient buildings paid for through Measure Z, safer routes to school, healthier grounds and food, and stable funding for the envi-

ronmental education programs under threat in this election. I will work to create a district climate action plan.

I am proud to be endorsed by the Teachers of Encinitas, Representative Mike Levin, Senator Catherine Blakespear, and Assemblymember Tasha Boerner. I'm especially proud to have the support of the Sierra Club.

Encinitas Union School District Board of Education.



Chris Hargrave

My name is Chris Hargrave and I'm running for Encinitas Union School District Board of Education. I believe all children can achieve with the right support and interventions in place. As a public school teacher, vice principal, principal and researcher, I have dedicated my

professional life to strengthening the public school system and consider a high-quality public school education a basic human right for all children.

I currently live in Encinitas and all five of my grandchildren attend schools in EUSD. I feel very fortunate to be involved in their daily lives. Which is one of the reasons I'm running for school board.

Also, I'm running to build on the work that the EUSD board of education has done to support teaching and learning in classrooms with their laser-like focus on student achievement and interventions for students who have not reached grade level standards. Lastly, we need to develop smart evidence-based limits on classroom screen time.

San Dieguito Union High School District Area 3



Helen Doyle

As the daughter of a public-school teacher, mother of three school-aged children, and 16-year resident of Del Mar, I am invested in our schools and community. I volunteer in the classroom, am active with the PTA, and have regularly attended local School Board meetings for

more than three years, giving me valuable insight into how effective governance supports student success. I'm entering my fourth year as a Director for Del Mar Union's district-wide foundation, working collaboratively with district staff, teachers, and parents to raise funds for DMUSD STEAM+ teachers.

Sixteen years ago, I became a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) advocating for the needs of foster children in court. I continue that advocacy by helping train new CASAs to work with biological parents toward reunification. My husband and I earned our foster license and adopted two of our children. My experience with the foster system has deepened my commitment to ensuring that every child's voice is heard, and their needs are met.

My work as a mechanical engineer designing medical devices has taught me collaboration, problem-solving, and responsible stewardship of resources. I will bring that same mindset to the Board, including a commitment to sustainability and thoughtful, environmentally responsible decisions that protect our schools and community for future generations. I appreciate SDUHSD's decision to increase its reserve percentage and its history of successful audits. I will support steadily increasing the reserve while balancing the needs of all students and staff.



by Robyn Davidoff and Carol Archibald, and Sunghui Cha.

On August 29, 2026, the Sierra Club Seal Society Leadership team was awarded the Sierra Club National Volunteer Achievement Award of importance to the Environment for their years of public education and advocacy work to protect the seals and sea lions that make La Jolla their home. The leadership team consisting of Carol Archibald, Ellen Shively, Elena Tillman, Nathan Brenner, Carol Toye and Chair Robyn Davidoff were selected



to receive the award out of over 30 nominations across the United States. New leadership team members include Sunny Cha and Victoria Lamb.

New docents share their experiences:

I've been a docent at La Jolla Cove for only a couple of months now, but I feel like I walked in at exactly the right time. Change is coming to this stretch of coastline, and I get to be a small part of it, and hopefully help make it a change for the better. My favorite part of the job is sharing what I know with visitors, and hopefully passing along a little of my own enthusiasm along the way. Sea lions are so curious, and sometimes seem so interested in us, that it's easy to see why people want to get closer. But they're wild animals, and they deserve our respect and the space to live in peace. I truly believe they're happy to share this beach with us, as long as we keep that in mind. That's what I hope to leave people with: a little more love for these animals, and a little more care in how they treat them.
Sarah S.

Being a docent with the Seal Society of San Diego has been such a rewarding experience. One of my favorite parts is simply being able to give the seals and sea lions some peace during the day by helping visitors understand the importance of giving them space and respecting their natural behaviors. I also love talking with people about these animals and seeing them leave with a better understanding and appreciation for our local marine life. Another thing that has made the experience so special is the other volunteers. Everyone has been incredibly kind, supportive, and welcoming, and it is so nice being surrounded by people who care so deeply about pro-

tecting these animals. I'm very grateful to be part of a group that advocates for La Jolla's seals and sea lions and helps our community learn how to respectfully share the coastline with them. **Gracie C.**

A New California Sea Lion Joins the Colony: Statue Unveiled in Balboa Park

The Sierra Club Seal Society partnered with the San Diego Sculptors Guild



on the first sea lion statue in what they hope will become a whole colony of public art, with future sculptures painted by local students.

For years, Seal Society volunteer docents have staffed the Children's Pool, Pt. La Jolla

and the La Jolla Cove, explaining to visitors why the harbor seals and California sea lions need people to keep their distance. On August 29, that message got a permanent, larger-than-life messenger. The Sierra Club Seal Society and Sergey Gornushkin, President of the San Diego Sculptors Guild, unveiled his sculpture of a California sea lion statue at Balboa Park's Spanish Art Village. It is the start of what is hoped to be an ongoing tradition of public art celebrating and advocating for San Diego's marine mammals.

The idea grew out of decades of the Seal Society's on-the-ground conservation work. Volunteer docents have taught beachgoers to view harbor seals and California sea lions from a respectful distance, documented harassment incidents, and pressed local and state officials for better protections and ranger staffing. A sculpture, permanently on view in a public space, offers a way to carry a viewing distance and coexistence message to everyone who passes by. It will remain on display at the Spanish Village Arts Center in Balboa Park for at least 6 months.

"The statue is a lasting reminder of why we do this volunteer work," said Robyn Davidoff, Seal Society Chair. "It's to protect the harbor seals and California sea lions that make La Jolla's coastline so special. The sea lion rookery at Pt. La Jolla is the only rookery - where they are born, on the west coast of California."

