



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

GO SOLAR AND GET A \$1,000 SPECIAL DISCOUNT.  
**Make the switch to solar.**

A Club partnership with Sungevity makes it easy to take advantage of the benefits of solar with little up-front cost. Sungevity customers enjoy average monthly savings of 15 percent on their energy bill! In May only, when you go solar with the Sierra Club and Sungevity, you will receive a special \$1,000 discount and the Bay Chapter will receive \$1,000 for its work to protect the Bay Area's wild spaces, keep our air and water clean, and promote a clean-energy future.

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



## Community Choice energy programs surge across the region — progress in Bay Chapter's four counties

Community Choice energy is catching on across the region, confirming the Bay Area's position as a leader in the transition to a clean-energy economy. Depending where you live, your home or business may already be powered by the cleaner electricity provided by a Community Choice program — and if you're not right now, it's just a matter of time. Community Choice energy (also known as Community Choice Aggregation, or CCA) is an alternative to the old model of the corporate utility monopoly that empowers governments to pool electricity customers to form a local power agency. Communities are thus able to provide power to local customers by

purchasing renewable energy on the open market or by investing in local renewable infrastructure. Whereas PG&E relies on electricity from dirty and carbon-intensive sources, Community Choice programs choose clean and renewable power — and the benefits accrue locally, rather than to the shareholders of a for-profit utility like PG&E.

Since Marin Clean Energy (MCE) became California's first Community Choice energy program in 2010, this innovative power model has spread beyond Marin County as more communities recognize the extensive benefits that Community Choice provides. These benefits include local green jobs and investment in the local economy; cleaner air and a lower carbon footprint; and freedom from the unstable and steadily-increasing costs of electricity generated by fossil fuels.

### Marin (and beyond!): a model for the region

Since its founding in 2010, MCE has expanded to cover unincorporated Napa County and the cities of Benicia, El Cerrito, Richmond, and San Pablo. By May of 2015, the program is projected to serve 165,000 customers in four counties.

MCE has been an unambiguous success for customers, the environment, and the local economy, as evidenced by the growing list of cities that wish to join its program. With a base rate that is cheaper and cleaner than PG&E's, MCE

saved its 125,000 customers more than \$5.9 million in 2014. The program has created permanent local jobs and contracts for services like information technology and energy efficiency with local companies. Even more jobs are created as part of projects to develop local renewable-energy resources like a 2- to 5-megawatt solar plant at the Port of Richmond, scheduled for completion in 2016. MCE's sustainable-workforce policy prioritizes fair compensation and support for local businesses, union labor, and apprenticeship programs — policies that are good for individual workers and the economy as a whole.

People who live in MCE's service area are automatically enrolled in the "Light Green" 50-percent-renewable energy program. Residents or business customers who have the resources and desire to do more for the environment can opt up to "Deep Green" 100-percent-renewable energy. Deep Green costs only a penny more per kilowatt-hour than Light Green rates, so for most residential customers, the additional cost is less than \$5 per month. In addition to slashing their carbon footprint, customers who opt up to 100-percent-renewable energy also support the development of new, local renewable-energy projects; half of the revenue from the Deep Green premium is directed to a renewable-development fund for projects like the Port of Richmond solar installation.

MCE is launching a second 100-percent-clean energy choice

Continued on page 14.

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

## 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.

## Activist trainings

Develop skills to affect real change

Join the Bay Chapter for upcoming activist trainings to learn and practice the skills we use in our advocacy work. Trainings are free for members; \$25 for non-members.

### Public Speaking Training

Sunday, April 12, 3-5pm

Yosemite Room, 3rd Floor, Sierra Club national headquarters, 85 2nd St., SF (two blocks from Montgomery BART)

Learn how to prepare for and deliver a public comment at a hearing, press conference, or other public event.

RSVP at [tinyurl.com/ActivistTraining1](http://tinyurl.com/ActivistTraining1).

### Messaging Training

Sunday, May 10, 3-5pm

Chapter office, 2530 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley (at Dwight)

Learn how to communicate to the general public about an issue or campaign.

RSVP at [tinyurl.com/ActivistTraining2](http://tinyurl.com/ActivistTraining2).

## National Sierra Club elections are underway – VOTE!

A democratic Sierra Club demands grassroots participation

Those eligible to vote in the national Sierra Club election should have received their national Sierra Club ballot in the mail (or online if you chose the electronic delivery option) in early March. The ballot includes candidate profiles and where you can find additional information on the Club's website.

The Sierra Club is a democratically-structured organization at all levels. The Club requires the regular flow of views on policy and priorities from its grassroots membership in order to function well. Yearly participation in elections at all Club levels is a key membership obligation.

In a typical year less than 10% of eligible members vote in the Board elections. A minimum of 5% is required for the elections to be valid. Our grassroots structure is strengthened when our participation is high. Therefore, your participation is needed in the voting process. Members frequently state that they don't

## Celebrate Earth Day with the Bay Chapter

While the Sierra Club honors the earth year round, each April and May we join others in celebrating Earth Day. Please join us at one (or more!) of the following free events.

Can you help out? We need volunteers for each of these events to help set up our booth, talk with attendees in two-hour shifts, and take down our booth after the event.

### Oakland

Oakland Earth Expo

Wednesday, April 8, 10 am to 2 pm

Frank Ogawa Plaza

To volunteer, contact Joanne Drabek at [joanne1892@gmail.com](mailto:joanne1892@gmail.com), (510)530-5216.

### Berkeley

Berkeley Earth Day

Saturday, April 11, 11 am to 4 pm

Berkeley Marina

To volunteer, contact Joanne Drabek at [joanne1892@gmail.com](mailto:joanne1892@gmail.com), (510)530-5216.

### Martinez

John Muir Birthday/Earth Day Celebration

Saturday, April 18, 10 am to 4 pm

John Muir National Historic Site

Exhibitors, live music, eco fashion show, Junior Ranger projects, "John Muir" shares stories, and much more!

To volunteer, please contact Janess Hanson at [janesshanson@att.net](mailto:janesshanson@att.net) or (925)458-0860.

### Alameda

Alameda Earth Day Festival

Saturday, April 25, 11 am to 4 pm

Washington Park

To volunteer, contact Joanne Drabek at [joanne1892@gmail.com](mailto:joanne1892@gmail.com), (510)530-5216.

### Marin County

Earth Day at Terwilliger Marsh

Sunday, April 26, 9am to noon

Mill Valley Community Center

Guided walk in Terwilliger Marsh focusing on wildlife, plants, and marsh ecology; talk on sea-level rise and the role of marshes in protecting the shoreline; and fun science activities for kids. Free child-care for very young children.

To volunteer or for information, contact Elena Belsky at [elena\\_scmg@comcast.net](mailto:elena_scmg@comcast.net).

### San Francisco

Earth Day San Francisco

Saturday, April 18, 10 am to 7 pm

22nd Street from Mission to Valencia and Bartlett

To volunteer, contact Jess Dervin-Ackerman at [jess@sfbaysc.org](mailto:jess@sfbaysc.org) or (510)848-0800.

BART Blue Sky Festival

Wednesday, April 22, 11 am to 2 pm

Justin Herman Plaza

To volunteer, contact Jess Dervin-Ackerman at [jess@sfbaysc.org](mailto:jess@sfbaysc.org) or (510)848-0800.

Living Green Fair

Thursday, May 14, 11 am to 2 pm

UCSF, Mission Bay Campus

To volunteer, please contact Becky Evans at [rebecca@eathlink.net](mailto:rebecca@eathlink.net) or (415)775-3309.

### Albany

Albany Arts and Green Fair

Sunday, May 3, 11 am to 4 pm

Memorial Park

To volunteer, contact Joanne Drabek at [joanne1892@gmail.com](mailto:joanne1892@gmail.com), (510)530-5216.

## SIERRA CLUB YODELER

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For information about classifieds,

see page 15.

### SUBMISSIONS AND VOLUNTEERING

To find out more, contact the editor at

[yodedit@sierraclub.org](mailto:yodedit@sierraclub.org) or (510)848-0800.

know the candidates and find it difficult to vote without learning more. Each candidate provides a statement about themselves and their views on the issues on the official election ballot. You can learn more by asking questions of your group and chapter leadership and other experienced members you know. You can also visit the Club's election website at [www.sierraclub.org/board/election](http://www.sierraclub.org/board/election) for additional information about candidates. Then make your choice and cast your vote!

Voting online is quick and easy! Even if you receive your election materials in the mail, we encourage you to use the

user-friendly Internet voting site to save time and postage. If sending via ground mail, please note your ballots must be received by no later than election day, April 29.



Vote for your grassroots leadership by April 29th.

# BAC-OFF: Bay Area Communities Overcoming Fossil Fuels

## Limiting the future of oil extraction in Alameda County — ordinance would prevent new wells

Alameda County has joined the fight against fracking. In September, the Transportation and Planning Committee of the Board of Supervisors took action directing staff to draft an ordinance to protect the county from any risky new oil-drilling activity. The staff came back in January with a creative and comprehensive proposal, not simply addressing fracking, but also the overall issue of expanded oil exploration and extraction.

In California, counties and municipalities have the responsibility to regulate land use. This includes the right to issue conditional use permits to cover special uses of land for activities that would not otherwise be allowed within a zoning district. Under the current East County Area Plan (ECAP) and the Alameda County Zoning Ordinance (ACZO), conditional use permits can be granted for oil and gas operations. Under the proposed changes to the zoning regulations, such conditional use permits would no longer be available. This change would be accomplished by removing all references in ECAP and ACZO to oil and gas exploration and extraction.

Predictably, opposition has surfaced. E&B Natural Resources, the only active well operator in Alameda County, has objected to any limitation on its operations, despite declaring that it has no plans to practice fracking on its current wells in the county. Under the proposal, E&B would not be allowed to drill new wells, though it would continue to possess a valid permit allowing the company to extract oil from its existing wells. Also coming out against the proposed changes were the California Cattlemen's Association and Californians for Energy Independence.

In its submission to the Board of Supervi-

sors, Californians for Energy Independence — a coalition funded by the petroleum industry to advocate against restrictions on oil production — advised rejection of the changes and adoption of a “wait and see” approach. As rationale for delaying county regulation, the group made the claim that regulation at the state level can better protect the environment, through new procedures being developed by the Division of Oil, Gas and Geothermal Resources (DOGGR). Yet, as recent news reports have described, the same state agency permitted protected potable-water aquifers in Kern County to be contaminated with toxic and heavily-saline fracking wastewater. E&B Natural Resources was one of several firms recently ordered by DOGGR to shut down wastewater injection wells in Kern County.

However small the current footprint of fossil-fuel extraction in Alameda County, any increase in such operations would build its own momentum and increase resistance to environmental oversight. This proposal would obviate the need to fight this battle permit by permit — a battle that no one should have to wage in an era of drought and climate change.

### WhatYouCanDo

Opponents of fracking need to attend every public hearing that takes up this proposal. Look to the Chapter's Activities and Events calendar online at [www.sierraclub.org/san-francisco-bay/events](http://www.sierraclub.org/san-francisco-bay/events) for updates.

As it currently stands, the Alameda County Planning Commission will hold its second hearing on the matter at the County offices in Hayward at 224 West Winton Ave., Room 160 Auditorium, at 6 pm on Monday, April 6. Questions? Contact Rebecca Franke at [dontfrackcal@gmail.com](mailto:dontfrackcal@gmail.com).

Rebecca Franke

## Metallica and San Jose Sharks team up to benefit Bay Chapter — Hockey-metal mashup raises \$28,000

On January 21, the San Jose Sharks beat the LA Kings 4-2. At half time, iconic metal band Metallica broadcast interviews and gave a big shout-out to the Sierra Club. We were the non-profit select by the band to receive a portion of the proceeds from that evening.

The event was a victory not just for the team; it far exceeded fundraising expectations, by bringing in over \$28,000 for the Chapter! We want to thank the Metallica and the Sharks for including us in the event and supporting conservation efforts in the Bay Area. You slayed it!



