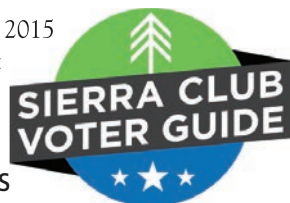




Find us online at [theyodeler.org](http://theyodeler.org) and [sierraclub.org/sfbay](http://sierraclub.org/sfbay)

## Make your vote work for the environment this fall

Find write-ups on our November 2015 endorsements on pages 14-15. Visit [sc.org/sfbay/2015endorsements](http://sc.org/sfbay/2015endorsements) for more elections information.



### Marin County endorsements

Sashi McEntee, Mill Valley City Council  
Ford Greene, San Anselmo Town Council  
Pam Drew, Novato City Council  
Josh Fryday, Novato City Council

### San Francisco endorsements

Wendy Aragon, City College Board of Trustees  
Aaron Peskin, Board of Supervisors, District 3  
Yes on A: Affordable housing bond to address the housing crisis  
Yes on C: Register lobbyists for more transparency at City Hall  
No on D: No walls on the waterfront  
Yes on F: Homes, not hotels  
No on G: Don't block clean energy  
Yes on I: Sustainable and fair housing for the Mission  
Yes on K: Prioritize surplus public land for affordable housing and open space



## \$1,000 October-only solar special!

Want to soak up summer all year long? You can with solar panels! A Club partnership with Sungevity makes it easy to take advantage of the benefits of solar with little up-front cost. Get a special offer when you sign your solar contract in the month of October: you'll receive a \$1,000 discount *and* Sungevity will make a \$1,000 donation to the Sierra Club SF Bay Chapter!

Know your solar options and be the brightest home on the block! Request a solar quote today at [sierraclub.org/solarhomes](http://sierraclub.org/solarhomes) or call (855)438-7860 to speak with our solar homes coordinator.



Refinery Corridor Healing Walk marchers bring attention to the health risks and dangers posed by local refineries. More photos by Rucha Chitnis at [tinyurl.com/refinerywalkpics](http://tinyurl.com/refinerywalkpics).

## Draft refinery emissions rules fail to cap pollutants, GHGs

### Sierra Club and allies call on Air District to suspend new refinery projects until caps are in place

The Bay Area Air Quality Management District released long-awaited draft refinery emission regulations on September 11th. To our chagrin, the draft rules completely fail to live up to the Air District Board's promises (see "Air District moves to reduce refinery emissions 20% by 2020" at [theyodeler.org/?p=9900](http://theyodeler.org/?p=9900)) and would in fact lead to *increases* in refinery pollution. In its draft rules the Air District has eliminated the notion of facility-wide emission caps, instead relying on "source-by-source" regulations (a boiler here, a catalytic cracker there) with no regard to the overall picture of what's spewing into nearby communities and the atmosphere. The new rules propose to allow the maximum refinery-wide potential to emit. On top of all this, greenhouse gases are completely exempted.

Bay Area refineries make billions in profits at the expense of the environment and public health. Putting an end to unchecked refinery pollution is the goal of a grassroots campaign made up of Sierra Club members, labor organizations, healthcare professionals, environmental justice organizations such as Communities for a Better Environment, and front-line community members who have been lobbying the Air District for years to implement robust emissions regulations for the region's five refineries.

To communities already overburdened by pollution, it's terrifying to learn that, under the draft rules, the refineries would essentially be allowed to continue to emit as much as they want, so long as they pay the Air District for the permit. What we are asking for is simple: certainty in our air quality. We demand facility-wide numeric caps on toxic particulate soot emissions

and climate-warming greenhouse gas emissions. Emissions should be capped at current levels and brought down over time. We want to know that the air we are breathing right now, as bad as it is, isn't going to get worse.

Without facility-wide numeric caps, refineries will be able to bring in dirtier and more dangerous grades of "extreme" crude oil such as tar sands with no penalties, just profit. We call on the Air District to suspend all permitting for new refinery projects until numeric emissions caps are in place.

The oil industry has fought hard to fend off facility-wide numeric caps. Big Oil lobbyists have argued in favor of their vested right to pollute, and Air District staffers continue to parrot the oil industry's bogus talking points; they claim numeric caps are not legal — a contention that is completely false, given that other industries, including power plants, are already subject to caps on emissions including greenhouse gases. As to feasibility, keeping emissions to the same level for now instead of further increasing them doesn't require refiners to do anything different from what they are doing now.

### WhatYouCanDo

It's time to ramp up the pressure on the Air District. Add your name to our petition to the Air District asking them to:

- Suspend all permitting for new refinery projects until numeric emissions caps are in place; and
- Implement enforceable, facility-wide numeric caps on refinery pollution, including greenhouse gases, at today's levels.

Sign the petition today at <http://tinyurl.com/cleanbayair>!



## Chapter elections set Club policy, direction

### Elections open in November — Check your eligibility today!

The December-January Yodeler will include the paper ballot for this year's elections of the Executive Committees (ExComms) of the Bay Chapter and its eight local groups. ExComms are the Chapter's decision-making boards, overseeing budgets, administering activities, deciding local conservation policy, and endorsing political candidates. Voting is an important way to participate in setting policy priorities and direction for the Sierra Club.

You can also vote electronically. In mid-November all Chapter members (whose email addresses we have on file) will receive an email with a link to the ballot. If you wish to vote electronically but do not receive that email, you will find a link to the voting site in the December-January Yodeler. You can also sign up to receive email communications from the Chapter at [www.sierraclub.org/sfbay/email](http://www.sierraclub.org/sfbay/email).

Now is a good time to check that your membership is up-to-date (you have to be registered as a member in the database by Nov. 6) and that you are registered in the correct local group. Look at the mailing label on this Yodeler; if you are a Bay Chapter member, your eight-digit membership number should appear in the line above your name. Following this is a four-digit number beginning with "010". This number designates your local group:

Number	Group
0100	No group affiliation
0102	Marin
0103	Mount Diablo
0104	San Francisco
0105	Delta
0106	West Contra Costa
0107	Southern Alameda County
0108	Northern Alameda County
0109	TriValley

For a map of approximate group boundaries, head to [sierraclub.org/sfbay/local-groups](http://sierraclub.org/sfbay/local-groups). If your label indicates you are not in the group you wish to be in, contact Sierra Club Member Services at (415)977-5653 or [member.services@sierraclub.org](mailto:member.services@sierraclub.org).

After your membership and group numbers, the Yodeler mailing label will list SNGL for a single membership (one vote) or JNT for a joint membership (two votes—one for each member). If there are any errors in your membership number or address, notify Member Services.

Now is the time to act so that your record in the Club database can be correct in time for the election's eligibility cutoff.

Questions? Email Nominations and Elections Committee Chair Maritessa Bravo Ares at [elections@sfbaysc.org](mailto:elections@sfbaysc.org).

## 4,334 miles later, Zeke reaches the Pacific!

Berkeley teen Zeke Gerwein is back home (and back in school) after biking 4,334 miles over 73 days this summer. Zeke's ride took him from the waters of the Atlantic in Delaware across the entire continental United States to the Pacific Ocean.

In his blog, Zeke describes the experience of dipping his front bike tire in the Pacific at Rodeo Beach in Marin County:

"...I pushed my bike across the sand and pebbles toward the ocean. I had forgotten to take off my socks and shoes, which were soon drenched, but I didn't care. My front wheel had touched the surf of the Pacific. I had crossed the country!!"

We highly recommend reading Zeke's blog at <http://tinyurl.com/zekesblog2015>. You'll find hilarious anecdotes, beautiful descriptions, and the profound reflections of an environmentally enlightened young man discovering America.






Zeke dips his front tire in the Pacific at the end of his journey.

To date, Zeke's ride has raised \$4,260 from 70 individual donors for the Sierra Club SF Bay Chapter's conservation efforts — only \$74 short of a one-to-one dollar-to-mile match! Visit [sc.org/sfbay/zekesride](http://sc.org/sfbay/zekesride) to make a gift in Zeke's honor and help him reach that hard-earned milestone!

## 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!

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



MyBrokerDonates.com  
415.300.0432  
888.488.7188

## We're hiring! Apply to work at the Bay Chapter

The Bay Chapter is looking for a Membership Outreach Representative to join our team. Responsibilities include contacting our members during evening phone banks to educate them on our issues, raise money, and identify volunteers. The ideal applicant will have excellent communication skills, be interested in fundraising, and have a passion for environmental issues. Learn more and apply at <http://tinyurl.com/chapteroutreach>.



Join the team alongside Membership Outreach Representative Annalisa!

## SIERRA CLUB YODELER

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2530 San Pablo Ave., Suite 1  
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(510)848-0800

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

### EDITOR

Virginia Reinhart

### ADVERTISING MANAGER

Chris Lynch

### DEDICATED VOLUNTEERS

#### Illustrations

Section icons by Emily Rasmussen  
[www.emilyras.com](http://www.emilyras.com)

#### Subscription Manager

Lev Pope

#### Distribution

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

#### Chapter Chair

Becky Evans (415)775-3309

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

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



## Correcting the record on our vegetation management strategy for the East Bay hills

### Sierra Club's preferred fire-prevention model would restore native habitat and increase biodiversity

As we slog through our fourth year of drought and once again watch wildfires devastate communities all across California and the West, we must acknowledge that the hotter, drier conditions we face due to climate disruption are not going away. With that in mind, it's more important than ever to prioritize fire prevention in our vegetation management strategies for the Bay Area's East Bay hills.

Ever since the Great Fire of 1991 ravaged the East Bay hills at a cost of 25 lives and 3.9 billion in present-day dollars, the Sierra Club has worked with fire experts, public officials, and environmental groups like the Golden Gate Audubon Society, the California Native Plant Society, and the Claremont Canyon Conservancy to develop an ecologically- and fiscally-sustainable model for fire management that not only reduces the risk of fires, but also promotes diverse and healthy ecosystems.

The preferred strategy for vegetation management in the East Bay hills entails removing

the most highly flammable, ember-generating trees like eucalyptus in phases — only in select areas considered most at risk for fire along the urban-wild interface. Once the flammable non-native trees are removed, less flammable native species can reclaim those areas and provide for a rebound of biodiversity. This model of fire prevention can be summarized as the “Three R’s”:

1. **REMOVE** the most flammable non-native trees in select areas most at risk for fire;
2. **RESTORE** those areas with more naturally fire-resistant native trees and plants; and
3. **RE-ESTABLISH** greater biodiversity of flora and fauna, including endangered species like the Alameda whipsnake.

#### Clearing up misconceptions

There is a lot of misinformation floating around about this preferred model for the care and management of vegetation in the East Bay hills. Here are the facts about a few of these misunderstandings:

The Sierra Club's approach does NOT call

for clearcutting; under “Remove, Restore, Re-establish” *thousands* of acres of eucalyptus and other non-natives will remain in the East Bay hills. Our proposal only covers areas near homes and businesses where a fire would be most costly to lives and property. In fact, removing monoculture eucalyptus groves and providing for the return of native ecosystems will create a much richer landscape than the alternative — thinning — which requires regularly scraping away the forest floor to remove flammable debris.

Our preferred approach does NOT focus on eucalyptus merely because they are non-natives; rather, it is because they pose a far higher fire risk than native landscapes. Eucalyptus shed ten to fifty times more debris per acre than grasslands, native live oak groves, or bay forests — and that debris, in the form of branches, leaves, and long strips of bark, ends up draped in piles that are a near-optimal mixture of oxygen and fuel for fire. Eucalyptus trees ignite easily and have a tendency to dramati-

cally explode when on fire. Also, eucalyptus embers stay lit longer than embers from other vegetation; coming off trees that can grow above 120 feet tall, those embers can stay lit as the wind carries them for miles.