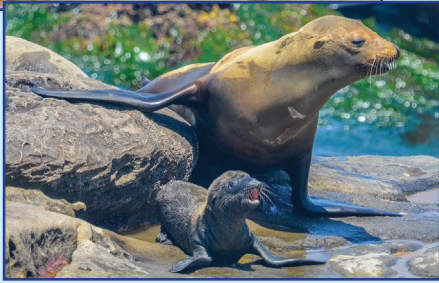
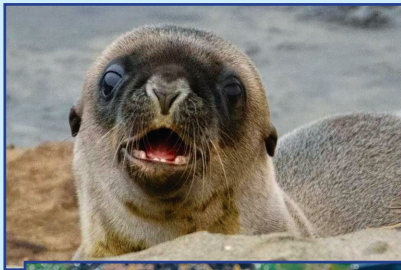
After its stint in Spanish Village, the plan is for it to travel around the city, spending time in different San Diego neighborhoods and community spaces so people well beyond Balboa Park get the chance to meet their marine mammal neighbor up close.

Harbor seals and California sea lions are a barometer for the ocean around them. Their food supply, pup survival, and stranding rates all track conditions that are shifting as the climate changes. The warmer waters cause sardine and anchovy stocks to seek deeper, cooler water putting stress on seals and sea lions as they have to travel farther to find food. The warmer water also causes more frequent domoic acid poisonings off the California coast. That's why protections like the Marine Mammal Protection Act, and the funding behind them, matter more each year. A life-size statue in a public park can turn that abstract budget line into something people notice, inquire about, and discuss openly with the community.

If you are interested in volunteering, please fill out the form at sandigosierraclub.org/seal-society/volunteer or contact the Seal Society at scsealsociety@gmail.com.

A Seal Poem

By Carol Archibald



When the surf is high, sea lions
plummet into the crest of waves,
their svelte bodies acquiesce
to the surge and swell, become
an intrinsic part of each wave
rising and falling like driftwood.

At the end of each wave,
they leap and loop in the air;
then plunge headfirst
in a perfect Olympic dive
into the peak of the next wave.

I stand on shore watching,
this scene, so joyous, so sublime,
as if adrift in a wondrous dream
on a quest to find the right words
to plant this place in my heart,

to keep it with me always
as a reminder of what is good
and beautiful in this world,
and I am unable to wake up,
to pull myself away - to leave.

AI Is in the Cloud. But What's Its Footprint on the Ground?

Information for article obtained from Sierra Club and KPBS

Artificial Intelligence May Feel Invisible, But The Infrastructure Behind It Is Anything But

Every time we ask an AI tool to write an email, analyze a document, generate an image or answer a question, computers somewhere are doing the work. Increasingly, those computers are housed in massive data centers filled with high-powered chips that require electricity - and cooling.

As artificial intelligence becomes part of everyday life, the environmental footprint of the infrastructure supporting it is attracting attention in California.

And the numbers are getting big.

The International Energy Agency reports that electricity consumption by AI-focused data centers grew about 50% in 2025. Worldwide electricity use by all data centers is projected to roughly double from 485 terawatt-hours in 2025 to about 950 TWh in 2030.

California is already home to more than 200 active data centers. In early 2026, they represented about 2% of peak electricity demand on California's primary grid. The California Energy Commission projects that could climb to approximately 9% by 2040.

It's not just electricity. Some data centers use significant amounts of water to keep equipment cool. Exactly how much is surprisingly difficult to determine. A recent California investigation found that disclosure requirements remain limited, even as facilities expand into areas where water supplies are already stressed. Two bills passed by the California Legislature this year would require greater disclosure of data-center water use and planning.

The issue is reaching Southern California, too.

In neighboring Imperial County, a proposed 950,000-square-foot data center has become the subject of an environmental battle. A judge found that potential impacts involving electricity, water, air quality and

greenhouse-gas emissions warranted greater environmental review. San Diego Chapter of the Sierra Club filed a lawsuit challenging the supervisors' April decision to allow several parcels of land to be joined together so the project can be built.

The suit, filed in Imperial County Superior Court, alleges that the supervisors are taking a fragmented approach to approving the nearly one-million-square-foot project, which could obscure its true environmental impact. The suit alleges

that this violates the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

The real challenge is ensuring that a rapidly growing technology doesn't quietly shift environmental costs onto communities through increased electricity demand, water consumption and pollution.

AI may live in the cloud. But the cloud has a very real footprint here on Earth.



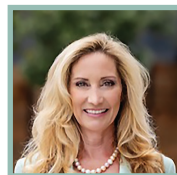
San Dieguito Union High School District, Area 5



Justin Moodie

Justin Moodie is running for School Board in the San Dieguito Union High School District, Area 5. As a public high school teacher with 20 years of experience, Justin holds nine different teaching credentials and earned his National Board Teacher Certification as an expat in Ciudad de México D.F. Moodie was sent to China on a Fulbright-Hays fellowship to collaborate with their educators in the development of cross-cultural curricula. Later, Justin earned his Administrative Services credential and an M.A. in Educational Leadership at UC Berkeley, with a focus on social justice. Serving with the CA Department of Education, Justin worked to create the new state standards for Visual and Performing Arts, published in 2019. Justin was awarded a Grosvenor Teacher Fellowship by the National Geographic Society and joined Lindblad Expeditions on an expedition to explore Antarctica in February 2023. Followed by a collaboration with the Geophysics Department at U. Maine and an expedition to Mongolia sponsored by the Tang Center for Silk Road Studies at UC Berkeley, Justin has established himself as an educator sought out for international and outdoors experience from which to build new learning opportunities for students around exploration. It was no surprise when Justin became a CA Certified Naturalist. And, in November 2025, his extraordinary efforts were recognized when the California Association of Art Educators granted Justin the award for Secondary Art Educator of Year. Justin currently lives with his family in San Diego, CA and teaches CTE Photography at Oceanside High School.

