



Sierra Club San Diego Chapter

HiSIERRA

Serving San Diego And Imperial Counties

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July/August/September 2022

Stumbling Towards Decarbonization

By Karl Aldinger, Conservation Organizer

Last fall, a lot of ink was spilled regarding COP21 and the term “Net Zero.” Longtime climate activists decried that governments of the world were moving the goalposts, holding space for significant carbon emissions through combustion, by imagining various schemes to capture carbon as it is burned or sucking it from the air with vaporware, emissions negative Direct Air Capture.

Locally, the County of San Diego has engaged in a highly valuable, if imperfect, exercise of planning for our carbon emissions free future, the Regional Decarbonization Framework. It's a useful endeavor not for pinpointing exactly how we will pull off full decarbonization by 2045, but because it highlights that it will be dreadfully hard to do.

The average American emits 14 tons of CO₂e annually, the combination of our various Greenhouse Gases. That's including our shared infrastructure, workplaces, food, transportation, everything...almost everything. Missing is our military, a major emissions source. Also missing is the CO₂e emissions of production of imported goods, which get tagged as the country of origin's emissions. Worldwide, the average emissions per person currently is around 4 tons per year, so clearly our lifestyles are extraordinary and an oversized part of the problem. *Many people in the global South emit an average of 2 tons per year, helping to bend the worldwide average as low as it is.*

But to get to net zero and land somewhere between a maximum of 1.5° and 2.0° temperature increase, we'll need a global average of around 2 tons per person per year by mid century, including EVERYTHING that we use or touch including the military and our imported goods.

The preponderance of carbon sucking tools are proving to be smoke and mirrors, not actual working technologies. In the case of Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS), it doesn't work. Like ethanol, it is carbon emissions positive, not negative. Despite years of intense pilots, CCS is an utter failure.

The Superbowl ads this year promised an EV revolution, but with 2 tons per person carbon emissions budget at mid century, a 6,000-9,000 lb. EV truck does not pencil out. Despite



Decarbonization continued on page 7

Call for Chapter Executive Committee Nominations

Applications due July 31, 2022

There is still time to submit a nomination or application to run for the Chapter Executive Committee (ExCom) in the 2022 Election. The committee seeks a diverse pool of candidates, balanced in terms of gender, ethnicity, and geography. The Sierra Club San Diego membership will elect three (3) Executive Committee members in 2022. The two candidates receiving the highest vote will be elected to three-year terms, the next highest vote will be elected to a one-year term.

The candidate questionnaire is available at <http://sandigosierraclub.org/> or by emailing scoffice@sierrasd.org.

For more information, please contact the Nominating Committee at NominationsCommittee@sierrasd.org.

The Nominating Committee will be happy to send a questionnaire to those who request one. After reviewing returned questionnaires, the Nominating Committee will select applicants for interviews. To be considered for an interview, candidates must return completed questionnaires to the Nominating Committee by July 31, 2022. The Nominating Committee will announce its candidates at the August 10, 2022 Executive Committee meeting. In addition to the nomination process, the Club bylaws allow candidates to qualify for the ballot by a petition process, as specified in the bylaws. Petitions are available by emailing scoffice@sierrasd.org.

The ideal candidate for the San Diego Chapter Executive Committee is an experienced, effective leader who has a clear vision for the Chapter's future and a proven capacity to work with people to achieve goals and resolve problems.

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



Ex Comm Nominations continued on page 11

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Explore, Enjoy and Protect the Planet

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A View from The Chair



Lisa Ross

San Diego's chaparral habitats "don't get no respect", to paraphrase Las Vegas philosopher Rodney Dangerfield.

Along with Sierra Club, environmental leaders throughout the County have been working to ensure San Diego's unique endangered chaparral habitat, so often at the short end of the Sacramento fiscal straw, receives due attention in the budget process, including funding for land acquisition, restoration, ongoing management resources and public agency support.

Those efforts are often hindered by mistaken perceptions about these landscapes on the part of legislators, public agencies, and recreational users.

In an email, a long-time Sierra Club member questioned the observation I made in my last Hi Sierran Chair column, that the 1000-acre Del Mar Mesa Preserve was heavily impacted by recreational users and was a prime example of how the City, in spite of best efforts of under-resourced rangers and volunteers, is poorly managing its protected lands.

As a mountain bike rider who has regularly traversed the area over 20 years, he raised important points that highlight some misconceptions even from nature lovers.

Often mistaken for overgrown "brush," as he called it, San Diego preserves and yet to be protected open spaces are covered in rare chaparral and coastal sage habitats that support the most diverse and endangered species in the country. For every unauthorized cut trail, a micro-community of plants and animals lose their homes.

He also pointed to the encroachment of increased large scale development surrounding preserves that leaves shrinking recreation opportunities. Further, those out of scale developments keep telling us and decision makers, that these lands are expendable.

Public agencies like CalFire seeking to clear millions of native habitat acres in the name of fire protection, and Sierra Club endorsed legislators supporting unlimited vehicular access, contribute to the perception that the increasing numbers and sizes of unauthorized trails destroying rare plant species are permissible, even desirable.

The visionary 30x30 Conservation initiative launched by Governor Newsom in concert with the national program seeks to conserve 30 percent of California lands and waters by 2030. It couldn't have come sooner.

Sierra Club San Diego's 30x30 team led by Sally Prendergast, Dave Grubb and Pam Heatherington, has been deeply involved in the process of defining which habitat areas and species within the County should be protected and how to best ensure their long-term health. They welcome Sierra Club member feedback and participation.

We need our Sierra Club endorsed office holders and candidates to strongly advocate for effective ongoing management and public education without which conservation programs like 30x30 are toothless pipe-dream exercises.

And, loosely borrowing from Rodney's tombstone etching, failure to fully protect our lands and waters means "there (will) goes the neighborhood."