Any herbicide use to prevent the regrowth of eucalyptus once they've been cut down (they quickly sprout suckers otherwise) would be hand applied in minimal amounts under strict controls. Any herbicide application must undergo a full environmental review to prevent impacts on humans, wildlife, and habitat. There are also methods other than herbicide that can be used to prevent regrowth, and the Sierra Club encourages the agencies that manage the land where fire mitigation occurs to explore these alternatives to find the most sustainable, responsible option.

For a deeper look at the science behind the strategy we call “Remove, Restore, and Re-establish” please see our Frequently Asked Questions at <http://tinyurl.com/hillsbiodiversity>.

## The coal-free Oakland campaign: the greed of a few versus the well-being of many

In recent years, as domestic coal consumption has plummeted and the coal industry searches for new markets for its dirty product overseas, we've written a lot about the threat of coal exports through Bay Area ports. Now the coal industry has targeted Oakland, and a Bay Area-wide campaign is in full swing to preserve our air quality and stand up for climate justice.

To that end Club staff and volunteers have held meetings in four of the seven city council districts; gone door to door to talk to neighbors; met with public officials at the local, regional, state, and federal levels; engaged with labor and faith leaders; and reached out to local business owners — all to talk about the dangers of coal coming through Bay Area communities by rail for export overseas.

Almost everyone we have encountered agrees: coal is bad for our communities, our workers, and our climate, and the City Council should block coal from being a part of the Oakland Global Trade and Logistics Center (also called Oakland Global), taxpayer-funded project on public land at the former Army Base in West Oakland.

Oakland Global is supposed to bring Oakland's maritime operations into the 21st century by making the process of moving goods more

efficient; reducing pollution by transporting goods by train instead of truck; moving some of Oakland's most polluting facilities away from West Oakland neighborhoods; and diversifying the industry on the waterfront. **Using this development for coal exports flies in the face of the original intent of the project to clean up pollution and provide benefits to the local community.**

Unfortunately, the developer, Phil Tagami, and others involved in building the bulk terminal are solely focused on rushing through with the project — no matter the costs to the community or climate. In a recent article in the *East Bay Express*, reporter Darwin Bond-Graham revealed that a few individuals stand to make millions if the deal with Big Coal goes through. Bond-Graham's report shows that there has been a concerted effort to

conceal both the coal deal and the greed motivating it.

Luckily for us, there are diligent reporters working to uncover the truth, as well as a whole lot of community and political power on our side. More than 170 local businesses, organizations, and prominent community members have signed on to our letter to the Mayor

and the City Council. You can see the latest version at [tinyurl.com/CoalFreeOaklandLetter](http://tinyurl.com/CoalFreeOaklandLetter).

Oakland's City Council has the power to keep coal out of Oakland Global through a clause in the original development agreement that states that the City can further regulate the development if they “determine based on



Youth leaders from West Oakland at a rally against bringing coal to Oakland.

substantial evidence and after a public hearing that a failure to do so would place existing or future occupants or users of the Project, adjacent neighbors, or any portion thereof, or all of them, in a condition substantially dangerous to their health or safety.”

The public hearing for finding evidence of health and safety impacts is scheduled for September 21st (after this paper goes to print). There, experts, health professionals, faith and union leaders, workers, community groups, businesses, and residents will testify that coal is a huge threat to the health and safety of the communities along the rail lines and near the project site.

The Sierra Club and our allies are asking the City Council to use this opportunity to further regulate the development and ban all exports of coal and petroleum coke (petcoke) through the Oakland Global project. The Mayor and almost all the council members have stated that they are opposed to coal trains coming through our communities. **The only question that remains is whether there is the political will to put the health and safety of our kids and the future of humanity before corporate profits.**

#### What You Can Do

The City Council will vote on whether to ban exports of coal and petroleum coke through Oakland Global sometime in early October. A majority of the council is needed for the ban to pass, and some of our usually trusted allies could waver due to political pressure from the developer.

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

For background on this campaign, visit [sierraclub.org/sfbay/coalfreeoakland](http://sierraclub.org/sfbay/coalfreeoakland).

Jess Dervin-Ackerman

#### Gifts to the Sierra Club SF Bay Chapter



In memory of Walter William Ratcliff  
Gift of Joanne Richard

In memory of Kitty McLean  
Gift of Joanne Drabek and Thor Start

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.



## Prioritizing water quality and biodiversity in the EBMUD Watershed Master Plan

Not everyone knows that the East Bay Municipal Water District (EBMUD) manages watersheds — and the recreation that goes on there — as well as serving up drinking water and treating sewage. In addition to the District's primary source of drinking water on the Mokelumne River, it maintains five terminal storage reservoirs in the East Bay, including Chabot, Upper San Leandro, San Pablo, Lafayette, and Briones.

EBMUD is currently reviewing and updating its Watershed Master Plan, a process it is required to undergo every 20 years. There are a number of critical issues the District will need to address in this review, including climate change, habitat conservation, water quality, and fire prevention. In terms of changes to recreational use, mountain biking advocates have called for opening up EBMUD watershed lands to their uses. EBMUD Director Marguerite Young — whom the Sierra Club endorsed when she ran for the office in 2014 — is leading the process to reconsider the long-standing policy against

allowing mountain bikes on District watershed lands in the East Bay. Currently, EBMUD only allows hikers and equestrians on watershed lands with a trail permit.

EBMUD's primary goals are to protect water quality and biodiversity and to keep the most protective status for watershed lands. The current policy on mountain biking has succeeded in fulfilling the District's important public trust. So why mess with a system in balance? Mountain bikers can already bike on over 1,000 miles of trails in adjacent East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD) lands. Certain wild places like watershed lands should be preserved in their most pristine state as sanctuaries for natural ecological processes and adaptations that protect significant plant and animal communities.

When the District last revised its Watershed Master Plan in 1995, a Citizens Advisory Committee studied the issue of whether to



Oursan Trail and Briones Reservoir. Photo courtesy EBMUD.

allow mountain bike access. The Committee concluded that in order to protect water quality and biodiversity it was wise to continue the ban on mountain bikes (a position the Sierra Club supported then as now), and in 1996 the EBMUD Board voted to accept the Committee's recommendation.

In watershed lands, mountain bikes are only allowed on a set of trails around the Lafayette Reservoir — which has a paved trail to prevent erosion — and on certain paved areas of San Pablo Reservoir Recreation Area. This policy protects the pristine watershed lands while allowing some access to bikers in areas that are less sensitive and have already been developed.

On August 20th, the District held a well-attended public hearing at which Sierra Club spokesperson Norman LaForce expressed concern that fast-moving cyclists could increase erosion, disturb wildlife, collide with joggers and equestrians, and interfere with the serenity of these “natural jewels.” Larry Kolb, a member of the Chapter's East Bay Public Lands committee, spoke as a hiker-biker and raised the problem of hikers feeling overrun by bikers coming downhill fast. He pointed out that mountain bikers already have lots of trails available in the neighboring EBRPD lands. Helen Burke, a former EBMUD Director, expressed concern about how bikers would be managed and how the watershed would be monitored for adverse impacts.

Enforcement and monitoring of mountain bikers would require additional resources from the District at a time when it is facing revenue reductions as a result of the drought and climate change. EBMUD currently only has one ranger for the entire watershed — certainly not sufficient to enforce regulations such as trail speed limits and staying on established trails. Even agencies with enforcement officers like the Park District find it hard to enforce rules and regulations concerning mountain bikes, because bikers

move quickly. If EBMUD were to open up areas currently closed to mountain biking, it would have to create a large force to patrol thousands of acres of land, issue tickets, and take violators to court. In addition, EBMUD enforcement rangers might have to use motorized bikes, which would bring additional costs and environmental impacts.

There are also proponents of opening up the 13 miles of Ridge Trail that will go through EBMUD lands to bikers. Ensuring bikers stayed on that trail would be challenging, requiring a substantial ranger presence and checkpoints.

The Sierra Club opposes additional mountain bike access to watershed properties. The cost for accommodating this intense recreation would be too high, and would compromise the ability of the District to maintain biodiversity and water quality. It would also drastically change the experience for equestrian riders and hikers. In this time of persistent drought and climate disruption, EBMUD should be dedicating its time and resources to more pressing issues.

The issue of bike access on watershed lands will go to the Board Planning Committee and then to the full Board over the fall months with a decision likely after the first of the year.

### What You Can Do

You can write to the Board and tell them that the current policy, with some bike access in very developed areas, should not be changed. This policy has worked well for 20 years. Send your comments to [watershedmasterplan@ebmud.com](mailto:watershedmasterplan@ebmud.com).

For more information go to [www.ebmud.com/recreation/protecting-natural-habitat](http://www.ebmud.com/recreation/protecting-natural-habitat).

You can also participate with the Chapter's East Bay Public Lands Committee on this issue. That group meets the second Wednesday of each month. Email Committee Chair Norman LaForce for details, at [n.laforce@comcast.net](mailto:n.laforce@comcast.net).

Helen Burke

## William Keith and the Battle for Hetch Hetchy

October 4 through May 1



In 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





# Events & Activities

of the SAN FRANCISCO BAY CHAPTER  
OF THE SIERRA CLUB

OCT-NOV  
2015

Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

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

## About this calendar

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

[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:** 4 pm at boathouse during October and 3:30 pm November through the end of January. **Leader:** Dolores Gruenewald, (510)351-6247 or [doloresgru@aol.com](mailto:doloresgru@aol.com). (Solo Sierrans)

## Wednesdays

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

## First and Third Saturdays

**San Bruno Mountain 1B hike.** Oct. 3 and 17; Nov. 7 and 21. Co-sponsored by San Bruno Mountain Watch (SBMW). 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@mountain-watch.org](mailto:sanbruno@mountain-watch.org). (Hiking)

## Oct 3 • Sat

**Black Mountain, Monte Bello Open Space Preserve 2B2 hike.** For this outing, San Francisco GLS will be traveling down to the Peninsula and joining forces with Loma Prieta GLS. The top of Black Mountain has spectacular views of Silicon Valley. On the way up you'll get some good elevation on the first mile, shade at times, open trail at other times. Also, beautiful foliage, high chaparral trees and lovely scenery. Hopefully we will see deer, rabbits and raptors. Rain the day before or the day of the hike cancels. Rain the day before or the day of the hike cancels the hike. **Meet:** 9:30 at the trailhead. **Ends:** 3 pm. **Carpool:** Parking likely tight so plan to carpool. Meet at Glen Park BART station at 8 am. Contact Paget beforehand and don't be late! South Bay carpool: meet at the Page Mill (@Highway 280) Park-n-Ride lot at 9am. **Leaders:** Paget Valentzas, (415)271-2945 or [pagetvalentzas@gmail.com](mailto:pagetvalentzas@gmail.com); Lisa McCally, [lkmccally@gmail.com](mailto:lkmccally@gmail.com). (Gay & Lesbian)

**Piedmont to Huckleberry Botanic Open Preserve brisk 3C hike.** Join Brian on a beautiful walk through the lovely neighborhoods of Piedmont on up to the Huckleberry Botanic Open Preserve and back. Rain or shine, but may be altered due to inclement weather. **Meet:** 9 am at 649 Mandana Boulevard, Oakland. **Leader:** Brian Chan, (415)861-8956 or [brianchan227@gmail.com](mailto:brianchan227@gmail.com). (Hiking)

