



Find us online at theyodeler.org and sierraclub.org/sfbay

2015 Chapter election calendar

August 6

Deadline for candidates to be registered as Sierra Club members

September 7

End of Nomination period
Deadline for return of candidate questionnaires

September 28

Deadline for petition candidates

November 18

Mailout of paper ballots in Dec/Jan issue of Yodeler

December 18

Closing date for acceptance of ballots at Chapter office members

December 19

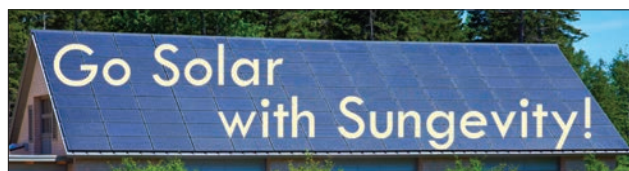
Ballots counted and candidates contacted with election results

December 21

Chapter Executive Committee certifies election results



See page 3 for more about the election and how to run for a position on a group or chapter Executive Committee.



Take advantage of \$750 September discount!

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!

If you've been thinking about going solar, now is a great time. For September only, you'll get a \$750 discount and earn \$1,000 for the Bay Chapter when you go solar with Sungevity.

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



Scenes from Tesla Park in southeast Alameda County, which is under threat from a proposed expansion of the adjacent Carnegie SVRA off-road-vehicle park. Mitigation fees for dumping waste at the Altamont Landfill could be used to protect Tesla Park as open space. Such environmental mitigations won't happen if San Francisco's waste is landfilled in Solano County instead of at Altamont. See article below for more information. Photo courtesy Pete Veilleux for Save Tesla Park.

New destination for S.F.'s trash would mean more carbon emissions, less open space for Alameda County

Should San Francisco redirect its garbage from an Alameda County landfill to Solano County? The change would mean more carbon pollution, less money for open space protection, and a disincentive to achieving the city's zero waste goals — so the Sierra Club is doing everything it can to stop the plan.

Since 1987, San Francisco has been disposing of its municipal solid waste at Waste Management's Altamont Landfill in eastern Alameda County. In 2010, as San Francisco's contract with Waste Management began nearing expiration, the city invited bids for its future waste disposal. Recology Corporation, the company that now collects San Francisco's garbage, won the bidding with a proposal to dump the waste in a landfill it owns in Yuba County, over 100 miles away in the Sierra Nevada foothills. The waste would have been transferred to railcars and hauled by train to the site. The Sierra Club opposed that contract for a variety of reasons, and ultimately the deal fell through owing to permitting obstacles and local opposition.

Recology's back-up plan is to take San Francisco's waste to another landfill it owns on Hay Road in Solano County. The waste would be trucked on I-80 through Richmond to the site. The Sierra Club's SF Bay and Redwood Chapters oppose this plan for a number of reasons and urge San Francisco to continue sending its waste to the Altamont Landfill in Alameda

County. The most important reason for our opposition is that waste disposed of in Alameda County is subject to a mitigation fee for the harm that landfilling imposes on the environment. No such fee exists in Solano County.

The mitigation fee levied at Altamont goes primarily to a fund for open space protection. The money is used to acquire land for the permanent protection of native biological diversity and natural habitat in eastern Alameda County, the area impacted by the landfill. All jurisdictions that landfill in Alameda County, not just San Francisco, are subject to the fee.

Since the fee began being collected in 2000, the open space fund has distributed over \$8 million and helped permanently protect over 4,000 acres of native biological habitat. That land is habitat for the California red-legged frog, California tiger salamander, burrowing owl, and many other species that live in Alameda County and are at risk of extinction. The Sierra Club has a vote on the committee that determines where the funds are spent.

One potential use of Altamont mitigation funds is to buy back Tesla Park land from the State Parks and Recreation Department. Tesla is a biologically rich and scenically beautiful area where the Department's Off-Highway Vehicle Division wants to expand the adjacent Carnegie State Vehicle

Continued on page 15.

The Chapter Calendar of events and activities is on page 5.

See you at the Chapter's annual potluck picnic on Friday, August 14th!

Friday, August 14, 5 to 8 pm, Fremont Central Park, Brook 1 picnic site, 40000 Paseo Padre Parkway, Fremont.

Join fellow Sierra Club members for an evening of good cheer, good food, and good company at our annual potluck picnic.

Fremont Central Park is two blocks south of the Fremont BART Station. Our picnic site is another block south along the trail on the west side of Lake Elizabeth, just beyond the community center.