Spring Sees State Action On 30 by 30

The spring of 2022 saw plenty of activity by the state of California to promote 30 by 30-- the goal of conserving 30 percent of our lands and coastal waters by 2030. On Earth Day, California's Natural Resource Agency (CNRA)—charged with developing a plan to implement Governor Gavin Newsom's October 2020 Executive Order that made 30 by 30 official state policy, released its final 30x30 plan, entitled "Pathways to 30 by 30."

And on Friday May 13, the governor released his revised budget for the next fiscal year for his "California Climate Commitment", called a "Comprehensive Plan to Tackle Pollution, Protect Californians, and Forge an Oil-Free Future."

The release stated: "The California Climate Commitment will bring California's multi-year climate investment to \$47.1 billion – more than what most other countries are spending – to lead the world in fighting climate change, designed to involve and benefit all Californians."

But only a small amount of this total climate funding, less than \$1 billion, is for 30x30—the major state initiative that shows how conserving natural lands fights both our climate crisis and our biodiversity crisis.

Release of the governor's budget brought this statement from Brandon Dawson, Director of Sierra Club California, and advisor to our 30x30 task force:

"The May Revision contains great investments aimed at addressing the effects of the climate crisis, but its implementation could ultimately end up a mixed bag. There are things to applaud, including money for the state's transition to zero-emission transportation..... There's also important funding to equitably deploy rooftop solar and storage.... threatened by the Public Utilities Commission earlier this year.

However, there's no guarantee that the energy reliability money the Governor is proposing doesn't prop up aging fossil fuel infrastructure.... We'll need to ensure that those funds don't support polluting industries that continue to disproportionately harm low-income communities and communities of color."

Sierra Club's 30x30 task force will press for strong budget commitments to 30 by 30; we need funding for land acquisition, but smaller investments may bring more protective management of vital lands.

Members of the 30x30 task force are carefully reviewing the final 70-page "Pathways to 30 by 30" document to assess how well our detailed comments on the earlier draft plan were addressed.

The Sierra Club's 30x30 task force has one or more representatives from each California Chapter, who act as liaisons to

their own Chapter's work on local 30x30 conservation priorities. In June, the task force asked Chapters to determine a "shortlist" of two or three of their local conservation priority campaigns that they will focus on this year and next.

In the San Diego Chapter, our representatives are Sally Prendergast, Diane Nygaard and Pam Heathrington. They have been working on behalf of the Sierra Club task force as well as with a coalition of local environmental partners who have shared goals.

The biggest challenge in the San Diego region is our incredible diversity makes it difficult to narrow down the focus to just a few local Chapter Conservation Priorities. San Diego County habitats range in diversity from areas such as Torrey Pines State National Preserve, Anza Borrego Desert State Park, San Diego Bay to part of the Cleveland National Forest and more than 70 miles of coastline including critical wetlands, lagoons and waterways. San Diego is a designated Biodiversity Hotspot with a massive number of native plant and animal species. One of the Chapter's greatest concerns is San Diego's incredible biodiversity is currently threatened by habitat loss and mismanagement of conservation areas. *Two examples of Conservation priorities for the San Diego area include:*

Funding Conservation Land Acquisitions in the Regional Natural Communities Conservation Plans (NCCPs) -

Two of the four plans were approved in 1998 (San Diego MSCP) and 2003 (MHCP) and two plans are still undergoing preparation (the North County MSCP and the East County MSCP). Properties prioritized in the NCCP preserve systems and biological core areas are the few remaining areas of sufficient size providing wildlife corridor linkages essential to support viable populations of San Diego County's most sensitive species. The NCCP preserve systems are also necessary to accommodate adaptive management in response to climate change.

ReWild Mission Bay – State funding assistance is needed to support wetland restoration in the northeast corner of Mission Bay. ReWild is a campaign led by San Diego Audubon and a broad coalition of partners to encourage the City of San Diego to remove harmful infrastructure and enhance and restore the natural tidal wetlands for wildlife, cleaner water, greater climate resiliency, carbon sequestration, and improved public access.

More information for our Local Conservation Priorities can be found at this link (Insert link here).

The 30 x 30 campaign is an on-going effort that will require of lot of support from dedicated volunteers. If you're interested, please email us at scoffice@sierrasd.org and please put 30x30 in the subject line. We welcome your participation!

