



Sierra Club San Diego Chapter

HiSIERRAN

Serving San Diego And Imperial Counties

Vol 85 No. 1

Visit our website at: www.sandigosierraclub.org

January/February/March 2025

Dr. Peter Andersen Receives California Sierra Club Award



Our very own Conservation Committee Vice Chair and Legal Committee member, Dr. Peter Andersen received the 2024 California Sierra Club Special Recognition Award. Peter's over 40 years of distinguished service to Sierra Club include leadership roles in the San Diego Chapter, California Political Committee, and Executive Committee, culminating in the San Diego Chapter's Lifetime Achievement Award.

In 1991, Peter Andersen started to organize Sierra Club activists, formed a committee and eventually became the lead plaintiff in a lawsuit that stopped the 4 lane extension of Jackson Drive into San Diego's Mission Trails Park. This was just the beginning. Over the years Peter has continued his activism not only in San Diego but across California and the United States. He helped to stop the Jamul Quarry in our backcountry, prevented the flooding of Canaan Valley in West Virginia, and led the fight to preserve the Volo Bog in Illinois.

After the Jackson Drive fight, Peter became active with the San Diego Chapter's political committee. Bad political office holders' equal bad environmental choices. Peter eventually ended up serving three terms as Chair of the Political Committee. In the late 1990's and early 2000's he served two terms on the Chapter's Executive Committee. In 2017 he was recruited once again to serve in a leadership position on the Chapter Steering Committee and as Conservation Vice Chair. Most recently, Peter led the effort to pass San Diego County's Climate Action Plan, including adoption of the Fire Safe and Low VMT Smart Growth Alternative.

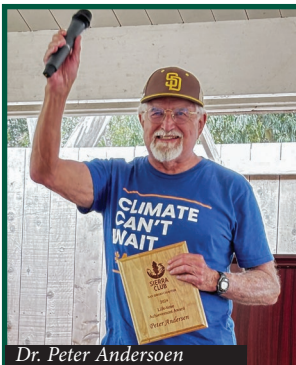
Second Annual Picnic In The Park Honors Climate Champions

Top annual Chapter awards this year were given to the three County Supervisors who voted to enact a long-awaited Climate Action Plan, to Dr. Peter Andersen, former chapter chair and head of the Chapter Climate Action Committee, and North County Coastal Group's Mary Clarke.

The awards picnic was held October 6 at San Dieguito Park and featured a barbeque, nature walks and talks, and plenty of activities for the kids. County Supervisor Terra Lawson-Remer and land use policy representative to Chair Nora Vargas, Dr. Murtaza Baxamusa were present to accept the FEAT award. Supervisor Monica Montgomery-Steppe was also a recipient.

The FEAT (Fantastic Environmental Action Taken) Award, recognizes those who have performed exceptional environmental leadership or stewardship in San Diego or Imperial County, their service and steady leadership in protecting our natural world.

This year's award honors their leadership in adopting a Climate plan 15 years in the making, the result of two successful lawsuits brought by Sierra Club.



Dr. Peter Andersen

Dr. Peter Andersen accepted the Life-Time Achievement Award for his over 40 years of service to the Sierra Club San Diego Chapter, serving numerous local, state and national leadership roles, including committee chairmanships and as an environmental policy analyst.

Picnic in the Park continued on page 3



Terra Lawson-Remer & Lisa Ross



Mary Clarke

Explore, Enjoy and Protect the Planet



HiSIERRAN

Explore, Enjoy and Protect the Planet

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Lisa Ross

DARK DAYS, GOOD TROUBLE

The results of the 2024 election make clear the difficulties ahead as we now must defend our hard-won gains as well as making further progress on climate action, habitat conservation and environmental justice.

Sierra Club San Diego has been a preeminent force for nature throughout our 76 years thanks to the powerful dedication of our volunteers and staff.

And so, our Chapter's first New Years resolution is to expand our membership and our volunteer work force to take on the challenges confronting us in the coming years.

Experience tells us from the first Trump administration, and everything he and his allies advocated during the Presidential campaign, that this time they intend to weaken pollution controls and hasten the extinction of any species living in the way of fossil fuel or other development.

We, along with our 63 other chapters, stand ready to do the work to defeat attacks on climate progress and protected lands. And we are ready to defend the agencies that implement and oversee regulations enacted as far back as 1970 during the Nixon administration.

National Sierra Club attorneys filed more than 300 lawsuits against the Trump administration during its first term, successfully thwarting the worst attempts at gutting environmental protections. They are ready, with our support, to do it again.

It is clear from the pages of Project 2025, some of whose authors are already appointed to assume leadership roles, that this time attempts to hollow out, eliminate, or privatize our environmental regulatory agencies such as the Environmental Protection Agency, National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and the US Fish & Wildlife Service will be more purposeful. The impacts on San Diego County could be devastating.

As a national biodiversity hotspot, San Diego relies on enforcement of the

Endangered Species Act by the US Fish & Wildlife Service to protect over a million acres of pristine endangered habitat lands in San Diego and Imperial Counties.

NOAA provides essential information on weather, climate change and sea rise. While fact-free decision making might satisfy climate skeptics and fossil fuel interests, it hobbles effective regulation aimed at reducing Green House Gases, protecting the coastline and predicting emergencies.

And the Environmental Protection Agency's key role in reducing air and water pollution, important to the entire County, is sorely needed to bring environmental justice to underserved communities such as those in the Tijuana River Valley.

