



Sierra Club San Diego Chapter

# HiSIERRA

Serving San Diego And Imperial Counties

Vol 84 No. 2

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April/May/June 2024

## Fighting to Reduce Waste, Protect the Environment

By Sen. Catherine Blakespear



I spoke at a press conference with (to my immediate left) Asm. Tasha Boerner and Sen. Ben Allen regarding legislation to ban plastic bags. We are surrounded by advocates for the bill and the “Plastic Bag Monster,” illustrating how disgusting plastic waste is!

I’ve introduced legislation to prohibit grocery stores from providing plastic bags at grocery checkout. Instead, grocery stores will be able to offer only paper bags when customers have not brought their own reusable bags. This bill is joint authored with Assemblymember Rebecca Bauer-Kahan, D-Orinda, with Sen. Ben Allen, D-Santa Monica, as the principal co-author.

Did you know that the average life span of a plastic bag is 12 minutes? It is then discarded, often clogging sewage drains and over time degenerating into toxic microplastics that contaminate our drinking water, fester in our oceans and fill up our landfills for up to 1,000 years.

This bill recognizes the reality that although the thicker plastic bags at our grocery stores indicate that they can be recycled, there are in reality no facilities in California that recycle these

*Reduce Waste continued on page 10*

## 30x30 Campaign



By Charles Rilli,  
Associate Community Organizer,  
Sierra Club San Diego

San Diego is known as one of the most biodiverse places in the country, with hundreds of rare native species and thousands of native plant species.

Unfortunately, due to climate change, drought, overdevelopment, pollution, invasive species, and so much more, San Diego is losing its rich biodiversity at alarming rates. However, California has a unique opportunity to lead the nation (and the world) in protecting land, habitat and water.

Governor Gavin Newsom issued executive order N-82-20 in October of 2020, which established a state goal of protecting 30% of California’s land and coastal waters by 2030. On October 7th of 2023, Gov. Newsom signed SB 337, which codified this goal into law.

Days after this decision, I had the opportunity to represent our chapter at the California Natural Resource Board’s 30x30 conference in Riverside. I spoke with incredible leaders from across the state to learn, collaborate, and identify ways to work together to reach our collective biodiversity, access, conservation, and climate

resilience goals. I heard many success stories from across the state and now have new strategies to assist in developing and implementing our regional conservation strategies in San Diego.

30x30 is one of the Sierra Club’s most important missions and campaigns. We must protect our land and coastal water to ensure a vibrant future for our biodiversity, habitats and state.

I am leading our chapter’s 30 x 30 strategy, and I need your help! I am looking for interested volunteers who want to help with tracking 30x30 projects, educating our elected officials and communities on the importance of this campaign, and so much more. Please reach out to me at [charles.rilli@sierraclub.org](mailto:charles.rilli@sierraclub.org) if interested!



*Sierra Club at CNRA 30x30 conference*

**Explore, Enjoy and Protect the Planet**



# HiSIERRAN

Explore, Enjoy and Protect the Planet

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# A View from The Chair



**Lisa Ross**

Good day from the seas off South Georgia Island. I am floating among the icebergs in the southern Atlantic near Antarctica after making several zodiac landings where King penguins, elephant and fur seals, albatross and sheathbills greeted our expedition adventurers with indifference and a smidgeon of curiosity.

And so the chair column this edition is about a tale of two approaches to wildlife conservation and reclamation: one where humans are privileged guests, the other where human access is considered a right.

Two guesses about which approach is more successful in promoting biodiversity and protecting endangered habitat.

Although home to vastly different ecosystems, South Georgia and San Diego County host some of the most diverse and historically fragile habitats in the world. But the approaches to stewardship could not be more different.

While the City and County of San Diego tacitly prioritizes under-regulated recreational activities in our habitat preserves with little rule enforcement, in South Georgia human activity is strictly confined to scientific research and tightly controlled expedition-style tourism in its natural bays and harbors, accessible only by kayak and Zodiac from an anchored ship.

Of course South Georgia benefits from its remote location, lying about 1400 kilometers east of the Falkland Islands on the way south to Antarctica. But at the turn of the century, it was a beehive of human activity, largely because of whaling and later sealing.

Whaling and sealing operations brought destructive invasive species including stowaway rodents, weed seeds and of all things, reindeer that chewed up the grasses needed by nesting birds. The ecosystem was a mess.

Sealing ended when fur seals were hunted to near extinction. Whaling became too expensive to sustain even when the highly prolific elephant seal population provided a whale blubber substitute.

The ghosts of those operations remain as rusted sculpture-like relics in Grytviken, Stromness and Leif Harbor. And for a while, as many as 6400 reindeer roamed freely inhaling the plant life that seabirds relied on for nesting.

The good news is that over that past few decades a focus on habitat reclamation has proven wildly successful bringing back to viability millions of seabirds. In 2018 all rodents had been declared eliminated as indicated by the return of the South

*View from the Chair continued on page 3*



# The annual election for Sierra Club's Board of Directors is now underway.

Each year, five of the 15 members of the Sierra Club Board of Directors end their three-year term. A list of candidates is selected by a combination of a nominations process and a petition process. Sierra Club members have the opportunity to vote on five candidates to fill the empty seats.

A democratic Sierra Club demands grassroots participation. If you have been a Sierra Club member since January 31st 2023, you are eligible to vote. If you joined the Sierra Club since then, you will be eligible to vote next year.

Ballots were sent to eligible voters on Monday, March 11th. If you pre-registered to vote online, you'll receive an email from [sierraclub.org/electionservicescorp.com](http://sierraclub.org/electionservicescorp.com). Paper ballots will arrive in the mail to all other voters. Please note: the paper ballots are sent out in batches from the East Coast, voting members will receive them at different times throughout the month.

Additional information about the election, this year's candidates, and how to vote can be found on the Sierra Club website [www.sierraclub.org/board/election](http://www.sierraclub.org/board/election)

Your participation is critical for a Strong Sierra Club. Voting in the Board of Directors election is a privilege, and important responsibility of your membership.

Help us to get a record voter turnout this year. Typically, less than 10% of eligible members vote in the Board elections. A minimum of 5% is required for the elections to be valid. Our grassroots structure is strengthened when mem-

bership participation is high. That means your participation is needed in the voting process. Cast your vote early and encourage other members you know to do the same. Ballots must be received by 12:00 PM Eastern Time on April 24th.

