

Sierra Club YODELER

THE NEWSPAPER OF THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY CHAPTER ♦ FALL 2022



- ♦ AWARDS PARTY & CHAPTER GATHERING – BACK IN PERSON SEPT. 17! ♦
- ♦ ZERO WASTE IS KEY TO FIGHTING SUPPLY CHAIN SHORTAGES ♦
- ♦ MORE TRICKS FROM COAL INTERESTS TARGETING OAKLAND ♦
- ♦ \$36 MIL. IN STATE BUDGET FOR PUBLIC PARK AT POINT MOLATE ♦

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR



Friends,

I hope your summer has led you to new adventures and appreciation for the wonders just outside your door, whether that means the discovery of new trail systems in your local park or open space preserve, new protected bicycle infrastructure in your cityscape, or new relationships with the magnificent wildlife that calls that Bay Area home.

As I write, our friends and neighbors continue to confront the catastrophic impacts of the climate crisis across our home planet, our home state, and our home towns. It is clear that our homes are in transition, in need of greater attention and care.

Over the last month, as record-breaking heat waves buckled roads and warped train tracks around the world, hundreds of millions of people caught a glimpse of their climate futures. In California nearly 55,000 acres have burned this year alone. The Washburn and Oak Fires, burning some 22,000 acres, have brought an all-to-familiar orange mid-day glow to the Yosemite Valley. The vistas that once inspired a young John Muir to found the Sierra Club are now obscured by ash and smoke.

The Bay Area is not free from these threats. Whether it is particulate matter from a nearby wildfire, a fossil fuel refinery, or the tail pipe of warehouse-bound diesel trucks or passenger automobiles, Bay Area communities are grappling with the impacts of a broken system that is desperately in need of rehabilitation. If recent Supreme Court decisions are any indication, we will likely need to look to our state and local political infrastructure to protect the people and places we love.

As we "harden our homes" in preparation for yet another wildfire season (and a looming election cycle), I encourage you to consider what other forms of "defensible space" we might create to ensure our communities are healthy and thriving. What additional responsibilities might we have to ensure the safety of our neighbors at the local, regional, and national levels? What local actions might we take?

If you need inspiration to jumpstart your action, on September 17th the SF Bay Chapter will be holding our annual celebration and award ceremony at the David Brower Center, where we will be honoring Bay Area community members who have worked tirelessly to protect our home planet and uphold Sierra Club's core values of anti-racism, balance, collaboration, justice, and transformation. I look forward to meeting you there.

In solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chance Cutrano".

Chance Cutrano
CHAPTER CHAIR

Sierra Club YODELER

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Cover Photo

An early morning in the high Sierra above French Canyon this summer. Photo by James Kealey.

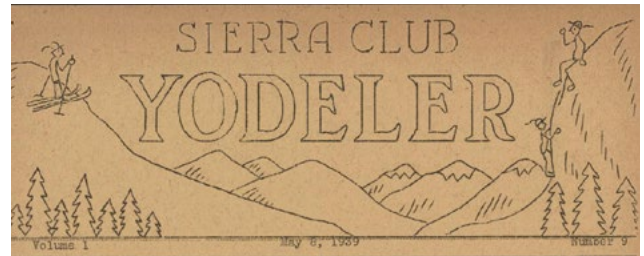


FALL 2022 CHAPTER NEWS

Speak for the trees

Across the PG&E service region, we're hearing stories about tree-cutting crews cutting down old growth trees and trees on people's property. In response to massive wildfires caused by PG&E's outdated infrastructure, the company has undertaken an "enhanced vegetation management" plan to remove hazardous trees near electrical lines. However, far too often, PG&E hired crews have been clear-cutting trees that aren't in the easement, that are healthy, and pose no risk.

PG&E needs to update their infrastructure instead of removing trees. Sierra Club members across the state are coming together to take action. Stay tuned for more and contact Jacob Klein at jacob.klein@sierraclub.org if you have a story of your own!



Earliest Yodelers Digitized & Online

The first five years of the Yodeler have been digitized and are now accessible through the Sierra Club Colby Library's Internet Archive at <https://bit.ly/yodelerarchive>. Published between 1939 and 1944, these early issues of the Yodeler offer a glimpse into early activities at our Chapter, from regional conservation news to tips for camping in the Sierra Nevada.

This digitization project was made possible by California Revealed and the California State Library, with more digitized Yodeler issues expected in the coming months. Dive in!

Nominations Committee Social and Q&A

Sat, Aug 13, noon at Five Tacos and Beers, 1175 Solano, Albany

Curious about running for a position on your local Sierra Club Chapter or Group Executive Committee but have questions or want to learn more? Come to the Chapter Nominations Committee's informal in-person gathering! Talk with current leaders on the Chapter Executive Committee, ask questions, and/or just enjoy snacks and beverages together.

You can find information about running for Chapter and Group ExCom elections on our website here:

www.sierraclub.org/sfbay/chapter-elections

Applications by petition are due August 30th.

Help us
build our
local Sierra
Club

- Passionate about the environment and local issues?
- Be a team leader in a more tangible way!
- It's time to make your voice heard.



NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR CHAPTER & GROUP POSITIONS!
Applications by petition due August 30th

Visit sierraclub.org/sfbay/chapter-elections or email elections@sfbaysc.org for more info. First time applicants are highly encouraged. The Nominations Committee is here to help you through the election process.