Now more than ever, California and our municipalities must strengthen their resolve to protect our lands and waters up against the tsunami heading our way, including protections under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

Fortunately, on the local front, several Sierra Club endorsed candidates were elected. Supervisors Vargas, Lawson-Remer and Montgomery-Stepp have provided the leadership we needed to enact a workable Climate Action Plan supported by over 13 environmental and planning groups. We look forward to working with the County on its implementation.

On the State level, two new Assemblymembers from San Diego, Darshana Patel and LaShae Sharp-Collins, will be working alongside our Sierra Club endorsed Assemblymember Tasha Boerner, State Senators, the Governor and Attorney General to bolster our Commissions and defend California's strong environmental laws.

Empowerment is the best antidote to despair. And so, I invite you to join one of our working committees or outings opportunities, whatever your level of expertise or time availability.

***Together, we will make
"Good (Green) Trouble."***

Sustainability Majors Prepare to Contribute Professionally to Sierra Club's Mission

By Maren Leggett, San Diego State University Student and Kate Sessions Commitment Intern

The second objective of the Sierra Club mission is “to practice the responsible use of the earth’s ecosystems and resources,” which aligns with the increasingly popular, future-oriented concept of sustainability (<https://sdgs.un.org/goals>). Widening the scope of traditional environmentalism, sustainability places environmental stewardship alongside social justice and economic growth. This triple bottom line is summarized by three simple words: people, planet, and profit.

The rising popularity of sustainability is reflected in higher education programs, as disciplines merge to solve environmental challenges. San Diego State University is one of these institutions (<https://sustainability.sdsu.edu/>). The sustainability program at SDSU is a synthesis of humanities courses as well as natural and social sciences designed to prepare students to solve modern environmental crises. Classes such as Conservation Science and Policy (GEOG 370) and Designing Solutions for Environmental Problems (ENV E 320) challenge students to examine the complex role of humans in our global system and consider solutions for the future. Programs like these are important, as they provide a variety of perspectives and practical applications that will empower the next environmental leaders in an evolving world.

A Student Perspective on the Sustainability Program at SDSU

Now in my senior year at SDSU, I chose to study sustainability because I’m fascinated by the cultural and political dimensions of modern society that affect our relationship with the environment, and how this understanding can be used to fight climate change. In my third year at SDSU, I took a class titled Sustainability and Culture (SUSTN 353), which explained that while humans have evolved alongside earth for generations, industrialization and development have pushed the idea that we are inherently separate. With the goal of becoming an outdoor educator, I intend to bridge this gap by teaching about the importance of nature in everyday life, and how we can best preserve it for generations to come.

I also asked a fellow student at SDSU, Ava Hennings, about her double major in sustainability and political science. She was also drawn

to the sustainability program by her passion for environmental protection and her goal to create positive change. In an interview, Ava explains that the sustainability major has strengthened her understanding of climate change being a source of injustice, as the people who are least responsible for climate change often feel the most significant effects. She shares her own definition of sustainability, saying, “[it’s] trying to find a way to build our society in a way that is equitable for current and future generations.” The sustainability program’s emphasis on real-world problem-solving aligns with this goal, equipping Ava with an in-depth understanding of the environment and the social and political frameworks involved in creating change.

Getting Involved: Sustainability Outside of the Classroom

The connection between learning and making real-world impacts is exemplified in initiatives such as Kate Sessions Commitment (www.katestrees.org) in San Diego, which aims to “inspire and increase canopy, community, and climate action” through urban and community forestry. By providing green spaces that unite people, urban forestry strengthens community connections. Additionally, planting trees in urban environments—such as neighborhoods and parking lots—mitigates environmental concerns such as poor air quality and the heat island effect which makes urban spaces significantly warmer than surrounding areas. Lastly, the addition of trees mitigates potentially expensive disasters such as flooding, which causes property damage and reduces stormwater retention. In this way, urban forestry sets a precedent for sustainability’s triple bottom line of people, planet, and profit.

You can get involved with our intern team project, Parking Lot Tree Mapping, by participating as a “community scientist” to map parking lot trees in your neighborhood! Learn more at <https://katestrees.org/parking-lot-trees/>.

Post-election, sustainability is more important than ever. The threat of removing American involvement from the United Nations climate crisis framework and supporting fossil fuel expansion are alarming to anyone in the environmental field. As these safeguards are put at risk, community-based conservation efforts are key to keeping the fight against climate change alive. Locally, members can get involved in the San Diego Chapter’s Conservation Committee (<https://sandigosierraclub.org/get-involved/conservation/>) for zero waste, transportation, climate action, and other actions to promote responsible use of the earth’s ecosystems and resources.

Picnic in the Park continued from page 1

The Joanne H. Pearson Memorial Award in Environmental Public Advocacy is a grant of up to \$1,000 established in the memory of Joanne H. Pearson, a San Diego land use and environmental activist. This year the award went to Mary Clarke who has been a member since 1995 and has been representing the Chapter on the development of the two major Habitat Conservation plans for North San Diego County.