## How Can I Learn About the Candidates?

Resources to help you learn about the candidates are available online <http://www.sierraclub.org/board/election>. You can read each candidate's bio and statement, as well as their answers to important forum questions selected by a Forum Questions Committee. Each candidate has also recorded a short video about their candidacy!

You can also learn more by asking questions of your group and chapter leadership and other experienced members you know.

## Voting is Quick and Easy!

If you received a paper ballot but would like to vote online, you can use the registration numbers you received in the mail to login to the e-voting site <http://vote.escvot.com/sierra>. If you vote online, please do not also send in your paper ballot.

If you have not received your ballot by March 31st please contact Sierra Club's Member Care team at 415-977-5653 [member.care@sierraclub.org](mailto:member.care@sierraclub.org).

To request a replacement ballot, or receive assistance to vote online, contact Election Services customer service at [sierraclub@electionservicescorp.com](mailto:sierraclub@electionservicescorp.com) or phone 1-866-720-4357.

Your ballot must be received by no later than 12:00 PM Eastern Time on April 24th. If you're voting by mail, please drop off your ballot with enough time for it to reach the facility in New York.

Questions? All the details about the election, the candidates, and how to vote is available online [sierraclub.org/board/election](http://sierraclub.org/board/election). Additional questions can be directed to [member.care@sierraclub.org](mailto:member.care@sierraclub.org)

*View from the Chair continued from page 2*

Georgian Pipit thanks to the Colorado based Friends of South Georgia Island, reindeer were culled and enhanced maritime and tourism regulations were put in place.

I was privileged to be able to visit six natural "harbors" in the grasslands that hug the shore. Towering above are the rugged impassable glacier filled mountains that run point to point inland. The cacophony of sounds is other worldly. It is clear who runs the show.

Our hour long visits at each landing site were preceded by a thorough biological check of all outer clothing, boots, cameras, poles, etc for even a spot that might look like a seed. We stepped in disinfectant before leaving the ship and returning to make sure we weren't carrying any invasive hitchhikers. Our visits were confined to an hour and limited to 100 people at a time.

The success of environmental regulations that limit the type and number of human incursions into fragile ecosystems is clear

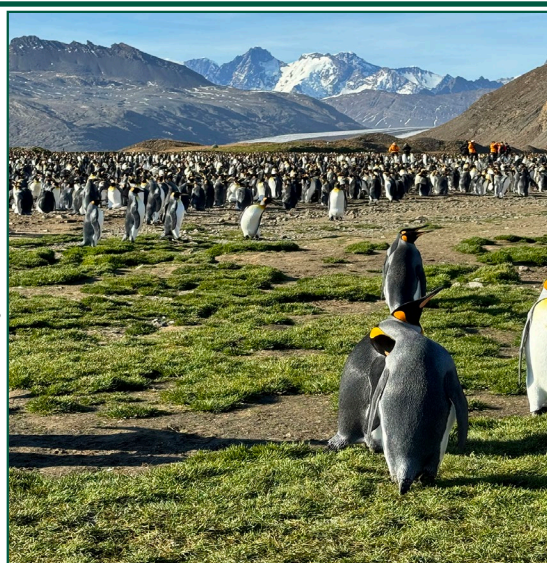
from the spectacular species recovery from near extinction to over 30 million breeding pairs of seabirds and over 4 million fur seals in South Georgia. People are considered guests who tread lightly and leave nothing they brought behind.

It is unrealistic to expect such stringent regulations in heavily populated San Diego, but proposals to add trails, build roads through and facilities in wildlife corridors is a step in the wrong direction.

What can be done starts with public understanding of the difference between recreational parks and habitat preserves. We need more of the former. And less development pressure on the latter.

This year the San Diego Sierra Club chapter has committed to taking all measures available to us to nudge our decision makers into making good on the promise of established County and City habitat plans to protect and enhance habitats found only here.

*Starting in mid-April I will be keeping office hours in our new Chapter office (TBA).  
Come on in for a chat. And as always, Stay Green.*





# Help Protect the Salton Sea!

The future of the Salton Sea, California's largest lake, hangs in the balance. We need voices from across the state to stand with the people and wildlife of the Salton Sea and shape the plans to protect it.

## Why This Matters

The Salton Sea is California's largest lake, and entire ecosystems and communities rely on it. But because of reduced water flows and deteriorating water quality, the Sea is drying up and creating an environmental and public health crisis. These problems are getting worse due to climate change.

The drying of the Salton Sea is exposing lakebed dust that is full of toxic heavy metals and pesticide residue, which can cause catastrophic health problems. The communities who live by the Sea

– almost 650,000 people – have higher rates of respiratory issues, cardiac disease, and asthma. The Salton Sea is also crucial to the survival of more than 400 species of migratory birds. As the Sea dries up, their habitat is rapidly disappearing.

How we solve the complex challenges at the Salton Sea isn't just a local issue -- our work here is a chance to show that California can solve the overlapping threats of climate change, drought, public health, and threats to biodiversity, at the Salton Sea and everywhere across our state. State and federal agencies are working on long-delayed plans to address the harmful dust and save wildlife habitat around the Sea -- but they need to hear that the public won't wait any longer. There's a growing statewide campaign to save the Salton Sea -- add your name to join the movement!

Go to: <https://addup.sierraclub.org/campaigns/sign-up-to-help-protect-the-salton-sea>