There are parking lots along Paseo Padre Parkway. Come early to walk the two-mile

trail around the lake and enjoy its beauty.

Please bring a potluck dish or beverage to share, reusable dishes and flatware (let's go zero waste!), jackets, blankets, games, and friends and family.

Organizers will provide tablecloths, games, information about the chapter's latest campaigns, and prizes!

Volunteers are needed to get things to the picnic, set up, welcome guests, clean up, and take things back to the chapter office. To volunteer, please contact Joanne Drabek at joanne1892@gmail.com or (510)530-5216.



Bay Chapter members enjoy food and good company at a past Chapter picnic.

Have you signed our petition calling for a coal-free Oakland?

By now you've probably heard about a secretive backroom deal to bring up to nine million tons of Utah coal through Oakland *each year*. This would have major consequences for climate, public health and safety, and the local economy. **If you haven't done so already, please go to tinyurl.com/coalfreeoakland and sign our petition to Oakland's mayor, city council, and other public officials demanding that they put an end to this disastrous project.**

Here's the background: as U.S. coal plants are shuttered and new EPA regulations take effect, the coal industry has had to look for ways to get their dirty commodity to foreign markets. Oregon and Washington have successfully fought proposals to ship coal through their ports, so Big Coal is now looking to California's marine terminals. A redevelopment project at the old Oakland Army Base — located on the waterfront just south of the eastern touchdown of the Bay Bridge — is the latest target.

The redevelopment area is on public land and — as KQED recently reported — about two-thirds of the project's half-billion-dollar




pricetag will come from local, state, and federal funds. We strongly believe that public funds and public land should be used for the public good — not for a highly polluting project to line the pockets of a private developer.

Coal is transported on open-top rail cars that lose up to a ton of coal dust per car. That means for every trip by a coal train, 60,000 pounds of toxic fine particulate matter enters into our air, water, and backyards. From the mines to the Bay Area and everywhere in between, communities that are already disproportionately impacted by industrial pollution would be at even greater risk of deadly diseases like asthma, heart disease, and cancer.

The project would also be a climate disaster. The mining, transport, and burning of the coal transported through Oakland would result in over 12.5 million tons of greenhouse emissions each year. That's the equivalent emissions of

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. Head there to explore all sorts of great resources and opportunities including:

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

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

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



MyBrokerDonates.com
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COAL EXPORTS: BAD FOR OAKLAND, BAD FOR THE CLIMATE



two million cars on the road.

So join us in asking our leaders to oppose a project that would mean dirtier air for the Bay Area and a warmer planet for everyone. Sign our petition at tinyurl.com/coalfreeoakland.

You can read more about the details and consequences of the coal-export proposal on our website at sc.org/sfbay/coalfreeoakland.

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For information about display advertising, contact the ad manager at sierraclubyodeler@gmail.com. For information about classifieds, see page 15.

SUBMISSIONS AND VOLUNTEERING

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

Climbing mountains together — David Brower Dinner to honor environmental justice leaders

The Chapter will host the Fifth Annual David Brower Dinner on October 22nd in San Francisco to celebrate the achievements of local environmental heroes and raise funds to support our work.

The event's namesake, David Brower, was Sierra Club's first executive director and a renowned mountaineer who achieved dozens of documented first ascents. One thing he learned early on about climbing is that you need a strong team of people with you to successfully reach the peak. Not only does this make the trek safer, but it makes the picturesque view at the top just that much better when you have friends to share it with!

In recent years, the Bay Chapter has begun to realize that the steepest, craggiest, windiest mountains we were struggling to scale were the same ones standing in the way of our friends in the movements for racial justice, living wages, public health, and many, many more. If what we all want is to overcome corruption, greed, and abuse, then why not climb these mountains together — stronger and more prepared for the long-haul. The Bay Chapter now works

in many diverse coalitions to shut down oil refinery expansions and curb emissions that disproportionately affect low-income communities and communities of color; facilitate nature outings for at-risk individuals through our Inspiring Outdoor Connections program; advocate for better access to public transportation and jobs; and lend our voice to our allies' campaigns for equity in its many different forms.