Other Awards Recognized Our Outstanding Volunteers:

Silver Cup Award:

Ron Askeland

Distinguished Achievement Award:

Dave Hogan

Political Activist Award:

Deborah Knight and Kathryn Burton

Rookie Activist Award:

Doris Nguyen

Volunteer of the Year:

Pam Heatherington

Outings Leader Award:

Kelly Conrad

Conservation Activist Award:

Paige DeCino

Chapter Service Award:

Alan Geraci

South Bay Updates

By Charles Rilli, Conservation Organizing Manager

As we grapple with the next phase of our environmental movement, I have great updates on progress in the South Bay! Although the Tijuana River pollution crisis is the largest ecological crisis in our region, we have made progress toward mitigating some of the impacts of this crisis. For starters, thanks to the tireless advocacy from leaders in the area and the San Diego congressional delegation, the South Bay International Wastewater Treatment Plant has now been earmarked over \$400m for repairs and to expand the water treatment capacity. This project, with an expected timeline of up to five years, will upgrade existing infrastructure and double the plant's treatment capacity from 25 to 50 million gallons of water treatment per day. The total cost for this upgrade is expected to exceed \$600m, so more advocacy for federal funds will be required.

Although this is welcome news, this is nowhere near enough to celebrate an end to this crisis.

Alternatively, on the Mexican side of the border, the San Antonio de los Buenos wastewater treatment plant is currently being repaired with an expected capacity of 18 million gallons per day. This project is being funded by the Mexican government. While this project is underway, the flows sent there are unfortunately being dumped into the ocean causing more short-term risks. This repair is expected to be completed soon which will help to stem the flows. However, once completed, it will likely be overwhelmed with flows that should be treated in the South Bay International Wastewater Treatment Plant. This cycle of inoperable infrastructure is not sustainable and calls for quicker action by both governments (along with more funding) to ensure a comprehensive infrastructure plan.

Another update on the Tijuana River is that the Center for Disease Control in partnership with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the County of San Diego is surveying residents and employees who live, work, or recreate near the water between Coronado and Imperial Beach. This survey has now been completed by over 2,100 San Diegans and was sent to our South Bay membership. This will help determine the next steps in addressing this sewage crisis.

In October, we held a "Unite to Heal Our Coast" event where community members, activists, leaders, students, families, and more came

together to advocate for a state of emergency, a comprehensive infrastructure and public health response, and permanent solutions to the pollution crisis.

This event showed the power of our community and how when we work together, anything is possible. There were advocacy tables, community art, music, food, speeches from leaders, and so much more.

Another update in the South Bay is the work we are doing with the Air Pollution Control Board to improve air quality around the warehouse industry. Currently, warehouses are huge emitters of "indirect sources". These are indirect sources because the primary source of pollution does not come from the warehouse itself. The primary source of pollution comes from vehicles and equipment helping operate the warehouses. We are working in unison with some other environmental groups concerned about air quality around San Diego quality and looking to emulate some of the amazing work our national Sierra Club "Clean Transportation 4 All" campaign is doing to implement indirect source rules around the nation. Recently, the South Coast Air Quality Management District's Indirect source rule was upheld in federal court and approved by the EPA. This ruling has given precedent to air pollution control boards that they do have the regulatory authority to implement and regulate indirect sources of emissions.

We also support the National Sierra Club's efforts to push President Biden to cement his conservation legacy and designate Chuckwalla, Sattitla, and Kwtsán National Monument. You can join this effort by signing this petition here: <https://tinyurl.com/scnationalmonument>

Lastly, we have successfully worked with the County Board of Supervisors in passing a



Photo by Kevin Jefferey



Photo by Lisa Kaczmarczyk



Photo by Kevin Jefferey



Photo by Lisa Kaczmarczyk

Climate Action Plan and adopting a smart growth alternative, titled the Fire Safe and VMT efficient alternative. This will help to lower greenhouse gas emissions, reduce vehicle miles traveled, reduce congestion and traffic, and preserve more open space and habitat. We will continue to monitor the CAP's implementation. With Chair Vargas and Vice-Chair Lawson-Remer winning re-election, we expect to continue working with the San Diego County Board of Supervisors on successful climate action.

Please reach out to me with any questions, comments or concerns:
charles.rilli@sierraclub.org

6 Reasons to Update Your Will

Changes in life are inevitable, which means our plans have to change, too. Whether you already have a will or are thinking about creating one for the first time, here are six reasons to revisit your estate plans.

- **Family changes.**

Events such as marriage, divorce, death, birth, or adoption may affect how your estate will be distributed, who should act as guardian for your dependents, and who should be named as executor or personal representative of your estate.

- **Support a favorite organization or cause.**

Many people update their estate plans to include gifts to organizations that are near and dear to their hearts. Gift planning is one way you can have a positive impact on an organization like Sierra Club's San Diego Chapter—without affecting your budget right now.

- **Significant birthdays and milestones.**

Significant birthdays, graduations, retirements, and other life milestones are a good time to check in with your estate plan and make sure it reflects your wishes.

- **Move to a new state.**

If you are moving away from California or splitting your time, it's worth revisiting your estate plan. Laws among the states vary. Moving to a new state or purchasing property in another state can affect estate plans and how property in that new state will be taxed or distributed.

- **Changes in your estate's value.**

Your assets may have changed in value since you made your will. In addition to standard investment growth, you may have bought or sold a home or business. Make sure your will still reflects how you would like to distribute your estate.

- **Passage of time**

It's always good to review your estate plan and refresh your memory, plus note any details that may need updating.

Visit myplan.sierraclub.org/planning-toolkit for free estate planning resources. For legal or tax advice, please consult an attorney or tax advisor. If you'd like to talk about including a gift to the San Diego Chapter, you can reach out to Julia Curtis at julia.curtis@sierraclub.org.

Or scan this QR code for free planning resources:



Love Your Wetlands Day

The 20th Annual Celebration of Wetlands Conservation, Love Your Wetlands Day, will be held at UC San Diego's Kendall-Frost Marsh Reserve in Mission Bay on Saturday, February 1st, 2025. This annual event is co-hosted by UC San Diego Natural Reserve System and the San Diego Bird Alliance in partnership with the City of San Diego Parks and Recreation Department and the Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve.