**Forest Hill and beyond 1B hike.** One-way hike through Forest Hill to the Inner Sunset with lovely homes, wonderful city views, and amazing stairways. Any rain cancels. **Cost:** Return Muni fare \$2.25, seniors \$1. **Meet:** 10:15 am at West Portal Muni station. **Ends:** 3 pm. **Leader:** Gloria Navarra, (415)731-6144. (Hiking)

## Oct 7 • Wed

**Mount Tam north side ramble 3C hike.** Full-day hike. **Meet:** 8:45 am for carpools to trailhead, or 9:45 am at Fairfax Parkade across from movie theater. **Ends:** 4 pm. **Leader:** William H. Mayers, (415)785-3516 (home), (415)302-4802 (cell), or [whmayers@gmail.com](mailto:whmayers@gmail.com). (Hiking)

## Oct 7 • Wed

**Huckleberry Botanic Regional Preserve hike.** Enjoy leisurely 2.3-mile stroll in scenic Berkeley Hills. **Bring:** lunch or snack for optional picnic lunch after hike. Rain Cancels. **Meet:** 11 am at Huckleberry entrance, just past Sibley Preserve. **Leader:** Lucy Henderson, (925)254-2898 or [hndrslucy@yahoo.com](mailto:hndrslucy@yahoo.com). (Delta Regional Group)

## Oct 10 • Sat

**Phoenix Lake loop 2B hike.** Enjoy the fall colors. Rain cancels. **Meet:** 8:30 am at North Berkeley BART station loading zone to drive to Fairfax, or 9:30 am at the Fairfax Parkade (parking lot across from Fairfax Theater) to carpool to Deer Park School. **Leader:** James Bonsey, (510)527-5345 or [jlbj3@netzero.net](mailto:jlbj3@netzero.net). (Marin Group)

**Historic Nortonville and Somersville 2B hike.** Hike trails in historic coal mining area. Some steep trails. Leisurely pace. Post-hike potluck/barbecue in park. Rain cancels. **Cost:** \$5 car entry fee. **Bring:** Food to share at potluck. **Meet:** 10 am in last parking lot in Black Diamond Mines Regional Park at end of Somersville Road in Antioch. **Ends:** 4:30 pm. **Leader:** Guy Mayes, (510)522-1590. (Hiking)

## Oct 11 • Sun

**Point Pinole Regional Park 1A hike.** Hourlong walk on paved trail, wheelchair accessible, through the eucalyptus groves, breathing the fresh breezes from San Pablo Bay. Optional dinner after the walk in Old Pinole. Rain cancels. **Meet:** 3:30 pm in parking lot. **Leader:** Vera Lis, (510)234-8949. (Solo Sierrans)

## Oct 17 • Sat

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

**Shell Ridge hike and picnic.** Enjoy the view in the Diablo foothills at Shell Ridge open space in Walnut Creek. 3.75-mile hike with rolling hills, mostly on fire road trails. Picnic lunch after. Dogs allowed, but be aware — there are rattlesnakes! **Carpooling:** recommended as parking is tight! **Meet:** 10 am at Bob Pond Picnic area, 1035 Castle Rock Road, Walnut Creek. **Bring:** Main dish to share. **Leader:** Beth Bittle, (510)759-6225 or [callingu2@gmail.com](mailto:callingu2@gmail.com). (Gay & Lesbian)

## Oct 18 • Sun

**Diaz Ridge/Muir Beach 2B hike.** Moderately-paced loop. Lunch stop at Muir Beach. Any rain cancels. **Meet:** 9:30 am at Miller and Locust in Mill Valley to carpool to Diaz Ridge trailhead. **Leader:** Paul F Glodis, (510)326-9008 or [pfglodis@gmail.com](mailto:pfglodis@gmail.com). (Marin Group)

## Oct 24 • Sat

**Rodeo Beach 3C loop hike.** Hike along the Rhubarb Trail and up Oakwood Valley to the ridge; head to Slacker Hill for views. Follow Coastal Trail and admire the historic foundations of batteries constructed to protect the Golden Gate. Lunch at Rodeo Beach. Return by the Coastal Trail, Hill 88, and Old Springs Trail. Heavy rain cancels. **Meet:** 9 am sharp at large gravel parking lot on Tennessee Valley Road. **Ends:** 4 pm. **Leader:** Katy Christie, (510)277-5386 or [katyhike@gmail.com](mailto:katyhike@gmail.com). (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).

## Oct 24 • Sat

**EBMUD Rocky Ridge 3C hike.** Twelve-mile lasso through the hills of EBMUD watershed land. See what Contra Costa County would look like without its suburban sprawl. **Meet:** 10 am at Rancho Laguna Park, Moraga. **Carpool:** Leader will be at Lafayette BART at 9:15 am. **Leader:** Steve Bakaley, (925)945-8205 or slbakaley@lbl.gov (email preferred). (Mount Diablo Group and Sierra Singles)

**Point Isabel Shoreline 1A walk.** Join us on a 4.5-mile level walk on the Bay Trail along the Richmond shoreline from Point Isabel to Marina Bay. Any rain cancels. **Meet:** 11:30 am at end of Rydin Road, Richmond. **Ends:** 3 pm. **Leader:** Caprice Solotar, (510)525-2110. (Mount Diablo Group)

**Emeryville Marina 1A sunset walk.** Hourlong walk on paved trail, wheelchair accessible, through the marina, with quiet views of San Francisco and the Golden Gate Bridge. Afterward, optional early dinner at the Emery Bay Market. Rain cancels. **Meet:** 3:30 pm at the back of Chevy's Restaurant by the picnic tables. **Leader:** Vera Lis, (510)234-8949. (Solo Sierrans)

## Oct 30 • Fri

**El Corte de Madera Creek Open Space Preserve hike.** This Open Space offers many trails under redwoods and a mixed forest, with gradual ups and downs. Our route will cover 6.5 to 7 miles, passing a dramatic sculpted tafoni sandstone formation and an old growth redwood grove. **Carpool:** Parking area is limited so carpooling strongly encouraged. **Meet:** 10 am at Gate CM02 along Skyline Boulevard (Highway 35). **Ends:** 2:30 pm. **Leader:** Russell Hartman, (650)242-2679 or rph1917@comcast.net. (Gay & Lesbian)

## Oct 31 • Sat

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

**Corona Heights Natural Area habitat work day.** Corona Heights is one of 30 such areas set aside for their intact, diverse native plant communities. More than 100 plant species have been recorded there. Join us for our monthly work project to nurtures these plant communities by removing invasive species. This month will likely be too early for planting, but we can weed and water other areas that have been previously replanted, perform light trail maintenance, and other tasks. Rain or shine. Gloves and tools provided. Children under 12 welcome with parent or guardian. Note, Randall Museum is undergoing renovation, but access path around museum should be open. **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 or rph1917@comcast.net. (Gay & Lesbian)

## Oct 31 • Sat

**Walk through the City of the Dead 2A hike.** All-day educational walk through many cemeteries of Colma, the "City of the Dead." Any rain cancels. **Bring:** Money for post-walk dinner at local restaurant. **Meet:** 10 am at Colma BART station near station agent's office. **Ends:** 5:30 pm. **Leaders:** Guy Mayes, (510)522-1590; Gloria Navarra, (415)731-6144. (Hiking)

## Nov 1 • Sun

**Pierce Ranch 2A hike.** We'll start at Pierce Ranch and explore Avilis Beach for lunch. Explore other areas on the Tomales Point trail. Some of the hike involves cross-country. Enjoy eye-popping scenery along with many elk to admire. **Meet:** 8:30 am at Fairfax Parkade to carpool to the trailhead. **Leader:** Tom Post, (415)690-6572 or tpost123@hotmail.com. (Hiking)

**Sycamore Grove 2A hike.** Seven-mile walk through Sycamore Grove Park in Livermore, containing one of the largest remaining groves of native sycamores in California. Optional climb to view point overlooking the Livermore Valley. Any rain cancels. **Meet:** 10:45 am at Wetmore Road entrance, Livermore. **Ends:** 4 pm. **Leader:** Bob Solotar, (510)525-2110 or bob\_solotar@hotmail.com. (Mount Diablo Group)

## Nov 7 • Sat

**Point Reyes Santa Maria Beach 3C hike.** Start at Bear Valley Visitor Center. Hike up Mount Wittenberg Trail, turn right on Z Ranch Trail and follow the ridge. Then follow the Fire Lane Trail to the Historic U Ranch and head out to Santa Maria Beach for lunch. After lunch we can hike along the beach if the tide is out or take the Coastal Trail to the Woodward Valley Trail. Hike north on Woodward Valley Trail, turn left on the Sky Trail, turn onto Meadow Trail, and return via Bear Valley Trail. Any rain cancels. **Bring:** Snack to share for the tailgate party after the hike. **Meet:** 9 am at Bear Valley Visitor Center, Point Reyes National Seashore. **Ends:** 4 pm. **Leader:** Katy Christie, (510)277-5386 or kathyhike@gmail.com. (Hiking)

**Sunol Maguire Peaks long 2B hike.** Ten miles, nearly 2,000 feet in elevation. Moderate to leisurely pace. Enjoy spectacular views of San Antonio reservoir, Mount Diablo, and Mission Peak. Be prepared for cold winds and mud. Any rain cancels. **Cost:** \$5 parking fee. **Meet:** 9:30 am at Visitors Center (green barn), Sunol Regional Wilderness. **Carpool:** Leader at Walnut Creek BART at 8:30 am. **Leader:** Steve Bakaley, (925)945-8205 or slbakaley@lbl.gov. (Mount Diablo Group and Sierra Singles)

**Emeryville to Berkeley along the Bay Trail 1A hike.** A six-mile bayside walk along the Emeryville shoreline and Berkeley frontage road pathway. Bring lunch or purchase at Seabreeze Market cafe. Any rain cancels. **Meet:** 11 am at 3320 Powell Street, Emeryville. **Ends:** 3:30 pm. **Leader:** Caprice Solotar, (510)525-2110. (Mount Diablo Group)

## Nov 11 • Wed

**Black Sands Beach and Fort Baker Loop Veterans Day 3C hike.** Hike up the Morning Sun Trail and take the Miwok and Coastal to Black Sands Beach for a morning break on the beach with stunning views. Head up the Coastal Trail to Slacker Hill for lunch with stunning views of the Golden Gate. Follow the Coastal Trail under Golden Gate Bridge to Fort Baker and Battery Cavallo. Enjoy the exhibits at the newly restored Fort Baker Resort and admire the incredible photographs inside the dining hall and main lodge. Return with a climb up from Sausalito over the Waldo Tunnel. Rain Cancels. **Meet:** 9 am at Morning Sun trailhead opposite Spencer Avenue parking lot on west side of Highway 101. **Ends:** 4:30 pm. **Leader:** Katy Christie, (510)277-5386 or kathyhike@gmail.com. (Hiking)

## Nov 14 • Sat

**Three lakes 2A loop hike.** Scenic hike to Bon Tempe, Alpine, and Lagunitas Lakes. Rain cancels. **Carpool:** 8:35 am at the North Berkeley BART (outside the front gate) to drive over to Fairfax. **Meet:** 9:30 am at the Fairfax Parkade (large parking lot on Sir Francis Drake Boulevard across from the movie theater). **Leader:** James Bonsey, (510)527-5345 or jlbj3@netzero.net. (Marin Group)

