



Sierra Club San Diego Chapter

HiSIERRAN

Serving San Diego And Imperial Counties

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July/August/September 2025

Retirement – What a Strange Feeling

by Richard Miller, Retiring Chapter Director

At the time you read this, I will have officially concluded my time as Chapter Director of Sierra Club San Diego and embarked on my next adventure: retirement.



After 16 years as staff—and 9 years prior as a volunteer leader—it's a little surreal to think I won't be coming into the office, answering a flood of emails, or supporting our incredible staff, volunteers, donors, Club members, and the public. This has been so much more than a workplace—it has been a true community united by a shared passion for protecting, improving, and enjoying the only planet we have.

I joined the Sierra Club because I wanted to help ensure that our children and future generations inherit a world where they can thrive and live in harmony with nature. That mission has remained at the heart of everything I've done.

When I first became involved as a volunteer leader, the Chapter faced serious financial challenges. With little funding from the national Sierra Club (a reality that hasn't changed much), our fundraising was entirely volunteer-led—often hit or miss. But it became a personal passion of mine.

In 2009, the Chapter Executive Committee made the bold decision to hire a full-time fundraiser. That's when I came on board. For a while, I was the only staff person—so “fundraising” quickly turned into “everything.” Over time, our financial health improved year by year. Today, the Chapter has a dedicated team of three staff, a new office, and the stability needed to grow and thrive.

I've had the privilege of serving in several roles—Development Coordinator, Development Associate, and ultimately, Chapter Director. Throughout, I've worked alongside some of the most brilliant, passionate, and committed volunteers and colleagues anyone could hope for. Together, we built something strong and lasting.

My goal was always to help position the Chapter for long-term success, and I truly believe that milestone has been reached. Now it's time for new leadership, new ideas, and new energy to move the Chapter into its next chapter. I'm proud to leave things in the capable hands of our new Director, dedicated staff, inspiring volunteers, and supportive donors and members.

While I may be stepping away from my role, my commitment to the Sierra Club's values and mission remains steadfast. I'll be cheering from the sidelines—and likely rolling up my sleeves in new ways soon.

Thank you to every member, volunteer, donor, colleague, mentor, and friend I've had the honor to work with over the years. I've learned so much from you, and I'll carry those lessons with me as I begin this next phase—retirement!

With deep gratitude, Richard Miller

A New Chapter for Sierra Club San Diego: Vision from Incoming Director Mark West

By Mark West, Incoming Chapter Director
– Sierra Club San Diego



Effective June 15, 2025

As I step into the role of Chapter Director, I do so with immense respect for the legacy of the Sierra Club and deep optimism for what we can accomplish together. We live in a time of compounding environmental threats, but also unprecedented opportunity to transform how we protect our planet—right here in San Diego and Imperial Counties.

Our core mission remains unchanged: to explore, enjoy, and protect the planet. But locally, that means renewing our commitment to defending biodiversity, combating climate change, and advancing environmental stewardship. We'll continue pushing for bold climate policies, from clean energy to zero waste, while connecting these efforts to our Wilderness Basics Course (WBC) and to communities long excluded from environmental decision-making.

We are setting an ambitious but achievable goal: to increase our active membership by 30% in the next 18 months. To do that, we'll go where the people are—libraries, farmers markets, colleges, and community centers—with a new “Sierra on the Move” approach. We'll also establish a South County Group by 2027 and invest in grassroots organizing in Imperial County, including hiring a bilingual organizer.

Foster Lodge is on track to reopen in phases—main lodge in 2026 and bunkhouse in 2027. It will become our hub for leadership development, environmental education, and outdoor connection.

Communications and fundraising are also evolving. We're modernizing our website, relaunching our email newsletter, and building a presence on TikTok to reach the next generation. We're implementing peer-to-peer fundraising and expanding the Hi Sierran to share timely campaign updates, community voices, and conservation victories.

To increase efficiency, we're integrating artificial intelligence—ethically and transparently—to automate routine tasks and free

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Explore, Enjoy and Protect the Planet

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Lisa Ross

War On CEQA

"We met the enemy, and it is us" moaned Admiral Perry during the war of 1812, a woe-filled smoke-filled war fought over trade barriers and landgrabs. History is a relentless repeater. The Admiral meant it as a victory declaration. But, to the contrary in today's usage, it aptly attaches to legislators known for environmental defense cutting their noses off by gutting California's most important environmental protection mechanism, the California Environmental Quality Act: CEQA.

While Trump World takes aim at 50 years of environmental progress in California under the guise of "efficiency", our legislators are considering helping them along with several bills aimed at the heart of legal enforcement mechanisms that protect communities, special habitats and coastal resources, also under the guise of "efficiency."

And by doing so, Californians would be deprived of the transparency they have demanded in decisions affecting their health, including impacts from development on air, water, community character and endangered habitats, all covered by CEQA.

The most pernicious of those bills is the infamous SB607, an attempt to gut CEQA enforcement by leaving most reviews to administrative staff, was unanimously passed by the five-member environmental committee, causing heartburn up and down the State, only to be relegated to legislative amendment purgatory by the Appropriations Committee. It will certainly resurface in some form. Stay tuned.

Another is SB675 that seeks to limit the Coastal Commission evaluation process to determine compliance with the Coastal Act for just one project, a proposed plan for San Diego Coast's Seaport Village allowing Miami-style development along the bay, beginning a precedent for killing protections by a thousand cuts, project by project.

The legislature is not alone. Among the most egregious acts on the transparency front is Governor Newsom's attempts to attach bills ensuring the controversial Delta Tunnel Conveyance Project as a budget trailer. Slippery as an eel running upriver, Newsom

attached the bill to avoid public scrutiny and legislative debate two weeks before approval.

Fortunately, better heads prevailed in a sub-committee that included San Diego State Senator Blakespear, where it was dumped thanks in large part to Sierra Club efforts.

But, As F. Scott Fitzgerald pointed out, intelligence is the ability to hold two conflicting thoughts at one time and as such our legislators belong in MENSA. For example, while passing several bills designed to protect our rivers, at the same time they are considering more bills that weaken CEQA, and in some cases, rendering it impossible for the public to challenge projects threatening those rivers.

The law requiring Environmental Impact Studies open to public comment on projects with significant potential environmental impacts is especially important for San Diego and the Imperial Valley's Salton Sea, widely acknowledged as national biodiversity hotspots.

The recent settlement of a lawsuit brought by Sierra Club, Endangered Habitats League and the Attorney General for a project called Otay Village 13 in south San Diego County is but one example of how CEQA made a flawed project safer and more environmentally sensitive while allowing over 850 more housing units and preserving 300 more acres of endangered habitat than originally proposed. The CEQA environmental review process has functioned successfully over the years to forge Master Plan coalitions, including North County's Pacific Highlands Ranch in 1998 and more recently the Chula Vista Bayfront Master Plan.