For more information and to register, please go to <https://sites.ucsd.edu/lywd/>.

LOVE YOUR WETLANDS DAY

Join us for the 20th anniversary and celebrate our annual opportunity to explore the marsh, participate in hands-on activities, learn about and help protect Mission Bay's wetlands!

REGISTER
[LYWD.UCSD.EDU](https://sites.ucsd.edu/lywd/)

9 A.M. TO 2 P.M.
FEBRUARY 1, 2025

UCSD KENDALL-FROST RESERVE
2055 PACIFIC BEACH DR

UC San Diego
NATURAL RESERVE SYSTEM

SAN DIEGO BIRD ALLIANCE

TIJUANA ESTUARINE RESEARCH RESERVE

The City of
SAN DIEGO
Parks and Recreation Department

30x30 The Coastal Dimension

While we have previously introduced you to the 30x30 Initiatives, we have not focused on the coastal dimension of 30x30.

By way of review, the 30x30 initiative is a global conservation goal that aims to protect 30% of the Earth's lands and oceans by the year 2030. It is an ambitious target that has gained momentum in recent years as the urgency to address biodiversity loss and climate change has increased. The concept of 30x30 is rooted in the idea that safeguarding large areas of natural ecosystems is critical to preserving biodiversity, combating climate change, and protecting vital ecosystem services such as clean water, food security, and carbon storage.

The 30x30 coastal initiative in San Diego relates to the preservation of marine environments and ecosystems. Unfortunately, overall, as a state, we are only at 16.2% of the 30% goal when it comes to coastal protections. San Diego is involved in conservation efforts that are part of this broader initiative. The region has many Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) that aim to safeguard marine life, protect biodiversity, and help ecosystems thrive. These areas are part of California's statewide network of MPAs, and San Diego's coastal waters are a critical part of the state's environmental preservation goals.

Specifically, referring to how the coastal 30x30 initiative applies to San Diego the focus is on:

- *Increasing protected areas along the coast*
- *Marine life preservation, including the protection of species and habitats*
- *Sustainable fishing practices and regulations*
- *Enhanced enforcement of conservation rules to prevent overfishing, habitat destruction, and pollution*

While the 30x30 initiative has strong support, it also faces challenges and criticisms. Some of the challenges include:



Photo Booth at Sacramento 30x30 Partnership Summit
Pam Heatherington (Executive Committee Member), Charles Rilli (Conservation Organizing Manager)

- *Balancing development and conservation: Ensuring that conservation efforts do not directly conflict with local communities' livelihoods and economic activities.*
- *Funding and resources: Protecting 30% of the world's land and oceans requires substantial investment in conservation and enforcement, which may be difficult for some nations or regions to afford.*
- *Indigenous rights: Ensuring that conservation efforts respect the rights of Indigenous peoples, many of whom have lived sustainably on the land for centuries, is critical to the success of 30x30.*

Despite these challenges, the 30x30 initiative remains one of the most promising strategies for reversing biodiversity loss and mitigating climate change in the coming decades.

The 30x30 initiative has rapidly become a central conservation goal worldwide, endorsed by scientists, policymakers, and advocates for biodiversity and climate action. Its focus on protecting 30% of the world's lands and oceans by 2030 represents a bold and necessary step toward safeguarding ecosystems for future generations. As efforts continue to expand protected areas and strengthen conservation management, the 30x30 goal has the potential to significantly impact global sustainability. San Diego is at the forefront of 30x30 efforts in the state of California.

If you are interested in joining our 30x30 Regional Coalition, please contact charles.rilli@sierraclub.org. We meet monthly to discuss progress, funding opportunities (Proposition 4's passage and its implications), and hear from conservation leaders from all over the region (and state) to learn more about their incredible work on 30x30.

Pamela Heatherington

Environmental Center of San Diego

Co-lead for the San Diego Regional 30x30 Group



Proctor Valley Celebration- June 11, 2024 Photo: Charles Rilli
From left to Right: Ron Askeland (Conservation Committee Chair), Paul Souza (Regional Director, Pacific Southwest, FWS), Dave Hogan (Legal Committee Chair), Pam Heatherington (Executive Committee Member), Peter Andersen (Conservation Committee Vice-Chair)

Sierrans on the move in North County

While the path for the Multi Species Conservation Plan in North County has been slow, we are proud of our two endorsed candidates for Vallecitos Water District (VWD). VWD serves the City of San Marcos, the community of Lake San Marcos, parts of the City of Carlsbad, City of Escondido, City of Vista and other unincorporated areas in north San Diego County.

Director Dr. Tiffany Boyd-Hodgson won re-election for Division 5. She is a neuroscientist by training and mother of 4 children. Her priorities include water equity, water education, diversifying water supply and providing clean, reliable water at the lowest possible rate. She Chairs the Personnel/Policy/Public Awareness Committee and serves on the Finance Committee.

Director Jennifer Kerchbaum is a licensed civil engineer with expertise in water sys-



Jennifer Kerchbaum with husband John, and children Tyler, Luke, and Madison Kerchbaum.



Tiffany Boyd-Hodgson with husband Sandy, and children Eddy, and Bobby Hodgson.

tems design. During this term, Jennifer wants to ensure our community has an affordable, sustainable water supply now and for future generations. She believes that clean, safe water is a fundamental right, and is committed to using her

knowledge and experience to protect and enhance our water resources.