Solana Beach City Council District 3



Kristi J. Becker

As a Solana Beach City Councilmember for the past two terms, I am proud of our leadership on environmental issues. We were the first to ban smoking on beaches, single use plastic bags, and polystyrene containers. We were also the first City in San Diego County to form a Community Choice Energy (CCE) program and now there are 13 cities and the county of San Diego in one of the two CCEs. I have been a founding member of both Solana Energy Alliance and Clean Energy Alliance, which recently celebrated its fifth anniversary.

Protecting our beaches and coastline is another top priority. We successfully completed a beach sand replenishment project and secured federal funding for future sand replenishment for the next 50 years. As Chair of the SANDAG Shoreline Preservation Working Group, I worked with all of the coastal cities to develop a long-term regional sand replenishment strategy to protect our entire fragile coastline.

Keeping our beaches clean and protecting our ocean are equally important. We passed an ordinance opposing off-shore drilling, installed a beach litter pickup station, and

added a Beach Borrow Toy Box, helping prevent beach toys from entering the ocean while giving future visitors the opportunity to reuse them.

Looking ahead, I will prioritize implementation of our City's Climate Action Plan strategies and actions to reduce Greenhouse gas emissions and build a more sustainable future.

Protecting our environment is good for our quality of life and good for our local economy and businesses.

Solana Beach City Council District 4



Jenna Dellamano

Jenna Dellamano is a Solana Beach small business owner, nonprofit founder, and longtime community volunteer running for City Council in District 4. She and her family have called Solana Beach home for more than a decade and are actively involved

in local schools, youth sports, small business, and community service.

Jenna holds an MBA from Northwest Missouri State University and brings more than 20 years of experience in business and finance. She spent more than a decade with Union Bank, serving as a Vice President in multiple roles, including managing municipal investments and bond proceeds for cities, counties, and states. Today, she is a small business owner in Solana Beach.

Jenna is also the founder and Executive Director of Solana Beach Backpacks for Kids and the Solana Beach Free Farmers Market. What began as an effort to address food insecurity has grown into a completely free farmers market held every Sunday at La Colonia Park. Through partnerships with local farms, grocery stores, restaurants, schools, and other organizations, the nonprofit recovers and distributes approximately 100,000 pounds of food annually - keeping good food from going to waste while supporting local families.

Jenna believes strong communities require thoughtful planning, fiscal and environmental responsibility, and meaningful local involvement. As a councilmember, she will advocate for responsible growth, protecting Solana Beach's unique character and View Ordinance, expanding park and open space, supporting local businesses and preserving the quality of life that makes Solana Beach special.

Carlsbad Unified School District Board of Trustees



Michele Tsutagawa Ward

Michele Tsutagawa Ward was elected to the Carlsbad Unified School District Board of Trustees in 2022.

Environmental stewardship has run throughout Michele's career, beginning at Solana Recyclers, where she managed grants from the California

Integrated Waste Management Board, supported an oil recycling campaign, taught schools about composting, three R's, and oil recycling, and edited the Generation Earth Education manual.

With a Master of Science in Environmental Studies, concentrating

in Education and Communication, she has supported environmental programs at the school site level.

Michele has dedicated close to three decades to public education. After earning her teaching credential from UC Davis in 1999, she taught in New Haven and Carlsbad Unified, securing an \$8,000 grant her first year to launch her school's first garden program, and was named Calavera Hills Elementary Teacher of the Year in 2012. She served on the CTA Region 4 Think Tank, then as Assistant Principal, Co-Principal, and Principal across Vista and Poway Unified before joining the school board.

As a founding member of the California Association of Asian and Pacific Leaders in Education, Michele worked with AAPI administrators statewide and was recently selected to join the National School Board Association advocacy work for special education.

Carlsbad Unified School Board Trustee, Area 5



Chris Waidelich

As a parent of two current Carlsbad Unified students, the spouse of a public school teacher, and a dedicated community volunteer, Chris Waidelich is committed to ensuring every student has the opportunity to succeed. He believes strong public schools are

the foundation of a thriving community and is running to help preserve and strengthen the excellence that makes Carlsbad Unified one of California's top school districts.

Chris has served local families by coaching youth sports, mentoring students through LEGO Robotics, and serving on the Board of the Carlsbad Education Foundation. These experiences have given him first-hand insight into the needs of students, parents, teachers, and school staff.

An attorney with years of experience, Chris has built consensus, solved complex challenges, and made thoughtful, accountable decisions. He will bring that collaborative, solutions-oriented approach to the Carlsbad Unified School Board.

Chris's priorities include maintaining academic excellence, supporting outstanding teachers and staff, promoting safe and welcoming schools, strengthening partnerships with parents and the community, and ensuring transparent, fiscally responsible stewardship of taxpayer dollars. Chris is proud to call Carlsbad home and is committed to keeping Carlsbad Unified a district where students thrive, educators excel, and families have confidence in their public schools.

Oceanside City Council, District 1



Eric Joyce

Eric Joyce serves as the Deputy Mayor of Oceanside, California, where he is dedicated to building a community rooted in opportunity, equity, and sustainability. He has been a strong advocate for neighborhood investment, environmental stewardship, and pol-

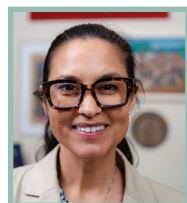
icies that strengthen working families. His leadership reflects a deep commitment to ensuring that Oceanside's progress benefits

all residents, balancing economic development with the preservation of the city's unique working-class and coastal character.