Marc Cooper



Brian Elliott



Sierra Club photo



Steven Kriemadis



# Fort Yuma Quechan Indian Tribe Proposes New National Monument in California

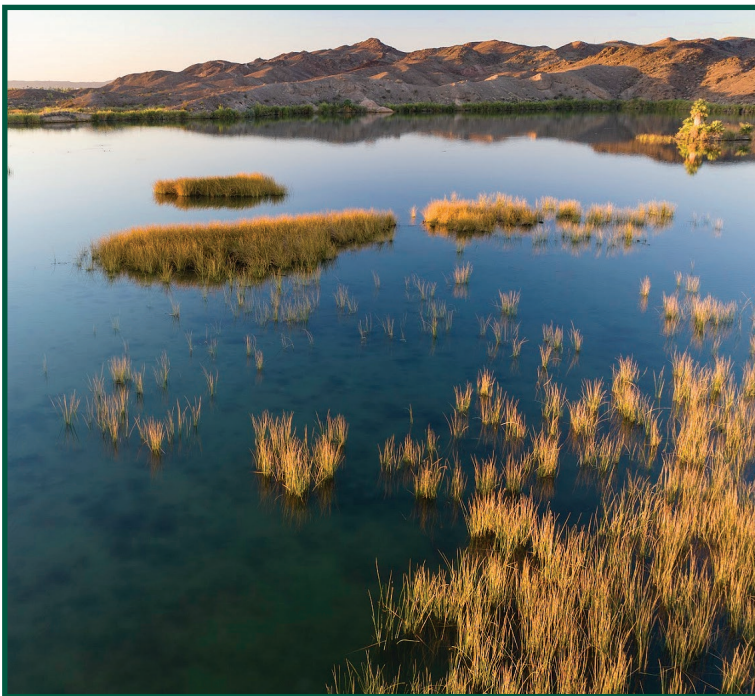
The Fort Yuma Quechan Indian Tribe has announced an effort to establish the Kw'tsán National Monument, calling on President Biden to protect more than 390,000 acres of the Tribe's homelands located in Imperial County, California. These lands, currently managed by the Bureau of Land Management, contain incredible cultural, ecological, recreational, scenic, and historic values that the Tribe is asking be preserved for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations.

"As original stewards of this land, we are asking President Biden to take action to protect this important and sacred land-

scape by designating it as the Kw'tsán National Monument," said Fort Yuma Quechan Indian Tribe President Jordan Joaquin. "As others see the land as just land and dirt, we, the Quechan people, see the land in our DNA. We come from the air, the water, the land. It's who we are, and protecting these lands preserves our past while safeguarding our future."

The Fort Yuma Quechan Indian Tribe and the Quechan people remain committed to the preservation of its cultural values, belief systems, life ways, traditional practices, and the sovereign legal rights of Native American people. The Tribal Council is requesting that the Biden Administration designate this new monument through the Antiquities Act, and establish an inter-governmental stewardship agreement between the Tribe and federal agencies. This would mean that Quechan values, knowledge, expertise, and worldviews will be incorporated into the new monument manage-

*Fort Yuma continued on Page 10*



*Photos Courtesy of Fort Yuma Quechan Indian Tribe/Bob Wick*



# 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 San Diego County Air Pollution Control District's (SDAPCD) E-LEAF Program, provide some recycling tips and review highlights of the 11th Annual Zero Waste Symposium. Please email your questions about zero waste and related issues [zerowastesdsc@gmail.com](mailto: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 [zerowastesdsc@gmail.com](mailto:zerowastesdsc@gmail.com).

## San Diego APCD E-LEAF Program

The San Diego County Air Pollution Control District is currently offering Electric Landscape Equipment Assistance Funding (E-LEAF) for small landscaping businesses seeking to replace their existing commercial gas-powered Lawn and Garden Equipment (L&GE) with cordless, zero-emission electric alternatives. Incentive funding is available for a "like kind" exchange of gas-powered L&GE for electric L&GE.

### *The program is for Commercial Landscape Professionals who:*

- Live in California and currently own and operate existing gas-powered L&GE.
- Are a small business or sole proprietor operating in San Diego County.

To participate, landscape professionals need to find an approved dealer to see if they qualify and trade in their old gas-powered equipment for incentives to help purchase new cleaner equipment.

## Maximum Eligible Funding Amounts

**Handhelds (Chainsaws/Polesaws, Edgers, Trimmers) - \$700**

**Leaf blowers/Vacuums - \$1,400**

**Walk-Behind or Robotic Mowers - \$1,500**

**Ride-On or Standing Ride Mowers - \$15,000**

Please help spread the word about this exciting new program by reaching out to professional landscapers. To learn more, visit [www.sdapcd.org/eleaf](http://www.sdapcd.org/eleaf) or call (858) 586-2600.

## Recycling Tips

A frequent question is "What are most common recycling mistakes and how can I avoid them?" Here are a few of the most important steps we can all take to improve recycling:

Do not put plastic bags in either the blue bin or green bin - they are not recyclable or compostable and become tangled in the sorting machinery.

Soiled diapers and dog waste bags must always go in the black bin.

Avoid putting "tangles" such as hoses, Christmas lights and wire coat hangers in the blue or green bins, these items go in the black bin.

All types of batteries are considered hazardous waste in California and not allowed in landfills. Battery recycling locations can be found at <https://wastefreesd.org>

## Attention Wine Drinkers

As of January 1, 2024, wine and distilled spirits bottles are now a California Redemption Value (CRV). The 10 cent CRV applies to containers purchased in California even if they don't have a CRV label (CRV labels aren't required until July 1, 2025). More information is available at <https://calrecycle.ca.gov/bevcontainer/basics/>.

## 11th Annual Zero Waste Symposium

The 11th Annual Zero Waste Symposium, hosted by Zero Waste San Diego <https://zerowastesandiego.org>, was held on February 28th. The theme of this year's symposium was Driving Progress with Circular Economy Initiatives. This was a hybrid event, and the in-person portion was sold out.

### Highlights included:

Bringing Zero Waste To The California Senate - Senator Catherine Blakespear

Keynote: Three Perspectives On Getting To The Circular Economy - William O'Toole, Tina Nguyen, and Isabella Sullins

California's Policies and Legislations Update - Nick Lapis, Director of Advocacy, Californians Against Waste

Measure D: 30 Years Lessons Learned - Ruth Abbe, Executive Director, Zero Waste USA

For more information see <https://zwsymposium.zerowastesandiego.org>



Keynote speakers Isabella Sullins, Tina Nguyen, and William O'Toole.

Rick Anthony (Treasurer, Zero Waste San Diego), Ruth Abby (Executive Director, Zero Waste USA), & Laura Anthony (President, Zero Waste San Diego).





## California Regulators OK Petition Requiring Energy Decisions to Factor in Environment, Public Health

The California Energy Commission unanimously approved a petition (<https://www.energy.ca.gov/filebrowser/download/6144>) on March 13 from conservation, environmental justice and local government groups requiring that it factor in the environment and public health when making decisions about the state's clean energy and climate future. The action launches a process, including public workshops beginning this summer, to develop methods that include non-energy benefits and social costs throughout the commission's work.