We congratulate both our endorsed candidates and look forward to more successes in North County.



SIERRA CLUB

SAN DIEGO CHAPTER

City of San Diego Events

Email: charles.rilli@sierraclub.org
for more details

Register at
www.sandigosierraclub.org/new/activities-calendar

JAN 14
6 PM - 8 PM
ZOOM DISTRICT 4

JAN 21
6 PM - 8 PM
Logan Heights Library District 8

JAN 28
6 PM - 8 PM
Pacific Beach Library District 1

FEB 11
6PM-8PM
University Community Library District 6

FEB 18
5:30 PM - 7:30 PM
Rancho Bernardo Library District 5

FEB 25
6PM-8PM
North Clairemont Library District 2

MAR 3
6-8PM
Mission Hills/Hillcrest Library District 3

MAR 10
5:30PM-7PM
City Heights Library District 9

MAR 11
6 PM - 8 PM
Zoom District 7

Sierra Club Seal Society Annual Highlights

by Robyn Davidoff, Sierra Club Seal Society Chair



The Sierra Club Seal Society (SCSS) celebrated the first “year-round” closure of Pt. La Jolla and Boomer Beach from 2023-2024 for La Jolla’s resident sea lions and their pups! The year-round closure continues annually on a Coastal Development Permit until 2029 when it will be reviewed and hopefully renewed for another 9 years

by the California Coastal Commission. The closure is working well with an estimated 3 million visitors watching from the boardwalk above, view the sea lions nurse their young, fight for territory, frolic and surf the waves.

Docents contributed over 2,500 volunteer hours educating the public about the harbor seals at the Children’s Pool and the sea lions at Pt.

La Jolla and Boomer beach on-site this year and conducted 3 beach clean-ups at Scripps Park, La Jolla Cove, and the Children’s Pool south to the tidepools earning an “Adopt a Beach” plaque at the Children’s Pool administered by I Love A Clean San Diego. They also visited SeaWorld Rescue for a behind the scenes tour where they saw sea lions, a baby dolphin, a green sea turtle and several seabirds undergo rehabilitation.

The SCSS leadership team was busy most of the year attending La Jolla Community meetings and speaking with city officials to advocate for better protections for the sea lions that remain in the La Jolla Cove (an open beach adjacent to the closed area) especially during the vulnerable pupping and breeding season from May-September. It is important to note that SCSS supports keeping the La Jolla Cove beach open year-round for

recreational access while putting protections in place for the newborn pups. Sadly, last summer, 7 of the 9 pups born in the cove, died from human interactions such as petting which is not only illegal but a death sentence for the newborn pups. Petting changes the pup’s scent and can result in its mom abandoning it. Other pups can drown when people crowd around them at the waterline and they can’t get to shore to rest. Sea lion babies can’t swim at birth and don’t swim well for about 2 months. The Mayor’s Office, Councilmember Joe LaCava (La Jolla) and the department of Parks and Recreation and Lifeguards have been



Photo SCSS



Kate & Cameron Kyvik in the Library Photo SCSS



Library Youth Program Photo SCSS

slow to adopt the SCSS leadership team’s suggestions for a management plan that balances beach access with protections for pups, so we will continue putting pressure on city officials.

This year was also filled with educational events to get the word out about NOAA’s (National Oceanic Atmospheric

Administration) safe viewing guidelines which recommends viewing seals and sea lions from a distance of 50 feet, or the length of a school bus. This is according to the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 and applies to all marine mammals on the land and in the water.

Docents Kate and Cameron Kyvik partnered with the San Diego Youth Library program and delivered an interactive educational program to most libraries in the county. As former teachers, they taught kids about La Jolla’s seals and sea lions, climate change, and the consequences of trash in the ocean. (see photo) The SCSS

also hosted a booth for the second year at the Walter Monk Ocean Day at La Jolla Shores.

Other docents such as Carol Archibald, Ellen Shively, Tania Popov, Grace Carter, Pam Thomas, and supporters Mike Brown and Sheila Porter gave free “Talk and Walk” presentations at Mangelsen’s Images of Nature Gallery in La Jolla. Special thanks to Paul Emus for his technical assistance and use of his projec-

Seal Society continued on page 9

Seal Society continued from page 8

tor and laptop. The one-hour presentation taught the public about seals and sea lions, their habitat and behaviors followed by a docent led tour of the harbor seals at the Children's Pool and the sea lions at Pt. La Jolla. Over 40 people attended each of the 6 sessions. Other educational outreach included Robyn Davidoff, Chair, giving a presentation at the "sections



Sea Lion mom and pup Photo SCSS

were picked up by tv and news outlets across the country. In December, our reach extended worldwide when Robyn Davidoff, Chair completed an interview at Pt. La Jolla with a French based nature documentary crew, filming about wildlife and conservation in California. It will air on a popular and respected French nature channel in January 2025 and they hope to make an English

version to air in the United States.



Seaworld Rescue visit Photo SCSS

night" at the San Diego Chapter's Wilderness Basics Course. She also was invited to be a guest lecturer for University of San Diego UA3 for a "Talk and Walk" on site as part of their winter curriculum.

In January 2025, the SCSS will partner with UCSD students studying marine biology, ecology and sustainability for the second year for the harbor seal pupping season at the Children's Pool. It runs from late January to May. Last year 40 students regularly signed up for shifts to educate the public and to take population counts of the adult seals and their pups.