Leaving our most important habitat and coastal protections, climate action and environmental justice issues to the unseen hand of County and City staff under political pressure to approve projects in the name of speed is simply a bad idea.

No one won the War of 1812 which ended in a draw. In the war on environmental protections, everyone loses, the sort of deadlock we should not abide.

Stay Green.

Deadly Radioactive Nuclear Waste Stored at San Onofre



Co-authored by:

The Board of the Samuel Lawrence Foundation

Peter Andersen, Sierra Club and SLF Board Member

Ron Askeland, Sierra Club

On any picture-perfect day at San Onofre State Beach, you'll find stunning surf waves, families picnicking, gleaming sun, and a community. But just a few hundred feet away, barely out of view, are 3.6 million pounds of deadly highly radioactive nuclear waste in corroding steel canisters. Buried in the sand, steps from the tide, this lethal threat doesn't care what laws we have passed, how many ecosystems we've restored, or how passionately we've defended nature. One catastrophic disaster at San Onofre, and every hard-fought environmental victory the Sierra Club has achieved could be rendered meaningless for thousands of years.

The Sierra Club and the Samuel Lawrence Foundation (SLF) have joined together to confront this impending crisis head-on. SLF is a nonprofit organization dedicated to educating the public, empowering diverse voices, and promoting actionable solutions to complex global problems (<https://www.samuel-lawrencefoundation.org>). Through advocacy, the arts, and science-based education, SLF raises public awareness about issues like the nuclear waste stored at San Onofre and works to empower individuals and institutions to demand permanent waste storage, and a healthier community for all. Our SLF board member, Peter Andersen, is a recent recipient of the Sierra Club Lifetime Achievement Award and has used his expertise and guidance to help shape SLF's advocacy and legacy.

The scale of the problem is difficult to picture, but it is enormous; 3.6 million pounds of highly radioactive waste are currently stored in thin-walled stainless-steel canisters—many of them no thicker than a dime—just 100 feet from our Pacific Ocean. These canisters were never meant to last beyond 25 years. Yet, there is no long-term federal repository in sight, no plan for permanent removal, and no infrastructure in place to adequately monitor radiation levels at the site. What we do have are crumbling canisters, ocean spray, and an increasing risk of disaster.

The threats are even more compounding. The area surrounding San Onofre is seismically active, formerly known as “Earthquake Bay” to the Native Americans. With the threats of tsunamis, sea-level rise, terrorist attacks via highway or ocean, salt corrosion from marine air, and ground subsidence beneath the dry cask storage pads, there is a ticking time bomb of national significance. Nine million people live within a 50-mile radius of this site. If a single canister were to rupture, the resulting radiation release could make large swaths of Southern California uninhabitable, devastate our marine ecosystems, and poisoning our food and water for generations.

Despite the risk, current policy remains dangerously inadequate. The federal government has failed to establish a permanent, secure repository for high-level nuclear waste. Energy corporations responsible for the waste prioritize shareholder value over public health and safety. Government agencies just pass the buck.

SLF and the Sierra Club are advocating for a set of immediate and long-term actions that are achievable:

- *The waste must be relocated to a federally designated, geological-ly stable repository far from population centers and coastlines.*
- *In the meantime, the existing canisters must be replaced with thicker, more durable alternatives designed for long-term resilience.*
- *Continuous radiation monitoring, conducted by independent scientists and reported transparently to the public, is essential to protect nearby communities.*

The problem is not scientific, it is one of governance and politics. Without sustained public pressure and organized advocacy, the issue will continue to be neglected, and the risk will remain.

We urge concerned citizens and communities to take action through the following steps:

- *Support the ongoing partnership between SLF and the Sierra Club by sharing this newsletter, subscribing to SLF's newsletter (<https://www.samuellawrencefoundation.org/newsletter>) for more updates, and volunteering with SLF (<https://tinyurl.com/VolSLF>).*
- *Support Irvine Mayor Larry Agran's proposal for independent radiation monitoring at San Onofre.*
- *Advocate for Congressman Mike Levin's federal initiative to create a permanent nuclear waste storage facility.*
- *Write to your local representatives (<https://www.house.gov/representatives/find-your-representative>) and demand action.*
- *Mobilize your community. Raise awareness. Refuse to be complacent in an issue that will one day affect many of us.*

We are facing a defining environmental and public safety challenge and moment. If we fail to act, the legacy we leave behind will not be one of protection, but of preventable destruction. The nuclear waste at San Onofre represents a permanent threat to the entire world, and the future we are trying to desperately save. We work so hard on stopping climate change, protecting habitats, and stopping sprawl. With an unfortunate accident, all our hard work could be gone.

June and July is Pupping Season for La Jolla Sea Lions!

Elena Tillman and Robyn Davidoff, Sierra Club Seal Society

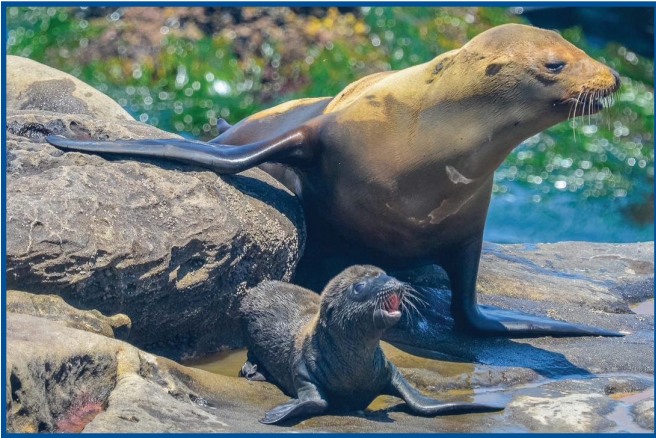


Photo courtesy of Jim Grant

June and July is an exciting time of year in La Jolla. Every June and part of July, the eagerly-anticipated California sea lion pupping season at Pt. La Jolla, adjacent to the La Jolla Cove, is privileged to host the only sea lion rookery (birthing area) in an urban setting on the entire West Coast!

On the heels of the most severe domoic acid crisis, an algae neurotoxin, in recorded history that sadly took the lives of hundreds of sea lions, dolphins and whales along the Southern California coast, new life is being breathed back into the Point La Jolla sea lion rookery. It is a delight to witness the births, if your timing is lucky! Unlike harbor seal pups born at the Children's Pool a short 10 minute walk away, that become self-sufficient swimmers within minutes of birth and are weaned from their mothers by approximately 6-8 weeks, sea lion pups are substantially more vulnerable. They do not begin learning to swim in shallow tide pools until about 2-4 weeks old, and aren't proficient swimmers in rough surf until 4 months old. Further, they are reliant on their mother for milk, nursing for up to 12 months! Undisturbed bonding and nursing are crucial for their survival. Moms and sea lion pups vocalize to each other and learn each other's call and scent. Pups are at risk of maternal abandonment and certain death, if disturbed, stressed, or otherwise harassed by humans especially in the first few weeks of their life. Additionally, it is normal behavior for sea lion moms to leave their pups on the shore while they forage, which makes sea lion pups especially vulnerable if humans or dogs are around.