As a local elected official, Joyce has been instrumental in advancing policies that promote transparency, community engagement, and environmental responsibility. He has championed expanded access to affordable housing through municipal investments and holding developers accountable for including affordable homes in new projects. Deputy Mayor Joyce also brought together a coalition of residents and organizations to establish Oceanside as an Age-Friendly City, so senior residents have the infrastructure they need to thrive. He further worked to strengthen public trust by increasing accessibility to city meetings and frequently hosting community-centered workshops. His leadership has helped position Oceanside as a regional model for how cities can grow responsibly while honoring their social and environmental values.

Beyond City Hall, Deputy Mayor Joyce remains deeply engaged in civic life. Alongside his wife and children, he works closely with local nonprofits, neighborhood leaders, and regional agencies to address challenges such as homelessness, gun violence, food insecurity, and coastal resilience. Whether in the classroom, the council chamber, or the community, Eric Joyce continues to bring people together to create a more inclusive and forward-looking Oceanside.

Oceanside City Council, District 2



Emily Gonzales

Emily Gonzales is a mother, social scientist, and facilitator of collaboration and community engagement running for Oceanside City Council, District 2. She currently serves as chair of the Oceanside Planning Commission, where she has pushed for developer accountability and community-informed land use decisions.

Emily is the co-founder of The Swell Collective, an organization with a mission to support community organizers in their collaboration and peaceful conflict resolution. She leads by listening first: bringing neighbors, city staff, and other partners to the same table, and treating every conversation as a chance to learn something new and build connections.

Her academic background includes developing a program for emerging science journalists at the University of Hawaii's School of Communications, giving her a research-driven, science-literate approach to civic life. That same instinct for translating complex issues into plain language shapes how she talks with District 2 residents about the decisions that affect their daily lives, from wildfire preparedness to growth that lowers emissions and pollution, preserves open space, and protects wildlife in Oceanside. She is also committed to addressing accountability to provide affordable housing for the people who work and build their lives in Oceanside.

A longtime Oceanside resident, mom to a sophomore in high school, and spouse of a retired, service-disabled Marine, Emily is running because she believes district-level representation should mean someone who shows up, listens, and keeps learning. Decisions made here, at the local level, matter just as much, if not more at times, as those made in Sacramento or D.C.

Oceanside Unified School District Board of Education.



Dr. Joey Pearson

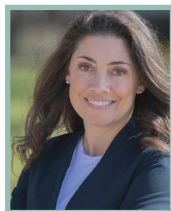
Dr. Joey Pearson is an educator and community leader running for Area 3 on the Oceanside Unified School District Board of Education. A former public-school teacher and current professional learning director, he has designed curriculum, coached educators, and led programs preparing thousands of teachers for the classroom. He earned his doctorate in education from UCLA.

Joey believes every OUSD student deserves an excellent education in a safe, welcoming school. As a trustee, he will work to improve student learning and outcomes by strengthening special and bilingual education, expanding college and career pathways, and protecting student well-being. Endorsed by the Oceanside Teachers Association, he will support educators and bring greater transparency and fiscal discipline to district decisions—keeping resources focused on students, classrooms, and schools.

Joey's environmental commitment is grounded in service. From 2021 through 2026, he led the Curriculum and Technology Team for the Sierra Club North County Group's Wilderness Basics Course. He created its online companion course and modernized the curriculum, making outdoor education more accessible and inclusive.

This work reflects the leadership Joey will bring to OUSD: widening access to rigorous learning, using technology responsibly, and protecting the natural resources we share. His campaign is grounded in learning, belonging, and readiness for the future as he focuses on turning community voices into responsible action.

San Diego City Council District 2



Nicole Crosby

Nicole Crosby is a working mom, Deputy City Attorney, and proud Clairemont resident, running to represent her neighbors in San Diego City Council District 2. She has dedicated her career as a prosecutor and community leader to standing up for

victims of elder abuse, gun crimes, and hate crimes as well as representing her neighbors as the immediate past president of both the Clairemont Town Council and her local PTA. Nicole is running to bring accountability to City Hall and ensure District 2 remains a great place to live, work, and raise a family. Nicole is proud to be endorsed by the San Diego County Democratic Party and the San Diego City Firefighters. To learn more about Nicole, please visit her website at nicoleforsandiego.com.

**Election Day is
November 3rd
Remember to Vote!**



San Diego County Board of Supervisors District 5



Kyle Krahel

Kyle Krahel is a lifelong Californian, raised in Oceanside, and driven by a deep commitment to public service and progressive leadership.

He graduated valedictorian of his high school and went on to earn a degree in Government from Harvard University. That academic

foundation propelled him into roles that bridge grassroots advocacy with policy implementation.

In 2025, Kyle was unanimously elected Chair of the San Diego County Democratic Party. In this role, he leads strategy and operations for one of the most dynamic Democratic organizations in the country.

Kyle also serves as Deputy Chief of Staff and District Director to Congressman Mike Levin (D-CA), where he oversees constituent services and district operations, helping translate federal policy into local impact.

His earlier public service includes roles as Planning Commissioner for the City of Oceanside, where he pushed for housing solutions and responsible development, and as a staffer to Oceanside Mayor Esther Sanchez. Kyle also worked on several Democratic campaigns on the East Coast before returning home to California.

His policy priorities reflect his values: compassionate homelessness solutions, strong public transit, workers' rights, education funding, and criminal justice reform.

Vista City Council District 1



Corinna Contreras Vista D1:

My name is Corinna Contreras and I am running for re-election to the Vista City Council. Since 2018, I have worked to connect our community to resources, modernize our infrastructure, foster inclusive and diverse economic growth, expand parks and green

space, make our budget process more transparent, and generate revenues that exceed our expenses so we have yearly budget surpluses to reinvest in our community. I have also focused on holistic public safety that reduces crime while improving outcomes for everyone, and I have created and implemented policy to address the climate crisis locally.