"This is an enormous first step toward making sure California's energy decisions don't harm communities, air and water to benefit polluting industries and corporate utilities, and it will tip the scales toward clean energy," said Roger Lin, a senior attorney at the Center for Biological Diversity. "The commission's leadership will go a long way toward bringing climate justice to California's hardest hit communities and sets a precedent that other states should follow. We'll see less pollution and unlock more clean energy funding for overburdened communities that have been last in line."

The groups' February petition followed a series of regressive policy moves by the California Public Utilities Commission attacking local clean energy solutions, including a recent proposal to stifle community solar in California.

"We applaud the commission's leadership in granting the petition to account for the full non-energy benefits and social costs of energy resources," said Alexis Sutterman, energy justice manager with California Environmental Justice Alliance. "For far too long, environmental justice communities have been treated as sacrifice zones for the state, subject to dangerously high levels of pollution from 'cost-effective' resources that in reality cost them their health and well-being. Accounting for the full costs and benefits

is long overdue and will help California finally unlock investments that advance our climate, health, and environmental justice goals."

"We're glad the CEC has corrected course by acknowledging the true costs of keeping gas plants and other dirty energy sources online," said Julia Dowell, a senior field organizer with the Sierra Club. "An analysis of energy sources that ignores toxic pollution and its legacy of harms in environmental justice communities is like trying to pick the best option from a lineup with a blindfold on. We're hopeful that this decision will be implemented in a timely manner and will make clean energy decision making in California more comprehensive and equitable."

The California Energy Commission oversees the mix of energy resources needed to meet the state's 100% clean energy target by comparing their costs and benefits, which has benefited fossil fuels and for-profit utilities. Those cost-benefit analyses have failed to consider the potential local harms (or "social costs") and community benefits (or "non-energy benefits") of energy programs or projects.

The petition requires the commission to consider consequences such as local air and water pollution, excessive water use, and other environmental harms. For example, in the past power plants and biofuel combustion have been deemed "cost-effective" because the commission has ignored the pollution and other harms of these projects, which disproportionately fall on low-income communities and those of color.

The commission also will be required to consider local benefits such as improved public health from reduced pollution and the resiliency of distributed renewable energy resources. For example, energy-efficiency programs targeting low-income and disadvantaged communities have been deemed not "cost-effective" under a cost-benefit analysis that has ignored the benefits to these families' wellbeing. That needlessly limits state and federal funding available to serve those communities.

The commission has hired a consultant to develop values and methods to weigh the social costs and non-energy benefits of its decisions. The commission will hold the first in a series of workshops at 9:30 a.m. April 16 in Sacramento, focused on the approach and implications of examining these costs and benefits.



# Give Your Vehicle a New Purpose.

## Donate Your Vehicle Today!

**Help Support the San Diego Chapter**

It's never a bad time to donate your car/boat/motorcycle  
and you may qualify for a tax deduction!.

Call the Chapter Office for more info: (858) 569-6005



# UCSD Pup Patrol

Robyn Davidoff, Sierra Club Seal Society Chair

The harbor seal birthing season at the Children's Pool in La Jolla reached its peak around Valentines Day and finished in early March. There are over 40 seal pups learning to swim and fish and their moms are



Training of UCSD Pup Patrol students

kept busy chasing them in and out of the water. It's a fun to watch. The Children's Pool remains closed until May 15 so that the pups can mature enough to take care of themselves without human interference.

of harbor seal adults and newborns, and many were lucky enough to view a birth. The student clubs named themselves the "Pup Patrol". The Seal Society looks forward to repeating this next year.



The Seal Society furthered public education by presenting three "Talk and Walks" at Mangelson's Images of Nature Gallery in La Jolla.

A 30-minute presentation about seals and sea lions was

given followed by a quick walk to see the harbor seal pups as they nurse, rest and swim with their moms. It was well publicized on social media and in the city's events calendars and over 40 people attended each presentation. In fact, it was so well publicized that the University of San Diego's U3A continuing education department contacted the Seal Society to be part of their lecture series in both of their winter sessions. The Seal Society will give a Talk and Walk field trip for them on 3/21 and 4/23.

For its third year, the SCSS will host 2 sites in La Jolla at the I Love a Clean San Diego Creek to Bay clean up on April 20, a part of the earth day celebration.



Seal mom and 1 day old pup, Robyn Davidoff



Just born Seal pup, Carol Toye



Children's Pool and sea wall, Robyn Davidoff

We will pick up trash and other odd items starting at the Children's Pool (the Children's Pool will not be cleaned as it is closed so no entry is allowed), South Casa beach and south to the La Jolla tide pools, and north to Scripps Park, La Jolla Cove and continuing up to the Cave Store. You can sign up to volunteer here [Creektobay.org](http://Creektobay.org)

The Seal Society continues to partner with other wildlife groups to get the word out about safe viewing of wild animals. Our key reminders are to view a bus length away from the animal, if it looks at you, you are too close, refrain from taking pictures of animals looking at you as it encourages others to get too close, and use your zoom on your camera to get the perfect photo.

If you want to get involved, contact us at [scsealsociety@gmail.com](mailto:scsealsociety@gmail.com)



# Zeroing in on Zero Waste - Your Questions Answered

## San Diego Sierra Club Zero Waste Subcommittee

In this issue of the HiSierran, we'll discuss zero waste aspects of our San Diego Sierra Club Chapter's 75th



legislative session, and provide links to past HiSierran Zero Waste Articles. Please email your questions about zero waste and related issues to [zerowastesdsc@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:zerowastesdsc@gmail.com).

## San Diego Chapter 75th Anniversary Celebration

Our San Diego Sierra Club Chapter's 75th Anniversary Celebration Picnic in the Park was a huge success, with 325 attendees. It was held on October 1 at the San Dieguito County Park in Del Mar. There were 14 morning hikes and 10 edu-



cational tables for chapter groups including Outings, Seal Society and Zero Waste, as well as outside groups such as the San Dieguito River Park, Living Coast and I Love a Clean San Diego. There were scavenger hunts, crafts and other activities for children. Special guests included National Sierra Club President Allison Chin, CA Sierra Club Director Brandon Dawson, and CA State Senator Catherine Blakespear. Sierra Club members and non-members were able to learn more about Sierra Club activities.