Unfortunately, of the 9 sea lion pups born in the La Jolla Cove in 2024, there were 7 pup fatalities (77%) within 6 weeks likely related to human interference (crowding, petting, throwing sand, picking up, disturbing bonding, and other behaviors recorded on video and photos last summer). This is considerably higher than the usual 25% mortality rate in the first three months. These pups attract a lot of attention from adoring crowds who do not realize the harm they cause by taking selfies or trying to pet them.

This all underlines the importance of protecting them by keeping people at safe distances. Further, sea lions are protected from human harassment by the Marine Mammal Protection Act.



Photo newborn sea lion pup courtesy of Paul Emus, Emus Communications

There is so much to see at Pt. La Jolla, adjacent to the La Jolla Cove, in June, July, and August, pups nursing, pups trying to move around and finding their long flippers difficult to coordinate, and males weighing up to 800 pounds fighting for territory. About 1- 2 weeks after a sea lion pup is born, the pups venture away from their moms and find other pups to play with and discover the little "swimming pool" in the crevice on the lower level of Pt. La Jolla that holds water from when the tide was high. Watching the pups play in the water and learn to swim is exciting and funny as they try to figure out what happens when they raise a flipper and go under water for the first time. They get scared, get out of the water, shake themselves off, and try again. Later, when their moms come back from fishing, they make a high pitched call unique to each pup, and the pup returns her call until they find each other. Finally, once reunited, they touch noses to confirm it is her pup/mom. She then nurses it and after a long nap, the routine starts again. It is so much fun to point out these behaviors to the viewing crowd and watch sheer delight cross their faces.

When viewing sea lions on the beach, cliff or in the water, please follow these NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association) established viewing guidelines to view them from a distance of at least 50 feet. If you see a sea lion in distress, never touch them: this is illegal, and it can only be done by recognized rescue centers. Please call SeaWorld Rescue who is authorized by NOAA as the rescue center in our area at 1-800-541-7325. The safest and most responsible place to watch sea lions and pups in La Jolla is from the walkway above the Point La Jolla rookery.

Give seals and sea lions space. Always stay 50 ft away; don't approach, surround, corner or block their path to and from the ocean.

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Pupping Season continued from page 4

Don't scare them. Watch quietly; no shouting, yelling or clapping to get their attention. Move slowly; no jumping or running.

Respect them. Never attempt to touch or pet, follow or chase, or throw any item at them.

Stay safe. Do not take selfies and do prevent children from approaching: sea lions can be unpredictable if they feel threatened.

Keep them safe. Keep dogs away, do not feed them or touch them – it can make them sick.

Read their behavior. If they look up, move or bark, they have been disturbed so move away quietly

Lastly, many visitors to the area don't understand how to view wild animals safely, so if you see something that you feel is wrong, please approach them to explain the guidelines. If you see something, say something!

Education: The Sierra Club Seal Society is giving a talk on the birthing and biology of sea lions followed by a tour to see the pups and moms. The free "Talk and Walk" is held at the Mangelsen Images of Nature Art Gallery at 7916 Girard Avenue on Saturdays June 28, and July 5, 12, and 19 at 2 pm. We hope to see you there!

Other activities: SCSS docents Nathan Brenner and Dawn Cassillas for the CA. Coastal Commission's Annual Bay to Creek Beach Clean Up on April 26, 2025 organized by I Love A Clean San Diego. Over 40 people volunteered at the Children's Pool south to the tide pools and Scripps Park to La Jolla Cove and up to the Coast Walk Trail. Volunteers picked up 20 pounds of trash and recyclables. Some odd items picked up included a broken snorkel, lobster trap, street construction materials, clothing and over 700 cigarette butts.



Photo: Courtesy, Robyn Davidoff, Haiven Smith is a Media Major with a minor in Marine Science at UCSD.

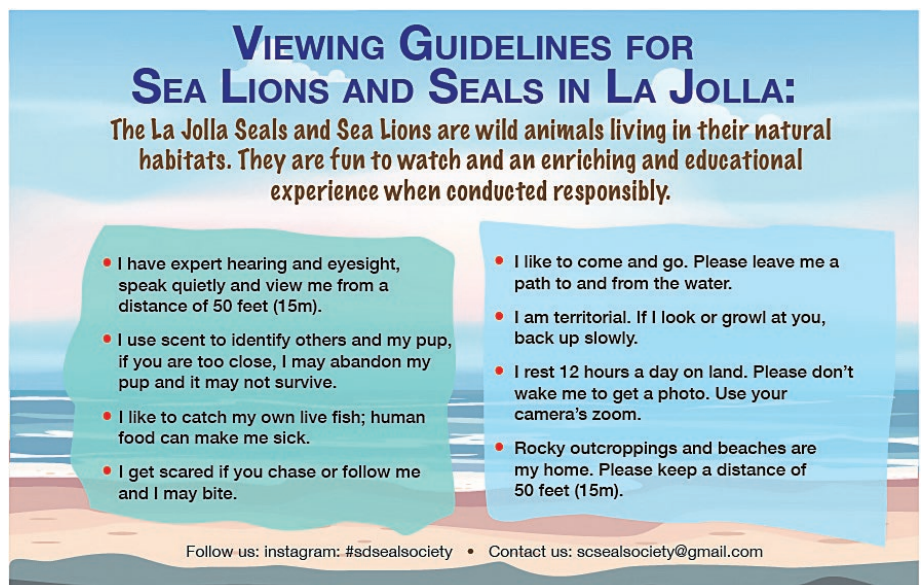
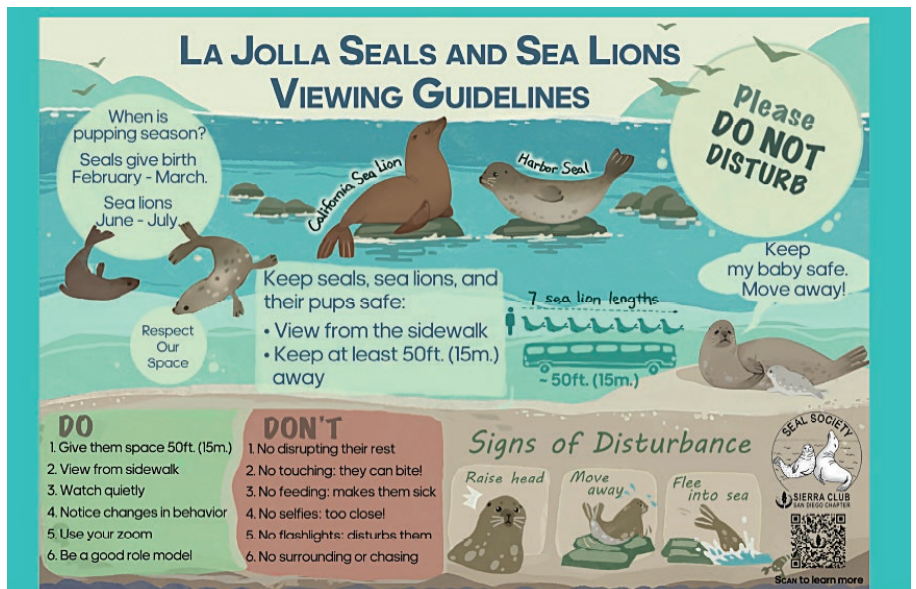


Photo: courtesy, Robyn Davidoff, UCSD Pup Patrol pizza appreciation party.