Zero Waste is Key to Fighting Inflation & Supply Chain Shortages

ALFRED TWU

Besides the environmental benefits, zero waste also helps ease the shortages and inflation driven by supply chain issues. A disposal-based supply chain requires a constant extraction of new raw material to feed the making and delivering of new product. This supply chain often spans the whole globe. After a short lifespan, the products are discarded and new ones are needed. If any component or part of the chain has a problem, production comes to a halt and there are shortages, which then drive up costs. In contrast, a zero-waste supply chain, or circular economy, is more robust, as it requires less new stuff, and materials and inventory stay closer to where they're used.

Recently, energy, food, building materials, and vehicles have been the main contributors to inflation. Unsurprisingly, these are also the products most affected by supply chain issues. Famously, lumber prices tripled in 2021, and remain well above pre-2020 levels. With energy prices remaining high, food, vehicles, building materials, and other products that require a lot of energy to make will also remain scarce and expensive.

Zero waste addresses shortages and inflation in two ways: by reducing demand, and also by increasing the supply by putting existing product back into stores rather than to the landfill.

The hierarchy of zero waste is Reduce, Reuse, Recycle — meaning the biggest impact is from using less stuff, followed by reusing it, and only after that recycling. Reduce in

particular can address the vehicle shortage. When households reduce the number of cars they need to own, by switching to public transportation, bikes, or carshare, that reduces the demand for cars as well as the demand for the materials and energy used to make and drive them.

Reuse has a lot of potential to ease the building materials shortage. Some cities, such as Portland and Palo Alto, have deconstruction ordinances that require certain buildings to be taken apart instead of simply bulldozed. This allows the lumber, doors, and other materials to be reused. At a reuse store, inventory is available right now, in contrast to new fixtures that might be back-ordered, adding weeks of delay to a project.

For food, there's another R to add to the zero waste system: Recovery. In 2016, California passed SB1383, a law to reduce short-lived climate pollutants such as methane, a greenhouse gas that comes from food rotting in landfills. On January 1, 2022, the food recovery section of SB1383 went into effect, requiring wholesalers, distributors, foodservice providers, and large supermarkets to donate food that is still edible but would otherwise be landfilled. These donations are sent to food recovery organizations such as food banks. In 2024, the second phase of SB1383 will take effect, applying to large restaurants, hotels, event venues, schools, and other major food facilities. Food recovery both reduces waste, and also eases the impact of high food prices on low-income households.

With slowdowns in international trade, rising global demand for products, and a continuing energy crisis, the supply chain issues of the last couple of years need to be viewed as not just a blip, but the start of a new normal where US consumers can no longer use and waste an oversize share of the world's resources. There's no supply chain shorter or stronger than reuse.

Alfred Twu is the Chair of the San Francisco Bay Chapter's Zero Waste Committee.

Upcoming Green Friday Programs on Women Hikers & Local Trout Restoration Effort

VICTORIA TISHMAN KAMERZELL

Our Green Friday speaker series is beaming straight into your home via Zoom! Join us virtually on the second Friday of each month at 7:30 PM for presentations on some of the most interesting and important environmental issues of our time. Register for these programs on our online calendar at www.sierraclub.org/sfbay/events to receive the Zoom link.

Susan Alcorn will be our presenter on August 12th. She recently wrote a book entitled "Walk, Hike, Saunter: Seasoned Women Hikers Share Tales and Trails." Each chapter features a different woman — 32 excellent hikers who share not only their adventures and accomplishments but the rewards and challenges of walking and hiking.

On September 9th, Peter Mangarella of the John Muir Chapter of Trout Unlimited will discuss a project to reconnect the Wildcat Creek watershed from the headwaters in Tilden Park to the Bay and restore steelhead.

Marin County Raises the Bar With Its Newly Adopted Reusable Foodware Ordinance

JINESSE REYNOLDS

The unanimous adoption of Marin County's Reusable Foodware Ordinance this May was made possible by an inspiring community of local activists. It all started in 2018, when I had just been elected to the San Anselmo Sustainability Commission and jumped right in without knowing anything about policy or local government. I had a strong drive to do something about single-use plastic pollution.

Word got out in the community that I was working on a single-use ordinance and out of the blue, Susan Hopp gave me a call to invite me to a brand new Sierra Club committee, Plastic Free Marin, started by Barbara Bogard and Chance Cutrano. Renée Godard, the Sierra Club-endorsed Fairfax Council Member, was also part of this new group. I can say with certainty that the ordinance would not have happened — or at least not at such a rapid pace — had I not met this group of exceptional environmental leaders.

I drafted the text that was the basis of the eventual County Ordinance in early spring 2018. We first brought it to San Anselmo, which adopted the ordinance in November 2018 (and amended it in June 2019), followed by Fairfax. Our success at the municipal level showed us that the support was there for a county-wide ordinance.

When I logged on to the first reading of the Ordinance, I was not feeling overly optimistic. I was having a hard time guessing how many folks would show up. I did not know how many people had submitted comment letters. Then all of the supporters started speaking. Two 7th graders totally "wowed" me with their emotional plea to save the planet. There were so many great statements, and it turned out that the Supervisors had received hundreds of letters. The Supervisors unanimously voted in favor.

By November 2023, all food establishments in unincorporated Marin County will need to serve customers on reusable dishes, with reusable cups and utensils. Disposable take-out cups will have a \$.25 cent charge attached to them to incentivize the public to "Bring Your Own" or use a reusable alternative offered by the business. Take-out accessories must be by request only, and all disposable

foodware must be compatible with Marin's existing compost facilities, which are certified for organic fertilizer and only accept unlined paper and wood-based materials that are PFAS-free.

Marin's Reusable Foodware Ordinance is a big deal. It not only reduces waste, it reduces carbon emissions and toxic chemicals in our environment. The ordinance has inspired San Francisco to continue the work to improve its own Reusable Ordinance, and it has been shared by Sierra Club Zero Waste throughout the country.