Representatives from the Sierra Club and other local environmental and social justice groups at the announcement of the Chevron shareholder resolution in Richmond.

## Richmond leads the fight against corporate money in elections

On March 11th, Sierra Club staff and volunteers stood outside Chevron's Richmond refinery alongside community members, social-justice advocates, and local elected officials to announce the introduction of a shareholders resolution that would prevent the company from dumping money into America's elections. The resolution will be considered at Chevron's annual shareholder meeting in May and is part of a growing movement of Americans fighting to take back our air, water, climate, and democracy from mega-polluters like Chevron and other corporate interests who try to buy their way out of regulation.

In 2014, Chevron spent over three million dollars on the elections for Richmond mayor and city council. Chevron bought a small army of canvassers, took over every billboard in the city, and flooded mailboxes with political advertising that featured an ugly smear campaign against the progressive Team Richmond candidates. Despite being outspent 20-1, the Sierra Club-endorsed candidates swept the election on their promise to hold the fossil-fuel giant accountable for health, safety, and environmental transgressions at the local refinery.

Chevron's obscene spending exemplifies the growing influence of corporations in our elections following the infamous Citizens United decision by the Supreme Court, allowing corporations to be considered on equal footing as people when it comes to campaign donations.

Chevron's political spending goes far beyond the election in Richmond. “Chevron has spent millions of dollars to try and roll back state and federal regulations to the detriment of our climate, our environment, our communities, and even the safety of their own workers,” said Bay Chapter director

Michelle Myers as she announced the Sierra Club's support of the shareholder resolution. “Unlimited corporate spending distorts our democracy and takes away the power of the people to fight polluters and transition to a clean-energy economy.”

We know that unchecked, Chevron will only continue to increase its political spending — in Richmond and anywhere else Chevron's interests are challenged. Chevron's bottom line is profit at any cost, which is inherently at odds with the basic needs of communities like Richmond: clean air, clean water, a stable climate, and safe and reliable jobs. Richmond is far from the only company town dealing with deep-pocketed industry whose interests clash with those of the community and the environment. Getting the shareholder resolution passed is a long shot, but it is just one tactic in a larger campaign to educate and engage voters nationwide. And given what we saw in Richmond in November, there's reason to be optimistic.

Richmond's is a tale of two cities: one fighting fiercely to maintain an aging institution whose product threatens our climate, our health, and our very lives, and the other taking steps to move to a more equitable and just future. Indeed, even as the refinery seeks to make the “upgrades” necessary to process higher-sulfur crude oil — a process that results in more toxic contaminants and carbon pollution — Richmond's residents and businesses are benefiting from renewable electricity from the state's first Community Choice energy program, Marin Clean Energy. This is proof that a government elected by and for the people can serve the community's best interests.

## Decision coming soon on “wreck-reaction” in Tesla Park

We are still fighting to save the biologically unique and culturally important Tesla Park in eastern Alameda County from the damaging impacts of off-highway vehicle (OHV) “wreck-reaction”, which include erosion, destruction of vegetation and wildlife habitat, and water sedimentation.

The California State Parks Off-Highway Vehicle Recreation (OHMVR) Division has delayed at least three times the release of the Draft General Plan update and Environmental Impact Report EIR for the existing Carnegie State Vehicular Recreation Area (SVRA) and its proposed expansion into Tesla Park land. This effort to complete a plan to guide future management and operation of Carnegie SVRA, begun in 2012, is the OHMVR Division’s third attempt to create such a plan. Other attempts from 2000 and 2004 were aborted without explanation. The Sierra Club continues to work with the Friends of Tesla Park alliance to press for State Parks to change their plans and permanently preserve Tesla Park, and to prepare for review of the Draft General Plan and EIR once it is finally released.

One troubling issue with regard to natural resource man-

agement in this sensitive area is the failure of Carnegie SVRA to issue statutorily required annual habitat monitoring systems reports. With no annual reports there can be no meaningful or timely adaptive management. While this is just one of many significant issues with Carnegie SVRA management, we are concerned that the failure to conduct credible natural-resource assessments is occurring

throughout the State Park OHMVR system.

When the Draft General Plan and EIR are released we will need as many people as possible to submit comments. To receive our notification, make sure you are on the Bay Chapter’s email list. Go to [www.sierraclub.org/san-francisco-bay/email](http://www.sierraclub.org/san-francisco-bay/email) and sign up for our East Bay Bulletin and “General” lists.

Celeste Garamendi



Hillside destruction at Carnegie State Vehicular Recreation Area. Photo by Celeste Garamendi.

## Let’s keep the “wet” in “wetlands” at Sharp Park

At its April meeting in San Rafael, the Coastal Commission will be considering an application by the San Francisco Recreation and Park Department for an ill-conceived project in one of the most biologically-important areas managed by the department.

The goal of the so-called “Infrastructure and Habitat Enhancement” project is to dry the naturally-wet Sharp Park Golf Course by dredging nearly 100,000 gallons of sediment and native vegetation from what remains of the Laguna Salada wetland complex in order to speed the flow of water to a pumphouse. The increased flow would be disastrous for the breeding of the California red-legged frog in the wetland’s pools and lagoons. The water is also vital to the survival of the San Francisco garter snake and the many other species in this vital wetland ecosystem.

The Coastal Commission is the first agency reviewing this project that has a responsibility to reasonably protect wetlands and other coastal resources. Showing up to the Coastal Commission hearing is the best way to fight for the integrity of this sensitive wetlands ecosystem and the species that reside there.

The Commission will consider the Sharp Park issue sometime during their meeting in San Rafael, which is scheduled for April 15-17, but the exact date and time for the hearing are yet to be determined. If you would like more information on this issue, please contact Jess Dervin-Ackerman at [jess@sfbaysc.org](mailto:jess@sfbaysc.org) or (510) 848-0800 x 304.

## Warm Springs community development: an opportunity for true sustainability

At 879 acres, the site of the Warm Springs Priority Development Area (PDA) is one of Fremont’s last large undeveloped areas. PDAs are areas targeted for high-density infill development alongside public transit. The Warm Springs PDA is being built from the ground up, providing a unique opportunity to create a model of sustainable development and transportation, if done right.

Three of the Sierra Club’s concerns with the Warm Springs PDA are its lack of truly sustainable housing and businesses, improper and inadequate BART parking, and lack of a networked citywide trail system for bikes and pedestrians.

City leaders need to make the Warm Springs PDA a model of sustainable development, like Malmö, Sweden. Malmö turned an industrial wasteland into a thriving eco-district, setting a world-class example for sustainable living. In Malmö, energy needs are met solely with renewable resources like wind and geothermal; paths for pedestrians and bicyclers have priority; buildings are constructed to be highly energy efficient; and food waste is converted to biogas, which in turn fuels local buses. Why not in Fremont?

At the center of the PDA is the new Warm Springs BART station, scheduled to open later

this year. Adjacent to this transit hub will be more than 4,000 housing units. The first development up for approval would include 2,200+ homes on 111 acres including an urban TK-5 school on five acres with a joint-use four-acre urban park (to download the master plan for this development, visit <http://tinyurl.com/warm-springsarea4>). The proposal for this development does not include any alternative-energy infrastructure, just “solar ready” housing. Nor does it provide Class I trails linked to a city-wide system, which would encourage walking and biking and reduce car dependence.

The Warm Springs BART station’s 2,000 parking spaces are planned as a flat parking lot rather than a multi-level structure. Flat parking is counter to the basic concept of a PDA, which provides for increased density and upward development. Acres of potential parkland are being paved for parking. And will 2,000 spaces even be adequate to meet rider demand? The Fremont BART station’s 2,030 flat spaces are woefully inadequate, with cars overflowing into adjacent business districts and neighborhoods on a daily basis.

To achieve the goals of a successful PDA, Fremont must prioritize accessible, integrated public transit, affordable and sustainable

housing for families, and benefits for the local community like local jobs and job-training programs. We must urge all Bay Area leaders to demand development that promotes truly sustainable communities. Fremont’s Warm Springs PDA should follow Malmö’s example and be the model for other Bay Area PDAs.

The Warm Springs/South Fremont Com-

munity Plan went before the City Council on March 17, after this paper went to print. For updates, visit [theYodeler.org](http://theYodeler.org). To read more about the Warm Springs/South Fremont Community Plan, visit <http://tinyurl.com/warmspringsplan>.

Jannet Benz



Warm Springs BART station under construction in background; development with 2,200+ houses planned for area in foreground.



# Events & Activities

APRIL - MAY  
2015

of the SAN FRANCISCO BAY CHAPTER  
OF THE SIERRA CLUB

Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

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

## About this calendar

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

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

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

## Hike and backpack ratings

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

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

Backpack ratings include a third digit for travel:

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

## What to bring

For day hikes always bring lunch and enough water. Consider layered clothing, sunscreen, 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: 4pm at boathouse. Leader: Dolores Gruenewald, (510)351-6247 or [doloresgru@aol.com](mailto:doloresgru@aol.com). (Solo. Sierrans)

## Wednesdays

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

## First and Third Saturdays

**San Bruno Mountain 1B hike.** April 4 and 18; May 2 and 16. Co-sponsored by San Bruno Mountain Watch. Explore two of San Bruno Mountain's less-traveled canyons and learn about the history and ecology of this "Island of Biodiversity." The hike is on narrow footpaths surrounded by coastal scrub, riparian woodland and coastal grassland. Includes an Ohlone shellmound visit. Heavy rain cancels. **Meet:** 10 am at 44 Visitation Avenue #206, Brisbane. **Ends:** 1:30 pm. **Directions:** SamTrans bus #292. **Leader:** Paul Bouscal, (415)467-6631 or [sanbruno@mountainwatch.org](mailto:sanbruno@mountainwatch.org). (Hiking)

## Last Saturdays

**Corona Heights Natural Area habitat work party.** March 28, April 25, and May 30. Help maintain the beauty of this urban gem, home to more than 100 species of native plants. We'll weed out the invasive non-native species and nurture the native species, which provide improved habitat for resident and migratory birds and other wildlife. Work held rain or shine. Children ages eight or older are welcome with parent or guardian. All tools and gloves provided. Wear closed-toe shoes and layered clothes. **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. (Gay & Lesbian)

## Mar 28 • Sat

**Black Diamond Mines Regional Preserve 3C hike.** Explore beautiful green hills and canyons, see white shooting stars, check out an old mining tunnel, and visit a 19th century graveyard on a strenuous, leisurely-to-moderately-paced hike. Be prepared for mud. Any rain cancels. **Meet:** 10 am at the far parking lot in the Park. **Ends:** about 5:30 pm. **Cost:** \$5 parking fee. **Carpools:** Leader at Walnut Creek BART 9 am. **Leader:** Steve Bakaley, (925)945-8205 or [slbakaley@lbl.gov](mailto:slbakaley@lbl.gov). (Mount Diablo Group and Sierra Singles)

**GLS hike leader hike and lunch, Tiburon Ridge and Belvedere Island loop.** First GLS quarterly outing for hike leaders (and potential hike leaders). The early portion of this seven-mile hike takes us 600 feet up to the underutilized portion of the Tiburon Ridge called the Old Saint Hillary's Open Space Preserve. The rest is mostly on the idyllic residential streets of Tiburon and Belvedere. 360-degree views of the North Bay. Lunch at Guaymas Restaurant on Main Street, then trek the wilds of residential old Tiburon and Belvedere enjoying spectacular vistas. **Meet:** 10 am at 950 Kleinert Way, Tiburon. **Leader:** Glenda Sharp, (415)472-5858 or [glenda@sharpthinking.com](mailto:glenda@sharpthinking.com). (Gay & Lesbian)

**Glen Park 1B hike.** Leisurely-paced walk through Glen Park's side streets, hidden lanes, and canyon. Any rain cancels. **Bring:** Bring lunch and liquids. **Meet:** 10:30 am at Glen Park BART station. **Ends:** 3:15 pm. **Leader:** Gloria Navarra, (415)731-6144. (Hiking)

