

## 90th Anniversary of the Bay Chapter

THE NEWSPAPER OF THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY CHAPTER • [theYodeler.org](http://theYodeler.org) • DECEMBER 2014-JANUARY 2015

### Chapter elections are now open!

In order to participate in the election, your Sierra Club San Francisco Bay Chapter membership must be active in the Chapter database as of Nov. 17. You may vote *either* with the paper ballot printed in the Election Supplement mailed to active members with this Yodeler, or electronically, at [sfbay.sierraclub.org/chapterelection](http://sfbay.sierraclub.org/chapterelection). Your ballot must be received by 2 pm on **Fri., Dec. 19**. The Sierra Club is a grassroots, democratic organization and your vote truly matters, so study the candidates closely and choose carefully. Thank you for voting!



Harbor seal pup and mother. Photo by Andrew Reding via Flickr Creative Commons, flickr.com/seaotter.

### In Alameda, rare S.F. Bay harbor seal habitat at risk

Pacific harbor seals have been coming to Alameda Point to find food, suitable breeding habitat, and resting area in recent years, taking up residence at a site adjacent to Enterprise Park and the Bay Trail. The seals have been using the Alameda Point Channel and Inner Harbor for feeding, hauling out, and even delivering pups. Rather than encouraging their homestead, the Water Emergency Transportation Authority (WETA) wants to kick them out. If WETA gets its way, it would be a permanent loss for the seals and a lost asset for the community of Alameda and visitors.

WETA's plan for the Central Bay Operations and Maintenance Facility in Inner Bay Harbor—a ferry maintenance

facility project—will have a profound impact on the marine ecosystem. One of its most prominent inhabitants, the harbor seals, have not been adequately addressed in the Incidental Harassment Authorization Level B permit application by WETA.

Following the end of Navy operations at Alameda's Naval Air Station in 1997, the Navy's recreational boating dock fell into disrepair. The simultaneous lack of maintenance and lack of human presence on the docks was ultimately fortuitous for the harbor seals that frequent the protected waterway. The dock itself, along with odd wooden structural debris that lodged against the dock, became an easy and inviting haul out for the seals, and an ideal spot to rear their pups.

Shoreline development is one of the primary reasons for harbor seal abandonment of San Francisco Bay. When haul-out sites are disturbed by nearby development or regular human presence, the seals are prone to depart for safer surroundings. In the case of the WETA ferry facility project, it is not a traditional natural shoreline that will be disturbed or destroyed. But the dock's demolition and replacement with an active berthing facility for 11 ferries will leave the harbor seals little choice but to move on.

The Sierra Club recommends that the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)—which will decide on WETA's harassment

Continued on page 10

### Go Solar with the Sierra Club

A Club partnership with Sungevity makes it easy to take advantage of the benefits of solar with little up-front cost. You pay through your monthly energy bill, and an average Sungevity customer saves 15% on electricity costs. When you go solar with the Sierra Club and Sungevity, you will receive a special \$750 discount *and* the Bay Chapter will receive \$750 for its work to protect the Bay Area's wild spaces, keep our air and water clean, and promote a clean-energy future.

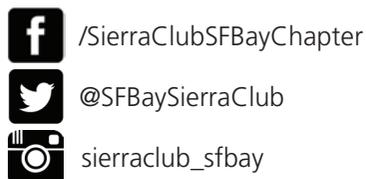
Getting started with solar is quick and easy—it takes less than three minutes! Request a free solar iQuote from Sungevity at [sierraclub.org/solarhomes](http://sierraclub.org/solarhomes) or call (415)977-5668 to speak with the Sierra Club solar homes coordinator.

### Inside the Yodeler

Chapter news and updates .....	i-iii
Conservation news .....	i, vii, x, xiv-xvi
Bay Area Communities Against Fossil Fuels campaign news .....	iii-iv, x
Events & Activities Calendar, Group announcements .....	v-x
2014 Election results .....	xi-xiii
Classifieds .....	xv

Find the fullest and most up-to-date coverage at [theYodeler.org](http://theYodeler.org).

## Follow us on social media!



## Sierra Club online

Visit the online portal to the Sierra Club at [sfbay.sierraclub.org/onlineportal](http://sfbay.sierraclub.org/onlineportal). From this page you can access:

- all the resources on the Sierra Club San Francisco Bay Chapter website
- Chapter Activities and Events Calendar
- a directory of Chapter leaders

## Meet us at the Chapter holiday open house!

Fri., Dec. 5, 6-9 pm, Chapter office, 2530 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. Join your fellow Sierra Club members and Chapter staff and leadership at our annual holiday party.

The Sierra Club will be joining several other organizations in our building to celebrate the season and all the work we do. Those sharing in the fun include the Ecology Center, League of Women Voters, Golden Gate Audubon Society, and SEEDS Community Resolution Center.

There will be food, beverages, live music, a free raffle, and, of course, lively conversation.

To make this event a success, we need your help! To volunteer or donate food, please contact Joanne Drabek at [joanne1892@gmail.com](mailto:joanne1892@gmail.com) or (510)530-5216.

## Support the Bay Chapter when you shop at Amazon

Your Amazon purchases can help support the Bay Chapter! When you buy through the "Shop at Amazon" link on the Chapter website homepage ([sfbay.sierraclub.org](http://sfbay.sierraclub.org)) we get a commission. You get the stuff you want, and we get support in our fight for a healthy environment and against climate change.

### Buying or Selling a Home? Support the Chapter at Zero Cost!

**My Broker Donates connects you with the best-in-market agents who donate to the Sierra Club Bay Chapter.**



MyBrokerDonates.com  
415.300.0432  
888.488.7188



Bay Chapter members at the 2013 holiday open house

## Your once-a-year chance to help save the world

### A message from the phone team

As the founding chapter of the oldest and largest non-profit public interest group in America, we on the Chapter phone team are often asked why we call each of our members and supporters every year. Are we not already showered with endless revenue from national headquarters just across the Bay?

Well the short answer is "no." Not surprisingly, most people believe that their membership dues go directly to the Bay Chapter. But *au contraire*, the Bay Chapter only receives 2% of membership dues, with the rest going to National.

So how exactly does the Bay Chapter fund its many activities, conservation work, and grassroots political outreach? Simply put, the vast majority of the Chapter's budget comes from its membership outreach team, which calls old and new members once a year to solicit voluntary donations.

With 30,000 members and supporters, we are careful to ask for small amounts, ranging from \$25 to \$500 per year. The average pledge is around \$50, with many members wishing to make smaller, monthly contributions of \$10 or \$20. Other supporters wish to donate on a quarterly basis at the \$25 to \$50 level.

So when your membership outreach caller reaches you next, remember that it's your once-a-year opportunity to take a personal leadership role in our collective drive to "save the world"!

Richard Kibsgaard

## Volunteer Opportunities

With dozens of ongoing campaigns spread over a four-county area—and just over ten full-time staff—the Bay Chapter runs in large part thanks to the hard work and dedication of its volunteers. Here are some upcoming opportunities for you to get involved, meet great people, and help keep us moving full steam ahead!

### Chapter elections ballot-counting

The elections for Chapter and Group Executive Committees are going on right now. Once all the ballots have been collected, we'll need help counting them! To volunteer at the ballot-counting party on **Sat., Dec. 20**, at 10 am at the Chapter office, contact [elections@sfbaysc.org](mailto:elections@sfbaysc.org). Your participation helps ensure that the Sierra Club remains a truly democratic, grassroots organization.

### Chapter holiday party

Help make the Chapter holiday open house on **Fri., Dec. 5**, a success! We need your help to:

- Decorate and set up: 2-6 pm
- Greet guests: shifts from 6-7 pm, 7-8 pm, and 8-9 pm
- Manage refreshments table: shifts from 6-7 pm, 7-8 pm, and 8-9 pm
- Clean up: 8-9:30 pm
- Cook: sign up to provide 24-60 servings of finger food (think appetizers or small sandwiches)

To volunteer or sign up to bring food, please contact Joanne Drabek at [joanne1892@gmail.com](mailto:joanne1892@gmail.com) or (510)530-5216.



## Gifts to the San Francisco Bay Chapter of the Sierra Club

In Memory of Kurt Wehner  
Gift of Sharon Lehman  
Gift of David Leonard

The San Francisco Bay Chapter welcomes donations in general, as well as gifts in memory or honor of relatives and friends. Such gifts will be used as specified by the donor, or, if unspecified, at the discretion of the Executive Committee.

## SIERRA CLUB YODELER

Volume 77 • Number 6  
December 2014-January 2015  
Sierra Club Yodeler (ISSN 8750-5681) is published bi-monthly (issues are dated Feb.-March, April-May, June-July, Aug.-Sep., Oct.-Nov., and Dec.-Jan.) by the San Francisco Bay Chapter of the

**Sierra Club**  
2530 San Pablo Ave., Suite I  
Berkeley, CA 94702  
(510)848-0800

Monday - Thursday, 10:00 - 5:00  
Friday, 10:00 - 2:00  
[yodedit@sfbaysc.org](mailto:yodedit@sfbaysc.org)

### EDITOR

Virginia Reinhart

### ADVERTISING MANAGER

Ellen Felker

### DEDICATED VOLUNTEERS

#### Photoshop Gurus

Gene Anderson, Monica DuClaud

#### Subscription Manager

Lev Pope

#### Distribution

Yvette Simpson, Christina Oldenburg, Charlotte Rieger, Lucy Henderson, Rita Stein, Janess Hanson, Jim Bonsey, Ray Gordon, Virginia Goeckner

#### Chapter Chair

Becky Evans (415)775-3309

### POSTMASTER

Send change of address to Sierra Club Yodeler, 2530 San Pablo Ave., Suite I, Berkeley, CA 94702. Periodicals postage paid at Berkeley, CA, and additional mailing offices. Printed at Fricke-Parks Press, Inc., 33250 Transit Ave., Union City, CA 94587. Copyright San Francisco Bay Chapter Sierra Club, Sierra Club Yodeler 2014

### SUBSCRIPTIONS

Annual Sierra Club dues are \$39 and include a subscription to the Yodeler for Bay Chapter members. Subscriptions for non-members and for members of other chapters are \$8. Send check payable to "Sierra Club" to: Sierra Club Yodeler Subscriptions, 2530 San Pablo Ave., Suite I, Berkeley, CA 94702. Specify your preferred starting issue.

### ADDRESS CHANGES

Sierra Club Membership Services  
P.O. Box 421042  
Palm Coast, FL 32142-1042  
[address.changes@sierraclub.org](mailto:address.changes@sierraclub.org)  
(415)977-5649

### ADVERTISING

For information about display advertising contact Ellen Felker at (510)548-0725 or: [ellen@sfbaysc.org](mailto:ellen@sfbaysc.org)  
For information about Classifieds see page 15.

### SUBMISSIONS AND VOLUNTEERING

To find out more, call editor at (510)848-0800.

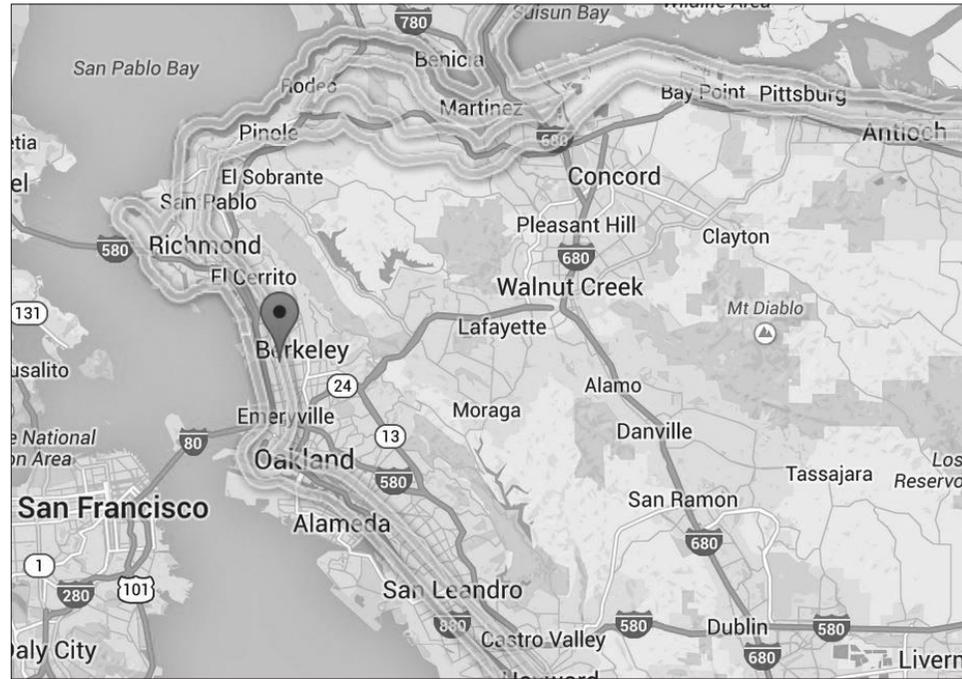
## Your help needed to protect California communities from the next crude-by-rail disaster

Right now, Phillips 66 (part of the ConocoPhillips fossil-fuel-based energy empire—the third-largest energy company in the U.S. and the fifth largest refiner in the world) is fighting to upgrade its Santa Maria refinery, located just south of San Luis Obispo, so it can begin receiving one-mile-long trains carrying explosive “extreme oil” (for more information on extreme oil, see “Bay Area Air District moves to reduce oil refinery emissions 20 percent by 2020” on page 4). If approved, these dangerous “bomb trains” will roll through thousands of California communities each day, traversing the northern and western shorelines of Contra Costa County and traveling straight through the hearts of East Bay cities in Alameda County. This project will put the communities of Antioch, Pittsburg, Bay Point, Martinez, Crockett, Rodeo, San Pablo, Richmond, El Cerrito, Albany, Berkeley, Emeryville, Oakland, San Leandro, Hayward, Union City, Fremont, and thousands more at risk for accidents and spills, threatening our air, water, and health, and contributing to climate disruption.

### The many hazards

Our rail system was designed to connect population centers, not move hazardous crude oil. Emergency responders are not prepared for these heavy, dangerous trains, and current safety standards do not adequately protect the public. As the oil industry moves more crude oil across the U.S. and Canada by rail, oil-train derailments, spills, and fires are on the rise. Anyone within a mile of a rail line is within the dangerous blast zone if there is a derailment, spill, and fire. On July 6, 2013, one such accident occurred in Lac-Mégantic, Quebec, leveling the downtown area and killing 47 people.

