

Find us online at [theyodeler.org](http://theyodeler.org) and [sierraclub.org/sfbay](http://sierraclub.org/sfbay)

## Chapter elections are now open!

In order to participate in the election, your Sierra Club San Francisco Bay Chapter membership must have been active in the Chapter database as of October 27. You may vote *either* with the paper ballot printed in the Election Supplement mailed to active members with this Yodeler, or online, at [sierraclub.org/sfbay/2015chapterelections](http://sierraclub.org/sfbay/2015chapterelections). Your ballot must be received by 2 pm on **Friday, December 18**. 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!



## 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 (855)438-7860 to speak with the Sierra Club solar homes coordinator.



Park visitors frolic in the waves at Alameda's Crown Beach. Photo courtesy of Floyd Brown.

## Park District to expand Alameda's Crown Beach

Victory means public open space, not private luxury development, on Alameda's shoreline

The East Bay Regional Park District will soon be the proud owner of vacant surplus federal property next to Alameda's Crab Cove Visitor's Center on Robert W. Crown Memorial State Beach. The purchase follows years of fierce legal battles and a successful campaign by the Sierra Club and an Alameda citizen's group, Friends of Crown Beach, to rezone the land as open space.

The park district has been seeking to acquire the 3.89-acre parcel in order to expand the park ever since it was deemed surplus. But instead of negotiating a sale to the park district, the feds decided to auction the land for top dollar. A private housing developer prevailed, but was unable to close the deal because the state refused to grant utility easement rights on the state parkland street leading to the parcel.

After the City of Alameda frustrated the park district's park-expansion efforts by zoning the parcel residential, an acrimonious three-year-long ordeal ensued, involving the park district, the city, the federal government, the state, and the private developer.

Unable to transfer easement rights to the developer, the feds convinced a district court judge that seizing McKay Avenue through eminent domain was for a legitimate "public purpose." The feds asked the court to value the street at \$10.

The feds' potential buyer, meanwhile, walked away from purchasing the surplus property after a citizen-led effort got the property zoned as open space, and the newly elected city council threw their support behind the park district.

The district court later ruled that a jury would determine

what the feds owed the state for taking the street. The state's asking price of \$1.41 million—a price beyond what the feds were willing to pay—was based on the diminished value of the parkland itself by loss of control over access and because the park district would have had to construct new parking facilities for Crown Beach visitors.

A settlement was reached shortly thereafter. The feds agreed to return the street to the state and sell the surplus property to the park district for \$2,182,500—essentially splitting the difference between the park district's unsuccessful auction bid four years ago and what the private housing developer was willing to pay.

"The community won with this agreement," said Robert Doyle, General Manager of the East Bay Regional Park District. "We promised in 2008 through our Measure WW bond election that we would expand Crab Cove with this valuable land" and "are happy to deliver on our promise." Doyle also thanked the community and the Attorney General for their "unwavering support during this lengthy process."

Alameda Mayor Trish Herrera Spencer called the agreement a victory for Alameda. "We're thrilled that this issue has been resolved in a way that protects open space and parkland, and expands access to our shoreline," she said. "I sincerely thank all those whose efforts have now been realized. Many Alamedans worked years to save this parcel from development. We're glad to finally see it protected."

Richard Bangert

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

## Celebrate 2015 at the Chapter holiday party

Friday, December 11, 6 to 9 pm, 2530 San Pablo Avenue (near Dwight) in Berkeley.

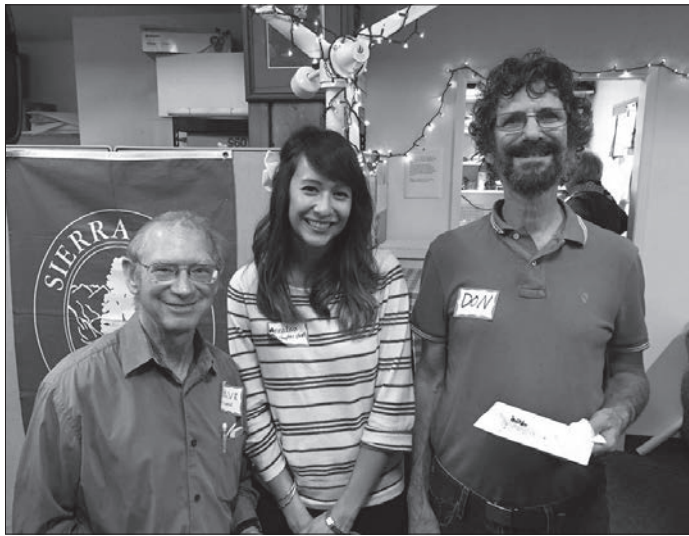
Come one and all to the Chapter holiday party! The Sierra Club will be joining several other organizations in our building to celebrate the season and all the work we do. Those sharing in the fun include the Ecology Center, League of Women Voters, the Golden Gate Audubon Society, and SEEDS Community 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, from set-up to greeting guests to clean-up. We also need donations of ready-to-eat finger food. To help or sign up to bring food, please contact Joanne Drabek at [joanne1892@gmail.com](mailto:joanne1892@gmail.com) or (510)530-5216.



A raffle winner at the 2014 Bay Chapter holiday party.



David McCoard, Annalisa Belliss, and Don Forman at the 2014 holiday party.

## Chapter welcomes three new staffers to work closely with members

**Marina Hydeman** and **Kim Beavers** are the Bay Chapter's newest membership outreach representatives. They will help to facilitate a dialogue with the Chapter's members and raise funds for our many incredible programs.

Marina is a recent graduate of Cornell University where she earned her degree in ecology and evolutionary biology. While at Cornell, she conducted extensive research in the field of disease ecology, including studying the mysterious Chytrid fungus decimating amphibian populations worldwide. She has also worked with the Australian not-for-profit Environment Tasmania, dedicated to protecting Australia's UNESCO World Heritage Areas.

A San Francisco native, Marina is thrilled to be home and spends her free time volunteering as a curatorial assistant in the Jepson Herbarium or walking her dog Gus in the Bay



Marina Hydeman

Area's beautiful natural spaces.

Kim Beavers is originally from Atlanta, Georgia, but made her way to Northern California via Tennessee and Maryland. She's a former news reporter, editor, photographer, and poet who fell in love with the trees and rivers. She became an environmental activist in the 15 years she lived in Humboldt County and the East Bay. She's also worked as a phone canvasser and member rep for many progressive political causes. She spends her free time playing with her Maine Coon named Moe and searching for photo ops.

**Brittany King** is the Bay Chapter's new volunteer coordinator. She was born and raised in the Bay Area, where she developed an interest and love for environmental science. Brittany earned her Bachelor's degree from Hampton University in Marine and Environmental



Kim Beavers

### The Bay Chapter Online

Follow us on social media!

- /SierraClubSFBayChapter
- @SFBaySierraClub
- SierraClub\_SFBay

Explore our new website!

The Bay Chapter has launched a new website, online at [sierraclub.org/sfbay](http://sierraclub.org/sfbay). Head there to explore all sorts of great resources and opportunities including:

- Issue briefs
- Group info and leadership roster
- Full events and activities calendar
- Volunteer opportunities

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

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Science in 2009 and her Master's degree in Environmental Science and Management from the Bren School of Environmental Science and Management, at the University of California, Santa Barbara in June 2012. Brittany returned to the Bay Area last year after completing a Sea Grant Fellowship in Washington, DC and has spent this past year working with Oakland community organizations and community members on various social-justice issues.

Brittany is glad to back in the Bay Area and enjoys spending her free time hanging out with her dog Bandit.



Brittany King

**A note from the editor:**  
*Even as we welcome new faces, the Bay Chapter says goodbye to our conservation manager Jess Dervin-Ackerman. Read a special note and appeal from Jess on page 11.*

### SIERRA CLUB YODELER

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For information about classifieds, see page 15.

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To find out more, contact the editor at [yodedit@sierraclub.org](mailto:yodedit@sierraclub.org) or (510)848-0800.



## Certification revoked for dirty power plant planned for Contra Costa

The citizens of Contra Costa County won a major victory this October with a decision by the California Energy Commission (CEC) to terminate the certification of the proposed “Willow Pass” natural gas plant in Pittsburg, California. Two other natural gas plants were also blocked at the same time: the Sun Valley plant in rural Riverside County and the San Gabriel facility in San Bernardino County.

The 550-megawatt Willow Pass facility was certified in 2008 and would have added substantial air pollution in a low-income community that is already overburdened by emissions associated with fossil fuel energy generation.

Sierra Club My Generation senior campaign representative Sarah Friedman said: “Since the certifications were originally submitted, California has undergone monumental changes in air quality, traffic and water resources. It was a common sense decision for the CEC to close the book on these dirty proposals, and the health of citizens located near the proposed sites in the Bay Area and Inland Empire will be far better off as a result.”

Thanks to everyone who showed up at the California Energy Commission meeting and stood up for public health and climate!

## SF voters give City leaders a clear mandate on clean energy

On November 3rd, San Franciscans voted overwhelmingly for a clean energy future by passing Proposition H and defeating Proposition G — by more than 50 percentage-point margins in each case. These victories show that the city’s residents saw past the confusion and deception surrounding Prop. G and that they want San Francisco’s local renewable-energy program, CleanPowerSF, to be a success.

Considering the Mayoral and District 3 Board of Supervisors races, as well as hotly contested housing affordability measures (Props. F and I especially) this was a high-stakes election, with unprecedented amounts of money being thrown into controversial issues that voters had not until now had the chance to grapple with.

But the election also showed that CleanPowerSF is *not* a controversial issue. Almost 100,000 people voted “No” on Prop. G and “Yes” on Prop. H. Clean, community-controlled, affordable energy is a clearly a top priority for the City. As the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) gears up to launch CleanPowerSF this spring, our big wins at the polls leaves city officials with a clear mandate: San Francisco wants a robust, just, and accountable clean-energy program now!

Prop. G was a deceptively worded measure that would have placed onerous restrictions on CleanPowerSF — such as preventing



Sierra Club SF Bay Chapter staff and volunteers campaign for Aaron Peskin (center), No on G, and Yes on H.

it from using rooftop solar in its renewable portfolio — that would not apply to PG&E. Prop. G was specifically designed by PG&E’s allies to undermine CleanPowerSF and prevent it from outcompeting PG&E in terms of affordability and sustainability. That’s why CleanPowerSF’s allies came together in opposition to Prop. G and in favor of Prop. H, a measure that will annul Prop. G and reinforce fair standards for all energy providers, including CleanPowerSF and PG&E.

After a decade of planning and advocacy, CleanPowerSF will launch this spring. The program, like similar Community Choice energy programs spreading across the Bay Area and the nation, responds to the demand from residents, workers, and environmental advocates for a better energy system with:

- a higher percentage of renewable energy (33-50% with the option to opt up to 100%) than what PG&E provides (only 27%, which barely meets State standards);
- build-out of local renewable-energy infrastructure to create good jobs and reduce our dependence on outside sources; and
- public, community control over our energy.

Energy is a public good, and CleanPowerSF will put an end to the corporate energy monopoly that results in higher toxic emissions, price instability, and blackouts.

### Pre-enroll to get cleaner power this spring!

CleanPowerSF will launch this April in the Bayview-Hunters Point neighborhood before rolling out city-wide over the following months. **Even if you don’t live in Bayview-Hunters Point, you can pre-enroll in CleanPowerSF to begin getting cleaner power as soon as the program launches.** Pre-enrolling will show your support for CleanPowerSF and power your home or business with affordable, renewable energy — at or below PG&E’s current prices.