For up-to-date information on pupping season or to volunteer, follow us on Instagram: @SDsealsociety or contact us at scsealsociety@gmail.com



San Diego APCD's Lack of Consideration

Gregg Macey, Director, Center for Land, Environment & Natural Resources, UC Irvine School of Law



As warehousing spreads across the Inland Empire, San Joaquin Valley, Southern California, and elsewhere, it presents a new version of an age-old problem: how should regulators better balance enforcing air quality standards under the Clean Air Act while reducing neighborhood-scale effects under environmental, civil rights, and other laws? Regions that

attract area sources such as warehouses and distribution centers and, indirectly, high concentrations of truck traffic along freight corridors can cause the modern air pollution control system to break down. Specifically, the cumulative impacts of mobile (e.g., truck traffic) and underregulated area sources can result in poor air quality, even as facilities comply with existing air quality and emissions standards. These impacts, particularly in overburdened or, under California law, “disadvantaged communities,” raise the stakes for balancing regional air quality and localized impacts further.

The San Diego County Air Pollution Control District (APCD) is the latest to respond to this challenge, although the con-

text in which it carries out its work is important. So far, the District's actions are not encouraging. In April 2025, it issued a Supplement to *Options and Considerations for Reducing Indirect Source Emissions at Warehouses, Distribution Centers, and Ports*, a report that is referred to as the “ISR Framework.” One word stands out on page 1 of the Executive Summary, in bold and italics: “*consider*.” The authors state that APCD staff wrote the report “pursuant to AB 423,” which “required the District to ‘consider adopting an indirect source rule to address pollution from mobile sources that is associated with stationary sources’” including warehouses.

Unfortunately, the Framework Supplement reads as an exercise in compliance with AB 423 rather than a good-faith effort to advance APCD's obligations to protect all people, including the region's most vulnerable, from the impacts of goods movement. Warehousing's impacts stretch far beyond diesel particular matter and other air pollutants. They include “24/7” operations; infrastructure damage; truck idling; total cancer risk, asthma, cardiovascular and respiratory disease, chronic exposure, and weakened immune systems; sensitive receptors who need air filters, vegetative barriers, and other protections; school safety and disruption; landscape and wildlife change; stormwater capture and impervious surface challenges; housing displacement; workplace health; urban heat island effects; electric grid stress; cycles of poverty for temporary and contract workers; aesthetic change; and “unaccounted for” costs.

APCD continued on Page 7

Personal Actions to Limit Climate Change

By Sierra Club San Diego Climate Committee

In San Diego County, as in many places around the world, governments are developing Climate Action Plans. While these plans are well-intentioned, many lack the detailed data and accountability necessary to drive meaningful change. Incentives, laws, ordinances, and policies aimed at achieving net-zero emissions are important—but lasting change must also come from us as individuals. Beyond adopting lower-pollution technologies, we must consume less and demand more from our leaders.

Ideas to Help Use Less:

Energy Use and Lighting

Solar panels and LED lighting reduce electricity consumption, but they must be used thoughtfully. Solar panels have a limited lifespan and are currently difficult and costly to recycle. By conserving energy, you may require a smaller solar system, thereby reducing material use and waste at the end of its life.

Turn off lights when you're not in a room, and limit decorative outdoor lighting. Lights left on overnight contribute to light pollution, which disrupts the sleep patterns of both humans and wildlife. Inexpensive solar garden lights often fail within a couple of years and end up in landfills, wasting the energy used to manufacture them.

Buy Used, Buy Repairable

Whenever possible, buy secondhand items and choose products that are repairable. Well-designed products should account for the full lifecycle, including eventual recycling. Unfortunately, most products today are not easily recyclable.

Before purchasing something, ask yourself: Do I really need this? Consider what parts are most likely to wear out, and check whether replacements are available online. Avoid products from manufacturers that only sell expensive subassemblies instead of individual parts. While durable, repairable items may cost more upfront, they often save money—and the planet—over time.

Reduce Plastic Use

Cutting back on plastic is challenging, but critical. We need to send a clear message to our leaders: we don't want plastic in our food, water, or air. Some communities have adopted innovative solutions, such as offering laundry detergent through in-store dispensing stations. This allows consumers to refill and reuse their original containers indefinitely, reducing waste.

Sadly, our consumer culture has fostered a manufacturing mindset focused on selling more and selling cheaply, regardless of environmental cost. It's time for a shift. The old saying, born from World War II-era shortages—“Use it up, wear it out, make it do, or do without”—is more relevant than ever if we want a livable planet for future generations.

Get Active!

Become A Candidate for Our Executive Committee

The Sierra Club North County Group is seeking members to run for the North County Executive Committee (NCG ExCom) in the 2025 Election. The committee seeks a diverse pool of candidates, balanced in terms of gender, ethnicity, from the North County area.

The North County Group membership will elect three (3) Executive Committee members in 2025. The Group Executive Committee has overall responsibility to assure that the activities and services provided for the members are



consistent with the bylaws, rules, and policies of the Chapter and National Sierra Club. These activities may include outings, membership services, financial management, conservation and political programs. The Executive Committee meets monthly and attendance is expected. If you would like to submit a name for consideration, or would like more information, contact the Nominating Committee at info@sierraclubncg.org. Nominations are due by July 31, 2025.

The North County Group includes the following cities and zip codes.

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

APCD continued from Page 6

Among the first to grapple with the cumulative impacts of warehousing are San Diego's AB 617 communities. These include Portside communities, where 84% of cancer risk from air pollution is attributable to diesel particulate matter emissions from the Port of San Diego, freight and rail facilities, and industry; and International Border communities, where the PM_{2.5} and traffic burden in San Ysidro is 95% and 100% higher than in other California census tracts, respectively.