**Presidio history 2A walk.** All-day tour of historic Presidio, viewing Presidio buildings and nearby attractions. Any rain cancels. **Bring:** Money for post-walk dinner at local restaurant. **Meet:** 9:30 am at cannon on north side of Lyon and Lombard gate to Presidio. **Ends:** 6 pm. **Leader:** Guy Mayes, (510)522-1590. (Hiking)

## Nov 15 • Sun

**Mission Peak from Ohlone College 2C hike.** Explore Mission Peak Regional Preserve from end to end. Enjoy expansive views of the South Bay and little-explored parts of this park. Any rain cancels. **Cost:** No charge for parking on Sundays. **Meet:** 9:30 am at Ohlone College Parking Lot M behind the swimming pool, just past tennis courts. **Carpool:** Leader will be at Walnut Creek BART at 8:30 am. **Leader:** Steve Bakaley, (925)945-8205 or slbakaley@lbl.gov (email preferred). (Mount Diablo Group and Sierra Singles)

**Bayshore at Point Isabel in El Cerrito 1A hike.** Hourlong walk on paved trail, wheelchair accessible. Optional early Chinese dinner at Pacific East Mall follows the walk. Rain cancels. **Bring:** Binoculars for possible shorebird sightings. **Meet:** 3 pm at small parking lot at the end of Rydin Road. **Leader:** Vera Lis, (510)234-8949. (Solo Sierrans)

## Nov 21 • Sat

**Parks and paths of Albany, Berkeley, and Kensington 2A hike.** Walk many pathways connecting small parks (containing big boulders). Many stairs but leisurely pace. Return to Solano Avenue (not far from start) by 5 pm. Any rain cancels. **Bring:** Money for post-walk dinner at local restaurant. **Meet:** 10:30 am near restroom at rear of Albany Memorial Park (Portland and Carmel Avenues in Albany). **Leader:** Guy Mayes, (510)522-1590. (Hiking)

## Nov 21 • Sat

**Mount Tamalpais 3C hike.** Any rain cancels. **Meet:** 9 am at Miller and Locust, Mill Valley. **Leader:** Pao Chen, (510)237-7570 or paoc945@yahoo.com. (Hiking)

**Corona Heights Natural Area habitat work day.** Monthly work project to plant additional native plants, remove invasive species, perform light trail maintenance, and generally nurture the plants and provide additional habitat for local birds. One week earlier than usual because of Thanksgiving holiday. Rain or shine. Children under 12 welcome with parent or guardian. **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 or rph1917@comcast.net. (Gay & Lesbian)

## Nov 22 • Sun

**Point Reyes Laguna trailhead/Sculptured Beach 2A hike.** Moderately-paced seven-mile hike. Lunch at or near Sculptured Beach. Beach and tidepool exploration if conditions permit. Any rain cancels. **Meet:** 9:30 am at Fairfax Parkade (across from theater) to carpool to Point Reyes. **Leader:** Paul F. Glodis, (510)326-9008 or pglodis@gmail.com. (Marin Group)

**Carquinez Strait Regional Shoreline, Crockett hike.** Leisurely loop walk with scenic views of Carquinez shoreline and bay. After walk, buy one drink at Port Costa cafe and get free buffet lunch or purchase lunch of choice. Rain cancels. **Meet:** 11 am at Bull Valley staging area. **Ends:** noon. **Leader:** Lidia Campos, (925)240-5795 or lidiacampos@sbcglobal.net. (Delta Regional Group)

## Nov 25 • Wed

**Pre-holiday morning on Tam 3B hike.** Beat the traffic with an 8:25 start and get some pre-Thanksgiving exercise. 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 at Bootjack parking lot. **Ends:** 1 pm. **Leader:** Jayah Faye Paley, (415)699-3333 or seminar@polesformobility.com. (Hiking)

## Nov 28 • Sat

**Tilden Regional Park in Berkeley 1A hike.** 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 and Bolinas Ridge 2B hike.** Start in Olema Valley and head up to Bolinas Ridge to admire the redwoods. Then drop back down to Olema Valley and wind back to the trailhead. Around nine miles. **Meet:** 9 am at Fairfax Parkade to carpool to the trailhead. **Leader:** Tom Post, (415)690-6572 or tpost123@hotmail.com. (Hiking)

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



## In Memoriam: Kitty McLean and Dan Sullivan

*This summer, the Sierra Club lost two exceptional volunteer leaders. They will be missed. Here are remembrances of them.*

### Kitty McLean: an unsung heroine

On July 13th, community activist Kitty McLean of Berkeley died of complications from a stroke. Kitty was an unsung heroine of many progressive causes and candidates — a volunteer par excellence!

Kitty was very active in politics. She was always there as a committed volunteer for a variety of progressive and environmental causes, candidates, and organizations, including the Sierra Club, League of Women Voters, and Citizens for East Shore Parks. No job was too small for Kitty — she was willing to lick stamps, address envelopes, work to develop consensus on issues, canvass door-to-door, participate in phone banks, count votes in Sierra Club elections, keep up with elected officials, and follow candidates running for office.

Kitty never sought a highly visible leadership role, preferring instead to work behind the scenes. However, in her low-key, friendly, and unassuming way, with her quick wit and keen sense of humor, Kitty was extremely effective. Kitty enjoyed making environmental



Kitty McLean

policy and was elected repeatedly to serve on executive boards for the local chapter of the Sierra Club and Citizens for East Shore Parks. She was also active in the Bay Chapter Political Committee.

In addition to her environmental activism, Kitty supported excellence in education in Berkeley schools. In the wake of Proposition 13 shortages in 1986, she worked hard to pass the local tax measure called Berkeley Schools Excellence Program (as well as subsequent renewals and expansions) to fund smaller classroom size, libraries, arts programs (Kitty was an art historian by training), and other important programs.

Kitty is survived by her husband Hugh, her three children, Anna, Clara and Gregory, and three grandchildren. She will be missed by the Berkeley and environmental community she loved and served so well.

Helen Burke

### Dan Sullivan: "Ultimate" volunteer

Longtime Sierra Club activist Dan Sullivan died peacefully at home from lymphoma on August 27. Dan started as a Sierra Club volunteer in 1975 at the SF Bay Chapter, where he became Conservation Chair and held many other offices.

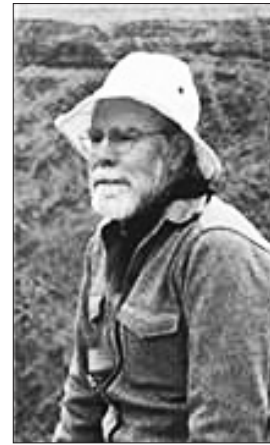
During the 1980s Dan was a key player in pulling together the 13 California chapters to develop a statewide legislative advocacy

program, Sierra Club California. Dan was Chair of Sierra Club California and served on the California and National Political Committees. He served as Treasurer of Sierra Club California and as its Compliance Officer for many years, where his legal training was invaluable.

Over the years he was involved in many local, state, and national Sierra Club campaigns, and served as Chair of the California Water Committee. To all his activities and positions, Dan brought steady commitment, grace, common sense, and intelligence. He was a statesman, a mentor, a repository of wisdom, and the ultimate Sierra Club volunteer. There is a Sierra Club California award named for him. In 2006, Dan was awarded the national Sierra Club William E. Colby Award.

Donations in Dan's memory may be made to Sierra Club California, 909 12th Street, Ste. 202, Sacramento, CA 95814.

Alan Carlton



Dan Sullivan

## Club director Brune talks energy transition at Bioneers Conference — Get \$75 off registration!



Join us at the 2015 Bioneers Conference this October 16-18 in San Rafael. You don't want to miss this historic gathering of visionary leaders and community activists who are creating the world we want. Get \$75 off three-day passes with the discount code **SC75**. Register online at <http://bit.ly/bioneers15>.

Come hear the Sierra Club's national leadership engage with experts on timely and important issues. Executive Director Michael Brune will weigh in on strategies for "Turning the Ship": how to move from a carbon-based economy to a clean-energy economy in a hurry. Join Deputy Director Bruce Hamilton for an incredibly important conversation, "Why the Wild: Wilderness in the Anthropocene," exploring the role and value of wilderness in today's human-dominated age.

For 25 years, the National Bioneers Conference has connected thousands of people with practical, visionary solutions for humanity's most pressing environmental and social challenges. Participate in emerging conversations about restorative justice, climate mitigation, youth activism, indigenous knowledge, and so much more!

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### East Bay Dinner — Thu, Oct 22: “Trekking the new Annapurna Circuit”

No-host cocktails/social hour at 6 pm, dinner at 7 pm, program at 8 pm. 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).

The Annapurna Circuit and Annapurna Sanctuary are very popular trekking routes in Nepal. Recently, Manaslu Circuit has opened up on the eastern side of Annapurna, and is called the new Annapurna Circuit. Join Seiji Kawamura on his 30-day trek encompassing all three treks. Manaslu Circuit involved trekking over Larke Pass, elevation 16,700 feet, in three to five feet of fresh snow; followed by the ever-popular Annapurna Circuit with Thorung Pass at an elevation of 17,500 feet; then a new approach to the Annapurna Sanctuary over Mohare Danda.

Seiji is a retired high school physics teacher. He has been to Nepal five times and has done

many treks there. For the last seven years he has done volunteer trail maintenance work on the Pacific Crest Trail. He has trekked extensively in South America, Asia, and Africa. Earlier this year he trekked in Vietnam, India, and Turkey. Join us to experience his excellent photography.

Cost of dinner and program is \$27, including tax and tip. For a reservation, please send your check, payable to “Sierra Club,” with your name, your 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 Oct 12. There is no admittance for program only.



Photo courtesy Seiji Kawamura.

### Wildlife in Ethiopia, Uganda, and Rwanda: a photographic tour

Thu, Oct 8, 7 pm, Ed Roberts Campus, 3075 Adeline St, Berkeley, by Ashby BART.

Join conservationist Chris Austria on a photographic and video tour of the wildlife in Ethiopia, Rwanda, and Uganda. Sustainable conservation strategies will be a focus of his presentation. Chris, who lives in Rwanda, will also discuss his work with the orphaned chimpanzees at the Ngamba Island Chimpanzee Sanctuary in Uganda (founded by Jane Goodall). There will also be discussion of population and development impacts on Africa, which is predicted to double in population from one billion people to two billion by 2050.

This event is hosted by the SF Bay Chapter's Population, Health & Environment Committee. For more information, please email Suzanne at [slyork27@gmail.com](mailto:slyork27@gmail.com).



Photo by Chris Austria.



Lightning at sunset over the White Mountains. Photo by Tony Rowell.

### San Francisco Dinners — from the Sierra to Guyana

Social hour at 6 pm, dinner at 7 pm, program at 8 pm. Note current location: Covenant Presbyterian Church, 321 Taraval, between Funston and 14th Ave. Take Muni L or 28. Street parking; limited 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.

For each dinner, send a check for \$20, 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 Fri, Oct 9 for the October program, and Fri, Nov 13 for the November program. Please send a separate check for each program and 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).

#### Thu, Oct 15 — “Guyana: a Naturalist’s Delight” with Allan and Helen McKenna Ridley

With vast tropical rain forests, grassland savannas, coastal beaches, wetlands, and mangrove swamps, Guyana is emerging as an eco-tourist destination for birdwatchers and naturalists. Guyana claims over 800 unusual bird species, as well as monkeys, tapirs, sloths, and giant river otters. In addition to the amazing biodiversity, the Ridleys discovered wonderful people, delicious, locally sourced food, and a way of life that has persisted for centuries.