You can do even more to help make the program a success by opting up to CleanPowerSF’s voluntary 100-percent-renewable option for a

small premium, encouraging the growth of the program’s local renewable-energy build-out. Head to [cleanpowersf.org](http://cleanpowersf.org) today to pre-enroll for cleaner power and/or opt up to 100% SuperGreen!

### Peskin’s election brings progressive majority to Board of Supervisors

CleanPowerSF and other green programs will have a boost at City Hall with the election of Aaron Peskin for District 3 Supervisor. Aaron, who previously served on the SF Board of Supervisors, has long been an environmental ally. In 2001, he prevented the ill-advised infill of two square miles of the Bay for runway expansion by the San Francisco International Airport. And in 2007, Aaron helped win \$30 million of increased funding for SF Muni, helping to reduce the emissions, costs, and health impacts of cars in our City.

Aaron also ran on affordability. While his opponent, Julie Christensen, was supported by landlords and developers, Aaron’s victory was thanks in part to the help of tenants, labor unions, and community groups who all want to see an end to rising rents and evictions. The more unaffordable the City becomes to those who work there, the more people that will become displaced to car-dependent suburbs, and the more people that will have to drive long commutes to get to work. That’s why affordability is another top environmental priority: we need affordable and transit-oriented development, good jobs, and healthy communities — not urban sprawl. In his previous terms as a supervisor, Aaron sponsored legislation to curb the Ellis Act, frequently used by landlords to evict tenants.

With a new progressive majority on the Board of Supervisors, we’re excited for a new era of leadership on affordability, accountability, and environmental protection.

You can see how all the Sierra Club’s endorsed candidates and ballot measures fared at [sierraclub.org/sfbay/2015endorsements](http://sierraclub.org/sfbay/2015endorsements).

Jeremy Gong



The Secal Pittsburg Power Plant, located on the Delta near Chipps Island, which would have also housed the Willow Pass natural gas power plant. Photo courtesy the Pacific Southwest Region US Fish and Wildlife Service Flickr page.



### Gift to the Sierra Club SF Bay Chapter

### In memory of Theresa Savage Gift of Sarah Kluberg

*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.*

# Thanks for making the 2015 David Brower Dinner a great success (and a lot of fun!)

We would like to extend our most heartfelt thanks to the over 230 of our friends, allies, and supporters who joined us for our 5th annual David Brower Dinner on October 22nd in San Francisco. The David Brower Dinner is a benefit for our work and a way for us to honor Brower's spirit by recognizing some of today's environmental leaders. Our 2015 honorees were:

**TRAILBLAZER AWARD:** Carl Anthony and Dr. Paloma Pavel, for their commitment to regional sustainability and environmental justice.

**ED BENNETT LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD:** Amy Meyer, for her tireless efforts to establish and protect the Golden Gate National Recreation Area.

**PHIL BURTON BADGE OF COURAGE AWARD:** Gayle McLaughlin and Jovanka Beckles, progressive champions of the Richmond City Council, for their work to protect democracy and the environment from corporate pollution.

**YOUTH AWARD:** New Voices are Rising, a project of the Rose Foundation for Communities and the Environment, for inspiring the next generation of environmental justice advocates.

For more information about our awardees, please visit our event page: [sierraclub.org/sfbay/davidbrowerdinner2015](http://sierraclub.org/sfbay/davidbrowerdinner2015).

We are especially grateful to our event sponsors:

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Assemblymember Tony Thurmond, Assembly District 15  
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For information about sponsoring future David Brower Dinners or other events, please contact Ashley Malyszka at [ashley.malyszka@sierraclub.org](mailto:ashley.malyszka@sierraclub.org) or 510-848-0800 x 309.



Trailblazer Award recipients Carl Anthony (left) and Dr. Paloma Pavel (center) with Guillermo Mayer (right), President and CEO of Public Advocates, who presented the award



Mistress of Ceremony and KALW "Your Call" host Rose Aguilar presents youth leaders Nate Henderson, Pa Dwe, and Kyree Survine (left to right) with the Youth Award, given to New Voices are Rising, a project of the Rose Foundation



Awardees and presenters, back row from left to right: Amy Meyer, New Voices Are Rising fellows Nate Henderson, Pa Dwe, and Kyree Survine with their advisor Jill Ratner (face partially obscured), Jovanka Beckles, Carl Anthony, Dr. Paloma Pavel, Gayle McLaughlin, Michelle Myers, Becky Evans, and Tom Turner.



# Events & Activities

of the SAN FRANCISCO BAY CHAPTER  
OF THE SIERRA CLUB

DEC 2015  
through  
JAN 2016

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:

[sierraclub.org/sfbay/activities](http://sierraclub.org/sfbay/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, 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, visit <http://tinyurl.com/outingswaiver> or 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@gmail.com](mailto:rpostar@gmail.com), or the Chapter office at (510)848-0800.

## Carpooling

Carpooling helps the environment 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 Meetup site a couple weeks in advance of the event. Join the Meetup group and post a comment requesting or offering a ride at:

[www.meetup.com/sanfranciscobay](http://www.meetup.com/sanfranciscobay).

## Tuesdays

**Lake Chabot Reservoir 1A hike.** Optional dinner afterward. **Meet:** 3:30pm at boathouse. **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 1B hike.** Dec. 5 and 19, Jan. 2 and 16. 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. Moderate pace with many stops. Heavy rain cancels. **Meet:** 10 am at 44 Visitacion Avenue #206, Brisbane. **Ends:** 1:30 pm. **Directions:** SamTrans #292 bus. **Leader:** Paul Bouscal, (415)467-6631 or [sanbruno@mountainwatch.org](mailto:sanbruno@mountainwatch.org). (Hiking)

## Nov 25 • Wed

**Pre-holiday morning hike on Tam 3B hike.** Beat the traffic and get some pre-Thanksgiving exercise. We'll head over to the North Side via West Peak. Good ups and downs. Steady, brisk pace, brief snack stop. If weather might change (or enhance) plans so call or email leader if you're coming and we'll keep you apprised of any changes. **Meet:** 8:25 am at Bootjack Parking Lot. **Ends:** 1 pm. **Leader:** Jayah Faye Paley, (415)699-3333, [seminar@polesformobility.com](mailto:seminar@polesformobility.com). (Hiking)

## Nov 27 • Fri

**Post-Turkey Day stroll at Lake Chabot 2B hike.** Yes, it's time to walk off the great food from yesterday at one of our Bay Area gems: Lake Chabot. Great views of the lake, marshland, the Bay, etc. Visit the white pelicans at Honker Bay, along with many other wild friends. Relaxed pace. Unfortunately, a threatened area, right now, at the hands of our own EBRPD administration. **Bring:** water, lunch and/or leftovers to share. Steady rain cancels. **Meet:** 11 am at picnic tables next to Nike classroom, Castro Valley. **Carpool:** Leader can make pickup at Bayfair BART station if notified ahead of time. **Leader:** Julie Greenfield, (510)881-5299, [juliegreenfield@gmail.com](mailto:juliegreenfield@gmail.com). (Sierra Singles)

## Nov 28 • Sat

**Post-Thanksgiving 2B hike.** Let's burn up some Thanksgiving dinner calories with a hike on my favorite trails in the Oakland hills. The weather and trail conditions will determine the route we will take. Come prepared for cold winds, mud, narrow, steep and uneven trails. Any rain cancels. **Meet:** noon at Redwood Park, Skyline Gate Parking Lot. **Leader:** Albert Chiu, (510)339-3320, [albertscottchiu@gmail.com](mailto:albertscottchiu@gmail.com). (Sierra Singles)

**Tilden Regional Park in Berkeley 1A hike.** Meet for an hourlong walk through eucalyptus groves followed by optional early dinner on Solano Ave. at Cactus Taqueria in Berkeley. Rain cancels. **Meet:** 2:30 pm at Lone Oak parking lot. **Leader:** Vera Lis, (510)234-8949. (Solo Sierrans)

## Nov 29 • Sun

**Olema Valley & Bolinas Ridge 2B hike.** We'll start in Olema Valley and head up to Bolinas Ridge to admire the redwoods. We then drop back down to Olema Valley and wind our way back to the trailhead. **Meet:** 9 am at the Fairfax Parkade, 19 Broadway Boulevard, to carpool to the trailhead. **Leader:** Tom Post, (415)690-6572, [tpost123@hotmail.com](mailto:tpost123@hotmail.com). (Hiking)

**Point Reyes-Bear Valley 2A hike.** This event is co-listed with the Jewish Singles Hiking Club and Meetup. Join us for a scenic, moderate, 8-mile round-trip hike along fairly level terrain on the Bear Valley Trail, through lush forest and coastline. We will enjoy spectacular ocean views and stop for lunch. There will be an optional dinner stop after the hike. Any rain cancels. **Meet:** noon at Bear Valley Visitor Center, 76 Bear Valley Rd, Point Reyes Station. **Leader:** Julia Cordell, (510)964-1467, [jxcordell@hotmail.com](mailto:jxcordell@hotmail.com). (Sierra Singles)

## Dec 5 • Sat

**Hill 88, Hawk Hill loop 3C hike.** Hike up the Morning Sun Trail and follow the ridges to the Vortec and Hill 88 for a break with breathtaking views of the Pacific. Follow the Coastal Trail to Rodeo Beach. Return by the Coastal Trail, exploring coastal batteries in route. We'll follow the Conzelman Trail to Hawk Hill and Battery 129 for amazing views. Return by the Coastal and SCA Trails. Heavy rain cancels, light showers OK. No restrooms or water at trailhead. **Meet:** Depart Spencer Avenue (Morning Sun Trail) at 9 am SHARP. **Ends:** 4:30 pm. **Leader:** Katy Christie, (510)277-5386, [katyhike@gmail.com](mailto:katyhike@gmail.com). (Hiking)

**Las Trampas explore 3C hike.** From Ringtail Cat Trail up to Las Trampas Peak. Along Las Trampas Ridge Trail, Sulphur Springs, and Virgil Williams trails back to Ringtail Cat. Rain or muddy trails will cancel. **Meet:** 9 am at 560 Hemme Avenue, Alamo. **Leader:** Lutz Heinrich, (925)216-8672, [ltz\\_hnrch@yahoo.com](mailto:ltz_hnrch@yahoo.com). (Hiking)

**Barbary Coast/Chinatown/North Beach 1A hike.** This is a historical walk through backstreets and alleyways. Any rain cancels. **Meet:** 10:15 am in front of the Ferry Building. **Ends:** 3:30 pm. **Leader:** Gloria Navarra, (415)731-6144. (Hiking)

**Lake Chabot 2B loop hike.** Take a moderate- to leisurely-paced day hike through the eucalyptus and oaks of Anthony Chabot Regional Park. Highlights include Lake Chabot, Chabot View, and the Cascade Trail. Be prepared for mud and lots of poison oak. Heavy rain cancels. If you are the type of hiker who likes to go fast, take minimal short breaks, and get back really early this is not the hike for you. Mellow hikers are especially welcome. **Meet:** 10:30 am at Marciel Gate, Anthony Chabot Regional Park. **Carpool:** Leader at Walnut Creek BART at 9:15 am. **Leader:** Steve Bakaley, (925)945-8205, [slbakaley@lbl.gov](mailto:slbakaley@lbl.gov) (preferred). (Mount Diablo Group and Sierra Singles)

## Dec 6 • Sun

**Berkeley hills and architecture. 2A hike.** An educational walk featuring hidden parks, plus many houses designed by Bernard Maybeck and other notable architects. Any rain cancels. **Bring:** Money for post-walk dinner. **Meet:** 10:30 am on grass at corner of Euclid and Bayview near Berkeley Rose Garden. **Ends:** 5 pm. **Leader:** Guy Mayes, (510)522-1590. (Hiking)

continued on following page

Fuller versions of many of these listings can be found at [www.sierraclub.org/sfbay/activities](http://www.sierraclub.org/sfbay/activities).