## Mar 28 • Sat

**Purisima Creek 2C hike.** Join us at this lesser-known gem along the coast of Half Moon Bay. Purisima Creek features a wide variety of vegetation, including towering redwoods, coastal scrub, ferns, berries, and wildflowers. This 10-mile hike through the preserve begins with a long slow climb and is recommended for strong and experienced hikers only. **Meet:** 11 am at Purisima Creek Redwoods Region Open Space, Higgins-Purisima trailhead. **Leader:** Jeffrey Sanchez, (510)599-5238 or [amagi@pacbell.net](mailto:amagi@pacbell.net). (Sierra Singles)

**Briones Regional Park Hike 2B hike.** Celebrate the arrival of Spring on this moderately-paced hike to see the wide-open green hills, wildflowers, and vistas of Briones Regional Park. Frequent stops to admire the wildflowers. Any rain cancels. **Meet:** noon at Bear Creek Staging Area of Briones Regional Park. To avoid parking fee, one may also park on Bear Creek Road and walk into the park. **Leader:** Albert Chiu, (510)339-3320 or [albert-chiu@att.net](mailto:albert-chiu@att.net). (Sierra Singles)

## Mar 29 • Sun

**White Hill 3C hike.** We head through some redwoods on our way to White Hill and its glorious views. We then drop down and head back up to San Geronimo Ridge. Enjoy beautiful views all around. Any rain cancels. **Meet:** 9 am. **Directions:** Follow Sir Francis Drake Blvd. through Fairfax and after you pass Lefty Gomez baseball field, look for a blue sign on right side of road for "Bothin Youth Center." Follow road up the hill about a half mile, then park in large dirt lot. Do not turn into Bothin Youth Center. **Leader:** Tom Post, (415)690-6572 or [tpost123@hotmail.com](mailto:tpost123@hotmail.com). (Hiking)

**Mount Diablo 'round the mountain 2C hike.** This classic loop provides views in all directions (even if the lowlands are socked in with tule fog) as we circle the park's namesake peak, Mount Diablo via Deer Flat, Murchio Gap, Prospector's Gap and Oak Knoll. Steady relaxed pace. Be prepared for mud and poison oak. Steady rain cancels. **Cost:** Park entry fee \$10 per vehicle. **Meet:** 10 am at Diablo View Overlook on Summit Road. **Leader:** Jake Van Akkeren, (925)933-3486 or [jvanakkeren@comcast.net](mailto:jvanakkeren@comcast.net) (preferred). (Mount Diablo Group, co-sponsored by MDIA and SMD)

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

## April 4 • 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)

**Palisades of Calistoga 2B-3C hike.** Hike historic Oat Hill Mine Road to view spectacular cliffs. Some steep, rocky terrain. Long 2B hike if you only go with Guy to lunch spot at base of cliffs; 3C hike if you continue to top with Bob. Leisurely pace with Guy; little faster but still moderate with Bob. Any rain cancels. Bring: Money for post-hike dinner at restaurant in Calistoga. **Meet:** 9:30 am at corner of Highway 29 and Lake Street in Calistoga, directly across from Oat Hill Mine trailhead (next to pizza restaurant). **Ends:** about 5:30 pm. **Leader:** Guy Mayes, (510)522-1590; Bob Solotar, (510)525-2110 or [bob\\_solotar@hotmail.com](mailto:bob_solotar@hotmail.com). (Hiking)

continued on following page

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

**April 4 • Sat – April 5 • Sun**

**Yuba River fly fishing.** Rare access to 6,000 acres along the scenic Yuba River administered as a wild stream by the U.C. at their Sierra Foothills Research Center, west of Grass Valley. Camp at a nearby campsite, fly-fish, and hike. Option to camp Friday night, if enough interest. Heavy rain cancels. **Cost:** \$35 covers required fee to the U.C. Research Center and donation to Sierra Club. Any campsite costs for Saturday night will be your individual responsibility. Must be a Sierra Club member. **Bring:** Fishing license and fishing gear. Participants are responsible for their own food. **Meet:** 9 am in Marysville. **Leaders:** Roger Williams, (415)601-2079 or rogerw@gmail.com; Tony Bellaver, (510)985-0511 or alpen.glow@earthlink.net. (Backpacking)

**April 8 • Wed**

**Four peaks of Diablo wildflower suffer-fest 4F hike.** 17 miles of Diablo fun. We'll go up Eagle, Diablo, North Peak, and Mount Olympia as we test our legs and count innumerable wildflowers. Not for beginners. 5,500 feet of gain. **Meet:** 8:45 at 176 Regency Drive, Clayton. **Leaders:** Morgan Evans and David Gibson, (510)525-6116 or frankenfreddie@yahoo.com. (Hiking)

**April 10 • Fri**

**Mount Diablo Riggs Canyon 2C hike.** This hike meanders amid the green hills framing Riggs Canyon in the southeastern reaches of Mount Diablo State Park. Wildflowers should be abundant. Steady relaxed pace. Steady rain cancels. **Meet:** 9:30 am in parking lot on Morgan Territory Road just after turning right from Marsh Creek Road. Carpool five miles from here to the trailhead. **Leader:** Jake Van Akkeren, (925)933-3486 or jvanakkeren@comcast.net (preferred). (Mount Diablo Group, co-sponsored by MDIA and SMD)

**April 11 • Sat**

**Mount Diablo Summit 3C hike.** Moderate pace. Most of it on Summit Trail and Juniper Trail. Blackhawk. Rain or muddy trails cancel. **Meet:** 8:45 am for carpool at Lacrosse Field Parking (soccer field), Blackhawk Road. **Leader:** Lutz Heinrich, (925)216-8672 or ltz\_hnrch@yahoo.com. (Hiking)

**Fort Baker and Marin Headlands Loop 3C hike.** Take Morning Sun Trail up the wooded bank and follow the ridges to the Vortec for incredible views. Hike down the Miwok to Rodeo Valley and take Coastal Trail to Black Sands Beach. Lunch at Slacker Hill. Hike under Golden Gate Bridge and explore Fort Baker and coastal batteries at Cavallo Point. Return by the SCA Trail. 3B option available. Heavy rain cancels. **Meet:** 9 am sharp at Highway 101 at Morning Sun trailhead, Spencer Ave. Bus Pad, Sausalito. **Ends:** 4:30 pm. **Leader:** Katy C Christie, (510)277-5386 or kathyhike@gmail.com. (Hiking)

**Stewartville Valley Black Diamond Mines 2B hike.** Leisurely pace. Impressive views in historic coal-mining area. Some steep trails. Any rain cancels. **Cost:** \$5 car entry fee. **Bring:** Flashlight for mine tunnel. Food to eat and share at post-hike barbecue/potluck in park. **Meet:** 10 am at last parking lot in Black Diamond Mines Regional Park. **Ends:** 4:30 pm. **Leader:** Guy Mayes, (510)522-1590. (Hiking)

**April 11 • Sat**

**Inner Sunset/Haight-Ashbury-Corona Heights 1B hike.** One-way hike from the Inner Sunset through the Haight/Ashbury to Corona Heights with old Victorian homes and wonderful views. Return via Muni. Rain cancels. **Cost:** Return Muni fare. **Meet:** 10:15 at 9th and Irving Streets northeast corner. **Ends:** 3 pm. **Leader:** Gloria Navarra, (415)731-6144. (Hiking)

**Mitchell Canyon wildflower walk.** Leisurely loop walk to enjoy spring wildflowers in a scenic canyon. Rain cancels. After hike, optional stop nearby for refreshments and sociability. **Meet:** 2 pm in Interpretive Center parking lot. **Cost:** \$6 parking fee. **Ends:** 4 pm. **Leader:** Lucy Henderson, (925)254-2898 or hndrsnlucy@yahoo.com. (Delta Regional Group)

**April 12 • Sun**

**Marin Headlands 2B hike.** Expect spring wildflowers and scenic views on this moderately-paced loop on the Coastal, Bobcat, and SCA trails. Any rain cancels. **Meet:** 9 am at the Morning Sun trailhead at the Highway 101 Spencer exit commuter parking area. **Leader:** Paul F Glodis, (510)665-6158 or pglodis@mindspring.com. (Marin Group)

**Mount Diablo Frog Pond and Green Ranch 2B loop hike.** Descend into lovely riparian Curry Canyon, then climb through a mixture of meadow and woodland to secluded Frog Pond. Steep ascent to the Green Ranch site and Oak Knoll before downhill return to Curry Point. Rain cancels. **Cost:** \$10 car entry fee. **Meet:** 10 am at Curry Point trailhead on South Gate Road. **Leader:** Jake Van Akkeren, (925)933-3486 or jvanakkeren@comcast.net (preferred). (Mount Diablo Group, co-sponsored by MDIA and SMD)

**Morgan Territory ridgetops 2B hike.** Celebrate the green hills of spring and explore Bob Walker and Highland Ridges during wildflower season on this one-way hike. Moderate pace. Any rain cancels. **Meet:** 10:30 am at Morgan Territory Preserve main parking lot. Car shuttle organized at trailhead. **Ends:** 5:30 pm. **Leader:** Bob Solotar, (510)525-2110 or bob\_solotar@hotmail.com. (Mount Diablo Group)

**Landscape art show at Centro Latino.** Celebrate Earth Day viewing landscape artwork by local artist, Kathy Diehl. The show will feature paintings inspired by local parks, state parks, and marinas. **Meet:** 2:30 – 6:30 pm at Centro Latino, 2530 San Pablo Avenue, Suite E, Berkeley.

**April 18 • Sat**

**To the top of Mount Tam 2B loop hike.** Climb to the top of Mount Tam from Rock Springs parking lot then loop back by West Point Inn. **Meet:** 9:30 am Miller and Locust in Mill Valley (in front of the 7/11). **Carpool:** 8:30 am at the North Berkeley BART station (outside the front gate) to drive over to the hike. **Leader:** James Bonsey, (510)527-5345 or jlbj3@netzero.net. (Marin Group)

**Earth Day Contra Loma work party.** Spring cleanup along park-entrance road. Fresh air, exercise, sociability, and a cleaner corner of the Planet Earth. Rain postpones. **Meet:** 10 am in the trailhead parking area at sharp bend in Frederickson Lane, just before Park entrance. **Ends:** noon. **Leader:** Tim Donahue, (925)754-8801 or timothydonahue@sbcglobal.net. (Delta Regional Group)

**April 18 • Sat**

**Tomales Bluff 2B hike.** The bells toll as bay meets sea at land's end on a leisurely-paced hike along the moors of the northern tip of Point Reyes. Mellow hikers welcomed. Any rain cancels. **Meet:** 11 am at McClure's Beach lower parking lot. **Ends:** 5 pm. **Leader:** Steve Bakaley, (925)945-8205 slbakaley@lbl.gov. (Hiking and Sierra Singles)

**April 19 • Sun**

**Las Trampas / Devils Hole 2B hike.** Highlights are the Bay views and soaring raptors. Wildflowers and possible off-trail seasonal waterfall. Rain cancels. **Meet:** 10 am at Las Trampas parking lot. **Leader:** Ernest Castiaux, (510)909-3301 or ecastiaux@hotmail.com (preferred). (Mount Diablo Group)

**Pacifica Ridgetops 3B hike.** Visit three units of the GGNRA in Pacifica for panoramic vistas and a wildflower hotspot. See where the Bay was first viewed by the Spanish and learn how the area was saved from development. Rain cancels. **Meet:** 10:30 am at Paloma Ave. and Oceana Blvd. (off Hwy 1), across from the Salada Beach Café in Pacifica. **Ends:** 5:30 pm. **Leader:** Bob Solotar, (510)525-2110 or bob\_solotar@hotmail.com. (Hiking)

**Telegraph Hill to Coit Tower and beyond 1A hike.** Enjoy human creation and natural beauty, as well as spectacular views. Enjoy the world-famous Depression-era murals of Coit Tower and Grace Marchand's lush gardens. If you're lucky, we'll see the famous parrots of Telegraph Hill. Optional late lunch at the Ferry Building. Rain cancels. **Bring:** Binoculars for a spectacular view from Coit Tower. **Meet:** 11 am in front of Peter and Paul's Catholic Church in San Francisco's North Beach. **Leader:** Vera Lis, (510)234-8949. (Solo Sierrans)