Vista City Council



Dan O'Donnell

My name is Dan O'Donnell, and I'm running for re-election to the Vista City Council. Since being elected in 2022, I've fought to protect what makes Vista livable: pushing back against developers who put profit over community, securing new parkland and green space,

expanding our tree canopy, and banning pesticides in our parks to protect the families and wildlife that use them every day. I've supported greater mobility so residents have real alternatives to sitting in traffic, and I've worked to update aging infrastructure so it can meet the demands of a changing climate.

I've also worked to keep Vista affordable and walkable, because sound land use is climate policy too. Sprawl and displacement push people into longer commutes and higher emissions; building thoughtfully within our existing footprint doesn't.

The work isn't finished. As your Council member, I'll keep showing up, keep listening, and keep fighting for a Vista that's greener, more resilient, and more livable for the next generation. Now is not the time to take a step backward.

Mayor of Poway



Dellena Olps

As a mother of two, wife to a Navy veteran, and proud homeowner, we've rooted our family in Poway. My civic engagement as a community volunteer created the passion I have for protecting Poway. I volunteer in programs like: Poway Historical

and Memorial Society, PGSL, PALL baseball, PTA and PUSD District Advisory Committee.

I'll prioritize public health and safety, to address things like the dangers created by the increases in traffic. There's an imminent need for solar lighted cross-walks, and e-bike regulations. Due to MTS route losses we need to implement a clean air shuttle system, and install more EV charging stations.

I'll honor our city motto, "The City in the Country," by preserving open spaces while revitalizing wildlife habitats. Re-planting native vegetation and trees, creating sustainable Farm Co-op communities, and enhancing parks by installing accessible playground equipment in all city parks. Working with schools to create a "Cap & Ring Collection" program, which educates families on proper recycling of plastic bottle caps and rings. Incentivizing schools to collect and turn them in, making recycling fun while kids learn to care about the environment in a greatly impactful way.

Together, we can build an inclusive and prosperous Poway. Your support will make the difference in a brighter future for all. I'm endorsed by the San Diego County Democratic Party.

Poway City Council District 3



Bob Walder

Bob Walder is a retired healthcare professional, biomedical engineer, business leader, and longtime community volunteer. He has lived in Poway since 1998 and built his career around healthcare, innovation, leadership, and service.

Bob began his career as a biomedical engineer and later became a cardiovascular perfusionist and Physician Assistant. He worked for Abbott Laboratories in its Hospital Products Division and was involved in the development and commercialization of healthcare technologies. He helped establish Digirad Imaging Solutions, a nuclear imaging company, and contributed to the commercialization of TearLab, an ophthalmic point-of-care diagnostic company.

After retiring from TearLab, Bob returned to clinical practice, specializing in ECMO and caring for critically ill patients requiring advanced cardiopulmonary support.

Community service has remained central to Bob's life. He

volunteers with the San Diego Police Department and serves as an administrator for the Rancho Bernardo Retired Senior Volunteer Patrol (RSVP), coordinating operations and participating in community patrol.

Bob's priorities are Public Safety, supporting properly staffed and responsive police, fire, and emergency services; Responsible Development, ensuring growth fits Poway and protects neighborhoods, infrastructure, and quality of life; Fiscal Responsibility, ensuring taxpayer dollars are spent wisely; and Preserve Poway, protecting open space, hillsides, ridgelines, rural character, and the community identity that makes Poway special.

Mayor of Vista



Kenneth Zuniga

Kenneth is a Latino community activist, environmental ally, Vista resident, and San Diego State University alumni. He is running for mayor of Vista to protect and expand the city's green spaces. He believes that undeveloped land should be used

as nature preserves, open spaces, or parks, not for development projects. He will protect the county's MSCP habitat by ensuring the city collaborates with the county to prevent urban growth in these areas. He will also expand dedicated public land where possible.

Kenneth recognizes the global climate crisis as a real and growing problem. He will ensure the city expands and fully funds its climate action plan to create green jobs and help local businesses transition to green energy.

He plans to strengthen green transportation options by expanding and protecting bus and bike lanes and light rail projects. He will work to plant trees along city sidewalks and reduce Vista's emissions by investing in public transportation and building a walkable, bikeable city.

He is running a grassroots, corporate-free campaign and takes no money from developers, corporations, or law enforcement. Therefore, his decisions on land use and the environment will be made without outside influence. Kenneth recognizes that the fight for the environment and the fight for working people are one and the same and that the Green New Deal must reach our most vulnerable neighborhoods first.

Helix Water District Board Division 2



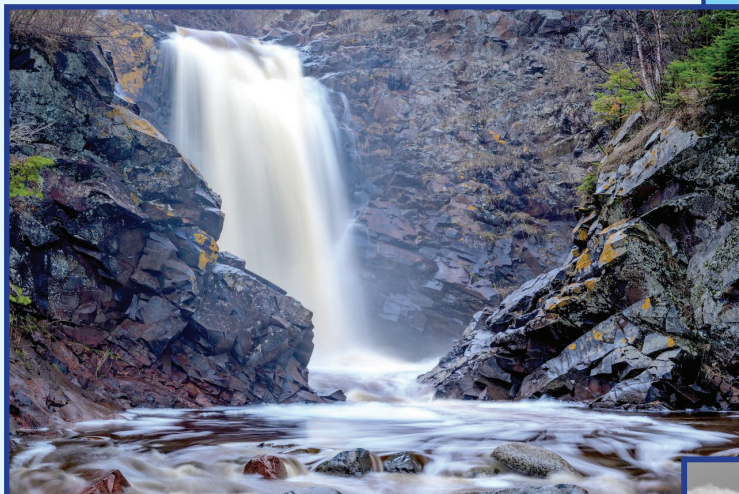
Andrea Beth Damsky, L.Ac.