Vicky Hoover
Co-chair, CA 30x30 task force

Zeroing in on Zero Waste - Your Questions Answered

San Diego Sierra Club
Zero Waste Subcommittee

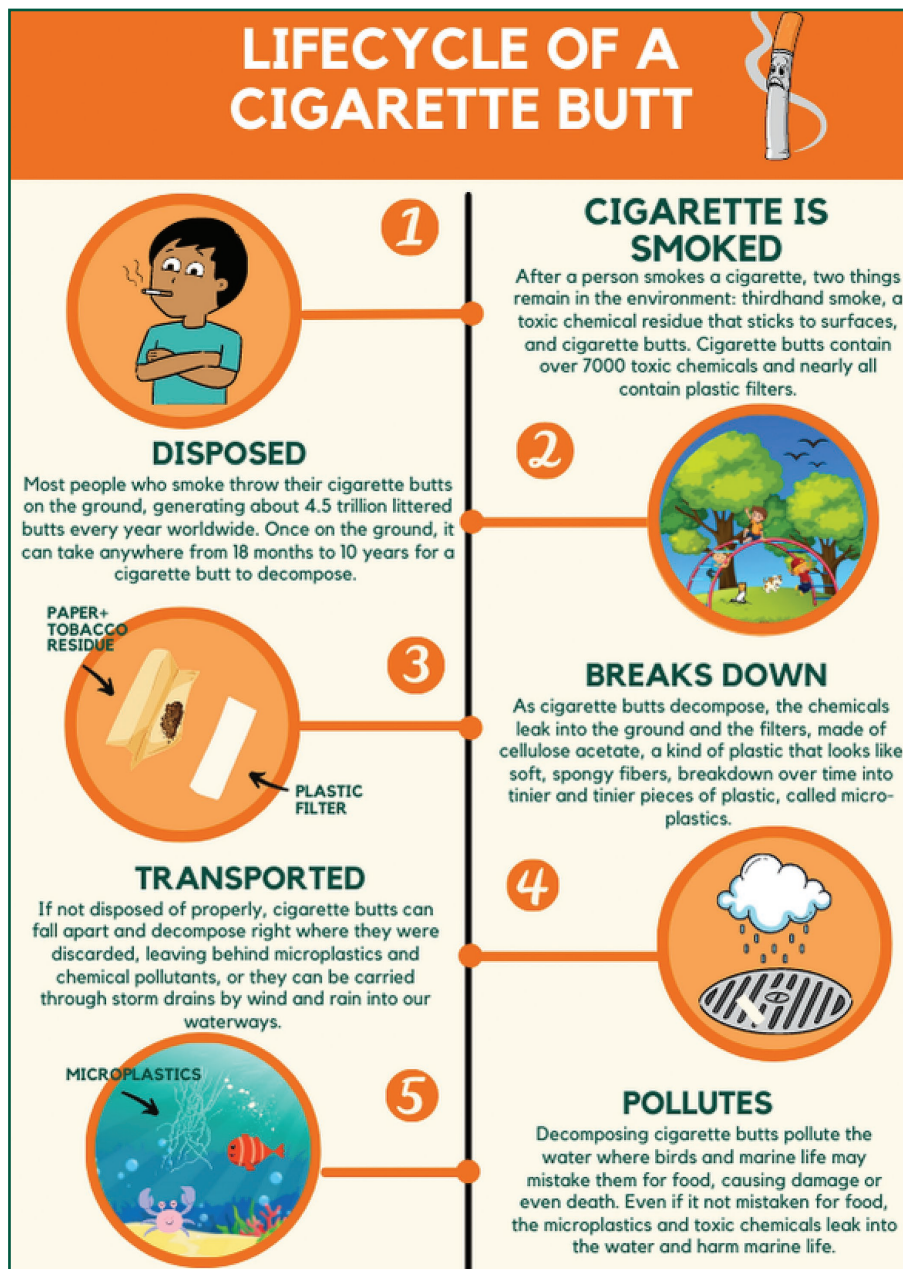
In this issue of the HiSierran, we'll discuss the problem of tobacco product waste and a proposed City of San Diego ballot measure to amend a trash collection law enacted over 100 years ago. Please email your questions about zero waste and related issues to zerowastesdsc@gmail.com and we will answer 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.

Zeroing in on Tobacco Product Waste

By Lydia Greiner and Jennifer Dill

Cigarette butts are the most frequently littered form of plastic waste in the world, with an estimated 4.5 trillion littered each year—that's about 600 for every person on the planet! While the percentage of people who smoke cigarettes in the US has declined in recent decades, cigarette butts still litter our streets, sidewalks, parks, and beaches. Not even considered litter by many, the overwhelming majority (80%) of people who smoke simply drop their cigarette butts on the ground. The cost of cleaning up this waste is not small, and estimates run from \$4-90 million annually for large cities in the US.

As shown in the graphic, once cigarette butts are dropped, some are collected and discarded through standard street cleaning practices, while others are scattered by wind and carried by rain into our waterways via storm sewers. No matter their journey, the butts degrade, a process that can take up to 10 years. As they degrade, the chemicals they contain—more than 25 of which are listed on Prop 65 because they cause cancer and/or reproductive harm—leach into soil and aquatic environments. While the fate of these chemicals is not well understood, some can persist or bioaccumulate. In addition, discarded cigarette filters break down into microplastics. It comes as a surprise to many that cigarette filters are not made of soft, fluffy “cotton-like” fibers, rather they are made of cellulose acetate, a type of plastic. When exposed to ultraviolet light, filters



break down into microplastics. The fate of microplastics is not well understood, but they have been found in aquatic environments and marine life.

Even though the percentage of Californians who smoke is low (<10%), there are still about 12 billion cigarettes sold in the State each year and 90% of those sold are filtered. These cigarette butts are small in size, however, they are large in number and represent one of the largest sources of single-use plastic in the State. Other tobacco products also generate large amounts of plastic waste—cigar tips and e-cigarettes (vapes) specifically. Although cigarette butts are the largest source of plastic waste, it is worth noting that disposable e-cigarettes present unique challenges since their batteries and internal heating units are classified as e-waste and the residual nicotine liquid in the pods is classified as a hazardous waste product.

San Diego State University researchers are studying the distribution of tobacco product waste in eight cities in San Diego County. The goal of the project is to better understand factors that influence the distribution and work with communities to address the issue locally. You can learn more about this project here: <https://merg.sdsu.edu/tpwr-project/>

Zero Waste continued on page 5

Proposed Ballot Measure to Amend the People's Ordinance

Several Sierra club members would like to know What is the People's ordinance? and Why is the City of San Diego considering amending it? Municipal Code §66.0127, also known as the "People's Ordinance" was enacted by the City of San Diego in 1919. The Ordinance gave the City itself the responsibility for waste collection. The Ordinance was prompted by the revelation that a private company was being paid by individual residents for trash and food waste collection and the food waste was then being sold to hog farmers for a profit. Although the City stopped selling garbage to hog farmers 60 years ago, the Ordinance is still in effect. Amendments to the Ordinance in 1981 and 1986 prohibit the City from imposing a fee or charging for trash service. The practical implication of the Ordinance is that today 52% of residents receive no-fee trash pickup and disposal. These are primarily single family residences. With minor exceptions, those who pay a separate fee for trash disposal services are occupants of multi-family residences, businesses and commercial enterprises.