**Landscape art show at Centro Latino.** Details same as April 12 event.

**April 25 • Sat**

**Mount Tamalpais 3C hike.** Any rain cancels. **Meet:** 9 am Fairfax Parkade. **Leader:** Pao Chen, (510)237-7570 or paoc945@yahoo.com. (Hiking)

**Emeryville Marina 1A hike.** Hourlong walk along the boardwalk and through the marina. Enjoy the evening views of San Francisco and the Golden Gate Bridge. The walk is flat, easy, and wheelchair friendly. Optional early dinner afterwards at the Emery Bay Market food court. 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)

**April 26 • Sun**

**San Pedro Ridge/China Camp 3C hike.** Head up to San Pedro Ridge and enjoy views. Drop down to explore China Camp before climbing back up the ridge. Any rain cancels. **Meet:** 9 am at 99 Woodoaks Drive, San Rafael. **Leader:** Tom Post, (415)690-6572 or tpost123@hotmail.com. (Hiking)

**Mount Diablo Pine Canyon & Wall Ridge 3C loop hike.** See Little Yosemite, Castle Rock, Wall Point, and splendid views of Mount Diablo. Wildflowers should be abundant. Steady relaxed pace. **Cost:** \$6 vehicle entry fee. **Meet:** 9 am at Macedo Ranch trailhead at end of Green Valley Road. **Leader:** Jake Van Akkeren, (925)933-3486 or jvanakkeren@comcast.net (preferred). (Mount Diablo Group, co-sponsored by MDIA and SMD)

**May 1 • Fri – May 3 • Sun**

**Lost Coast Beach Walk 3A1 backpack.** Three-day backpack trip of the classic Lost Coast Beach Walk between Shelter Cove and Mattole. **Cost:** \$ 45 includes car camping and permit fees. **Bring:** Your own food and cooking gear. Bear canisters are required. **Meet:** 7 am at Shelter Cove. **Carpool:** Trip roster will be emailed to all confirmed participants so that you can arrange ride sharing to meeting point. **Leader:** Thomas Meissner, (707)795-7980 or meissner.thomas@sbcglobal.net. (Backpacking)

**May 3 • Sun**

**Mount Diablo Twin Peaks 1B loop hike.** We'll wend our way past Mitchell Rock to Twin Peaks for outstanding views. After following the spine ridge separating Back and Mitchell Canyons, we'll descend steeply over loose rock to the lowlands below. Wildflowers should be abundant. Leisurely, flower-sniffing pace. **Cost:** \$6 vehicle entry fee (need exact change). **Meet:** 1 pm at Mitchell Canyon trailhead. **Leader:** Jake Van Akkeren, (925)933-3486 or jvanakkeren@comcast.net (preferred). (Mount Diablo Group)

**May 8 • Fri**

**Morgan Territory Regional Preserve 2B hike.** Route hugs Bob Walker Ridge with magnificent views of Mount Diablo and North Peak. Return via meadows, a riparian canyon, a stretch of chaparral and lovely oak parkland. Wildflowers should be abundant. Steady, relaxed pace. Rain cancels. **Meet:** 10 am at Morgan Territory Road Staging Area. **Leader:** Jake Van Akkeren, (925)933-3486 or jvanakkeren@comcast.net (preferred). (Mount Diablo Group, co-sponsored by SMD)

**May 9 • Sat**

**Mission and Monument Peaks from the wild east side 3C hike.** Climb Mission Peak from the wild east side and continue on to Monument Peak. Moderate pace. Rain cancels. **Cost:** \$5 per car park entry fee plus \$2 per person for permit. **Meet:** 10 am at Sunol Regional Wilderness, by visitor center. **Ends:** 6:30 pm. **Leader:** Bob Solotar, (510)525-2110 or bob\_solotar@hotmail.com. (Mount Diablo Group)

**Spectacular Table Rock 1B hike.** Short but steep hike to rocky cliffs with spectacular views. Leisurely pace. Post-hike dinner in Calistoga. Rain cancels. **Bring:** Money for post-hike dinner in Calistoga. **Meet:** 10:45 am at dirt parking lot at crest of Highway 29 in Robert Louis Stevenson State Park near Calistoga. **Ends:** 4:30 pm. **Leader:** Guy Mayes, (510)522-1590. (Hiking)

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

**May 10 • Sun**

**Point Reyes/Drakes Head 2A hike.** Hike along Drakes Estero and nearby pastureland to lunch spot at Drakes Head. Rain cancels. **Meet:** 9 am at Fairfax Parkade (across from Fairfax Theater) to carpool to Point Reyes. **Leader:** Paul F Glodis, (510)665-6158 or pglodis@mindspring.com. (Marin Group)

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

**May 10 • Sun**

**Mount Diablo State Park Mount Olympia 3D hike.** Wend over to Donner Canyon before climbing steeply to the rocky perch of Mount Olympia with panoramic views. Ascend to just below North Peak before descending to Prospector's Gap. Return via lovely Bald Ridge and Back Canyon Trails. Wildflowers should be abundant. Steady relaxed pace. Rain cancels. **Cost:** \$6 vehicle entrance fee (exact change). **Meet:** 10 am at Mitchell Canyon trailhead. **Leader:** Jake Van Akkeren, (925)933-3486 or jvanakkeren@comcast.net (preferred). (Mount Diablo Group, co-sponsored by MDIA and SMD)

**May 16 • Sat**

**Zen Center gardens and Muir Beach 3C hike.** Hike from Tennessee Valley up the Miwok Trail. Pass by Hope Cottage and hike through the gardens at the Zen Center. Climb to Muir Beach Overlook to enjoy spectacular views. Lunch at Muir Beach. Return by the Coastal Trail to Wolf Ridge and Hill 88, then down Old Springs Trail to Miwok Stables. Heavy rain cancels. **Meet:** 9 am sharp at 701 Tennessee Valley Road (by stables), Mill Valley. **Ends:** 4:30 pm. **Leader:** Katy C Christie, (510)277-5386 or katyhike@gmail.com. (Hiking)

**Wunderlich County Park 3B hike.** Explore one of the Peninsula's best kept secrets: the lush redwood and madrone forests of Wunderlich County Park, which used to be the Folgers Estate of coffee fame. Occasional views of the East Bay Hills. Rain cancels. **Meet:** 11 am at Alambique Trail, Woodside. **Carpool:** Parking is very limited at trailhead. Arrange carpools or meet at Walnut Creek BART at 9:15 am. **Leader:** Steve Bakaley, (925)945-8205 or slbakaley@lbl.gov. (Mount Diablo Group and Sierra Singles)

**May 16 • Sat**

**Mount Wanda, John Muir National Historic Site hike.** Leisurely walk on scenic oak-covered hills that are part of the historic John Muir ranch. After, optional stop nearby for refreshments. Rain cancels. **Meet:** 11 am at the Park and Ride lot on Alhambra Ave., just south of its intersection with Highway 4. **Leader:** Lidia Campos, (925)240-5795 or lidiacampos@sbcglobal.net. (Delta Regional Group)

**May 17 • Sun**

**Mount Diablo Oak Knoll and Summit 2B loop hike.** Head up to the central peak, then circle the mountain top before descending to Oak Knoll. Wildflowers should be abundant. Rain cancels. **Cost:** \$10 vehicle entry fee. **Meet:** 11 am at wide parking lot at entrance to Juniper Camp on Summit Road. **Leader:** Jake Van Akkeren, (925)933-3486 or jvanakkeren@comcast.net (preferred). (Mount Diablo Group, co-sponsored by MDIA and SMD)

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

**May 23 • Sat**

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

**May 23 • Sat**

**Historical West Point Inn 2B loop hike.** Hike halfway up Mount Tam. Walk through Mount Theater. **Meet:** 9:30 am Miller and Locust in Mill Valley (in front of the 7/11). **Carpool:** 8:30 am at North Berkeley BART (outside the front gate) to drive to the hike. **Leader:** James Bonsey, (510)527-5345 or jlbj3@netzero.net. (Marin Group)

**Tilden Regional Park 1A hike.** Hourlong walk through eucalyptus groves. Optional early dinner on Solano Ave. at Cactus Taqueria in Berkeley. **Meet:** 3:30 pm at Lone Oak parking lot. **Leader:** Vera Lis, (510)234-8949. (Solo Sierrans)

**May 24 • Sun**

**Colma Cemetery 2A hike.** Historical walk through the many cemeteries of Colma, the "City of Souls." This walk is Part 1; Part 2 is in October-November. Leisurely pace. Post-walk dinner at local restaurant. Rain cancels. **Bring:** Money for dinner. **Meet:** 10 am at Colma BART station near Station Agent's office. **Ends:** 5:30 pm. **Leader:** Guy Mayes, (510)522-1590; Gloria Navarra, (415)731-6144. (Hiking)

**May 28 • Thu - June 3 • Wed**

**San Francisco Green Film Festival.** Now heading into its fifth year, each festival presents carefully-curated new films from both established and emerging filmmakers. The festival also brings together green artists from across the Bay Area, including musicians, painters, sculptors, designers, and photographers who are inspired by the environment. Email [conservation@glshikes.org](mailto:conservation@glshikes.org) to be notified of the films GLS will be attending as a group. **Leader:** Pamela LoPinto, (415)641-0644 or pamlo@att.net. (Gay & Lesbian)

**May 30 • Sat**

**Pescadero Creek County Park 3B/C hike.** Explore less-traveled territory through first- and second-growth redwood forests, with the occasional panoramic view. Moderate pace. Steady rain cancels. **Cost:** \$6 parking fee. **Meet:** 10:15 am at Sam MacDonald County Park parking lot. **Ends:** 6:30 pm. **Leader:** Bob Solotar, (510)525-2110 or bob\_solotar@hotmail.com. (Hiking)

**May 31 • Sun**

**Point Reyes 3C loop hike.** We'll start at the Laguna Youth Hostel and work our way down the coast enjoying Sculptured Beach and Kelham Beach. We then climb up to Inverness Ridge and enjoy the scenery on our way back to the trailhead. **Meet:** 9 am at Fairfax Parkade, Fairfax. **Leader:** Tom Post, (415)690-6572 or tpost123@hotmail.com. (Hiking)

**June 20 • Sat – June 21 • Sun**

**Yosemite North Rim 2BT backpack.** Enjoy summer solstice with this classic overnight backpack along Yosemite's North Rim for Yosemite's most spectacular gems — avoiding the big crowds of the valley. **Cost:** \$50 includes car camping Friday night, Wilderness permit, and a contribution to the Backpack Section. Advance sign-up and approval required. **Bring:** Your own food and cooking gear. Bear canisters required. **Meet:** 7 am at Hodgdon Meadow Campground, Yosemite National Park, Tuolumne Grove Road, Groveland. **Carpool:** Getting to and from the meeting point is the responsibility of each participant. A trip roster will be emailed to all confirmed participants about two weeks before the trip so that you can arrange ride sharing. **Leader:** Thomas Meissner, (707)795-7980 or meissner.thomas@sbcglobal.net. (Backpacking)

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## SF Dinners: explore China's Silk Road and Pakistan's Grand Korakoram Traverse

Social hour 6 pm, dinner 7 pm, program 8 pm. Note new location: Covenant Presbyterian Church, 321 Taraval St. between Funston and 14th Ave. Take Muni L or 28. Limited parking 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

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

### Thu, April 16 — China's Silk Road: a bicycle journey across China with Phil Mumford

Phil Mumford's 2014 bicycle trip along

the Silk Road began in Shanghai, continued through Xian, Dunjuang, and Turpan, and ended in Kashgar. Join Phil as he cycles from the agricultural and industrial east to the deserts of the west, camping next to the Great Wall and passing through sandstorms in the desert. Phil, a retired teacher, is an avid bicycle tourist who has ridden across America, Africa, Europe, and China.

Checks must be received by Fri., April 10.