The 2022 report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change sounds yet another alarm bell, code red, urging us to wake up to the fact that the severe consequences we are already experiencing are getting worse at a more rapid pace. We all must do our part to "be the change" that is necessary to reduce our carbon output and put the brakes on the climate crisis. One of the best things we can all do now is "Bring Your Own" reusable containers for take-out food, drinks, or produce and bulk items at the store or farmer's market.

To get involved with Plastic Free Marin contact jrey94925@gmail.com.

Jinesse Reynolds is Co-Chair of Plastic Free Marin, a sub-group of Sierra Club Marin Group.



Air District Signals Critical Move Toward Zero-Emission Appliances

MELISSA YU

California prides itself as a leader on climate action, with commitments in place to slash emissions in coming decades and reach carbon neutrality by 2045. But recent studies indicate the state is far off course to meeting these goals, in part because emissions from buildings are going in the wrong direction — up 17.8 percent in the residential sector since 2014. Air agencies nationwide have authority under the Clean Air Act to set zero-emission standards for appliances, and the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (Air District) is poised to become the first public agency to set a deadline requiring new appliances to be zero-emission.

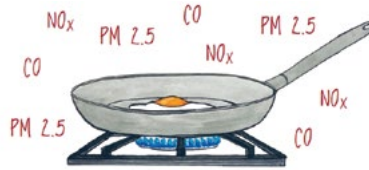
Our Air District has announced its intention to amend the current residential furnace and water heater rules, 9-4 and 9-6. The existing rules already limit nitrogen oxide (or NOx) emissions from residential water heaters and furnaces, but current standards are not low enough to require fuel switching (away from gas) and still allow pollution to persist, with impacts to both indoor and outdoor air quality. Zero-NOx appliance standards, on the other hand, will ensure a transition from polluting fossil fuel appliances to clean, healthy alternatives.

The emissions under review here, NOx, are toxic, highly reactive gasses that are emitted when a fuel is burned, such as when operating cars, trucks, power plants, and household appliances. NOx also reacts with the sun and atmosphere to become harmful smog (ozone) and particulate matter (PM2.5).

Most household appliances in California run on gas and emit NOx in and near our homes. In the Bay Area, appliances release nearly three times as much NOx as passenger vehicles, and over eight times as much NOx as power plants. As a result of this appliance pollution, buildings in California are responsible for over 1,500 premature deaths and over \$17 billion dollars of health impact costs.

To address this major source of deadly pollution, the Air District is proposing that all newly purchased space and water heaters will be zero-emission as soon as 2027, though implementation dates vary by appliance:

- 2027 = all new home water heaters will be zero-emission
- 2029 = new home and commercial furnaces will be zero-emission
- 2031 = new commercial water heaters will be zero-emission



These regulations apply to manufacturers, installers, retailers, and sellers. They are “point of sale” regulations, which means all appliances being sold or installed in the nine-county area after the specified date must comply with the zero-emission requirement. The rules will not require proactive retrofits, but rather will only impact appliance replacements and new construction. All major gas appliances in our homes already have zero-emission counterparts on the market: heat pump water heaters, air source heat pumps, induction cooktops, and electric dryers.

Regulating NOx in appliances will promote electrification of new and existing buildings in a way that prioritizes environmental justice communities. Low-income communities are disproportionately impacted as they are already located near sources of pollution such as power plants and major highways. Growing up in homes with NOx-emitting appliances has been found to be a precursor for childhood asthma. Eliminating gas appliances reduces NOx pollution in these households.

In making this move, the Air District is in step with State policy and funding priorities: Governor Newsom recently set a target of three million climate-ready and climate-friendly homes by 2030 and seven million homes by 2035, to be achieved through the deployment of six million heat pumps by 2030. At least half of the funding to achieve this policy goal will be directed toward disadvantaged communities.

There will likely be an Air District Board hearing on the way to rule adoption towards the end of this year or early next year. If your organization wants to get involved, they could become a participant in the formal Air District Stakeholder Working Group. Additionally, as an individual, you can join a group of advocates for informal biweekly meetings to hear the latest updates on the rulemaking process and weigh in on how you want to see the Air District move forward. To get involved or learn more, email Melissa Yu at melissa.yu@sierraclub.org.

Melissa Yu is the Chapter's Senior Energy Campaigns Representative.

More Tricks from Would-Be Oakland Coal Terminal Developers

JACOB KLEIN

The long-running battle to keep coal out of Oakland continues. Despite the City's attempts to secure a legal settlement with the developers at the old Oakland Army Base to prevent coal and petroleum coke (petcoke) from coming through Oakland, no actual settlement has been reached.

In February 2022, the City Attorney's office released a statement announcing that a framework had been established between the City of Oakland and Oakland Bulk and Oversized Terminal (OBOT), the developer for the West Gateway, and its parties in interest. The settlement would resolve the state court lawsuit that pits the City against OBOT, with each alleging that the other breached the contract for the terminal. The case would go to trial in April 2023 if a settlement is not reached beforehand.

This comes on the heels of a massive community movement that led to an ordinance banning coal and petcoke in Oakland for public health reasons, an ordinance that OBOT and its partners sued over. Unfortunately, the City lost the federal case and the appeal.

When the City Attorney issued its announcement this February, many of us were hopeful that we would soon see an agreement to prevent toxic coal and petcoke from coming through Oakland. However, in July 2022, OBOT and its partners sent a cryptic letter to the Sierra Club, our partners, and local news outlets claiming that the City was not negotiating in good faith. In this letter, OBOT included a motion they filed to reopen discovery – in effect, a demand that the City turn over its records relating to the case. The subject of the developers' email claimed that "coal is back on the table."