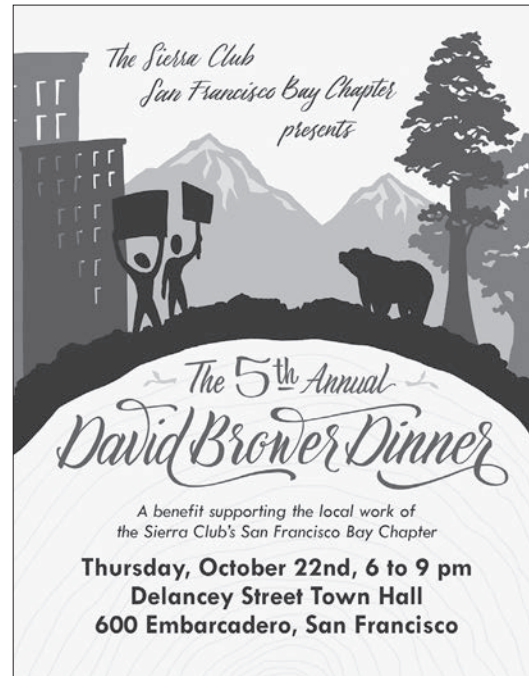
As we continue on this path we are inspired by our 2015 David Brower Dinner awardees and wish to thank them

for being our hiking buddies on this adventure. Carl Anthony, founder of Urban Habitat, along

with his partner in the Break-through Communities Project, Dr. Paloma Pavel, will be receiving the Trailblazer Award for their pioneering multi-racial leadership initiative that has amplified the voices of disadvantaged communities in the metropolitan regional equity movement across the country. Amy Meyer, "godmother" of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, will be bestowed

with the Ed Bennett Lifetime Achievement Award for her part in the 1970's campaign that has since enabled millions to have access to tens of thousands of acres of national park land right near the urban epicenter of the Bay Area. We will also honor Gayle McLaughlin and Jovanka Beckles of the Richmond City Council with the Phil Burton Badge of Courage for their work toward growing a clean-energy economy and standing up to Big Oil to protect their community — even overcoming the millions of dollars spent by Chevron in the 2014 election. Finally, we'll welcome youth leaders from the Rose Foundation's New Voices are Rising project to show that our young people are no longer the "leaders of the future", but rather the "leaders of today" in the fight for better environmental health.

We hope you'll join us for what is sure to be an inspirational evening and to support the Bay Chapter's ascent towards a healthy and vibrant environment for all (the view's gonna be great!). For more information, sponsorship opportunities, and tickets please visit sc.org/sfbay/davidbrowerdinner2015.



Will you be a Sierra Club ExCom leader?

The Sierra Club is grassroots, volunteer-driven environmental advocacy organization. Support the process at the local level by running for the San Francisco Bay Chapter Executive Committee or one of its local Group Executive Committees.

Executive Committees are the Chapter's decision-making boards, overseeing budgets, administering activities, deciding local conservation policy, and endorsing political candidates. If you are a member with experience serving on another committee or with organizing, environmental issues, or fundraising, we could use your skills.

If you're interested in running in the 2015 Chapter election, the first step is

to download the application packet and candidate questionnaire. You can find the materials and more information at sc.org/sfbay/2015chapterselections, or by contacting Maritessa Bravo at elections@sfbaysc.org.

The campaign process isn't long or costly. Elections will be held from Nov. 20 to Dec. 18 by both paper and electronic voting. Mon., Sep. 7, will be the close of nominations; Sept. 28 will be the deadline for petition candidates.

The Sierra Club is a rare national organization where members make key decisions. Success depends on the strength of our membership. It's empowering and effective. Please consider stepping up to run for a position in the Chapter.

Welcome new organizer, Jeremy Gong



Jeremy Gong, the Chapter's new conservation coordinator

Jeremy Gong is the Bay Chapter's new conservation program coordinator. Jeremy will help organize a conference showing local governments how to build green infrastructure and move beyond oil.

Jeremy grew up in Berkeley and then attended Occidental College in Los Angeles before transferring to the Gallatin School at New York University. Graduating in May 2014, he studied politics and philosophy as well as literature and economics. Jeremy has volunteered with labor organizations and worked as a political coordinator on the Fast Food Forward/Fight for Fifteen Campaign with the progressive community organization New York Communities for Change.

Jeremy is glad to be back in California with a new-found appreciation of mild weather.

Follow along with Zeke's cross-country adventures

This summer, Berkeley teen Zeke Gerwein is biking over 4,000 miles from Delaware to California to raise awareness of climate change. Here is a selection of photographs Zeke has shared on his Instagram account (follow [zekegerwein](https://www.instagram.com/zekegerwein) on Instagram to see them all!). Visit sc.org/sfbay/zekesride to find a link to Zeke's blog and to show your support for his ride by making a donation to the Bay Chapter in Zeke's honor.



