

Sierra Club YODELER

THE NEWSPAPER OF THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY CHAPTER ♦ SPRING 2022



- ♦ WELCOMING OUR NEWLY ELECTED CHAPTER LEADERS ♦
- ♦ EDUCATIONAL SPEAKER SERIES ON ACTIVISM AND SELF CARE ♦
- ♦ A YEAR OF VICTORIES FOR YOUTH CLIMATE LITERACY ♦
- ♦ TOXIC CONTAMINANTS THREATEN SHORELINE COMMUNITIES ♦

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Happy New Year, Sierra Club family! I hope this message finds you and your loved ones in good health and good spirits.

A new year means a wealth of opportunities to build the most impactful and inclusive environmental movement the Bay Area has ever known. And rest assured the Sierra Club's San Francisco Bay Chapter is wasting no time.

For the San Francisco Bay Chapter, a new year means: a new Chapter organizer joining the ranks to help fight for clean air, water, and biodiversity; newly elected volunteer leaders joining our Chapter and regional Executive Committees; newly established Issues Committees — like our Sustainable Food and Agriculture Committee; new candidates and ballot measure committees vying for the Sierra Club's endorsement; new Sierra Club outings across the Bay Area with our experienced outings leaders; new possibilities for engaging our members and partners; **and so much more.**

A new year also means a shift of leadership. On behalf of all the volunteer leaders and staff with the San Francisco Bay Chapter, I'd like to extend an abundance of gratitude to the Immediate Past Chair, Olga Bolotina. Over the last two years, Olga's careful judgment; her creativity; and her persistent focus on creating welcoming, inclusive environments for staff, volunteer leaders, and members has delivered us to long-lasting climate policy changes throughout the Chapter, improved Chapter election turnout, and a strong financial position.

Our incoming Chapter Vice Chair Martha Kreeger and I are excited to receive the baton and carry on the good work: supporting our amazing staff, uplifting the work of our dedicated volunteer leadership team, and inviting all of our Bay Area members to join us on our mission to explore, enjoy, and protect the planet — whether that means helping us craft environmental policy, advocating for equitable environmental protection in your local community, or joining us for a Sierra Club outing.

Since 2014, I have had the privilege of holding a wide variety of volunteer positions with the Sierra Club at local, statewide, and national levels — from the East Coast to the Midwest and now here in California. The Sierra Club has quite literally changed my life, and I have experienced the transformative potential of this organization firsthand.

I'm convinced that no matter your interests or your skills, there is a place for you here with the Sierra Club. As your Chapter Chair, I'm committed to helping our members build community and protect the places we love.

In solidarity,

Chance Cutrano
CHAPTER CHAIR

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*Office closed until further notice

Email: info@sfbaysc.org
Phone: (510) 848-0800
Website: sierraclub.org/sfbay

Editor
Elizabeth Hall
yodedit@sfbaysc.org

Design
Courtney Andujar
andujar-twins.com

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Address Changes
Sierra Club Membership Services
P.O. Box 421042
Palm Coast, FL 32142-1042
address.changes@sierraclub.org
(415) 977-5653

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Anna's hummingbird in Berkeley's UC Botanical Garden. Photo by Becky Matsubara via Flickr Creative Commons (CC BY 2.0).



SPRING 2022 CHAPTER NEWS

We're Hiring: Digital Education Program Intern

Our chapter is looking for an intern to support our educational programming. The part-time, paid position would assist with planning, scheduling, promoting, and expanding ongoing educational programs and work closely with Chapter volunteer leaders.

Intern candidates should have strong work ethics and integrity, and be intellectually curious, detail-oriented, and motivated individuals who are excited about exploring a diversity of issues through connecting with environmental and sustainability leaders. They should have passion for providing educational, engaging, and inspiring content to our community and the public. Learn more about the position and apply at sierraclub.org/sfbay/jobs.

Save Energy This Spring With the Climate Solutions Challenge

Nearly half of your home energy expenses go towards heating and cooling your home. So why not take advantage of California's clear skies? Turn down your indoor heating and consider using drapes or shades to keep in the warm sunlight. Adjusting your thermostat just a few degrees can save you five to ten percent a year on heating or cooling and also reduce carbon emissions and air pollution.

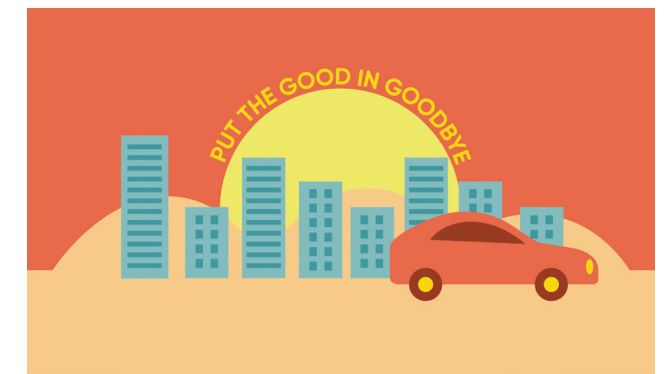
Learn more easy ways you can save energy by joining the Sierra Club Climate Solutions Challenge at brightaction.app/sierraclub. We now have over 80 households taking part in our chapter's challenge that provides 90+ climate-friendly and sustainable actions you can take to reduce your carbon footprint. Check out our tutorial video to learn how the platform works and how to get started at bit.ly/climatechallengevideo.

Want to Grow Your Skills as an Activist? Join Our Advocacy Team!

Have you been wanting to buff up your advocacy skills? The new year is a perfect time to dive in. Our monthly Advocacy Team meetings are back after a short winter break — and off to a great start with our biggest turnout ever at our January meeting!

The Advocacy Team is designed to give our members and supporters the foundation to become action-oriented environmental activists in the SF Bay Area. We offer learnings about the Sierra Club's grassroots organizational structure, pressing issues and campaigns in our local communities, and the tools to take action.

We meet every fourth Wednesday of the month from 5:30 to 6:30pm. Each meeting is a little different depending on that month's featured issue campaign. So far, our team has written letters to the Bay Area Air Quality Management District, petitioned the governor to support electrification, prepared to comment at a public hearing, and more! Register for upcoming meetings on our events calendar at sierraclub.org/sfbay/activities and you can join our email list at bit.ly/sfbayadvocacyteam.



PUT THE GOOD IN GOODBYE: DONATE YOUR UNWANTED VEHICLE

We've got your first New Year's resolution covered. Put that unwanted car you've been holding onto to good use by gifting it to the Sierra Club Foundation's SF Bay Chapter! It's easy, the pick-up is free, and cars, boats, motorcycles, RVs, and more are all tax-deductible. To learn more, visit our website at scfch.careasy.org or call (844) 674-3772.

Welcoming New Leadership

OLGA BOLOTINA



It's been a long, short ride! These last two years, during which I have been honored to serve as the Chair of our SF Bay Chapter of the Sierra Club, have passed by with lightning speed. Yet looking back at the beginning of 2020 when I first was elected, it seems an enormous number of profound things have happened over my tenure. Just like the rest of the world, we had to face our humanity and keep our important work thriving throughout the most devastating pandemic of our times, facing heartbreaking personal and collective losses. We dug deep inside to examine and reconcile our roles in racial and gender inequities, and we bear witness as our hard fight for democracy faces new threats. Indeed, leading the Chapter in these unprecedented times was and still is an adventure.

Despite and because of all of those and other enormous challenges, our community only grew stronger. I am rejoicing in the notion that among other wins, our chapter is in great financial health, is looking to find a new home office, and is hiring more organizers. We also had several conservation wins that have ripple effects beyond the Bay Area. Together with our allies, we defeated a coal terminal in Richmond, stopped

the expansion of huge distribution centers in Alameda County, and continue to advance electrification throughout the Chapter territory. All of these and other accomplishments are because of the hard work of our volunteers and the effective leadership of our amazing Chapter staff, led by Director Virginia Reinhart. Under Virginia's caring, steady, and wise leadership, the Chapter is flourishing and expanding our conservation reach, environmental advocacy, and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion trainings that we started in 2021.

I am excited and proud to pass the baton to two incredible individuals who I have had the pleasure and honor to serve alongside with for the last two years. Chapter Chair Chance Cutrano and Chapter Vice Chair Martha Kreeger proved themselves to be true visionaries and hardworking, thoughtful, and wise leaders with holistic and inclusive approaches.