The developers and their partners have made similar claims in the past that the City isn't cooperat-



ing and is creating roadblocks to settlement. Once they make that claim, they dangle the threat of coal as an option. In reality, they expect the city – and us – to trust them at their word that they won't ship coal or petcoke. But so far, they will not agree to the legal provisions that would make the deal sufficiently enforceable and thereby truly protect our communities from those toxic commodities.

"THE DEVELOPERS' CLAIMS SIMPLY CANNOT BE TRUSTED, IN OUR VIEW."

We also can't forget the false promises made to us at the beginning of this campaign when terminal developer Phil Tagami said that coal wouldn't come through Oakland — only for the community to discover OBOT's secret plans with Utah coal companies. Although the characters have shifted, the playbook seems to be the same. The developers' claims simply cannot be trusted, in our view.

Thankfully, the City Attorney's office released another statement affirming their stance to keep coal and petcoke out of Oakland and create a terminal that supports Oakland's economy, environment, and health. The Sierra Club continues to watch this issue closely and we have full faith in the City Attorney's commitment to achieve a loophole-free settlement.

What You Can Do:

Want to make sure that the City enters a settlement that prohibits coal and petcoke in Oakland, without any loopholes or misleading promises? Write to your City Councilmember and let them know that you support a comprehensive agreement to keep coal out of Oakland. You can find phone numbers,

THE 12TH ANNUAL *Awards Ceremony* **SIERRA CLUB** SAN FRANCISCO BAY

JOIN US BACK IN PERSON TO CELEBRATE OUR AMAZING HONOREES

Saturday, September 17th, 4-7 PM, David Brower Center Terrace, downtown Berkeley



VICKY HOOVER



JOHN BAUTERS



**GOLDEN GATE VILLAGE
RESIDENTS COUNCIL**



RENÉE GODDARD



ALFREDO ANGULO

Tickets and sponsorships available now!
www.sierraclub.org/sfbay/2022awards

Let's Get Together! Awards Party on September 17th:

On Saturday, September 17th, the Sierra Club's Bay Area community will gather together to honor and celebrate the 2022 recipients of the San Francisco Bay Chapter awards. All are invited to join the party at the open-air David Brower Center Terrace in Berkeley from 4:00 - 7:00 PM. Join us to enjoy tasty hors d'oeuvres and drinks and the chance to reconnect with friends new and old.

Tickets and sponsorships may be purchased online via the link at www.sierraclub.org/sfbay/2022awards or by contacting Development Director Matt Bielby at (510) 848-0800 ext. 321 or matt.bielby@sierraclub.org. Sponsors get lots of recognition before, during, and after the event. In addition to being an opportunity to mix and mingle back in person with the Bay Area environmental community, this is a fundraiser to support the work of your local Sierra Club chapter to fight for clean air and water, a liveable climate, a healthy Bay, wildlife protection, and sustainable communities. Please support this event with a ticket purchase or sponsorship at a level that's meaningful to you!

We are delighted to announce our 2022 honorees:

VICKY HOOVER

Ed Bennett Lifetime Achievement Award

Vicky joined the Sierra Club in 1966 and began leading outings for the organization the next year, following her family's first, life-changing burro trip in the High Sierra. She has since introduced hundreds of people to wilderness through her guided trips.

In the mid-1980s, Vicky got involved in the Sierra Club's conservation efforts, channeling her passion for wilderness into winning campaigns to protect it. As a member of our Chapter's Wilderness Committee, Vicky was instrumental in the passage of the California Desert Protection Act. Vicky started the Club's Northern California Desert Task Force and has led many trips to the desert areas.

Today, Vicky is the co-chair of the Sierra Club's statewide 30x30 campaign, among numerous other Club roles. She is an example to us all in the power of "standing up for what you stand on".

EMERYVILLE MAYOR JOHN BAUTERS

David McCoard Visionary Award

John serves as Chair of both the Alameda County Transportation Commission and the Bay Area Air Quality Management District. John was a leading voice in the passage, last summer, of the Air District's Rule 6-5, which created one of the most stringent refinery emissions standards in the world. He is currently championing Air District Rules 9-4 and 9-6 which would advance building decarbonization through zero NOx emissions appliance standards.

In Emeryville, John championed an ordinance related to lead-safe renovation and repair, earning praise from the

EPA. In 2018, Emeryville voters approved Measure C, a \$50 million affordable infill housing bond that he introduced. An active transit enthusiast, John is perhaps best known for his community activism to make streets safe and communities healthy by supporting car-free infrastructure.

Every year, John completes a 350-400 mile solo wilderness hike every year to promote and discuss the importance of conservation and the relationship between environmentalism and mental wellness.

GOLDEN GATE VILLAGE RESIDENTS COUNCIL

Community Defender Award

The five-member Golden Gate Village Resident Council is the elected representative body for the only majority-Black public housing in Marin County. The Resident Council has been in a near-decade-long fight for the right to decide the future of their community. Residents have put forward a plan for a "Deep Green Revitalization" project that would address immediate environmental injustices within the neglected public housing complex; support job training for residents in the community; and ensure that current residents are not displaced, through the implementation of a community ownership model.

As described in a recent *Mother Jones* article about the residents' campaign, "Golden Gate Village has been and remains a foothold for low-income Black residents" as decades of "restrictive and exclusionary housing, environmental, and transportation development policies have made [Marin] the most segregated of the nine Bay Area counties." Resident Council President Royce McLemore has advocated for the Resident Plan at Marin Housing Commission meetings month after month for years – and this year it finally became the County's preferred plan.