AB 617 marked an admission, by the California State Legislature as well as the California Air Resources Board (CARB), that standard approaches to regulating emissions in disadvantaged communities, including "expensive, regulatory-grade monitoring systems in place today," fail to allow regulators to target and redress the disparate impacts of air pollution in low-income and minority communities. In addition, the Clean Air Act's ambient air quality standards, which APCD strives to achieve on a regional basis through air quality planning, were not designed to address what CARB calls "localized" sources of air toxics near "ports, rail yards, warehouses, and freeways" as well as chrome platers metal recycling, oil and gas infrastructure, and other sources.

In response, AB 617 created an air monitoring and emissions reduction planning process that is labor-intensive, and for residents of underserved communities, exhausting. Its procedural challenges, from compressed timelines to insufficient attention to regulatory as opposed to voluntary options and incentives, are described by environmental justice advocates as akin to being "studied to death." Yet for hundreds of hours, Portside and International Border community residents served on AB 617

steering committees and produced detailed recommendations for how localized emissions should be identified and mitigated.

For example, Portside AB 617 communities include Barrio Logan, Logan Heights, Sherman Heights, and West National City. At the moment, Barrio Logan has 220 warehouses across roughly 5 square miles. Similarly, West National City has 201 warehouses within its borders. Roughly ¾ of these warehouses are smaller than 20,000 square feet; they do not appear in the APCD Framework Supplement's consideration of the utility and cost-effectiveness of an indirect source rule. Zoom in further and so does the intensity of land use. For example, Barrio Senior Villas, an affordable housing complex that is home to residents over the age of 75, is located within 1000 feet of over 35 warehouses.

Such conditions led the Portside Environmental Justice Neighborhoods Community Emissions Reduction Plan (CERP) under AB 617 to include "reduc[ing] emissions from heavy-duty and medium-duty trucks servicing indirect sources by 100% 5 years in advance of [existing] regulatory requirements" and "reduc[ing] Diesel PM from 2018 levels by 80% in ambient air at all Portside Community locations" as two among the plan's seven goals.

APCD's Framework Supplement does a disservice to the residents who contributed, in good faith, to what they believed was a roadmap to, after generations of neglect, finally address the cumulative impacts that they faced. The promise of a Warehouse ISR for Portside, International Border, and other communities is not properly reflected in the document. In a recent report, we outline how air district staff can, and should, design ISR programs to address cumulative and neighborhood-scale impacts, encourage

continuous improvement as technological and economic conditions change, and ensure affirmative compliance with civil rights laws such as California Government Code Section 11135.

By comparison, APCD's Framework Supplement highlights the administrative hurdles presented by an indirect source rule, implementation challenges for smaller warehouse facilities that predominate in the region, the promise of "incentive programs" that the report argues might achieve "similar emission reductions," and the comparatively small air quality and health benefits of an ISR when considered alongside other mobile source regulations and incentive programs. These claims, which "staff believes...will fulfill the requirement set forth by AB 423 to consider an ISR," give short shrift to ISR's place within an evolving suite of air pollution control options, ignore the full range of regulatory and compliance options that can be included in an ISR program, fail to fully consider the emissions and air quality impacts of California's decision to withdraw a waiver request to the Environmental Protection Agency for its Advanced Clean Fleets regulation, and paint a less-than-comprehensive picture of the potential public health benefits of a Warehouse ISR.

More importantly, by focusing on regional emissions reductions that may be achieved by a Warehouse ISR as well as aggregate compliance cost and cost-effectiveness calculations, APCD shows a shocking lack of consideration of years of work by environmental justice communities, through AB 617 steering committees and otherwise, to carefully determine how air districts should balance regional air quality with conditions on the ground. Greater care should be taken to acknowledge and engage with their findings.

Zeroing in on Zero Waste - Your Questions Answered

San Diego Sierra Club Zero Waste Subcommittee

In this HiSierran issue, we address how the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) supports Zero Waste practices amidst legislative attempts to weaken CEQA. We highlight the May 30th Second Annual Research Symposium for Tobacco and the Environment and the June 1st EcoFest Encinitas. We'll cover plastic film recycling and introduce the iKickButts app from our friends at the Center for Tobacco and the Environment. Also in this issue is an article on the most dangerous type of waste: deadly, highly radioactive, nuclear waste.

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.

CEQA Supports Zero Waste Practices

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) supports zero waste efforts in California by requiring environmental review of projects with potential impacts on waste management and recycling infrastructure. This review can lead to mitigation measures that support zero waste goals, such as promoting reuse, reducing waste generation, and improving recycling programs. Environmental review of new or expanded landfills, recycling centers, and composting facilities ensures that these projects are designed and operated in a way that minimizes environmental impacts, potentially leading to more sustainable waste management practices.

CEQA requires the consideration of alternatives to traditional waste disposal methods, such as incineration or landfilling, in favor of zero waste initiatives, which can lead to projects that prioritize source reduction, reuse, and recycling. In addition, CEQA provides opportunities for public participation in the environmental review process, allowing community members to raise concerns about waste management projects and advocate for zero waste policies.

Second Annual Research Symposium for Tobacco and the Environment

The 2nd Annual Research Symposium for Tobacco and the Environment was held on May 15. The keynote address discussed the successful campaign to ban the sale of filtered



tobacco products in the unincorporated areas of Santa Cruz County. This ordinance will require tobacco retailers to stop selling filtered cigarettes by January 1, 2027. There were 25 presenters in the poster session, with topics ranging from methods to measure residual nicotine levels to understanding views on smokefree outdoor dining.

Ecofest Encinitas



On June 1, the Sierra Club Coasters Group had a booth at the Ecofest Encinitas. Many people stopped by to discuss conservation issues, receive free plants, and take the recycling challenge. The event also provided a good opportunity to meet with members of like-minded environmental organizations.

Turning Plastic Waste into Sustainable Solutions with Plastic Beach

Contributors: Veronika Clough and Joe Hess

In today's world, sustainability is more than a buzzword; it's a commitment to reducing waste and conserving resources. One organization leading the charge in this effort is Plastic Beach, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization based in San Diego County. Founded by Matthew Clough, Plastic Beach specializes in recycling the tidal wave of thin plastic film and plastic bags that can't go in curbside recycling bins or commercial recycling dumpsters.

Supporting Businesses and Households

Plastic Beach focuses on collecting high and low-density polyethylene (HDPE and LDPE) plastic film that consumers rarely see. This includes items such as pre-wrap on merchandise, bubble wrap and plastic packing pillows. These materials — often used in industrial and retail — are notoriously difficult to recycle due to their lightweight, flexible properties. Through a streamlined process, Plastic Beach ensures that these plastics are responsibly collected, baled and repurposed.

Collaborating with local businesses, they prevent this recyclable plastic from ending up in landfills or polluting the environment. The material is sent to TREX — a US company celebrated for its durable, low maintenance and

Zero Waste continued on Page 11

Explore. Enjoy. Protect.