On top of the threats to public health and safety, trains carrying extreme oil also create



An interactive mapping tool created by ForestEthics shows the oil-train blast zone (here enveloping the Bay Chapter offices). Find out whether you live in the blast zone by visiting <http://explosive-crude-by-rail.org>.

dangerous air pollution and threaten California’s water supplies. Volatile toxic chemicals leak out of tank cars and into the air, poisoning communities along rail lines. In its latest environmental review, Phillips 66 admitted that its proposed oil-train facility will create “significant and unavoidable” levels of air pollution, including toxic sulfur dioxide and cancer-causing chemicals. The report cites increased health risks—particularly for children and the elderly—of cancer, heart disease, respiratory disease, and premature death.

In addition, the proposed route for transporting extreme oil to the refinery in San Luis Obispo carries trains through the San Francisco Bay-Delta watershed and along California’s treasured central coast. Each oil train carries more than three million gallons of

explosive, toxic crude oil. A derailment near a river, stream, reservoir, or above a groundwater aquifer could contaminate drinking water for millions of Californians.

### A double threat

The proposed oil-train terminal in Santa Maria is linked by pipeline to the Phillips 66 refinery in Rodeo, located along the San Pablo Bay in west Contra Costa County. In addition to upgrading its Santa Maria facility, Phillips 66 proposes to modify its Rodeo refinery so that it can refine the most toxic crude oil on earth: Canadian tar sands. Transporting and refining tar sands will create more toxic air and water pollution for families living along the rail line and near the refinery. At every stage of the mining, transportation, and refining

process, Canadian tar sands are more carbon intensive than other sources of oil. These crudes also have a higher content of sulfur and nitrogen, meaning they are more corrosive and more highly polluting.

The Bay Area would be doubly impacted by this project if Phillips 66 gets its way: the imminent threat of crude by rail to the Santa Maria facility—on top of increased pollution and risk of accident at the Rodeo refinery. Moreover, bringing tar sands to California will drastically undermine the state’s efforts to be a global leader in addressing climate disruption.

### Our opportunity

The San Luis Obispo Board of Supervisors is scheduled to make a decision on the crude-by-rail proposal in early 2015. However the Environmental Impact Review (EIR) process required under the California Environmental Quality Act is ongoing and could delay that action. Due to the submission of over 800 public comments questioning the thoroughness of the first version of the EIR, the report is being re-circulated. The San Luis Obispo County Planning Commission will hold a hearing to consider the second round of comments in Jan., 2015.

### What You Can Do

This is our best chance to stop this dangerous project. We need everyone—whether you live along the rail lines or not—to write an email to the decision makers and let them know why California must reject this reckless and highly-polluting project. Please send comments to the San Luis Obispo Planning Commission at [p66-railspur-comments@co.slo.ca.us](mailto:p66-railspur-comments@co.slo.ca.us) or by mail to:

Murry Wilson

SLO County Dept. of Planning and Building  
976 Osos St., Room 200

San Luis Obispo, CA 93408.

## Welcome the newest members of the Bay Chapter family—Get to know new staffers Ratha and Chris



Ratha Lai is the Bay Chapter’s new Conservation Coordinator. Ratha will be organizing communities in Marin and Contra Costa Counties with a focus on the transport of fossil fuels by rail, encouraging the growth of a clean-energy economy, and conserving the Bay Area’s remaining wild spaces.

Ratha was born and raised in Southeast Los Angeles, where he attended Cerritos College before transferring to UC Berkeley, where he earned a B.A. in Interdisciplinary Studies with a focus on the power of language in contemporary society. At UC Berkeley, Ratha worked for the *bridges* Multicultural Resource Center, a coalition formed in response to the elimination of affirmative action.

Before joining the Bay Chapter, Ratha was a Program Coordinator at the Greenlining Institute in Berkeley, where he worked to make advances for underserved communities.

Ratha lives in Richmond and when he isn’t working he is spending time with loved ones, cooking, and working on creative projects.



Chris O’Malley is our new Chapter Coordinator. Chris was born in Chicago but moved west to Las Vegas in his teenage years. In college at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, Chris studied music education.

Before joining the Sierra Club, Chris worked as an operations manager for an electrical contractor in Las Vegas, and most recently worked as operations manager for a landscape architect in the Bay Area. Chris is excited to be joining the staff of the Sierra Club, and looks forward to making a positive environmental impact through his work.

In his free time Chris enjoys playing music (mostly the guitar), watching baseball and hockey, and getting outdoors. He has been living in the Bay Area for the last two years.

Whenever you call or visit the Chapter office Chris will likely be the person to greet you—so take a moment to say hello and introduce yourself!

## Bay Area Air District moves to reduce oil refinery emissions 20 percent by 2020

On Oct. 15, the 22-member Board of the Bay Area Air Quality Management District defied the wishes of Chevron, Shell, Tesoro, Valero, Phillips 66, and the Western States Petroleum Association by unanimously passing a resolution that blatantly prioritizes climate protection and community health and safety over corporate profits. The resolution is a victory for the Bay Chapter and a coalition of sympathetic community groups who, since 2012, have lobbied the Air District to issue stricter refinery regulations.

This important resolution directs Air District staff to craft “rules” to govern the levels, contents, and tracking of refinery emissions. The regulation requires staff to present the following regulations:

1. A rule that **inventories emissions and improves fence-line monitoring of pollutants** that could harm surrounding communities.
2. A companion rule that **sets caps for each of the pollutants** emitted by the refineries, ranging from carbon pollution to cancer-causing benzene.
3. A required **20% reduction of refinery emissions by 2020**—or, alternatively, require proof that refineries are using the “best available control technologies” throughout their facilities (in other words, doing everything they can to reach a 20% reduction). Most of the Bay Area’s refineries are nearly 100 years old, and much of the most polluting equipment is so old it was installed before air-pollution controls were implemented in 1955. Currently, these so-called “grandfathered sources” are not required to adhere to present-day regulations because they existed before the

regulations began. In some cases, replacing just one of these large grandfathered sources could achieve the required 20% reduction.

So why is the Board’s action necessary now? Conventional crude oil, sourced from “traditional” drilling practices in California, Alaska, the Gulf, and various sites abroad, is running out. In response, oil companies are turning to what are called “extreme fuels”: crudes that are extracted through unconventional and often unsafe practices. These practices include fracking, well stimulation, and clear cutting forests to mine for tar sands. More energy, more toxic chemicals, and more dangerous practices are required to get these fuels out of the ground and processed.

Bay Area refineries want to bring in two types of extreme crude: toxic Canadian tar sands and explosive, fracked Bakken shale oil. (Read about one current proposal to bring extreme oil into the Bay Area in “Protect California communities from the next crude-by-rail disaster” on page 3.) Such extreme fuels are appealing to oil companies because they are cheaper to produce than importing dwindling supplies of conventional fuels. Unfortunately, they are also more dangerous, more highly polluting, and have higher costs to society.

In the past two years, multiple Bay Area



Protesters at a climate mobilization at Chevron Richmond; photo via angel(a) on Flickr Creative Commons, flickr.com/forsevegenerations.

refineries have filed requests to “upgrade” and “modernize” (their words)—or “retool” and “expand” (our words)—their facilities in order to keep up with the changing crude markets. These refineries want to be able to transport, receive, and process extreme fuels so that they

can continue to make record profits at the expense of the health and safety of communities located near the refineries. Also at risk are those communities located along the transport routes from the extraction site to the refinery. If proposed refinery expansions are approved and acted on before the Air District implements new rules regulating refinery emissions, the baseline emissions levels upon which regulations will be set will be much higher. A 20% reduction of emissions would thus be less significant. In that case, the Air District’s power to curb climate change and protect the health and safety of local residents and refinery workers would be severely constrained. Therefore, the Sierra Club and its partners are urging the Air District Board to implement the new rules before any new projects are approved.

The oil industry has thrown its full weight behind trying to stop, or at least weaken, the Air District’s proposed new regulations. Throughout the process, industry has continually threatened the Board with legal action over the “taking of their vested rights,” meaning the threat to the money they’ve already invested in the process of switching over to these extreme fuels. While the Board’s resolution was a step in the right direction, we can be sure that the oil industry is not giving up the fight. We need you to join us as we continue to push for new refinery regulations!

### WhatYouCanDo

Join us at the next Air District board meeting to defend this important action to prioritize people over corporate profits.

Wed., Dec. 17, 9:30 am

939 Ellis Street, 7th Floor, San Francisco  
RSVP to [ratha.lai@sierraclub.org](mailto:ratha.lai@sierraclub.org).

## Contra Costa County Transportation Plan projects more driving Draft Plan, which could increase greenhouse-gas emissions, should be sent back to the drawing board

Transportation is the single-biggest emitter of greenhouse gases in the Bay Area, so it must be a key focus in our fight against climate disruption. Unfortunately, a new plan for transportation spending in Contra Costa County is projected to result in more driving, which would likely lead to an increase in greenhouse-gas emissions.

Each of the nine counties in the Bay Area has a “congestion management agency.” One of the goals of the Sierra Club Bay Chapter’s Transportation and Compact Growth Committee is to try to shift these agencies away from the hopeless cause of trying to manage congestion and towards beneficial work to reduce greenhouse-gas emissions from cars and light trucks.

In August, Contra Costa County’s congestion management agency, the Contra Costa Transportation Authority, released a draft of its new 25-year Countywide Transportation Plan. The Executive Summary states: “By improving the transportation system, we can help address the challenges that a growing population, more jobs, and more traffic will

bring. The [Countywide Transportation Plan] lays out a vision for our transportation future, the goals and strategies for achieving that vision, and the future transportation investments needed to promote a growing economy, advance technological changes, protect the environment, and improve the quality of life.” The Sierra Club contests the claim that this plan would protect the environment.

Alas, the Transportation Plan, which runs until 2040, states that it will result in a five percent increase in vehicle miles traveled per person—the opposite of the objective laid out by the Bay Area Regional Transportation Plan (“Plan Bay Area”), which calls for a ten percent reduction of vehicle miles per capita over the next 25 years. Greenhouse-gas emissions from cars are directly related to vehicle miles traveled, so the county’s Transportation Plan flies in the face of California’s goal of cutting the climate disruption-causing emissions.

The Bay Area Regional Transportation Plan (“Plan Bay Area”) contains a list of “performance targets.” Two of these are to “reduce per-capita carbon dioxide emissions from

cars and light-duty trucks by 15 percent” and “increase non-auto mode share by 10 percentage points.” The County Transportation Authority does not disclose whether the Transportation Plan will achieve these

targets, but given the projected increase in vehicle miles per capita, we can conclude that it would be incredibly difficult to do so.

As for congestion reduction, the County knows its Transportation Plan will not do much. The draft Plan notes, “Where feasible and beneficial, improve the throughput capacity of roadways while recognizing that these improvements will not, in the long run, eliminate congestion.” Despite this stated understanding, the Plan proposes to lay out



Biker on the Ohlone Greenway in Richmond; photo courtesy of the Contra Costa Transportation Authority.

\$3.8 billion on building more freeway lanes. That money would be better spent on projects and programs that could lead to a reduction in greenhouse-gas emissions, such as providing more frequent bus service or accelerating the Complete Streets program.

The Contra Costa Transportation Authority should withdraw its draft Transportation Plan and begin fresh on one with an overarching goal of reducing greenhouse-gas emissions.

Matt Williams



# Events & Activities

of the SAN FRANCISCO BAY CHAPTER  
OF THE SIERRA CLUB

DECEMBER 2014-  
JANUARY 2015

Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

*Our outings are open to all. They are designed to educate participants about the great outdoors through direct experience and contact with nature, and to cultivate an appreciation of nature and the local environment.*

## About this calendar

This calendar includes many Sierra Club Bay Chapter events and outings, but the most extensive calendar is found on the Chapter website at:

<http://sfbay.sierraclub.org/activities>.

The Calendar website may include changes, cancellations, or outings that were submitted after the print deadline. Many of our activity sections place additional information and more outings in section newsletters, or on section websites, which are found at the above URL.

## Hike and backpack ratings

Hike ratings are based on distance and elevation gain (the sum of all gains in elevation per day):

- |                  |                       |
|------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. up to 6 miles | A. under 1,000 feet   |
| 2. 6 - 10 miles  | B. 1,000 - 2,000 feet |
| 3. 10 - 15 miles | C. 2,000 - 3,000 feet |
| 4. 15 - 20 miles | D. over 3,000 feet    |
| 5. over 20 miles | E. over 3,500 feet    |

Backpack ratings include a third digit for travel:

- T. trail
1. limited/easy crosscountry
  2. moderate crosscountry
  3. strenuous/difficult crosscountry.

## What to bring

For day hikes always bring lunch and enough water. Consider layered clothing, sunscreen, and hiking poles. Non-service dogs are allowed only if specified in the listing; canine hikers should bring leashes, litter bags, and water for their dogs.

## Liabilities

To participate on a Sierra Club outing, you will need to sign a liability waiver. To read a copy of the waiver form, call (415)977-5630.

## Problem resolution

If you have an outing-related concern that you are not able to address via the outing's leader, please contact the chair of the sponsoring section or group. If that is not sufficient, you can call the Activities Committee ombudsman, Rob Postar, at (510)551-4979 or:

[rpostar@jffprenticelaw.com](mailto:rpostar@jffprenticelaw.com)  
or the Chapter Office at (510)848-0800.

## Tuesdays

**Lake Chabot Reservoir 1A hike.** Optional dinner afterward. **Meet:** 3:30 pm November, through the end of January. **Leader:** Dolores Gruenewald, (510)351-6247 or [doloresgru@aol.com](mailto:doloresgru@aol.com). (Solo Sierrans)

## Wednesdays

**Lafayette Reservoir 1A hike.** Optional dinner afterward. **Meet:** 4pm in parking lot (takes five quarters or annual pass). **Leader:** Lee Cowden, (925)934-6357. (Solo Sierrans)

## First and Third Saturdays

**San Bruno Mountain hike.** Dec. 6 and 20, Jan. 3 and 17. Co-sponsored by San Bruno Mountain Watch. Explore two of San Bruno Mountain's less-traveled canyons and learn about the history and ecology of this "Island of Biodiversity." The hike is on narrow footpaths surrounded by coastal scrub, riparian woodland, and coastal grassland. Includes an Ohlone shellmound visit. We hike at a moderate pace with many stops, 3-3.5 hours. Wear shoes with good tread, long pants, and layered clothing. Walking poles can be useful. Heavy rain cancels. **Meet:** 10 am at 44 Visitation Avenue #206, Brisbane. **Ends:** 1:30 pm. **Bring:** Water and lunch. **Leader:** Paul Bouscal, (415)467-6631 [sanbruno@mountainwatch.org](mailto:sanbruno@mountainwatch.org). (Hiking)

## Dec 4 • Thu

**Presentation by MARE (Marine Applied Research & Exploration).** MARE explores and researches the west coast's ocean wilderness. Their organization studies an underwater network of 124 marine reserves along 1,100 miles of coastline. Join Dirk Rosen of MARE as he premieres video and digital stills of the deep waters from Mexico to Oregon, all gathered by robotic submarines. This will be a very exciting event open to the public for free! **Meet:** 6:30 pm at the Chapter office, 2530 San Pablo Avenue, Berkeley.