### Thu, May 21 — Grand Korakoram Traverse with Seiji Kawamura

Join Seiji as he treks from Askole to K2 Basecamp on the Baltoro Glacier along breathtaking high mountain scenery. To begin the trek, he endured a 26-hour white-knuckle jeep ride from Islamabad to Skardu on "the road from hell," the Korakoram Highway.

Seiji taught physics and chemistry for 25 years. He is now active with the Snowcamping and Backpacking Sections of the Bay Chapter, and treks in Asia, South America, and Africa.

Checks must be received by Fri., May 15.

## Learn Wilderness First Aid with the Sierra Club!

Saturday, May 2-Sunday, May 3, 8:30 am-5 pm, Chapter office, 2530 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley.

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

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

If you already have the current WEC textbook (200 pages) and show it at the registration table, deduct \$15. The old edition (196 pages) won't do.

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

### Registration

If you are a current Bay Chapter outing leader, register by the Tuesday before the class

by calling (510)848-0800 or emailing [wfa@sfbaysc.org](mailto:wfa@sfbaysc.org).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Photo by Seiji Kawamura, who will present at May 21 San Francisco Dinner.

## East Bay Dinners: water policy and biking coast to coast

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

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

Evelyn Randolph  
938 Galvin Drive  
El Cerrito, CA 94530  
(510)526-2494

Attendance is limited to the first 115 reservations received. Reserve early, as these programs do fill up. Reservation deadline for the April program is April 16, and May 21 for that month's program. There is no admittance for program only.

### Thu, April 23 — Bicycling Across America: 3,300 miles in 59 days

In the summer of 1979, Tim Loughman, then living in New York City, phoned his brother Bill, who lived in Berkeley, and said, "You doing anything over the next month or two? I'm going to ride my bike to Atlanta." Bill, with little experience and no equipment for such a trip, reflected for a moment, and then said, "Sure."

Join us as we travel with the Loughman brothers from Vancouver, Washington, to the Statue of Liberty, via the Columbia River Gorge; over portions of the Lewis and Clark Trail and the Rocky Mountains; across vast open stretches of the Great Plains states; through the Great Lakes region; and over the Appalachians to the East Coast — a total of 3,300 miles. Along the way Bill and Tim

encountered numerous flat tires, a few assaults, cycling crashes, locusts, ghost towns, hot springs, many memorable people, and countless beautiful scenes of nature and Americana.

Tim Loughman is a writer, copy editor, and book seller residing in Morro Bay, California. In addition to his bike journeys stateside, he has biked from Paris to Milan via the Rhine Valley, through Bavaria, Austria, and the Italian Alps. His brother, Bill, is an attorney and amateur photographer (and former program chairman of the Bay Chapter's East Bay Dinners) residing in Orinda, California. Apart from one trip in 1975, from Berkeley to Morro Bay via the coast highways, Bill's only long-distance bicycling experience was the trip across America featured in this program.

### Thu, May 28 — Water policy in a drought era

Jerry Gilbert will talk about how water management is changing in the West and how to deal with scarcity while complying with today's legal framework. The presentation will consider whether we are integrating and wisely approaching our conservation efforts, and how we can better use technology to study and improve the way we use water.

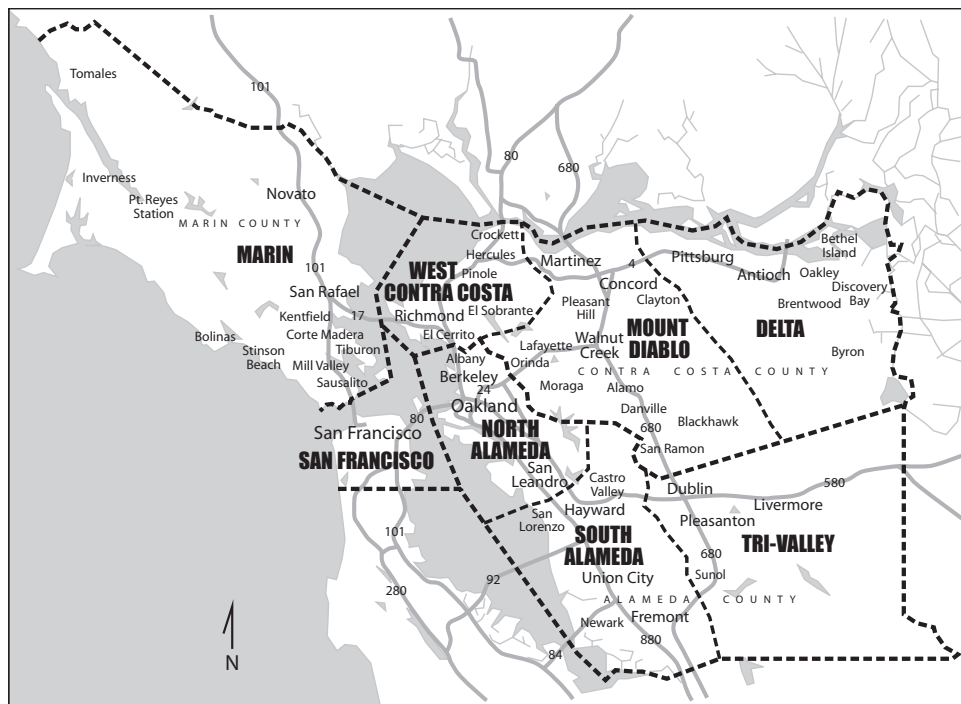
Jerome B. (Jerry) Gilbert is a consulting engineer based in Orinda. He has been the General Manager of East Bay Municipal Utility District, the Executive Officer of California State Water Resources Control Board, Chairman of the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board, and has recently been consultant to public water utilities across the West. Gilbert has led the development of California water legislation including Urban Water Management Planning Act and the Porter Cologne Act.



# 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.



## Delta Group: National Park “scene” and wildflower walk

**Tue, May 5 — They go together: Sierra Club, John Muir, & National Parks**

7:15 pm, Antioch Library, 501 West 18th St., Antioch. For our May program, we’ll go straight to the source: lead National Park Ranger Jim MacDonald. Jim will introduce us to the four National Park sites in the East Bay: Rosie the Riveter/World War II Home Front Historic Park in Richmond, Eugene O’Neil National Historic Site in Danville, Port Chicago Naval Magazine National Memorial near Concord, and John Muir National Historic Site, Martinez. Jim will also talk about Muir’s time on his fruit ranch in Martinez.

Jim is a twenty-four-year veteran of the National Park Service. He has been stationed at the Presidio, Alcatraz, Muir Woods, Jean Lafitte National Historic Park and Preserve, and now the East Bay Parks.

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

**Sat, May 9 — Antioch Dunes wildflower walk**

10 am, Antioch Dunes National Wildlife Refuge. The Refuge is normally closed to the public, so here is your chance to see this unique 55-acre wildlife preserve along the San Joaquin River shoreline. A refuge docent will lead a one-hour walk to see wildflowers in bloom and

habitat restoration for the three endangered species here: Antioch Dunes evening primrose (now in bloom), Contra Costa wallflower, and Lange’s Metalmark butterfly. Meet at the main Dunes Refuge gate and parking area.

A newsletter listing Delta Group programs, is available by \$5 subscription. To receive the Newsletter, send a \$5 check made out to “Sierra Club, Delta Group” to Janess Hanson, 431 Levee 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.



Antioch Dunes evening primrose.

## Green Fridays: our energy future and raptor safety

Green Friday programs feature informative speakers and discussions about the important environmental issues of our time. All are welcome—Sierra Club members as well as nonmembers.

Green Friday meets on the second Friday of the month in the Sierra Club Office, 2530 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. Doors open at 7 pm; program runs from 7:30 to 9:30 pm including questions and discussion. Refreshments are served. A \$3 donation is requested.

**Fri, April 10 — “Why renewables can’t replace fossil fuel”**

Renewables provide too little energy to replace themselves — let alone deliver excess energy to run society — and depend too much on fossil fuels every step of the way (i.e. ore mining, fabrication, delivery over bitumen roads, etc.). Heavy-duty freight transportation can’t be electrified with batteries or overhead wires.

Alice Friedemann has been writing about energy and other resources since 2000. Her writing can be found at [www.energyskeptic.com](http://www.energyskeptic.com). Friedemann’s book, “When Trucks Stop Running: Oil and the Future of the Freight Transport System,” will be published in November 2015.

**Fri, May 8 — “Rat poison kills more than rats”**

Is rat poison our “new DDT”? Lisa Owens Viani of Raptors Are the Solution (R.A.T.S.) will describe the epidemic of wildlife mortality

**Mt. Diablo Group: “Footloose and fancy free in England”**

Wed., May 13, 7 pm, Ygnacio Valley Library, 2661 Oak Grove Road, Walnut Creek.

Experience a bit of merry old England as Diane Smith leads us over of some that country’s most popular long-distance walking paths.

Diane will show us Wainwright’s Coast to Coast, which traverses northern England from St. Bees on the Irish Sea, through Cumbria and Yorkshire, and ends at Robin Hood’s Bay on the North Sea. Along the way,



Photo by Pamela Dimeler.

being caused by rat poison in the food web. She will explain its impacts on birds of prey as well as on coyotes, bobcats, mountain lions, and Pacific fishers, among other animals.

Lisa will discuss recent regulatory changes affecting over-the-counter purchase of rodenticides, loopholes in the law, alternatives to rodenticides, and what individuals can do to help beneficial predators thrive and continue to provide us with their free and natural pest-control services.

Lisa Owens Viani, a longtime environmental activist and writer, co-founded and directs R.A.T.S., a project of Earth Island Institute. R.A.T.S. educates people about the ecological role of raptors and the enormous danger to raptors and all wildlife, as well as pets and children, from the wide use and availability of rat poisons. R.A.T.S. partners with other NGOs, agencies, scientists, municipalities, and others to work toward eliminating toxic rodenticides from the food web.

we’ll traverse tarns, becks, gills, pikes and fells. And if that’s still not enough for you, add in some vales, dales, and hauses. Prepare to discover the wettest place in England, historic ruins, heather moors, and lots and lots of sheep!

Diane Smith has been involved in the Bay Area hiking community since joining the Bay Chapter in 1981. She served as a member of the Executive Committee of the Mount Diablo Group for many years. Diane is a roving docent with the Mount Diablo Interpretive Association. She also enjoys hiking on Mount Tamalpais, where she is a member of the West Point Inn Association and the California Alpine Club. She has made several trips to Europe for both hiking and sightseeing.

This program is open to all with no reservations necessary. If you have questions, contact Ken Lavin at [ken\\_lavin@hotmail.com](mailto:ken_lavin@hotmail.com) or (925)852-8778.



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## Toxic tar sands at heart of Phillips 66 plans for Bay Area — Dangerous crude-by-rail project moves forward

As reported in the December-January Yodeler (read "Your help needed to protect California from the next oil-by-rail disaster" at <http://theyodeler.org/?p=9918>), energy giant Phillips 66 is fighting to upgrade its two-part San Francisco Refinery so that it can join the growing list of Bay Area refineries that receive and process highly toxic and explosive grades of "extreme" crude oil. Canadian tar sands oil is the crude grade intended for this project. Tar sands, or oil sands, come out of the ground as a solid mix of sand, clay, water, and bitumen — the most dense and viscous form of petroleum — which must then be diluted with highly-flammable solvents for transport. If the Phillips 66 project is approved, the diluted crude would travel south from Canada in mile-long trains, coming down the Feather River Canyon, over the delta, through Bay Area communities, and southward along the coast to the Santa Maria refinery. After being partially refined there, solvent-dissolved tar sands products would be sent back north through a 200-mile pipeline to the Rodeo refinery for production of gasoline, diesel, and jet fuel, and recovery of propane and butane.

If approved, the project to bring Canadian tar sands to the Bay Area would threaten air quality, climate security, and public safety. Despite widespread outcry from communities living along the rail lines and in the shadows of the two refineries, the plan continues to gain approvals necessary to proceed. On February 4th, the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors gave nearly-unanimous approval for a land-use permit for the Rodeo portion of the two-refinery project, with only District 1 supervisor John Gioia dissenting.