By Michael King

Associate Community Organizer, Sierra Club
San Diego Chapter



All the themes of the Sierra Club came together on June 7th when we hit the trails at Cabrillo National Monument. We participated in a National Day of Action with chapters across the country to protest the administrations attacks on our National Monuments and the historic Antiquities Act. The little know Antiquities Act is what makes so many of our precious public lands a reality. While San Diego is blessed with plentiful public lands, the Cabrillo Monument in Point Loma stands out as our only National Monument designation. While a lovely place, compared to Bears Ears or Mount Rushmore it might not seem like much, but it is an important reminder to San Diegans of the role that the Antiquities Act plays across the country in preserving our public lands for future generations. While we could have made signs and stood outside the entrance protesting, we instead headed down the bayside trail to learn about Coastal Sage Scrub, the fragile but beautiful and ecologically diverse ecosystem unique to the California coast. We stopped to enjoy the beautiful views of downtown San Diego and Coronado Island and discussed current threats to our public lands and what we can do to stop them. We took this approach because we believe that it is not just enough to take political action, we need to take the time to slow down and remember why we do what we do.

First, we explore. We all start with formative experiences in nature that lead us to go deeper, to see more, learn more and understand the importance of our natural world and our place in it. Second, we enjoy. Our experiences and exploring builds our love for the outdoors and makes it a place of wonder, joy and peace. It is from this place of knowledge and love for our natural world that we take action. We Protect. We fight for our natural places and work



to bring nature more fully into our often artificial human spaces. We strive to bring nature and clean air and water to every person, not as a privilege or an afterthought but as an expectation and a right.

It is because we believe that the fight for our natural world begins with joy and wonder that we chose not to just protest on June 7th but to hike. Hikes and other outings help to cultivate the values that lead to action and concrete change. Our outings program is a



wonderful resource for engaging people with the outdoors and we will continue to find new ways to increase access to nature, engage our communities and integrate our conservation and recreational activities as an organization. We will fight climate change, conserve habitat and clean our air and water one hike, one picture of a flower and one conversation on the trail a time. Because when we get home, we will have been reminded what is worth fighting for.

SB 607 Could Dismantle CEQA. The Bill Must Be Re-Written

by Severn Williams, Director, CEQA Works Coalition

A broad range of environmental justice organizations, conservation groups and labor unions, including Sierra Club California, worked for months this spring to stop SB 607 (Wiener), a bill that would have sent a wrecking ball through CEQA by severely weakening environmental review for a long list of hazardous and polluting projects. To our relief, the bill was passed out of the Senate Appropriations Committee at the end of May with significant changes: The content of the bill was deleted, replaced with language signaling the Legislature's intent to continue negotiating changes to environmental review for development projects.

Now Senate President Pro-Tempore Mike McGuire and local San Diego Senators and Assemblymembers need to hear from us to make sure that when they are re-writing and voting on SB 607, they uphold the public health and environmental protections CEQA provides for all Californians, such as protecting communities and our air, land and water.

SB 607 as originally written would have reduced opportunities for public input and drastically reduced environmental and community protections for all but a small handful of development projects. Everyone from conservation groups to community-based organizations to labor groups have strongly opposed SB 607, arguing that CEQA is essential to protecting the public health of Californians, especially in low-income communities and communities of color, which historically have been disproportionately burdened by polluting projects. The law is also intended to protect California's natural resources, agricultural lands, and tribal cultural resources.

Proponents of SB 607 touted it as a housing bill, but in fact, it

would have been detrimental to the creation of safe, healthy housing by rolling back the primary process for public input that frontline communities rely on to protect their health.

CEQA has been criticized for inhibiting growth in California by developers. However, opponents of SB 607 have pointed out that CEQA has been in place for more than 50 years, while California has grown to become the fourth largest economy in the world.

Opponents of the bill argued that the bill would have significantly increased compliance and litigation costs given the confusing language of the bill, which introduced radical change to how CEQA operates.

Groups were also concerned about the weakening of CEQA at a time when the federal government continues to repeal and scale back national environmental and climate laws – going against a strong, bipartisan majority of voters (73%) who support the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), according to new polling data. <https://www.dataforprogress.org/blog/2025/5/28/voters-support-nepa-oppose-congress-proposed-pay-to-play-amendment>

The bill's next stop will be the Senate Floor, though Chair Caballero noted in the Appropriations Committee hearing that negotiations on the bill will continue through the budget process between the Assembly, Senate and Governor.

Please email and call Senator McGuire and your local Senate and Assembly representatives this week, urging them to make sure any re-write of SB 607 protects CEQA in order to retain that law's environmental and public health protections and Californians' right to transparency and public input in the land use planning process.

Find your representatives at this link.

<https://findyourrep.legislature.ca.gov/>



Call for Nominations

The Sierra Club North County Coastal Group (Coasters) is a part of the San Diego Chapter and covers coastal communities from Del Mar to Oceanside. The great thing about

the Sierra Club is it is one of the few environmental organizations where the priorities and activities are driven by the volunteers. The Coasters are a small, welcoming group that is currently focused on local conservation and land use issues, political endorsements, environmental education and working with our partners to enact positive change for the environment in our local communities.

We have an Executive Committee that meets monthly and is responsible for organizing our Group's activities and volunteers and to ensure that our activities are consistent with the Chapter and National Sierra Club. Being a member of the ExCom is an excellent way to learn more about our local environmental issues and to meet like-minded people who want to work together on behalf of our environment. We will be holding elections this Fall to fill 4 spaces on our Executive Committee. If you would

like to submit a name for consideration by the Nominating Committee, or would like more information, contact Sally Prendergast at sallyp123@mac.com.

Names must be submitted by August 13th, 2024.

Please provide a bio (no longer than 150 words) and a picture

The North County Coastal Group comprises the zip codes of: 92007 - Cardiff, 92008 - Carlsbad, 92009 - Carlsbad, 92010 - Carlsbad, 92011 - Carlsbad, 92013 - Carlsbad PO Box, 92018 - Carlsbad PO Box, 92014 - Del Mar, 92023 - Encinitas - PO Box, 92024 - Encinitas, 92054 - Oceanside, 92055 - Oceanside, 92056 - Oceanside, 92057 - Oceanside, 92049 Oceanside PO Box, 92051 - Oceanside PO Box, 92052 - Oceanside PO Box, 92067 - Rancho Santa Fe PO Box, 92075 - Solana Beach, 92091 - Rancho Santa Fe.

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

For more information go to

<http://sandigosierraclub.org/get-involved/coastal/>

eco-friendly decking. This process sequesters the collected microplastics for multiple decades instead of allowing them to enter our environment immediately through landfill.

In 2024, Plastic Beach supported 45 businesses and over 60 households, recycling over 52,000 pounds of plastic. The collected plastic was downcycled to TREX in bales weighing over 700 pounds each. This logistics process seeks to ensure large volumes of these plastic materials are handled effectively, minimizing their negative environmental impact.