## Dec 6 • Sun

**Pre-GLS holiday party 1A to 2b hikes.** Come burn some calories before the GLS holiday party. There will be two hikes of different lengths. 9:30 hike (longer): this four-to-five-mile hike climbs up onto Coyote Ridge then descends the Coastal Trail through treeless windswept headlands above the Pacific Ocean to end at Muir Beach. 10 am hike (shorter): visit the Green Gulch Zen Center grounds before walking down to the beach. Rain or shine. **Bring:** Snacks or a light lunch to tide you over until the party. Optional change of clothes. **Meet:** Muir Beach Community Center, 19 Seascapes Dr. **Carpool:** If interested in carpooling from San Francisco, meet Paget at church and market Safeway at 9 am. Let her know ahead of time. **Leader:** Paget Valentzas, (415)271-2945, 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, dessert, or beverage. Arrive around noon, since we'll try to serve at 12:30! For post-lunch entertainment, we'll boogie to the music of Pam and Jeri (founding members of Blame Sally). Gonna be FUN, FUN, FUN!!! **Bring:** a festive spirit, dancing shoes, something yummy if you're so inclined. **Meet:** noon at Muir Beach Community Center, 19 Seascapes Drive, Muir Beach. **Ends:** 5 pm. **Leader:** Linda Campbell, lc0731@aol.com. (Gay & Lesbian)

## Dec 11 • Fri

**Chapter holiday party.** Come one and all to the Chapter holiday party! This year we will be holding an open house together with most of the other organizations in our building. There will be food, beverages, live music, a free raffle, and, of course, lively conversation. For questions, to volunteer to help, or to sign up to bring ready-to-eat finger food, contact Joanne Drabek at (510)530-5216 or joanne1892@gmail.com. **Meet:** 6 pm at Sierra Club San Francisco Bay Chapter office, 2530 San Pablo Ave. (near Dwight), Suite I, Berkeley. **Ends:** 9 pm.

## Dec 12 • Sat

**Point Reyes to Mount Wittenburg and Coastal Trail 2B hike.** This 10-mile loop begins with a long, slow climb through dense woods up to Mount Wittenburg. 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. **Meet:** 11 am at far end of large parking lot past Bear Valley Visitor Center, where trail begins. **Leader:** Jeffrey Sanchez, (510)599-5238, amagi@pacbell.net. (Sierra Singles)

**Martinez Regional Shoreline hike.** Enjoy a leisurely stroll along scenic Carquinez shoreline and marina. Wheelchair accessible. Back by 5 pm. Optional stop later for dinner and sociability. Rain cancels. **Meet:** 3 pm in front of former Amtrak station on Ferry St. at railroad tracks intersection. **Ends:** 5 pm. **Leader:** Mrs. Janess R. Hanson, (925)458-0860, janesshanson@att.net. (Delta Regional Group)

## Dec 13 • Sun

Alameda Bay Farm Island and Harbor Bay shoreline 1A hike. Explore the Bay shoreline and lagoons of Harbor Bay Isle, with great views of the open water and San Francisco skyline. 5+ flat and very scenic miles. Transit accessible via 12:55 #21 AC Transit bus from Fruitvale BART. Any rain cancels. **Meet:** 1:30 pm at Towata Park, Alameda. **Ends:** 5 pm. **Leaders:** Caprice Solotar, (510)525-2110; Bob Solotar, (510)525-2110, bob\_solotar@hotmail.com. (Mount Diablo Group)

## Dec 16 • Wed

**Winter Wonderland Tam 3B hike.** Newts, fungus amongus, and the magic of winter on Tam. Beat the traffic with an 8:25 start. We'll head over to the North Side via West Peak. Good ups and downs. Steady, brisk pace, brief snack stop. Iffy weather might change (or enhance) plans, so call or email leader if you're coming and we'll keep you apprised of any changes. **Meet:** 8:25 am Bootjack Parking Lot. **Ends:** 1:30 pm. **Leader:** Jayah Faye Paley, (415)699-3333, seminar@polesformobility.com. (Hiking)

## Dec 19 • Sat

**Black Mountain, Monte Bello Open Space Preserve 2B2 hike.** We start with a descent to a dense creekside forest, then climb to the top of Black Mountain with spectacular views of Silicon Valley. Beautiful foliage, high chaparral trees, lovely scenery and wildlife. Lunch at a Bay Area Back Packing Camp. Walk back takes us through an earthquake-formed rare riparian corridor. Rain the day before or day of cancels. **Bring:** layers (it can be windy up on top). **Carpool:** Parking likely tight so plan to carpool! From SF, meet at Glen Park BART at 8 am. Contact Paget beforehand and don't be late! From South Bay, meet at the Page Mill (at Highway 280) Park-n-Ride lot at 9 am. **Meet:** 9:30 at the trailhead, Canyon Trail, Los Gatos. **Ends:** 3 pm. **Leaders:** Paget Valentzas, (415)271-2945, paget-valentzas@gmail.com; Lisa McCally (707)688-8806, lkmccally@gmail.com. (Gay & Lesbian, Loma Prieta)

**Winter Solstice potluck and 3C hike.** On our four-and-one-half-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 and Judy Sager, (415)472-1275, pjsager@sbcglobal.net. (Hiking)

**Corona Heights Natural Area workday.** Join us for our monthly workday as we nurture the native plant communities by planting additional native species, removing invasives, and doing light trail maintenance. Rain or shine. Children under 12 welcome with parent or guardian. Wear layers and closed-toe shoes. Gloves and tools are provided. **Meet:** 10 am on north side of Randall Museum (parking lot is on south side) at end of Museum Way, just off Roosevelt Way. **Ends:** noon. **Leader:** Russell Hartman, (650)242-2679, rph1917@comcast.net. (Gay & Lesbian)

## Dec 19 • Sat

**Bayshore at Point Isabel in El Cerrito 1A hike.** The Point Isabel walk takes about an hour, and is flat and easy on paved paths. 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. **Bring:** Binoculars for possible shorebird sightings, and to better enjoy views of the Golden Gate, Mount Tamalpais, Alcatraz, and other Bay islands. **Meet:** 2:30 pm at small parking lot at the end of Rydin Road. **Leader:** Vera Lis, (510)234-8949. (Solo Sierrans)

## Dec 20 • Sun

**Berkeley Hills 3B loop 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. Any rain cancels. **Meet:** 10:30 am at Oxford and University, southeast corner, Berkeley. **Ends:** 5:30 pm. **Carpool:** Take BART! The hike meets two blocks from the Downtown Berkeley BART station. **Leader:** Bob Solotar, (510)525-2110, bob\_solotar@hotmail.com. (Hiking)

## Dec 22 • Tue

**Winter Solstice and sunset 1A hike.** Come join leader Albert Chiu and hostess Mary Anna Weklar for a fun and stress-free afternoon hiking and celebrating the Winter Solstice... the shortest day of the year and the coming of more light!! Hopefully we will see a beautiful sunset and take a break from the busyness of the season. Join us for optional dinner afterwards at location yet determined. Any rain cancels. **Bring:** Flashlights or headlamps are recommended for the trip back to the parking lot. **Meet:** 3 pm at Inspiration Point, Tilden Park. **Leader:** Albert Chiu, (510)339-3320, albertscottchiu@gmail.com. (Sierra Singles)

## Dec 27 • Sun

**Loma Alta 3C hike.** We'll start at the end of Freitas Parkway and head up to Loma Alta to savor the views. We then drop down to explore Loma Alta Preserve before we head back to the trailhead. Any rain cancels. **Meet:** 9 am at Manuel T. Freitas Parkway, San Rafael. **Leader:** Tom Post, (415)690-6572, tpost123@hotmail.com. (Hiking)

## Jan 1 • Fri

**New Year's hike to the top of Tam 2B hike.** Enjoy this hike to the top of Mount Tam to celebrate the New Year. Rain cancels. **Meet:** 9:30 am at the loading zone at the front gate of the North Berkeley BART station, or 9:30 am at Miller and Locust Ave. in Mill Valley (in front of the 7/11 store). From there we will go to the Rock Springs parking lot on Mount Tam. **Leader:** James Bonsey, (510)527-5345, jlbj3@netzero.net. (Marin Group)

## Jan 2 • Sat

**Mount Diablo 2B necklace hike.** Climb above the winter fog on a leisurely- to moderately-paced hike around the mountain. Includes optional half-mile walk around the Summit Interpretive Trail following the hike. Any rain cancels. **Cost:** \$10 parking fee. **Meet:** 10 am at Juniper Campground, Mount Diablo State Park. **Carpool:** Leader at Walnut Creek BART at 9am. **Leader:** Steve Bakaley, (925)945-8205, slbakaley@lbl.gov (preferred). (Mount Diablo Group)

## Jan 6 • Wed

**Winter Wonderland north side 3B hike.** Enjoy winter on Tam – a magical season with newts, moss, fungus among-us, moisture, and rich colors. Steady pace, good ups, easy-ish downs. Iffy weather might change (or enhance) plans so call or email leader if you're coming and we'll keep you apprised of any shift. **Cost:** \$8 gate fee at Sky Oaks entrance. Credit card or exact cash. **Meet:** 9 am at Lake Lagunitas. **Ends:** 2 pm. **Leader:** Jayah Faye Paley, (415)699-3333, seminar@poleSanFranciscoormobility.com. (Hiking)

## Jan 9 • Sat

**Mount Diablo summit 3C hike.** Moderately-paced hike up to Mount Diablo. Most of it on Summit Trail and Juniper Trail. Rain or muddy trails cancel. **Meet:** 8:45 am at soccer field parking, Blackhawk Road, Blackhawk. **Leader:** Lutz Heinrich, (925)216-8672, ltz\_hnrch@yahoo.com. (Hiking)

**Fort Baker and Marin Headlands 3C loop 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. Heavy rain cancels. Do not park on the east side of the freeway. **Meet:** Depart Spencer Avenue (Morning Sun Trail) at 9 am SHARP. **Ends:** 4:30 pm. **Leader:** Katy Christie, (510)277-5386, katyhike@gmail.com. (Hiking)

**Mystery hike #2 1A.** This is a 5-mile mystery hike in and around interesting locations in this area. Any rain cancels. **Meet:** 10:15 am in front of the Ferry Building. **Ends:** 3 pm. **Leader:** Gloria Navarra, (415)731-6144. (Hiking)

**Tilden Regional Park in Berkeley 1A hike.** Walk for an hour through gently rolling eucalyptus groves and Jewel Lake. Optional early dinner at Cactus Taqueria on Solano Ave. after the walk. Rain cancels. **Meet:** 2:30 pm at Lone Oak parking lot. **Leader:** Vera Lis, (510)234-8949. (Solo Sierrans)

## Jan 13 • Wed

**Mount Tamalpais 3C loop hike.** Full-day hike. Rain will be welcome. **Meet:** 8:45 am at Miller and Locust in Mill Valley to carpool to trailhead (trailhead TBD). **Ends:** 4 pm. **Leader:** William H Mayers, (415)785-3516, (415)302-4802 (cell), whmayers@gmail.com. (Hiking)