Beth Damsky, L.Ac. is an elected official, serving on the Board of Directors of Helix Water District in San Diego County. An environmental scientist, she served on the Environmental Sustainability Commission of La Mesa CA from 2017 to 2022, with her last 3 years as its Chair. Andrea Beth is also a National Board-Certified Acupuncturist.

Climate change, environmental activism, drought, food insecurity, racial justice, and equity are among the many issues Andrea Beth champions. At age 11, she staffed Baldwin's Efforts to Salvage Trash (BEST), one of our nation's first recycling centers in Baldwin, NY. Andrea Beth has been involved in feminist politics, LGBTQ+ activism, AIDS issues, abortion rights, and electoral campaign work over the last 50+ years. In addition to her position on the Helix Water District, she is also a Commissioner appointed to the California Commission on the State of Hate.

SIERRA CLUB PHOTO SECTION

Don't forget, San Diego's Sierra Club has an active Photo Section! Our Club has been a gathering place for San Diego area photographers and enthusiasts for decades.



Kathryn de Venecia - Secret Vale



Chris-Gaines - Carrizo Badlands

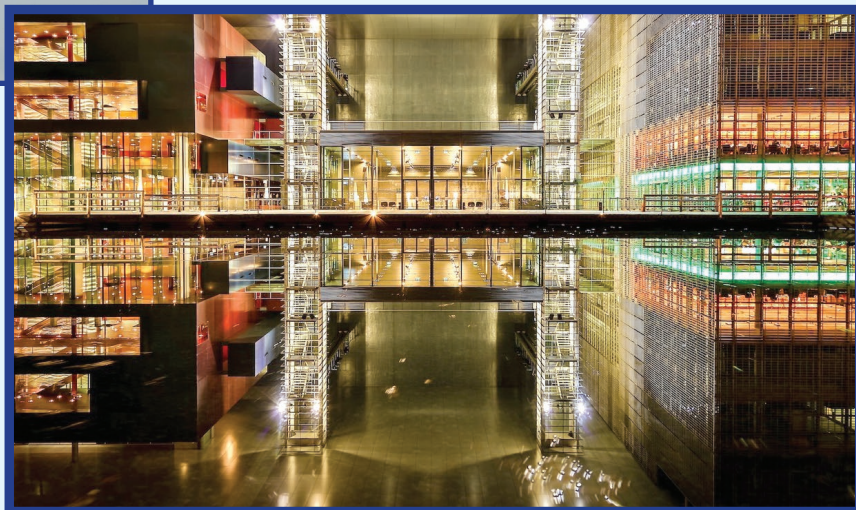


Kathryn de Venecia Steadfast Sentinels



*Mike Sauder - Juvenile Peregrine Falcons
Practicing Aerial Combat*

Our members, who are also Sierra Club members, include a variety of skill levels and photographic interests. We have members who have been photographers their entire lives, as well as members who enjoy using their smartphone camera and want to learn more about the art of photography.



Mike Sauder - KKL Luzern Reflections

Zeroing in on Zero Waste - Your Questions Answered

San Diego Sierra Club Zero Waste Subcommittee

In this issue of the HiSierran, we'll discuss the politics of zero waste, answer two of your questions about plastics, and provide information on the upcoming People's World Food Summit.

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.

The Politics of Zero Waste

Although governments often seek to build a circular economy and divert waste from landfills, many policies still favor resource extraction, single-use consumption, and subsidized disposal over reduction and reuse.

For over a century, San Diego's People's Ordinance provided free trash collection to single-family homes, discouraging waste reduction. Recent reforms permit a pay-as-you-throw tiered container size pricing system.

California's 2016 bag ban allowed thicker "reusable" plastic bags that were often discarded, increasing landfill waste. The state later closed this loophole with a comprehensive ban on all plastic grocery store bags supported by Senator Blakespear.

Senate Bill 54 holds producers responsible for plastic waste, but regulatory resistance and CalRecycle exemptions may weaken it.

Federal oil and gas subsidies keep virgin plastic artificially cheap, making sustainable alternatives less competitive.

How you can take action:

- *Vote for Sierra Club endorsed pro-environment candidates and ballot measures.*
- *Comment at City Council and County Board meetings.*
- *Contact public officials and agencies about policies you support or oppose.*
- *Practice zero waste at home.*
- *Join our Zero Waste Subcommittee.*

Questions From Members

Plastics Recycling by Waste Haulers

Do you have any data on the percentage of plastics picked up by San Diego waste haulers, such as EDCO, that gets recycled?

EDCO uses commingled blue bins for curbside recycling. Their facilities use automated screens, high-speed optical scanners, magnets, and manual sorting to separate rigid plastics from paper and metals. Once sorted and baled, EDCO sells these plastics to third-party brokers and end-use manufacturers who process them into new raw materials. Also, EDCO gets to keep the California Redemption Value (CRV) money for any eligible bottles and cans that are placed in curbside blue recycling bins.

Two resin codes make up the vast majority of successfully reprocessed plastic:

#1 PET/PETE (Polyethylene Terephthalate) Found in water and soda bottles, salad dressing containers, peanut butter jars. It is highly transparent, lightweight, and easily melted down to be spun into polyester fibers (like carpet or fleece) or turned back into new bottles.

#2 HDPE (High-Density Polyethylene) Found in milk jugs, laundry detergent jugs, shampoo bottles, and juice bottles. This plastic is thick, durable, and highly chemical-resistant. It holds up incredibly well to the heavy washing and melting processes required for recycling.

Plastic Tea Bags

The July 2026 HiSIERRAN mentioned plastic tea bags. How can I find out which teabags are made of plastic?