Zero Waste was an important aspect of the event. At the Zero Waste table, there was a recycling challenge. Many people, including State Senator Blakespear, participated by placing household items in the proper bins. We also had a chance to discuss issues, such as the problems with synthetic turf, with picnic attendees.

There were vegan and vegetarian food options and food was served cafeteria style to avoid waste. We had reusable utensils,



Anniversary Celebration, review the 2023 California

and all food containers, plates, cups, and napkins were compostable. Cardboard event containers for compost, recycle and landfill were provided free of charge by San Dieguito County Park's waste hauler EDCO. Our 325 person event generated 9 bags of compostable materials, 1 bag of recyclable materials and ½ bag of landfill waste.

## Best practices for holding your own zero waste events include:

Work with your food vendor ahead of time to make sure they avoid single use plastics and single serving condiments.

Contact your waste hauler before the event to ensure that any compostable products, such as plates or cups, are compatible with their composting process.

Clearly label compost, recycle and landfill bins and have a volunteer help people select the correct bin.

*Designate a zero waste lead for your event.*



*Reduce Waste continued from page 1*

bags. Analysis of used plastic grocery bags using AirTags has shown that almost none of the thicker plastic bags actually end up recycled.

It's time to face reality. If we want to reduce plastic bags, we need to ban them. Paper works equally well, as places like Trader Joe's know. The best option is a canvass, reusable bag, which creates no waste at all.

## **Requiring Reusable Cups at Dine-In Chain Restaurants**

I've also introduced SB 1167, requiring chain restaurants in California to provide dine-in customers with washable, reusable cups, instead of single-use plastic or paper cups that often end up in landfills.

The legislation follows similar ordinances passed by many cities designed to limit plastic waste coming from restaurants. Plastic food service ware, which includes cups, produces 500,000 tons of waste each year, <https://calrecycle.ca.gov/wcs/dbstudy/> according to CalRecycle.

California has a massive plastic waste problem, and if we are serious about protecting our environment and living sustainably, we must reduce it across the board. SB 1167 is a simple, sensible step to reduce waste coming from restaurants.

## **Encouraging Composting Facilities**

In addition to reducing waste, we need to speed up the establishment and permitting of composting facilities. Organic materials make up half of what Californians dump in landfills and emit 20 percent of the state's methane. In an effort to reduce methane and other short-lived climate pollutant emissions, California set organic waste diversion targets of 50 percent by 2020 and 75 percent by 2025.

CalRecycle acknowledges that the state still needs approximately 50-100 new or expanded organic waste recycling facilities, such as composting facilities, for sufficient capacity to meet these goals.

That's why I have introduced a bill which requires, among other things, that local air districts and regional water boards meet specified timelines for processing compost facility permit requests.

## **Preventing Marine Flares from Contaminating Water**

Finally, I have authored legislation to make sure that marine flares are disposed of properly. Flares contain toxic metals and pollutants that render them hazardous, reactive and explosive, but boaters have no easy way to get rid of them.

SB 1066 would require producers of marine flares to fund and operate a convenient collection system to manage expired or unwanted flares to ensure they are properly disposed of and don't pollute the water or environment.

I hope the Sierra Club will consider supporting these bills and helping me to get them passed and turned into law. To learn more about what I am doing, you can visit <https://sd38.senate.ca.gov> my website or <https://sd38.senate.ca.gov/contact/updates> sign up for my newsletter.

*Fort Yuma continued from Page 5*

ment plan so that ceremonies, cultural activities, and gatherings within the protected area could continue.

"We need to protect our culture, heritage, traditions and our language. The trails that are encompassed within this area connect us back to the spirit world. It's important for us to be able to go back into the desert and to show future generations who we are. To see our footprints in the desert reconnects us with who we are as the Quechan people. This effort is bringing the Quechan community together to protect this sacred place," said Kw'tsán Cultural Committee Chairman Manfred Scott.

The proposed national monument is part of a greater cultural landscape, connecting Avi Kwa Lal, Palo Verde Peak, the proposed Chuckwalla National Monument, and Spirit Mountain in Avi Kwa Ame National Monument. The proposed boundary incorporates the Indian Pass Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) Pilot Knob (Avikwalal), Singer Geoglyphs (ACEC), Buzzards Peak, and Picacho Peak Wilderness areas.

"The Kw'tsán National Monument is directly adjacent to our reservation but encompasses the heart of our aboriginal homelands," said Fort Yuma Quechan Indian Tribe Council Member Donald W. Medart, Jr. "This national monument will protect the trails, desert life, petroglyphs, geoglyphs, and lithics that we have in our surrounding desert. The Quechan people have been in this area since time immemorial, and we intend to protect these lands until the end of time."

A national monument would provide protections for wildlife, cultural places, sacred sites, scenic features and other conservation values and would also prevent new harmful activities, including new mining claims and large industrial development within its boundaries. For additional information, visit [ProtectKwtsan.org](https://ProtectKwtsan.org).

**About Protect Kw'tsán National Monument Campaign:** The Kw'tsán National Monument (KNM) campaign's purpose and mission is to provide permanent protection for the homelands, cultural objects, and sacred places of the Fort Yuma Quechan Indian Tribe and its people, that are increasingly threatened by mining exploration, natural resource extraction, harmful development, unregulated recreational use, management inadequacies, and climate change. The goal of the campaign is to encourage and invoke action by President Biden to stand with the Tribe and its people and designate the Kw'tsán National Monument. The proposed Kw'tsán National Monument (KNM) encompasses more than 390,000 acres of lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management. The boundary exhibits a portion of our ancestral homelands and incorporates the Indian Pass Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) Pilot Knob (Avikwalal), Singer Geoglyphs (ACEC), Buzzards Peak, and Picacho Peak Wilderness areas.