*Fuller versions of many of these listings can be found at [www.sierraclub.org/sfbay/activities](http://www.sierraclub.org/sfbay/activities).*

## Jan 17 • Sun

**Point Pinole Regional Park 1A hike.** Meet for an hourlong walk on paved trail. Wheelchair accessible and meanders through eucalyptus groves, affording fresh breezes from and views of San Pablo Bay. Optional early dinner and socializing after the walk in Old Pinole. Rain cancels. **Meet:** 2:30 pm in parking lot. **Leader:** Vera Lis, (510)234-8949. (Solo Sierrans)

## Jan 23 • Sat

**Central Point Reyes 3C loop 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. **Carpool:** Leader will be at Walnut Creek BART at 6:45 am. **Leader:** Steve Bakaley, (925)945-8205, slbakaley@lbl.gov (preferred). (Hiking and Sierra Singles)

## Jan 24 • Sun

**Sun Deer Park 2B hike.** Join us on this moderately-paced loop through the scenic landscape of the Mount Tam Watershed. Any rain cancels. **Meet:** 9 am at the Fairfax Parkade (across from Fairfax Theater) to carpool to trailhead. **Leader:** Paul F Glodis, (510)326-9008, pglodis@gmail.com. (Marin Group)

## Jan 27 • Wed

**Winter Wonderland south to north side 3B hike.** Enjoy winter on Tam: a magical season with newts, moss, fungus amongus, moisture, and rich colors. Steady pace, good ups, easy-ish downs. Iffy weather might change (or enhance) plans so call or email leader if you're coming and we'll keep you apprised of any shift. **Meet:** 9 am at Bootjack parking lot. **Ends:** 2 pm. **Leader:** Jayah Faye Paley, (415)699-3333, seminar@polesformobility.com. (Hiking)

## Jan 30 • Sat

**Big Rock Ridge 4D loop hike.** Work our way up to Big Rock Ridge for lunch. Then drop down and head up to Loma Alta. Enjoy the second- and fourth-highest peaks in Marin on this hearty workout. Any rain cancels. **Meet:** 9 am at very end of Manuel T. Freitas Parkway, San Rafael. **Leader:** Tom Post, (415)690-6572, tpost123@hotmail.com. (Hiking)

**Bird-watching safari, Thornton area, Delta 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. **Meet:** 9:30 am for carpooling in parking area near Macys/Chevron. **Directions:** From Highway 80 or 24/680/242, take Highway 4 east to Antioch; take Somersville Road South exit; turn right on Somersville toward shopping center on right. **Bring:** binoculars. **Ends:** 4:30 pm. **Leader:** Tish Brown, (925)325-7228, tishbbird@yahoo.com. (Delta Regional Group)

## Jan 30 • Sat

**Corona Heights Natural Area habitat work project.** Monthly work project in one of 30 "natural areas" managed by San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department. More than 100 native plant species have been recorded at Corona Heights. Join our small but dedicated group of volunteers as we plant additional native species grown from seeds collected at Corona Heights, remove invasive species, and do general park maintenance. All tools and gloves provided. Rain or shine. Children are welcome if accompanied by parent or guardian. Wear long sleeves and closed-toe shoes and bring water. Work ends around noon. **Meet:** 10 am on north side of Randall Museum (parking lot is on south side) at end of Museum Way, just off Roosevelt Way. Site is a short walk from Castro and Market Streets, accessible via Muni buses. **Ends:** noon. **Leader:** Russell Hartman, (650)242-2679, rph1917@comcast.net. (Gay & Lesbian)

## Club and community partners keep pressure on Oakland Council to block coal exports

Ever since the Oakland Army Base adjacent to the Golden Gate Bridge was decommissioned in 1999, Oakland officials and community groups have been planning a project at the site that would benefit the local economy and clean up the local environment. That vision of the project is now in jeopardy.

The redevelopment project, now called the Oakland Global Trade & Logistics Center (aka Oakland Global), is being built by private developer Phil Tagami. Last April, the Sierra Club discovered that Tagami had been in backroom talks with four Utah counties to make a deal that would dedicate at least half of the planned Oakland Global bulk marine terminal's capacity to exporting millions of tons of Utah coal. This deal would make Oakland the largest coal-exporting site on the West Coast, and would increase national coal exports by a whopping 19%.

Tagami has solicited hundreds of millions of public dollars to make Oakland Global a reality. Perversely, if the coal deal is allowed to go through, our taxpayer dollars will fund a project that would make air quality worse in West Oakland, a community that's already overburdened by pollution.

That's why we have spent the last six months fighting alongside labor, environmental justice, faith, and community groups to counteract the influence of private developers

and experts came to City Hall and spoke out against coal exports. Thanks to community pressure, the Council then ordered staff to review public testimony, and investigate courses of potential action.

Because of the imminent threats to the health and safety of the workers and the community that coal exports pose, the Oakland City Council has the legal authority to ban coal exports from the Oakland Global terminal. They had set December 8th as a dead-

**WHAT:** Teach-in and action for a coal-free Oakland

**WHEN:** Tuesday, December 8th, 5:30 to 7 pm

**WHERE:** Oakland City Hall

If you are an Oakland resident, please take the time to call your council member now and ask them to vote to keep Oakland coal free! If you are not an Oakland resident, please call Mayor Schaaf and tell her that coal exports would be a disaster for the local economy, public health and safety, and climate.

Dan Kalb, District 1, (510) 238-7001

Abel Guillen, District 2, (510) 238-7002

Lynette Gibson McElhaney, District 3, (510) 238-7003

Annie Campbell Washington, District 4, (510) 238-7004

Noel Gallo, District 5, (510) 238-7005

Desley Brooks, District 6, (510) 238-7006

Larry Reid, District 7, (510) 238-7007

Rebecca Kaplan, At Large, (510) 238-7008

Mayor Libby Schaaf, (510) 238-3141

Jeremy Gong



Hundreds of anti-coal protesters at Oakland City Hall.

and coal companies at Oakland City Hall. To protect communities from West Oakland to Utah, and to put a stop to the catastrophic climate change caused by burning fossil fuels, this coal needs to stay in the ground. Oakland Global can and should be a success without taking on the risks associated with transporting toxic fossil fuels.

Following a summer of activism, the City Council acknowledged thousands of community petitions by hosting a public hearing on the potential health and safety impacts of local coal exports. On September 21st, hundreds of residents, activists,

line for themselves to take action on this issue — though action has now been delayed. We need to turn out and stand strong on December 8th to demand immediate action on this urgent issue.

For the city to finalize the coal exports ban, an ordinance will have to see at least two more readings. Thus, the Council will need at least two more meetings in the beginning of next year to finalize the ban.

### WhatYouCanDo

Join us on December 8th as we return to City Hall for a teach-in and action calling for an end to this crazy coal plot. We have a better vision for Oakland: good, safe jobs, healthy communities, and public land used for the public good. Now it's time to make our voices heard and make this vision a reality.



Miss Margaret Gordon testified at the September 21st hearing on public health and safety, saying, "If we bring in coal we can't boast about being a green city."



Protestor at the September 21st rally at Oakland City Hall.



Photo by Michael Saint James

## SF Dinner — Thu, Jan 21: “Parisian for a Year” with Michael Saint James

Living in Paris for a year, author and photographer Michael Saint James spent his days and nights capturing images and researching history for his new book, *Bridges of Paris*. Michael immersed himself in French culture to discover the heart of Paris, and the result was the adventure of a lifetime. Join us for an illuminating visit to the City of Light. Learn Parisian history from the bridges’ point of view, and you will never see Paris the same way again.

Michael has over 30 years of experience as a photographer, educator, and world traveler. He is a speaker on Impressionist art and the history of Paris. You may remember his Sierra Club presentation “In the Footsteps of Vincent Van Gogh.” His award-winning book, *Bridges of Paris*, was published in 2015, and has received outstanding reviews.

Social hour begins at 6 pm, dinner at 7 pm, program at 8 pm. Join us at Covenant Presbyterian Church, 321 Taraval, between Funston and 14th Ave. Take Muni L or 28. Street

## Green Friday

There’s no Green Friday in December; instead come to the Bay Chapter holiday party and open house on Friday, December 11th, from 6 to 9 pm, at the Chapter office: 2530 San Pablo Avenue (near Dwight), Suite I, in Berkeley. The Sierra Club will be joining several other organizations in our building to celebrate the season and all the work we do. There will be food, beverages, live music, a free raffle, and, of course, lively conversation. See page 2 for more details, including how to volunteer or sign up to bring food.

Our next Green Friday will be held January 8th. A speaker hasn’t been selected yet, so check out the Green Friday posting on the Bay Chapter calendar, [sierraclub.org/sfbay/activities](http://sierraclub.org/sfbay/activities), in January.

parking is limited, but parking is available at the church lot, one-half block east on Taraval, at the white parking guards, for \$1.50 per car, payable at the church check-in. From the East Bay, take BART to Embarcadero station and transfer to Muni L Taraval.

To reserve your place, send a check for \$22 (note new price), made out to “Sierra Club, S.F. Bay Chapter,” to Gerry Souzis at:

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

**Checks must be received by Friday, January 15.** Please indicate the program date, number of guests, and your phone number. Non-members are welcome. Bring your own wine or soft drinks. Glasses and ice are available. Let us know if you are a vegetarian.

For questions, contact Gerry between 4 and 9 pm (no morning calls please) at (415)474-4440 or [gsouzis@hotmail.com](mailto:gsouzis@hotmail.com).



A bright Geminid Meteor falls from the sky over the summit of 14,505 foot Mount Whitney in California’s Sierra Nevada mountains. Photo by Tony Rowell, who will present at the January East Bay Dinner.

## East Bay Dinners — Starry skies and alpine tundra

No-host cocktails/social hour at 6 pm, dinner at 7 pm, program 8 pm. Join us at the Berkeley Yacht Club on the Berkeley Marina, one block north of the west end of University Avenue (ample free parking is available in the Marina parking lots).

Cost of dinner and program is \$27, including tax and tip. For a reservation, please send your check, payable to “Sierra Club, SF Bay Chapter” 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. Reserve early, as these programs do fill up. **Reservation deadline is November 30 for the December program and January 21 for the January program.** There is no admittance for program only.

## Thu, Dec 3 — “Sierra Starlight!”

Join us for an exciting evening featuring the stunning images of renowned photographer and author Tony Rowell. He will share new work from his California by Starlight Project and from his new book, *Sierra Starlight*. The *San Francisco Chronicle* writes that the images in *Sierra Starlight* “will take you back to your first campsites, starry nights and shooting stars.”

Tony is the son of renowned photographer and mountaineer, Galen Rowell. Tony’s photography expeditions have taken him across the globe, from the Arctic Circle to



Photo by Bob Case, who will present at the January East Bay Dinner.

the mountains of Tibet. His astro-time-lapse videos have been featured on the National Geographic Channel and his award-winning photos have been published in *Astronomy*, *Backpacker*, *Mountain Bike Action*, and *Outdoor Photographer* magazines. Tony will have copies of his books and prints on display and for sale.

## Thu, Jan 28 — “Life Above 11,000 Feet”

The alpine tundra of Colorado is a marvelous place to hike and enjoy earth’s biodiversity. Come explore the world above 11,000 feet in the Colorado Rockies with photographer and naturalist Bob Case. Flower portraits, insects, and mountain scenery in the Rocky Mountain National Park, Trail Ridge area, and the Berthoud Pass area will be featured as we stroll above the timberline in mid-July. The area offers many opportunities to take leisurely day hikes to rich and diverse habitats including alpine tundra, treeless ridge tops, cirques, and riparian areas. Trailheads above 11,000 feet make for easy-to-moderate high-elevation saunters to revel in the stark beauty of the treeless zone.