## Dec 6 • Sat

**Mount Tam 3C hike.** A moderate hike on Mount Tam. **Meet:** 9 am at Miller & Locust, Mill Valley. Any rain cancels. **Leader:** Pao Chen, (510)237-7570 or [paoc945@yahoo.com](mailto:paoc945@yahoo.com). (Hiking)

**Lake Chabot loop hike in honor of the Bay Chapter's 90th anniversary.** Take a moderate- to leisurely-paced day hike through the eucalyptus and oak of Anthony Chabot Regional Park. Highlights include Lake Chabot, Chabot View, and the Cascade Trail. Be prepared for mud and lots of poison oak. **Meet:** 10:30 am at Marciel Gate Anthony Chabot Regional Park. Heavy rain cancels. **Bring:** Lunch and liquids. **Leader:** Steve Bakaley, (925)945-8205 or [slbakaley@lbl.gov](mailto:slbakaley@lbl.gov) (preferred). (Mount Diablo Group and Sierra Singles)

**Point Isabel Shoreline easy walk.** 4.5-mile level walk on the Bay Trail along the Richmond shoreline from Point Isabel to Marina Bay. Any rain cancels. **Meet:** 11:30 am at end of Rydin Road, at entrance to Point Isabel Regional Shoreline. **Ends:** 3 pm. **Leader:** Caprice Solotar, (510)525-2110. (Mount Diablo Group)

## Dec 6 • Sat

**Full moon rising, picnic, tidepooling, & kayaking in Pillar Point Harbor.** Join naturalist Kim Powell of Blue Water Ventures for a great day on the water exploring tidepools, and a paddle across Pillar Point Harbor at sunset with a full moon rising. Great trip for beginners and those interested in coastal ecology. **Cost:** To confirm your place on this trip, please send a check in the amount of \$60 made payable to Blue Water Ventures to: Julie VanTilburg, 602 Carlotta Circle, Pinole, CA 94564. Full refund if we cancel due to weather. **Meet:** 1:30 pm at Pillar Point Harbor (Half Moon Bay Area). **Ends:** 6 pm. **Directions:** Details provided upon registration. **Leader:** Julie VanTilburg, (510)932-3770 or [trekkjv@gmail.com](mailto:trekkjv@gmail.com). (Gay & Lesbian)

## Dec 7 • Sun

**Berkeley Hills and Architecture Easy hike.** An educational walk featuring hidden parks, plus many houses designed by Bernard Maybeck and other architects. **Meet:** 10:30 am at Meet at Euclid and Bayview near Berkeley Rose Garden. **Ends:** Return to start by 5 pm. **Directions:** Lunch, liquids, and money for post-walk dinner. Any rain cancels. **Leader:** Guy Mayes, (510)522-1590. (Hiking)

**Emeryville Marina walk.** Walk for an hour along the boardwalk and through the marina in Emeryville. Enjoy the early evening views of San Francisco and the Golden Gate Bridge. Flat, easy, and wheelchair friendly. After the walk, there's an optional early dinner at the Emery Bay Market food court, where you can choose from many styles of ethnic cuisine. Rain cancels. **Meet:** 2:30 pm at Emeryville Marina, at the back of Chevy's Restaurant by the picnic tables. **Leader:** Vera Lis, (510)234-8949. (Solo Sierrans)

## Dec 9 • Tue

**Don't Frack CA committee meeting.** Bay Chapter's Stop Fracking Team's monthly meeting. We will continue discussing our goals, brainstorm strategies, and decide on the activities we will take up to stop fracking in California. New members, you are welcome. Please note that we generally meet the 3rd Tuesday of the month, except in Dec. Call-in option available, email to request number. **Meet:** 6:30 pm at Chapter offices, 2530 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. **Leader:** Aria Cahir, (510)848-0800 or [dontfrackcal@gmail.com](mailto:dontfrackcal@gmail.com). (Don't Frack CA Team)

## Dec 10 • Wed

**Full 3D over Tam strenuous hike.** Let's make the most of the few daylight hours by hiking reasonably fast and keeping breaks short. Cookies to provide motivation. Rain cancels. Expect near 4000' up and down. **Meet:** 8:30 am at Mountain Home parking lot. Rain cancels. **Leader:** Morgan Evans and David Gibson, (510)524-0802 or [frankenfreddie@yahoo.com](mailto:frankenfreddie@yahoo.com). (Hiking)

**Morning hike on Tam 2C.** The winter season search is ON for newts and fungus amongus! Tam from South to North side and back. Brief snack/chocolate stop, but mostly steady pace. Weather might change things, so please email leader if interested in joining. That way, if there's a change, we can let you know. Bad road conditions might shift starting location or cancel. Light rain enhances colors and makes nature happy! **Meet:** Bootjack parking lot. Start hiking at 8:30 am. **Ends:** 12:30 pm. **Leader:** Jayah Faye Paley, (415)699-3333 or [seminar@poleSanFranciscoormobility.com](mailto:seminar@poleSanFranciscoormobility.com). (Hiking)

continued on following page

Fuller versions of many of these listings can be found at <http://sfbay.sierraclub.org/activities>.

## Dec 13 • Sat

**Fort Baker and Marin Headlands loop moderate hike.** Hike up the Morning Sun Trail and follow the ridgeline south to the Vortec. Hike south on the Miwok Trail and descend to Black Sands Beach. Continue east on the Coastal Trail to Slacker Hill for lunch overlooking the Golden Gate. Continue down the Coastal Trail and hike under Golden Gate Bridge to Fort Baker to explore the newly restored resort and coastal batteries at Cavallo Point. Return by a trail that climbs over the Waldo Tunnel. 13 miles with 2,900' elevation gain. Rain cancels. No restrooms or water at trailhead. **Meet:** Depart Spencer Avenue (Morning Sun Trail) at 9 am SHARP. **Ends:** 4:30 pm. **Directions:** From Highway 101 exit Spencer Avenue Monte del Mar and park on the WEST side of the freeway in the paved parking lot. Morning Sun Trailhead is visible on the west side of the parking lot. **Leader:** Katy Christie, (510)277-5386 or kathyhike@gmail.com. (Hiking)

**Barbary Coast, Chinatown and North Beach easy hike.** This is a historical walk through the backstreets and alley ways of the Barbary Coast, Chinatown, and North Beach. Bring lunch and liquids. Any rain cancels. **Meet:** Meet in front of the Ferry Building at 10:15 am. **Ends:** 3:30 pm. **Leader:** Gloria Navarra, (415)731-6144. (Hiking)

**Point Reyes hike to Mount Wittenburg and Arch Rock.** This 10-mile loop begins with a long slow climb through dense woods up to Mount Wittenberg. We then make our way over to Arch Rock, which offers an expansive view overlooking the Pacific Ocean. We finish with a pleasant walk along wooded creeks. **Meet:** 11 am at Bear Valley Visitor Center, Point Reyes National Seashore. **Directions:** Meet at the far end of the large parking lot where the trail begins. **Bring:** Lunch, snacks, and a good supply of water. **Leader:** Jeffrey Sanchez, (510)599-5238 or amagi@pacbell.net. (Sierra Singles)

**Martinez Regional Shoreline sunset walk.** Enjoy a leisurely stroll along scenic shoreline and marina. Wheelchair accessible. Back by 5 pm then optional stop for dinner, sociability, and possible sightings of the busy beaver family in downtown Martinez. Rain cancels. **Meet:** 3:30 pm in front of former Amtrak Station near Ferry St./railroad tracks intersection. **Leader:** Janess R. Hanson, (925)458-0860 or janesshanson@att.net. (Delta Regional Group)

## Dec 14 • Sun

**Berkeley Hills loop moderate hike.** Take a break from your Christmas shopping and join us on a route in the Berkeley Hills featuring the best of both city and greenbelt. Explore both hidden urban pathways and parkland trails. Great views of the Bay on a clear day. Our route will be about 12 miles, with about 1,800 feet of elevation gain. Heavy rain cancels. **Meet:** 10:30 am at University Ave. and Oxford St., southeast corner, Berkeley. **Ends:** 5:30 pm. **Bring:** Lunch, liquids. **Leader:** Bob Solotar, (510)525-2110 or bob\_solotar@hotmail.com. (Hiking)

## Dec 14 • Sun

**Loop hike Muir Beach to Coyote Ridge.** Come burn some calories before the GLS Holiday Party. From Muir Beach, this 4-5-mile hike passes through the Green Gulch Zen Center grounds and gardens before climbing up onto Coyote Ridge. From there, we'll descend the Coastal Trail through treeless windswept headlands above the Pacific Ocean. Activity is held rain or shine, but may be altered due to inclement weather. **Meet:** Outside the Muir Beach ComMunity Center (19 Seascape Dr.) at 10 am. **Bring:** Don't forget to include your dancing shoes, an edible delight for the potluck, and optionally a change of clothes. **Leader:** Paget Valentzas, (415)271-2945 or pagetvalentzas@gmail.com. (Gay & Lesbian)

**GLS holiday party.** We're planning another rockin', sockin' holiday party at the Muir Beach ComMunity Center. Once again, you'll get to socialize, dance, and chow down! Last year about 75 members participated, so don't miss this chance to see and be seen. The club will be providing main dishes and nonalcoholic beverages, but guests are encouraged to bring a side or a beverage. **Meet:** 1 pm at Muir Beach ComMunity Center, 19 Seascape Drive, Muir Beach. **Ends:** 5 pm. **Bring:** a festive spirit, dancing shoes, something yummy if you're so inclined. **Leader:** Linda Campbell, lc0731@aol.com. (Gay & Lesbian)

## Dec 20 • Sat

Winter solstice potluck 3C hike. On our four and onehalf billion Winter Solstice potluck Pete and Judy will once again attempt to turn around the sun. We'll bring plates, utensils, and a tablecloth. You bring a dish to share with the other hikers at lunch. If the Sun Goddess looks upon our offerings with favor, I suspect she'll be heading back North. Steady rain cancels. **Meet:** 9 am at Mountain Home Inn on Panoramic Highway. **Leader:** Pete & Judy Sager, (415)472-1275 or pjsager@sbcglobal.net. (Hiking)

## Dec 21 • Sun

Mount Barnabe/Bolinas ridge strenuous hike. We'll start at Devil's Gulch and head up to Mount Barnabe and its eye-popping views. We then drop down and head up to Bolinas Ridge with its great views of Tomales Bay. Around 13 miles and elevation gain over 2,500 feet. Any rain cancels. **Meet:** 9 am at the Fairfax Parkade to carpool to trailhead. **Leader:** Thomas L Post, (415)492-2264 or tpost123@hotmail.com. (Hiking)

**Bayshore walk at Point Isabel in El Cerrito.** The Point Isabel walk takes about an hour and is flat and easy on paved paths. It is wheelchair accessible and perfect for seniors. Younger people have also enjoyed the leisurely hike and the company of like-minded people. After the walk there is an optional Chinese dinner at Pacific East Mall. Rain cancels. **Meet:** 2:30 pm at Point Isabel Regional Shoreline. Meet at small parking lot at the end of Rydin Road. **Bring:** Binoculars for possible shorebird sightings, and also enjoy views of the Golden Gate, Mount Tamalpais, Alcatraz and other bay islands. **Leader:** Vera Lis, (510)234-8949. (Solo Sierrans)

## Dec 28 • Sun

**Fabulous fungus: a culinary exploration.** Come and discover the fabulous, edible world of fungi! We'll join ranger Morgan Rani Evans from Tilden Regional Park, and explore a few different cooking techniques and learn what types of fungus grow here in the Tilden Nature Area. Rain or shine. **Meet:** 1:45 pm at the Tilden Park Nature Center, Berkeley. **Leader:** Vera Lis, (510)234-8949. (Solo Sierrans)

## Jan 3 • Sat

Mount Tam 3C moderate hike. A moderate hike to celebrate the New Year of 2015. Any rain cancels. **Meet:** 9 am at Fairfax Parkade, Fairfax. **Leader:** Pao Chen, (510)237-7570 or paoc945@yahoo.com. (Hiking)

**Mount Diablo necklace moderate hike.** Climb above the winter fog on a leisurely- to moderately-paced hike around the mountain. Includes optional 1/2-mile walk around the Summit Interpretive Trail following the hike. Any rain cancels. **Meet:** 10 am at Juniper Campground Mount Diablo State Park. **Bring:** Lunch, liquids, warm clothing, and boots are strongly recommended because there is some steep downhill with loose rocks. **Leader:** Steve Bakaley, (925)945-8205 or slbakaley@lbl.gov (email preferred). (Mount Diablo Group)

## Jan 10 • Sat

**Rodeo Beach loop 3C day hike.** Hike along the Rhubarb Trail and up Oakwood Valley to the ridge and head to Slacker Hill for amazing views of the bay. Follow the Coastal Trail and admire the historic foundations of batteries constructed to protect the Golden Gate. Lunch at Rodeo Beach. Return by the Coastal Trail and Hill 88, where we will stop to enjoy views. Back by the Old Springs Trail to Tennessee Valley parking lot. 13 miles with 2,800' elevation gain. Heavy rain cancels. **Meet:** 9 am SHARP to depart Tennessee Valley Trailhead (by Miwok Stables). **Leader:** Katy Christie, (510)277-5386 or kathyhike@gmail.com. (Hiking)