Our chapter has a truly bright and exciting future with the amazing leadership of the current staff and the board!

I want to express deep, heartfelt gratitude to my Sierra Club colleagues and friends for their unwavering advocacy and to thank you, our dear members, for your continuing support and trust in us. I invite you to get involved with this exciting team to increase your firsthand impact in the world of conservation and nature protection for all!

Olga Bolotina is a member of the Sierra Club SF Bay Chapter Executive Committee and the Immediate Past Chair.

RAFT GUIDE TRAINING FOR INSPIRING CONNECTIONS OUTDOORS

ICO Rafting is a Sierra Club volunteer program that facilitates river rafting trips for young people with limited access to wilderness. We're looking for enthusiastic new volunteers who want to share the outdoors with others as raft guides. No experience is required! We will provide training starting in March. Please visit sierraclub.org/sfbay/rafting or email volunteer@icorafting.org for more information and our application, due March 12th.



Congrats to Our Newly Elected Executive Committee Members!

We'd like to thank all of our members who participated in our 2021 Chapter Election, whether by casting their ballot, running for a leadership position, or working on a Elections and Nominations Committee. Your active involvement in our chapter's elections process keeps our grassroots organization strong!

Congratulations to our newly elected Executive Committee (Ex Com) members, who are listed below. These individuals will serve two-year terms starting in 2022. Additionally, all three Chapter bylaw amendments and the Northern Alameda County (NAC) Group bylaw amendment passed. These amendments include adding the Immediate Past Chair position to the Chapter Ex Com, limiting the tenure of Chapter

CHAPTER EX COM

Chance Cutrano
Martha Kreeger
Max Perrey
John Rizzo
Igor Tregub

MARIN GROUP EX COM

Chance Cutrano
Sharon Farrell
Jinesse Reynolds
Judy Schriebman

MOUNT DIABLO GROUP EX COM

Beth Bittle

NORTHERN ALAMEDA COUNTY GROUP EX COM

Ben Fong
Sophie Hahn
Melinda Howard-Herrarte
Andy Katz
Kent Lewandowski

Ex Com Chairs and Vice Chairs to three consecutive years, and adding a rule for both the Chapter and NAC Group Ex Coms that the Chair may not serve on the Nominating and/or Elections Committee.

Our Chapter Nominations and Elections Committee also welcomes involvement from all members. If you're interested in getting involved, please contact elections@sfbaysc.org.

Want to Get Involved?

Open Ex Com seats still available for the following Regional Groups:

Delta Group (2 seats): secretary needed, contact chair Paul Seger at psseger65@gmail.com.

Marin Group (2 seats): college-aged members encouraged to apply, contact the Group at scmaringroup@gmail.com.

Northern Alameda County Group (1 seat): apply at bit.ly/SierraNACApp by February 23rd.

SAN FRANCISCO GROUP EX COM

Hunter Cutting
Olga Mandrussow
John Rizzo
Howard Strassner
Howard Wong

SOUTHERN ALAMEDA COUNTY GROUP EX COM

Vinnie Bacon
William Yragui

TRI-VALLEY GROUP EX COM

Donna Cabanne
Larry Gosselin
Lynn Seppala

WEST CONTRA COSTA COUNTY GROUP EX COM

Lisa Park

The End of Coal in Richmond

JACOB KLEIN

After years of campaigning, the end of coal and petcoke in Richmond is finally in sight. The final phase of this battle for public health wrapped up with a settlement that requires the storage and handling of coal and petroleum coke to cease by the end of 2026.

Through canvassing, writing letters, and giving testimony at the Richmond City Council, an ordinance was passed in early 2020 that called for the phase-out of coal and petcoke within three years. Immediately upon passage, three companies sued the City of Richmond at the state and federal level:

Levin-Richmond Terminal, where the coal and petcoke were stored; Wolverine Resources, the company that mined the coal in Utah; and Phillips 66, which sent the petcoke (a by-product of oil refining) from their Rodeo refinery.

We had an early win at the state level: the judge decided in the city's favor, noting that "[t]here is substantial evidence that coal and petcoke dust are harmful to human health based on a number of scientific studies and reports." However, the federal cases presented more challenges. The Sierra Club and San Francisco Baykeeper, represented by Earthjustice, were granted partial intervention status to support the City in its legal battle.

In November of 2021, a settlement was reached between the City and the litigious companies. The compromise included a phase-out by the end of 2026 — longer than the original ordinance called for, but with no possibility of extension. Along with this, nearly a dozen new mitigation measures will be required in the meantime to help reduce fugitive dust — measures that had not been achievable previously, even with Baykeeper's worthy attempts. These measures include higher wind barriers, coverings on certain conveyors, a surfactant spray, and more (the settlement is available on the City's website at ci.richmond.ca.us).

While the idea of three more years of coal and petcoke dust may seem like a loss, and indeed the very real health impacts it will have on the nearby communities must be acknowledged, this settlement secures a firm end to this battle. The city properly exercised its land use authority when enacting the ordinance in 2020, however, lawsuits are inherently uncertain, and the settlement avoids the risk that the city might have lost. And even if the city had continued the legal fight and won, continued litigation could have delayed the implementation of the ordinance



until far beyond 2027. On top of that, it sets a precedent for other cities considering similar moves. As Aaron Isherwood, Managing Attorney for the Sierra Club's Environmental Law Program, said in an interview with KOED, "It's a blueprint for other cities and counties in California to address the public health threat that may be presented by coal and petcoke handling."

This past December, we hosted a Richmond Community Meeting in partnership with Baykeeper, No Coal in Richmond (NCIR), and the Sunflower Alliance to discuss the details of the settlement and hear community response. We lamented the timeline, celebrated the victories, and reminisced on the collaboration and effort that brought us there.

We would be remiss not to thank our incredible staff and members who helped carry this forward. The Richmond community, including families, businesses, teachers, and nurses, who fought for their public health. Our champion on the City Council, Eduardo Martinez, along with Supervisor John Gioia who supported these efforts. And none of this would have been possible without partner organizations who led grassroots efforts and supported legal and policy strategies: No Coal in Richmond, No Coal in Oakland, the Sunflower Alliance, San Francisco Baykeeper, Earthjustice, Communities for a Better Environment, Asian Pacific Environmental Network, the Richmond Progressive Alliance, United Teachers of Richmond, and the Interfaith Climate Action Network of Contra Costa County. I'd like to give particular thanks to former Chapter Director Minda Berbeco who saw a problem and started asking questions, former Regional Coal Organizer Terilyn Chen who helped usher the ordinance across the finish line, and Janet Johnson, NCIR lead organizer, who galvanized a movement.

It also appears that the threat of coal will also be coming to an end in Oakland. In early February, the Oakland City Attorney's office issued a press release saying a settlement framework was in the works for the disputes over coal transferring at the former Oakland Army Base. For years, the City has been tangled in lawsuits with developers over the future of the West Gateway section being turned into a bulk commodity terminal. We're encouraged to hear that the City of Oakland is

working to ensure that coal and petcoke can not be transferred in Oakland and we look forward to reviewing the final details of the settlement once released.

By the time this edition of the *Yodeler* goes out, the Richmond settlement will likely have moved through the City Council for first and second readings, thus put into effect. Victory!

Jacob Klein is an organizer for the Sierra Club SF Bay Chapter.

Join the New Sustainable Food and Agriculture Committee!

NILANG GOR

In the third decade of the 21st century, we are tasked with reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by about 45 percent by 2030 in order to limit global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius — the recommended temperature change to avert catastrophic global warming consequences. The food sector stands at the center of these social and environmental challenges — accounting for 21-37 percent of total anthropogenic GHG emissions, as reported by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change in 2019. But food emissions often go unaddressed in our cities because they commonly use sector-based GHG inventories that ex-

clude emissions associated with imported goods. Nearly 80 percent of the U.S. population live in urban areas, and these cities and towns import the majority of their food. As a result, most of our food emissions are going unaccounted and unaddressed.

The San Francisco Bay Area continues to lead the climate movement by recognizing consumption-based emissions and adopting healthy and sustainable plant-based policies for our food procurement. But there is certainly a need to expand these efforts across the Bay Area's local communities. Therefore, the Sierra Club San Francisco Bay Chapter's new Sustainable Food and Agriculture Committee is committed to supporting local policies addressing 1. Good Food for All 2. Local and Sustainable Farming Practices and 3. Reducing Food Waste. If you are interested in joining the SF Bay Area Sustainable Food and Agriculture Committee, please contact the chair, Nilang Gor, at gornilang@hotmail.com.