Bob Case retired in 2004 as a Deputy Agricultural Commissioner from the Contra Costa County Department of Agriculture after 24 years of service. Bob also taught biology and environmental science classes in Bay Area community colleges for 25 years. He is a frequent speaker and writer on invasive plant management and wildflower photography. His photographs have appeared in many books, plant publications, websites, and lectures. Bob is an enthusiastic gardener who specializes in California native drought-tolerant plants and common-sense, least-toxic pest management. Traveling much of the Lewis and Clark Trail has inspired several classes and lectures for local plant enthusiasts. He has made it a goal to visit all National Parks in the US and has only three more Alaskan National Parks to visit to realize his goal. Bob earned his Masters in Ecology & Sistematics from SF State.

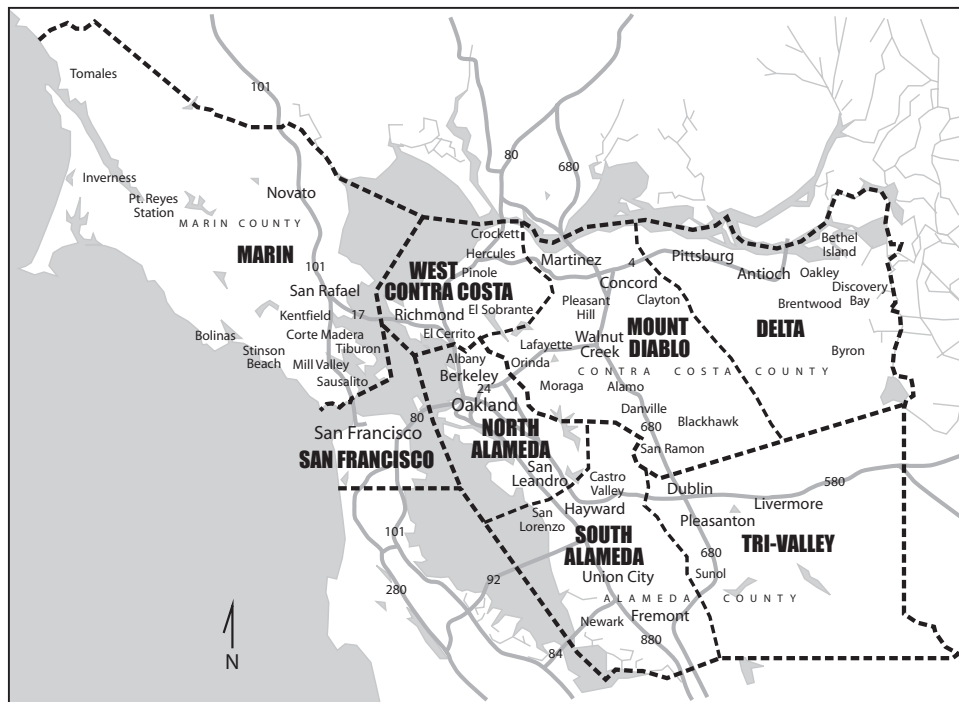




## Groups

### 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.



### Learn Wilderness First Aid with the Sierra Club!

Saturday, January 16 to Sunday, January 17, 8:30 am to 5 pm, Chapter office, 2530 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley.

Come to an all-day class in Wilderness First Aid (WFA) 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:

- Take the one-day class on Saturday and receive the Basic Wilderness First Aid certification of the American Safety & Health Institute—\$50 for members/\$60 for non-members; or
- Sign up for two days (Saturday and Sunday) for an additional \$30/\$40, and receive ASHI’s higher-level WFA certification.

If you already have the current WEC textbook (200 pages) and show it at the registration table, deduct \$15.

Basic Wilderness First Aid (one-day class) is a practical, eight-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 eight more hours) adds more advanced skills and role-playing scenarios.

### Registration

If you are a current Bay Chapter outing leader, register by the Tuesday before the class by calling (510)848-0800 or emailing

wfa@sfbays.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 1  
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 Sunday 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  
P.O. Box 1227  
Berkeley, CA 94701.

Indicate if you are attending the Sunday 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 year 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.

### Mount Diablo Group

Wed, Jan 20: “After the fire: tracking Mount Diablo’s amazing recovery”

7 pm, Ygnacio Valley Library, 2661 Oak Grove Road, Walnut Creek.

On a sweltering September afternoon in 2013, fire broke out on the east side of Mount Diablo. Whipped by high winds, the inferno scorched 3,100 acres before it was finally extinguished.

Immediately after the blaze, the incinerated landscape appeared lifeless and barren. But closer inspection revealed the presence of charcoal beetles and other animal life. In the following months, seeds that had lain dormant in the soil for decades began to sprout. Golden eardrops, flame poppies, whispering bells, and other fire followers bloomed in perfusion. Charred trees and shrubs re-sprouted from underground root crowns. The ravaged landscape transformed into a vibrant wonderland of color.

The embers were still smoldering when nature writer and photographer Joan Hamilton began tracking Mount Diablo’s recovery from the Morgan Fire for *Bay Nature* magazine. Join us at our January meeting as Joan shares her photographs and observations documenting how various parts of the mountain changed over time—and what scientists are learning from the fire.

Joan Hamilton is a freelance writer and editor. In addition to writing for *Bay Nature*, Joan produces Audible Mount Diablo — a series of downloadable hiking guides — and is a former editor-in-chief of *Sierra* magazine.

This program is open to all 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.



Photo by Joan Hamilton

### Delta Group

The next Delta Group general meeting is scheduled for February. Delta Group program meetings are usually held at the Antioch Library in February, May, and October, unless otherwise noted. A newsletter listing Delta Group programs, outings, and activities is available by \$5 subscription. To receive the newsletter, write a \$5 check to “Sierra Club Delta Group” and mail it to Janess Hanson, 431 Levee Road, Bay Point, CA 94565.

For information about Delta Group activities, 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 12: Martinez Regional Shoreline, 1A sunset walk

Sat, Jan 30: Sacramento Valley and Delta bird-watching safari

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## Draft Alameda County anti-fracking ordinance would protect agricultural resources

With the backing of the Sierra Club (through Alameda County Against Fracking, or ACAF) and support from several vineyards in the Livermore area, Alameda County staff presented a new draft ordinance designed to limit new oil and gas operations. While not as comprehensive as the earlier draft, which would have removed the possibility of any new and expanded oil production, the proposal is still tough. The draft specifically prohibits hydraulic fracturing and various forms of acid stimulation. It also bans enhanced recovery through such means as steam, water, and carbon-dioxide injection.

The ordinance has passed through the Transportation and Planning Committee with the strong support of Supervisor Haggerty and been reviewed by the Agricultural Advisory Committee. As the language is finalized, ACAF is working on including additional restrictions pertaining to percolation ponds and setbacks from homes, schools and other facilities.

This measure is made all the more necessary with the publication in July of the second

volume of An Independent Scientific Assessment of Well Stimulation in California. Commissioned by the state, the report's findings include how little control there has been over the use of chemicals in fracking, some of them known to be toxic; how groundwater has been contaminated by chemically laced water in percolation pits; and how toxic contaminants are emitted into the air from both fracked and conventional wells.

Forestalling such harmful effects in Alameda County, which has a significant agricultural sector, is important. Both wine grape and vegetable production in the County increased in 2014. The gross value of fruit and nut crops amounted to over \$16 million, with a multiplier effect of perhaps three times that amount. It is not just the farmer, vineyard owner, or rancher who benefits, it is the overall community that shares in a thriving agriculture. And, of course, it is the community that suffers when agriculture is hit by adverse conditions.

Weather, climate, and water are key variables in the amount and quality of crops produced. Wine grape harvests have been

coming in earlier due to higher temperatures in the Livermore area, as well as across the state's other wine growing regions. Yields have been lower. The amount of water available from the State Water Project for the Livermore region has been restricted significantly, creating a greater reliance on local groundwater supplies.

Passing this ordinance minimizes the risk that agriculture will be competing with oil over scarce resources in the County; it gives growers the space to make the inevitable adaptations caused by predicted changes in climate. Within the larger context of climate change, passing this ordinance



Livermore winery. Photo courtesy John Joh, via Flickr Creative Commons.

constitutes one more small action of many such actions needed to mitigate more erratic weather patterns and rising temperatures.

Want to join the effort to limit oil and gas extraction in Alameda County? Email Rebecca Franke at [dontfrackcal@gmail.com](mailto:dontfrackcal@gmail.com).

Rebecca Franke



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# The 'Freedom Breathers' of Pittsburg: students gather data as weapon against polluters

The final school bell rang at Pittsburg High School, and students poured out of the classrooms, heading to sports practice, their home, or an afternoon out with friends. A small group of students, however, gathered in a science classroom and looked over their notes. After two years of working to investigate, publicize, and ultimately improve the air quality in their hometown, they were finally ready to meet with representatives from the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD), the governing agency charged with regulating Pittsburg's air.

## A community impacted by industry

Pittsburg is a city of 63,000 residents located on the San Francisco Bay Delta, a stretch of waterfront dense with industry. Home to industrial sites operated by DOW, Praxair, USS POSCO, and K2 Industries, Pittsburg is also located downwind of several nearby refineries. Over the years, chronic exposure to air pollution has had a deleterious effect on the health of residents of this high-poverty California city.

Frustrated with poor air quality, Pittsburg residents were shocked to learn, two years ago, that the city council was contemplating issuing a permit to oil-infrastructure company WesPac for an oil transfer and storage facility to be located near homes and schools. Outraged citizens spoke at city council meetings, gathered signatures, and held marches. (The WesPac project is still on the table; visit <http://theyodeler.org/?p=10575> for the latest.)

Seeing the efforts of older citizens propelled young leaders to step up and take action. Pittsburg High School students educated themselves about issues in their community, conducted their own youth activism meetings, and organized community rallies.

## Insufficient data hampers activists' efforts to curb emissions

Eventually, Pittsburg students and community leaders realized a key problem: they did not have concrete data on their air quality that could give quantitative evidence to oppose the WesPac project. Their claims and first-hand experiences with the bad air quality were not enough to put an end to WesPac and other polluters within the community.

The lack of hard air quality data in Pittsburg was not always an issue. BAAQMD once maintained a permanent air monitor in Pittsburg, but decommissioned it in 2008 as a cost-cutting measure during the recession. Even when the economy recovered, BAAQMD did not replace the Pittsburg air monitor, claiming that its readings and data had been duplicative with a monitor in neighboring Concord, ten miles from Pittsburg. Despite their proximity, the cities have dissimilar economic profiles. Concord is a wealthier community, and does

not have the heavy industrial base prevalent in Delta communities. What's more, Concord is located inland from the Delta and so avoids much of the wind-driven pollution that worsens Pittsburg air quality. These disparities resulted in measurements at the Concord monitor that were hardly representative of the air quality experienced by Pittsburg residents.

A year and a half after the first grassroots

dirty air and the need for quality, publicly available air data in their city. At the end of the presentation, the team of BAAQMD employees had good news for the students: the district was in talks with their city to site a new permanent monitor. The new monitor would not completely replace the functionality of the one decommissioned in 2008, but would look for some of the chemicals most at fault for

the community's health problems. Best of all, the monitor would be located in the city of Pittsburg. Once installed, Pittsburg's air quality will be judged on its own merits and not by its wealthier neighbors'.