## Jan 11 • Sun

**Tilden Regional Park easy hike.** Walk for an hour through gently-rolling eucalyptus groves and Jewel Lake. There's an optional early dinner at Cactus Taqueria on Solano Avenue after the walk. Rain cancels. **Meet:** 2:30 pm at Lone Oak parking lot, Tilden Regional Park, Berkeley. **Leader:** Vera Lis, (510)234-8949. (Solo Sierrans)

## Jan 14 • Wed

**Full 3D hike over Tam.** Join us for a fast and full hike over Tam's trails. We'll do lots of climbing and be quick about it. Cookies for fuel. Expect near 4,000' up/down. Rain cancels. **Meet:** 8:30 am at Deer Park Road, Fairfax. **Leader:** Morgan Evans and David Gibson, (510)524-0802 or frankenfreddie@yahoo.com. (Hiking)

## Jan 14 • Wed

**North side upson downs 3B moderate hike.** Looking for water, newts, and fungus amongus. Weather might change things, so please email leader if interested in joining. That way, if there's a change, we can let you know. Bad road conditions might shift starting location or cancel. Light rain enhances colors and makes nature happy! Stormy weather cancels. **Meet:** Start hiking at 8:30 am; meet at Bon Tempe Dam. **Ends:** 2:30 pm. **Leader:** Jayah Faye Paley, (415)699-3333 or seminar@pole-SanFranciscoormobility.com. (Hiking)

## Jan 17 • Sat

**South of Market easy hike.** Walk along the Embarcadero and then into the South of Market neighborhood with its many new and upscale buildings, alley ways, and garden lunch spots. Bring lunch and liquids. Rain cancels. **Meet:** 10:15 am in front of the Ferry Building. **Ends:** 3:30 pm. **Leader:** Gloria Navarra, (415)731-6144. (Hiking)

## Jan 18 • Sun

**Big Rock Ridge/Loma Alta strenuous hike.** We'll head up to Big Rock Ridge and enjoy the breathtaking views. We then drop down and head up to Loma Alta. Enjoy scenic views all around us on this hearty workout. Around 16 miles and elevation gain over 3,500 feet. Any rain cancels. **Meet:** 9 am at Manuel T. Freitas Parkway, San Rafael. **Leader:** Thomas L Post, (415)492-2264 or tpost123@hotmail.com. (Hiking)

**Martinez to Port Costa easy hike.** Hike on newly-reconstructed trail, with scenic views of Carquinez shoreline and bay. Lunch at Port Costa, then hike back to Martinez. Bring lunch, or buy one drink and get free buffet lunch at local cafe. Back by 2-2:30. Lunch at Port Costa, then hike back to Martinez. Rain cancels. **Meet:** 10 am at Carquinez Strait Regional Shoreline Park, East Staging Area. **Leader:** Lidia Campos, (925)240-5795 or lidiacampos@sbcglobal.net. (Delta Regional Group)

## Jan 22 • Thu

**Green investing forum.** The Bay Chapter invites you to join speaker Garvin Jabusch from Green Alpha Advisors as he discusses how to invest money in a sustainable and responsible way. From Green Alpha: "Whether ecology or economy, the more energy put into a system, the greater its potential productive output. Economic systems respond to the same laws and behave like natural ones. Ecological systems can and do thrive and collapse for basic fundamental reasons that are more or less understood, and we can say the same for markets. This is what we mean when we say that the global economy and Earth's environment must be made to come into equilibrium. Earth, unlike a federal ledger, won't tolerate a deficit balance." **Meet:** 7 pm at First Unitarian Universalist Church, 1187 Franklin Street, San Francisco. **Ends:** 8:30 pm. **Leader:** Lauren Wertz, (510)848-0800 or lauren.wertz@sierraclub.org. (San Francisco Bay Chapter)

continued on following page

**Fuller versions of many of these listings can be found at <http://sfbay.sierraclub.org/activities>.**

## Jan 24 • Sat

**Central Point Reyes 3C loop strenuous hike.** Take a leisurely to moderately paced scenic day hike through varied terrain. Highlights include the top of Mount Wittenberg and Kelham Beach. Any rain cancels. **Meet:** 8:30 am at Bear Valley trailhead, Point Reyes National Seashore. **Ends:** 5:20 pm. **Leader:** Steve Bakaley, (925)945-8205 or slbakaley@lbl.gov (email preferred). (Hiking and Sierra Singles)

**Emeryville to Berkeley along the Bay Trail easy hike.** A 5+-mile bayside walk along the Emeryville shoreline and Berkeley frontage road pathway. Bring lunch or purchase at Seabreeze Market cafe. Any rain cancels. **Meet:** 11 am at Emeryville Marina Entry Control Gate (just past Chinese restaurant). **Leader:** Caprice Solotar, (510)525-2110. (Mount Diablo Group)

**Point Pinole Regional Park easy hike.** Walk for an hour on paved trail. The hike is wheelchair accessible, and meanders through eucalyptus groves, affording fresh breezes from, and views of, San Pablo Bay. Optional dinner and socializing after the walk in Old Pinole. Rain cancels. **Meet:** 2:30 pm at Point Pinole Regional Park. Meet Vera in parking lot. **Leader:** Vera Lis, (510)234-8949. (Solo Sierrans)

## Jan 31 • Sat

**Muir Woods / steep ravine loop strenuous hike.** Explore the south side of the mountain on a route with great vistas and old-growth redwoods. 12 miles, 2,500' elevation gain. Moderate pace, but not for beginners. Any rain cancels. **Meet:** 9:15 am at Mountain Home trailhead, 810 Panoramic Highway, Mill Valley. **Ends:** 5:30 pm. **Leader:** Bob Solotar, (510)525-2110 or bob\_solotar@hotmail.com. (Hiking)

## Jan 31 • Sat

**Bird-watching safari, Thornton area, Delta easy hike.** Join Tish Brown for a car caravan to the Cosumnes River Preserve of the Nature Conservancy and Thornton agricultural area to see migratory birds, including sandhill cranes, geese, swans, ducks, and raptors. Rain alters plans. **Bring:** lunch and binoculars. **Meet:** 9:30 am for carpooling in parking area near Macys/Chevron Station. **Ends:** 4-4:30 pm. **Leader:** Tish Brown, (925)325-7228 or tishbbird@yahoo.com. (Delta Regional Group)

**Hike leader retreat: O.L.T. training.** Calling all hike leaders and prospective hike leaders! Join us for a day of learning, connection, and fun with lunch provided, followed by optional activities. Depending on interest we might take a hike, paddle a kayak, go for a walk, or play ping pong. At this retreat, we will be offering the O.L.T. (Outdoors Leadership Training) Course to satisfy the Sierra Club's requirement for aspiring leaders as well as serve as a recertification for leaders who took their last O.L.T. course over four years ago. **Meet:** 10 am at 99 Wharf Road, Bolinas. **Ends:** 2 pm. **Leader:** Paget Valentzas, (415)271-2945 or pagetvalentzas@gmail.com. (Gay & Lesbian)

## Carpools

Carpooling helps the environment by burning less gas and reducing the number of cars on the road, and allows folks without cars to participate. If you are driving to a hike, please stop by the carpool point to pick up others. If you're a rider, pay a share of expenses.

Many activities are listed on the Chapter's Meet-up site a couple weeks in advance of the event, at: [www.meetup.com/sanfranciscobay](http://www.meetup.com/sanfranciscobay).

Join the Meetup group and post a comment requesting or offering a ride.

## Feds continue court action over Crown Beach Park

### Several battles still to be fought before park expansion becomes a reality

Last July, the Alameda City Council heeded the will of Alameda citizens (and the Sierra Club) by zoning federal surplus property near Crown Memorial State Beach as open space. As a result, a private housing developer recently defaulted on its contract to purchase the property from the federal General Services Administration (GSA), and walked away from a plan to build 48 houses on the property.

One might think this is great news for the East Bay Regional Park District—that the way is now cleared for the district to acquire the land for the purpose of expanding the park at Crab Cove, just as the voters intended back in 2008 when they passed Measure WW. But the United States Department of Justice, acting on behalf of the GSA, is continuing its action to take over title of McKay Avenue, the state-owned street leading to the Crab Cove Visitor Center. If the GSA were to take control of McKay Avenue, the GSA could transfer the right to a private developer to dig up the street in order to install the utilities necessary for its project. The state and park district are fighting to kill the eminent domain action so that the GSA—which currently only has utility easement rights for federal government agencies—is compelled to sell the empty lot to the park district.

The Department of Justice says it needs to seize McKay Avenue for the “continuing operations of the Alameda Federal Center,” which is located on the upper part of the

street. (The 3.89 acres vacated by the Department of Agriculture—and now zoned open space—are located at the end of the road closest to the beach.) However, the state and the park district argue that the eminent domain action is actually intended to secure a more profitable sale of the vacant property.

On Nov. 10, the court sided with the state and the park district on a motion to strike affirmative defenses. In his ruling, Judge William Alsup determined that the Department of Justice's claim that it needs to take ownership of McKay Avenue for its “continuing operations” is disingenuous and “belied by the easement it already retains and the circumstances around the now defunct sale to the private developer.” The judge went on to write, “The only real reason the United States seeks to obtain title to McKay Avenue in fee simple is to secure easements for a prospective private development of the vacant federal parcel.”

This ruling was good news, but it is far from the last word on the matter. Judge Alsup ordered the United States to file a summary judgment motion, in which the judge decides the case based on undisputed facts without a trial, on or before Feb. 16, 2015, and also urged the parties at the hearing to pursue immediate settlement negotiations. If the case is neither settled nor resolved by summary judgment, it is scheduled for trial in Oct. 2015.

Irene Dieter

# Drapes, Privacy Sheers, & More

🌲 700 Redwood Trees planted through Arbor Day Foundation by Our Company!!!

🌲 American Made Products

🌲 Lifetime Warranty on Sewing & Seams

🌲 Eco-Drapes—organic cotton, hemp, recycled, etc.

🌲 “Factory Direct Savings”



CALL TODAY: 1 (866) 713-7273  
[www.factorydirectdrapes.com](http://www.factorydirectdrapes.com)



## Green Friday—"Population and food security in the Sahel"

**Fri., Jan. 9,** doors open at 7 pm, program 7:30-9:30 pm, Bay Chapter office, 2530 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley.

Our January speaker is Alisha Graves, MPH, of the OASIS Initiative, whose presentation is titled "Where the rubber hits the road: population and food security in the Sahel." Over the



next 30 to 40 years in the Sahel region of Africa, between 100 and 200 million people are likely to be without sustainable food supplies. Graves' presentation will discuss the challenge of population growth, the region's natural resources, and the implications for food security, with a focus on Niger. The second half of the talk will highlight what can be done to slow population growth in a human-rights framework.

Alisha Graves is the co-founder of the OA-

SIS Initiative and leads strategy, development and advocacy efforts for the project.

Refreshments will be served. \$3 donation requested. Green Friday programs feature informative speakers and discussions about the most important environmental issues of our time. All are welcome, Sierra Club members as well as non-members.

Note: there is no Green Friday meeting in Dec.; instead people are encouraged to attend the Sierra Club holiday party on Dec. 5 (see page 2 for more information).

## Learn Wilderness First Aid with the Sierra Club!

**Sat., Jan. 31-Sun., Feb. 1,** 8:30 am – 5 pm, Chapter Office, 2530 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley.

Come to an all-day class in Wilderness First Aid sponsored by the Bay Chapter Activities Committee. The class satisfies first-aid requirements for most outing leaders (confirm requirements with your section/group officers). Students have two options:

- do the one-day class on Sat. and receive the Basic Wilderness First Aid (BWFA) certification of the American Safety & Health Institute (ASHI)—\$50 for members/\$60 for non-members; or
- sign up for two days (Sat. and Sun.) for an additional \$30/\$40, and receive ASHI's higher-level Wilderness First Aid (WFA) certification. Textbook: if you already have the current WEC textbook (200 pages) and show it at the registration table, deduct \$15. The old edition (196 pages) won't do.

Basic Wilderness First Aid (one-day class) is a practical, 8-hour course that prepares you to recognize and avoid wilderness hazards, and do first aid outdoors with whatever equipment you have or can improvise. Wilderness First Aid (in 8 more hours) adds more advanced skills and role-playing scenarios.

### Registration

If you are a current Bay Chapter outing leader, register by the Tue. before the class by calling (510)848-0800 or emailing [wfa@sfbaysc.org](mailto:wfa@sfbaysc.org).

Then mail a \$30 deposit check (payable to "Sierra Club SF Bay Chapter") to:

Sierra Club  
Attn: Wilderness First Aid  
2530 San Pablo Ave., Suite I  
Berkeley, CA 94702.

This check will be returned in class, but will be cashed if you don't show up. Include your mailing address, email, phone number, and which section you lead for. Indicate if you are also attending the Sun. class; you will pay the \$30 fee for the second day in class. If you are a leader candidate or trainee, you must follow the non-leader procedure and cost for registering, as spelled out below.

If you are not a current Chapter outing leader (and all are welcome!), register with the instructor at:

Steve Donelan  
[donelan@speakeasy.net](mailto:donelan@speakeasy.net)  
P.O. Box 1227  
Berkeley, CA 94701.

Indicate if you are attending the Sun. class. Include your membership number. Be prepared to pay the fee in class.

People who have taken Steve Donelan's one-day class in the last three years can sign up for the second day only, for \$30/\$40. Those who have taken Steve's two-day class can repeat the second day for free. Pre-register with Steve at the email address listed above.

## East Bay Dinners explore our great national treasures

East Bay Dinners take place at the Berkeley Yacht Club at the Berkeley Marina. Evenings begin with a no-host social hour at 6 pm, followed by dinner at 7 pm, and the program at 8 pm.

### Thu., Jan. 22—"Glacier National Park, the crown of the continent"

In 1995, Susanna Van Leuven went to Glacier National Park and quickly fell in love with it. For the next five years she went back, each time going farther and farther into the interior to see, and photograph, wide expanses of mountains and valleys that took her breath away.

Join Susanna and Stuart Van Leuven in sharing the wonders of this great park, from Upper Two Medicine to Goat Haunt, from Angel Pond to Polebridge to Bowman Lake, to the shores of a hidden pond where Susanna woke to see a moose grazing on water lilies. Stuart and Susanna also canoed the North Fork of the Flathead River where the stones under the water looked like jewels but the road to the put-in point destroyed cars with great regularity.