Allan and Helen are retired Bay Area educators. They have traveled widely and have led birding and natural history trips to Costa Rica, Ecuador, New Zealand, and Australia. On the first Sunday of each month they lead a bird walk through the San Francisco Botanical Garden in Golden Gate Park.

#### Thu, Nov 19 — “Sierra by Starlight” with Tony Rowell

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,” featuring his award-winning time-lapse astrophotography. Tony’s photography expeditions have taken him across the globe, from the Arctic Circle to the mountains of Tibet. His videos have been featured on the National Geographic Channel and his photos have been published in *Astronomy*, *Backpacker*, *Mountain Bike Action*, and *Outdoor Photographer* magazines. Tony will have some of his books and calendars on display.





## Groups

### What is a group?

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

### Mount Diablo Group — Wed, Nov 18: “Exploring Cuba”

7 pm, Ygnacio Valley Library, 2661 Oak Grove Road, Walnut Creek. After more than half a century, the American flag again flies over the US Embassy in Havana. What better time to explore the natural history of Cuba?

Join us at our next meeting for an armchair tour led by naturalist Judy Adler. Judy visited Cuba last December on a licensed, botanically oriented excursion. She will share slides and insights from this unique and timely experience.

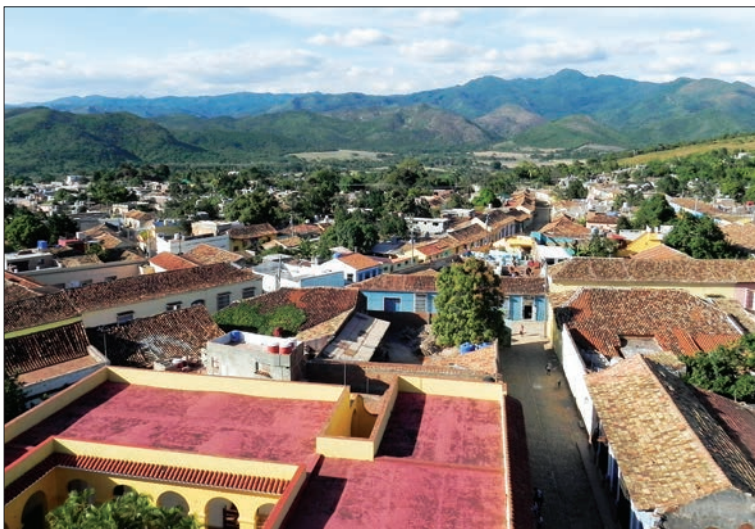
Judy’s focus will be on the landscape and ecology of the largest Caribbean island, a mere 90 miles off the coast of Florida. She will also

include some consideration of what the future might hold for this land and its people.

Judy Adler is a naturalist and environmental educator, offering ecology-based field trips for schoolchildren in Mount Diablo State Park as well as classes on nature-based gardening for adults. Her demonstration garden has been featured in several garden magazines and books. She also manages a half-acre biologically diverse, no-water garden on Walnut Creek School District land.

Judy’s lists of accomplishments include terms as president and executive director of the Mount Diablo Interpretive Association. She also founded and managed LifeGarden, a nonprofit organization dedicated to sustainable land use.

This free 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.



Cuba rooftops. Photo by Judy Adler.

### Delta Group — Thu, Oct 22: “Delta Diablo, safeguarding the environment”

7:15 pm, Antioch Library, 501 West 18th Street, Antioch. Our October speaker is Angela Lowrey of Delta Diablo. Delta Diablo provides wastewater recycling and pollution-prevention services to nearly 200,000 residents in East Contra Costa County. The facility operates one of California’s largest industrial recycled-water plants — thus bringing the wastewater back into the community as an environmental and economic resource. Delta Diablo also operates a household hazardous waste collection facility, a monthly street sweeping program, and a public education program.

Angela has worked for 25 years in marketing communications, media relations, and community engagement. She previously worked for the Australian Trade Commission in Washington D.C. handling their only offshore public affairs office.

Before the program, we’ll socialize, munch goodies, and briefly discuss current environmental issues and upcoming activities and events.

Delta Group program meetings are usually held in February, May, and October unless otherwise noted. To receive a newsletter listing Delta Group programs, outings, and activities, write a \$5 check to “Sierra Club, Delta Group” and mail it to Janess Hanson, 431 Levee Rd., 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

Wed, Oct 7: Huckleberry Botanic Regional Preserve, Berkeley, 1A loop hike

Sun, Nov 22: Carquinez Strait Regional Shoreline, Crockett, 1A walk

## Green Fridays: Climate encyclical and California wolves

Green Friday meets on the second Friday of the month in the Bay Chapter office, 2530 San Pablo Ave, Berkeley. Doors open at 7pm; program from 7:30 to 9:30 pm including questions and discussion. Refreshments are served. \$3 donation requested. Our programs present speakers and topics discussing the most important environmental issues of our time. All are welcome; Sierra Club members as well as non-members.

### Oct 9 — “Deep ecology and the Pope’s environmental encyclical”

Pope Francis’s encyclical on climate change states: “For human beings to contaminate the earth’s waters, its land, its air, and its life — these are sins. To commit a crime against the natural world is a sin against ourselves and a sin against God.” What are the implications

of this historic papal encyclical?

The speaker will be Paul Rockwell, formerly assistant professor of philosophy at Midwestern University. Rockwell is an angler, a food activist, and a columnist for the Bay Area News Group. His Montclairion column, “Gone Tubin,” reflects Henry David Thoreau’s teaching, “Some men go fishing when it is not fish they are after.”

### Nov 13 — “Wolves in California: the long journey home”

The California Wolf Center’s director of California wolf recovery, Karin Vardaman, will share what could be one of our state’s most inspiring conservation stories: the return of the gray wolf after being absent for decades following extirpation by humans. Discover the fascinating story behind this dynamic predator and what the return of this iconic species means to the Golden State.

Karin has over 30 years of experience working in environmental conservation, education, and research. She began her career as the director of animal care and operations at Pacific Marine Mammal Center in Laguna Beach and later spent 24 years with the Ocean Institute in Southern California. Karin has also been involved with Mexican gray wolf recovery efforts in the Southwest.



California gray wolf. Photo courtesy California Wolf Center.

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## Options for overnight accommodations in the backcountry may soon expand

Sierra Club huts have provided winter shelter for skiers and snowshoers exploring the backcountry between Sierraville and Echo Summit since the 1930s. The string of huts originally planned along the Sierra Crest was never completed, but the four that are operational today typically provide 3,000 visitor-nights of service per season (a fifth hut — the first built, at White Rock Lake — was apparently crushed by heavy snows in the early 1950s and removed). Ranger cabins in Yosemite and King Canyon and other buildings scattered through the mountains provide additional shelter, but the pool of overnight winter accommodations in the backcountry has remained relatively stable for decades. That may be about to change.

Renovations at the Peter Grubb Hut are nearly complete. The oldest of the Club's four huts in the Tahoe/Donner region received steel reinforcements of roof rafters and floor joists in 2013. A new roof and seismic upgrades were added in 2014, and exterior mortar is being 'repainted' this year (primarily a cosmetic improvement). Once the repairs are finished, the Club will pursue plans to add a "mud room" on the north side, allowing more efficient use of the existing interior space. A slightly enlarged Peter Grubb Hut should soon be ready for another 50 years of service.

The Sierra Club has also entered into an agreement with the family of the late Paul Ward to study the feasibility of constructing a completely new hut. The family would provide

funds for construction if a suitable site can be found, permits obtained, and the Club's Board of Directors approves. A return to the White Rock Lake area is being explored with the U.S. Forest Service; private land held by the Truckee Donner Land Trust (TDLT) is being considered as a backup.

Separately, TDLT recently announced purchase of 455 acres on the north side of I-80 at Donner Summit. Although this acquisition does not by itself add huts, the Land Trust is well aware of the need for a new trailhead at this site for northbound hikers on the Pacific Crest Trail (and for improved winter access to Peter Grubb Hut and White Rock Lake). TDLT has also negotiated purchase of 1,320 acres in Carpenter Valley and Crabtree Canyon north of Truckee and views the property as a potential site for a "future backcountry ski hut".

Finally, the Northern Sierra Partnership (NSP) — a collaboration of TDLT, The Nature Conservancy, The Trust for Public Land, the Feather River Land Trust, and the Sierra Business Council — has recently retained the services of two people who will develop a business plan for a potential system of huts in areas where NSP has interests, such as north of I-80.

The Sierra Club has been providing winter shelter for backcountry visitors for over 75 years. After half a century of maintaining the status quo, the Club is now embarking on upgrades of its existing facilities and expansion to new ones. But the scene is changing and plans by the Truckee Donner Land Trust and the Northern Sierra Partnership may mean that the Club will soon have company in the hut business.

Richard Simpson



Volunteers at the Peter Grubb Hut as structural repairs neared completion in November 2014.

## Extend your backpacking to the most beautiful season of all with the Snowcamping Section!

Have you always wanted to keep backpacking even after the warm weather ends, when you can experience true wilderness and solitude? Want to learn how to camp in the snow safely, comfortably, and with like-minded people? The Sierra Club Snowcamping Section's annual training series, offered in Winter 2015 for the 47th year, has taught thousands of people the skills for winter navigation, shelter construction, how to stay warm, and other winter tips and tricks.

The training series teaches groups of either adults or families during a full-day classroom session in Emeryville, followed by two weekend trips (one two-day, one three-day) in the Sierras to practice what we've learned. Each group has at least two experienced co-leaders with years of experience and multiple assistant leaders to guarantee a small student-to-leader ratio.

Kids and snow are a natural match for big fun, so families with children eight and

older have a special group that focuses on the unique challenges and joys of taking kids into the winter backcountry. There are also many alumni trips for graduates of the training series, since people bitten by the snowcamping bug can't seem to stop. Youth groups may also be accommodated as space and staffing allow. This training is not for the complete rookie; all students must apply and we ask that all applicants be in good physical shape and have backpacking experience.

The early bird application due date is November 30th; the final due date is December 20th. The full-day classroom training is January 9th. Trip dates vary by group. Sign up early to select dates that work for you and get the early bird discount. A limited number of scholarships are also available. For more information and to sign up, visit our web site at [www.snowcamping.org](http://www.snowcamping.org) or call Anne at (510)526-6792.

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## The Governor's Delta tunnels: an ecological disaster in the making

Governor Brown's administration has long touted a plan for a massive pair of tunnels to divert water from the Sacramento River above the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and deliver it to areas south.

The Sierra Club officially opposes the tunnels, in no small part because it would further degrade the Delta — the largest estuary along the west coast of North and South America and a key habitat for fish and wildlife including at least nine threatened or endangered species. Yet despite voluminous studies concerning the health of the Delta almost no attention has been devoted to the impact of water diversions on San Francisco Bay itself. In fact, the Bay-Delta watershed is one complex and interrelated ecosystem.

The tunnels project would have huge impacts on the watershed at the heart of the Bay Area, but most people in the region seem completely unaware of this fast-tracked project. Seven million Californians call the Bay Area home, with the iconic waters of San Francisco Bay making it one of the best places to live in the world. The tunnels, which could divert and deplete the Bay of fresh water, would place the Bay ecosystem at risk — and with it, the jobs, recreation, and wildlife that

depend on a healthy Bay.

And for all its costs to the environment and taxpayers, there is too little certainty that the project would even solve the essential water-supply problems all Californians face as we grapple with climate change.