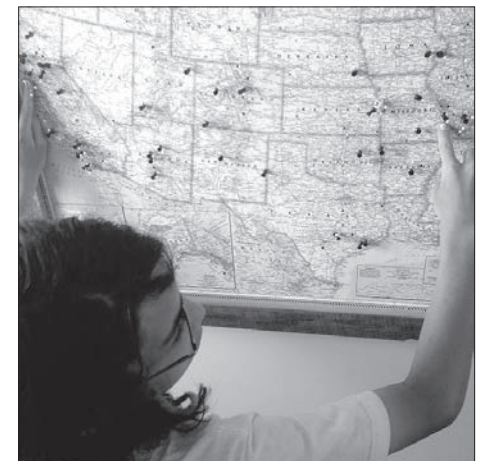
Zeke begins his journey at the Atlantic Ocean.



Zeke writes: "No recycling or compost within 80 miles!!"



Zeke at the Kansas state line.



Zeke takes stock of the distance he still has to cover.

Northern Waterfront Initiative would fast-track further industrialization of Contra Costa

If you live in Contra Costa County, you may have heard of a massive effort called the Northern Waterfront Economic Development Initiative, which aims to re-industrialize the coastline along the Carquinez Strait. However, it's more likely you haven't heard about it, since it has been operating mostly behind closed doors, with minimal input from local residents.

Launched in 2013, this initiative is an economic development revitalization "framework" led by Supervisors Federal Glover and Mary Piepho, and targets the towns of Hercules, Martinez, Concord, Pittsburg, Antioch, and Oakley, as well as unincorporated Rodeo, Crockett, Port Costa, Mountain View, Vine Hill, Clyde, and Bay Point.

Contra Costa is already the second-most industrialized county in California, behind Los Angeles. Yet the Northern Waterfront Initiative is a 20-year plan to permanently transform our county and bring even more industry here. The plan has no targets for renewable-energy growth, no caps on cumulative emissions, and no goals for attracting sustainable businesses. When county staff were recently asked about the "green" industries they planned to develop, the only example they could give was carpet recycling. While this is technically "green" for the consumer, it would leave the dirt and chemicals in our community.

The Northern Waterfront Initiative has failed to include voices of residents living in the affected industrial areas, and has instead chosen to focus on institutional "stakeholders" like local government and business associations. Instead of working with the community,

the Northern Waterfront Initiative treats us as an obstacle to be dealt with. Their "Competitive Assessment of Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats" (9/30/13) admits as a "weakness" that "Residential land uses are incompatible with the needs of industry. Citizens in the area may protest more industry because their presence generally increases deleterious effects on the community such as traffic, noise and air pollution."

In addition to affecting human health and safety, the Northern Waterfront Initiative also puts our coastline, water, and natural environment at risk. The plan itself is focused on water-intensive businesses. It includes a feasibility study to dredge the Carquinez Strait from Richmond to Stockton, from 35 feet to

38 feet. Funded by Contra Costa County, Western States Petroleum Association, and the Port of Stockton, the dredging would allow barges to fill to capacity with dirty commodities including coal and oil. Aside from increasing the amount of dirty fossil fuels that could be shipped through the Bay Area, dredging poses a number of additional hazards: it can increase salinity in the Delta (a shortsighted move during a drought), and it would release a century of buried toxins into our Bay.

The Northern Waterfront Initiative has projected various numbers of jobs it would create; one 20-year prediction was 5,000 jobs, another was 18,000 jobs. But what kind of jobs? And will workers want to live in an

even more unhealthy and highly industrialized community? The Northern Waterfront Initiative is not a plan to transition away from the old fossil fuel economy, but just more "business as usual," despite the well-documented fact that the transition to renewable energy is an opportunity for job growth. Stanford engineer Mark Jacobson has established that if California transitioned to 100% renewable energy, it would create over 450,000 jobs statewide.

According to British Petroleum's 2014 annual report, there are only 53 more years of proven oil reserves left on the earth. When the oil refineries in Martinez, Rodeo, Richmond, and Benicia shut down, our towns will be left with massive polluted properties and no plan to replace them or transition those workers to sustainable employment. If fully implemented, the Northern Waterfront Initiative will affect our communities for decades to come, but it takes us in the wrong direction.