### Thu., Dec. 4—"Touring the great national parks of the west"

Join us for a breathtaking tour of some of the great national parks in the western United

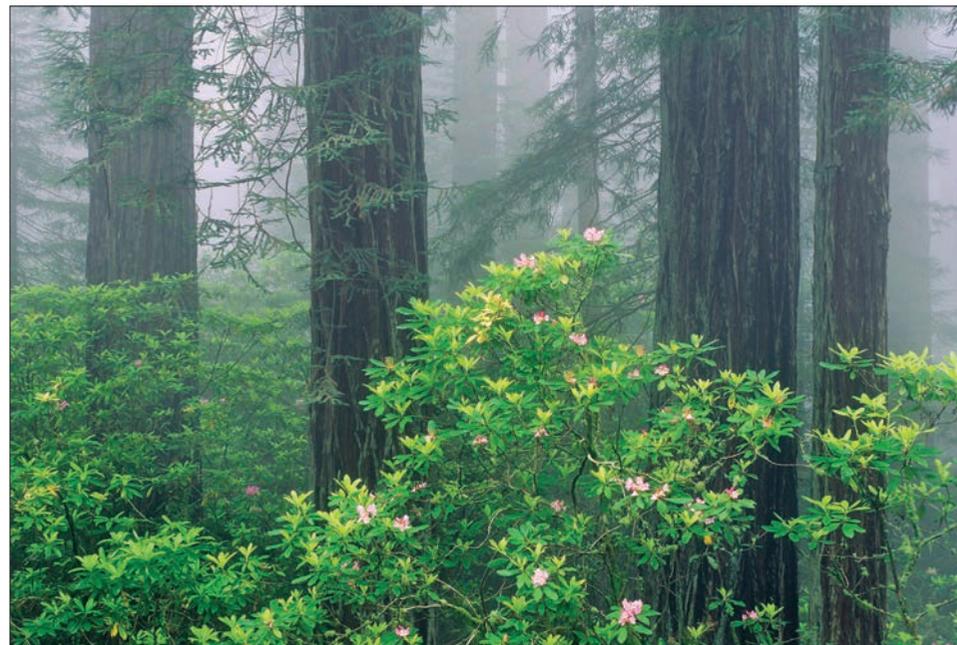
States. Our guide and speaker is professional landscape and travel photographer, Gary Crabbe. This will be a chance to see some of the grand landscapes and intimate scenes in these parks. Gary will also show us some of the more intimate scenes. Gary's photos will remind us that we live close to some of the most magnificent scenery in the world. To see Gary's work, visit his website at <http://enlightphoto.com>.

### Registration

Cost of dinner and program is \$27, including tax and tip. For a reservation, please send your check, payable to "Sierra Club," with your name, telephone number, and the names of your guests, to:

Jane Barrett  
170 Vicente Road  
Berkeley, CA 94705  
(510)845-8055

Attendance is limited to the first 115 reservations received for each program. Reserve early, as these programs do fill up. Reservation deadline for the Jan. program is Jan. 12. Reservation deadline for the Dec. program is Nov. 24. There is no admittance for program only.



Photograph by Gary Crabbe, who will present his work at the Dec. 4 East Bay Dinner.

## Delta Group

The next Delta Group general meeting is scheduled for Feb. Delta Group meetings are usually held at the Antioch Library in Feb., May, Sept. and Nov., unless otherwise noted.

A newsletter listing Delta Group programs, outings, and activities is available by \$5 subscription. To receive the newsletter, send a \$5 check made out to "Sierra Club Delta Group" to:

Janess Hanson  
431 Levee Road  
Bay Point, CA 94565.

For information about Delta Group activi-

ties, call Janess Hanson at (925)458-0860. For information about Delta-area environmental concerns, call Tim Donahue at (925)754-8801.

### Upcoming hikes and activities:

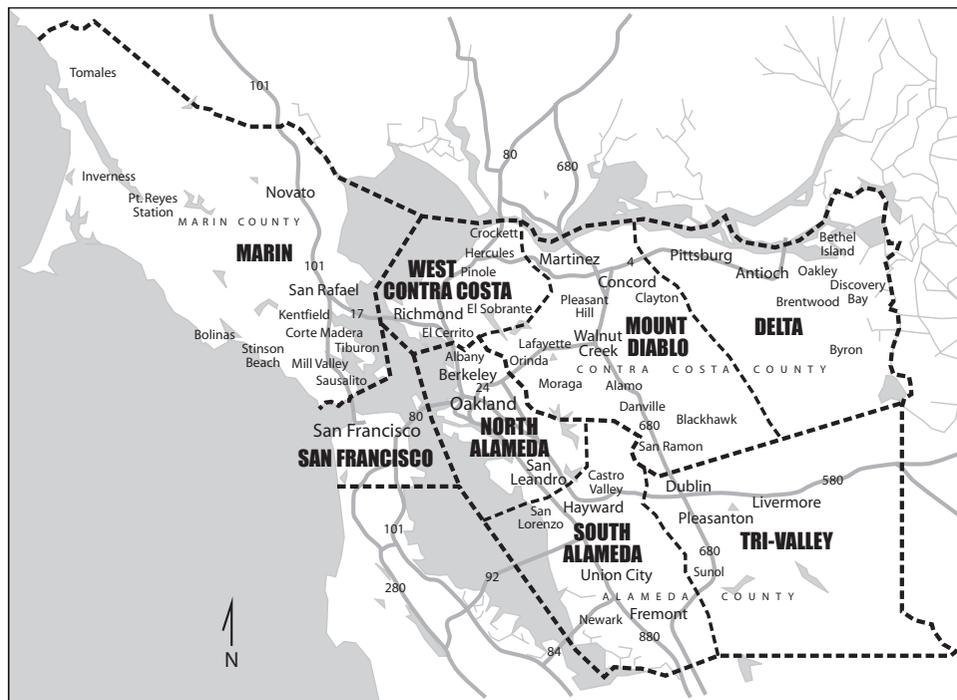
- **Sun., Dec. 13,** Martinez Regional Shoreline, 1A sunset walk
- **Sun., Jan. 18,** Martinez to Port Costa, 2A walk
- **Sat., Jan. 31,** Sacramento Valley and Delta bird-watching Safari

Read more about these activities, and more, in the Activities calendar on pages 5-7.

# Groups

## What is a group?

Because Sierra Club chapters cover so much territory, they form local sub-units called “groups” (or sometimes “regional groups”). The San Francisco Bay Chapter is divided into eight groups. Groups address environmental issues that fall within their boundaries. They may also sponsor outings and other activities. These events are open to everyone; you don’t need to be a group member to participate.



## Mount Diablo Group— “Alaskan Adventure”

**Wed., Jan. 14,** 7 pm, Ygnacio Valley Library, 2661 Oak Grove Road, Walnut Creek.

Join us at our next meeting for an Alaska adventure as seen through the eyes and lens of botanist, photographer, and author Yulan Tong. Yulan’s presentation will feature photos of the Inland Passage, Denali, Katmai, Glacier Bay National Park, and more.

For Yulan, Alaska is a land of surprises and contradictions. She witnessed native peoples building traditional totems, yet traveling around by airplane. She saw fishermen sending their catches to both rustic smoke houses and modern canneries. Yulan was impressed by the contrast of small, slow-growing trees in a land of fast-growing giant cabbages. She’ll tell us of her canoe trip that required a quick detour because of fighting bears.

Upon retiring after 30 years as a chemist, Yulan Tong took up nature photography, with a special interest in wildflowers. She has published a book of California wildflowers, “Lilies of the Field”. She also contributed photos for the Mount Diablo Interpretive Association botanical guide “Mount Diablo Wildflowers”.

Everyone is welcome and no reservations are necessary. If you have questions, contact Ken Lavin at [ken\\_lavin@hotmail.com](mailto:ken_lavin@hotmail.com) or (925)852-8778.

## Conservation Committee—Development discussion and walk in the MLK, Jr. Regional Shoreline Park



Willets at Arrowhead Marsh. Photo via Flickr Creative Commons, flickr.com/taylor.

**Sun., Dec. 7,** 9:30 am. Join the Bay Chapter’s Conservation Committee for a leisurely, three-mile hike on paved, level paths along Oakland’s San Leandro Bay shoreline, starting at Arrowhead Marsh in the Martin Luther King, Jr. Regional Shoreline Park.

San Leandro Bay is one of the Central Bay’s most glorious bodies of water. We’ll enjoy great views, see thousands of water birds and shorebirds, and hopefully spot a few endangered species. Along the way, we’ll see some of the region’s most successful wetland-restoration

## San Francisco Dinner—“Nellie’s World Cup fútbol tour”

**Thu., Jan. 15,** social hour 6 pm, dinner 7 pm, program 8 pm. Note new temporary location: Covenant Presbyterian Church, 321 Taraval St., San Francisco, between Funston and 14th Ave. Take Muni L or 28. Limited parking available at the church lot at the white parking guards one-half block east on Taraval, for \$1.50 per car, payable at the church check-in.

In Jan. 2014, Ben Oude Kamphuis set out from San Francisco in his ’55 converted Chevy pick-up, “Nellie,” to drive to the World Cup in São Paulo, Brazil. Join Ben and Nellie on their 15,000-mile journey to the World Cup, stopping along the way in cities, towns, and schools to bring smiles and goodwill to their handicapped friends.

For the past 21 years, Ben has been working for the San Francisco Department of Parks and

Recreation, where he established an organic therapeutic garden for the disabled. Ben grew up on farmland in the Netherlands, and first began working with disabled children in Holland.

To reserve your place, send a check for \$20 (note new price) made out to “Sierra Club, S.F. Bay Chapter” to:

Gerry Souzis  
1801 California St., #405  
San Francisco, CA 94109

Checks must be received by Fri., Jan. 9. Please indicate the program date, number of guests, your phone number, and if you are a vegetarian. Non-members are welcome. Bring your own wine or soft drinks. Glasses and ice are available.

Questions? Contact Gerry between 4 and 9 pm at (415)474-4440 or [gsouzis@hotmail.com](mailto:gsouzis@hotmail.com). No morning calls please.



Nellie and Ben en route. Photo by Ben Oude Kamphuis.

projects. We’ll also walk the site of the Bay Area’s first major development proposal for lands that will likely be under water by 2100.

As we explore land likely to disappear under sea-level rise, we will reflect on the impact of development and climate disruption to species that depend upon tidal marshes; explore new proposals to preserve the Bay’s remaining wetlands; and consider whether

it is appropriate to build in areas threatened by sea-level rise.

The proposed Oakland Coliseum Area development would be an enormous (780-acre) project, described in the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) this way: “Overall, this proposed Project would create three new sports venues, 5,750 housing units, and almost 8 million square feet of net new commercial and business uses. The Coliseum Area would have around 7,000 residents... by the time of project Buildout in... 2035”.

How does the DEIR address expected sea-level rise? It suggests that buildings have car garages on the first floor with businesses and housing on the second floor “to allow sea level rise to impact uninhabited parking structures rather than dwelling units.” Perhaps the idea is that as sea level rises and the garages flood everyone will take to boats. Another solution proposed by the DEIR is to have all essential infrastructure built above the anticipated sea level, 3 to 6 feet in the air. The image brought to mind is of elevated roads surrounding lower blocks of housing and businesses (with the garages now flooded) like a gigantic waffle.

The DEIR does acknowledge that something would need to be done to avoid catastrophe for the 7,000 residents whose homes would be underwater. Perhaps, it suggests, a massive levee will be required along the entire length of the bay shoreline? We won’t go into the costs or headaches of the DEIR’s strikingly inadequate proposals here. Suffice to say that such short-sighted plans only punt, abdicating responsibility for the consequences of their actions to future generations and shifting the burden of response to relevant regional agencies.

We will ponder these questions and more, while enjoying a spectacular—and endangered—natural area. Join us! For more details, visit the Bay Chapter activities calendar at [www.sfbay.sierraclub.org/activities](http://www.sfbay.sierraclub.org/activities).



## Travel & Resorts

**Baja's Frontier Tours**  
Handcrafted Learning Vacations

Baja: Since 1966

**The Best of Baja 2015**  
JAN 30 - FEB 7 & FEB 20-28

Curious Baby Gray Whale

*Here's Looking at You, Kid!*  
Great Learning! Small Group!

**Hopi, Chaco, Mesa Verde**

Piet & Mary: 1-520-887-2340  
[www.bajasfrontiertours.com](http://www.bajasfrontiertours.com)  
[piet@bajasfrontiertours.com](mailto:piet@bajasfrontiertours.com)

**Gold Lake Lodge**  
At the crest of the Sierra Nevadas

**Hiking - Fishing  
Horseback Riding  
Swimming - Boating  
Photography**

Meals and Lodging Since 1912

530-836-2350  
[goldlakelodge.com](http://goldlakelodge.com)

★ ☆ ★ ☆ ★ ☆ ★ ☆ ★ ☆

★ where the stars  
put on a grand performance ★  
★ every night ☆

★ ☆ ★ ☆ ★ ☆ ★ ☆ ★ ☆

**Sorensen's Resort** ★  
in beautiful Hope Valley, California  
1-800-423-9949 [www.sorensensresort.com](http://www.sorensensresort.com)

## The threat to Alameda's harbor seals

authorization permit—apply additional mitigation measures to the project to compensate for the loss of harbor seal habitat. Given the geography of the Alameda Point Channel and Inner Harbor, the addition of a new haul-out dock nearby, possibly an anchored floating dock, should be evaluated as a mitigation measure to help retain the colony of harbor seals that find respite along Alameda Point's shore.

It is unknown when NMFS will issue a finding on WETA's petition application to move forward with its ferry project. NMFS could also call for going from an Environmental Assessment to an Environmental Impact Statement, which would undoubtedly involve a full-blown study of harbor seals at Alameda Point.

Before the project can begin, WETA will need a construction permit from the Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC). It is unknown when they will apply for that permit, but likely after NMFS issues a decision on the harassment permit—probably early next year. BCDC can also require

mitigation as a condition of issuing a permit.

### What You Can Do

Add your name to the petition asking WETA not to harass and displace the seals at <http://tinyurl.com/SaveAlamedaSeals>. For more information or to get more involved, contact Richard Bangert at [alamedaptenviro-2013@yahoo.com](mailto:alamedaptenviro-2013@yahoo.com). Look for future alerts calling on the BCDC to protect these precious marine mammals.



**GEOGRAPHIC EXPEDITIONS**



**SMALL GROUP  
&  
PRIVATE JOURNEYS**

To The World's  
Most Beguiling  
Destinations

.....