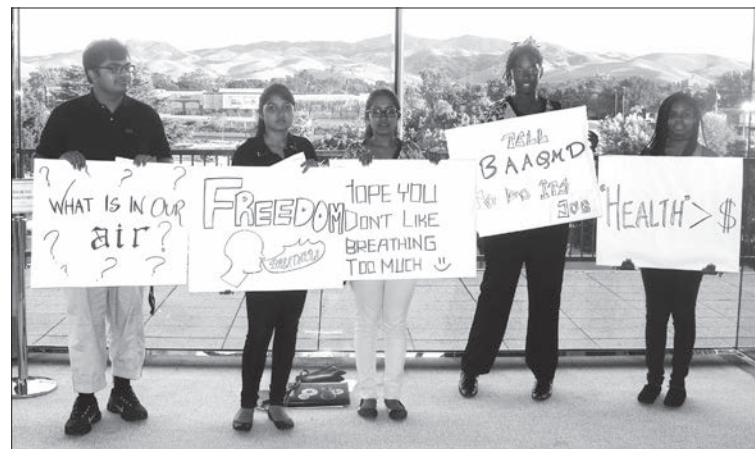
That day, a group of high school students

won a battle in the long war to gain the freedom of clean air. They did not shut down any polluters, but the new monitor in their city will provide its citizens with the opportunity to make a data-driven case.

All across the US and the world, low-socioeconomic communities like Pittsburg continue to suffer the consequences of dirty air and a lack of data. Respiratory illnesses caused by poor air quality lead to thousands of premature deaths each year in the US alone, but an inadequate network of monitors and spotty regulation has led to a failure by government to stop these preventable deaths or improve overall quality of life in communities such as Pittsburg. Watch as the Freedom Breathers from across the world in small, underserved communities step up and take action to ensure that they and their future generations enjoy breathable air.

For further information about the Freedom Breathers and their efforts, visit their website, [sites.google.com/site/freedombreathers](http://sites.google.com/site/freedombreathers).

By Manisha Rattu and Helen Fitzmaurice



The students of Freedom Breathers.

efforts to stop WesPac, a coalition of students, teachers, and non-profits formed the Freedom Breathers. This new organization came together to conduct independent air sampling in Pittsburg, temporarily filling the role of the missing Pittsburg monitor to demonstrate the need for a permanent replacement. For months, the students worked alongside their teachers to set up, program, and analyze the results from the air monitors. They used two MiniVol portable air samplers that were loaned to them by an organization known as Global Community Monitors. The air samplers pumped five gallons of air per minute through a special filter designed to trap either fine particulate matter (PM 2.5) or diesel.

Once the sample was captured, the filters were shipped on ice to an analysis company. The results revealed that one PM 2.5 reading was above the 24-hour standard for PM 2.5 determined by the World Health Organization. In addition, the average of all five diesel samples taken at the high school were above the annual standard for diesel pollution set by the World Health Organization and the United States Environmental Protection Agency.

## Students speak, regulators listen

Data in hand, the students then organized the information and presented their message to the Pittsburg City Council on July 6. About a month later, on September 10, they were ready to present to the BAAQMD regulators.

At the high school that afternoon, BAAQMD representatives listened attentively to the students as they described the chronic health problems in their city associated with

# Bay Chapter bids farewell to superstar organizer Jess Dervin-Ackerman

If you engaged with the local chapter of the Sierra Club at any point in the last three years, you probably came across conservation manager Jess Dervin-Ackerman. Fiercely engaged, powerfully persuasive, and boundlessly energetic, Jess has been one of the chapter's greatest assets. Jess seems to know everyone, and she earns the admiration and respect of everyone she meets.

In her three-year tenure here Jess has done an almost super-human amount of good. She helped launch a diverse, multi-sector campaign against coal exports through Oakland; engaged the Club in frontline fights against refineries and the Wes Pac oil terminal proposed in Pittsburg; grew the movement for Community Choice clean energy in the Bay Area; brought recycling workers and environmental activists together to advocate for higher wages, more stringent zero-waste policies, and expanded composting service; built partnerships with social-justice organizations and labor unions to elect progressive champions to local, regional, and state offices; and mentored dozens of interns.

Now Jess is, in her words, "taking a sabbatical to take care of myself so that I can continue to do this important work of fighting for climate justice for the long haul," and "to

have an incredible adventure with my partner who has supported me and my work at the Sierra Club."

Jess has a message of thanks and a special appeal to "the inspiring community of activists" she has worked with at the Sierra Club:



"I've worked hard to advance environmental, social, and racial justice causes locally with the Bay Chapter and I would love nothing more than to see that good work continue in my absence. Please consider making a gift in my honor to the Bay Chapter. [You can do so

at [tinyurl.com/honorjess](http://tinyurl.com/honorjess).] I will come back, and when I do I want to continue to work on climate issues. I believe it helps everyone involved to have the Sierra Club well-positioned and well-resourced to support and drive local fights for a better, more just, and more sustainable world.

Thank you to everyone for your support, encouragement, bravery, creativity and partnership over these three years. Probably my greatest personal accomplishment was creating so many amazing relationships with activists, organizers, elected officials, and many more folks that now engage with the Sierra Club and that I hope to work with for years to come."

It's been an honor to work with you, Jess. We will miss your energy, warmth, and passion. Enjoy your next adventure!



## Plan for Berkeley Priority Development Areas fails to mention GHG emissions

With a \$750,000 planning grant in hand, the City of Berkeley is moving forward with two Priority Development Areas (PDAs): the “Adeline PDA” covers Adeline Street from Shattuck Avenue south to the Oakland city boundary, and the South Shattuck PDA runs down Shattuck from Dwight Way to Ward Street. A Staff Report (which you can read at [tinyurl.com/BerkeleyPDA](http://tinyurl.com/BerkeleyPDA)) released to the Berkeley Planning Commission in October has given us a window into the planning process for these PDAs. Based on that report, we see that in some areas — affordable housing and public spaces — the city is talking the talk; now it’s time to make sure they follow through. But in one crucial aspect — the PDAs’ greenhouse gas emissions — the city’s process is falling dangerously short.

Priority Development Areas (PDAs) are the cornerstone of the Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) contained in Plan Bay Area, the \$292 billion Regional Transportation Plan. The core objective of PDAs is to reduce vehicle miles traveled (VMT) in cars and light trucks so as to meet greenhouse gas (GHG)

targets from the transportation sector. Yet a search of the Staff Report for the following terms produced no hits: “Greenhouse”; “GHG”; “VMT”; “Sustainable”; and “Sustainable Communities Strategy”.

It is also troubling that the Staff Report, in a section entitled “Environmental Sustainability,” disconcertingly states, “there are no identifiable environmental effects or opportunities associated with the subject of this report.”

The Sierra Club will certainly be following up with City of Berkeley planning staff to find out why GHG and VMT reductions have been omitted from the PDA process thus far.

Despite this major omission, there are some areas where the Berkeley PDAs are on track. The public outreach has been impressive, and what the community thinks is important is generally supportive of the Sustainable Communities Strategy. The Staff Report notes, “the need for more affordable housing and avoiding displacement of existing residents was mentioned by (all) groups (at a community visioning workshop).”

Affordable housing and displacement are huge issues for the two PDAs, and getting a grip on them by the city now would be a big help to residents. The Staff Report does not provide a timetable for affordable housing production, however, and the recent history is not hopeful. Citywide, for the years 2007-2014, only 13% of the required number of permits for very low-, low-, and moderate-income housing were issued; 93% of the required permits to build above moderate income were issued, though.

Plan Bay Area has a displacement target: “House 100 percent of the region’s projected growth (from a 2010 base year) by income level (very-low, low, moderate, above-moderate) without displacing current low-income residents.” The University of California’s Urban Displacement Project ([urbandisplacement.org](http://urbandisplacement.org)) has produced a map showing the area of the two PDAs, and it appears that a section of the Adeline PDA is “at risk of gentrification or displacement.” The area is shown as a lower-income tract, with more than 39% of households considered low income. UC also

indicates that much of the South Shattuck PDA and a portion of the northern section of the Adeline PDA are in a state of “advanced gentrification.”

The Staff Report also mentions that slowing vehicular traffic speeds is supported by the community, which will be a help in making the PDAs more attractive to residents and businesses. As planning rolls forward, the city will need to figure out how to “calm” automobiles while not hindering AC Transit bus passengers.

Another thing the Staff Report has right is its take on providing more public and community spaces “where people could gather for various events or community meetings.” These amenities are important to successful PDAs. Adeline Street has a lot of offset surface parking lots that ought to be considered for new uses, including community spaces.

You can count on the Sierra Club continuing to monitor the planning process for the Berkeley PDAs and calling the city to account where it’s falling short.

Matt Williams, Chair, Transportation & Compact Growth Committee

## County transportation plans will set stage for regional strategy, impacts

How will Bay Area residents commute to work, run their errands, and get around in general in 2040? There’s a planning process underway that aims to answer that question and make sure we’re meeting greenhouse gas reduction targets at the same time.

The Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) — the Bay Area’s two planning agencies for housing and transportation — are working on the 2017 Regional Transportation Plan. Within the San Francisco Bay Chapter area, each of the four counties (through their Congestion Management Agencies) will be providing countywide transportation plans to MTC that will become a big part of the regional plan. Here we check in on the state of the San Francisco and Alameda County plans, with an eye to what they do

to cut vehicle miles traveled and greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs).

The first Congestion Management Agency to put together its plan was the San Francisco County Transportation Authority (SFCTA). SFCTA’s plan runs through 2040 (identical to the next Regional Transportation Plan) and was adopted in 2013. San Francisco has recently started work on an “update” to the 2013 plan, which will be adopted by the board next year. The 2016 update will look at car sharing and youth transportation, among other things.

San Francisco Ordinance 81-08 calls for a big reduction in greenhouse gas emissions: an 80% reduction below the 1990 level by 2050. SF’s 2013 transportation plan will cut GHGs significantly, but it doesn’t put the City on the 2050 reduction path. SFCTA has outlined actions that are needed to get onto the 2050 path, and

they include prioritizing the use of streets for pedestrians, bicyclists, and transit; widespread adoption of electric cars; and congestion pricing during peak travel hours to cut car trips.

The Alameda County Transportation Commission adopted its long-range plan in 2012, and is now beginning work on its 2016 plan for submission to MTC and ABAG. California’s Sustainable Communities and Climate Protection Act of 2008 (more commonly known as SB 375) sets two GHG targets for the San Francisco Bay Area’s 2017 Regional Transportation Plan: with a base year of 2005, by 2020 GHG reductions per capita are to be 7% and by 2035, 15%. The ACTC’s 2016 plan will feed right into the RTP and it could help get the Bay Area meet the GHG reduction targets — or it might not.

In August, the Sierra Club sent a letter to ACTC asking if the new plan would meet the state’s four greenhouse gas targets (2020, 2030, 2035, and 2050). A letter back from the ACTC noted, “state emission reduction requirements do not directly apply to local agencies such as the Alameda CTC.”

An attachment to the response shows GHG reductions due to the 2012 plan and also with the 2014 Measure BB sales tax. ACTC is indicating a significant reduction in GHG per capita, but most of the reductions are due to changes to motor vehicle fuels (reduced carbon) and improvements in vehicle technology (eg, electric

cars). These are not the responsibility of the ACTC, and SB 375 is clear that what transportation plans should be doing is reducing vehicle miles traveled.