Green Friday Program Hosts Multigenerational Speaker Series on Activism and Mental Health

ELLA SURING & MARJANEH MOINI



The Green Friday speaker series is beaming straight into your home via Zoom! Join us virtually on the second Friday of each month at 7:30pm for presentations on some of the most interesting and important environmental issues of our time.

Since the start of 2022, our Green Friday program has been hosting speakers in collaboration with the Chapter's multigenerational speaker series, Environmental Activism and Self Care. Now more than ever, we have become increasingly aware of the threat posed to the future of our planet and all life on Earth. Today's young adults must face the reality of rising sea levels, species extinction, wildfires, floods, and global instability, which for many can lead to feelings of climate anxiety and overwhelm. In order to create lasting and sustainable change as environmental activists, it is essential to find tools that can support our well-being throughout these demanding times.

This series, developed by rising high school junior Ella Suring, is designed to give teens and adults these tools through presentations by leaders in the environmental and wellness worlds so that we are rooted in a connection to nature and an awareness of what we are trying to protect. The series includes speakers presenting on a range of topics from connecting with nature, eco-anxiety, community engagement, developing skills to be an effective voice for change, and much more. Each interactive workshop is followed by a Q&A and suggested focus so that participants can get a chance to talk directly with the presenters and utilize these skills throughout their daily lives before the next gathering.

This is a multigenerational program designed for teens and adults. Throughout the series, we aim to build a commu-

nity that supports the work of environmental activists now and going forward. Because of this, attendance at all events isn't required but strongly encouraged.

In January, the Green Friday audience heard from Dr. Robert Root and Dr. Robin Cooper, who discussed the spectrum of emotional responses related to living in this world with climate change for their talk, *Growing Up in the Age of Climate Change: Facing Eco Anxiety & Climate Grief*.

The second installment in the series featured Lucy Garcia with her presentation on *Climate Justice for Earth and All Beings*, sharing how Earth is a living organism, and our best ally in healing ourselves, our societies, and our places.

The series continues in March with Xiaoxuan (Christina) Chen & Myroslava Fisun on *Mental Health and Coping Strategies for Youth Climate Justice Activists*: a qualitative interview study examining how climate justice activism impacts youth mental health, and the strategies they use to cope with the challenges of activism.

You can register for the March 11th event and more to-be-announced Green Friday programs using the links on our Activities and Events Calendar at sierraclub.org/sfbay/events. If you missed any of our previous speakers, you can catch up on our YouTube channel at bit.ly/SFBayYouTube.

Ella Suring and Marjaneh Moini are the co-coordinators of the Environmental Activism and Self Care series.

SEEKING VOLUNTEER GREEN FRIDAY PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Are you interested in getting more involved in Chapter activities? You can help organize our educational speaker series, *Green Fridays*, held on the second Friday of every month! The position requires about three hours of work per month finding speakers, coordinating with Chapter staff, and setting up meetings (on Zoom for now), along with attending the monthly two-hour presentations. If you'd like to help bring interesting and informative speakers to our members, please contact Joanne Drabek at joanne1892@gmail.com. We'd like to extend a huge thank you to Elizabeth Dodge for all of her hard work as our Program Coordinator the past few years! If you have any questions about the position, you can contact her at lizdodge@icloud.com.



Marin Watershed Partners Win Lawsuit Against Dipsea Ranch Development!

ELIZABETH HALL & ANDREA MONTALBANO

In an exciting update to Susan Hopp's Fall 2021 *Yodeler* article, potential damage to the biologically rich watershed of Mount Tamalpais has been stopped — for now. As you may remember, the Watershed Alliance of Marin (WAM) and Friends of Muir Woods Park filed a lawsuit against the proposed "Dipsea Ranch" development, which had been approved without a full Environmental Impact Report (EIR). The project could cause irreparable harm to the watershed habitat surrounding Redwood Creek, home to 97 endangered, protected, or threatened species, including coho salmon, spotted owls, red-legged frogs, and marbled murrelets.

But, on January 10th, Judge Andrew Sweet of the Marin County Superior Court ruled in favor of our partners, overturning Marin County's approval of the Dipsea Ranch homes subdivision. The judge found that the County's Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND), shorter and less detailed than an EIR, failed to meet the requirements of the California Environmental Quali-

ty Act (CEQA) by ignoring crucial threats to the fragile Redwood Creek ecosystem. In particular, the development could cause sediment to spill downstream into the creek, smothering critical spawning habitat for coho salmon. The Court also found that the study failed to adequately address that drainage from the proposed subdivision would run directly through a wetland conservation area.

It should be noted that the Court only invalidated the prior approvals and did not order for a full EIR to be prepared — leaving the County to once again decide what level of environmental assessment be conducted if the developer were to pursue the project further. Still, the Sierra Club Marin Group and our partners applaud the Court's ruling and urge the County to follow all CEQA environmental assessment requirements in order to prevent further damage to the rich ecosystems of Mt. Tamalpais, Muir Woods, and Redwood Creek.

Laura Chariton, founder of WAM stated, "With environmental degradation and devastation so prevalent in the news today, the County Supervisors and Planning Commission should not sidestep environmental considerations but should put them at the forefront of their concerns about the future."

Elizabeth Hall is the communications assistant for the Sierra Club SF Bay Chapter. Andrea Montalbano, a neighborhood resident and member of Friends of Muir Woods Park, provided contributions to this article.

A Year of Victories for the Climate Literacy Committee

SARAH RANNEY

2021 will be remembered as a year of historic drought, wildfire, and other signs of a rapidly changing climate, not to mention the ongoing pandemic. But, on a hopeful note, it was a promising year for climate literacy. In May, the Fremont Unified School District unanimously passed a student-led Educational Response to the Climate Emergency. And in November, the Berkeley Unified School District passed a comprehensive Climate Literacy Resolution, becoming the first district in the nation to do so with funding. They join the Oakland Unified School District, which passed a School Board Policy on Environmental and Climate Change Literacy in 2019. Together, these represent a meaningful commitment to climate education that will reach more than 80,000 students a year.

The successes in Oakland, Fremont, and Berkeley are thanks in no small part to the hard work of a small group of students, parents, educators, activists, and organizers — all united under the banner of the Sierra Club San Francisco Bay Chapter's Climate Literacy Committee.

Since 2016, the Climate Literacy Committee has been committed to executing Sierra Club California's goal of making California high school students climate literate. Climate literacy, as defined by the Sierra Club California, means understanding:

1. The causes of climate change;
2. Its potential for harm;
3. What is required to avoid significant climate destabilization;
4. Actions needed to ensure a livable future; and
5. The key people and institutions involved in those actions.

To accomplish this, the Climate Literacy Committee has taken a school district approach, organizing and working within to pass comprehensive commitments to create and implement climate change curricula. Through our efforts, we've seen several truths about community organizing and impact planning:

- Student involvement is an essential part of any school approach. Ensure they're given a seat at the table and a chance to lead. As the generation that will be most impacted by the climate crisis, students have particular



authority.

- Build a robust, multigenerational coalition. Teachers are a critical constituency, but their time is valuable and already stretched thin by the pandemic. Who else can help? Retired teachers, parents, and community members may have more time for organizing, and add important perspective, connections, and experience.
- There are a lot of environmentally oriented curriculum providers in the Bay Area. Make connections. Don't reinvent the wheel. Be open to working with anyone who is willing to help.
- Climate literacy must be student-centered, solutions-focused, and go beyond science classes. Whether through art, civics, geography, economics, history, or other subjects, teachers have a better chance of discovering what will resonate most with students. And when it comes to learning about the "solutions" to climate change, students will be much better prepared if they recognize its broad impacts on society, economics, the environment, and politics.
- Implementation is not easy and teachers are already overworked. It's important to give teachers a framework of support. And they need to be paid to take this on.

The Climate Literacy Committee is taking what we've learned from our district efforts to start advocating for climate literacy at the state level. We are partnering with other organizations to develop a multi-pronged effort to execute a climate literacy implementation strategy scaled to meet the climate emergency. The lessons we've learned in our district organizing are holding true at the state level as well.