If you are interested in learning more, please attend our community forum sponsored by the Sierra Club and the Bay Area Refinery Corridor Coalition (BARCC):

Saturday, August 15

10 am to 1 pm

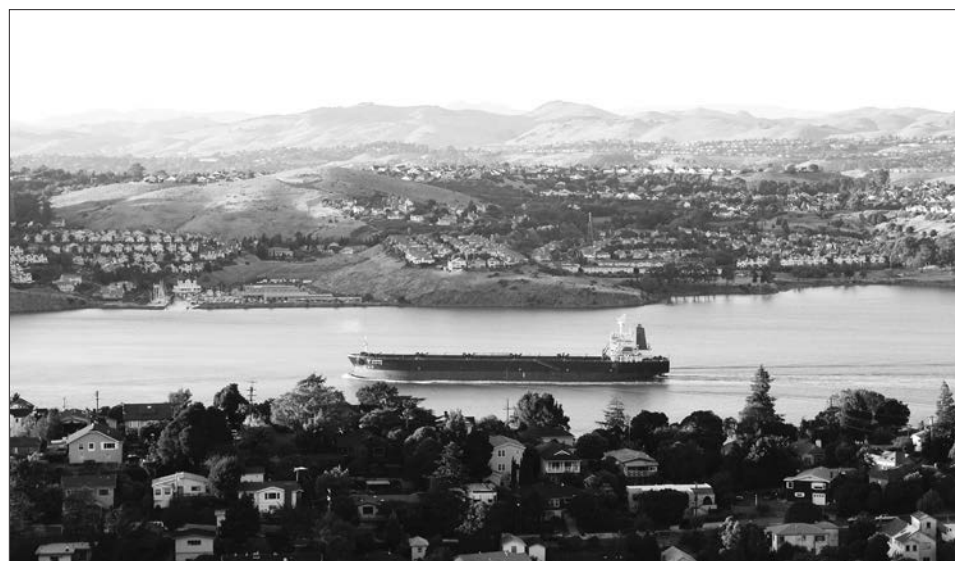
Nick Rodriguez Community Center

213 F St, Antioch, CA 94509

A light lunch will be provided.

For more information or to RSVP, please contact info@bayarearcc.org.

Tom Griffith is a Martinez resident and member of the Sierra Club's Mount Diablo Group Executive Committee; Pamela Arauz is an Antioch resident and member of the Sierra Club's Delta Group Executive Committee.



A ship likely carrying coal heads out through the Carquinez Strait toward San Francisco Bay. Photo courtesy John Halton.

Club advocacy leads to partial win on community benefits for downtown Berkeley

In 2010, after negotiating promised community benefits for affordable housing, transportation, and open space, the Sierra Club took a bold stance to support the Berkeley Downtown Area Plan, which was passed by 64% of Berkeley's voters under Measure R and formally adopted by the City Council in 2012. Since then, we have worked actively and effectively to ensure that these benefits translate from promises to reality. Though the achievement of greenhouse gas reduction targets through transit-oriented development is in and of itself a benefit to the environment, the Sierra Club did not stop there and has advocated for affordable housing, improved and accessible public transportation, streetscape and open-space improvements, and labor benefits for the workers who will be working on and in Downtown buildings.

As an article published two years ago shows (see <http://theyodeler.org/?p=6988>), the road to real community benefits has not always been a smooth one. However, through meetings with many members of the City Council, two carefully crafted letters, and a petition that was signed by hundreds of Berkeley's Sierra Club

members, we achieved some important wins in recent weeks.

On June 25, the City Council — by a vote of 8 to 1 — passed a "compromise" package of requirements that developers of four of the five tall buildings in the Downtown area would have to provide as "significant community benefits." Significant community benefits were prescribed in Measure R for four Downtown buildings of up to 120 feet and three buildings of up to 180 feet, but until this meeting these benefits had not been defined.

What ultimately passed was a proposal by Councilmembers Droste and Moore that merged two competing proposals — one by Mayor Bates and Councilmember Capitelli, the other by Councilmember Arreguin. Under the compromise, developers are to submit a community benefits package to the City and follow one of two options:

- Option A includes benefits related to affordable housing beyond the minimum requirements (the minimum is currently set at 10% on-site inclusionary housing at 50% of Area Median Income, or an in-lieu payment to the Housing Trust Fund of \$20,000 for 10%

of the market-rate units being provided); a project labor agreement; and at least one other benefit from several categories including arts and culture, streetscape and open-space improvements, sustainability measures beyond the minimum requirement of LEED Gold, or other investments such as in historical restoration or social services.

- Option B instead sets a flat fee "predetermined by an independent financial consultant that would capture the highest reasonable value while maintaining financial feasibility of the project." The developer would pay the fee into a city fund used to support various benefits as listed above.