ACTC does indicate that, with 2014’s Measure BB, vehicle miles traveled will increase at a rate less than the population of the county, which is a remarkable turn around from the 2012 countywide plan. Much of the reduction is due to factors outside the responsibility of ACTC, however. To achieve SB 375’s GHG targets in 2020 and 2035 will require a significant rethink at the ACTC on SB 375’s requirements.

The Sierra Club’s letter also asked if the ACTC planned to prepare a draft Environmental Impact Report as it proceeds to develop the 2016 countywide plan. The response from ACTC was that the the 2016 countywide plan is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act. Public Advocates, a public interest law firm in San Francisco, sent ACTC a letter to let the agency know that the failure to prepare an EIR in connection with adoption of the 2016 countywide plan would in fact violate CEQA.

Because they serve as the building blocks for the regional plan, our counties’ plans are critical to setting the priorities and direction of the Bay Area’s transportation system. Will our future include yet more car driving and greenhouse gas emissions? Or will we give the climate a break and work toward strengthening transit and encouraging walking and biking?

Stay tuned for updates on the Contra Costa and Marin County plans.

Matt Williams, Chair, Transportation & Compact Growth Committee

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# Westlands water deal threatens health of the Delta—"sweetheart" deal to give southern district water in perpetuity

In a settlement with grave implications for the imperiled environment of the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta, the Interior Department on September 15 turned over to the Westlands Water District the responsibility for cleaning up toxic irrigation drainage water that has damaged 285,000 acres of farmland within its boundaries. The deal would guarantee Westlands, located in western Fresno and Kings counties, a supply in perpetuity of taxpayer-subsidized water drawn from the Trinity River and the Delta, eliminating a previous requirement to renew the contract every two years. The district would also be relieved of a \$375-million-dollar interest-free debt to taxpayers for construction costs of the Central Valley Project, the massive federal water delivery system.

The Interior Department touted the agreement, which requires congressional approval by January 2017, as a savings to taxpayers of \$3.5 billion — the estimated cost of cleaning up the district's toxic drainage. This is misleading, however, because if the federal government had cleaned up the drainage problem as required by the courts, Reclamation law would have obligated Westlands to reimburse the government (and the taxpayers) for the entire cost of the cleanup.

The soil in nearly half of Westlands' 600,000 acres contains shallow, salty groundwater that impedes crop growth. All of the

land within Westlands is plagued by high amounts of mineral salts and selenium, a naturally-occurring trace element left by an ancient sea. The salts are harmful to crops, and selenium in irrigation drainage can kill and cause severe birth defects in fish and wildlife.

Conservation groups quickly denounced the agreement for ensuring Westlands vast amounts of inexpensive federal water to irrigate toxic land. Westlands would continue drawing water from the Trinity River and the Delta, an environment already damaged by excessive diversion, with no limits on the size of farms eligible to receive it. The California Water Impact Network (C-WIN), Food and Water Watch, and Restore the Delta summarized its impact: "Water would be provided at lower prices, without acreage limits, and with permanent entitlements. These terms will lead to ever-increasing water deficits for California's communities, economy, and environment."

The groups also questioned Westlands' ability to accomplish the clean-up. Lloyd Carter, president of the California Save Our Streams Council, told the *Fresno Bee*, "It's ridiculous that Westlands even claims it can solve the drainage problem when federal agencies, spending hundreds of millions of dollars, did not find an economical and environmentally safe solution."

The settlement in fact contains no per-

formance standards for Westlands to meet, requiring only that the district become "legally responsible for the management of drainage water" within its boundaries. Kate Poole, an attorney for the Natural Resources Defense Council, which intervened in litigation over the dispute, pointed out to the *Los Angeles Times*, "So there's no indication that they have to do something more than what's currently happening [with drainage] or that they have to do it by a certain time."

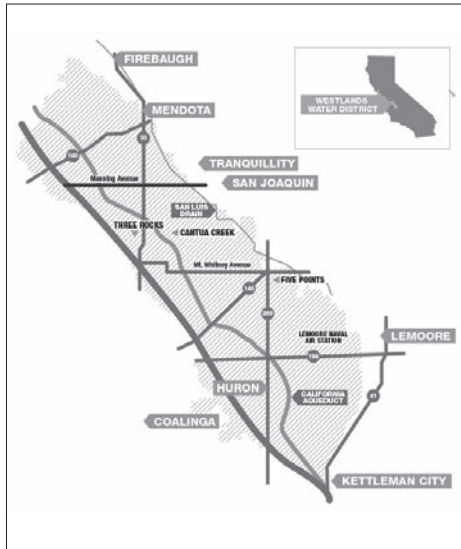
Environmentalist Carter observed that the inexpensive water provides a further windfall for Westlands, as it can sell its unused supply to urban districts for a sizable profit. Indeed, a very real possibility exists of Westlands transferring its entire water contract to such a district for a huge financial gain. The impact would be devastating to the Delta if the transfer were a permanent one, since even in years of drought urban water districts are guaranteed 50% of their contracted water delivery, while agricultural districts like Westlands can be denied 100% of their water if there is real scarcity, as has occurred in the past two years. This would result in hundreds of thousands of additional acre-feet of water being drawn from the Delta each year during a protracted drought.

Local Congressman Jerry Mc-

Nerney (CA-09) called the settlement a "sweetheart deal" that gives Westlands "an advantageous, no-need-to-review contract that could improve the water deliveries they receive from the Delta and further devastate its fragile ecosystem."

Richard Frank, director of the California Environmental Law and Policy Center at U.C. Davis, observed to the *Los Angeles Times*, "My hunch is that the more Congress digs into the details of this, the more controversial the settlement is going to get. And the less are the prospects for a quick and easy congressional ratification."

David Holloway for the Water Committee



Map of the Westlands Water District



From the US Fish and Wildlife Service: "The Sacramento splittail is native to the upper San Francisco Estuary and the Central Valley in California. It once swam in the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta, but massive water diversions and alteration of important spawning and rearing habitat have driven this formerly common species to near extinction."

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Group 3	Chuck Collingwood Albert Pastine	Jan 23-24, 2016	Feb 13-15, 2016	Feb 27-29, 2016
Group 4	Kalle Hoffman Robert Schuur Hadrian Klinkner	Jan 23-24, 2016	Feb 13-15, 2016	Feb 27-29, 2016
Group 5	Rob Martin Shonna Moodie	Feb 6-7, 2016	Feb 27-29, 2016	Mar 12-14, 2016
Group 6	Ed Traverso Rebecca Faith	Feb 6-7, 2016	Mar 4-6, 2016	Mar 11-13, 2016
Group 7	Nikki Ritcher Janet Lee Eric Karasuda	Jan 30-31, 2016	Feb 13-15, 2016	Feb 26 - 28, 2016
Family	Jennifer Flattery Mike Duret	Jan 23-24, 2016	Feb 13-15, 2016	Feb 27-28, 2016
Youth 1 (8-13)	Ed Traverso	Jan 30-31, 2016	Feb 19-21, 2016	Mar 18-20, 2016
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# Arthur Boone, architect of Oakland Tree Team, honored for service to the Sierra Club

Tree-planting season has begun! Improve Oakland's environment by volunteering your time (or money) to plant a tree this year

Longtime Bay Chapter volunteer Arthur Boone has been honored with the Sierra Club California's Sally and Les Reid Award for exemplary service in the area of conservation. Arthur is a life-long member of the Sierra Club who has served in a multiplicity of volunteer roles, from chair of the Bay Chapter's conservation committee to head of the Oakland Tree Team.

"He does so many things for this good earth," writes David Haskell, who has worked with Arthur on the Chapter's Zero Waste Committee for many years. "He dedicated his life's work to Zero Waste and resource recovery and recycling spanning decades of effort — never wanting anything in return for himself. He is a dear man with such a good



Arthur circa 1995 at a protest against Coca-Cola for not including recycled content plastic in their soda bottles. Photo by Steve Lautze of the Northern California Recycling Association.

heart." Mary Lou Van Deventer, also of the Zero Waste Committee, heartily concurs, calling Arthur "a force of nature on the side of the planet."

## Arthur steps up for Oakland's "green lung"

When the City of Oakland reduced the budget and staff of its Tree Division in 2009 — at the height of the Great Recession — and stopped planting new trees in front of homes and businesses, Arthur Boone stepped up to fill the void. Over the next five years, Arthur led the Sierra Club's Tree Team in planting some 1,350 trees across Oakland. Arthur has personally planted about 500 of those trees, either by himself or with one of the volunteers. How many of us can claim to have made such a tangible, positive impact on our communities?

Tree Team volunteer and Northern Alameda County Group Executive Committee member Kent Lewandowski says of Arthur: "He knows where all the trees are like a shepherd knows his sheep. Arthur is known to drive around Oakland in his old truck to check on trees, water them, prune them, and talk to homeowners to help educate them how to take care of them. That's what makes him so effective. The trees are kind of like his children. No matter what other challenges he might face (like lack of money, difficulty finding steady volunteers, problems with supplies), he does not get bothered about it. He knows he's doing a good thing for the planet, and it gives him energy working with the volunteers. So he just keeps on going."

## Arthur passes the torch (and shovel)

Arthur "starts things that continue" says Mary Lou Van Deventer. So it's fitting that

Arthur has been honored with the Sally and Les Reid Award as he hands the reins of the Tree Team over to Derek Schubert.

## New funds support Tree Team work

A key feature of the program, says Derek, is "how economically [we have] been able to plant our trees." The Tree Team recently received two major pots of money that will allow it to continue — and even ramp up — the program Arthur built with the help of so many volunteers. The Bank of America Charitable Foundation granted the program \$42,000 through the American Forests group in Washington, D.C. The first round of those funds paid for 90 trees in the Oakland flatlands between January and April 2015; the rest of the funds will pay for hundreds more. And this past July, the Tree Team was awarded \$310,000 from the state's cap-and-trade funds to plant 1,500 more trees in the East Oakland flatlands by the end of 2018.

The Sierra Club actively advocates for the City of Oakland to commit the funds to reinstate its comprehensive tree program, but until then, our volunteers-led program will be there to fill this important role.

## Plant a tree with us!

The tree-planting season has now begun! In planting season (generally November through



Volunteers get ready to put a tree in the ground in 2013.

July, weather depending), the tree team meets on Saturdays, 9 am to 1 pm.

If you want to improve Oakland's quality of life, planting a tree is one of the best things you can do. Trees fight global warming by absorbing carbon dioxide and releasing oxygen. In urban areas they can cool temperatures by up to 10° F by providing shade, breaking up urban "heat islands" and releasing water vapor. Trees absorb pollutants and filter particulate matter, leaving cleaner air behind. Studies even show that tree-lined streets improve commerce, raise property values, and have lower incidences of violence.

You can learn more about the Tree Team (including how to get involved and make a donation) at [sierraclub.org/sfbay/tree-planting](http://sierraclub.org/sfbay/tree-planting).

## Cultivated Thoughts: autumn in the Bay Area garden — A column by Peter Reinke

It's fall again, and it's finally beginning to feel the part. After a few small hiccups, it seems to have taken hold.

Fall is my favorite season to spend time in the garden. It doesn't have the obvious beauty of spring, or the ease and comfort of summer, but it isn't without its own certain charm. It's a time when you get to know your landscape more intimately, a time to wade deeper into its workings. It's a time when you're able to peel back the layers of the spring and summer and redirect the energy of your garden to the preparation for next year.