There are many ways members of the Bay Chapter can

support or get involved in our local or state-wide work:

- Sign a letter calling for state support at tinyurl.com/CA4ClimateLiteracy.
- Support the climate literacy implementation efforts in Oakland, Fremont, and Berkeley by volunteering your time or connections.
- Join our monthly committee meetings, typically the first Saturday of each month by Zoom. You can find

meeting details on the Activities and Events calendar at sierraclub.org/sfbay/events.

Our animating force is the knowledge that our future generations will bear the greatest burdens in this climate emergency. Transformative change and solutions must begin with our students in their classrooms.

Sarah Ranney is the chair of the Sierra Club SF Bay Chapter Climate Literacy Committee.

Salmon Spawning Habitat In San Geronimo Valley Under Threat

SCOTT WEBB & JUDY SCHRIEBMAN

The future of coho salmon in California could be decided in March by the Marin County Board of Supervisors. They will be voting on a proposed Stream Conservation Area (SCA) Ordinance, which focuses on saving critical salmonid habitat in the San Geronimo Valley. Coho salmon populations have plummeted to 95 percent of their historic population numbers, driven by the loss of critical spawning habitat. The tiny nine-square-mile San Geronimo Valley makes up ten percent of the spawning habitat for central coast coho, making this one of the most vital coho habitats in all of California. Yet even in the Valley, the actual number of fish is tragically low — averaging only 250 adults returning to spawn each year. The fate of coho salmon in California is directly intertwined with the preservation of this riparian habitat.

In 2007, both the Salmon Preservation And Watershed Network and the Center for Biological Diversity sued the County over its proposed Countywide Plan that permitted excessive development on the streams — drastically diminishing the watershed spawning habitat. In response to environmentalists' advocacy, the County elected to create a science-based SCA Ordinance to protect the streams from being overdevel-

oped. But over 14 years later, an effective SCA Ordinance has not materialized.

Unfortunately, the currently proposed SCA Ordinance does not fulfill its duty of protecting the streamside habitat in the San Geronimo Valley. The document lacks workable and clearly defined language that would allow homeowners and environmental advocates to understand how development will be regulated. The Board also needs to narrow the exceptions currently allowed and add in performance standards, enforcement provisions, and reporting mechanisms so the County can measure the Ordinance's success and monitor its implementation. We want to see an Ordinance that works clearly and

effectively to save what little riparian habitat we have left, not just a paper document that unnecessarily burdens homeowners and the environment.

Warming oceans coupled with a higher probability of infrequent rain events are already creating an uphill battle for coho salmon. For this species to survive, we must protect what few unimpaired streams we have left. *Take action* by letting the Marin County Board

of Supervisors know that they need to adopt a common-sense, science-based SCA Ordinance that follows the California Environmental Quality Act and protects salmonids for generations to come! Head to seaturtles.org/take-action-for-salmon to send your message.

Scott Webb is the Advocacy & Policy Manager for the Turtle Island Restoration Network and the Salmon Protection And Watershed Network; Judy Schriebman is the chair of the Sierra Club Marin Group.



ABOUT THIS CALENDAR

Activities listed here are abbreviated. For full listings, registration, and waivers visit: sierraclub.org/sfbay/activities. The online calendar will also include changes, cancellations, and outings submitted after the print deadline.

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, good hiking boots with treads, 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, or visit tinyurl.com/outingswaiver.

COVID-19 Protocol

Masks are optional for adults in outdoor areas, but required in indoor close quarters such as vehicles, public transport, restaurants, or visitor centers. Vaccinations are not required, so please be aware you may be on trips with unvaccinated individuals. Masks are required at all times for unvaccinated minors. If you are experiencing any possible COVID-19 symptoms, do not attend the outing and contact the outing's leader. Report any positive COVID-19 tests after an outing to the outing's leader.

Carpooling

Carpooling helps the environment and allows people without cars to participate. You can arrange carpools on our Meetup group: meetup.com/sanfranciscobay. Outings will be listed there two to three weeks prior to the event. Masks are required in carpools.

SPRING 2022 OUTINGS CALENDAR

TUESDAYS

Lake Chabot Reservoir 1A hike. Scenic weekly three-mile hike. MEET: 4pm at boathouse/cafe. Park free on street, \$5 in lot, or annual pass from East Bay Regional Park District. LEADER: Dolores Gruenewald, (510) 351-6247 or doloresgru@aol.com. (Solo Sierrans)

WEDNESDAYS

Lafayette Reservoir 1A hike. Enjoy the lovely weather while walking around the beautiful reservoir. We have both faster and slower walkers, or you can walk at your own pace. COST: 5 quarters for 1hr, 15 minutes of parking. MEET: 3:30pm at the west end of the parking area near the picnic tables and permanent bathrooms. LEADER: William Gilbert, wmgibr@gmail.com. (Solo Sierrans)

SECOND SUNDAYS & FOURTH SATURDAYS

FEB 26 • SAT | MAR 26 • SAT | APR 23 • SAT
MAR 13 • SUN | APR 10 • SUN | MAY 8 • SUN

Luxurious Walking in Delight Zen Mindfulness 1A walk. Slow, luxurious walking designed to relax and balance yourself resulting in deepening connection to your inner nature. It is often accompanied with an experience of delight. Attendees report a change in awareness and some report their heart opening. Attend either in-person in Berkeley or virtually in your backyard on Zoom! We will check in, walk in luxurious awareness, and share. Heavy wind or rain cancels. REGISTER: If attending in-person, registration on the online listing is required with a limit of ten people. To attend virtually, register using the Zoom registration link on the online listing. BRING: Clothes for the weather. MEET: 11am at 1853 Solano Ave, Berkeley or on Zoom. ENDS: 12:30pm. LEADER: Halley Forest, sierragreenforest@gmail.com. (Hiking)

FEB 17 • THU

Chinatown during Lunar New Year walking tour. Come celebrate Lunar New Year by taking this walking tour through the oldest Chinese Community in the U.S., San Francisco's Chinatown, which rose from the ashes of the 1906 earthquake and has continued to flourish for over 150 years, in spite of harsh racial discrimination (past and present). We'll learn about the neighborhood's history as we explore local alleys, view murals and herbal apothecaries, and sample dim sum and fortune cookies. Leisurely walking pace with frequent stops on tour. 2 to 3 miles, with possible stop for lunch depending on consensus. BRING: Snacks, water, and money. MEET: 11am at Montgomery St & 598 Market St, San Francisco. ENDS: 2pm. LEADER: Paget Valentzas, (415) 271-2945 or pagetvalentzas@gmail.com. (Rainbow Sierrans)

FEB 19 • SAT

Point Reyes Bear Valley 3B hike. This 12-mile loop begins with a long slow climb through dense woods up to Mt. Wittenberg. We then make our way over to Coastal Trail, which offers an expansive view overlooking the Pacific Ocean. We finish with a pleasant walk along wooded creeks. Heavy rain cancels. BRING: Lunch, snacks, and a good supply of water. Wear hiking boots and layered clothing. MEET: 10am at Bear Valley Visitor Center at far end of parking lot where Bear Valley Trail begins. LEADER: Jeffrey Sanchez, (510) 599-5238 or amagi@pacbell.net. (Sierra Singles)

Eagle Peak and Mt Diablo Falls 3C hike. Climb Eagle Peak (2369 ft) from the wild north side and return via Donner and Back Canyons. 11 miles distance with approximately 2800 feet of elevation gain and some steep slippery downhill. Be prepared for mud if it has rained recently and poison oak. Not for speed demons or gazelles, but not a hike for those just getting into shape. Mellow hikers with a sense of adventure most welcome. Any rain cancels. COST: \$6 parking fee. BRING: Lunch, liquids (the equivalent of two liters of water), and weather-appropriate clothing. Park rules prohibit alcoholic beverages. There are no potable water sources on the route. Recommend well-fitting boots for traction and ankle support. MEET: 10am at Mitchell Canyon Trail Head. ENDS: Return to cars approximately 6pm. LEADER: Bob Solotar, (510) 525-2110 or bob_solotar@hotmail.com. (Mount Diablo & Santa Cruz Groups)

FEB 26 • SAT

Mission Peak to Monument Peak from Sunol hike. This will be a 15-mile hike out and back at a moderate/fast pace. We will stop at Mission Peak or Monument Peak for lunch and then head back. Any rain cancels. REGISTER: Register online to reserve a space. COST: \$6 for parking and \$2 for Wilderness Permit. BRING: Plenty of water and food. MEET: 8:30am, starting promptly at 9am. Park near the Sunol Visitor Center. ENDS: 3pm. LEADER: Nora Di Bene, (408) 375-3040 or ndibene@sbcglobal.net. (Hiking)