Unfortunately, the first tall building in the pipelining process — the 194-foot 2211 Harold Way project — was exempted from this framework as the Council deemed it to be too far along in the permitting pipeline. The project's developer would pay a fee of \$100 per square foot from 76 to 120 feet of the building, and \$150 per square foot for 121 to 180 feet of the project. It remains an open question whether the developer will seek to reduce this fee if it proposes significant com-

munity benefits with the project (for example, a project-labor agreement with the building trades has already been signed).

The exemption of 2211 Harold Way and the relegation of streetscape and open-space improvements to just one possible community benefits option, rather than a required priority option, were two areas in which the proposal came short of the Sierra Club's request. However, there is much to applaud in what was passed. Three Sierra Club priority elements — affordable housing, project-labor agreements, and an independent analysis of the heightened values of the entitlements and allowable costs that could be borne by the developer — were incorporated into the package that was ultimately approved, either as requirements or as priority options.

As the devil is in the details, the Sierra Club will continue to monitor the implementation of these significant community benefits to ensure they are consistent with what was passed — and with most of what we fought for.

Igor Tregub, Conservation Committee co-chair and
Sophie Hahn, Political Committee chair for the
Northern Alameda County Group



Events & Activities

AUG - SEPT
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:

sierraclub.org/sfbay/activities.

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

Hike and backpack ratings

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

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

Backpack ratings include a third digit for travel:

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

What to bring

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

Liabilities

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

Problem resolution

If you have an outing-related concern that you are not able to address via the outing's leader, please contact the chair of the sponsoring section or group. If that is not sufficient, you can call the Activities Committee ombudsman, Rob Postar, at (510)551-4979 or rpostar@gmail.com, 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.

Tuesdays

Lake Chabot Reservoir 1A hike. Optional dinner afterward. **Meet:** 4pm at boathouse. **Leader:** Dolores Gruenewal, (510)351-6247 or 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. Aug 1 and 15, Sept 5 and 19. Explore two of San Bruno Mountain's less-traveled canyons and learn about the history and ecology of this "Island of Biodiversity." Narrow footpaths surrounded by coastal scrub, riparian woodland, and coastal grassland. Includes an Ohlone shellmound visit. Moderate pace with many stops. Heavy rain cancels. **Cost:** No charge, but donations welcome. **Meet:** 10 am at 44 Visitation Avenue #206, Brisbane. **Ends:** 1:30 pm. **Leader:** Paul E. Bouscal 415-467-6631 or sanbruno@mountainwatch.org. (Hiking and San Bruno Mountain Watch)

July 25 • Sat

Point Bonita Lighthouse 3C hike. Hike to spectacular Point Bonita Lighthouse and enjoy lunch overlooking the Golden Gate. Hike through the tunnel to enjoy views from the rocky precipice that the light house was constructed in. Return by Rodeo Beach along the Coastal Trail. Spectacular ocean views. Heavy rain cancels, light showers OK. **Meet:** Depart Tennessee Valley (by stables) at 9 am sharp. **Ends:** 4:30 pm. **Directions:** Park in large gravel lot below stables. **Leader:** Katy Christie, (510)277-5386 or katyhike@gmail.com. (Hiking)

Corona Heights Natural Area habitat restoration project. Join us for our monthly habitat restoration project at this San Francisco gem, as we remove invasive plants, nurture the natives, and maintain the trails. **Meet:** 10 am on the south side of Randall Museum (parking lot is on north side) at end of Museum Way, just off Roosevelt Way. Held rain or shine. All tools and gloves are provided. Children under 10 are welcome if accompanied by an adult. **Ends:** noon. **Leader:** Russell Hartman, (650)242-2679 or rph1917@comcast.net. (Gay & Lesbian)

Big Basin Redwood State Park 2A hike for the under-40 crowd. Join us for a hike along creeks, beneath giant redwoods and through chaparral plants, with two fun-loving guides! Come share some laughs and trail talk! Encouraging younger people to join Sierra Club for outings, but we will not be checking IDs. Rain or shine. **Bring:** Lunch, snacks and 2-3 liters of water. **Meet:** 10 am at the trailhead across the street from Park Headquarters, at the large Redwood trail marker. **Leader:** Beth Bittle, (510)759-6225 or callingu2@gmail.com. (Gay & Lesbian)