Many garden shrubs require periodic deep pruning to maintain their overall health and vigor, and the fall is the perfect time to do it. Semi-woody shrubs like Elderberry and Hydrangeas will want their leggy canes cut low, and shorter shrubs like Salvias and grasses are often best shorn nearly to the ground. Careful pruning takes timing: catch the sap when it's running more slowly and you'll lose much less

energy through the healing process. This, in turn, helps the plants invest in the burgeoning nodes which will become next spring's tender branches and buds.

If you have the space, too, those trimmings will make a great addition to the compost which will season over the coming months and feed the garden when the year turns over again. Add more trimmings and kitchen scraps periodically (I recommend only vegetables), and remember to add plenty of brown leaves and debris to keep the mix from getting too potent. A 3-to-1 ratio of leaves to scraps, or higher, is ideal. If you've already established your composter, and have the rich results on hand, now is the perfect time to dole out heaping handfuls to the base of your plants. Be generous, if you have enough to give, but remember not to lay it farther out than the root ball of the plant. A good general rule is that the plant below ground is nearly the same size as the plant above, so

lay the compost no further out than the edge of its canopy.

The chance to spend time walking in your garden amongst the smells of fallen leaves and dampening soil is a feast for the senses. Getting down on the ground to spread compost and mulch rekindles something deep in us, and serves as a reminder that gardens give so much more than simply a beautiful space. It's another thread in the cord that binds us to the natural world, a chance to give back as much as we get. A garden is a gift of good fortune, and what we do to keep ours healthy will yield rewards in so many ways. Some flowers will call to birds and bees,

some wide leaves will lend us shade. But beneath it all is the kinship we breed with these living, struggling organisms as we help each other more happily grow out into the world.

Peter Reinke is a garden designer who has spent most of his life enthusiastically diving into dirt.



Photo courtesy the USF Flickr page



## Dirty Energy

### Your presence requested by future generations Final refinery emissions rules to be presented on Dec. 16

Much like a hiker on the last mile of a long, winding trek, we are in the final stretch of one of the most important local policy transformations in the region's history — one with huge implications for the future of the Bay Area and our planet.

On December 16th, the Bay Area Air Quality Management District is expected to vote on new regulations governing emissions from the Bay Area's five refineries. It's been a long road to get to this point. As the result of an extended campaign by a coalition led by the Sierra Club, Communities for a Better Environment, and front-line community members, the Air District board passed a resolution in October 2014 to issue rules requiring Bay Area refineries to reduce toxic emissions 20% by 2020. In the intervening year, we have followed along closely as the Air District staff drafted the promised resolutions.

Our coalition of community members, labor, health care workers, and environmental justice groups agrees: the rules must include hard numeric caps on refinery pollution including greenhouse gases. Unfortunately, we have been frequently frustrated by the staff's willingness to placate oil-industry demands.

After turning out at several community forums and many heated public hearings, we have finally succeeded in educating some members of the Air District board about why emissions caps at today's levels (to be brought down over time) are critical to public health and the environment. At our urging, some of our allies on the board have pushed back against Air District staff on the weakened rules.

As of this writing, in mid-November, the rules are in flux. It's up to us to keep pushing through this last mile to make sure the strongest possible regulations are enacted. We have two choices; we can give up now, or we can fight like hell. I personally am not going to give up, but this last stretch cannot be done alone or by a brave few.

Your choices are: show up and speak up for clean air, or suffer the consequences of



an oil industry hell bent on squeezing every last dollar out of the refineries at our expense. That means they will bring in tar sands by train and ship, putting everything along the rails at risk of spills and explosions—from our water supply to our schools and homes. Our air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions will skyrocket, and we will have more health problems—and let's not forget that a public hospital closed down this year in West County.

#### WhatYouCanDo

There are industry forces out to choke the community I live in and I can't stand for that any longer. If you won't stand for it either, join me and others on **December 16th at 9:30 am for the rule-adoption hearing at 939 Ellis Street in San Francisco**. Your presence is requested by future generations. Let's not regret words we never say and instead show the board and the oil industry that our community is not for sale.

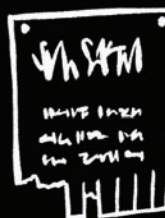
You can also sign our petition to the Air District at [tinyurl.com/cleanbayair](http://tinyurl.com/cleanbayair).

Ratha Lai

How long can you drive an electric vehicle (EV) using solar power before it pollutes as much as 1 year driving a gas car? **More than 10,000 years!** That's why Suntrail EV chargers use 100% renewable energy.



- California residents can invest directly in Sunspeed Enterprises, learn more at [sunspeedenterprises.com/investors/direct-public-offering/](http://sunspeedenterprises.com/investors/direct-public-offering/)
- Learn more about the Pacific Coast SunTrail Route, our Pt Reyes Station site, & more at [www.sunspeedenterprises.com](http://www.sunspeedenterprises.com),
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### Personals

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

## William Keith and the Battle for Hetch Hetchy

October 4 through May 1



**I**n 1907, William Keith accompanied John Muir to the Hetch Hetchy Valley for the last time. John Muir believed art, displaying the natural beauty of the valley, would help save it. Meanwhile, city politicians schemed to bring the pristine waters of the Tuolumne River to San Francisco. Follow this local history through William Keith's paintings and photographs provided by the Sierra Club, Restore Hetch Hetchy, and the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission.

Saint Mary's College Museum of Art  
1928 Saint Mary's Road  
P.O. Box 5110  
Moraga, CA 94575-5110  
[www.stmarys-ca.edu/museum](http://www.stmarys-ca.edu/museum)



Museum hours: Wednesday - Sunday  
11AM to 4:30 PM  
\$5 admission. Free for K-12, museum members, students, faculty and staff  
Free parking

## Support wildlife, not gun shots, in East Bay park—Tell Parks board not to renew lease for Chabot Gun Club

We need your help in persuading the East Bay Regional Parks District board not to renew the lease for the controversial Chabot Gun Club located on public parkland. Here's why this issue is so important:

**Lead poisoning:** Located in the watershed of Lake Chabot, the Chabot Gun Club uses lead ammunition that leaches into streams and poisons wildlife. Raptors and vultures are poisoned by eating lead-tainted prey, while other species may be exposed by drinking or bathing in lead-contaminated puddles and water sources. Even Lake Chabot's nesting Bald Eagles are at risk from lead contamination.



Great blue heron at Lake Chabot. Photo by Lois Elling.

**Gunfire noise disturbs park users:** The loud noise of gunshots disturbs neighbors and park users. Gunfire is all too common and frightening in many Bay Area urban communities; our parks are meant as refuges from that kind of stress.

**Gunfire noise harms wildlife:** The loud noise of gunfire deters birds and other wildlife from using otherwise viable habitat. Scientists have also documented stress and hearing loss in birds exposed to sounds of gunshots.

**Too expensive:** It will be prohibitively expensive to bring the gun club into compliance with environmental laws. It will cost between \$2.5 million and \$20 million just to clean up existing lead pollution from the club. If the club continues to operate, there will be even more lead clean-up expenses plus noise-abatement costs of an initial \$2.4 million to \$3.4 million, followed by yearly costs averaging \$190,000. This would be for a club that is already operating at a net loss – losing \$121,479 in 2014!

### What You Can Do

Join the Sierra Club, Golden Gate Audubon, and Chabot Park neighbors and users in saying NO to the lease renewal. Please email the East Bay Parks board today and urge them not to renew the gun club lease.

East Bay Park District board members:

- Whitney Dotson (Ward 1: Richmond/Berkeley), [wdotson@ebparks.org](mailto:wdotson@ebparks.org)
- John Sutter (Ward 2: Oakland/Lamorinda), [jsutter@ebparks.org](mailto:jsutter@ebparks.org)

- Dennis Waespi (Ward 3: Castro Valley), [dwaespi@ebparks.org](mailto:dwaespi@ebparks.org)
- Doug Siden (Ward 4: Alameda), [dsiden@ebparks.org](mailto:dsiden@ebparks.org)
- Ayn Wieskamp (Ward 5: Livermore), [awieskamp@ebparks.org](mailto:awieskamp@ebparks.org)
- Beverly Lane (Ward 6: Danville), [blane@ebparks.org](mailto:blane@ebparks.org)
- Diane Burgis (Ward 7: Oakley), [dburgis@ebparks.org](mailto:dburgis@ebparks.org)

### Sample letter:

(You can use this language as a guide but it's best to use your own wording—explain why this issue matters to you!)

Dear [name]:

As an East Bay resident, taxpayer, and park lover, I urge you NOT to renew the Chabot Gun Club lease.

The lead ammunition used by the club is toxic to wildlife, including the Bald Eagles nesting at Lake Chabot and the 144 other species of birds that live in Anthony Chabot Regional Park.

The noise of gunfire is disruptive to neighbors and park users seeking a relaxed experience in nature. (Add your own feelings about hearing gunfire while you are

hiking or enjoying park land!)

Finally, the costs of remediating the lead pollution and abating the club's noise problem are just too high. As a taxpayer, I do not want to be saddled with clean-up costs for a problem I did not create.

Please do not renew the lease. And please hold the Gun Club responsible for 100% of the costs of cleaning up the lead pollution they have caused over the past five decades. No taxpayer dollars out of Measure CC or future tax measures should go to pay for any clean-up of the site.

Yours truly,

(Name)

Alert language courtesy Golden Gate Audubon



A bald eagle soars over Lake Chabot. Photo by Gail West via flickr.com/hockeylover.

# The 2016 Sierra Club Calendars

Calendars will be available until December 11, 2015.

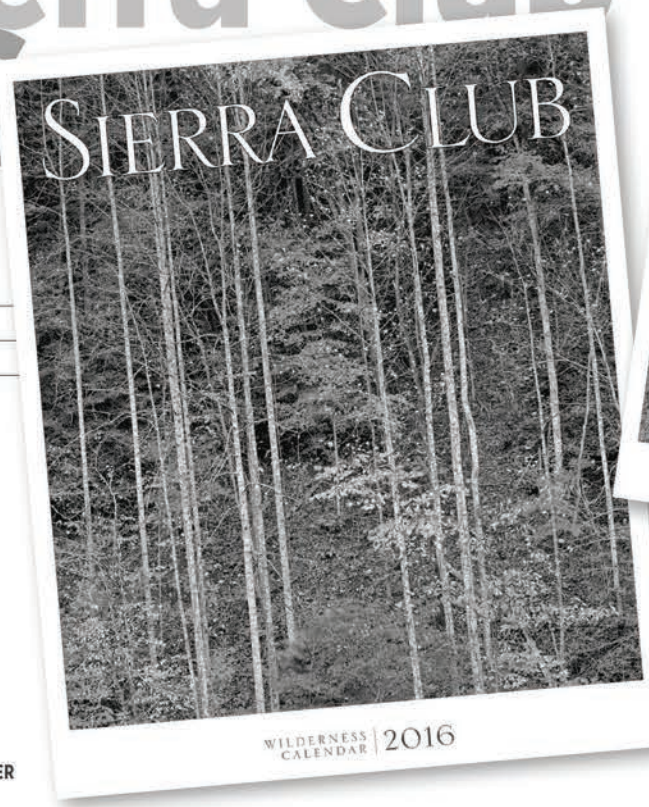
Number of calendars purchased	1 - 3	4 - 11	12+
2016 Sierra Club Wilderness Wall Calendar	\$13.50	\$13.00	\$12.50
2016 Sierra Club Engagement Calendar	\$14.50	\$14.00	\$13.50

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: 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 shipping for orders of 12 or more. Shipping will start Wednesday, 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.