MAR 5 - 6 • SAT - SUN

Yosemite NP: Beyond Dewey Point snow camping alumni trip. If we have ideal conditions (no recent snowfall, sunny), our goal is to reach Taft Point. The most direct route starts with 3 miles along Glacier Point Road. We then turn north on the McGurk Meadow trail for 4 miles, for a total of 7 miles one-way with 822 feet of elevation gain. If conditions are less good, we will head to Dewey Point first (3.5 miles in total), then turn east to snowshoe as far as we can along the south rim of the Valley. On the second day, we will be retracing and returning to the cars, with another 600 feet of elevation gain. Event may be cancelled in the event of severe winter storms. Participants who have been accepted on the trip and paid will receive a full refund if the leader cancels the trip for any reason. If a participant is accepted and pays, but subsequently cancels from the trip, they will not receive a refund. COST: \$35. REGISTER: Register on the online listing. Open to Alumni of the Snowcamping Training series. Must be fully vaccinated for COVID-19 and provide proof of vaccination. Trip limited to 8 participants. After registering your interest, the leader will let you know if you are approved to join the trip and send you instructions on how to pay trip cost. BRING: Standard snow camping equipment appropriate for the weather. Everyone will bring their own food and cooking equipment. MEET: 8am at Badger

WANT TO BECOME AN OUTINGS LEADER?

If you enjoy exploring wild lands, meeting new people, and leading adventures for them, you could make a great Sierra Club outings leader!

The Sierra Club's outdoor activities aim to connect all people with the natural world and with the Club. As an outings leader with the San Francisco Bay Chapter, you can join others in exploring wild lands, grappling with conservation issues, and even changing perceptions. Because trips are often specialized around a unique theme or activity, you could be hiking, backpacking, kayaking, bicycling, or doing service work – it's up to you to choose, because you ultimately design and lead your very own trip.

To become an outings leader, you must be a current Sierra Club member, be at least 18 years of age, complete Wilderness First Aid training (offered and paid for by the Chapter) and the Sierra Club Outings Leader Training (OLT), and receive a positive evaluation from your chosen mentor leader. You'll also choose what type of outing you would like to lead (hike, backpack, car camp, etc.), and which activity section you would like to affiliate with. You can find a list and descriptions of our activity sections online at sierraclub.org/sfbay/activity-sections.

For more information on requirements, trainings (First Aid trainings will be offered this spring!), mentors, and more, head to sierraclub.org/sfbay/how-become-outings-leader. If you have any questions, contact the Activities Sections leaders at sierraclub.org/sfbay/leadership-roster#acsec.

Pass Ski Area. ENDS: 5pm Sunday. Carpools will not be arranged. Individuals will need to determine their own transportation to the trailhead. LEADERS: Nathan Chan, (773) 817-6115 or chan.nathan.tb@gmail.com; Danielle Henkel, (614) 406-1329 or danielle.henkel@gmail.com. (Snow Camping)

MARCH 19 • SAT

Henry Coe Madrone Soda Springs and China Hole Day 2B/3B hike. Join Steve Bakaley on a leisurely to moderately paced day hike to Madrone Soda Springs and then on to China Hole. All but 1.6 miles of the hike is narrow trail with wonderful views, the rest is fire road. Mellow tolerant hikers welcomed. 10.3 miles distance with approximately 1400 feet of elevation gain. Any rain cancels. COST:



\$8 parking fee. BRING: Lunch, snacks, layered clothing, and plenty of liquids. There are potential potable water sources on the route, but they are unreliable. MEET: 10am at Henry Coe Ranch Visitor Center. ENDS: 5:30pm. LEADER: Steve Bakaley, sbakaley@gmail.com. (Mount Diablo & Santa Cruz Groups)

APRIL 1 - 3 • FRI - SUN

Winter Photography Lovers Paradise – Martis Peak snow camping alumni trip. Join us for a two-night photography adventure in the Martis Peak area, north of Lake Tahoe. We'll take time to experiment and practice shooting snow landscapes and the peaks overlooking Tahoe. All cameras welcome, including phone cameras. Our route begins at Brockway Summit Trailhead at 7200 feet along the Tahoe Rim Trail, and within 1.5 miles Lake Tahoe is in view. We'll camp at about 2 miles along the trail to Martis Peak and make time for sunset shots. On Saturday, a steady 2.5 to 3-mile climb will take us to the lookout tower and Martis Peak to enjoy breathtaking panoramic vistas. You also have the option to relax at camp and explore Tahoe vistas. Short, late afternoon hikes on Friday and Saturday will emphasize shooting during the golden hours. If we're treated to a starry sky, we'll shoot at twilight and into the night.

Night photography will not disappoint. 9 miles roundtrip distance with 1500 feet elevation of gain/loss. COST: \$35. Trip fee must be paid at signup via Paypal for your application to be considered. Trip limited to 8 participants. MEET: 9:30am at Brockway Summit trailhead, accessible from Hwy 267, 9.2 miles from Truckee. You have the option to meet at the trailhead Friday morning ready to go or stay in the Tahoe area Thursday night. ENDS: 2pm Sunday. LEADERS: Cynthia Knowles, (415) 845-2357 or cynthiapatagonia@yahoo.com; John Sedlander, jsedlander@gmail.com. (Snow Camping)

APRIL 6 • WED

Afternoon City 1A Walk above the Castro. Let's celebrate the longer days on this staircase walk above the Castro. 4+ mile loop with over 800 feet of climbing, walking up and down staircases and green spaces. Friendly, well-behaved dogs are welcome, provided they remain on non-retractable leashes. Any rain cancels. BRING: Water, layers depending on the weather, shoes that can handle hills that can be rocky, slippery, or slick, and snacks to tide you over until at least 8pm or meet at 5:30pm and grab a bite at the Market. MEET: 6pm at Castro Farmers' Market on its opening night. Some of us will arrive early to grab a bite beforehand. Look for us where there's seating. If we're not there, meet at the corner of Noe and Market at 6pm for introductions before we start walking at 6:15pm. ENDS: 8pm. LEADER: Paget Valentzas, (415) 271-2945 or pagetvalentzas@gmail.com. (Rainbow Sierrans)

APRIL 16 • SAT

Tomales Bluff 2B hike. The bells toll as bay meets sea at land's end on a leisurely paced 10 miles and 1000 ft elevation gain hike along the moors of the northern tip of Point Reyes. Mellow hikers welcomed. Any rain cancels. BRING: Lunch, liquids, and warm layered clothing. MEET: 11am at McClure's Beach lower parking lot. ENDS: Return to cars approximately 5pm. LEADER: Steve Bakaley, sbakaley@gmail.com. (SF Bay Chapter Hiking and Santa Cruz Group)

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Celebrate Participation in 2022!

PEGGY DA SILVA

My favorite radio station recently hosted a program asking listeners to call in with their “word for the New Year.” Lots of hopeful words were shared: patience, kindness, work, sing. Mine would be **participate**.

Having worked on electoral reform for several years, and as Chair of the Chapter's Nominations and Elections Committee for 2020 and 2021, I celebrate every one of our members who took the time to participate in our Winter elections. Not only did we welcome new leaders to our Executive Committees (and welcome back returnees!), we increased member-voter turnout by 27 percent, and saw dramatically more questioning of, and interaction with, candidates during the run-up to the election.

If you are reading this article, I'll bet you voted. Thank you! You might appreciate the uniqueness of the Sierra Club, among other organizations, in actually being member-driven through electing our leaders. Now, I ask you to build the strength of our Club by doing three things in the coming months.

- Continue to be involved with our Chapter and Group work, at whatever level is comfortable to you. Join in our Conservation, Political, and Executive Committee meetings (you can find dates, times, and Zoom information on our Activities and Events Calendar at sierraclub.org/sfbay/events). Keep on asking questions of your elected leaders and make your perspectives known. As long as mutual respect is practiced, we want different opinions and — yes — even disagreements. We know that it's hard to show up in a new setting. I have heard from those who felt their participation was not welcome. The Sierra Club is as messy a democ-



PHOTO CREDIT: Tomales Point, Point Reyes by Greg Poulos via Flickr Creative Commons (CC BY-SA 2.0).