Call for our  
award-winning  
catalog ~

1.800.777.8183  
[GeoEx.com](http://GeoEx.com)

## Walk to learn about forest-fire mitigation in the East Bay hills

Sat., Dec. 6, 10 am-5 pm. Ever wanted to know why there aren't more fires in our hills, especially during a drought? Join outings leader Ben Alvers for an educational hike on forest-fire mitigation in the East Bay hills. EBMUD Ranger Mark Silva and UC Berkeley facilities planner Tom Klatt will instruct us on their respective institutions' strategies to avoid another firestorm like the one that ravaged 1,520 acres and destroyed nearly 4,000 homes in 1991.

Our route will take us along the border between the EBMUD and UC Berkeley watersheds then back along the Sibley ridge line, where we can enjoy (weather allowing) beautiful views of San Francisco, Mount Tamalpais, and Mount Diablo.

Meet at 10 am sharp in the Sibley Volcanic Regional Preserve parking lot. Eat a large breakfast because lunch will be later on the route. Total distance will be about 10 miles, although there is an early opt-out for those who want a shorter hike (7 miles, and less elevation). This event has been organized by the Bay Chapter's Conservation Committee, and is free and open to the public. Learn more at [www.sfbay.sierraclub.org/activities](http://www.sfbay.sierraclub.org/activities).

## In our Faustian bargain with fossil fuels, when will we pay the price?

A historical view of our fight against fracking—and a call to action

As many of us have experienced in life, transitions can be joyous or difficult—or both. I remember as if it were yesterday the day I earned my driver's license, and the sense of freedom I had when I borrowed my mother's car. I didn't have a clue back then that I was contributing to global warming and oil wars, or that I had a "high carbon footprint." None of those terms even existed back then.

Fracking is only the latest insult to the planet. Each of our energy transitions have entailed assaults on nature: from horse power (manure in urban streets carried diseases) to steam power (deforestation) to kerosene lighting (crude oil was dumped into rivers as a byproduct) to coal mining (miners' health was endangered and lifetimes were shortened) to hydroelectric power (destroying fisheries, wetlands, and other ecosystems) to the internal combustion engine (air pollution) to nuclear power (think Fukushima). Isn't it time to get away from polluting fuels and move to renewable energy? How can we make the transition easier and more likely?

The Chapter's Don't Frack CA Team tackles these questions and more, and works to ensure a frack-free future for the Bay Area and beyond. We will take a close look at the three fracking bans on the ballot this November and discuss what worked and what didn't where



those bans were successfully implemented (in Mendocino and San Benito counties) and where they weren't (in Santa Barbara County). Please join us in the conversation and help us build our grassroots base!

The group meets the third Tue. of each month at the Chapter office, 2530 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. Note that in Dec. we are meeting on Tue., Dec. 9 because of the holidays, then back to Jan. We have a lot of fun at our meetings, in addition to learning. Contact Aria Cahir at [dontfrackcal@gmail.com](mailto:dontfrackcal@gmail.com) for more information.

Aria Cahir, Chair, Bay Chapter Don't Frack CA Team  
Twitter @DontFrackCal

## 2014 Election Roundup

Find all of the Sierra Club's local endorsement results at [sfbay.sierraclub.org/endorsements](http://sfbay.sierraclub.org/endorsements).

### Taking down Goliath in Richmond—Progressive Team Richmond defies Chevron's millions to sweep elections

With checks on political spending falling away left and right, the strength of our democracy was tested this election cycle. But voters proved that democracy is alive and well in Richmond. Chevron—whose 3,000-acre refinery in the town is the state's largest greenhouse-gas emitter—spent close to 4 million dollars on political ads with the goal of packing the city council and mayor's office with industry-friendly candidates. Avalanches of mailers, television spots, web ads, billboards, and canvassers targeted local progressive candidates who promised to hold Chevron accountable, and forced Richmond residents to endure one of the nastiest political smear campaigns

in history. Despite negative reactions from the community, Chevron kept the lies flowing all the way to the end of Election Day.

The Bay Chapter endorsed a slate of progressive city council candidates who banded together as "Team Richmond": termed-out mayor **Gayle McLaughlin**, Vice Mayor **Jovanka Beckles**, and Planning Commissioner **Eduardo Martinez**. Martinez is a member of the Bay Chapter's West Contra Costa County Executive Committee. The Club also endorsed **Jael Myrick** for a two-year term city council seat and **Tom Butt** for mayor.

Sierra Club members and supporters joined in the grassroots efforts to help Team Rich-

mond defeat the corporate-backed candidates. We made phone calls, walked precincts, passed out slate cards, and put in as many hours as we could. And the hard work paid off: all five Sierra Club-endorsed candidates won, with McLaughlin, Beckles, and Martinez coming in first, second, and third place respectively; Myrick receiving 52% of the vote, with his closest competitor (Corky Booze) garnering only 31%; and Mayor-elect Butt taking 51% of the vote, with Chevron-backed Nat Bates coming a distant second with 35% of the vote.

Chevron's campaign of lies only made Team Richmond stronger, helping to attract a loyal volunteer base that wanted a local government that would provide responsible oversight for the refinery's 1-billion-dollar modernization project; aggressively pursue a lawsuit against the oil giant over the 2012 refinery fire; and generally provide strong oversight. Sierra Club member Victoria Stewart exemplified the passion of Team Richmond supporters, volunteering to knock on doors despite being in chemotherapy.

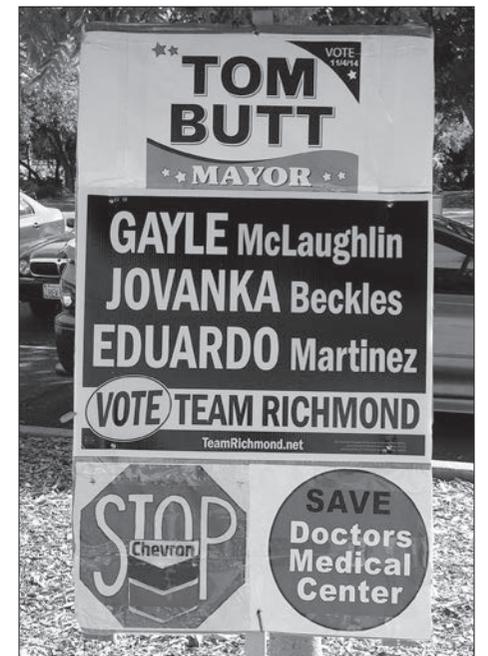
Richmond's neighborhoods are disproportionately affected by the fossil fuel industry. The entire city lies in the blast zone of a potential oil-train explosion; our children breathe in the toxic emissions from the refinery; and our neighbors suffer the consequences when lax safety standards cause fires and other refinery accidents. Our newly-elected city government understands these threats and will work to correct them. Just a few weeks before the election, Mayor McLaughlin brought a resolution to the city council to formally denounce crude by rail

and call upon the Bay Area Air Quality Management District to revoke Kinder Morgan's permit for shipping highly explosive and toxic Bakken Shale oil into Richmond—a permit that was issued in secrecy. That same night, the candidates made stopping bomb trains and all fossil fuels by rail a priority cause. On election night, Richmond's voters delivered five strong allies in the fight to turn away from our dependence on fossil fuels, and toward a safe and secure clean-energy future.

Ratha Lai



Sierra Club volunteers, including Deputy Executive Director Bruce Hamilton (center) at Team Richmond headquarters on Election Day.



Team Richmond sign at a polling place on Election Day.

### East Bay voters deliver stunning open-space victories at the ballot box in November

Enemies of suburban sprawl scored major victories for open space on Election Day, defeating two developer-backed initiatives in Alameda County in what the *Contra Costa Times* called "a defining moment for slow growth advocates."

#### Dublin voters reject Measure T by 4:1; protect Doolan Canyon

In a stunning endorsement of open space protection, 84% of voters in Dublin (in eastern Alameda County) rejected a developer-sponsored initiative to break their new urban growth boundary and authorize urban sprawl in rural Doolan Canyon without further voter approval (see "Fate of Doolan Canyon hangs on competing ballot initiatives" in the Aug.-Sept., 2014 Yodeler, <http://theyodeler.org/?s=doolan>). Developer Pacific Union Land Company had spent over \$160,000 to place Measure T on the ballot but failed miserably to find public support.

Earlier in the year, a coalition of local residents and environmental organizations including the Sierra Club wrote and

qualified an open-space initiative to enact an urban-growth boundary on Dublin's east side. In June, the city council unanimously adopted the initiative, thereby thwarting Pacific Union's strategy of running a confusion campaign with two similar-sounding land-use measures on the Nov. ballot.

Measure T, formally titled the Let Dublin Decide Initiative, was billed as a way for Dublin to exert local control over unincorporated Doolan Canyon and prevent nearby Livermore from annexing and developing the area. But voters saw through that ploy. Measure T would have expanded Dublin's new growth boundary by 2.5 square miles, over the exact same area where Pacific Union had previously proposed a 1,990-unit housing development.

Doolan Canyon is a rural valley of rolling hills and grasslands now used for ranching, a dozen rural homesteads, and an equestrian center. It is habitat for numerous rare and special status species including the California red-legged frog, California tiger salamander, Golden eagle, Western burrowing owl, Con-

gdon's tarplant, and more.

With the overwhelming margin by which Dublin voters defended their urban-growth boundary, and with voter-approved urban-growth boundaries in place around Livermore, Pleasanton, and Alameda County, developers will think long and hard before proposing new sprawl developments in Alameda County's Tri-Valley area.

Dick Schneider

#### Measure KK defeated in Union City

With the endorsement of the Sierra Club and other state and local environmental organizations, the Save Our Hills Committee in Union City earned a smashing victory on Nov. 4 with the defeat of Measure KK, the Flatlands Development Initiative. The measure was soundly defeated, with voters casting 5,296 (65.14%) "no" votes to a meager 2,834 (34.68%) "yes" votes. This victory ensures that the 63 acres of flatlands to the northeast of Mission Blvd. and the undeveloped hills to the east of the flatlands will remain as open space.

In 1996, the Sierra Club-endorsed Measure II—which codified the Union City Hillside Area Plan and protected 6,100 acres of open space—passed with approximately 65% of the vote. That measure required that any changes to the Plan would have to go before the voters; Measure KK was the first attack on the 53 policies in Measure II.

The proponents of the Flatlands Development Initiative (the Masonic Homes of California) spent about \$610,000 in their failed campaign. A major theme of their misleading messaging was a ruse to "Protect the Hills." This disingenuous slogan was designed to get voters to cast a "yes" vote. The Save Our Hills Committee's message was to "Save Our Hills." Given the likelihood that many voters may in fact have been confused as to what a "yes" vote meant, the percentage of voters who do not want new development on the Union City hills and flatlands is probably even higher than the 65% who correctly cast a vote for open space.

Bob Garfinkle

## 2014 Election Roundup

Find all of the Sierra Club's local endorsement results at [sfbay.sierraclub.org/endorsements](http://sfbay.sierraclub.org/endorsements).

## East Bay an “oasis of progress” in an otherwise difficult election year

Though there were some heartbreaking losses, the story in Northern Alameda County is generally one of success. We are blessed with a deep bench of decent candidates to choose from, and overall we are very pleased and excited to have seen so many of the Sierra Club-endorsed candidates win their respective races. We learned once again that hard work, grassroots organizing, and the Sierra Club's coveted seal of approval have a strong influence on the outcome of any election.

As so many races in this election showed, a candidate can win with only a fraction of registered voters participating in the process and with as little as a single-vote lead. So vote, Americans, vote! So many people in the world are denied this right.

Here's a city-by-city look at some of the most notable races in Northern Alameda County.

## Alameda

There are numerous environmental battles ongoing in the City of Alameda, and our local Sierra Club activists worked hard to elect representatives who are solid and reliable on environmental issues. In this case, hard work and a well-deserved Sierra Club endorsement guaranteed an endorsed candidate's victory: we are happy to welcome **Frank Matarrese** to the city council. And though we did not endorse another city council newcomer, **Jim Oddie**, we look forward to working with him as well.

**Trish Spencer** entered the race for mayor close to the deadline and was not endorsed by the Club, but local and group activists have high hopes for her as an environmental ally.

## Albany

Sometimes good things just happen. Because there were only as many candidates as there were available seats, Albany did not have a formal election. Two of our endorsed candidates—**Nick Pilch**, who serves on the Bay Chapter Executive Committee, and appointed incumbent **Rochelle Nason**—will start their first full terms next month.

## Berkeley

In District 1, Sierra Club-endorsed incumbent councilmember **Linda Maio** won in a race against another great progressive candidate. No voting record is perfect and Linda was accused by some of not voting correctly on mercury issues. Despite this, the Sierra Club was convinced that her overall environmental record was very strong—not only on local issues but also on issues of state and federal importance, like transport of crude oil by rail. Linda not only sponsored Berkeley's resolution opposing crude by rail, but also brought this issue to the attention of the League of California Cities, which prompted the creation of a working group to provide recom-



Enjoying the sunset at the Berkeley Rose Garden. Passage of Berkeley Measure F will ensure parks like the Rose Garden will be properly maintained. Photo via Flickr CC, flickr.com/parksdh.

mendations to the federal government. She also led the California delegation in Washington, DC to press the Department of Transportation to more effectively regulate the railroads.

In District 7, we were glad to see endorsed incumbent **Kriss Worthington** retain his seat on the council in a tough race in a dramatically reconfigured district.

Our endorsed candidate in District 8, **George Beier**, lost by only 16 votes to **Lori Droste**. We are optimistic about building a robust working relationship with Droste.

We also celebrated the wins of both of our endorsed ballot measures in Berkeley, both of which passed overwhelmingly. **Measure F**, a special parks tax, will ensure the beautification and maintenance of Berkeley's many incredible parks. **Measure Q** is an advisory measure that calls on the city council to adopt an ordinance to give Berkeley employees the right to request part-time or flexible work arrangements (academic research has shown that shorter work time reduces ecological footprint and carbon emissions).

## Emeryville

The Emeryville City Council gained two excellent representatives in **Dianne Martinez** and **Scott Donahue**. These two newly-elected officials entered the race as running mates with shared values for preserving open space, creating affordable housing, and improving bike, pedestrian, and transit access throughout the city. It is crucial to have environmentally-conscientious elected officials representing our coastal cities and we are delighted to have Dianne and Scott representing Emeryville.