Phillips 66 has sought to minimize the perceived impacts of their plan by presenting plans for the Rodeo and Santa Maria refineries "piecemeal," as if they were two distinct or separate projects. The company sought approvals for the changes it will need to make in order to switch to tar sands via at least five separate environmental reviews processes in two counties. This misleading practice is expressly prohibited under the California Environmental Quality Act, which requires the environmental impacts of all new projects or modifications be considered. As a result of the "piecemeal" approach, communities have had to fight this project in both Contra Costa and San Luis Obispo Counties.

In early March, three separate lawsuits were filed against Contra Costa County and Phillips 66 (by Communities for a Better Environment, the Rodeo Citizens Association, and Safe Fuel Energy Resources of California, which represents the United Steel Workers union members at the Rodeo refinery) on exactly this rationale: that by failing to consider the linked refineries' two projects as pieces of a larger plan to import and process tar sands they were underestimating its impacts on air pollution, climate, and safety.

Phillips 66 has been deliberately unclear

about the true goal of these interrelated refinery upgrade projects: to enable them to switch from the type of crude being processed from a more "conventional" mixture of oils (supplies of which are dwindling worldwide) to cheaper Canadian tar sands. It is only through community groups' and activists' consistent watchdogging and digging deeper into the details that we know that Phillips 66 is switching over to the much more dangerous crude stock.

Canadian tar sands oil is one of the world's dirtiest forms of fuel. Here are the facts:

- Refining one barrel of oil from tar sands produces two-to-three times more climate-warming greenhouse-gas emissions than refining a barrel of conventional oil.
- Processing tar sands oil releases pollutants directly linked to asthma, emphysema, and birth defects into our air and water. Tar sands oil contains toxic heavy metals, including 11 times more sulfur and nickel, six times more nitrogen, and five times more lead than conventional crude oil.
- The derailment of a train carrying tar sands could start a fire that would burn for days or spill into our waterways and pollute drinking water and precious ecological resources.
- Super-heated, high-sulfur, acidic tar sands is a perfect storm for accelerated corrosion that can lead to refinery explosions and fires, like the one that occurred at the Chevron Richmond refinery in August of 2012.
- The process of releasing propane, gasoline, diesel, and other products from tar sands produces large quantities of petroleum coke, which is exported and burned overseas as a cheap, toxic, fuel source. Acid rain, anyone?

Given these facts, it only seems right that plans to import and refine Canadian tar sands should be shared with the public and subject to open debate. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, Phillips 66 is already the most polluting refinery in California; and according to the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, Rodeo already has one of the highest asthma rates in the Bay Area. It's time to stand up to Phillips 66 and fight for our health, safety, and climate.

### What You Can Do

Thousands of Californians have already sent in comments to the San Luis Obispo Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors telling them to reject the second half of this dangerous project at the Santa Maria refinery. But letters will not be enough if we're going to win this one. We'll need as many people as possible to join us in San Luis Obispo to testify to the Planning Commission when they consider whether to approve this filthy project. The meeting should be scheduled for some time in April or May. To get involved with the Bay Chapter's campaign against hazardous fossil fuels by rail, contact conservation organizer Ratha Lai at (510)848-0800 x 328 or [ratha.lai@sierraclub.org](mailto:ratha.lai@sierraclub.org).

Charles Davidson



Aerial photo shows clearing of Canada's boreal forests for tar-sands mining. Photo courtesy Pembina Institute on Flickr Creative Commons.

## Exploding trains, backroom deals, and a warming planet: Big Oil is a bad neighbor

The Bay Area has a long and complicated relationship with the oil industry. The region is home to five refineries, the oldest of which started operating in the late 19th century. Chevron, Shell, Phillips 66, Valero, and Tesoro are five of the top seven producers of oil products in California and their Bay Area facilities represent about 40% of the state's total refining capacity.

As we've described in previous articles in this publication, the oil market is changing as the world runs out of accessible crude extracted through "conventional" methods. New grades of "extreme" crudes like Bakken shale oil and Canadian tar sands are extracted through energy-intensive and highly-polluting methods like fracking and clear-cutting forests to mine for tar sands beneath them. All along the journey from the ground to refineries to your car's fuel tank, extreme fuels leave behind a long list of devastating impacts on climate and public health.

The dangers to public safety are multiplied when extreme oil is transported from its extraction site to refineries by rail. Activists have coined these trains "bomb trains" because when they derail, they tend to explode, incinerating anything in their path and sending fireballs hundreds of feet into the air. There were four train derailments in North America between mid February and mid March, all of which caused explosions that were so intense that emergency responders let the fires burn

themselves out instead of fighting them. The derailments in West Virginia and Illinois also spilled large amounts of oil into nearby rivers that provide drinking water to the neighboring communities. The oil and rail industries continue to claim that crude-by-rail accidents are anomalies that are few and far between. With four accidents within one month, those claims cannot be taken seriously.

The Bay Area's one existing crude-by-rail terminal is operated by Kinder Morgan in the Burlington Northern Santa Fe rail yard in Richmond. This terminal was given a permit to operate by the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) in late 2012, without any public process or input from local decision makers. The Richmond City Council passed a resolution asking BAAQMD to revoke the permit for this terminal as it poses extreme danger to the community and is in close proximity to the Point Richmond business district, homes, and an elementary school. Many community-based organizations, including the Bay Chapter, have joined the call to revoke this permit.

Until recently, the Kinder Morgan terminal was bringing two 100-car trains of Bakken shale oil to Richmond each month. From Richmond, the unrefined crude was offloaded to trucks and driven to the Tesoro refinery near Martinez. In late November 2014, Kinder Morgan stopped receiving shipments of Bakken shale when the global price of crude oil

dropped sharply. Investment in extraction of extreme crudes relies on long-term oil dependence and consistent profits. When global oil prices tanked in the fall and into the winter, the production of these extreme crudes started to become economically unsound. Kinder Morgan still has a permit to operate their crude-by-rail terminal, and can resume bringing dangerous oil trains into Richmond whenever they choose, with no public notice.

The Kinder Morgan facility is just one example of how the oil industry operates in the Bay Area: behind closed doors, with little public process or input, and often in coordination with elected officials whose first priority should be representing the interests of the communities surrounding these refineries — not those of the oil companies.

In addition to the Kinder Morgan terminal, there are several other proposed refinery projects that would bring extreme oil into the Bay Area:

- a rail spur at the Valero refinery in Benicia;
- the WesPac mega oil terminal in Pittsburg to bring in crude oil by barge and rail; and
- a complicated project to import Canadian tar sands oil by rail for processing at two linked Phillips 66 refineries in Rodeo and San Luis Obispo County (see article on opposite page).

There was some hope that lower oil prices would cause some of these projects to be delayed or cancelled altogether, but the future of each project is still uncertain. The WesPac project has been in limbo for the past year, while the environmental review for the Valero crude-by-rail project is being recirculated for the third time. The Rodeo portion of the Phillips 66 project was approved last month by the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors, while the San Luis Obispo portion has stacked up thousands of letters of opposition as it goes through the environmental review process.

Throughout California, more than 5.5 million people live within the "blast zone", which spans a quarter mile on either side

of the railroad tracks. We've seen too many derailments that result in explosions and we know that our air, our water, our health, and our lives are being risked for the profit of the richest industry in the history of the planet. Residents across the state are rising up in opposition to the transport of extreme oil through our communities by rail, by barge, by pipeline, and by truck. Join the movement to keep these dirty and dangerous fuels in the ground. To get involved, email Bay Chapter conservation manager Jess Dervin-Ackerman at [jess@sfbaysc.org](mailto:jess@sfbaysc.org).



Workers remove damaged cars carrying crude oil from a train that derailed and caught fire along the James River near downtown Lynchburg, VA, in 2014. Three cars leaked oil into the river in that incident. Photo by Steve Helber.

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## In support of ethics reforms for S.F. “Good government is good for the environment”

The Sierra Club supports the Friends of Ethics, a local good-government group, in its current effort to upgrade the policies and procedures governing political campaigns in San Francisco. This effort focuses on improvements that can be made in a relatively short time frame, before the 2015 election cycle and city budget cycle are complete. It involves encouraging the San Francisco Ethics Commission to adopt a number of needed reforms, some of which will require action by the Board of Supervisors.

The reforms the Sierra Club and Friends of Ethics urge at this time include restrictions on gifts and contributions to city officials from lobbyists or anyone else who could be seen to benefit from a proposed city action; additional powers for the Ethics Commission including the ability to disqualify parties from bidding on or being considered for city contracts; a tightening of regulations on fundraising by candidates for city office; and funding for an Ethics Commission secretary to ensure timely progress on actions taken by the Commission. Find the full list of

requested reforms at [theyodeler.org/?p=10196](http://theyodeler.org/?p=10196).

The San Francisco Ethics Commission was established in 1993 by a voter-approved amendment to the City Charter. Among other functions, it audits financial-disclosure statements filed by political candidates, committees, and designated City and County employees to ensure compliance with contribution limits. The Commission also investigates ethics complaints and assesses fees and penalties for ethics violations such as conflicts of interest while making city decisions, failing to report lobbyist contracts, or failing to meet timetables for disclosing campaign contributors and expenses.

The Sierra Club supports these and other efforts to ensure fair and equitable consideration of public policy issues. The only way the environment (including its inhabitants) has a fighting chance is if we continue to try to level the public policy playing field. Or as stated by San Francisco Group chair Sue Vaughan, “Good government is good for the environment.”

Karen Babbitt

## Bay Chapter advocates for stricter smog regulations to clean up California’s air



Oakland fifth graders in Sacramento to testify in support of stricter smog regulations.

Late last year, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposed to update the nation’s air-quality standards for ground-level ozone — otherwise known as smog — based on extensive scientific evidence of its impacts on human health and the environment. Smog pollution, largely driven by the burning of fossil fuels, can trigger respiratory problems like asthma attacks, nervous system disorders, and cardiovascular problems. Over time, exposure can lead to permanent lung damage and even premature death.

The proposed updates will improve public health protections, particularly for sensitive populations like children, the elderly, and people suffering from lung diseases such as asthma. The EPA estimates that lowering allowed levels of smog to a range of 65 to 70 parts per billion would prevent 320,000 to 960,000 asthma attacks and up to one million missed school days by 2025. The Sierra Club urges the EPA to go even further, lowering allowed smog levels to 60 parts per billion. You can read the full text of the EPA’s proposed rule at <http://tinyurl.com/epasmog>.

The EPA held public forums on the proposed updates in three places across the United States: Washington, D.C., Austin, Texas, and Sacramento, California. According to the American Lung Association, California cities have the dirtiest air in the nation, so we knew we had to pack the hearing room with hundreds of people demanding clean air. The Bay Chapter, in coordination with Sierra Club entities from Southern California all the way to Washington, joined

together to bring over 300 community members impacted by smog to attend the hearing in Sacramento and testify in favor of lowering allowed smog levels. In addition to bringing community leaders, including recently-elected Richmond City Councilmember Eduardo Martinez, the Bay Chapter filled a bus with approximately 50 fifth graders from an Oakland elementary school to pack the hearing room and show support for the EPA’s proposal.

Many of the Sierra Club representatives were young people of color, who are disproportionately impacted by industrial pollution; one recent study from the University of Minnesota found that on average, non-whites inhale 38 percent higher levels of air pollution than whites (read the study at <http://tinyurl.com/pollutiondistribution>).

A memorable moment from the day was when the fifth graders began to chant all by themselves: “What do we want? Clean air! When do we want it? NOW!” Despite their enthusiasm and energy, by the time we went into the hearing room they were respectful and quiet, demonstrating by their presence and their “I Love Clean Air” t-shirts that they respected the regulatory system in charge of protecting their air — and wanted it to reflect their needs.

For these fifth graders, the event was a powerful demonstration of their right to “peaceably assemble” and “petition the Government for a redress of Grievances.” This trip undoubtedly instilled a civic culture of grassroots participation in these young Americans.

Ratha Lai

### Hey, San Francisco voters: we want to hear from you!

#### What do you want in a mayor?

- Are there certain qualities you think San Francisco’s mayor should have?
- How about programs or projects you want to see implemented?