Kelham Beach 3B hike. Enjoy a moderately-paced hike at Pt Reyes. We begin with a vigorous climb up Mt Wittenberg; then take the Sky Trail, with vistas of the sea, down to Kelham Beach. The hike ends with a leisurely walk up the shady Bear Valley Trail, and is followed by an optional dinner at Avatars' Punjabi Burrito in Fairfax. **Meet:** 10:30 am at bulletin board in front of Bear Valley Visitor Center. **Leader:** Tom Hinshaw (402)770-0534 or thomas.v.hinshaw@gmail.com. (Sierra Singles)

July 25 • Sat

Point Reyes Laguna Loop 2B hike. A moderate to leisurely-paced 8-9-mile hike in the hills and along the coast trail above Liman-tour Beach with an hour's lunch on the beach. Any rain cancels. Fog drizzle does not. **Meet:** 11 am at Bayview trailhead. **Leader:** Steve Bakaley, (925)945-8205 or slbakaley@lbl.gov (preferred). (Mount Diablo Group and Sierra Club Military Outdoors)

July 26 • Sun

Point Pinole Regional Park 1A hike. Meet for an hourlong walk on paved trail, wheelchair accessible, through the eucalyptus groves, breathing the fresh breezes from San Pablo Bay. **Meet:** 4:30 pm at Point Pinole Regional Park parking lot. **Leader:** Vera Lis, (510)234-8949. (Solo Sierrans)

July 29 • Wed

Public comment needed to Spare the Air! The EPA has reported that refineries in the Bay Area emit twice as much toxic pollution as refineries in Southern California? In order to clean up our air we need you to tell the Air District board that air quality matters to you. **Meet:** 9:45 am at 939 Ellis Street, San Francisco. **Leader:** Ratha Lai, (510)848-0800 ext. 328 or ratha.lai@sierraclub.org.

July 31 • Fri - Aug 3 • Mon

Desolation Family Backpacking 1A1 backpack. Four days, three nights in Desolation Wilderness with nothing but trees, rocks, lakes, streams and the company of some adventurous families. No phones, no bills, no homework! Yay! **Cost:** \$20/person. **Bring:** Bear canisters recommended. **Leader:** Brian Gunney, (925)667-5236 or (emails preferred) brian@gunney.net, John Carney 415-753-1630. (Backpacking)

July 31 • Fri

Full moonrise in Tilden Park 1B canine hike. Join us on this hike up to benches and a labyrinth overlooking San Francisco Bay. We will watch the sunset at 8:19 pm. Just after heading down on this loop trail, we will stop to see the full moon rising near Mt. Diablo around 8:30. The trail is rocky. **Meet:** 7 pm at Big Springs Trail trailhead near bulleting board. **Ends:** 9:30 pm. **Bring:** Flashlight. **Leader:** Virginia Preston, (510)559-8155 or ginnypreston5@gmail.com. (Sierra Singles)

Aug 1 • 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 muddy trails will cancel. **Meet:** 9 am at 560 Hemme Avenue, Alamo. **Leader:** Lutz Heinrich, (925)216-8672 or ltz_hnrch@yahoo.com. (Hiking)

Inner Sunset to Lyon Street stairs 1A hike. This is a one-way hike through interesting neighborhoods with lovely homes and scenic views along the way. We will return via Muni. Any rain cancels. **Cost:** Muni fare, \$2.25, \$1 for seniors. **Meet:** 10 am at 9th and Irving, northeast corner. **Ends:** 3 pm. **Leader:** Gloria Navarra 415-731-6144. (Hiking)

Continued on following page

Fuller versions of many of these listings can be found at www.sierraclub.org/sfbay/activities.

Aug 2 • Sun

Point Reyes 3C hike. We'll start in Bear Valley and pass by where Clem Miller is buried on our way to Arch Rock. We then head up to Inverness Ridge and head back to the trailhead. Enjoy eye-popping views. **Meet:** 9 am at the Fairfax Parkade, 19 Broadway Boulevard, Fairfax, to carpool to the trailhead. **Leader:** Tom Post 415-690-6572 or tpost123@hotmail.com. (Hiking)

Aug 7 • Fri - Aug 9 • Sun

Jennie Lakes Wilderness 2B backpack. Jennie Lakes Wilderness is snuggled between Kings Canyon and Sequoia National Parks, but with much fewer people. This trip will lead us through the heart of this wilderness area, exploring both Jennie Lake and Weaver Lake. 19 miles over three days, with 3,400 feet of elevation gain and loss. Limited to eight participants. Individual commissary. Submit applications after June 25. **Cost:** \$30. **Leader:** Michael Bandrowski, (510)834-3235 or mike.bandrowski@gmail.com. (Backpacking)