PHOTO CREDIT: Members of the SF Bay Chapter Nominations and Elections Committee. Photo provided by Peggy da Silva.

racy as any, and it's important for all of us to speak up, support, and push back as needed. If you try to participate and feel shut down, seek out any leader or member who seems more welcoming, and ask for support.

- Remember to communicate with candidates and to vote in the national Sierra Club election in the spring. Participation is not usually very high, and people at the national leadership level need to hear from us, too. Our Club needs us to pay attention to who is running and find out their positions. A democracy with lackadaisical participation is not a good one.
- **Be Inclusive** and bring someone else along. That's a key point in **Bottom-Up Organizing**, and both are

part of the Jemez Principles for Democratic Organizing, adopted by the Sierra Club in 2014 and described by Chapter Organizer Jacob Klein in their *Yodeler* column (see pg. 17 for more). Help others — especially those who come from differing perspectives, lifestyles, life experiences — to join the Sierra Club as active members.

Help them to navigate some of the complicated bureaucracy and encourage them to contribute however they can to the good work. Our communities and our planet depend on all of us doing things differently, while building on all the good work that has been done during our Club's 129-year history.

My first activity with the Sierra Club was gathering signatures for the California Coastline Protection Initiative. It was a small act of participation. But every bit helps. You can contribute too: Zoom into a meeting, check out the Advocacy Team, and, of course, vote! If you are inspired to run for a leadership position in 2022, feel free to reach out to elections@sfbay.org. Check out the Chapter e-bulletins and website for more action ideas. **Participation** from all of us will “save the planet.” Let's do it!

Peggy da Silva is the chair of the Sierra Club SF Bay Chapter Nominations and Elections Committee.

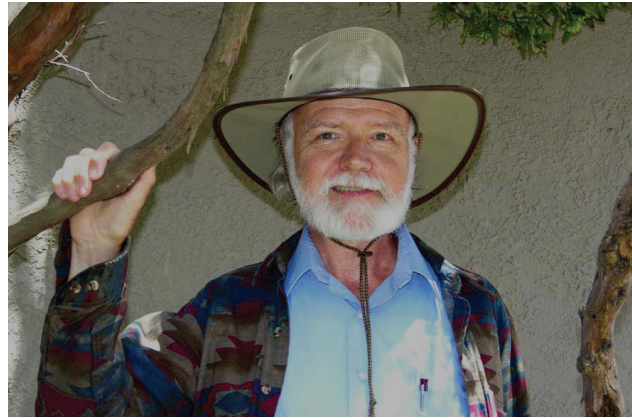
Remembering Guy Mayes, a Dedicated Bay Chapter Outings Leader

JOHN CALDERWOOD & STEVE BAKALEY

The San Francisco Bay Chapter lost one of its most prolific, dedicated, thorough, and earnest day hike leaders when Guy Mayes passed away in the early morning of September 17th, 2021, at the age of 76.

Guy began leading hikes for the Bay Chapter's Sierra Singles outing section, and upon meeting the love of his life, Nancy, led for the Hiking section. His hikes traversed throughout the Bay Area, including the Calistoga Palisades, Point Reyes' Tomales Bluff, Redwood and Las Trampas Regional Parks, the SF Presidio, and Mount Diablo. He was also known for his historical and architectural walks in San Francisco, Berkeley, Oakland, Alameda, and San Jose. Hiking Section Chair, Bob Solotar, said of Guy, "He was a role model, and I always recommended Guy's hikes when people asked about good hikes and hike leaders." Guy Mayes was awarded the Michener Award by the Bay Chapter in 2003 for excellence in conducting outings.

It has been said that, on Guy's hikes, if there was a climbable rock on the route he would climb it, and if there



was an accessible cave, he would crawl in. But there was one place you didn't mention to Guy: Sunol's Cave Rocks, where, in his earlier days, Guy experienced a rock and a cave too far, a dislocated shoulder, and an exciting ride in a medivac helicopter.

His Art Deco walks and lectures in Oakland will be missed, as well as his hidden paths of Golden Gate Park complete with tales of the city, his walks through the City of the Dead in Colma, and a special hike through Land's End and the Presidio where we got to participate in a cannon loading exercise with park volunteers. Guy supplemented his talks with copies of newspaper and magazine clippings apropos to the venue, sometimes decking out his wife Nancy in illustrative attire.

The experience of a day with Guy did not end with his hikes. His post-hike barbecues and semi-annual seasonal ale tastings will be remembered with great fondness, as will his annual Berkeley architecture walks which were always followed by a homestyle spaghetti feed and winter ale tasting at the home of former Singles leader Phil (a contemporary of Guy) and Phyllis Gale.

Happy trails, Guy.

John Calderwood and Steve Bakaley are outings leaders for the Sierra Club SF Bay Chapter Sierra Singles and Hiking sections respectively. This piece was also edited by Bob Solotar, vice chair of the Chapter's Activities Committee.



PHOTO CREDITS Top: Photo by Lydia Gans, from the Yodeler archives. Bottom: Guy Mayes leading a Mount Saint Helena outing in 2004, photo by Richard Lew.

Jemez Principles for Democratic Organizing: A Column

JACOB KLEIN

2. Emphasis on Bottom-Up Organizing

To succeed, it is important to reach out into new constituencies, and to reach within all levels of leadership and membership base of the organizations that are already involved in our networks. We must be continually building and strengthening a base which provides our credibility, our strategies, mobilizations, leadership development, and the energy for the work we must do daily.

We return again to exploring the Jemez Principles for Democratic Organizing, this time digging into the "emphasis on bottom-up organizing." When it comes to organizing, there are many different approaches, each with their own merits. To build a campaign is to require nimbleness. To build a movement requires emphasizing the grassroots.

The Sierra Club often touts itself as the largest grassroots environmental organization. And indeed, volunteers have long been the backbone of this organization through goal-setting, labor, and more. However, there are many ways in which we can be a top-down organization — as well as an organization that is out of touch with our broad-based membership and greater community. Leadership can at times reflect a select portion of local demographics, thus entrenching particular points of view and priorities.

Bottom-up organizing, however, gives us an opportunity to expand our notions, and ultimately achieve greater movement health. Bottom-up focuses on the directly impacted and the less heard. Priorities are established not by grants or management or a third party, but by the people in the room sharing their thoughts. Bring in people, educate if necessary, listen always, and you'll be surprised at what people are experiencing, the insights they have into an issue, and the creativity of their solutions.

Those of us who are in a position of power, even relative power, can easily become fixed in the processes we're comfortable with. I definitely fall prey to this at times, when I get caught up in a familiar pattern of response: identify a problem, spread the word, create an action, and hope people go with it. I lose out on what may be the more effective and holistic strategy.

Instead, by creating space that includes people from all aspects of an organization, from other organizations, and from the directly impacted, we can get a clearer picture of the issue. From

there, we can grow together, developing a whole movement of leaders, rather than a select few who tap community members when convenient.

This leads to another pitfall that bottom-up organizing can address: when a movement is dependent on a single person, that means that it's fragile. Sure, leadership and guidance are powerful and necessary, but when a leader disappears — an unfortunate reality — the movement can spin out and wither.

Something I try to do, and admittedly fail at sometimes, is make sure that I'm not only talking to the Sierra Club leaders representing an area, or my typical partners, but reaching out to the groups that are most affected, the residents of a community, the leaders already established. By connecting to a base of people, we can build something that is multidimensional and sustainable — no matter what vagaries are thrown its way.

When a movement has participation from more people, and more diverse people (don't forget the first Jemez principle, *Be inclusive!*), it has greater validity and power. If I were to speak at a hearing and say that I alone support a cause — that has considerably less weight than if I speak up in solidarity with a collective.

Building that collective, building from the bottom up, often takes more work. But it's so worth it. That work taps into people's leadership potential and lifts up the power that they had the whole time. If we truly support people power, then we must respect the power of each person. Put that all together, and we can change the world.

Jacob Klein is an organizer for the Sierra Club SF Bay Chapter.



SUPPORT THE CHAPTER BY GOING SOLAR

Thinking of going solar? If you go solar through SunPower, you'll receive a \$1,000 rebate and SunPower will donate \$500 to the SF Bay Chapter. It's a win for you, your local Sierra Club chapter, and the planet. Get started at bit.ly/sunpowerforthebay to get your free quote and find out how much you can save.