## Oakland

Oakland had some of the most spectacular wins in the whole Bay Area. The most contentious and crucial race in Oak-

land for the Club was for the city council District 4 seat. Despite some deceptive tactics by her opponent (who printed the Sierra Club logo and the words “proud supporting member of the Sierra Club” next to her endorsements on campaign materials), the true Sierra Club-endorsed candidate, **Annie Campbell Washington**, won

the election by a landslide.

It is worth noting that **Shereda Nosakhare**, our endorsed candidate for Oakland City Council District 6, lost narrowly (by less than 500 votes!) to long-time incumbent **Desley Brooks**. During the endorsement process Shereda demonstrated knowledge and commitment to environmental values, and she would have been a great representative for Oaklanders. We encourage her to run again. We do, however, also hope to develop a stronger working relationship with Councilmember Brooks.

While the Club did not make an endorsement in the mayor's race, many Sierra Club leaders were disappointed about the loss of Mayor **Jean Quan**, who in her four years in office had many impressive environmental ac-

complishments to her name. We congratulate Mayor-elect **Libby Schaaf**—whom we had endorsed four years ago for her city council seat—and have high hopes that we will be able to work well with her.

## San Leandro

In San Leandro, two Sierra Club-endorsed candidates won: **Pauline Cutter** for mayor, and **Corina Lopez** for San Leandro City Council District 5. Sierra Club activists were impressed with the overall environmental commitment of both candidates, particularly with regard to their commitment to affordable housing built close to public transit; and a Complete Streets approach that calls for investing in sidewalk- and bicycle-path expansion alongside road repair and maintenance.

We look forward to working with both Cutter and Lopez, as well as with the other newly-elected councilmembers, **Deborah Cox** and **Lee Thomas**, and are hopeful for a new pro-environment majority on the San Leandro City Council.

## Special districts

In other election news, Sierra Club-endorsed incumbent **Robert Raburn** retained his seat on the BART Board, despite labor opposition. With **Nick Josefowitz's** win in District 8, the BART Board has become even more amenable to Sierra Club concerns.

One final victory to note was the election of **Marguerite Young** to the East Bay Municipal Utility District Board of Directors. As with the BART board, Marguerite's election to the EBMUD board has created an environmental progressive majority, which will make it easier to pass water-conservation measures and protect the Mokelumne River.

Finally, **Measure BB**, which will restore much-needed bus service and invest unprecedented sums of money into bicycle and pedestrian improvements, passed in Alameda County with over 70% of the vote. The Sierra Club's endorsement and efforts to promote it were critical to its success.

Olga Bolotina and Igor Tregub

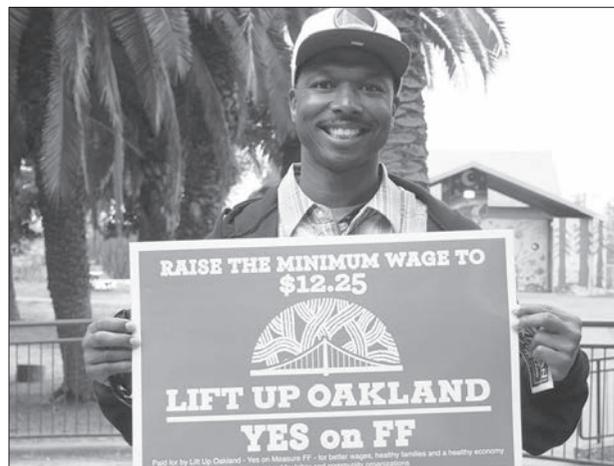


Photo courtesy of Shira Bezalel via Lift Up Oakland

## 2014 Election Roundup

Find all of the Sierra Club's local endorsement results at [sfbay.sierraclub.org/endorsements](http://sfbay.sierraclub.org/endorsements).

### Finding the good news in San Francisco's election results

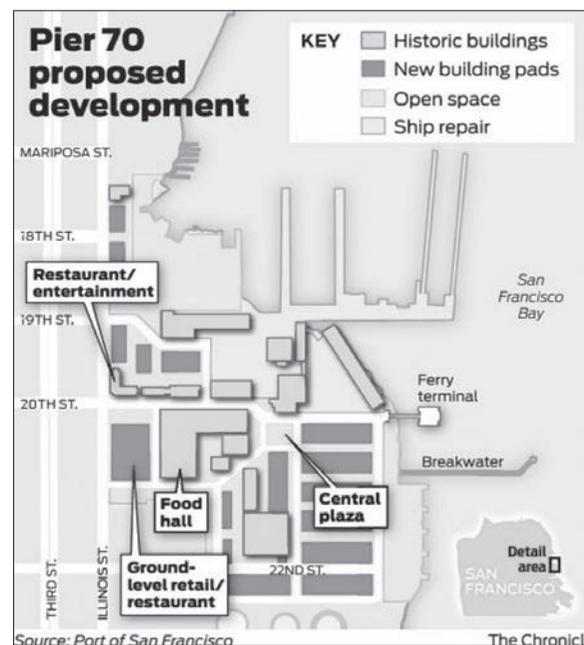
Sierra Club members in San Francisco had reason to feel unhappy about the election results; several of our priority races didn't go our way. But we will learn all the lessons we can from these losses—and we shouldn't forget the important victories we did rack up!

#### First the bad news

With ballots still being counted, Supervisor **David Campos** conceded in his race to represent District 17 in the State Assembly. The winner, who will replace outgoing Assemblymember Tom Ammiano, is **David Chiu**, the current President of the Board of Supervisors (fun fact: both Davids are 44-year-old Harvard Law School graduates). Although he lost, Campos ran one of the best field campaigns in the city's history, with over 500 volunteers working to get out the vote on election day. Campos went into the race as the underdog and exceeded expectations by earning 48.8% of the vote to Chiu's 51.2%. The Sierra Club looks forward to Campos continuing his leadership on the Metropolitan Transportation Commission and in advocating for clean-energy solutions—particularly the CleanPowerSF program—on the Board of Supervisors. The election results now give way to two questions: who will Mayor Lee ap-

the next four years.

In other disappointing news, the Yes on H and No on I campaigns did not go the way the Sierra Club had wished. **Proposition H**, the initiative that proposed to keep seven acres of soccer fields as natural grass and prevent the installation of 60-foot stadium nightlights, failed to pass. And unfortunately, **Proposition I**—a competing "Poison Pill" measure, little more than a Parks Department power grab—did pass. The very morning after the election, the S.F. Recreation and Park Department chained off Golden Gate Park's Beach Chalet fields and began cutting down trees and demolishing the bucolic fields. In the days that followed, local activist Kathleen McCowin was arrested for her part in a sit-in that blocked work trucks from accessing the site (she spent the night in jail and was released without charge the following day). But not all is lost! The Sierra Club lawsuit against the environmental impact report for the contested Beach Chalet project is now in the appeals process. If the Sierra Club prevails, a new EIR



community-supported infill measure because 600 units (or 30 percent) of all new housing will be affordable and in close proximity to the T-Third transit line.

The Sierra Club was also happy to see the failure of **Proposition L**, a policy measure that sought to reverse San Francisco's decades-old "Transit First" policy and establish a "Cars First" policy. The initiative lost by a wide margin, garnering only 37 percent of the vote. The proponents, supported by \$40,000 from Silicon Valley entrepreneur Sean Parker, called for municipal garages in every neighborhood and permanent bans on the operation of parking meters on Sundays and holidays. The Club is thrilled that San Franciscans have embraced a safe and healthy multimodal transit system and rejected a message of increased congestion and degraded air quality.

Meanwhile, the two transportation funding measures endorsed by the Sierra Club passed. The Mayor's \$500-million bond, **Proposition A**, will go a long way toward addressing the \$10 billion in crucial infrastructure projects needed over the next fifteen years, although the measure was not accompanied by a spending plan. **Proposition B**, authored by Supervisor Scott Wiener, dictates increases in the Muni budget as the population increases.

Another big transportation victory was the

election of **Nick Josefowitz** to BART District 8, dislodging longtime director James Fang. BART faces massive deferred maintenance costs and the percentage of renewables in BART's power supply has dropped from 100% in 1996 to 56% today. A forward-looking director like Josefowitz will seek solutions—not the status quo.

In other good news, **John Rizzo** was re-elected to the Community College Board. The future of City College of San Francisco is still up in the air; its status is before a Superior Court judge in San Francisco, but trustees are hopeful that they will be re-instated sometime in 2015.

The Sierra Club supports measures to increase affordable housing and raising the minimum wage, because when people can afford to live near where they work—particularly in transit-rich, walkable, urban areas like San Francisco—there is an aggregate reduction of sprawl and greenhouse-gas emissions. **Jane Kim**, who has been an advocate for affordable housing, handily won her bid for re-election to the Board of Supervisors in District 6. **Proposition J**, which will raise the minimum wage to \$15 an hour by 2018 and thereafter increase hourly wages based on inflation, won handily, with over 77 percent of the vote. Unfortunately, **Proposition G**, the measure to place a hefty transfer tax on some residential properties sold within five years of purchase, lost 54 percent to 46 percent. Prop. G would have served as deterrent to the purchase of residential buildings, eviction of tenants, and quick sale of highly lucrative empty buildings. We hope the proposition will be back on the ballot soon.

Becky Evans and Sue Vaughan



point as Chiu's District 3 successor, and who will the Board of Supervisors choose as their next President?

**Tony Kelly**, who ran on a platform of independence from the mayor's office and giving the neighborhood a voice in City Hall, also came in second in his race to represent San Francisco's District 10 on the Board of Supervisors. With his loss, self-identified progressives failed to take a back seat considered crucial for advancing environmental issues. The Sierra Club hopes to work more closely with incumbent Supervisor Malia Cohen in

will have to be completed. Park advocates would then have an opportunity to demand environmental improvements to the project.

#### And now for the good news!

**Proposition F**, a developer proposal to raise height limits at Pier 70 to 90 feet (the height of the tallest building currently at the site), and construct residential housing and parkland, passed. The project will protect artist studios currently at the site and otherwise put to good use an underutilized part of the city. The Sierra Club supported this



# Winter is coming!



**BACK COUNTRY SKI GEAR  
SOLD AND RENTED HERE**



**FALL HOURS**

**THURSDAY & FRIDAY**  
11AM to 7PM

**SATURDAY & SUNDAY**  
10AM to 6PM

843 Gilman Street • Berkeley, CA 94710

**510-527-6411**

[www.californiaski.com](http://www.californiaski.com)

**Black Diamond**



## Celebrating the California Desert Protection Act, 20 years on

**October 31, 1994!** Why is that date special for California and the nation?

Sure, it was Halloween, but that happens every year. Twenty years ago, rather than ghosts or pumpkins, the highlight of the day was President Bill Clinton's signing of the California Desert Protection Act, the largest single land-conservation measure ever to be enacted by the U.S. Congress for the lower 48 states.

Soon after then-Senator Alan Cranston introduced the bill into the U.S. Senate early in 1986, the San Francisco Bay Chapter began to play a leading role in advocating for this monumental legislation. The bill established 68 new Bureau of Land Management wilderness areas in the California Desert, established the new Mojave National Preserve, and expanded both Death Valley and Joshua Tree National Monuments and upgraded their status to national parks.

Previous desert activism had been concentrated in southern California, closer to the desert, which comprises fully one quarter of California's land area. But Bay Area activists realized that in order to pass such a large land-preservation bill, all of California must offer support. The Bay Chapter's Wilderness Committee persuaded the Sierra Club California/Nevada Regional Conservation Committee to establish a northern California Desert Task Force and began advocating for the bill. Their efforts took a number of forms.

County resolutions endorsing the bill proved to be a significant tool. In time, each of the Chapter's four counties passed a

resolution, led by local activists. Overall, 14 California counties (out of 58) endorsed the desert bill. While this may seem like a small minority, these were the counties with big urban populations, meaning that desert advocates could claim the support of 75 percent of California's population.

In order to get people acquainted with the places we were fighting for, the Chapter led

Trip leader Vicky Hoover will take sign-ups beginning in January. For more information, call Vicky at (415)977-5527, or email at [vicky.hoover@sierraclub.org](mailto:vicky.hoover@sierraclub.org); the trip write-up appears in the Dec., 2014 issue of the wilderness newsletter Words of the Wild; contact Vicky to be added to the electronic subscription list.

Twenty years after the passage of the California Desert Protection Act, it is time



The Old Woman Mountains Wilderness in 1992, before the passage of the California Desert Protection Act.

outings to some of the desert areas slated to receive protection. The Bay Chapter "adopted" three desert Wilderness Study Areas in the bill and designed a series of trips there. Numerous Chapter volunteers got their introduction to the beauties of the remote California desert through these trips.

Other strategies in the desert protection campaign included: helping run national phone banks at key moments in the congressional battle to get Sierra Club members in other states to contact their legislators; keeping northern California activists updated on events via regular meetings of the northern California Desert Task Force; taking part in several volunteer wilderness lobby weeks in Washington, DC to educate congressional offices on why the desert needed protection; and informing the Club's general membership by running regular articles in the Yodeler, which were then picked up by other Chapter newsletters.

Soon after the California Desert Protection Act was signed into law, the Club's California/Nevada Regional Conservation Committee began partnering with the Needles office of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) (which had the most new desert wilderness area to manage), on a series of service trips to help the agency enhance wilderness values. This series continues to this day! The next trip with BLM, set for March 26- 29, 2015, is planned to the Old Woman Mountains.

to reflect on the accomplishment and savor, once again, the newly protected areas in the California desert.