On March 16th the San Diego City Council Rules Committee voted to have the City Attorney work with staff to prepare ballot measure language that amends the People's Ordinance and return to the Rules Committee for further consideration. The proposed ballot measure would remove the prohibition on collecting fees and initiate a study on what services San Diegans want and how much they cost; it would not start charging fees immediately.

The People's Ordinance Reform Task Force sent a letter to the Rules Committee members urging them to initiate the ballot measure (see below). Members of the People's Ordinance Reform Task Force include the League of Women Voters of San Diego, San Diego County Bicycle Coalition, South Bay Sustainable Communities Network, CleanEarth4Kids, Surfrider Foundation San Diego County, Indivisible Resistance San Diego, San Diego 350 Climate Action, Zero Waste San Diego, American Federation of Teachers, Local 1931 and San Diego Coastkeeper. The San Diego Sierra Club Chapter has not taken a position on the proposed amendment.

Re: Ballot measure to amend the People's Ordinance

Esteemed Members of the Rules Committee,

We, the undersigned, urge the Rules Committee to initiate a ballot measure to amend the People's Ordinance, because it requires the city to provide trash collection for 52% of residents. It is unfair that General Fund money is used to pay for trash hauling for some, but all other San Diegans must pay for private hauling.

The People's Ordinance, originally enacted in 1919, is out of step in the 21st Century in a city of over 1.3 million people. Not only does it tie the city's hands in meeting its fiscal and environmental responsibilities, the People's Ordinance does not equally represent the people.

San Diego is the only California city that does not charge a fee for trash collection. This year, the total General Fund spending

for People's Ordinance costs will be \$43 million. That cost will go up significantly in order for the city to implement SB 1383, which requires the city to significantly reduce organic waste in landfills. An audit showed the city was spending nearly \$2 million a year collecting trash from an estimated 16,000 single family homes being used as short-term vacation rentals. A trash collection fee for single family homes on city streets could free up millions of dollars from the general fund that could be used for services that benefit all community members equally.

Under the current system, the city has no way to incentivize residents to reduce waste and help achieve the city's Zero Waste and Climate Action Plan goals. A rate-based fee system could be the incentive residents need to generate less waste and help the city achieve its waste diversion and recycling goals.

The city should engage the community in determining what services residents want and need and how best to pay for them. The city will soon begin separating green waste to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Landfills are filling up and people are realizing that climate change is happening faster than expected. The time to act is now.

Sierra Club Bicycle Section 2022 Recap

Slowly but surely, members of the Sierra Club Bicycle Section are reconnecting after two long Pandemic years. We're tuning up our bicycles and beginning to ride as a group.

A sunny Memorial Day capped by promises of a sumptuous potluck afterwards drew 16 Sierra Club Bike Section members on a ride around the UCSD Stuart Art Collection. Here they pose in front of a massive bear constructed of 8 granite boulders. Later, the bikers joined their non-riding friends at a BBQ in the backyard of a private home. Hopefully, this is just the start of many outings and gatherings this year.

**For information about Bicycle Section activities:
Membership@sdschs.org**



SD-SEQUEL Exhibits at Earth Fair 2022

SD-SEQUEL (San Diegans for Sustainable, Equitable, & Quiet Equipment in Landscaping) was a first-year exhibitor at Earth Fair in Balboa Park on April 24th. Special thanks to Suzanne Hume and CleanEarth4Kids for sponsoring SD-SEQUEL's booth. At Earth Fair, there was overwhelming support from people living across all of San Diego for a trade-in/buyback program to get gas-powered leaf blowers out of circulation. Many good connections were also made with local politicians and environmental organizations.

Key messages communicated at Earth Fair were:

Gas-powered leaf blowers are a threat to public health and contribute to climate change

One hour of use equals the same level of smog-forming pollution as driving a midsize sedan 1,100 miles from Los Angeles to Denver. Equipment operators are exposed to toxic fumes and fine particles.

Vibrations from gas-powered leaf blowers are known to cause nerve damage in the hands and arms of operators.

Unsafe noise levels at close range can cause permanent hearing loss.

Children, older people and others with respiratory issues, hearing



disorders or neurological conditions like autism are especially vulnerable.

All leaf blowers use high airspeeds that disperse fine particulate matter, including dust, herbicides, animal feces, pollen, pesticides and spores.

YOU can make a difference

Individual actions to promote quieter, healthier neighborhoods:

Ask your landscape company to use only electric leaf blowers (65 decibels or less)

Purchase an electric leaf blower for your gardener to use.

Encourage your gardener to use a rake and broom.

Contact your City and County representatives to:

Immediately transition to electric landscaping equipment on city/county properties.

Support or develop equitable incentive programs for landscapers to transition to electric equipment that emits 65 decibels or less.

Urge the California Air Resources Board to fund a trade-in or buyback program, or provide funds to the San Diego Air Pollution Control District to do so (<https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/>).