The Environmental Protection Agency Must Implement the Law Regarding Ship Ballast Water Discharges

ANDREW COHEN



The San Francisco Bay-Delta ecosystem is the most invaded estuary in the world — with ship ballast water the dominant vector for introducing new invasions. Regulating ballast water discharges is the most effective action available to address the problem of invasive species in our estuary.

So it is striking that the draft *Estuary Blueprint*, the San Francisco Estuary Partnership's five-year plan to protect the estuary, says nothing about ballast water and contains no actions to manage ballast discharges. To correct this, the Sierra Club SF Bay Chapter and other organizations have co-written a letter to the Partnership — a collaboration of local, state, and federal agencies, NGOs, and academia and business leaders working to protect and restore the San Francisco Bay-Delta Estuary — recommending the inclusion of seven specific actions to address this threat.

These actions focus on persuading the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to issue ballast discharge standards that comply with the Clean Water Act. This is due to the fact that Congress took away California's authority to implement its own ballast water laws in 2018, leaving the EPA as the sole agency that can set ballast water discharge standards.

Unfortunately, the EPA's record on ballast water is terrible. When the Clean Water Act went into effect in 1972, the EPA illegally exempted ballast water discharges,

stating that they cause little pollution. In the 1980s and 1990s, several major ballast water invasions made headlines — including zebra and quagga mussels in the Great Lakes, the Asian clam *Potamocorbula* in San Francisco Bay, toxic red tide organisms in Australia, and an emergent pandemic strain of cholera transported in ballast water to South America, where it killed over 10,000 people — but the EPA continued to exempt ballast water because it "causes little pollution."

In 1999, environmental, civic, tribal, and water organizations, supported by 18 members of Congress, petitioned the EPA to repeal the exemption and regulate ballast discharges. The EPA refused.

So environmental groups sued. Forced by the court, the EPA finally, after 36 years, repealed its illegal exemption and issued ballast discharge standards. But these standards merely duplicated existing federal rules, doing nothing to fix the problem. So environmental groups sued again, forcing the EPA to issue new standards. But these also just duplicated existing rules, so environmental groups sued again, and the court once again ordered the EPA to adopt more stringent standards that complied with the Clean Water Act. That was in 2015.

Toward the end of 2020, the EPA finally published new proposed standards (the third set). Remarkably, these are exactly the same as the old standards that the court rejected in 2015.

Environmental groups had hoped that in 2021, under the Biden administration, the EPA would withdraw the proposed standards and offer discharge standards that actually comply with the Clean Water Act. Alas, no. Rather, the EPA's plan appears to be endless delay, thereby keeping in place indefinitely the ineffective and unlawful standards that the court rejected over six years ago.

Our comment letter to the San Francisco Estuary Partnership outlines and requests strong actions to persuade the EPA to obey the law and set standards that meet the requirements of the Clean Water Act. It will be interesting to see if the partners in the Partnership, whose core funding comes from the EPA, will take the steps needed to compel the EPA to finally do its job and implement the Clean Water Act, nearly 50 years after it was passed.

The comment letter and background information can be downloaded at bit.ly/BallastWaterLetter.

Andrew Cohen is an aquatic biologist for the Center for Research on Aquatic Bioinvasions.

The Fight for Environmental Justice and San Francisco Bay

TIFFANY NGO

Shoreline communities in the Bay Area are suffering the worst impacts from climate change-induced sea level rise. These areas, which are primarily populated by historically disenfranchised BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and people of color) and working class communities, have disproportionately higher rates of chronic disease, including asthma, and lower birth weights and life expectancy than neighboring areas. Decades of government-led exclusionary housing and redlining, coupled with disinvestment and inaction, left these communities vulnerable to industrial and military-grade toxic and radioactive waste exposure. With climate change, shoreline communities must grapple with increased contact with noxious substances mobilized by sea level and groundwater rise. Contaminants are being driven up into the community and simultaneously washed out into San Francisco Bay.

On December 8th and 9th, 2021, shoreline com-

munities, environmental and community-based organizations, researchers, experts, and government agency representatives met for the two-day Sea Level Rise & Shoreline Contamination Regional Workshop.

Environmental justice organizations representing shoreline communities including Communities for a Better Environment in Richmond (CBE), the Richmond Shoreline Alliance (RSA), Marin City Climate Resilience and Health Justice (MCCRHJ), the West Oakland Environmental Indicators Project, and Greenaction for Health and Environmental Justice talked about the pollution in their neighborhoods and the severe health consequences resulting from decades of environmental racism and lack of local government intervention. The toxic and radioactive waste that remains in the area is a dangerous, enduring environmental injustice for the vulnerable communities living and working there. During his presentation, Andrés Soto (CBE, RSA) reflected on the region's history and its particular impact on Richmond: "There's a long legacy of industrial development in the early and mid-20th century along the entire Bay shoreline impacting many communities, but Richmond, because of the refinery, because of the railroads, because of the shipyards and all the ancillary



industry that went along with it, got more than its fair share, and we're still coming to grips with that legacy."

That legacy is felt today, exacerbated by non-existent or degraded infrastructure due to years of disinvestment by the local government. In a moving account from Ms. Terrie Green (MCCRHJ), she spoke of her daughter being forced to wade through contaminated floodwaters to return to Marin City during the October 24th, 2021 storm: "Folks have been wading in this water for 80 years."

The health concerns communicated during the workshop are not unfounded. Using urine samples and Geographic Information Systems (GIS), Dr. Ahimsa Porter Sumchai of the Hunters Point Biomonitoring Foundation and Medical Screening Clinic found that the level of radioactive contamination in the shipyard shoreline corresponds almost exactly to the substances detected in residents and workers. Her mapping also showed that locations with the most concentrated radioactive contamination correlate with cancer cases in the area.

In a presentation about the interactions of sea level rise with groundwater, earthquakes, pipes, and contaminated soil, UC Berkeley professor Dr. Kristina Hill showed the different scenarios in which hazardous contaminants can become mobilized and enter homes and public spaces. Dr. Hill explained that groundwater, which is lighter than saltwater, rises with the sea, spreading hazardous material underground through the Bay Area's soil layers and chronically broken pipe systems into unsuspecting homes. She emphasized throughout her presentation that sea level and groundwater rise is happening now, and showed pictures of groundwater bubbling out of manholes taken in December 2021.

The last part of the workshop connected shoreline communities with agency representatives from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB), and the San Francisco Bay Conservation & Development Commis-

sion (BCDC). Shoreline community members expressed their hurt, anger, and distrust after being subjected to air, water, and soil pollution with little or no assistance.

Their demands are straight-forward and insist upon ensuring accountability, transparency, and the health of the communities. They demand that:

- Local, regional, and state governments prioritize cleanup near environmental justice communities;
- Toxic and radioactive waste be completely cleaned up, not just covered up;
- The government work closely with shoreline residents, the community, and environmental justice organizations for all contamination cleanup decisions,

including the best treatment and/or disposal options;

- All contaminated site cleanup plans use the latest sea level rise projections;

- Housing will not be built on hazardous and/or radioactive waste sites near the shoreline unless the areas are first cleaned up with community oversight and independent testing to the highest Residential Standards;

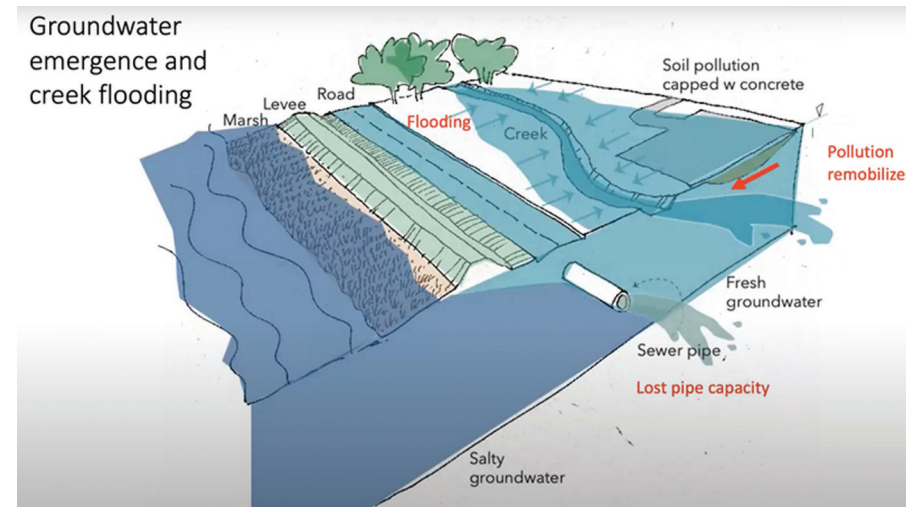
- Comprehensive, regular, and direct health studies, led and approved by impacted shoreline communities of local residents, workers, and

regular site users, be conducted to determine if contaminants are accumulating and/or harming community members;

- In limited circumstances where contamination cannot be completely moved away from shoreline areas, robust containment is utilized;
- And that each community be allocated resources and funding in order for shoreline communities to fully participate in the cleanup and oversight of these activities.