#### Share your thoughts with us!

- > TWEET your answer to @SFBaySierraClub with the hashtag #sfwishlist, or
- > EMAIL your answer to [yodedit@sfbaysc.org](mailto:yodedit@sfbaysc.org).

We may print your response in the next issue of the Yodeler.

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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.

## Streamside development pushes Marin salmon to edge of extinction

### Encourage the Marin County Board of Supervisors to act now to save endangered coho

As reported in recent issues of the Yodeler, the critically-endangered California coastal coho salmon have all but gone extinct in Muir Woods, a jewel of the Bay Area named after environmentalist John Muir (read more about the plight of the coho at <http://theyodeler.org/?s=salmon>). In San Geronimo Valley in Marin County, the last large surviving coho salmon run south of Fort Bragg is dwindling. Shockingly, the Marin County Board of Supervisors steadfastly refuses to act to prevent the extinction of the endangered species. We are out of time. Action must be taken now to save this native species.

All along the coast, the genetically-distinct California coastal coho salmon have faced a host of environmental impacts over the last 150 years, including logging, agriculture, development, and dams. After plunging by 90 percent or more from historic numbers, the species was added to the U.S. Endangered Species list in 1996. This means the species is in imminent danger of extinction, possibly in the next few years.

According to the National Marine Fisheries Service, the biggest threat to the California coho salmon today is development. Salmon need clean, cool water in which to hatch their young, while the young need complex, natural streams to provide food and shelter from big winter storms.

Development within 100 feet of streams eliminates vegetation that shades streams and provides wood to protect young salmon. Building decks, patios, driveways, and houses near streams removes shade and trees from streams and prevents rain from soaking into the soil — instead sending stormwater shooting into streams like water cannons. Right now, San Geronimo Valley is at a tipping point, where more development will increase these impacts and doom the species to extinction.

Over 150 salmon scientists have written to

the Marin County Supervisors asking them to limit development near salmon habitat. The Board's own consultants recommended that setbacks and vegetation protections be put in place to protect the species. Yet, for years, the Board has refused to put science-based, common-sense regulations in place to prevent further development on stream banks and to protect critical streamside vegetation. Marin County has now lost two lawsuits over its failure to comply with environmental laws to protect coho salmon, yet it continues to approve more development projects near streams.

The Sierra Club, the Salmon Protection and Watershed Network (SPAWN), and partner organizations are demanding that the Marin County Board of Supervisors follow scientific recommendations and enact a comprehensive, common-sense ordinance that will preserve critical coho habitat by protecting vegetation and limiting development on stream banks.

### WhatYouCanDo

Here are four steps you can take to help save coho salmon:

1) Make a call for coho! Call *each* of the Marin County Supervisors to tell them it is time to take action to protect our coho salmon:

Kate Sears: (415)473-7331  
Katie Rice: (415)473-6159  
Judy Arnold: (415)473-7371  
Damon Connolly: (415)473-7354  
Steve Kinsey: (415)473-7331

2) Sign our petition to the Marin County Board of Supervisors at [sierraclub.org/sfbay/savethecoho](http://sierraclub.org/sfbay/savethecoho).

3) Come to one of our free "State of the Marin Coho Salmon 2015" presentations by SPAWN Legal Program Director (and long-time Sierra Club member) Doug Karpa to hear

an update on the health of the endangered coho salmon population in the Lagunitas Creek Watershed. Karpa will take questions and comments and share actions citizens can take to help ensure these iconic native fish remain a part of our landscape for generations to come. Find details at <https://seaturtles.org/take-action/events>.

**Thu, March 26, 7 pm:** San Anselmo Council Chambers, 525 San Anselmo Ave., San Anselmo

**Mon., April 6, 7 pm:** Corte Madera Town Center Community Room, 770 Tamalpais Drive, Suite 201, Corte Madera

**Wed., April 15, 7 pm:** U.S. Army Corp of Engineers Bay Model, 2100 Bridgeway, Sausalito

4) Join the California Coho Task Force to help make this campaign a success. For more information or to join the campaign, contact Doug Karpa at [dmkarpa@gmail.com](mailto:dmkarpa@gmail.com).

Doug Karpa, Legal Program Director,  
Turtle Island Restoration Network

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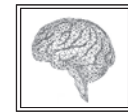


Coho salmon. Photo courtesy of SPAWNUSA.ORG.

### City Arts & Lectures



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## CONVERSATIONS ON SCIENCE 2015

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- WED MAR 4** **SURPRISING BENEFITS OF BACTERIA:  
THE HUMAN MICROBIOME**  
*Katie Pollard*  
Senior Investigator, Gladstone Institutes • Professor, Division of Biostatistics, UCSF  
IN CONVERSATION WITH SHANNON BENNETT
- WED MAR 18** **MINDS OF THEIR OWN: ANIMAL INTELLIGENCE**  
*Virginia Morell*  
*Science* • *Psychology Today* • *National Geographic* • New Book: *Animal Wise*  
IN CONVERSATION WITH ROY EISENHARDT
- WED APR 8** **THE NEUROSCIENCE OF ZEN:  
HAPPINESS, LOVE, AND WISDOM**  
*Rick Hanson*  
Neuropsychologist • Founder, Wellspring Institute for Neuroscience  
and Contemplative Wisdom • *Hardwiring Happiness*  
IN CONVERSATION WITH PAMELA WEISS
- WED APR 29** *The Annual Claire Matzger Lilienthal Distinguished Lecturer*  
**THE INTERNET OF THINGS**  
*Vinton Cerf*  
American Internet Pioneer • Chief Internet Evangelist for Google  
IN CONVERSATION WITH JACOB WARD
- WED MAY 20** **THE SCIENCE OF SLEEP**  
*Matt Walker*  
Sleep and Neuroimaging Lab • Professor of Psychology, UC Berkeley  
IN CONVERSATION WITH INDRE VISCONTAS
- TUES JUN 30** **DRUGS, DOPAMINE, AND LESSONS  
FROM THE BRAIN**  
*Nora Volkow*  
Neuroscientist • Director, National Institute on Drug Abuse  
IN CONVERSATION WITH MICHAEL KRASNY

This series is made possible, in part, by a grant from the Myers Family Fund and the Lilienthal Family Fund.

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## Community Choice gains momentum

Continued from page 1.

called Local Sol that will draw its power from local solar installations. In its initial phase, Local Sol is limited to 200 participants. If you live in MCE's service area and you want to learn more about opting up to either Deep Green or Local Sol, visit [www.mcecleanenergy.org/power-choices](http://www.mcecleanenergy.org/power-choices).

### Alameda County: steady progress

Last June, the Alameda County Board of Supervisors voted to take the first steps in establishing a Community Choice program, allocating \$1.3 million in funding for an exploratory phase. Since then, the county's Transportation and Planning Committee has reviewed many elements that will shape the program, including its goals, structure, and the role and composition of the advisory committee. The County's Transportation and Planning Committee has stated a goal of launching the program as soon as possible, with a current estimated launch date of early 2017.

The East Bay Clean Power Alliance, of which the Bay Chapter is a member, has been closely following this process to ensure that Alameda County's program emphasizes community participation, development of local renewable resources, and the creation of local clean-energy jobs.

County staff have just begun developing the application process for the steering committee and are expecting the committee's membership to be finalized by May. The steering committee will consist of Supervisors' appointees and representatives of cities and other entities that are interested in participating in the Community Choice program.

### San Francisco: unexpected breakthrough

After years of blocking progress on CleanPowerSF, this January San Francisco Mayor Ed Lee dropped his opposition to the city's Community Choice program, allowing it to finally move forward. The success of the program is

not assured, however; 2015 is an election year and we suspect the mayor's support is not unconditional. This means we must ensure that CleanPowerSF is well on its way to launch and unable to be stalled or thwarted before Election Day on November 3rd, 2015. The San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC), which oversees the program, plans to launch CleanPowerSF by early 2016. At present, however, it appears that the SFPUC is moving too slowly to meet that goal.

The SFPUC has decided to adopt a two-tiered pricing structure like that of Marin Clean Energy for CleanPowerSF, a move that the Sierra Club has advocated for several years. Under this pricing structure, CleanPowerSF will sell two types of electricity. The base level, into which all customers will be automatically enrolled, will sell for less than PG&E's standard, dirtier electricity. The low price will help keep customers in the program. CleanPowerSF will also offer a second, opt-up offering that will likely be 100-percent renewable for an as-yet-undetermined price.

We need everyone's help to make sure this important program launches so that San Francisco residents can benefit from clean, affordable energy, green jobs, and economic investment in local renewable-energy infrastructure.

The Sierra Club will rally at 12:30 pm on Tuesday, April 28, at San Francisco City Hall to ask the SFPUC to end the delays and finally provide a clean energy choice for San Francisco after 12 long years of waiting. Learn more at [www.bayareaenergychoice.org/events/rallyforcleanpowersf](http://www.bayareaenergychoice.org/events/rallyforcleanpowersf).

### Contra Costa County: a growing call for Community Choice

Since we last wrote about Community Choice in this publication last fall, two more cities in Contra Costa County have joined Marin Clean Energy. In February, enrollment notices for residents of El Cerrito and San Pablo landed in mailboxes, alerting them that



Bay Chapter conservation organizers Jess Dervin-Ackerman and Ratha Lai rally for Community Choice energy at the February 2015 March for Real Climate Leadership in Oakland.

they'll soon be automatically enrolled in the clean-energy program.

Lafayette may be the next city in Contra Costa County to jump on the MCE bandwagon. The city's Environmental Task Force has recommended that the city council authorize a feasibility study to evaluate joining Marin Clean Energy. Walnut Creek took this step last year. And in a discussion about its climate action plan in December, the Walnut Creek City Council declared its intention to work to persuade the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors to establish a county-wide Community Choice energy program. With more and more cities jumping ship for MCE, Contra Costa County should seriously consider the option.

A county-wide Community Choice program would benefit the county in many ways. It would mean that cities like La-

fayette would not have to bear the cost of feasibility studies on their own. In addition, there are many unincorporated areas within Contra Costa County — such as Rodeo, Crockett, and Kensington — that do not have the option of establishing their own Community Choice programs but might wish to join one. Add on the benefits to the environment and the local economy and it's clear that establishing a Community Choice energy program in Contra Costa County would be a major step toward creating more sustainable, responsible, and resilient communities.

### WhatYouCanDo

Want to advocate for Community Choice in your community? Add your name at [www.bayareaenergychoice.org](http://www.bayareaenergychoice.org) and we'll be in touch with opportunities for you to make a difference.



### Symphony discounts for Sierra Clubbers!

To thank Sierra Club members like you, the San Francisco Symphony is offering reduced-rate tickets in April and May. Use code "61610" to get a discount on many of the shows that are featured here: <http://tinyurl.com/tixforclubbers>. Most tickets are 25 to 50 percent off with code! Note that some concerts or seats may not be eligible for the discount.



Muir Woods; Photo by Miwok on Flickr Creative Commons.

## Get involved in the Bay Chapter's new Federal Parks Committee

The Bay Chapter has formed a Federal Parks Committee, which will be concerned with planning and other issues in our region's national parks. The committee's immediate focus will be parks currently engaged in planning processes, including Marin's Muir Woods, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, and Point Reyes National Seashore.

The Bay Area is home to many spectacular sites of natural and historic interest that are managed by the National Park Service. In addition to the three parks listed above, examples include the Rosie the Riveter

WWII Home Front National Historical Park, the John Muir National Historic Site, the Presidio, the San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park, Fort Point National Historic Site, and the Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site.

The new committee will not deal with federal wildlife refuges.

### WhatYouCanDo

If you are interested in joining the Federal Parks Committee, please contact committee chair Alan Carlton at (510)769-3403 or [carltonal@yahoo.com](mailto:carltonal@yahoo.com).

## Farewell to Frank Dean — Head of Golden Gate National Recreation Area moving on after productive tenure

Frank Dean, who served as General Superintendent of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA) since 2009, is leaving the National Park Service to join the Yosemite Conservancy as its new President and CEO.