The Brown administration is clearly making little effort beyond scare tactics to educate the public about the immensity of the Tunnels scheme — a project that would be the most expensive water-diversion project in U.S. history. Here are the facts:

The tunnels would each be 40 feet in diameter and 30 to 35 miles long. They are being designed far larger than needed to maintain current water flow: large enough to intercept the entire normal flow of the Sacramento River. That capacity could open the door to even greater water exports to the southern Central Valley and Southern California than what is being proposed.

The Bay-Delta watershed is already in dire straits. It will not be able to recover if more water is exported. Native fish counts show that the Delta and Bay require significantly more fresh water — not less — in order to recover. Salinity intrusion is already a huge problem in the Delta and is expected to worsen due

to climate change and sea-level rise. Water exports must be reduced, not increased, to comply with applicable laws, public trust principles, and reasonable use — and to avoid potential ecosystem collapse.

The tunnels' extraordinary \$67-billion price tag (including financing costs) will vacuum up available funding for smarter regional and local approaches to developing an intelligent water policy in a changing, drier world. Such measures include:

- Continuing our state's impressive conservation efforts;
- Investing in storm-water catchment and water-recycling systems;
- Sustainable groundwater management;
- Improved agricultural water efficiency
- Strictly enforcing Clean Water Act standards, without exceptions, to protect fish and wildlife.

The first step toward rational statewide water policy is to recognize a fundamental underlying problem: the Sacramento River has water-rights claims exceeding actual supplies by a factor of more than five. We can't engineer ourselves out of that underlying stark reality of over-allocation.

John Hooper is a San Francisco resident representing Protect Our Water, a Bay Area group concerned about the potential impacts the twin tunnels on the San Francisco Bay. Email [info@protectourwater.net](mailto:info@protectourwater.net) to get involved.

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### Your View:

Sierra Club members weigh in on the proposed twin tunnels project and alternatives for ensuring water security for California:

#### Katy Birnbaum, San Francisco

*I would like to see a more robust effort to get agricultural water use in line before considering projects that could affect natural ecosystems.*

#### Kenneth Gibson, Oakland

*In terms of strategies it would be great to ban fracking and drilling for new oil. But county-by-county efforts to shut down new drilling for oil or gas is the best we can do in the next one or two years.*

#### Steven Chi, Fremont

*I would try to consult with the regional water quality control board. I feel like we need a better understanding of the specifics of what's going on behind that project before making an educated decision about it [such as] laws, what the purpose of the [twin tunnels] project is, what the physical mechanisms behind the project are... there's still a lot of research that needs to be done.*

#### Anonymous, Martinez

*Industries' use of water — especially in fracking — uses up massive amounts of water and makes it unusable forever because it becomes poisoned. Putting regulations on that is the best way to go about it because then you're addressing both fracking and water. What individual households can do to conserve is not much compared to companies that come out here to use water from the Bay, and what are the regulations on them to conserve? The best strategy would be going after them and asking these companies what they can do to reduce their water use.*

#### Becky Evans, San Francisco

*Part of [resolving the issue] is personal responsibility, another is stopping what the governor wants to do [with the twin tunnels], and another is changing agricultural practices.*

Member opinions compiled by Aya Kusch



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# California's utilities take aim at rooftop solar

## Richmond to house the second-largest solar project in the Bay Area

Marin Clean Energy (MCE), the first Community Choice energy program to launch in California, has finalized an agreement with Chevron to lease a 60-acre brownfield site for 25 years (with one five-year extension option) at a price of \$1 per year. The site will soon be home to a 10.5-megawatt solar facility known as MCE Solar One that will be able to power up to 3,400 homes, becoming one of the largest solar projects in the Bay Area.

The lease agreement between Chevron and MCE is part of the community benefits package Chevron was required to provide in exchange for approval of its Refinery Modernization Project. In addition to putting land that cannot be used for any other function to good use, the Solar One project will provide even more community benefits, such as a minimum 50-percent local hire requirement (local unions welcome!) and investment in American-made solar panels.

MCE currently provides electricity to all of Marin County, unincorporated Napa County, and the cities of Benicia, El Cerrito, Richmond and San Pablo. The program's approximately 165,000 customers are already being served up cleaner, cheaper energy than they would receive through PG&E. When the Solar One project is completed in November of next year, it will increase MCE's supply of local renewable energy for its customers, which will effectively reduce greenhouse gas emissions and spur local job growth.

MCE ratepayers who have opted into the Deep Green (100-percent renewable) option can take satisfaction in knowing that the premium they are paying (an additional penny per kilowatt-hour more than the default 50-percent-renewable option) is being used to support local economic development like the Solar One project; MCE dedicates half of the premium to support their Local Renewable Development fund, which is used to fund clean energy projects within MCE's service area. Solar One is expected to be the first project to use this funding source.

As a strong supporter of Community Choice throughout the Bay Area, the Sierra Club applauds MCE for developing local clean-energy projects that show the extensive benefits a Community Choice program has within its community, including creating clean-energy jobs and having a power mix with more renewable energy than PG&E. The Sierra Club will continue to advocate for Community Choice throughout the Bay Area to provide communities with an alternative to PG&E and local control for affordable energy.

Luis Amezcua

Today, rooftop-solar owners receive a credit for the power they produce and give back (or "export") to the grid at the same price the utility charges for electricity. The credit for excess power can be used to offset their consumption of electricity at night, on cloudy days, or at other times when their solar panels can't produce all the energy they need. This relationship between the solar owner and the utility is called "net metering". Once net metering reaches five percent of generation capacity for the state's three major utilities (or on July 1, 2017, whichever comes first) the rules for the system will change. Under Assembly Bill 327, the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) has until the end of this year to create a Net Energy Metering Successor Tariff to govern how customers will be reimbursed for solar power by the utility going forward.

Changes to the net metering system could either incentivize solar — and build momentum for a transition away from fossil fuels to a clean-energy economy — or disincentivize solar and keep California in the thrall of investor-owned utilities that don't seem committed to a rapid transition.

Various stakeholders recently submitted their proposals on how the Successor Tariff should be designed. California's three major utilities — Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E), Southern California Edison (SCE), and San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E) — have proposed to reduce the credit for future rooftop-solar owners and to charge them fees when they are provided power from the grid. California's solar industry, on the other hand, would like the Successor Tariff to maintain key features of the current net metering program, including giving customers credit for the power they export to the grid at the same price the utility charges them for electricity.

In the model proposed by PG&E, a solar customer would sell their excess power for an

average price of only 9.7 cents per kilowatt hour — significantly lower than the average of 16.3 cents per kilowatt hour for which they buy electricity. In addition, solar customers would be charged \$3 per kilowatt each month for their highest one-hour demand in order to assist in paying for maintaining the infrastructure for transmission and distribution.

One of the clearest demonstrations of the intent of the utilities is evident in PG&E's proposal to change the "true up" billing process for solar customers. Currently, PG&E provides a solar customer with one "true up" statement at the end of the year, balancing the credits they have earned from exporting power to the grid against any charges they have accrued for using power from the grid over the course of the year. Under that system, credits for rooftop solar production in summer months offset decreased solar production in the winter. PG&E wants to move to a monthly "true up" in which a net surplus of power for that month would be compensated at a wholesale rate of only 4 cents per kilowatt hour — less than the retail charge of about 16.3 cents that households will pay for grid usage or the 9.7-cent proposed credit value of exported power used to offset the charges for household use from the grid. While PG&E states that "This will simplify the program for our customers, which they have indicated they want" it seems clear that rooftop solar owners would strongly prefer a fair credit for exported solar compared to the "convenience" of a monthly true up. There can be little reason for PG&E's proposal, other than to further decrease the value of the consumer investment in rooftop solar.

Furthermore, the utilities' Successor Tariff proposal, in combination with the CPUC's recent decision to flatten the electricity tiers from four to two, could seriously impede the future growth of solar. With the new rate design, utilities are allowed to impose a minimum monthly bill of \$10, regardless of

whether a customer actually racks up a bill of \$10 (and some solar customers may not).

Proposals put forth by the utilities attack solar customers with the aim of slowing the growth of rooftop solar. Seeking to protect and maintain their failing business model, the utilities would punish customers — whether they have solar or not — as they implement mechanisms such as fixed charges and minimum bills that provide an unfair strain on those who use little electricity, and may harm low-income ratepayers. The California Energy Commission predicts that the flattened rate tiers will reduce demand for rooftop solar by 1,200 megawatts by 2026 — the equivalent of electricity for more than one million homes. The net metering proposals put forward by the utilities would likely reduce the demand for rooftop solar by an additional thousand megawatts or more, and many potential solar customers would no longer see the economic benefit in making the investment.

These utility proposals ignore the benefits that rooftop-solar owners contribute to the grid by decreasing the need for new generating capacity, the need for additional long distance transmission lines (an annual loss of six to eight percent of generated power in the course of transmission), and upgrades to local distribution infrastructure.

Over the last three years, the solar industry has grown dramatically, employing more people than the three utilities combined. With California suffering the worst drought in recorded history and already experiencing significant consequences due to climate change, adding and incentivizing rooftop solar is crucial to moving toward a booming 100-percent clean energy economy. We must continue effective policies, like net metering, that sustain the growth of solar and empower families, schools, businesses, and public agencies to save on their utility bills through clean energy.

Luis Amezcua

## Help get Oakland composting! Volunteers needed Sat., Sept. 26

The Northern California Recycling Association (NCRA) is going door-to-door in Oakland to promote recycling and composting among Oakland multi-family residents and we need your help! Are you available to help us get the word out on Saturday, September 26th?

In partnership with Oakland Recycles, recycling workers from the ILWU Union Local 6, and the Alameda Sustainable Recycling campaign (including the Sierra Club's SF Bay Chapter), NCRA will visit apartment-dwellers in Oakland to let them know more about changes to their waste-collection services that became effective July 1st — including universal organics collection!

The goal of this outreach is to assist the City of Oakland in reaching Zero Waste by promoting the benefits of composting and recycling. We also hope to develop community pride, increase awareness about the

new curbside compost-collection program, and clarify questions about what is accepted in the recycling and compost bins.

Volunteers should be prepared to walk up and down stairs and will likely walk over a mile over the course of the day. Hats, sunscreen and water are recommended. Light morning refreshments and lunch will be provided as well as all other outreach materials.

**Date:** Saturday, September 26th

**Time:** 9 to 10 am volunteer training, 10 am to 1 pm door-to-door outreach, 1 to 2 pm lunch and debris

**Location:** Arroyo Viejo Recreation Center, 7701 Krause Ave., Oakland

Let us know if you can join! RSVP to 510-320-3140 or [president@ncrarecycles.org](mailto:president@ncrarecycles.org).

Parking is available in the nearby CDC parking lot. Transportation from Coliseum BART can be arranged if requested in advance.



Photo by Brooke Anderson



## Berkeley dance center goes solar with community-based approach

In Berkeley, at the corner of College and Alcatraz, sits the Shawl-Anderson Dance Center. Shawl-Anderson has been teaching dance students of all ages for over 50 years. When the directors of Shawl-Anderson started to explore going solar they ran into a problem: because they are a nonprofit, they're ineligible to take advantage of federal solar tax credits, and because of their small project size, there weren't a lot of solar finance companies willing to work with them. While big solar finance companies typically work with homeowners or large commercial projects, small- to medium-size nonprofits are often left out.

Then, in the spring of 2013, Shawl-Anderson discovered an organization that specifically works with nonprofits like theirs: RE-volv, a nonprofit based in San Francisco. RE-volv connects people from around the world through crowdfunding to finance solar projects for nonprofits and cooperatives.

Frank Shawl, co-founder of the Shawl-Anderson Dance Center explained: "We've been looking at the possibility of solar for years now. It never seemed affordable or doable.