What is the attraction of the desert in a culture more accustomed to regard the colors "green" and "blue" as emblems of scenic beauty? Activist leader Elden Hughes used to say, "You must get over the color green." That may take a while for some, but once that is accomplished the desert exerts a strong emotional pull. I know of no one who said it better than John Van Dyke, an early desert enthusiast, writing his prose poetry in 1901:

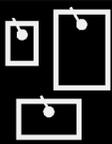
*In sublimity — the superlative degree of beauty— what land can equal the desert with its wide plains, its grim mountains, and its expanding canopy of sky! You shall never see elsewhere as here the dome, the pinnacle, the minaret fretted with golden fire at sunrise and sunset; you shall never see elsewhere as here the sunset valleys swimming in a pink and lilac haze, the great mesas and plateaus fading into blue distance, the gorges and canyons banked full of purple shadow. Never again shall you see such light and air and color; never such opaline mirage, such rosy dawn, such fiery twilight. And wherever you go, by land or by sea, you shall not forget that which you saw not but rather felt — the desolation and the silence of the desert.*

Vicky Hoover

## U.S. Postal Service Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation

1. Publication Title: The Yodeler. 2. Publication Number: 988-480. 3. Filing Date: 9/42/2014. 4. Issue Frequency: Bimonthly. 5. Number of Issues Published Annually: 6. 6. Annual Subscription Price: \$8. 8. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher (Not printer): 2530 San Pablo Ave., Suite I, Berkeley, CA 94702-200. 9. Full Names and Complete Mailing Addresses of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor: same as above. Managing Editor: Virginia Reinhart, 2530 San Pablo Ave., Suite I, Berkeley, CA 94702-200. 10. Owner: Sierra Club SF Bay Chapter, 2530 San Pablo Ave., Suite I, Berkeley, CA 94702-200. 11. Known Bondholders, Mortgagees, and Other Security Holders Owning or Holding 1 Percent or More of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages, or Other Securities: None. 12. Tax Status: Has not changed during preceding 12 months. 13. Publication Title: The Yodeler. 14. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below: Oct/Nov 2014. 15. Extent and Nature of Circulation. Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months/ No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to filing Date. a. Total Number of Copies: 24,500/24,389. b. Legitimate Paid and/or Requested Distribution (By Mail and Outside the Mail). (1) Mailed Outside-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541: 5/3. (2) Mailed

In-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541: 24,500/24,386. (3) Paid Distribution Outside the Mails Including Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, Counter Sales, and Other Paid Distribution Outside USPS@: 0/0. (4) Paid Distribution by Other Classes of Mail Through the USPS (e.g., First-Class Mail@): 0/0. c. Total Paid Distribution: 24,500/24,389. d. Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (By Mail and Outside the Mail). (1) Free or Nominal Rate Outside-County Copies included on PS Form 3541: 0/0. (2) Free or Nominal Rate In-County Copies Included on PS Form 3541: 0/0. (3) Free or Nominal Rate Copies Mailed at Other Classes Through the USPS (e.g., First-Class Mail). (4) Free or Nominal Rate Distribution Outside the Mail (Carriers or other means): 1,500/1,611. e. Total Free or Nominal Rate Distribution: 1,500/1,611. f. Total Distribution: 26,000/26,000. g. Copies not Distributed: 20/20. h. Total: 26,020/26,020. i. Percent Paid and/or Requested Circulation: 94.23%/93.80%. 16. Total circulation does not include electronic copies. 17. Publication of Statement of Ownership will be printed in the December 2015/January 2015 issue of this publication. 18. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner: Virginia Reinhart, Communications Manager. Date: 9/24/2014.



## Classifieds

For rates, procedures, and deadlines for Yodeler **classifieds**, visit <http://sfbay.sierraclub.org/classifieds>.

For information about **display ads** (boxed ads for your business or service) or a rate card, contact Yodeler editor Virginia Reinhart at (510)848-0800 or [virginia.reinhart@sierraclub.org](mailto:virginia.reinhart@sierraclub.org).

### Homes for Sale

**RUSTIC HOME** fsbo in mtns abv Calistoga. 1000sqft hs + 300' cottage. XInt water. \$485,000. For info call (510)849-8511

### Vacation Rentals

**Beautiful Serene Lakes home:** spacious, 3BR/2BA + loft/family room. All amenities. Sleeps 10. Perfect for families. Close to Royal Gorge & Sugar Bowl. Avail Thanksgiving WE @ \$300/nt, 4th nt free. [shirashore@yahoo.com](mailto:shirashore@yahoo.com) (415)752-8457

### Personals

**When drafting your will**, please consider a bequest to the San Francisco Bay Chapter. Contact Melanie Jolly at (510)848-0800, ext. 302, or: [melanie@sfbaysc.org](mailto:melanie@sfbaysc.org)

### Employment

The Bay Chapter is in need of an **advertising manager** to oversee display ads and classifieds for the Yodeler. Primary responsibilities include reaching out to new potential advertisers, contacting past advertisers to solicit ads, and managing payment and paperwork. The advertising manager receives a percentage of the ad revenue. For details, contact: [virginia.reinhart@sierraclub.org](mailto:virginia.reinhart@sierraclub.org)

**"You're our best source.** We always get the most through you."

"It really **worked!**"

**"GREAT RESPONSE** from past ads!"

*Why don't you try a Yodeler ad?*

## National Wilderness Conference inspires a new generation of activists

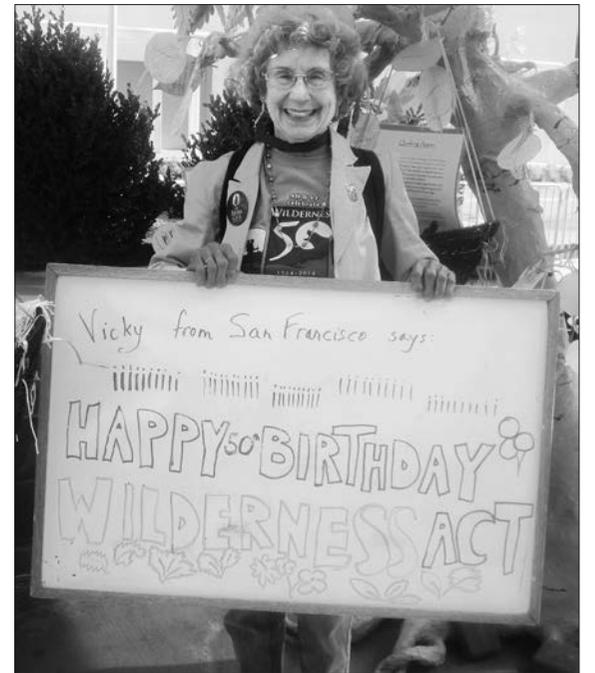
Enlightening. Profound. Sobering. Just a few adjectives for the National Wilderness Conference, held Oct. 15-19 in honor of the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act. Over 1,200 people from dozens of organizations and federal resource agencies converged on Albuquerque for the first national gathering of the wilderness community in 25 years.

The conference offered a rich array of plenary sessions, presentations, panels, exhibits, films, field trips, and skill-development workshops. Six wilderness themes were woven into every aspect of the programming: stewardship, education, history, experience, civic engagement, and science. The companion Wilderness Celebration Exhibition showcased organizational booths surrounding a "Wilderness Awareness Trail" for students. The culmination was a free-to-the-public outdoor "Get Wild" festival with music, Native American dance, kids' stories and activities, and keynote speakers rallying to action a new and more diverse generation of wilderness advocates.

Throughout the conference, a litany of threats to the integrity and very existence of our National Wilderness Preservation System (NWPS) was explored. The Wilderness Act promised to "secure for the American people of present and future generations the benefits of an enduring resource of wilderness." Yet, while the amount of land designated as wilderness has increased since 1964 by over ten-fold—from 9 million to nearly 110 million acres, 14% of which are in California—the wildness of those lands has not been well safeguarded. Human impacts from nearby development, population growth, climate change, and inadequate stewardship continue degrading wilderness values. Those manifold values include solitude and refuge from the sights and sounds of civilization in places where ecosystems remain undeveloped and intact, where natural processes unfold without direct human intervention.

When the Wilderness Act was signed into law, it was after years of effort building a broad public and political consensus about the "idea" of wilderness: that it is fundamental to our national character and must be protected. That consensus has eroded, even as pressures on our wild areas have increased from all sides.

Acknowledging these critical problems, leaders of the four federal agencies responsible for protecting the NWPS—the National Park Service, the National Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Bureau of Land Management—ceremonially signed a "2020 Vision" document setting interagency priorities for the next five years. The major themes are to: protect wilderness resources; connect people to



Bay Chapter leader Vicky Hoover at the National Wilderness Conference.

their wilderness heritage; and foster excellence in wilderness leadership and coordination.

Energized and renewed by our experiences, several conference attendees from the Bay Chapter are collaborating to build on the momentum to improve and expand wilderness protection. Three current wilderness proposals in our area are:

- **Central Coast Heritage Protection Act.** This bill would add roughly 300,000 acres of wilderness, scenic areas, and other protections and 159 miles of wild and scenic rivers in the Los Padres National Forest and Carrizo Plain National Monument.
- The current **Forest Plan** process in Inyo, Sierra, and Sequoia National Forests, which could and should include Wilderness recommendations from the Forest.
- Senator Diane Feinstein's new **California Desert Conservation and Recreation Act**, a bill to be introduced in January when Congress reconvenes. According to the Senator's website, "The bill builds on Feinstein's historic California Desert Protection Act, which became law in 1994. The new legislation is designed to protect additional land and help manage California's desert resources by carefully balancing conservation, recreation and renewable energy development." If you are working to mitigate climate change, encourage smart growth and effective public transportation, shift toward sustainable food and energy systems, and reduce our ecological footprint, then you are also working on behalf of wilderness. If you'd like to join the conversation and get involved more directly in wilderness advocacy work in our chapter, please contact Alan Carlton at [carltonal@yahoo.com](mailto:carltonal@yahoo.com), Anne Henny at [anneth16@sbcglobal.net](mailto:anneth16@sbcglobal.net), or Teri Shore at [terishore@gmail.com](mailto:terishore@gmail.com).

Anne Henny



SIERRA CLUB  
GIFT PLANNING

Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

## Preserve the Future

Make a commitment to the next generation by remembering Sierra Club in your will. Your support will help others and preserve the intricate balance of nature.

Sierra Club  
Gift Planning Program

85 Second St, Second Floor, San Francisco, CA 94105  
(800) 932-4270 • [gift.planning@sierraclub.org](http://gift.planning@sierraclub.org)

## On the brink: is it too late to save the salmon of Redwood Creek in Muir Woods?

The federal government is spending billions of dollars in an attempt to save the endangered coho salmon, but the Sierra Club is concerned that these efforts are ignoring the real source of contamination—and meanwhile, our salmon are inching closer to extinction.

In Marin, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association (NOAA) collected comprehensive scientific research on our two most significant spawning grounds, Lagunitas Creek in the San Geronimo Valley and Redwood Creek, which traverses Muir Woods to reach Muir Beach and the Pacific Ocean (you can find the full text of NOAA's "Recovery Plan for the Evolutionarily Significant Unit of Central Coast Coho Salmon" online). As part of the habitat restoration effort, 15 million dollars was spent to restore Big Lagoon and Muir Beach. Yet these efforts did not save the latest generation of coho.

Thirteen adult spawners were counted this year but apparently none of the hatched fry from five observed nests survived. Scientists from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife confirm that for the first time in Redwood Creek's recorded history, the local extinction of this year's coho has occurred.

Earlier generations, now 18 months and three years old, are in deep trouble too. In August, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and the National Marine Fisheries Service "rescued" the remaining coho in Redwood Creek and Mount Tamalpais State Park. They found no babies, instead trans-

porting the 105 smolt-sized fish that failed to migrate out to sea to the Warm Springs Fish Hatchery in Sonoma. Although some of the smolt found this year may survive to spawn, the trajectory is not looking good. Scientists warn of an "extinction vortex" for coho. A recovery threshold of 272 fish is the minimum indicated for Redwood Creek in the National Marine Fisheries Service Coho Recovery Plan.

All this begs the question: What happened to the coho young this year?

Though the National Park Service and other agencies have spent over 15 million dollars on habitat restoration, they have failed to test the water in Redwood Creek for contaminants. Every year, an estimated 1.4 million visitors and 350,000 vehicles use the road that runs alongside Redwood Creek, leading to Muir Woods. Along a four-mile stretch of that road, 15 culverts deliver contaminated storm water directly into the creek. Road runoff is a well-documented source of toxins in creeks, and water contamination could be a significant factor in the coho's plight.

Car brake pads emit copper, a known neurotoxin. Government scientists have concluded that low levels of copper found in waterways harm sense of smell in young coho salmon, reducing their ability to avoid predators and confusing migration and spawning ability. Copper tests cost only 10 dollars.

Moreover, a 2013 study from NOAA's Northwest Fisheries Science Center in Washington linked unidentified compounds in

highway runoff to coho salmon death. In that study, toxic chemicals that washed into creeks in the rush of storm-water after a rainfall were found to be killing adult salmon before they could spawn.

According to a regional water board spokesperson, parking alongside Redwood Creek should not be allowed because of the known vehicle contaminants. Yet on any given day a mile-long queue of parked cars lines the county-owned road along the creek. The National Park Service has suggested adding a valet service and online registration system, which would only exacerbate the problem.

Many believe our government and agencies have failed in their responsibility to protect our salmon, favoring visitors over natural resources. This is an occasion for the County of Marin to step forward and do what the federal and state agencies are apparently incapable



Redwood Creek; photo via Flickr Creative Commons, flickr.com/giofusco.

of doing; the county must follow up on the billions of dollars spent on plans and research and take active steps to save these fish. Marin County owns the roads and must manage them. If we want Muir Woods to continue in harmony with the legacy upon which it was founded, then we need to save its native wildlife from extinction.

The solution: give Muir Woods a break from individual cars. Clean the water and restrict use until we can begin to recover the two remaining coho populations that are on the brink.

Laura Chariton

# The 2015 Sierra Club Calendars

Calendars will be available August 20 through December 12, 2014.

Number of calendars purchased	1 - 3	4 - 11	12+
2015 Sierra Club Wilderness Wall Calendar	\$13.50	\$13.00	\$12.50
2015 Sierra Club Engagement Calendar	\$14.50	\$14.00	\$13.50

Combine the **total number of wall and engagement calendars** you are purchasing to determine the unit price of each type. Prices include sales tax. We accept cash, checks, MasterCard, Visa, Discover Card, and American Express.

To purchase, visit the Chapter Office:  
2530 San Pablo Ave. (between Dwight Way & Parker), Berkeley CA,  
Monday - Thursday 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM and Friday 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM.  
For further information call (510) 848-0800.

*NOTE: This year the San Francisco Bay Chapter will not be shipping orders of fewer than 12 calendars. Purchases of fewer than 12 must be made at the Chapter Office. Call (510) 848-0800 for details on free shipping for orders of 12 or more. Shipping will start Tuesday, October 7.*

PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE LOCAL CONSERVATION WORK OF THE SIERRA CLUB SAN FRANCISCO BAY CHAPTER



Two formats:

► **ENGAGEMENT CALENDAR:** Week-by-week format, featuring 57 spectacular photographs and "wire-o" binding.

► **WILDERNESS WALL CALENDAR:** Spiral bound, month-by-month format, featuring 12 majestic North American landscapes.