Plastic tea bags are typically made from nylon, PET (polyethylene terephthalate), or polypropylene mesh, especially in "silky" pyramid bags. Plastic-free alternatives use natural plant fibers such as wood pulp, abaca (Manila hemp), or unbleached paper and do not release microplastics into hot tea. Plastic tea bags are more transparent than those made from natural fibers.



Plastic Pyramid Tea Bag



Natural Plant Fiber Tea Bag

People's World Food Summit - Learn What's Going On With Food Worldwide

Contact: Pat Holland - (858)455-1033
landline with call screening

You may want to attend the upcoming free virtual People's World Food Summit on Friday Oct. 16, 2026 sponsored by Regeneration International. Sierra Club National's policy supports Organic Regenerative Agriculture. I've attended the first 5 Summits & always

learn from them. Sessions are recorded so you can attend or hear again any sessions you wish.

More information on the Summit can be found at <https://regenerationinternational.org/peoples-food-summit-2026>

Sierra Club San Diego Chapter Elections

Please note that the Sierra Club San Diego Chapter's internal elections will be held online. Candidate statements for the Chapter and Group Executive Committee elections will be forthcoming in a separate digital newsletter in October. Please be on the lookout for that issue so you can vote!

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

If you live in these cities, please vote in the North County Group election!

Bonsall, Escondido, Fallbrook, Oceanside zip code 92058, Pala, Palomar Mtn., Pauma Valley, Poway, Ramona, San Diego zip codes 92127, 92128 & 92198, San Marcos, Santa Ysabel, Vista, and Valley Center.

If you live in these cities, please vote in the North County Coastal (Coasters) Group election!

Cardiff, Carlsbad, Del Mar, Encinitas, Oceanside zip codes 92052, 92054, 92056 & 92057, Rancho Santa Fe, and Solana Beach.

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

Examples:

JNT 12345678 = Joint membership, Membership number (8-digits).

SNGL 12345678 = Single membership, Membership number (8-digits).

How to Vote:

ONLINE: go to <http://sandiegosierraclub.org/vote/>

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

Voting Will Be Open From October 17 Through November 3

Remember To Vote



General Election Candidate, Proposition Guide — November 3, 2026

San Diego

Nicole Crosby

San Diego City Council D2

Martha Abraham

San Diego City Council D4

Antonio Martinez

San Diego City Council D8

Kyle Krahel

Board of Supervisors D5

Vista

Dan O'Donnell

Vista City Council D4

Corinna Contreras

Vista City Council D1

Ken Zuniga

Vista Mayor

Poway

Dellena Olps

Poway Mayor

Bob Walder

Poway City Council

Encinitas

Mike Levin

U.S House District 49

Ringa Viskanta

Mayor

Brad Lefkowitz

City Council District 4

Arielle Golden

City Council District 3

Jillian Cocayne

EUSD Board of Trustees

Chris Hargrave

EUSD Board of Trustees

Bill Shen

EUSD Board of Trustees

Justin Moodie

SDUHS Board of Trustees Area 5

Helen Doyle

SDUHS Board of Trustees Area 3

Tasha Boerner

Assembly District 77

Catherine Blakespear

Senate District 38

Del Mar

Meghan Spieker

City Council

Jas Grewal

City Council

Solana Beach

Kristi Becker

City Council District 3

Jenna Dellamano

City Council District 4

Carlsbad

Michele Tsutagawa Ward

CUSD Board of Trustees Area 1

Chris Waidelich

CUSD Board of Trustees Area 5

Oceanside

Eric Joyce

City Council District 1

Emily Gonzales

City Council District 2

Joseph Pearson

Board of Trustees Area 3

La Mesa

Andrea Beth Damsky

Helix Water District, Division 2

Prop 45

Vote NO

Use this guide while
voting this election.

If voting in person clip
out this guide and take it
with you for reference or
use when voting by mail.



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

United States Postal Service Form 3526 (October 2026)

Statement of Ownership, Management and Circulation

1. Publication Title: Hi Sierran
2. Publication Number: 896140
3. Filing Date: October 1, 2026
4. Issue Frequency: Bi-Monthly
5. Number of Issues Published Annually: 4
6. Annual Subscription Price: \$12
7. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarter of Publisher: 42101 Webster St Suite 1300, Oakland, CA 94612
8. Complete Mailing Address of Publisher, Editor & Managing Editor: 4241 Jutland Dr., Ste 303, San Diego 92117
9. Editor Name and Mailing Address: Mark West Sierra Club SD 4241 Jutland Dr., Ste 303, San Diego CA 92117
10. Owner: Sierra Club San Diego Imperial County Chapter 4241 Jutland Dr., Ste 303, San Diego CA 92117
11. Known Bondholders, Mortgages and Other Security Holders Owning or Holding 1 Percent or More of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages or Other Securities: NONE
12. Tax Status: Has Not Changed During Preceding 12 Months.
13. Publication Title: Hi Sierran
14. Issue Date for Circulation Date October 2026

	Average No. Of Copies Preceding 12 months	Published Nearest to Filing Date
a. Total Number of Copies:	8,608	8,332
(1) Paid-Outside County (3541)	68	82
(2) Paid-In County (3541)	8,250	8,332
(3) Sales Thru Dealers & Carriers etc.	0	0
(4) Other Classes Mailed thru USPS	0	0
b. Total Paid Distribution	8,318	8,414
c. Free Distribution by Mail	0	0
(1) Outside County (3541)	0	0
(2) In-County (3541)	0	0
(3) Other Classes Mailed USPS	0	0
(4) Outside The Mail	25	25
d. Total Free Distribution	25	25
h. Total	8,343	8,439

Classified Ads

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:
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4241 Jutland Drive, Ste. #303
San Diego, CA 92117
Send ad to:
info@thomascreative.com

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If you would like to get the HiSierran online,
contact the Chapter office :
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 2027
Deadline December 1, 2026.