About the Fort Yuma Quechan Indian Tribe: The Fort Yuma Quechan Indian Tribe is a federally recognized Tribal Nation with more than 3,200 Tribal citizens and 45,000 acres of reservation land, located along both sides of the Colorado River in Imperial County, CA and Yuma County, AZ. The reservation borders the states of Arizona, California, and Baja California, Mexico and is home to the Quechan people, or Kwatsaan, meaning those who descended. To learn more about the Quechan people and the Tribe's history, please visit:

<https://www.quechantribe.com/about-us.html>



# Warehouse Rules Help Clean Our Air – How You Can Help

Karl Aldinger – Conservation Organizer

## FOUNDATION

In recent years we have experienced a dramatic shift to online purchasing and home delivery. This has resulted in mega warehouses where those demands are filled instead of through local retailers. In 2019 State Assemblymember Todd Gloria with assistance from San Diego's own environmental justice organization, Environmental Health Coalition, sponsored and passed a state law that included a requirement for our regional San Diego Air Pollution Control District (SDAPCD) to "Consider adopting an indirect source rule to address pollution from mobile sources that is associated with stationary sources, such as ports, warehouses, and distribution centers." This new way to address pollution is now known more simply as an Indirect Source Rule (ISR), and it attributes the increased pollution from transportation associated with warehouses, ports or railyards back to them. But regulation can be slow moving, and several years would pass before any regional Air District would actually enact a rule. Trucking to and from these places creates excessive harmful air pollution in the form of nitrous oxides (NOx), diesel particulate matter, and ozone.

## FIRST MOVER

San Bernardino, a hotbed of new mega warehouses, emerged as the epicenter of the fight to address increased pollution from warehouse traffic, and Sierra Club was there applying pressure to create a useful ISR that really worked. On May 7th, 2021, through protest, letters, lobbying, and testimony, communities won a hard fought program known as Rule 2305, the Warehouse Actions and Investments to Reduce Emissions (WAIRE) program. This rule created at the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) requires warehouse owners and operators to measure their impacts from truck traffic and to choose mitigation measures to abate those impacts.

WAIRE measures include the purchase and use of electric "Yard Trucks" in place of diesel machines, used to shuffle shipping containers and load and unload them from the backs of semi trailers. Other measures include installing or using solar panels, installing or using alternate energy charging or fueling infrastructure, purchasing or using Zero Emissions (ZE) trucks powered by battery electric or hydrogen fuel cells, and purchasing or using Near Zero Emissions (NZE) trucks powered by burning natural gas. WAIRE uses a points system where specific measures are given well defined, measurable standards. One of the more creative point measures is to install and maintain high intensity filter systems in the HVAC systems of local "Residences, Schools, Daycares, Hospitals, or Community Centers." The diversity of mitigation measures would prove to be important for the legality of the rule.

This comprehensive program allows the responsible parties to create a plan, track compliance, and report on the actual annual results. If they fail to accrue the needed mitigation points, mitigation fees can be paid to make up the difference. WAIRE points

are not to be bought or sold from an over compliant warehouse to an under compliant warehouse, but if one owner or operator manages several warehouses, they can pool their points and distribute them across several. If an operator chooses to ignore the ISR, the rule includes steep daily fines. WAIRE isn't perfect, and as the first of its kind it has room for improvement. Perhaps seeking the largest benefit vs. cost and complexity to enforce, South Coast's WAIRE program limits the rule to warehouses of 100,000 square feet or larger.

## LEGAL CHALLENGES

In August of 2021 the California Trucking Association took a first step to challenge WAIRE filing a complaint in US District Court arguing that Federal Law preempted it, and that it was unlawful under California Law. They also stated it was an unlawful tax. A group known as Airlines for Americas also joined the effort to overturn the rule. In December of 2022 the two groups filed motions believing they could prove that the rule required the purchase of ZE or NZE trucks and that the law didn't allow for emissions regulation by the SCAQMD. Sierra Club and other environmental groups helped to defend the rule in the courts, as did California's Attorney General and the California Air Resources Board.

In December of 2023, Rule 2305, WAIRE, was upheld by the court. The decision stated that because the available menu of mitigation in WAIRE included many other methods of compliance beyond choosing alternative energy trucks, it did not constitute an emissions regulation on trucks and therefore would remain as law.

WAIRE has now been enacted for over a year and has survived a high profile lawsuit intended to strike down the rule completely, and stands as an important model for other Air Pollution Districts to build off of.

## NEXT STEPS

So where is San Diego Air Pollution Control District in terms of an Indirect Source Rule? Despite our early foray into the idea of adopting an ISR, San Diego's APCD has not yet created its own rule. The agency has created a Warehouse Working Group to explore, discuss, and help inform the creation of a successful rule to be imposed here. Sierra Club San Diego is engaging on this important issue with the goal of establishing an effective rule that attacks air pollution from trucking through a variety of methods. If we can successfully influence the new rule to include smaller warehouses or ensure that warehouses in our most polluted communities are addressed, it would represent a more impactful and more fair rule.

The critical legal challenges to making rules like this appear to be behind us, and we have a full year of South Coast's implementation and the data from it to learn from. Sierra Club could use your help as a volunteer to advocate for the new San Diego rule, write letters, meet with rule makers, and attend virtual meetings. You can contact me here:

*Karl Aldinger – Conservation Organizer*

*[karl.aldinger@sierraclub.org](mailto:karl.aldinger@sierraclub.org) - (760) 297-6754*





## Life of Mac - Remembering McLane Downing

McLane Downing was born November 27, 1927 in Portland, Oregon. His parents were Frederick and Alice Downing. He spent part of his childhood

in Panama when his father worked in the Panama Canal Zone. He worked as a blacksmith's helper with the US Forest Service in the summer of 1944. Mac graduated from Franklin High, Portland in 1945.

After serving in the US Marines from 1946 to 1948, Mac attended Reed College in Portland where he received a BA with major in physics in 1951. He then graduated with a MS in physics from the University of New Mexico in 1954.

Mac met Mary at a singles party and they were married in Las Vegas in 1966. They lived in the Clairemont area of San Diego for many years before moving to a retirement community in Oceanside. After Mary passed away in 2003,

Mac lived in a Pacific Beach apartment before going to the St. Paul's Manor in Bankers' Hill.

Mac spent his career as a software engineer for General Dynamics and also Rohr Aircraft, but his passion was nature and the outdoors.

He was an active hiker and camper with the Sierra Club, and was a national leader of Sierra Club backpacking trips and local Wednesday in the Mountains hikes. He received the Sierra Club Lifetime Achievement Award from the San Diego Chapter in 2013 for his outstanding service, and was a regular camper with the local midweek campers group until the last few years.

Mac was a longtime member of the First Unitarian Universalist Church of San Diego as well as the Unitarian Universalist Mens' Fellowship. He was an active member and leader of the Friends of Camp de Benneville Pines. He enjoyed frequent Sunday lunches with the UU Singletarians.