Building Partnerships with Plastic Beach

In recognition of the importance of reducing their respective environmental footprints, more and more businesses of all types and sizes are partnering with Plastic Beach to downcycle plastic film generated by their warehouse shipping and receiving operations. The team provides collection pickups using EV vans where possible and at a frequency that suits companies operational needs to ensure seamless and eco-friendly processes from start to finish. This collaboration helps companies not only manage waste more responsibly but also supports the broader mission of Plastic Beach: creating a circular economy that turns waste into valuable resources.

Path from Waste to Worth

The key driver that inspired Matthew Clough to found Plastic Beach was China's 2018 withdrawal as the World's de facto recycler. Matthew recognized even then that the front-end pickups of voluminous, lightweight plastic bags were rendering this 100% recyclable material as trash due to the lack of a value statement put on protecting our health and environment from plastic pollution and landfill.

Today, Plastic Beach contributes to a cycle that transforms waste into sustainable products, exemplifying how innovative partnerships can drive meaningful environmental change and support US businesses looking to become more sustainable by reducing their plastic waste footprint – all while supporting domestic downcycling leaders like TREX too.

Plastic Beach's efforts represent a vital step forward in addressing the challenges of plastic waste and its commitment to environmental stewardship and its partnerships with businesses highlight the power of collective action in building a more sustainable future.

iKickButts App

SDSU's Center for Tobacco and the Environment Launches New Community Science App

Mark West continued from page 1

up our team to focus on people-centered work

A new *Voices for the Earth* speaker series will spotlight environmental leadership across sectors—military, politics, education, business, and philanthropy—while helping us build durable coalitions.

Politically, we're sharpening our focus. Our revamped Political Committee will not only make smart endorsements but ensure our elected allies deliver on their promises. We'll increase engagement with school boards, planning groups, and local districts—because

Cigarette butts are the most commonly littered item in California and across the globe. Made from cellulose acetate—a type of single-use plastic—these filters leach large quantities of toxic tobacco residues and microplastics into the environment. Once discarded on sidewalks, beaches, and parks, they contaminate soil, groundwater, rivers, and oceans, ultimately entering the food chain.

To combat this persistent environmental threat, the Center for Tobacco and the Environment at San Diego State University has launched iKickButts, a free smartphone app designed to empower individuals and communities to take action.

With iKickButts, users can:

- Document tobacco product waste by photographing, mapping, classifying, and counting littered items
- Learn about the environmental harms caused by commercial tobacco products,
- Organize projects in local communities to conduct community science
- Create formatted reports based on your community science data collection
- Advocate for policy change by sharing data with elected officials and stakeholders

iKickButts is available for free download on the Apple App Store® and Google Play Store® and can be used anywhere in the world.

Join a global community science movement. Check out our website <https://ikickbutts.org> to learn more about iKickButts, download the app, and start tracking tobacco product waste today.

Sources:

Green DS, Almroth BC, Altman R, et al. Time to kick the butt of the most common litter item in the world: Ban cigarette filters, *Science of the Total Environment*. Mar. 2023;865. doi: 10.1016/j.scitotenv.2022.161256. (<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0048969722083607>)

iKickButts. 2025.

**<https://ikickbutts.org> -
Center for Tobacco and the Environment**

elections shape every environmental fight.

And finally, we're reimagining how we engage our donors—not just as funders, but as true partners. A new Sustainer Circle and donor engagement calendar will improve retention and strengthen our foundation for long-term success.

Culture matters. As we grow, we will lead with transparency, inclusion, creativity—and joy. Together, we'll make Sierra Club San Diego a home for hopeful action and lasting environmental change.

See you out there.

— Mark West, Incoming Chapter Director

Save the Date!

9th Annual Environmental Leadership Summit

Saturday, September 27, 2025

Marina Village, Captain's Room

Join us for the 9th Annual Environmental Leadership Summit, themed "Environmental Leadership in a Time of Uncertainty." Hosted by the Environmental Center of San Diego (ECOSD) and proudly sponsored by Sierra Club San Diego, this gathering brings together policymakers, scientists, advocates, and community leaders to tackle today's most pressing environmental challenges.

With San Diego at the center of a biodiversity hotspot, this summit explores how interconnected issues—housing, climate change, transportation, fire, air and water quality—require coordinated, innovative action. Expect powerful speakers, data-driven solutions, success stories, and cross-sector collaboration.

This year, in the wake of the 2024 election, we'll also examine threats to nonprofit advocacy, environmental funding, and long-term sustainability.

Learn. Connect. Act.

Visit sandiegoeco.org for updates and ticket info—coming soon!

Make Polluters Pay Bill - Press Conference Speech

Speech by Madeleine Adams, Mission Vista High School, Member of North County Group Executive Committee



Hello everyone. I am here today to represent the San Diego chapter of the Sierra Club on behalf of our 12,000 members and 28,000 supporters in the San Diego and Imperial Counties. As one of the nation's oldest and most prominent environmental organizations, the Sierra Club's mission is to explore, enjoy, and protect the Earth. The Make Polluters Pay bill is a vital step in ensuring that the earth we so cherish is protected. A small number of top cor-

porations have emitted huge amounts of devastating greenhouse gas emissions. While these power-hungry organizations have made immense profits, we are forced to pay the price. More extreme

weather patterns intensified natural disasters, increased health hazards, financial stress, displacement, biodiversity loss, and more fallout from climate change is put on us. This is especially relevant to youth like me, who have grown up barraged with constant information about the imminent doom of our planet. Many times, the all-consuming nature of the climate crisis has overwhelmed me, as I know it has for others. In spite of that, or perhaps because of that, I have chosen to dedicate my time towards climate action because I know that this effort needs as many people like me as possible. I chose to become a Sierra Club board member because I know that engaging in local climate action as part of a greater national mission would help combat the widespread disregard for the needs of our planet and our communities in favor of corporate greed. By the year I was born—2008—the estimated cost of environmental damage due to human activity, mainly instigated by the top polluting companies, was 6.6 trillion dollars. Since then, that number has increased exponentially and will only continue to do so. This bill will ensure that upcoming generations such as my own will not be forced to bear the brunt of the climate crisis but instead work to limit the worst effects of climate change. As the most important California climate bill this year, the Sierra Club urges our state legislators to vote yes on behalf of our youth and our futures. Thank you.

We Need YOU!

Do you live in the North County San Diego? Are you concerned about our climate crisis and the preservation of our wild spaces? Would you like to be involved in efforts to save and improve our planet?

The San Diego North County Group is looking for people to be involved in our Marketing Committee, Political Committee, and Conservation Committee, as part of our Executive Committee.

We are a friendly, committed group. Come join us!
Tell us about your interests, email Joe at
joe@ecinstitute.com.

Power Your Home With Clean Energy - Opt Up to 100% Renewable!