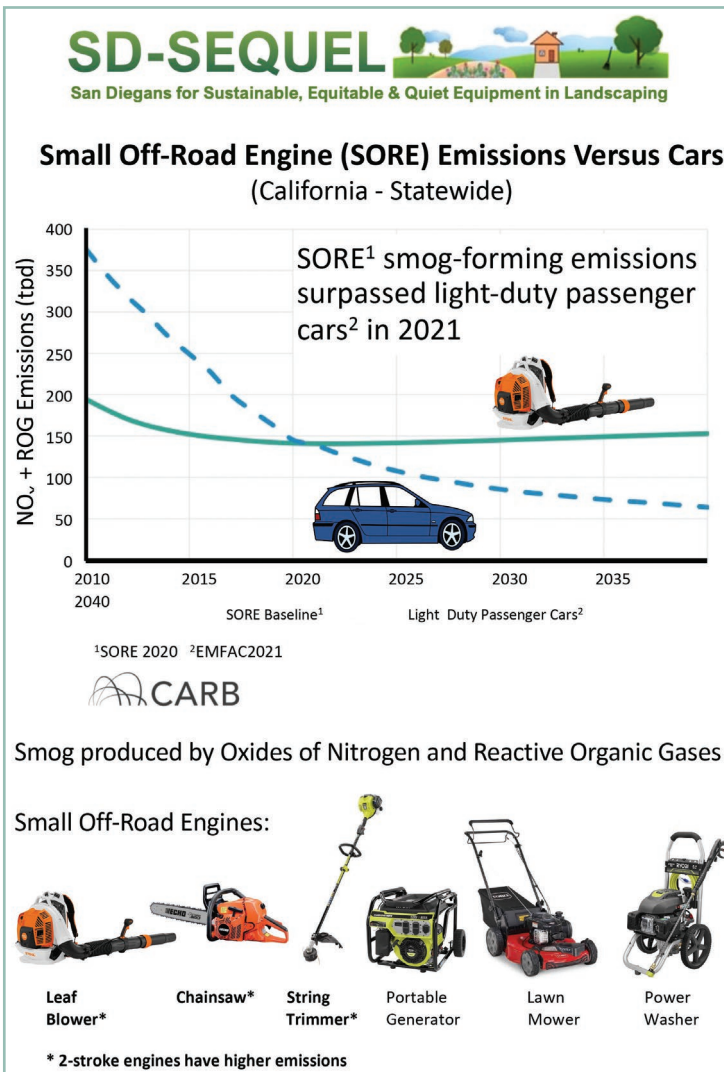
Small gas-powered engines are a major contributor to smog. Small Off-Road Engines (SORE) such as leaf blowers, chainsaws, string trimmers, lawn mowers, portable generators and power washers produce more smog-forming emissions than all of the passenger cars in California. The 2-stroke engines used in leaf blowers, chainsaws and string trimmers emit the highest levels of Oxides of Nitrogen and Reactive Organic Gases.

SD-SEQUEL made the following requests to both the County and City of San Diego:

Implement a program to transition County/City landscaping crews and contractors over to battery powered lawn maintenance equipment.

Help secure funding for an equitable trade-in/buyback program to assist sole proprietors and small landscaper businesses transition to electric equipment.

Enact a ban on gas-powered leaf blowers, once funds are available for #2 above.



zero operating emissions, the carbon emissions from acquiring the resources, creating the materials and parts, transportation of all of that plus building all cars/SUVs/trucks, is a major impediment for their future, including EVs. You see, under deep decarbonization, it is not enough to build a cleaner car with only half the lifetime emissions of our dirty transportation. It has to be close to zero.

This is why we at the Sierra Club are fighting to implement the solutions that are attainable today, to prepare for the deeper changes in the future. That started with transitioning electric power to renewables.

San Diego Community Power launched its residential customer service recently, starting with Imperial Beach in February, followed by La Mesa, Encinitas, and finishing with Chula Vista and the City of San Diego in May. The Clean Energy Alliance has already launched its residential service, serving Solana Beach, Del Mar, and Carlsbad. Each of these CCAs has added new territories that will launch in due time, including the unincorporated county, National City, Vista, Escondido, San Marcos, and San Clemente. **Community Choice Energy accelerates the transition to 100% renewable energy, and so does each customer who selects that 100% option when asked.** Electricity emissions are falling, according to a plan, which may be too slow for my expectations, but at least we have laid foundations to make future change faster. I would like to give recognition to the My Generation Sierra Club volunteers who have worked tirelessly for years to help bring Community Choice Energy here in the county. Thank you to them for making a big difference.

Building decarbonization is another way we are stopping emissions. By electrifying our buildings and compounding that effect with renewable energy, we will clean our air and cut off the need for natural gas production. Building emissions are second only to transportation in California, so passing Reach Codes to make all new construction in a city All-Electric, is an important first step. But we will need to address all our existing buildings, and create important strategies to minimize financial pain to the buildings' owners, while hastening the transition. The City of San Diego recently created important milestones in their Draft Climate Action Plan to decarbonize existing buildings. We look forward to engaging with them and all of our 18 cities and the county to form good policy. I will also give a shoutout here to Sierra Club volunteers who, in partnership with the San Diego Building Electrification Coalition, are making these policy changes happen including in Encinitas and Solana Beach with more to come.

So, back to transportation, the elephant Hummer EV in the room, which represents between 40% and 50% of California's emissions when we include oil production and gasoline refinement. An important rule of thumb is that when doing Life Cycle Assessments of vehicles, it is the amount of mate-

rial and parts, and the makeup of those components that encompass the full impact of an electric vehicle. So bigger and heavier is a problem, except when that big vehicle is carrying dozens of passengers, instead of one or two. That was a bus/trolley/train reference.

You have likely heard the term Vehicle Miles Traveled or VMT. It indicates an amorphous, imprecise metric used by planners and people performing emissions audits. They are stating, emphatically, that we need to shrink our VMT to meet the transportation goals, because they are measuring tailpipe emissions. Even electric vehicles, under our partial renewable energy grid, have emissions from the power plant. If we charge EVs at night, like SDG&E, and our CCA's Time of Use plans incentivize us to do, we are predominantly charging those EVs with fossil fuel derived electricity, because our solar biased renewable mix will not contribute from 12am to 6am. It is true that driving less will reduce emissions, but mobility is something we all expect in 2050, so a critical factor less often discussed but perhaps more important to understand is Passenger Miles Traveled. By increasing PMT per vehicle, with a bus, trolley, or train (all-electric, of course) we can still have mobility, while minimizing Vehicle Miles Traveled because all those single occupancy car trips are replaced by a single vehicle. AND we replace the production and manufacturing and disposal of all those cars, with longer lasting shared public transit equipment.