The SCSS has built the reputation as the "go to" contact for anything sea lion related. We were interviewed by the press over 20 times about viral sea lion videos in the La Jolla cove, algae blooms and domoic acid toxins that affect sea lions, and a pod of Orca whales that unexpectedly visited the area. SCSS was also interviewed by the Los Angeles Times for a lengthy article about human/wildlife interactions. Many of these interviews

Finally, we said a sad good-bye to leadership team member Carol Toye. She joined 5 years ago and helped our team strategize, stay focused, spoke at numerous California Coastal Commission meetings and City Council meetings, did tv interviews, managed the docent training program and so much more. She was an integral part of our team that achieved the year-round closure of Pt. La Jolla and Boomer beach for our resident sea lions. She and her husband relocated to Boulder Colorado in December. Her contributions will be missed.

If you are interested in joining our leadership team which requires weekly meetings with Sierra Club representatives and about 8 hours a week commitment, and the willingness to take on projects and draft letters, please

contact us at sceal-society@gmail.com. If you are interested in educating the public and becoming a docent, this requires one 2-hour shift per week and a minimum of a 12 week commitment, please fill out this form at

<https://sandiegosierraclub.org/volunteering/>

The SCSS marched for their 5th year in a



La Jolla Christmas Parade Photo SCSS

row in La Jolla's 68th annual holiday parade. This year, we had a docent dressed in a seal costume (donated by Elena Tillman) which was a hit with kids and their parents. Kids yelled "hi seal" and ran up to it to slap a "high five" and get their picture taken. People cheered for our volunteer work to protect the seals and sea lions of La Jolla.

Zeroing in on Zero Waste - Your Questions Answered

San Diego Sierra Club Zero Waste Subcommittee

In this issue of the HiSierran, we'll answer to a member's question regarding charcoal lighter fluid, discuss the proposal for a San Diego County Toxic Waste Reduction Program, and provide details about the 12th Annual Zero Waste Symposium taking place on February 26. 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.

Grilling Best Practices

Sierra Club member, biologist and environmentalist Tracey Andreae attended a recent Zero Waste Subcommittee meeting to discuss excessive use of charcoal lighter fluid at beaches and parks and also privately at homes all over San Diego.

For backyard barbeques, electric grills are the best choice. They provide a simple way to enjoy outdoor cooking without all the carbon emissions and air pollution caused by propane and charcoal grilling. Modern electric grills heat up quickly, offer great temperature control and produce the same seared taste that we expect from grilled foods. Because they are always ready to be plugged in, there is no need for keeping stocked up fuel and lighting materials. Electric grills can avoid 5-25lb of carbon pollution each time you grill and produce no on-site air pollution from fuel combustion. Because they have no open flame, they are safer to use. More information can be found at <https://electrifynow.net/switch-to-electric-grilling>.

If you are on the go and electric grills aren't an option, propane grills are healthier and better for the environment than charcoal grills. Propane burns cleaner than charcoal, producing fewer pollutants like carbon monoxide, volatile organic compounds (VOCs), and particulate matter. This results in lower emissions and a smaller carbon footprint. Propane grills emit fewer harmful chemicals, such as polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) and heterocyclic amines (HCAs), which are known carcinogens. This makes propane grilling a healthier option. In contrast, charcoal grills produce more carbon dioxide and other pollutants, contributing to air pollution and climate change. They also can release PAHs and HCAs, especially when fat drips onto the hot coals and creates toxic smoke that can adhere to the food.

If you must use a charcoal grill, please don't use lighter fluid. Charcoal lighter fluid is a proprietary blend of petroleum distillates containing unspecified amounts of aromatics, e.g., benzene and toluene, which are known carcinogens and teratogens (which cause reproductive harm) and is listed under California's Proposition 65. There are several effective and safer options including a chimney starter (metal cylinder that you place crumpled newspaper at the bottom with charcoal on top), natural fire starters such as wood shavings or wax, and paper towels soaked with cooking oil.

San Diego County Toxic Waste Reduction Proposal

A coalition of organizations led by Sierra Club San Diego and Zero Waste San Diego are urging the San Diego County Board of Supervisors to adopt a countywide Waste

Zero Waste continued on page 12

North County Report

By Michael King, Community Organizer

After my first month here at the San Diego chapter I am feeling confident that I've come to the right place. I first decided to apply to work at the Sierra Club because I wanted to do something. Something real. A few months ago I was working as an intern at the United Nations Environment Programme in Geneva. Over my time there I increasingly realized that the fight for the environment at the international level is a slow, thankless and, more often than not, unsuccessful process. I have never worked in a place more defined by pessimism and internal conflict. I wanted to be part of an organization that did more than talk. That did more than send emails and write concept notes for presentations and dialogues that very few people would ever engage with.

While good work has been done over the last years on the national level, the outcome of November's election presents a threat to much of that progress, but the struggle goes on. It is time to remember that cities, counties and municipalities have always been at the front lines of the environmental movement. Even as nations around the world have resisted the urge of frontline communities to do more, spend more and sacrifice

more for a cleaner, safer and cooler world, cities as different as Paris, New York, and Singapore have led boldly to meet emission reduction targets and create more accessible and biodiverse spaces within their limits. From 2017 to 2021 when the United States was withdrawn from the Paris Climate Accords, hundreds of municipalities around the country came together to stay the course and comply with our international obligations.