Now, because of RE-volv, we have the opportunity to lead the community in reducing our collective carbon footprint. I couldn't be more thrilled."

RE-volv's first crowdfunding campaign paid the up-front costs of Shawl-Anderson's solar project. Now, on Shawl-Anderson's roof is a beautiful 10-kilowatt solar array that provides the organization with 100 percent of its power and saves it thousands of dollars on energy costs every year.

### A pay-it-forward model for solar

Funding one solar project through crowdfunding was just the beginning. RE-volv has developed a first-of-its-kind pay-it-forward model for solar energy using a revolving fund it calls the Solar Seed Fund. As Shawl-Anderson pays RE-volv back through a 20-year lease, RE-volv will reinvest the money to build three additional solar projects for other community-serving organizations.

Since Shawl-Anderson, RE-volv has completed two more projects in the Bay Area: the Kehilla Community Synagogue near Lake Merritt in Oakland, and the Other Avenues Food Co-op in the Outer Sunset in San Fran-

cisco. Through its three crowdfunding campaigns, RE-volv has raised over \$120,000 from nearly 1,000 people in 38 states and 22 countries. It seems people are excited to support a revolving fund for solar energy, even if a given project is not in their community. This year RE-volv is expanding its reach through its Solar Ambassador Program, training college students in Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, Ohio, and Santa Barbara to develop solar projects in their communities.

### How to get involved

When it comes to climate change, the problem can seem so big that it's hard to know



The first RE-volv solar project at Shawl-Anderson Dance Center in Berkeley

where to begin. But with clean energy we can start to address the problem right now in our communities.

To find out more about RE-volv visit [www.re-volv.org](http://www.re-volv.org), [facebook.com/solarseedfund](https://facebook.com/solarseedfund), and [twitter.com/RE\\_volv](https://twitter.com/RE_volv).

Andreas Karelis, Executive Director, RE-volv

## Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant and the fallacy of the "baseload" fetish

The Sierra Club opposes nuclear power plants because of the hazards posed by loss of containment of the active nuclear fuel in the event of a meltdown; the long-term hazard of storing spent, but still radioactive, fuel waste securely for periods over 100,000 years; and the hazards inherent in the nuclear fuel mining, processing, and transporting process.

Here in California, PG&E continues to operate the two-reactor power plant at Diablo Canyon and has made an early request that the federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) extend permitted nuclear operations there by twenty years, to 2045.

Diablo Canyon is located in San Luis Obispo County and the Sierra Club's Santa Lucia Chapter is actively opposed to the operating license renewal. Since the dense population of the Bay Area is within 150 to 200 miles of Diablo Canyon and the Bay Area is one of the major "beneficiaries" of the Diablo Canyon nuclear power plant, the Bay Chapter stands shoulder to shoulder with Santa Lucia against any extension of operations.

In its August 5, 2015, comment letter to the NRC, the Santa Lucia Chapter cites the "baseload fetish" of the NRC and of PG&E. Specifically, the letter from Chapter Director Andrew Christie notes that "...PG&E echoes the NRC's utility-scale baseload fetish in its Amended Environmental Report, with a focus on 'standalone' energy sources." The Sierra Club recognizes that the concept of baseload demand is a fallacy that often continues to distort electric-utility planning, investment, and regulation.

The premise of baseload, in the electric-utility industry, traditionally has been that

there is a basic, round-the-clock, round-the-year minimum demand for electric power which should be the foundation for planning electricity-generating resources. Above that basic demand there are occasional demand peaks when there is an unusual demand for energy. In the past, coal was the fuel of choice to meet baseload demand for electric power. The idea was that a coal-fired power plant used the lowest-cost fuel and could be run cheaply day after day, month after month, year after year without shutting down.

With the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, Congress sought to legitimize, broaden, and commercialize the applications of ongoing nuclear weapons research. The Energy Reorganization Act of 1974 created the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (to replace the Atomic Energy Commission) because of concerns about radiation protection and reactor safety. Within five years of the formation of the NRC, the reactor core of unit two at Three Mile Island melted down — 64 miles from Baltimore, 85 miles from Philadelphia, 91 miles from Washington, 148 miles from New York. Nevertheless, building on the baseload premise, the NRC and much of the electric-utility industry continue to promote nuclear power as the long-term replacement for coal. The baseload premise ignores two very important facts:

(1) Coal-fired power plants and nuclear power plants do not run non-stop. They must be shut down for maintenance, for operational emergencies, and, in the case of nuclear plants, to load fresh fuel rods. A coal-fired power plant may require a two-week cool down and restart. A nuclear power plant has a two-month cool-down and reheat cycle.

When a one-gigawatt (1,000-megawatt) plant goes off-line for two weeks to two years, that disrupts power supplies!

(2) There is no baseload of demand. There are patterns of peak, mid-peak, and off-peak demand during certain hours of the day, days of the week, and months of the year. A combination of solar- and wind-power peak production typically coincides with the hours of peak and mid-peak or shoulder demand in California. Geothermal energy, pumped hydro-storage, and, potentially, tidal power could be used to meet off-peak demand. A geographically dispersed array of generation sources tied to a robust smart grid further minimizes any shortfall in power supply when local clouds dim the sun or when wind patterns shift.

The California Independent System Operator (CAISO) manages the wheeling of electric power around the entire state. Its report for August 18, 2015, shows the peak demand of 40.8 gigawatts occurred shortly before 5:00 pm. Solar power generation peaked at about 3:00 pm, but while solar generation was in decline wind energy continued to rise from its 11:00 am lull to its 9:00 pm peak. Combined renewables generation peaked at about 4:00 pm. Over the 24-hour period CAISO reported total electric power demand of 781.8 gigawatt hours while renewables — primarily wind, solar and geothermal — produced 185.2 gigawatt hours of electric power to meet that demand.

Renewables can satisfy environmental and safety concerns better and be built far more quickly than nuclear power plants. Then there is no fuel cost, no emissions, or radiation, and no fuel waste to worry about.

Renewable power resources, when scaled up, will be a better fit for real electric energy demand than so-called baseload power ever could be in a world of air-conditioned offices and shopping centers.

Current NRC operating licenses for the twin reactors at Diablo Canyon are due to expire nine to ten years from now when each reactor is over 40 years old. If we can increase solar power generation in California by 25% per year through 2025 (compared to an average of 38% over each of the last ten years) and increase wind power generation by the same 25% per year (compared to an average of 12% over each of the last ten years) California can retire its nuclear power plants, eliminate all use of coal or oil for electricity generation, and reduce natural gas generation by almost 60%. In this scenario, total electricity generation would rise by over 50% to provide capacity for powering additional electric mass transit and battery-powered or fuel-cell-powered vehicles.

We can do this.

SFBay Energy-Climate Committee

### Shop at Berkeley art gallery to support the Bay Chapter!

Through Nov. 13th, 10 percent of all sales at Art Thou Gallery at 1533 Solano Avenue in Berkeley will be donated to the Bay Chapter. Wallace Bastein's "Fragile Earth" exhibit is up through Sept. 26th. "Peak Salvation," a group show of local artists, will open Oct. 2nd.





## November 2015 endorsements guide

Here are the Sierra Club's recommendations for candidates and ballot measures that deserve your support in the November 2015 election. Our volunteers have pored over ballot measure language, interviewed the candidates, asked tough questions, and researched the records to make these recommendations.

Election years without presidential candidates on the ballot see a major drop-off in turnout. That means each vote matters even more. Please take the time to review our endorsements and **vote!** It really makes a difference for the environment.

Visit [sc.org/sfbay/2015endorsements](http://sc.org/sfbay/2015endorsements) as we get closer to election day as some endorsements are still going through the approval process.

### Marin Endorsements: S.F. Endorsements:

#### Ford Green, San Anselmo Town Council

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

The Sierra Club has previously endorsed Ford Greene, a candidate with a strong record of environmental leadership. His positions include opposition to pesticide use and living within our resources. He is a plaintiff in a lawsuit to stop desalination, and has consistently voted against excessive development. Ford Greene is an attorney and twice-elected current San Anselmo town councilman. His desire to continue to serve San Anselmo as a member of its Town Council is rooted in his passion to preserve the beautiful place his family has called home for four generations.

#### Sashi McEntee, Mill Valley City Council

[www.facebook.com/SashiMV](http://www.facebook.com/SashiMV)

Sashi McEntee is very knowledgeable and involved in the issues of Mill Valley and Muir Woods. She holds numerous volunteer leadership positions in the community, including neighborhood organizations, and serves as Vice Chair of the City of Mill Valley Emergency Preparedness Commission, and as Chair of the Mill Valley CERT Steering Committee. Sashi actively supports increasing water conservation, and is strongly opposed to desalination and the use of pesticides. She lives in Mill Valley with her husband and two daughters.

#### Pam Drew, Novato City Council

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

Pam Drew is a long-time community leader and watchdog of the City Council and public process in Novato. She advocates for an inclusive local government that seeks more public input. Pam has consistently promoted transparency, thorough CEQA review and thorough permit review of projects, rather than streamlining or ministerial review. One of her top goals is to preserve Novato's environment. Pam is a retired schoolteacher and mother to two adult sons.

#### Josh Fryday, Novato City Council

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

A former Judge Advocate General in the Navy, Josh Fryday's day job is now as leader of NextGen Climate, which advocates for climate legislation to create new clean-energy jobs, protect air and water, and hold oil companies accountable to consumers. Josh is a strong advocate for preparing for sea level rise and preventing new development in flood plains and locations subject to sea-level rise. Josh Fryday is a native of Novato, and lives in Hamilton with his wife, a teacher, and their two young sons.

#### Wendy Aragon, Community College Board of Trustees

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

With City College's Board of Trustees recently returned to authority, voters once again have a say in what goes on. Wendy Aragon will be a voice of the people, not of special interests.

A community college graduate herself, Wendy comes with public policy experience chairing the Citizens Advisory Committee of the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission. There, she championed CleanPowerSF, the city's clean-energy program, as well as environmental justice and workforce-training issues.

Wendy, who works in the construction industry, has pledged to reduce City College's carbon footprint by upgrading buildings and facilities. She favors growing the college's environmental science and sustainability class offerings, as well as subsidizing transit passes for students to promote use of transit. She would like to see the College develop its surplus 33 Gough Street property as 100-percent-affordable housing.

#### Aaron Peskin, District 3 Supervisor

<http://aaron2015.com>

As San Francisco faces a right-centrist Board of Supervisors and an administration seemingly wedded to tech and development interests, voters should return Aaron Peskin to the San Francisco Board of Supervisors as the best choice for District 3 and for a progressive majority on the Board.

Aaron Peskin brings a rich history of accomplishments to his campaign for his old District 3 Supervisor's seat. In 2001, he prevented the ill-advised infill of two square miles of the Bay for runway expansion by the San Francisco International Airport. As a supervisor, he sponsored legislation to curb the Ellis Act, frequently used by landlords to evict tenants. With a charter amendment he authored in 2007 (Proposition A), the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency has seen annual Muni funding increased by \$30 million.

Since Peskin's announcement of his candidacy in late March, housing affordability and opposition to evictions have been the visible center of his campaign. Aaron supports the construction of new low- and middle-income housing and preserving existing affordable housing to retain artists, nonprofits, and other small businesses.

Aaron was an environmental activist before becoming a politician and has continued his activism as a citizen. He worked on making

the America's Cup a more environmentally friendly event; helped reduce emissions at Pier 27; and prevented the placement of a Jumbotron in the Aquatic Park Lagoon. Recently, he worked to protect the Flower Mart site in SoMa from high-rise development.