Transforming our communities to use public transportation instead of individual cars, trucks, and SUVs is a long term strategy, but it is a necessary one. Notice I did not say increasing public transportation somewhat as the SANDAG Regional Plan has indicated. We will all need to adopt the use of public transportation, and must work to radically improve its availability and practicality, today. In addition to public transit, walking, biking, and e-biking, often called Active Transportation, will be our future zero emissions mobility, or as close to zero as we must get.

The sooner we start to understand the immense changes that are coming our way, the easier it is to prioritize the methods to get there, and normalize our shift in mode-share to different transportation than we depend on today.

County staff recently stated in a report that creating cycling infrastructure as climate mitigation measures in the more rural parts of the unincorporated county were cost prohibitive and thus a bad strategy. Maybe it is time for county staff working on SB743 VMT policy to sit down and have lunch with the county staff preparing for a zero emissions future. And it is time for all of us to start doing the hard work of preparing for our challenging new zero carbon future.

Seal Society Seal-a-brates Closure of La Jolla Sea Lion Rookery

The Seal Society held a “Volunteer Appreciation Night” late in April and a beach front public Seal-a-bration on May 1st to commemorate the Point La Jolla and Boomer Beach closure.

Since our last column in the HiSierran, the Chapter's Seal Society docents with helpful outside assistance have been fully engaged in advocating for closing the La Jolla sea lion rookery to the public during the annual and predictable “pupping season” from May 1st to October 31st.

For over a year, we hosted rookery tours with city officials, spoke to community groups via zoom, wrote informative and factual articles for the local newspaper, made group presentations with photographs of people abusing the sea lions during meetings of the California Coastal Commission, coordinated docent shifts for hundreds of hours on site, compiled the numbers of beach visitors and sea lions, and filed reports to the city officials on needed oversight management (i.e., keeping people and the sea lions separate) for the safety and welfare of both.

By our collective voices and efforts, and supported by the California Coastal Commission, the City of San Diego agreed with the majority of the Seal Society's proposals! We were the only organized group working on this measure.

Because of our well - organized campaign, the city took the dramatic step to close Point La Jolla and most of Boomer Beach to the public during the annual pupping season for a trial seven years. As with the closure of Casa Beach eight years ago to bene-

fit the harbor seals, this allows the pregnant sea lion females a month of isolation prior to the end of the pregnancy and enough time after birth to give the pups a chance to bond with their mother, nurse, grow and learn to survive in their ocean environment.

On May 1st, signs indicating the off - limits area were posted. A concession to the spear fishermen, body surfers, and snorkelers gave them access to the historic trail at Boomer Beach to enter the water without disturbing the sea lions who use the beach for resting and birthing their pups but prohibited lingering or swimming by the general public.

Weeks later, one observer counted 180 sea lions enjoying their freedom of movement, socializing with the return of the male bulls who had begun to establish their “harem territory” and a large number of females slumbering peacefully as they lay resting towards the end of their pregnancy, free from the human interruptions so prevalent during the previous years' birthing season.

The majority of the visitors adhere to the restriction of not entering the closed area. However, there has been some retaliation. On the first night of the closure, six entry prohibited signs were removed and stolen from their posts on the sidewalk wall surrounding the beach. Evidence of nighttime violations were noted on the second night with footprints, trash, cigarette butts and alcoholic cans on the sandstone substrate inside the boundary. During late hours, people are seen shining bright cell phone and camera lights directed toward the sea lions who move up closer to the wall for warmth and to keep dry. They

dangle their feet over the wall and into the closed space, clapping and speaking in loud voices to gain the attention of the huddled sea lions. Footprints are found imbedded on the substrate, indicating that people have entered the rookery.

We will work with the City, Rangers and Coastal Commission to help prevent these infractions and to achieve the purpose of the closure: to keep people and sea lions safe.

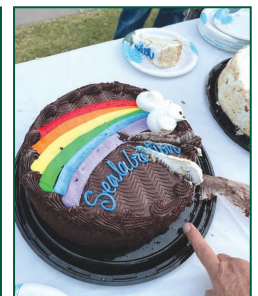
If you plan to view the new pups, please observe these precautions to keep both the animals and yourself protected:

1. Under no circumstance should you enter the prohibited areas. Keep your feet and hands on the outside of the boundary.
2. Standard rules and regulations at our beaches are still in effect: No smoking or alcohol consumption (even on the sidewalk). No dogs allowed into the prohibited area and must always be on a leash.
3. Refrain from doing anything to draw the attention of the animals such as speaking in a loud voice or mocking the sea lion vocalizations.
4. Keep the cell phone and camera lights off. Using a flash is hazardous to the vision of the sea lions.
5. Remember, these are wild animals and, when pups are present, the nature of the animals is to protect their young.
6. Look for a docent in their blue t-shirt to learn about sea lions.
7. Leave no trace of your visit, inside or outside the park.
8. If you see something irregular, please report it to the lifeguards or rangers.

The After-Hours Non-Emergency Police phone # is 619-531-2000.



Front Row: Carol Toye; Richard Miller, Chapter Director; Robyn Davidoff, Seal Society Chair, Jon Brockman Back Row: Ellen Shively; Elena Tillman; Carol Archibald; Paul Emus; Tania Popov; Angela Moini, Lori Mendez, Martha Marquez, SD Chapter Admin Assnt.





What a journey it has been to get to here!

*Carol Toy, Docent Leadership Staff,
Seal Society of San Diego*

I arrived in La Jolla from UK 3 years ago and as I discovered the sea lions, I was shocked to see how close people could get. But I can understand the thrill of getting close to animals, so it seemed clear that more protections were needed to stop people encroaching on their space.