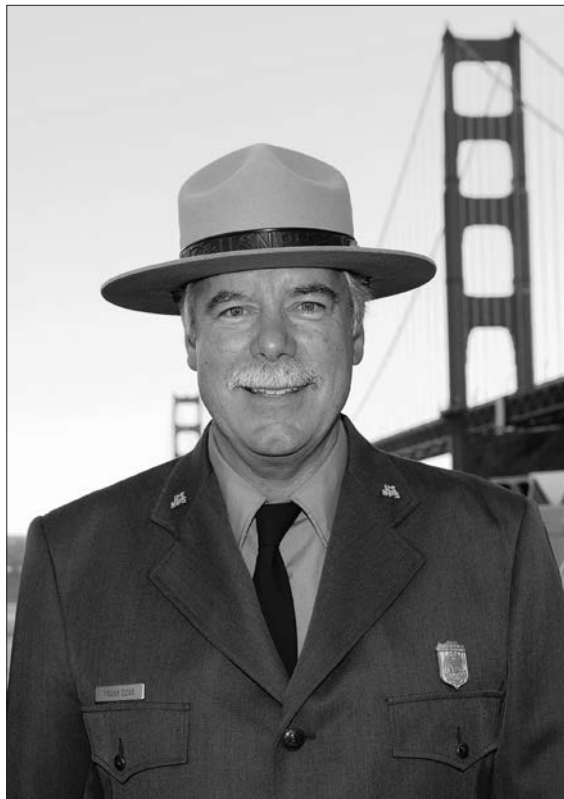
“Frank Dean came to the Golden Gate National Recreation Area after the sudden death of our much-loved superintendent, Brian O’Neill,” recalls Becky Evans, longtime GGNRA activist. “O’Neill had been deeply involved in the communities surrounding the park for more than 25 years. It was a hard position to inherit, but over his tenure Frank has succeeded in improving the park in many ways.”

Frank’s first job was to bring together his deeply-saddened staff, which he did most effectively. Many projects in the park were left partly-finished upon O’Neill’s death, and had relied on his community connections. Frank approached this unfinished business with a strong background and deep knowledge base that enabled him to bring the projects to a successful conclusion.

“This park, embedded in an urban area where so many people care vociferously about its attributes, is one of the most complex to administer in the national park system,” said GGNRA advocate Amy Meyer. “Frank’s stalwart support of National Park principles and his personal warmth won the admiration and affection of park advocates.”

A park superintendent is frequently under the radar except to those working on specific issues — which in an urban area can be many and diverse. Frank worked hand-in-hand with the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy and the Presidio Trust to conserve and improve the GGNRA. Among his numerous accomplishments as Superintendent of the GGNRA, he:

- Fostered an innovative partnership with the Golden Gate Bridge District and Parks Conservancy to provide modern visitor facilities at the iconic bridge;
- Initiated a new partnership to protect the Mt. Tamalpais ecosystem;
- Established a major capital campaign to preserve facilities on Alcatraz;
- Worked out a win-win arrangement with the Veterans Administration Medical Center under which their temporary need for extended parking as they undergo construction is helping pay for restoration and eventual repurposing of the octagon house at Lands End.
- Continued the Ocean Beach project begun by his predecessor in coordination with the urban planning nonprofit SPUR and seven agencies. The project is designed to beautify the beach and adja-



Frank Dean

cent areas and help the southern part, in particular, become more resistant to the effects of climate change.

- Defended the requirements of the National Historic Preservation Act, which helped lead to the defeat of the George Lucas Museum proposed to be erected adjacent to the Presidio’s Crissy Field.
- Participated effectively in a multi-agency effort to deal with the difficult traffic, parking, and natural resource problems at Muir Woods, a project now approaching resolution.

Prior to serving at GGNRA, Frank was superintendent of Saratoga National Historical Park and assistant superintendent at Point Reyes National Seashore. His position at the Yosemite Conservancy marks a return to his roots; a trip to Yosemite as a college student triggered Frank’s passion for the outdoors and conservation, and inspired a career working in our national parks.

Frank went on to serve in Yosemite as a park ranger, and from 1990 to 1995 was management assistant to the superintendent and the primary National Park Service contact on Yosemite Conservancy projects. Working with the Conservancy, he helped establish project review guidelines for work with the National Park Service (NPS), and he led the NPS team on the dramatic improvements and restoration of Glacier Point overlook. Frank also was a park ranger in Sequoia and Grand Canyon national parks.

Frank will be missed, but we look forward to seeing more of his good work in action at Yosemite!

Becky Evans

## Classifieds

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

For information about display ads (boxed ads for your business or service) or a rate card, contact advertising manager Amy Felix at [yodelerads@sierraclub.org](mailto:yodelerads@sierraclub.org).

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### Personals

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

## Nominations sought for Michener Award

Now is the time to nominate outings leaders for this year’s Dave and Pat Michener Outings Leadership Award. The Bay Chapter established the award in 2001 to commemorate the many years of volunteer service performed by the Micheners as editors of the Chapter Schedule (the predecessor of the calendar in today’s Yodeler and Chapter website) and to recognize superior leadership by Chapter outing leaders.

If you know of an outstanding leader, send in a nomination! Leadership criteria include concern for individual participants, activities skill and knowledge combined with a penchant for sharing them, the ability to forge links between the Club’s activities and its conservation values, and the number/variety of their outings. To qualify, nominees must be leaders who list outings in the Chapter Events and Activities calendar. Each nomination may include up to two letters of support.

Send nominations and supporting letters by Tue., April 21, to Steve Bakaley, chair of the Chapter Activities Committee, at:

[slbakaley@lbl.gov](mailto:slbakaley@lbl.gov) (preferred)  
12 Calvin Court  
Walnut Creek, CA 94595.

The winner will be selected at the Mon., May 4, Activities Committee meeting and announced in the June-July Yodeler.

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# Banking on California's groundwater: strategies for a precious and imperiled resource

## An unregulated past

Water pumped from underground aquifers has long been a major source of California's water supply. In normal rainfall years, groundwater provides about 40 percent of water for urban and agricultural uses. In dry years, groundwater supplies closer to 60 percent of our water. But unlike the surface water from rivers, lakes, and reservoirs, whose use has been regulated by the State since 1928, groundwater has been largely unmonitored and unregulated. Anyone owning property over an aquifer has been free to drill as big and deep a well as they could afford, and pump out as much water as they wanted.

Under this model, property owners were in theory limited to using the pumped water on the land overlying the basin only if there was no surplus water in the basin, but since most of California's large basins remain at least partially unmonitored, the question of whether or not pumped groundwater was "surplus" has been largely ignored.

The lack of groundwater regulation and periodic droughts led to a tragedy of the commons. Well owners hurried to pump as much water as possible before their basins went to court or went dry. NASA satellite observations show that between 2003 and 2010, the Sacramento and San Joaquin basins lost enough groundwater to nearly fill Lake Mead, the largest reservoir in the U.S. In 2012 and 2013, these basins further declined at the steepest rate observed since NASA began monitoring groundwater.

## A regulated future

Governor Brown and the California State Legislature addressed California's groundwater problems by passing the state's first-ever groundwater legislation in 2014. The legislation identifies groundwater basins of high and medium priority, most of them in the Central Valley, and requires a local groundwater-sustainability agency to be established for each of these basins by 2017. These agencies will have the power to require well monitoring and regulate groundwater extraction. Agencies managing basins

subject to critical overdraft will be required to have a plan in place to sustainably manage their basins by 2020. All medium- and high-priority basins must achieve sustainability by 2040 or be subject to State Water Resources Board control.

These new laws are being met with mixed and sometimes hostile reactions in Central Valley farming communities, where groundwater rights are considered private property rights, and water scarcity is perceived as a lack of surface storage and an excess of environmental regulation.

## Groundwater banking as an alternative to surface storage

The Sierra Club opposes building new dams, and for good reasons. Above-ground storage projects damage local ecosystems and are bad investments, providing little additional water at enormous cost. Potential groundwater storage has more than ten times the storage capacity of all of California's reservoirs combined. Many environmental organizations and the State see groundwater banking as a solution for providing water reliability in the future.

## Successes in groundwater banking

In the area around Fremont, water shortages developed as early as 1910 as water was pumped out of the local basin by San Francisco and Oakland. The local water table was falling by as much as an inch a day. Area residents responded by voting in 1913 to form the Alameda County Water District (ACWD), the first water district in California, to manage the local water supply, including the groundwater basin. Using water purchased from the State Water Project, ACWD managed by 1972 to bring its water table back above sea level and halt saltwater intrusion. By percolating excess wet-year water into the groundwater basin and pumping it out in dry years, ACWD conjunctively manages its groundwater basin and surface water to supply between thirty and sixty percent of the water for the Fremont area.

## Semitropic water bank fails Bay Area agencies

Although groundwater banking is a con-

cept with great promise, in practice it can be unreliable, particularly when storage sites are located at a great distance from their depositors. A recent example of the failure of water banking just when it's needed most is the 2014 failure of the Semitropic Water Bank near Bakersfield to deliver stored water back to Bay Area water agencies.

Semitropic's banking system relies on an exchange program in which the Northern California agencies withdraw water flowing from north to south through the State Water Project (SWP) aqueduct in exchange for depositing water in the Semitropic bank next to the SWP aqueduct in Bakersfield. ACWD, SCVWD, and the Zone 7 water district have, over the years, stored enough water in the Semitropic bank to supply all their customers for one year. Their ability to recover the equivalent amount of water was unexpectedly curtailed when the SWP cancelled its north-south water deliveries in 2014. With no water flowing through the aqueduct to the Bay Area, Northern California agencies were not able to recover any of their

banked water.

Another danger to the water stored in the Semitropic bank is the fracking wastewater injected into the aquifers in Kern County. In July of 2014, California ordered an emergency shutdown of 11 oil and gas waste injection sites in Kern County, fearing they may have been contaminating the groundwater basin that Silicon Valley depends on for its drought-year water.

## For reliability, bank locally

The new State groundwater regulations will help stabilize California's groundwater situation, making groundwater banking and recovery more reliable. However, since the local agencies charged with regulating groundwater have in most cases yet to be established, and have until 2040 to bring their basins into a sustainable condition, current groundwater-banking projects should be undertaken with caution. The most reliable groundwater banking is local banking, and the most readily-available source for banked water is treated waste water.

Charlotte Allen



Canal and tank of the Semitropic Water Bank. Photo courtesy Chris Austin on Flickr.

## Caring for California's natural treasures

### Support additional funds for State Parks

California State Parks have been underfunded for years, resulting in reduced operations, threatened closures, and lack of adequate maintenance. State Parks are important state assets, providing protection for our natural resources, healthy recreation opportunities for our citizens, and economic contributions to the local economy from visitor spending.

The Governor's 2015-16 budget proposes to provide a very modest one-time increase of \$16 million to the Department of Parks and Recreation to maintain current service levels at California's State Parks. This funding stability is essential to allowing park leaders to focus on the needed internal operations improvements recommended in the Parks Forward Commission report, the goal of which is to ensure the system's long-term viability. The Sierra Club encourages the appropriation of additional funds that would allow the parks system to increase hours at some parks and restore some services at others.

The Governor's proposed budget also includes

\$20 million to address the deferred maintenance backlog in State Parks. We support an even larger allotment for deferred maintenance, which will help protect these precious state assets from further damage. Last year's deferred maintenance budget allotment was never enacted.

### WhatYouCanDo

Please contact your local Senator and Assemblyperson to urge support for the State Parks Budget appropriations and increases therein. You can find out who your representatives are online at <http://findyourrep.legislature.ca.gov>. State Parks in the Bay Chapter include Mt. Diablo State Park, Angel Island State Park, China Camp State Park, Mt. Tamalpais State Park, McLaughlin Eastshore State Park, and Candlestick Point State Park. They are the gems of the Bay Area, and are all heavily used by Bay Area residents and visitors from all over the world. They must be kept open, accessible to all, and adequately maintained.

Alan Carlton



Mt. Tamalpais State Park. Photo via --Mark-- on FlickrCreative Commons.