I am confident I am in the right place here at Sierra Club, San Diego because the fight for our climate, for our public lands and for threatened and endangered species doesn't have to wait for Geneva or Washington. We can keep working here and now in Carlsbad, in Poway, at the County Board of Supervisors and in every community we live in, because participation is an act of hope and a positive affirmation that the world we live in, and the places we call home, are worth fighting for. While I may be new to this work in San Diego County, many of you have already put in years of effort. If you are already involved, thank you for everything you've already done. If you have not been active, I would ask you to join us and get involved.

Hope is an act of resistance. We can't just have hope, we need to DO hope. Right here in the North County.

You can contact me at michael.king@sierraclub.org.

INDIRECT SOURCE RULE

WAREHOUSE INDIRECT SOURCE RULE: A BIG STEP TOWARD CLEAN AIR, ZERO EMISSIONS & GREEN JOBS

HIGHLIGHTS

Indirect source rules are an important tool that California air districts can adopt to help their regions attain state and federal clean air standards. The San Diego County Air Pollution Control District is currently considering an indirect source rule to reduce warehouse pollution, which would tackle some of the most polluting sources in the County. Warehouses attract significant truck traffic and often have diesel-fueled equipment on site that contribute harmful emissions that affect air quality countywide and the health of surrounding communities.

Medium and heavy-duty trucks alone make up only 1% of all vehicles in San Diego County but are responsible 13% of all diesel particulate matter (DPM), a major component of fine particulate matter (PM), in the region. This pollution increases risk of lung cancer and aggravates asthma. Moreover, medium and heavy-duty trucks emit 15% of all nitrogen oxides (NOx), a precursor to regional ozone and particulate pollution that can cause respiratory and other illnesses.

San Diego County does not meet federal or state ozone standards or state fine particulate matter standard and must reduce emissions in order to reach attainment.

The state legislature has acknowledged the potential for indirect source rules to help San Diegans finally breathe clean air. In 2019, California Assembly Bill 423 (AB423) amended the California Health and Safety Code to direct the District to consider adopting an indirect source rule to reduce pollution from mobile sources associated with facilities such as warehouses. A strong Warehouse Indirect Source Rule in San Diego County could require warehouses to take actions to reduce their pollution and deliver cleaner air to San Diego County.



An **Indirect Source Rule** primarily benefits air quality by encouraging magnet sources that attract significant vehicle traffic, such as warehouses, to implement measures that reduce emissions from these vehicles. Encouraging investments in zero-emission technologies will clean up warehouse operations and lead to cleaner air, particularly for communities in San Diego heavily impacted by logistics activity. The deployment and installation of clean technologies such as zero-emission trucks will also result in important economic benefits, including the creation of quality green jobs to support this transition.

Maximizing Benefits from ISR:

1. Prioritization of zero-emissions at warehouses will reduce pollution from facilities and help San Diego meet basic clean air standards
2. Compliance pathways that promote electrification will keep polluting trucks and equipment out of our communities and clean up our air
3. Implementation of zero-emissions technologies will bring quality green jobs to San Diego

TAKE ACTION!

- 1) Write a letter to APCD in support of the rulemaking process for an indirect source rule.
- 2) Give public comment at ACPD meetings, ask for an ISR, highlight benefits

Reach out to charles.rilli@sierraclub.org for more information!



and Toxic Materials Reduction Program. This program would significantly contribute to San Diego County's climate, circularity, and sustainable materials management goals by:

- **Encouraging waste and toxic materials reduction.**
- **Disseminating information on the health and environmental effects of toxic substances.**
- **Supporting recycling, composting, and durable goods recovery efforts.**

Funding would be provided by increasing the AB 939 Disposal Fee from \$0.02 per ton disposed at landfills in San Diego County to \$1.00 per ton, generating \$3.4 million. Similar programs have been very effective in Alameda, San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties.

If you would like to join this effort, please send an email to zerowastesdsc@gmail.com.

12th Annual Zero Waste Symposium

The theme of the 12th Annual Zero Waste Symposium is Back to the Future of Zero Waste: Lessons from Our Past, Informing Our Path Forward. This hybrid event, held both on Zoom and in-person, will take place on February 26, 2025, from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM at the San Diego County Operations Center, 5520 Overland Ave, San Diego, CA 92123. Don't miss this exciting opportunity to connect with industry leaders, explore innovative Zero Waste solutions, and network with like-minded professionals.

Registration link:

<https://zwsymposium.zerowastesandiego.org>

Zero Waste
SAN DIEGO

12TH ANNUAL ZERO WASTE SYMPOSIUM FEBRUARY 26, 2025 | HYBRID

Back to the Future of Zero Waste: Lessons from
Our Past Informing Our Path Forward

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Darcy Shiber-Knowles
Vice President of Operational
Sustainability & Innovation

**DR. BRONNER'S
ALL-ONE!**

REFILL! REFILL! OK!

CAN ALL YOU CAN

9 AM - 5 PM | SAN DIEGO COUNTY OPERATIONS CENTER 5520 OVERLAND AVE, SAN DIEGO, CA 92123

Inspiring Connections Outdoors



“Your Hiking Trips Are My Kid’s Therapy”

by Bill Tayler

Over the last several years, we have noticed a gradual yet unmistakable shift in the kids who go on our trips, especially those who fully embrace ICO and go regularly. Looking several years, the trips were filled with kids who, much like myself at that age, loved to be outdoors just because it was fun, full of adventure, and a great way to burn off excess energy. And we do still attract plenty of those kids. But in addition, we have seen a marked increase in the number of kids who seem drawn to ICO trips for a variety of other reasons.