By Barbara Collins

Looking for ways to decarbonize your home and lifestyle? Consider this, for an extra \$0.0075 cents (3/4 of 1 cent) per kilowatt hour (kWh), customers in the Clean Energy Alliance (CEA) can Opt Up to 100% Renewable Energy. CEA provides electric service in Carlsbad, Del Mar, Escondido, Oceanside, San Marcos, Solana Beach and Vista. CEA customers are automatically enrolled in Clean Impact Plus, which provides 50% renewable and 75% carbon-free energy. Opt-Up gives you the choice to make that 100% renewable.



Businesses can Opt Up to clean, green energy too and they get recognition for doing that.

Opting Up is simple!

For CEA customers to Opt Up to 100% renewable energy go to: <https://thecleanenergyalliance.org/opt-up/> or by calling CEA at (833) 232-3110.

San Diego Community Power (SDCP) serves Chula Vista, La Mesa, Imperial Beach, National City, the City of San Diego, and San Diego County (unincorporated communities). SDCP customers can Opt Up to 100% renewable too. It's called Power 100 and adds 1 cent per kilowatt hour to your cost. You can Opt Up at <https://sdcommunitypower.org/your-choice/opt-up-to-power100/>, or call (888) 382-0169.

Inspiring Connections Outdoors



Camping in Laguna Meadows

by Bill Tayler



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

The first weekend in June, we took a group of kids camping in Laguna Meadows, including six girls, four of whom had never been on an ICO camping trip. On Friday, we set up tents in a site next to the meadow, did some climbing on nearby rocks, and at sunset took off for a night hike down to Big Laguna lake (and were greeted on the way back by a toad in the trail).

Saturday morning, the girls were up early (my plans to sleep in until 6:00 were cut short by 20 minutes). After a breakfast of hot cocoa and pancakes, we set off to hike the meadow, stopping by Big Laguna lake again on our way to the Sunset Trail, where we had lunch in the shade. Along the way, we were greeted by a very friendly gopher snake.

The trip was a perfect introduction to camping, they all had a fantastic time, and they all ended the trip asking when they could go again!

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

FOR SALE

500 acre ranch with small blueberry & apple farm in Humboldt County California. Ranch is off grid, has 2 homes, and is the quietest place on earth. Lots of trees, delicious spring water and clean air. Contact Mike @ yewbearranch@gmail.com (707) 223-2444

Save Trees-Opt Out Of The HiSierran Paper Edition

Enjoy The Full Color Online Edition

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

858-569-6005 or scoffice@sierrasd.org

Submission Deadlines for HiSierran Newsletter:

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

Upcoming Issues:

October/November/December 2025

Deadline September 1, 2025.

To submit by email,

please email to both:

thomascreative2@cox.net

scoffice@sierrasd.org.

Submissions are subject to

approval for content and

subject matter.

Like What You Are Reading?

Support your local Chapter's work in the San Diego region!

☐ \$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$200 ☐ Surprise us! \$ _____

Please make your check payable to Sierra Club San Diego or use your credit card.

Please select payment method:

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Exp. date _____ Name on card: _____

Signature: _____

Contributions to the Sierra Club are not tax-deductible as they support the Sierra Club's effective citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts

Return instructions:

Cut out this form and mail it with your check to:



SIERRA CLUB
SAN DIEGO CHAPTER

4241 Jutland Drive, Ste. #303

San Diego, CA 92117

Donate online:

<http://sandiegosierraclub.org/donate>

Sierra Talks

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

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

Volunteer participation may be needed during presentations.

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

Please let 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 Mark West
858-569-6005
mark.west@sierraclub.org

Conservation Organizing Manager:
Charles Rilli
858-569-6005, ext 3
charles.rilli@sierraclub.org

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)
rfaawsierraclub@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

POLITICAL COMMITTEE

Meets 3rd Thursday at 6:30pm
Chair: Kathryn Burton
kathrynsburton@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

For information contact Jerry Fitzsimmons
membership@sdschs.org

Photography

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

INSPIRING CONNECTIONS OUTDOORS (ICO)

Check website for meeting information.
www.sandigosierraclub.org

Chair: Bill Tayler,
btayler@taylorlaw.com

PROGRAM COMMITTEES

Hi Sierran Newsletter

Managing Editor: Judy Thomas
thomascreative@cox.net



WHAT WILL YOUR
LEGACY BE?

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

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

LORI SULLIVAN

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

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





San Diego Chapter

4241 Jutland Dr., Ste 303,

San Diego CA 92117

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

Phone: 858-569-6005

www.sandigosierraclub.org

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

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, exposure and post-production editing. In addition,

each meeting we have a Member Share presentation so that our members can 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:

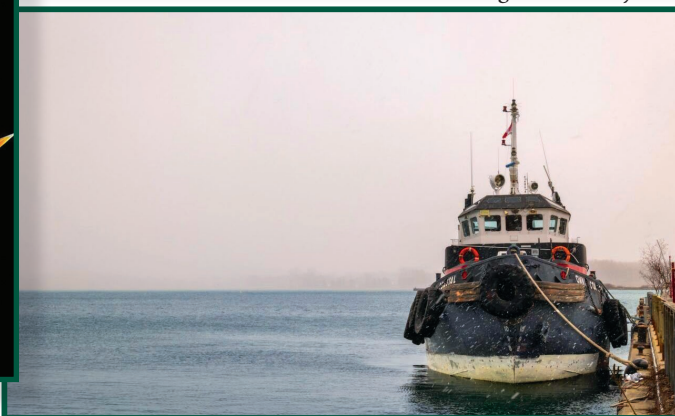
<https://sdphotoclub.com/join-san-diego-photo-club/>



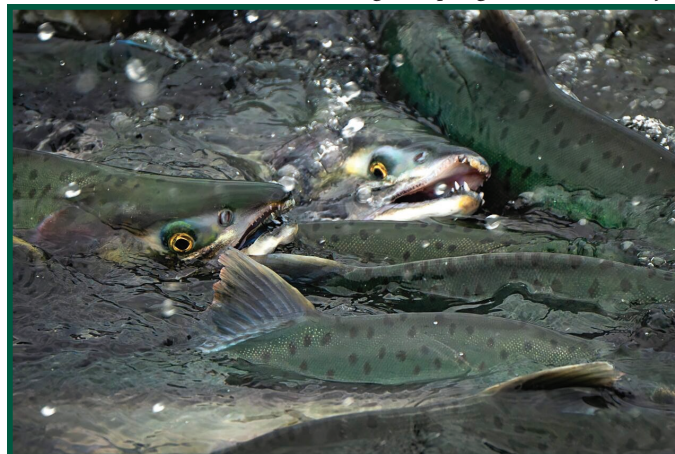
Coastal Rocks and Sea Algae - Kevin Byrne



Bird of Paradise - Niall Fritz



Waiting For Spring - Lisa Kaczmarczyk



Salmon Returning to Spawn - Rona Rundle