ALFREDO ANGULO

Emerging Voices Award

Alfredo is an environmental justice organizer, lifelong Richmond resident, and a recent first-generation graduate from U.C. Berkeley. Growing up in Richmond, Alfredo witnessed every oil spill, fire, and gas leak from the sec-

ond-largest refinery in California. Through their work on projects such as the Bay Area Air Quality Management's Community Emissions Reduction Plan for Richmond, as well as documenting the stories and visions of those most harmed by generations of fossil fuel operations with the Richmond Progressive Alliance's Listening Project, Alfredo has cultivated a deep understanding of how the experiences of underserved communities have been shaped by racist policies like redlining, which fueled generations of disinvestment and neglect by government.

Alfredo is passionate about creating positive change for their community by fighting back against toxic legacies and putting decision-making power back into the hands of the community. They work to ensure an equitable and just transition away from fossil fuels towards a sustainable, regenerative society and economy that works for everyone, while ensuring that the voices of those most harmed by Richmond's industrial roots are amplified and heard.

FAIRFAX TOWN COUNCILOR RENÉE GODDARD

Phil Burton Badge of Courage Award

Renée Goddard will always be a whitewater river guide at heart. She spent over a decade whitewater guiding on multiple continents. Stories from the river preservation movement galvanized Renée's lifelong commitment to activism and protection of our natural resources.

Renée has exemplified this commitment over a decade of service on the Fairfax Town Council. Among her many environmental achievements, Renée has taken a leading role in advancing affordable housing policies, stopping the development of a new gas station, fighting for multi-modal transit facilities, and co-authoring an ordinance on single-use plastic foodware. She promotes safe infrastructure for non-motorized active transportation, and leads by example, transporting herself entirely by bike.

Renée has been behind many local climate action initiatives and she is a leader in "placemaking," inspiring people to collectively reimagine and reinvent public spaces as the heart of every community.

Thank you to our early event sponsors!



Virginia Reinhart & James Kealey

Minda Berbeco & Will Fertman

Nick Pilch, former Albany Mayor, Albany Planning & Zoning Commissioner

Oakland City Council Member At-Large Rebecca Kaplan

East Bay Regional Park District Director Colin Coffey

Emeryville Mayor John J. Bauters

Vicky Hoover

Law Offices of Stuart M. Flashman

Norman La Force

Vanessa Warheit

Scott Simmons

Rachel Pray



ABOUT THIS CALENDAR

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

Hike and backpack ratings

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

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

Backpack ratings include a third digit for travel:

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

What to bring

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

Liabilities

To participate in a Sierra Club outing, you will need to sign a liability waiver. To read a copy of the waiver form, call (415) 977-5630, or visit tinyurl.com/outingswaiver.

COVID-19 Protocol

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

Carpooling

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

FALL 2022 OUTINGS CALENDAR

TUESDAYS

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

WEDNESDAYS

Lafayette Reservoir 1A Hike. Enjoy the lovely weather while walking around the beautiful reservoir. We have both faster and slower walkers, or you can walk at your own pace. COST: 5 quarters for 1hr, 15 minutes of parking. MEET: 4pm at the west end of the parking area near the picnic tables and permanent bathrooms. LEADER: William Gilbert, wmgilbrt@gmail.com. (Solo Sierrans)

SECOND SUNDAYS & FOURTH SATURDAYS

Luxurious Walking in Delight Zen Mindfulness 1A Walk. Slow, luxurious walking designed to relax and balance yourself resulting in deepening connection to your inner nature. Attend either in-person in Berkeley or virtually in your backyard on Zoom! REGISTER: If attending in-person, registration on the online listing is required with a limit of ten people. To attend virtually, register using the Zoom registration link on the online listing. BRING: Clothes for the weather. MEET: 11am at 1853 Solano Ave, Berkeley or on Zoom. ENDS: 12:30pm. LEADER: Halley Forest, sierragreenforest@gmail.com. (Hiking)

AUG 13 • SAT

Potrero Hill bike. Usually the last place to get fog and offering amazing views, Potrero Hill is actually a series of hills and we'll visit many of them on this scenic cardio workout. We'll be climbing and descending 3+ miles of streets, trails and staircases while learning a little of Potrero's history from shipbuilding to today's tech. MEET: 10:30 am at York Mini-Park on 24th Street, .6 miles from 24th Street Mission BART Station. Accessible by Muni lines 48, 9, 9R, 27, and 33. BRING: Snacks and water. Some people may elect to grab a bite after the walk. LEADERS: Paget Valentzas, pagetvalentzas@gmail.com, (415) 271-2945. (Rainbow Sierrans)

Public Astronomy Program: Sunset to Moonrise. Join this public astronomy event at Mount Diablo. Plan to meet at 7:15pm by the picnic tables by the Lower Summit Parking Lot. The viewing includes sunset, maybe a few meteors, topped off with the rising of the almost full moon at 9:30 pm. Bring dinner or dessert if you like. No alcohol is allowed. Dress warmly. See online event listing for more parking, access, and other event info. BRING: A mask, snacks, water, binoculars, and warm clothes. If you bring a flashlight please cover it with red material. LEADERS: Beth Bittle, callingu2@gmail.com, (510) 759-6225. (Rainbow Sierrans)

AUG 21 • SUN

Downtown Berkeley to Volmer Peak Hike. Strenuous 9.5-mile hike with elevation gain of 2,000 feet. Part of the hike is on the pavement, but mostly on the trail. Meet at the corner of Addison and Oxford streets (2 short blocks from BART) on the lawn at 8:30 am. We will be leaving at 8:35 am promptly. There will be 2 short stops for the view and snacks. Prepare to sweat and have a good workout. Bring water, snacks and extra layers; it is often windy and cold at the peak. Poor air quality cancels. LEADER: Tamara Gurin, t_gurin@yahoo.com, (510) 649-9379. (Hiking)