**To submit by email,
please email to both:**
thomascreative2@cox.net
scoffice@sierrasd.org.
Submissions are subject to
approval for content and
subject matter.

Make The EPA Do Its Job!

The EPA has one job – to protect the environment and public health. Now Trump has stripped the agency of its authority to fight climate change. This is illegal and it will cost lives. People will get sicker, energy bills will go up, and fossil fuel companies

will be allowed to unleash even more climate pollution. Demand Congress make the agency accountable and uphold its responsibility to our communities, environment, and climate.

CONTACT YOUR REPRESENTATIVE TO SUPPORT THE ENVIRONMENT!

Like What You Are Reading?

Support your local Chapter's work
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Cut out this form and mail it with
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SIERRA CLUB
SAN DIEGO CHAPTER

Sierra Club San Diego
4241 Jutland Drive
Ste. #303
San Diego, CA 92117

Donate online:

<http://sandiegosierraclub.org/donate>

Committees & Contact Information

Some meetings still offer the option of attending on-line. Please check our Activities Calendar (<http://sandigosierraclub.org/news/activities-calendar/>) on how you can participate.

CHAPTER STAFF

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558-569-6005
mark.west@sierraclub.org

Deputy Chapter Director:
Charles Rilli
558-569-6005, ext 3
charles.rilli@sierraclub.org

Community Organizer:
Michael King
558-569-6005, ext 2
michael.king@sierraclub.org

Chapter & Communications Coordinator
Abra Landau
(619) 357-6548
abra.landau@sierraclub.org

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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

Chair: Lisa Ross (2026)
lisasierraclub@gmail.com

Vice-Chair: Alan Geraci (2028)
alan@alangeraci.com

Secretary: Pam Heatherington (2027)
pheatherington@gmail.com

Treasurer: Rochelle Hancock (2027)
Rae_1024@yahoo.com

North County Group Rep:
Joe Houde (2028)
joe@ecinstitute.com

North County Coastal Group Rep:
Sally Prendergast (2026)
sallyp123@mac.com

Ron Askeland (2028)
ron.askeland@gmail.com

Susan Baldwin (2028)
susanbaldwin@aol.com

Alan Geraci (2028)
alan@alangeraci.com

William Morse (2028)
williamdavidmorse@gmail.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://sierraclubnccg.org>

Chair: Joe Houde
joe@ecinstitute.com

SOUTH COUNTY TASK FORCE

Meets every other Wednesday at 4pm via zoom. Reach out to

Charles.rilli@sierraclub.org to join

COMMITTEES

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

Meets 2nd Monday at 6:30pm

Chair: Ron Askeland
ron.askeland@gmail.com

Zero-Waste

Meets 1st Monday at 6:30 pm

Contact the Committee at
zerowastesdsc@gmail.com

SEAL SOCIETY

For meeting and docent information:
email: scsealsociety@gmail.com

OUTINGS COMMITTEE

Meets quarterly, contact Chair for date and location.

Chair: Kris Watkin
sdoutchair@gmail.com

Leadership Review & Safety Committee

Chair: Lynn Nebus
sd.lrsc@gmail.com

Chapter Outings Leadership Training (COL)

Stefanie Maio
sd.col.training@gmail.com

North County Group Outings Leadership Training (COL)

Kelly Conrad
nccg.col.training@gmail.com

POLITICAL COMMITTEE

Meets 4th Thursday at 6pm

Chair: Kathryn Burton
kathrynsburton@gmail.com

WATER COMMITTEE

Meets 3rd Tuesday at 6pm

Chair: Stefan Frutiger
stefan.frutiger@outlook.com

WILDERNESS BASICS COURSE (WBC)

Held annually beginning in January

San Diego

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

Escondido

Dj Strong
hikerdjstrong@gmail.com
www.wbc.sierraclubnccg.org

SECTIONS & SOCIAL COMMITTEES

PHOTOGRAPHY

Chair: Chris Gaines
info@sdphotoclub.com
<https://sdphotoclub.com>

INSPIRING CONNECTIONS OUTDOORS (ICO)

Check website for meeting information.
www.sandigosierraclub.org

Chair: Bill Tayler,
btayler@taylorlaw.com

PROGRAM COMMITTEES

Hi Sierran Newsletter

Managing Editor: Judy Thomas
thomascreative2@cox.net



WHAT WILL YOUR LEGACY BE?

Ensure your environmental legacy by naming Sierra Club or your favorite Sierra Club Chapter in your will or trust. These gifts cost you nothing now. You can hold on to your assets for as long as you need them and you can change your beneficiaries at any time.

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

LORI SULLIVAN

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

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





San Diego Chapter

4241 Jutland Drive, Suite 303,
San Diego, CA 92117

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

Phone: 858-569-6005

www.sandiegosierraclub.org

Sierra Talks

New Monthly Sierra Talks Team Looking For Volunteers To Create Stimulating Virtual Meetings

The team will be responsible to review, arrange and facilitate online media and speakers.

Volunteer participation may be needed during presentations.

Speakers will be needed for videos or slides to show nature's wonders, great hikes, inspiring discoveries, environmental science, activist projects and environmental research.

*Please let us know if you would like to be involved to assist presentations or can present on first Fridays of the month.
office email: scoffice@sierrasd.org*

2027 SIERRA CLUB CALENDARS



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CALENDAR	PRICE	QTY	TOTAL
☐ 2027 Wilderness	\$17.00 \$18.95	_____	_____
☐ 2027 Engagement	\$18.00 \$19.95	_____	_____

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Phone (____) _____

Email _____

Calendars are available for pick-up at the Chapter office. Just call us at 858-569-6005 with your order. You can pay by credit card, check or cash if you pick up your order from the office.