We have seen an increase in kids who have anxiety issues; many are very open about their anxiety and being in therapy for it. One girl recently shared that she started hiking with us because a friend of hers (who also goes regularly) told her that hiking in nature is a great way to deal with anxiety. This, I suspect, is largely fallout from their forced social isolation during COVID. We also have seen an increase in the number of kids on the autism spectrum. For many of them, the hikes seem to be a way to find peace in a world that is otherwise way too noisy and busy for their liking. These kids often hike their own hike, interacting much less with other kids, and seek opportunities for solitude. One boy, who hikes often (and who I am always so happy to see!), prefers to hike alone about 20 feet ahead of the pack and sit away from other kids during the breaks. More kids also seem to be coping with the loss of a loved one, such as young siblings (age 8 and 9) who in May and June experienced the unexpected deaths first of a close uncle and then of their father. And a boy who died of brain cancer at age 10 was the best friend of one of our ICO kids and the older brother of another.

Taking these kids on ICO trips can bring new challenges and sometimes require more patience, but working with them mostly brings us new rewards, new ways to find value and purpose in what we do. More than ever we see how much we are making a real difference in their young

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

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

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

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

lives by introducing them to the amazing healing powers of nature. The mother of the boy who lost his best friend to cancer told me, “Your hiking trips are my kid’s therapy.” And having spent the last two years with him, I know that ICO has been a meaningful part of his healing process. Working with kids who have some type of special need is not always easy. It can try one’s patience and be emotionally exhausting. But those experiences that challenge me the most are usually the ones that are also the most gratifying, and I always end the day knowing that we have made a difference. And these days, that is no small thing.



Taking a break 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

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858-569-6005 or scoffice@sierrasd.org

Submission Deadlines for HiSierran Newsletter:

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

Upcoming Issues:

April/May/June 2025

Deadline March 1, 2025.

To submit by email, please email to both:

thomascreative2@cox.net
richard.miller@sierraclub.org

Submissions are subject to approval for content and subject matter.

Like What You Are Reading?

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Donate online:

<http://sandiegosierraclub.org/donate>



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 me know if you would like to be involved to assist presentations or can present on first Fridays of the month. *Richard Fewell* rwfewell@gmail.com

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

Chapter Director Richard Miller
858-569-6005, ext 4
richard.miller@sierraclub.org

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martha.marquez@sierraclub.org

Conservation Organizing Manager:
Charles Rilli
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Associate Community Organizer:
Michael King
858-569-6005, ext 2
michael.king@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: Ron Askeland (2025)
ron.askeland@gmail.com

Secretary: Ruben Arizmendi (2026)
rfalawsierraclub@gmail.com

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

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

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

Susan Baldwin (2025)
susanbaldwin@aol.com

Alan Geraci (2025)
alan@alangeraci.com

Pam Heatherington (2027)
pheatherington@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://sierraclubncg.org>

Chair: Joe Houde
joe@ecinstitute.com

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
ncg.col.training@gmail.com

WILDERNESS BASICS COURSE (WBC)

Held annually beginning in January

San Diego

Matt Clapp
info@wildernessbasics.com
www.wildernessbasics.com

Escondido

Yosina Lissebeck
ylissebeck@san.rr.com
www.wbc.sierraclubncg.org

SECTIONS & SOCIAL COMMITTEES

Bicycle

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

Photography

James Kresser,
info@sdphotoclub.com

INSPIRING CONNECTIONS OUTDOORS (ICO)

Check website for meeting information.
www.sandigosierraclub.org

Chair: Bill Taylor,
btaylor@taylorlaw.com

PROGRAM COMMITTEES

Fundraising/Membership

Richard Miller (858) 569-6005
richard.miller@sierraclub.org

Hi Sierran Newsletter

Managing Editor: Judy Thomas
thomascreative@cox.net



WHAT WILL YOUR
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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.

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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 Dr., Ste 303,
San Diego CA 92117
Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9:00am – 5:00pm
Phone: 858-569-6005
www.sandigosierraclub.org

Interested in Photography?

The Chapter Photo Section is the Place to Go

Did you know that San Diego's Sierra Club has an active Photo Section? This Photo Club has been a gathering place for San Diego area photographers and enthusiasts for many years.

Our members, who are also in the San Diego Sierra Club, include professionals, enthusiasts, and amateurs spanning every branch and expertise of photography. *(We have members who have been photographers their entire lives, as well as members who have purchased their first camera and want to learn more about the wonderful field of photography.)*

We meet by Zoom once per month from January through November. At each meeting, an outside photographer from across the world gives a presentation on camera technique, photographic software, or topics such as composition. In addition, we have a Member Share

presentation for our members to share their own photos. We meet, in-person, for a photographic activity every month in our area's beautiful environment. The first Thursday of each month is our informal, but interesting Happy Hour discussion via Zoom. Also, each month, members are invited and challenged to submit an image based on the monthly Photo Quest topic.

Annually, the Photo Section hosts a catered summer get together in a local park. Lastly, our annual Photo Contest judged by professional photographers, is held in December.

The San Diego Sierra Club's Photo Section has been a mainstay in the local photographic community. We invite you to join us!

Please visit our website at: <https://sdphotoclub.com/>

View our club calendar at:
<https://sdphotoclub.com/2025-photo-section-calendar/>

Join our club today, at:
<https://sdphotoclub.com/join-san-diego-photo-club/>



Coastal rocks and sea algae - Kevin Byrne



Ewes and Lambs on the Cliff Wall - David Clark



Peregrine Falcon Food Exchange - David Clark



Steller sea lion feeding on salmon -Rona Rundle