AUG 26 • FRI - AUG 29 • MON

Salt Point State Park Campout. Three-day camping trip on the Sonoma Coast with potluck, hikes, games, and other fun. Currently at capacity, but you can join the waitlist; see instructions on online calendar listing. LEADERS: Paget Valentzas, and Michelle Trudeau. (Rainbow Sierrans)

SEPT 2 • FRI - SEPT 5 • MON

Lake Tahoe Labor Day Campout. Camp on lakefront in Sugar Pine State Park with potluck, hikes, games, and other fun. Currently at capacity, but you can join the waitlist; see instructions on online calendar listing. LEADERS: Jenna Slovis, Kim Luce and Marian Stainbrook. (Rainbow Sierrans)

SEPT 18 • SUN - SEPT 19 • MON

Explore Angel Island - Urban Backpacking. After arriving on the first ferry from San Francisco, we will slowly hike around the island with packs, stopping to visit historical points of interest. After we set up camp at the Kayak Group campsite, there is an optional trip to visit the neighboring beach or hike 4.5 miles to the top of Mount Livermore. Enjoy dinner with the sun setting in the background. Individual commissary. COST: \$25. REGISTER: Limited capacity; RSVP through online calendar entry. LEADERS: Diane Appel, diane_appel@yahoo.com, (925) 360-2249; Thomas Meissner, meissner.thomas2011@gmail.com, (707) 479-4465. (Backpacking)

OCT 14 • FRI - OCT 16 • SUN

Emigrant Wilderness Fall Colors. Enjoy a jaunt through fall colors and granite to wrap up the season. Hiking out of Kennedy Meadows, we will camp at Upper Relief Valley on the first night and Lunch Meadow on the second. In between, we'll cross country over a bare granite landscape and gaze over it all from Granite Dome and Black Hawk Mountain. Participants should be very fit and carry a light pack. SIGNUP RESTRICTIONS: Trip leader approval is required. Limited capacity. Email Brian. COST: \$20. DIFFICULTY: 3D2. LEADERS: Brian Gunney, brian@gunney.net; Carol Clark, gogetoutandrun@gmail.com, (415) 796-3344.



Free Sierra Club Military Outdoors Pole Hiking & Walking Trainings

Our neighboring Loma Prieta Chapter has received a special grant from Sierra Club Military Outdoors enabling the Sierra Club to offer Pole Hiking and Pole Walking training (otherwise fee-based) free for veterans and their families. Three types of training are offered:

1. Pole Walking for Balance & Maintaining Mobility (for people with gait or mobility challenges, deconditioned individuals)
2. Pole Walking for Exercise (for walkers or people new to exercise)
3. Pole Hiking (for all level hikers)

Registration is required in order to attend these free trainings. Sign up and find new dates as they are added online at www.sierraclub.org/loma-prieta/military-outdoors. Upcoming classes include:

WED, AUG 31, 1:00 PM

Pole Walking for Exercise (Nordic Walking) at Lands End, SF

FRI, SEPT 9, 9:00 AM

Pole Walking for Balance & Maintaining Mobility, Peninsula Vet Center, Menlo Park



MON, SEPT 12, 9:00 AM

Pole Hiking Training, Mori Point, Pacifica

FRI, SEPT 16, 9:00 AM

Pole Walking for Balance & Maintaining Mobility, Mastick Senior Center, Alameda

FRI, OCT 14, 9:30 AM

Pole Walking for Balance & Maintaining Mobility, Finley Senior Center, Santa Rosa

MON, OCT 17, 9:00 AM

Pole Hiking Training, Mori Point, Pacifica

Poles will be provided for your use at each training (or you may bring and use your own).

Marin Supervisors Pass Long-Sought Stream Conservation Ordinance

SCOTT WEBB

For the last 15 years, the Salmon Protection and Watershed Network has been fighting in the courts to adopt a science-based Stream Conservation Area Ordinance in the San Geronimo Valley that would protect some of the most vulnerable salmon habitats left in California from development. Litigation has its time and place, but so does compromise. Thanks to the advocacy of community leaders and local environmental organizations such as the Marin Group of the Sierra Club, last month the Marin County Board of Supervisors unanimously passed the Stream Conservation Area Ordinance, expanding protections to some of the most critical coho salmon habitat left in California. While this ordinance may not be perfect, it is a science-based solution that adequately addresses the environmental obstacles.

The Convention on Biological Diversity found that nature is being destroyed at a rate up to hundreds of times higher than the average for the previous 10 million years. Marin County is on the front lines of this crisis, as the loss of streamside habitat has contributed to a 95 percent reduction of coho salmon. The County identified the Lagunitas Creek Watershed as the “most important” coho salmon run in all of California, and the San Geronimo Valley sustain can sustain up to half of the salmonid spawning activity in the watershed.

Adopting this Ordinance was the County’s idea. The 1994 County Wide Plan identified streamside habitat as “irreplaceable and should be officially recognized as essential environmental resources.” This sentiment carried into the 2007 County Wide Plan, which called for “no net loss of sensitive habitat acreage, value, and function.” This initiative became the guiding principle of the final Stream



Conservation Area Ordinance.

Policies to achieve this “no net loss of habitat” target include a reduced development allowance within 100 feet of salmon habitat and a 2:1 habitat replacement ratio when development occurs within that 100-foot zone.