Until the last few years, Mac made regular yearly visits to his relatives in Florida and Oregon. He is survived by his nieces Jane Lund in Coos, Bay, Oregon and Kimberly Anderson in Winter Gardens, Florida and nephews Alan Anderson of Columbus, Indiana and Lars Anderson of Summumish, Washington. Grand nieces are Kristie Anderson Lydiard and Kari Anderson Jenkins.

Mac Downing passed away February 26, 2023 at Scripps Mercy Hospital after a good long life at age 95.

## California 2023 Legislative Session

California's 2023 legislative session was a very good year for environmental bills. Sierra Club California tracked 601 bills. Of the 138 supported bills, 60% were passed. There were 61 bills opposed by the Sierra Club and only 1 of these passed. Key pro-environment bills that were signed into law include:

### **AB 1167 (Carrillo) Making Dirty Polluters Pay their Fair Share**

Addresses CA's orphan well crisis by requiring operators that acquire the right to operate an oil well or production facility to cover the full remediation costs associated with plugging and abandonment and site restoration.

### **SB 337 (Min) Codifying California's 30x30 Conservation Goal**

Codifies the Governor's 2020 Executive Order to conserve 30% of Lands and Coastal waters by 2030. Ensures that California's commitment to combat the dual biodiversity and climate crises will last beyond the current Administration.

### **SB 253 (Wiener) Increasing Corporate Transparency**

Requires publicly traded corporations with annual revenues in excess of \$1 billion that do business in California to publicly disclose their greenhouse gas emissions from the prior calendar year.

### **AB 363 (Bauer-Kahan) Addressing Pesticide Use**

Expands upon existing agricultural regulations on the use of neonicotinoids, a class of insecticides, to prohibit the use, possession, and sale in outdoor, non-agricultural settings due to their harmful effects on pollinating insects, aquatic ecosystems, and human health.

### **AB 652 (Lee) Environmental Justice Oversight of Pesticides**

Requires the Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) to establish an Environmental Justice Advisory Committee to increase transparency and accountability on ways to integrate environmental justice considerations for communities with the most significant exposure to pesticides.

### **SB 244 (Eggman) Right to Repair Electronics and Appliances**

Reduces consumer waste by increasing the ability for independent repair shops and owners of consumer appliances and electronics to repair broken products rather than having to throw them away, starting July 1, 2024.

### **SB 261 (Stern) Disclosing Climate-Related Financial Risk**

This bill will help create a climate-resilient workforce and protect the state's economy by mandating that corporations disclose climate-related financial risks associated with corporate operations, employee health and safety, capital investments, and supply chains.

### **AB 496 (Friedman) Protecting Cosmetic Consumers from Toxic Chemicals**

This bill protects cosmetic consumers from toxic chemicals by adding 26 chemicals to the list of chemicals California has banned in cosmetics.

### **AB 418 (Gabriel) The California Food Safety Act**

This first-in-the-nation bill prohibits manufacturing and distributing food products containing Red Dye #3, Titanium Dioxide, Brominated Vegetable Oil (BVO), Potassium Bromate, and Propyl Paraben.

### **SB 261 (Stern) Disclosing Climate-Related Financial Risk**

Helps create a climate-resilient workforce and protect the state's economy by mandating that corporations disclose climate-related financial risks associated with corporate operations, employee health and safety, capital investments, and supply chains.

### **Past HiSierran Zero Waste Articles**

Past issues of the HiSierran newsletter can be found at <https://sandiegosierraclub.org/news/newsletter/>



# Inspiring Connections Outdoors



## San Diego Springtime: Snow, Sand, Salamanders and Snakes

by Bill Tayler

The variable weather and late season storms we had the first few months of 2024 created a wide variety of opportunities for San Diego ICO to provide a diversity of experiences to the children we serve: hiking and sledding in Laguna Meadows, desert explorations in the Jacumba Wilderness, rock-hopping in Joshua Tree, finding rainy-day salamanders in Oakoasis, and greeting rattlesnakes on their springtime jaunts as they look for food and love. We are always grateful to live in such an amazing place and to be able to share it with the little ones we love!

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

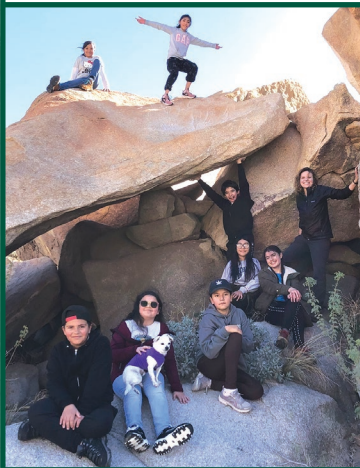
**Volunteering With ICO** – For information about volunteering with ICO, please contact Greg Shadoan ([gregshadoan@yahoo.com](mailto:gregshadoan@yahoo.com)).

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

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



Sledding in Mount Laguna



Exploring Mountain Springs



Taking Flight in J'Tree



Getting the best views at J'Tree



Slender Salamander at Oakoasis



Red Diamond Rattlesnake  
in Oak Canyon



Snowy day hike in Laguna Meadows



## 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:*

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

*Send ad to:*  
[info@thomascreative.com](mailto:info@thomascreative.com)

## Save Trees-Opt Out Of The HiSierran Paper Edition

### Enjoy The Full Color Online Edition

*It is very expensive to mail hard copies of the HiSierran! Would you rather get yours online and help save trees and save money for conservation? We can email you when a new copy is posted online with a link.*

*We PROMISE we will NOT share your email.*

*If you would like to get the HiSierran online, contact the Chapter office :*

**858-569-6005 or [scoffice@sierrasd.org](mailto: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:

**July/August/September 2024  
Deadline June 1, 2024.**

**To submit by email,  
please email to both:**

[thomascreative2@cox.net](mailto:thomascreative2@cox.net)  
[richard.miller@sierraclub.org](mailto:richard.miller@sierraclub.org)

*Submissions are subject to approval for content and subject matter.*

## Ocean Beach Pier Renewal Community Workshop #4

### Preferred design concept for a potential Ocean Beach Pier replacement will be unveiled

During this workshop, the City of San Diego and its consultants will present the preferred design concept for a potential Ocean Beach Pier replacement. The preferred design concept was created based on public input of the three preliminary design concepts that were presented in September 2023. At the April 6 community workshop, the design team will be seeking additional input on certain pier amenities.