Volunteering for the seal society was a great find but I never imagined how involved I would get! As I started to take shifts at the rookery, it seemed so futile, being there for a few hours, we were so few, and visitors were so many! It broke my heart to see how the sea lions were disturbed all day long. It felt like no matter how many times we were there; it was never enough and it was often soul destroying.

So, I decided to get involved in the efforts to persuade the authorities to secure better long term protection for all the sea lions. Robyn, Carol and Ellen with Richard from the Sierra Club were leading the way. As we tried to get more attention to the issue, we hosted every council member, wrote to every authority and the press, we attended every community group, presented to every Coastal Commission meeting, spoke to every expert we could find. What I found most interesting was finding the right message, that would be most effective and compelling to each authority. Not just sea lion harassment but also dangers to people, falling, erosion, environmental impact and just showing how embarrassing it is for San Diego to present this to the world.

Our presentations were professional, based on science and we were relentless, we were not going to let anyone forget

what was going on here. With the help of the Sierra Club, we were not going to be dismissed as screaming pup lovers!

And it paid off! We had always been told that the coastal commission would never agree to closing the area, but after our presentations, the Commissioners expressed their outrage at what was taking place and gave the City the urgency to put a plan together. I think one of the most rewarding moments was during discussions at the last environment Committee before the vote, when council members were already so informed on the issues that they spontaneously asked the questions, we would have raised ourselves. I can't wait to see how the sea lions will react to the being undisturbed for the whole summer!

I've loved working with all of you and especially Robyn, Carol and Ellen and of course Richard, who put up with our relentless questioning!

Outings Leader Training

We are excited to announce that our outings leader training program is back! We had 18 participants in our Level 1 training and 4 in our level 2 training this May.

We look forward to having these leaders share their passion for the outdoors with you to explore, enjoy and protect the planet.

If you are interested in leading for the Sierra Club San Diego, our next training in San Diego will be taking place on October 22 (COL 1) and October 23 (COL 2).



For more information and to sign up, please visit
sandigosierraclub.org/learn/leader-training

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 2022 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 four (4) Executive Committee members in 2022. 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, 2022.

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.

Support Your Passion for a Just and Sustainable World

Create a legacy that protects and restores the natural world for future generations by naming Sierra Club's San Diego Chapter in your will or trust. Or, name Sierra Club Foundation as the beneficiary of your retirement plan for the benefit of your local chapter and leave less highly taxed assets to your loved ones.



To learn more about the advantages of making a planned gift and to become a member of the Rachel Carson Society, please contact us.



SIERRA CLUB
SAN DIEGO CHAPTER

Julia Curtis • (800) 932-4270 • giftplanning@sierraclub.org • myplan.sierraclub.org

People interested in serving as an Executive Committee member should be:

Dedicated to the purposes and goals of the Sierra Club

Able and willing to accept the legal and fiduciary responsibilities of an Executive Committee member

Able to listen and communicate effectively and work in a team environment

Able and willing to dedicate sufficient personal time to Executive Committee duties

Able to think and plan strategically and politically

Willing to become knowledgeable about environmental and political issues

Willing to become knowledgeable about the structure and operations of the Chapter

Able to demonstrate leadership experience

Able and willing to deal with the broad range of issues that come before the Executive Committee

Able to demonstrate a history of commitment to the principles and values of the Sierra Club or a history of commitment to environmental and social justice issues

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

All Executive Committee members are expected to:

Prepare for and attend monthly meetings each year

Participate in conference calls when needed

Communicate regularly via e-mail

Participate in other meetings on behalf of the Executive Committee or the Chapter

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

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 3 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 Amelie Catheline at amelie.catheline@gmail.com

Names must be submitted by August 15th, 2022.

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/>

Sierra Club Bus Trips

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

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

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



Save The Date For The Following Trips: 2022

July 13-17, 2022

Mammoth

August 17-21, 2022

Yosemite

Sept. 28-Oct. 2, 2022

Sedona

Please continue to check the website for updates regarding specifics such as cancellations, sign up dates, costs, deadlines, unforeseen date changes, COVID requirements etc.

www.sdsierraclub.org

Like us on Facebook



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

Inspiring Connections Outdoors

Bill Tayler
San Diego, ICO Co-Chair



Springtime Camping in Joshua Tree

by Bill Tayler

Of all the places we go camping, Joshua Tree National Park is always one the kids' favorites, and there's one reason for that: nearly endless opportunities to climb and explore the piles of monzogranite, both on hikes and while we are at camp. In March, we took a



Happy campers ready to climb

group of happy kids there for a 3-day camping trip. We drove up Friday after school and camped two nights at Indian Cove, which gave them great climbing places just steps from their tents. While we were at camp the kids spent most of their time finding new routes to climb. They started climbing even before breakfast and – with flashlights in hand – continued well after sunset.

On Saturday, we left camp early and drove into the middle of the Park, where we spent the day exploring a truly magical place: the Wonderland of Rocks area just upstream of Barker Dam. We climbed up tall rock dome that took us high above the popular Barker Dam nature trail, squeezed through a crack in the rocks at the top to the far side of the dome, and then traversed to a quiet place remote from



Exploring Rattlesnake Canyon



Making snow angel

Hiking out of Wonderland of Rocks

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 crowds of people and enjoyed hours of solitude, exploring the rock formations and taking in the unspoiled views.

On Sunday, we hiked up Rattlesnake Canyon, which was just a short distance from camp and also provided solitude and opportunities to explore far off the beaten track. We try to take kids camping to Joshua Tree at least twice a year, and we are already looking forward to our next trip in October!

Classified Ads

Mount Laguna Home for Sale.

Unique, modern, solar home surrounded by National Forest in beautiful Noble Canyon. 1300 sq ft, pure well water, and views! hoganhomestead@gmail.com

Writing a book?