The newly adopted Stream Conservation Area Ordinance expands these protections to ephemeral (seasonal) streams, which have significant ecological importance and serve as a transfer system for required nutrients to perennial (year-round) streams supporting salmon. As we saw in October, flooding is already a significant concern in the valley. The health of ephemeral streams will become more imperative in the era of climate change to absorb floodwaters, slowing the pace of water downstream while entraining sediments along the banks.

The Ordinance also lays a pathway for the county to establish a habitat restoration program to restore previously degraded riparian habitat in the San Geronimo Valley.

The best available science will continue to guide the Stream Conservation Area Ordinance. The Board of Supervisors will receive bi-annual reports that quantitatively measure the Ordinance’s efficacy through eight performance indicators, creating a science-driven dialogue on how to best protect the streams.

Marin’s streams are in greater peril now than when the Ordinance was first proposed decades ago. As the valley goes, so do the salmon, making it paramount to protect the riparian habitat we have left while we continue to work hard to restore the habitats that we’ve lost. While the Ordinance may be small in scale, it is an excellent example of how streamside communities can do their part by integrating science-based protections to vulnerable habitats.

We still have a lot of work to do, but days like this remind me of what a small group of motivated folks can achieve when they think globally and act locally. The collaboration of Marin’s environmental communities, including the Sierra Club, was essential in getting this important ordinance over the finish line.

Scott Webb is Advocacy and Policy Manager for Salmon Protection and Watershed Network.

State Budget Includes Historic \$36 Million Dollar Commitment to a Regional Park at Point Molate

PAM STELLO AND DAVID HELVARG

The Sierra Club joins the Point Molate Alliance and many Richmond residents in thanking Governor Gavin Newsom for signing a state budget that includes \$36 million for the East Bay Regional Park District to achieve a community park at Point Molate. This investment in one of the Sierra Club's top local conservation priorities is in line with the State's commitment to "30 by 30": protecting 30 percent of the state's lands and waters by 2030, as well as its pledge to environmental and climate justice and focus on helping under-parked communities achieve equity.

Among those who helped champion the funding for what could become Richmond and the East Bay's crown jewel of public parks are State Senator Nancy Skinner, East Bay Regional Park District Director Elizabeth Echols, County Supervisor and BCDC Commissioner John Gioia, and Governor Gavin Newsom.

For more than 25 years the Park District's Master Plan, as well as the Bay Conservation and Development Commission's San Francisco Bay Plan, have called for a regional park at Point Molate. For 20 years, the Sierra Club, the Point Molate Alliance, and many allies have fought to protect the more than 400 acres of natural headland, woods, wildlife, native grasses and offshore eelgrass meadows at Point Molate.

In 2008, 75 percent of Richmond voters (along with 71 percent of all East Bay voters) approved Measure WW which included funding for a shoreline park at Point Molate.



This new state funding brings closer the day when the residents of Richmond will realize their long-held vision for a world-class park on the Point Molate headland. The value of parks for people is reflected in the small public beach park that makes up only about 5 percent of Point Molate, yet became a scene of refuge and renewal for hundreds of families from throughout the community during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Along with more than 700 species of insects, plants and animals — making it a "biological hotspot" on SF Bay where one can encounter ospreys and eagles, leopard sharks and river otters, sea hares and mule deer — Point Molate includes several sacred sites of the Ohlone people, a historic Chinese fish camp, the world's largest pre-prohibition winery and wine castle, and a World War II Navy fuel facility that played a key role in powering America's "arsenal of democracy."

There are still many steps to go before the vision of a regional park including recreational, cultural and outdoor educational opportunities exists at Point Molate. But today is a historic step forward thanks to those who made the State of California's bold commitment possible.

cut here

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North Richmond Communities and Sierra Club Create New Standards For Warehouse Development

JACOB KLEIN

As e-commerce continues to grow as a share of the economy, warehouse and last-mile delivery center developments have been proliferating around the Bay Area, from SoMa to East Oakland to Hayward to Fremont. North Richmond, an unincorporated part of Contra Costa County, has several lots that developers have been eyeing. In May 2022, Sierra Club, working in tandem with community partners, secured a suite of benefits and mitigations for a proposed warehouse development in North Richmond, setting a new floor for regional campaigns on this rapidly growing issue.

The development was proposed by Centerpoint Strategies for a 555,537-square-foot, three-warehouse build-out on a lot just 600 feet away from Verde Elementary School and across the street from Urban Tilth, a non-profit that has been working since 2005 to “help build a more sustainable, healthy, and just local food system.”

Although Supervisor John Gioia introduced an ordinance that would place a moratorium on any new warehouse applications while the County figures out appropriate land use updates in December 2021, the Centerpoint Strategies application was already underway and not affected by the moratorium. Nonetheless, the County ordinance sent a strong message that developments would require closer scrutiny and that there would be a new status quo for greater community and climate health protections, especially for North Richmond.

North Richmond is already overburdened with air pollution, with a CalEnviroScreen in the 96th percentile. There’s a history of industrial use, and a population that is largely people of color and underserved. This is a common profile for communities targeted for warehouse

development here in the Bay Area and elsewhere. Proximity to warehouses correlates closely with poverty rates, concentration of minority populations, and many other socio-economic demographics including linguistic isolation, asthma rates, housing inequality, and unemployment. And unfortunately, warehouses at the scale of the Centerpoint development have the potential to increase air pollution and criterion pollutant levels due to increased truck traffic emitting diesel particulate matter, among the many impacts that warehouses can have on local environments.