So what can you do to help?

- As an individual, you can reach out to the organizations referenced in the article and involved in the workshop. The SF Bay Shoreline Contamination Cleanup Coalition (sfbayshorelineccc.org) meets regularly and can always use your community



resources and skills.

- Attend the Sierra Club's Bay Area Sea Level Rise committee to contribute to and advocate for this work: sign up for their listserv at bit.ly/SLR_Listserv, and contact chair Arthur Feinstein at arthurfeinstein@earthlink.net with any questions.
- Contact your representatives. These issues are urgent — people's lives have been and are increasingly at risk. Contamination cleanup needs to happen NOW. We must demand that the Infrastructure Bill's \$21 billion, dedicated to pollution cleanup, goes to the most vulnerable shoreline communities as reparations for racist government policies that deliberately placed these communities in direct harm.

To screen for contaminants and find resources in your community, check out the Shoreline Community Tools and Resources page at bit.ly/ShorelineCommunityResources, which has links to databases and maps, reports, community-based orgs and NGOs, government agencies, academic and research organizations, and grants and funding opportunities. You can also watch the workshop recordings online at bit.ly/SLRDayOne and bit.ly/SLRDayTwo.

Tiffany Ngo is a member of the Sierra Club Southern Alameda County Group (SACG) and the Climate Reality Project Bay Area Chapter (CRBA). The SF Bay Shoreline Contamination Cleanup Coalition, CRBA, and Sierra Club SACG Chair and SF Bay Chapter Vice Chair Martha Kreeger contributed significantly to this article.

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Sierra Club and the Teamsters Warn of Environmental Justice Perils in Warehouse Spread

JACOB KLEIN

In the Fall 2021 edition of the *Yodeler*, Chapter Vice Chair Martha Kreeger and Dr. Marlina Rose Selva wrote about the pitfalls of Amazon warehouses, particularly in Hayward. Since then, warehouse projects have cropped up across the Bay Area. The Sierra Club has been working with our union allies, the Teamsters, to address the environmental and economic injustices that can develop from these facilities.

The warehouses in question are predominantly slated to be “last-mile delivery warehouses,” otherwise known as heavy distribution warehouses. This style of warehouse is designed to receive goods and ship them out within 24 hours, rather than longer-term storage. Due to that quick turnaround, traffic from heavy duty trucks, light duty trucks, and vans can lead to sharp increases in air pollution. Along with this, the increased traffic causes damage to roads, increased commute times, and poses dangers to pedestrians. Coupling this with the reality that these warehouses are often sited near already heavily impacted communities and poorer neighborhoods sharpens the sociological impacts on already marginalized communities.

On top of this, Amazon in particular has a reputation for poor working conditions and anti-union tendencies. As Kreeger and Dr. Selva discussed, these warehouses do not provide a just recovery for communities bearing the brunt of the COVID-19-caused recession and job loss.

Due to these circumstances, the Sierra Club demands proper analysis at slated warehouse projects, robust mitigation measures on construction and operations, and pathways to family-sustaining jobs. Development can and should support community investment and economic diversification. Companies hoping to set up shop in our communities can be part of the economic shift away from fossil fuel reliance. That requires companies like Amazon to act in good faith, support mitigation measures — like rooftop solar, idling restrictions, energy from renewable sources — and offer good-paying jobs with benefits.

In partnership with the Teamsters, we have had several wins locally that will hopefully set a precedent for warehouse development in the region. In Hayward, Amazon withdrew from sites, unwilling to meet our demands. The projects are now moving forward with conditions of approval that require electrification measures and, hopefully, operators that provide good jobs to the community.

In Contra Costa County, Supervisor John Gioia introduced a moratorium on new warehouse applications while County planners write changes to the County code that will appropriately call for needed electrifications of construction and fleets.

However, there are more sites appearing on the horizon, including CenterPoint Strategies in unincorporated North Richmond, a potential Amazon campus at Hilltop Mall in Richmond, a massive development in SoMa San Francisco, and more across the Bay. The Sierra Club is committed to addressing as many projects as we can, but we must also be considering regional strategies that require certain conditions from the outset.

This campaign is still in its early stages, but we look forward to building it out. There are many communities and groups that we must partner with in order to achieve proper community benefits. Many of these groups, like the San Francisco Southeast Alliance, the Richmond Our Power Coalition, and others are already leading the charge for their communities. In collaboration, we can achieve development that doesn't damage our environments or communities, and helps support a just recovery.

Jacob Klein is an organizer for the Sierra Club SF Bay Chapter.

California Water Commission Advances Two Environmentally Destructive Water Projects

SIERRA CLUB CALIFORNIA

On December 15th, the California Water Commission voted to advance two water storage projects that will have devastating consequences for California's environment. After hours of public comment, many of which opposed advancing the two projects, the Commission decided both projects — Sites Reservoir and Pacheco Reservoir — maintained their eligibility to receive public funding under Proposition 1.

Proposition 1, passed by voters in 2014, created an innovative approach of investing bond funds based on the public benefits achieved by individual projects. In 2018, the Commission determined that eight projects were eligible for funds, including four surface storage projects and four groundwater projects.

Sites Reservoir is a proposal to construct a new water storage facility in Northern California. The project would divert water from the already overdrafted Sacramento River. It will also flood a 13,200-acre area which contains valuable wetlands, oak woodland habitat, and 24 endangered species. The Commission unanimously voted that Sites would remain eligible for \$800 million of public funding.

The Pacheco Reservoir Expansion project is a proposal to enlarge the storage capacity of the existing reservoir, located in Santa Clara County. Pacheco Reservoir Expansion would significantly enlarge the footprint of the existing reservoir, flooding an additional 1,500 acres that include areas of the ecologically important Henry Coe State Park. With another unanimous vote, the Commission voted to allow Pacheco to remain eligible for up to \$500 million of Prop 1 funding.

The Commission advanced both projects over the objections of dozens of members of the public representing environmental justice, conservation, and fishing groups, as well as California Tribal representatives. The Commission was presented with a petition created by Save California Salmon — containing nearly 50,000 signatures — urging them to reject the projects.


In response, Brandon Dawson, director of Sierra Club California, issued the following statement:

“The Commission's actions today will harm California communities, ecosystems, lands, and wildlife. These two de-

structive projects provide marginal public benefits but massive destruction, such as depleting salmon populations and flooding precious California lands. The climate crisis and its impacts on California water supplies demand that we move away from large storage projects like these, and start investing in local and sustainable water conservation, efficiency, and recycling programs and technology.

Even more egregious than the Commission's vote was its rejection of the public comments opposing the projects, and its treatment of tribal representatives who will be adversely affected by the projects. Tribal members continuously voiced concerns about the lack of tribal consultation during the meeting's public comment portion, and were resoundingly ignored. Every member of the public deserves the time and opportunity to voice their opinion without fear of being shut down.”

This press release was published by Sierra Club California (SCC) on December 16th, 2021. In January, SCC submitted comments on the Sites Reservoir revised draft Environmental Impact Report and will continue to engage in this effort.



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#SierraSnapshots | A monarch caterpillar feasts on milkweed in a Bay Area backyard, August 2021. Photo by Judy Smith. For a chance for your snapshots to be featured in the next issue of the Yodeler, share them on Twitter, Instagram, or Facebook with the hashtag #SierraSnapshots, or email photos to yodedit@sfbaysc.org. Include your name, the names of any people in the photo, and where and when the photo was taken.

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Our website is home to helpful information and resources including:

- Our blog, updated regularly
- The full events and activities calendar
- Group information and leadership roster

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- New leaders welcomed to our Executive Committees (pg. 4)
- Green Friday program hosts speaker series on activism and mental health (pg. 8)
- Learn how to become an outings leader (pg. 13)

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