**Saturday, April 6th, from 2pm to 5pm**

The presentation will begin at 2:15pm, followed by interactive workshops.

Liberty Station Conference Center  
2600 Laning Road, San Diego, CA, 92106



To learn more, or provide public comment,  
scan the QR code to the left or visit  
[www.OBPierRenewal.com](http://www.OBPierRenewal.com)

The City of  
**SAN DIEGO**



# Committees & Contact Information

**As we prepare to move into our new offices, many meetings have moved on-line. Once our offices are ready, many meetings will go back to in-person. Some meetings will 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

**Chapter Director** Richard Miller  
858-569-6005, ext 4  
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**Associate Community Organizer:**  
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**Conservation Organizer:** Karl Aldinger  
858-569-6005, ext 2  
[karl.aldinger@sierraclub.org](mailto:karl.aldinger@sierraclub.org)

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

**Chair:** Lisa Ross (2026)  
[lisa@lisaross.com](mailto:lisa@lisaross.com)  
[www.lisaross.com](http://www.lisaross.com)

**Vice-Chair:** Ron Askeland (2025)  
[ron.askeland@gmail.com](mailto:ron.askeland@gmail.com)

**Secretary:** Ruben Arizmendi (2026)  
[rfalawsierraclub@gmail.com](mailto:rfalawsierraclub@gmail.com)

**Treasurer:** Rochelle Hancock (2024)  
[Rae\\_1024@yahoo.com](mailto:Rae_1024@yahoo.com)

**North County Group Rep:**  
Pam Heatherington  
[pjheatherington@gmail.com](mailto:pjheatherington@gmail.com)

**North County Coastal Group Rep:**  
Sally Prendergast  
[sallyp123@mac.com](mailto:sallyp123@mac.com)

Susan Baldwin (2025)  
[susanbaldwin@aol.com](mailto:susanbaldwin@aol.com)

Alan Geraci (2025)  
[alan@alangeraci.com](mailto:alan@alangeraci.com)

Agatha Wein (2024)  
[agathawein@gmail.com](mailto:agathawein@gmail.com)

## NORTH COUNTY COASTAL GROUP (COASTERS)

Contact Chair or check website for meeting information.

**Chair:** Sally Prendergast  
[sallyp123@mac.com](mailto: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](mailto:joe@ecinstitute.com)

## COMMITTEES

### CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

Meets 2nd Monday at 6:30pm

**Chair:** Ron Askeland  
[ron.askeland@gmail.com](mailto:ron.askeland@gmail.com)

### Zero-Waste

Meets 1st Monday at 6:30 pm  
Contact the Committee at  
[zerowastesdsc@gmail.com](mailto:zerowastesdsc@gmail.com)

### SEAL SOCIETY

For meeting and docent information:  
email: [scsealsociety@gmail.com](mailto:scsealsociety@gmail.com)

### POLITICAL COMMITTEE

Meets 3rd Thursday at 6:30pm

**Chair:** Stephanie Peck  
[sapeck425@gmail.com](mailto:sapeck425@gmail.com)

### OUTINGS COMMITTEE

Meets quarterly, contact Chair for date and location.

**Chair:** Michael Taylor  
[sdoutchair@gmail.com](mailto:sdoutchair@gmail.com)

### Leadership Review & Safety Committee

**Chair:** Kris Watkin  
[sd.lrsc@gmail.com](mailto:sd.lrsc@gmail.com)

**Chapter Outings Leadership Training (COL)**  
Stefanie Maio

[sd.col.training@gmail.com](mailto:sd.col.training@gmail.com)

**North County Group Outings Leadership Training (COL)**

Kelly Conrad  
[nccg.col.training@gmail.com](mailto:nccg.col.training@gmail.com)

### WILDERNESS BASICS COURSE (WBC)

Held annually beginning in January

#### San Diego

Kristi Andersen  
[info@wildernessbasics.com](mailto:info@wildernessbasics.com)  
[www.wildernessbasics.com](http://www.wildernessbasics.com)

#### Escondido

Yosina Lissebeck  
[ylissebeck@san.rr.com](mailto:ylissebeck@san.rr.com)  
[www.wbc.sierraclubnccg.org](http://www.wbc.sierraclubnccg.org)

## SECTIONS & SOCIAL COMMITTEES

### Bicycle

Call for meeting information. Jerry Fitzsimmons  
(858) 224-3437 [Membership@sdsbcs.org](mailto:Membership@sdsbcs.org).  
[www.sandigosierraclub.org/get-outdoors/bicycle](http://www.sandigosierraclub.org/get-outdoors/bicycle)

### Photography

James Kresser,  
[info@sdphotoclub.com](mailto:info@sdphotoclub.com)

### INSPIRING CONNECTIONS OUTDOORS (ICO)

Check website for meeting information.  
[www.sandigosierraclub.org](http://www.sandigosierraclub.org)

**Chair:** Bill Tayler,  
[btayler@taylorlaw.com](mailto:btayler@taylorlaw.com)

## PROGRAM COMMITTEES

### Fundraising/Membership

Richard Miller (858) 569-6005  
[richard.miller@sierraclub.org](mailto:richard.miller@sierraclub.org)

### Hi Sierran Newsletter

**Managing Editor:** Judy Thomas  
[thomascreative@cox.net](mailto:thomascreative@cox.net)



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### **LORI SULLIVAN**

*Director of Gift Planning*  
2101 Webster St, Suite 1300  
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**(800) 932-4270**  
[gift.planning@sierraclub.org](mailto:gift.planning@sierraclub.org)  
[myplan.sierraclub.org](http://myplan.sierraclub.org)







## San Diego Chapter

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Phone: 858-569-6005

[www.sandigosierraclub.org](http://www.sandigosierraclub.org)

# We Have Moved!

After 15 years at our  
Clairemont Mesa location, we have  
moved our offices to the Bay Ho, west  
Clairemont district. This move has  
allowed us to expand the number of  
staff offices from 2 to 4 and enlarge  
our meeting space.

*Your invited to our*

## OPEN HOUSE

Saturday, April 13th,

Noon to 4pm

4241 Jutland Dr., Ste. 303,

San Diego, 92117

*(North of Costco on Morena Blvd.)*

RSVP at [scoffice@sierrasd.org](mailto:scoffice@sierrasd.org)

We look forward to serving our  
membership and the environment.