To mitigate these impacts, Supervisor Gioia proposed several forward-thinking measures as part of the development agreement with the County. Key among these was a rapid electrification of vehicles at the site with 33% of the fleet required to be zero-emission vehicles at start of operations, 65% of the fleet to be zero-emission vehicles by the end of 2023, 80% of the fleet to be zero-emission vehicles by the end of 2025, and 100% of the fleet to be zero-emission vehicles by the end of 2027.

This is a standard that we have not seen in many other places — and faster even than the state electrification guidelines — and we welcome this aggressive schedule. However, we still had some lingering concerns. First, in the five years between now

and 2027, vehicles with harmful emissions will continue to be in use in close proximity to sensitive receptors, like the elementary school. Second, this schedule applies only to the vehicles that are domiciled at the site. This means that it applies to the vehicles that are owned and operated by whatever company ends up using this site, and only those that remain at the facility when not in use. The issue is that many e-commerce companies rely on third-party fleets of vehicles, or common carriers, which would not be required to update their fleets in the same ways. Unfortunately, it’s much harder to regulate common carriers, though we’re starting to see more strategies, like the Indirect Source Review Rule that South Coast Air Quality Management District passed in 2021.

Working with Urban Tilth, Richmond Our Power Coalition, and Supervisor Gioia, we were able to secure additional mitigation measures to try and help reduce the impact on the community and to create stronger accountability measures in case the development does not abide by



the agreed-upon terms. The Contra Costa County Planning Commission approved the project on May 25th with the staff recommendations for the updates to the mitigation measures that we helped to create.

As part of the agreement, if the company is unable to meet zero-emission vehicle fleet requirements, they will have to prove that the cause is because of disruption in zero-emission vehicle manufacturing. That proof will have to be confirmed by a regulatory agency. Even still, the company will have to ensure that as many zero-emission vehicles are acquired as possible. Required carbon offsets must be prioritized locally where impacts are felt the keenest. Reports must be made to the County on progress toward meeting agreed-upon goals, and any permit adjustments sought require more stringent approval than administrative sign-off.

As much energy as possible will be supplied by rooftop photovoltaic solar, with any additional energy needs to be sourced from renewable energy. Bans are placed on certain diesel-powered yard equipment and idling. And more.

Among the site-specific warehouse campaigns we've been working on in the Bay Area, this one represents a standard by which we plan to set the rest. However, we also understand that the reason for stronger standards has to do with the unfortunate location of this development near a school and community-centered farm. We plan to continue to work with local organizations and communities to ensure that the standards for this project are met and that standards across the board continue to lift.

Jacob Klein is Senior Chapter Organizer.

A Strawberry and an Electoral System

PEGGY DA SILVA

A bowl of beautiful strawberries enjoyed at a picnic; what could be more American? Bright, straightforward, what-you-see-is-what-you-get, just like the American right to vote, yes? In all of our elections, whether Sierra Club or public, we expect honesty, transparency, and an outcome that tastes good: leaders and policies who reflect the values of the community.

However, environmentalists know that things are not always what they seem. And it can be the deeper system that leads to unhealthy fruit or electoral outcomes. Our strawberry is nice and red: but is it organically grown, harvested by well-treated workers, and brought to our table by a wholesale and retail chain that values the grower, the marketer and the eater? If we look deeper, we might see a pesticide-laden, soil-destroying, exploitative food system.

It's the same with voting. We (the Sierra Club) support and protect each person's right to vote. We should be seeing equal access and high turnout of registered voters at all of our elections.

But...why vote if your individual vote doesn't matter? What if the system is rigged and the candidate with the most support can't win? What if a "winner" goes on to appoint people whose perspectives and actions do not represent the majority of members or voters?

We hang our heads in distress over recent Supreme Court decisions that limit reproductive rights and environmental protections. Let's dig deeper and consider the rocky and inhospitable soil we call our Electoral College. As currently operated, the Electoral College disenfranchises thousands of voters in each Presidential election, and our President may not represent us at all. It has been said: "Donald Trump did not beat Hillary Clinton. The Electoral College did."

This can change. Our Sierra Club Board of Directors voted in 2009 to endorse the National Popular Vote, which sets up a different way of operating the Electoral College. This does not require a constitutional amendment. It is a state-by-state compact that assigns a state's electors to the winner of the national popular vote. It is a non-partisan strategy with the simple purpose of one person one vote. It has been enacted by 15 states and DC, with 195 electoral votes. California passed the legislation in 2011. NPV needs 75 more electoral votes to go into effect. Full information can be found at www.nationalpopularvote.com.

We have Sierra Club Chapters in every state, and we all have friends and relatives across the country. Let's talk with them and help them to get their states on board.

Just as we can assure that our Group and Chapter elections bring us leaders with integrity who represent members' values and priorities, we can be sure that 2024 brings us a President who represents the voters of the USA.

Enjoy your summer strawberries, check out National Popular Vote, and be sure to vote this Fall!

Peggy da Silva is Chair of the Chapter Elections Committee.



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#SierraSnapshots | Coyote howling near the Old Moraga Ranch Trail in the East Bay Regional Park District. Photo by Stephanie Becker. For a chance to get your snapshots featured in the next issue of the Yodeler, email photos to yodedit@sfbaysc.org or share them on Twitter or Instagram with the hashtag #SierraSnapshots. Include your name, the names of any people in the photo, and where and when the photo was taken.

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Our website is home to helpful information and resources including:

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Awards party and Chapter gathering in person in Berkeley on September 17! (p. 8)
- Free Sierra Club Military Outdoors pole hiking and walking trainings (p. 11)
- Applications by petition for Chapter and Group ExCom positions due August 30 (p. 3)

EMAIL

Visit sierraclub.org/sfbay/email to sign up for Bay Chapter emails, including monthly bulletins and action alerts.