Peskin is endorsed by the Sierra Club, San Francisco Tomorrow, the San Francisco Tenants Union, the Latino Democratic Club, and a long list of labor organizations, state officials, five members of the Board of Supervisors, current and former City Commissioners, and many artists and writers.

#### Yes on A: Affordable housing bond to address the housing crisis

The Prop. A Affordable Housing Bond is an important piece of the San Francisco housing puzzle. It puts money behind last year's Prop. K, also supported by the Sierra Club, which created goals for the creation of affordable housing. One-quarter of the \$310-million Prop. A bond will be for rehabilitation of public housing; another quarter will go toward first-time home-buyer programs and teacher-housing programs; and \$150 million will go toward the construction of permanently affordable new homes.

#### No on D: No walls on the waterfront

Voters must stand up for San Francisco's waterfront once again. San Francisco's Proposition D is a special exemption from the law for one developer to raise waterfront height limits from one story to 240 feet.

San Francisco's waterfront is public land: a limited and precious resource that belongs to all the people. But Prop. D would block public access to public land, shadow public parks, and create mostly office buildings and luxury towers.

The proponents' argument never even mentions their initiative's central issue: it raises waterfront height limits to build 11 private towers on public waterfront land.

If passed, Prop. D would waterfront height limits for not just one high-rise tower like the failed 8 Washington "Wall on the Waterfront" project, but for 11 waterfront towers. Five of the 11 waterfront office and luxury towers allowed by Prop D would be either 190 or 240 feet tall.

Prop. D deals with 100 percent public land, but the majority of housing built would be luxury apartments, not affordable housing. And there is no guarantee in Prop. D that most of its 11 waterfront towers won't be exclusively for offices and commercial use with zero housing.

San Francisco's beautiful waterfront re-

mains a vibrant place open to all only because the people have repeatedly stood up to defend height limits and protect our waterfront from becoming filled up with shopping malls, hotels, private office towers, and luxury condos.

Prop. D is opposed by the Sierra Club, San Francisco Tomorrow, Coalition for San Francisco Neighborhoods, Sunset-Parkside Education and Action Committee (SPEAK), and the San Francisco Green Party.

#### Housing measures on the ballot:

The Sierra Club supports measures to protect and increase affordable housing in transit rich, walkable communities well served by local businesses. San Francisco is one such city. When people of all incomes can live in such communities, there is an aggregate reduction in suburban sprawl, greenhouse gas emissions, and habitat loss. In recent years, however, San Francisco has become increasingly unaffordable, forcing many people to live outside the City, where they are more dependent on cars and have longer commutes.

Additionally, local government has documented that construction of new affordable units has not kept up with the loss of rent-stabilized housing units. A 2014 study by TransForm showed that low-income households displaced to the suburbs more than double their vehicle miles traveled, and that the replacement of these households by high-income households in dense, transit-rich city neighborhoods results in a net increase in emissions.

This November, several housing ballot propositions seek to further the Sierra Club's vision for a sustainable and equitable Bay Area by reversing these trends.

#### Yes on F: Homes, not hotels

Proposition F removes incentives for converting homes into hotels. This spreading practice has been linked to low residential-vacancy rates in San Francisco and rising evictions of tenants. Prop. F's sponsors say that up to 10,000 units may have been removed from San Francisco's rental market as part of the homes-into-hotels industry and have identified whole residential buildings that have been converted into hotels. That's because it's more lucrative to rent to tourists than to rent to long-term tenants, especially if homes would otherwise be rent stabilized.

Nonetheless, a majority of San Francisco supervisors legalized the local homes-into-hotels industry in October 2014 by rezoning all of San Francisco for hotels. In doing so, they legalized what had previously been il-



continued from previous page

legal — short-term rentals for fewer than 30 days. San Francisco-based Airbnb, a leader in the homes-into-hotels industry, strongly supported the passage of that ordinance and another passed in July that enriches their industry even more.

Now permanent residents may rent registered units to tourists for an unlimited number of days if they are present (hosted) and for 90 days if they are not present (unhosted).

However, the Planning Department — charged with enforcing this law — has no way to enforce limits on unhosted rentals or to fine short-term rental businesses for failure to register homes-into-hotels. Thus, incentives for keeping units out of the residential rental market remain in place.

Prop. F takes away these incentives. When someone registers a unit as a hotel, Prop. F mandates that notice be given to nearby residents and organizations. (Residents are already notified about many permits issued nearby, so this would be in keeping with normal Planning Department procedure.) Prop. F would limit all short-term rentals to 75 days per year, whether hosted or unhosted, and require quarterly reports to the Planning Department. The Planning Department could fine Airbnb and similar businesses for advertising any unregistered units.

Recently, San Francisco supervisors have worked on other legislation to legalize in-law units as part of addressing the current housing crisis. Prop. F therefore forbids the use of in-law units as hotels.

Prop. F also includes a private right of legal action. But don't be fooled by Airbnb's argument about Prop. F pitting neighbor against neighbor: neighbors already have the right to sue each other. This private right of action empowers people to sue Airbnb and other short-term rental businesses for violations of privacy and quiet enjoyment of homes.

### Yes on I: Sustainable and fair housing for the Mission

Proposition I seeks to ensure that the City meets its own affordable housing goals for the Mission District and that new residential development complies with the November 2014 Proposition K. Prop. K, which passed with Sierra Club support, made it city policy that at least 33 percent of all new housing be affordable to low- and moderate-income housing and that at least 50 percent be affordable to low-, moderate-, and middle-income households.

The Mission District has lost several thousand low- to moderate- and middle-income families in recent years. It has gained more in high-income earners. The first step in stopping the losses for the Mission District, which is also the Bay Area hot spot for the development of luxury housing, is an 18-month "pause" in the permitting process for market-rate residential developments and certain demolitions. This will give officials, departments, and neighbors time to create a Neighborhood Stabilization Plan that, in part, involves securing fund-

ing for implementation of their plan. The deadline for the creation of that plan would be January 31, 2017. Proposition I would also authorize a possible extension of this suspension for an additional 12 months by a majority of the Board of Supervisors.

San Franciscans have in the past supported "pauses" — or moratoriums — and restrictions. A development moratorium existed in the North Mission, and parts of SoMa, Potrero Hill, and the Central Waterfront until the completion of the Eastern Neighborhoods plan in 2008. And San Franciscans enthusiastically supported waterfront height limits in two recent elections. Residents of the Mission District, supported by the Sierra Club, now ask San Franciscans to support their call for a pause while they get a more sustainable and fair housing plan in place.

### Yes on K: Prioritize surplus public land for affordable housing and open space

City departments own property that they sometimes have no use for. Current law requires the creation of an inventory of surplus and underutilized municipal properties (buildings, air rights, or land), but nothing compels local government to prioritize that land for badly needed affordable housing or parks and open space. Some departments sell surplus properties to make up budget deficits or increase their revenues.

Earlier this year the San Francisco Department of Public Works was about to sell property at 30 Van Ness — situated in a hot zone for housing development, as it is near transit, a freeway entrance, and several major city arteries — to market-rate housing developers. By sheer luck, affordable-housing advocates got wind of the upcoming sale in time and demanded more affordable units at the site. But what if they hadn't? Prop. K would take the uncertainty out of the process.

The 2015 Surplus Public Lands measure is a good government measure that would mandate an annual public reporting on surplus property by April 15. It would give the Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development discretion over those properties that offer the opportunity for affordable housing developments at a range of incomes. The supervisors would also have the power to dedicate a parcel for the creation of a park or open space. Prop. K also urges enterprise agencies (the SF Port, the SF Airport, and other agencies that do not rely on the general fund) and public educational institutions to comply with the measure.

### No on G: Don't block clean energy

This deceptive measure pretends to be about the "right to know," but is actually is an attack on solar power and renewable energy in San Francisco.

When it starts up next year, CleanPowerSF will be one of the greenest providers of electricity in the state, selling power at or below PG&E's prices. Prop. G would apply unnecessary restrictions to CleanPowerSF that don't

apply to PG&E, limiting CleanPowerSF's ability to sell solar power. By referring to technicalities, Prop. G. would define rooftop solar as not "renewable". It would even enable PG&E to claim its dirty fossil fuel and nuclear power is just as clean and green as the far more renewable CleanPowerSF program.

The San Francisco Public Utilities Commission has said that Prop G would drive up costs without any environmental benefit.

Prop. G is not about the "right to know." It is about maintaining PG&E's monopoly.

Save solar power in San Francisco. Vote no on Prop. G.

Visit [sierraclub.org/sfbay/2015endorsements](http://sierraclub.org/sfbay/2015endorsements) for more information on November elections endorsements.

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## Trips

Sierra Club member going solo to Ethiopia, the Omo Valley, Feb. 17 - Mar. 2 on custom trip designed by Abeba Tours. Looking for one or two travelers, M or F. Trip will be safe and awesome! Price is approx. \$2500 - \$3000. Contact Mike 415-420-2392.

## Personals

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

## Employment

The Bay Chapter seeks a Membership Outreach Representative. Responsibilities include contacting members during evening phone banks to educate them on our issues, raise money, and identify volunteers. Must have excellent communication skills, interest in fundraising, and passion for environmental issues. Learn more and apply at <http://tinyurl.com/chapteroutreach>.



## Tickets and sponsorships now on sale for the environmental soiree of the season!

Join us for a lively evening of inspirational speakers, live music, and delicious food to celebrate the rich history of the local environmental movement. Get more information and purchase tickets and sponsorships at:

[www.sierraclub.org/sfbay/davidbrowerdinner2015](http://www.sierraclub.org/sfbay/davidbrowerdinner2015)

Proceeds from the event go toward the chapter's tireless efforts to protect our region's air, land, water, wildlife, and democracy.



### 2015 Honorees:

- **Carl Anthony** and **Dr. Paloma Pavel** of Breakthrough Communities
- **Amy Meyer**, 'godmother' of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area and leader of People for Parks
- **Gayle McLaughlin** and **Jovanka Beckles** of the Richmond City Council
- Youth leaders from **New Voices are Rising**, a project of the Rose Foundation

Californians take **1.4 billion trips** per year on transit systems like Muni, BART and Caltrain...



..but that's not nearly enough when **40% of emissions** come from transportation...



...and too often those buses and trains are **overcrowded, late, or both.**



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## The 2016 Sierra Club Calendars

Calendars will be available until December 11, 2015.

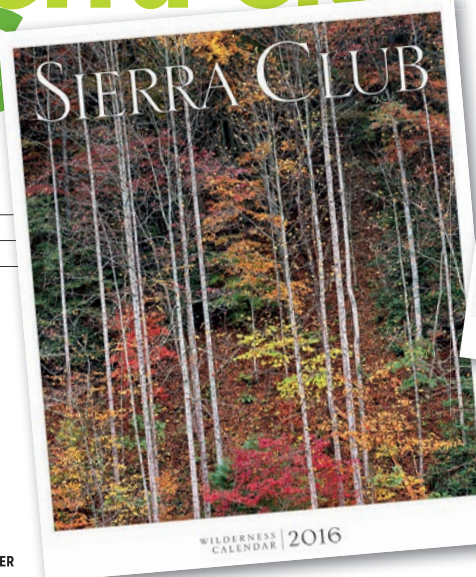
Number of calendars purchased	1 - 3	4 - 11	12+
2016 Sierra Club Wilderness Wall Calendar	\$13.50	\$13.00	\$12.50
2016 Sierra Club Engagement Calendar	\$14.50	\$14.00	\$13.50

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.

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