Climate Reality Leader, "Book Sherpa" with long experience editing and designing fiction, nonfiction, children's books. Recent projects include Dave Finnigan's upcoming Green Actioneers Family Action Guide. See www.bit.ly/awtkend. Chiwah Slater, 442-615-0399, awritetoknow@gmail.com.

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

8304 Clairemont Mesa Blvd. #101

San Diego, CA 92111

Send ad to: info@thomascreative.com

Save Trees-Opt Out Of The HiSierran Paper Edition

Enjoy The Full Color Online Edition

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

We PROMISE we will NOT share your email.

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

858-569-6005 or scoffice@sierrasd.org

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
Deadline September 1, 2022**

**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.

6th Annual



SAN DIEGO
ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

Saturday, September 17, 2022

**Parma Payne Goodall Alumni
Center at SDSU.**

The Future of Conservation

Keynote speaker -

**Dr. Jennifer Norris, Deputy Secretary for
Biodiversity and Habitat at the California
Natural Resources Agency.**

**\$35.00 per person and
includes a vegan lunch.**

Tickets at:

**[https://actionnetwork.org/ticketed_
events/eco-summit-2022/](https://actionnetwork.org/ticketed_events/eco-summit-2022/)**

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:

☐ MasterCard ☐ Visa ☐ Discover ☐ American Express

Card Number: _____ CVV: _____

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

8304 Clairemont Mesa Blvd, Ste #101

San Diego, California

92111-1315

Donate online:

<http://sandigosierraclub.org/donate>

Committees & Contact Information

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all in-person meetings have been cancelled and meetings have moved on-line or by phone conference. Please check our Activities Calendar (<http://sandiegosierraclub.org/news/activities-calendar/>) on how you can participate.

CHAPTER STAFF

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

Administrative Assistant: Marty Marquez
858-569-6005
martha.marquez@sierraclub.org

Conservation Organizer: Karl Aldinger
karl.aldinger@sierraclub.org

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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

Chair: Lisa Ross (2023)
lisa@lisaross.com
www.lisaross.com

Vice-Chair: David Hogan (2022)
hogansierraclub@gmail.com

Secretary: Rochelle Hancock (2024)
Rae_1024@yahoo.com

North County Group Rep:
Pam Heatherington
pjheatherington@gmail.com

North County Coastal Group Rep.
Sally Prendergast
Sallyp123@mac.com

Alan Geraci (2022),
alan@alangeraci.com

David Rousseau (2022)
bayparkdr@yahoo.com

Dale Russell (2023)
dalerussell05@fulbrightmail.org

Agatha Wein (2024)
agathawein@gmail.com

Treasurer (Non-Voting)
Orion Hudgins
orion@orioncpa.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://sierraclubnbcg.org>

Chair: Pam Heatherington
pjheatherington@gmail.com

COMMITTEES

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

Meets 2nd Monday at 6:30pm
Chair: George Courser
gcourser@hotmail.com

Transportation

Meets 3rd Wednesday at 5pm
David Grubb
davidzgrubb@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:
Ellen Shively
ellenshively@sbcglobal.net

POLITICAL COMMITTEE

Meets 4th Thursday at 7:00pm
Chair: Agatha Wein,
agathawein@gmail.com

OUTINGS COMMITTEE

Meets quarterly, contact Chair for date and location.

Chair:Chair: Bob Stinton
sd.outchair@gmail.com

Leadership Review & Safety Committee

Chair: Michael Taylor
sd.lrsc@gmail.com

Bus Trips

Mike Fry
mnfry@cox.net

Chapter Outings Leadership Training (COL)

Stefanie Maio
sd.col.training@gmail.com

Pacific Crest Trail

Rob Langsdorf
SDSCPCTS@yahoo.com

WILDERNESS BASICS COURSE (WBC)

Held annually beginning in January

San Diego

Kristi Andersen
info@wildernessbasics.com
www.wildernessbasics.com

Escondido

Kelly Conrad
slpypup@gmail.com
www.wbc.sierraclubnbcg.org

SECTIONS & SOCIAL COMMITTEES

Bicycle

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

Photography

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

INSPIRING CONNECTIONS OUTDOORS (ICO)

Check website for meeting information.
www.sandiegosierraclub.org

Chair: Bill Tayler,
btayler@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



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

8304 Clairemont Mesa Blvd. #101

San Diego, CA 92111

On the north side & just west of the 163.

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

Phone: 858-569-6005

www.sandigosierraclub.org

Save The Date

San Diego Chapter Awards & Gala Celebration

Saturday, October 22, 2022

**Hilton Harbor Island Hotel
1960 Harbor Island Drive,
San Diego 92101**



After a two-year hiatus due to COVID 19, Sierra Club San Diego will once again recognize and commemorate the achievements of the Chapter, community organizations, leaders and volunteers who have contributed their time and effort to protect the environment of our region.

**The event will include a reception,
silent auction, hearty food stations and
awards program.**

Sponsorships

*Sponsorship packages are available from
\$1,000 to \$5,000*

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

Check out just some of our Sierra Club products at a great price:

<http://donate.sierrasd.org/products>



Travel Blanket

Price: \$14.95

This fleece travel blanket features the Sierra Club logo and comes in blue, white and red plaid. It features a packing strap when not in use with a convenient carrying strap.

Dimensions: 40" wide x 60" long

Dimensions Rolled: 11" long by 6" in diameter

Color: Blue, White and Red Plaid

Cotton Canvas 1892
Retro Sierra Club
Rucksack

Sale Price: \$21.50



Cup with Sierra
Club Logo

Price: \$10.99



E-conscious organic/recycled
ball cap with John Muir
silhouette and
Sierra Club San Diego.

Price: \$20.00

Emerald Forest color cap with
oyster colored stitching.