Desolation Wilderness 2B backpack. We'll start at the Rockbound Pass trailhead and backpack around nine miles to our campsite of two nights at Lake Schmidell. On Saturday, we'll go on a day hike to explore the many lakes and beautiful scenery. Enjoy the granite and beautiful lakes on this moderate trip. Sign-ups begin July 1. Limited to seven participants. **Cost:** \$25. **Leader:** Tom Post 415-690-6572 or tpost123@hotmail.com. (Backpacking)

Aug 8 • Sat

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

Mount Wittenberg Point Reyes loop 2B hike. **Meet:** 9:30 am at the Fairfax Parkade (large parking lot on Sir Francis Drake Boulevard across from the movie theater). **Carpool:** Meet 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)

Midpeninsula Open Space Preserve 3C loop hike. Join us on an exploration of old-growth forests and open grasslands in five Midpeninsula Open Space Preserves. Moderate pace, but not for speed demons or gazelles, or those just getting into shape. High fire danger or excessive heat may cancel; call on morning of hike if in doubt. **Meet:** 10 am at Monte Bello Open Space Preserve parking lot, Page Mill Road, Los Altos. **Ends:** 6 pm. **Leader:** Bob Solotar, (510)525-2110 or bob_solotar@hotmail.com. (Mount Diablo Group)

Oakland hills stairways 2A hike. Walk through parkways and stairs in Oakland hills. Much of walk is in area of 1991 Oakland Firestorm. Leisurely pace but walk takes all day. Walk returns to College Avenue not far from Rockridge BART about 4:30 pm for dinner stop at local restaurant. Any rain cancels. **Bring:** Money for post-walk dinner. **Meet:** 10 am at Rockridge BART near escalators. **Leader:** Guy Mayes, (510)522-1590. (Hiking)

Aug 8 • Sat

Bayshore in El Cerrito 1A hike. Meet for an hour walk on paved trail, wheelchair accessible, at Point Isabel. Optional early Chinese dinner at Pacific East Mall follows the walk. **Bring:** Binoculars for possible shorebird sightings. **Meet:** 4:30 pm at small parking lot at the end of Rydin Road. **Leader:** Vera Lis, (510)234-8949. (Solo Sierrans)

Aug 9 • Sun - Aug 14 • Fri

Red Peak Pass loop 2CT backpack. This Yosemite backpacking trip is perfect for the adventurer looking for classic High Sierra views and alpine lakes with more solitude. This area is rarely visited due to its rugged terrain, but your efforts will be rewarded with pristine alpine lakes and above-treeline landscapes that allow for open star-gazing at night. Make your way up to the Merced River Canyon to this pass which crosses the high peaks of the Clark Range in Yosemite. **Cost:** \$60. **Bring:** All equipment and food, bear canisters. **Leaders:** Jim Mccrummen, (925)626-4517 or jimmx@comcast.net; Teri Shore, (707)938-3469 or terishore@gmail.com. (Backpacking)

Aug 14 • Fri - Aug 18 • Tue

Light and fast extended Rae Lakes loop 5.00E+03 backpack. This very difficult trip is for those of supreme fitness, excellent cross country confidence, and lightweight travel ethic. Itinerary includes Bubb's Creek, Kersarge Pass, Dragon Lake's Pass (xc), and Rae Lakes. Also Sixty Lakes Basin and Gardner Lakes, Wood's Creek, Window Peak drainage, Bench Lake, and a descent of the rarely visited South Fork of the Kings. Contact Brian for information. **Leaders:** Kevin Sawchuk, ksawchuk@gmail.com; Brian Gunney, (925)667-5236 or brian@gunney.net. (Backpacking)

Aug 14 • Fri

Annual Chapter potluck picnic. Join us at the Annual Potluck in Fremont Central Park, two blocks south of Fremont BART. There will be good food, good cheer, information about our latest campaigns, and prizes! To volunteer, contact Joanne. **Bring:** Potluck dish to share, reusable dishes and flatware, games, family, and friends. **Meet:** 5 pm at 40000 Paseo Padre Parkway, Fremont. **Ends:** 8 pm. **Leader:** Joanne Drabek, (510)530-5216 or joanne1892@gmail.com.

Aug 15 • Sat

Summertime at Point Reyes 3C+ hike. Moderately-paced, long (15+ miles) hike. Experienced hikers only. No water nor facilities available at trailhead. **Meet:** 9 am sharp at Bayview Trail off Limantour Road. **Leader:** Terry Balestriere (415)454-8527 or terrybalestriere@yahoo.com; Francois Saint Gassies. (Hiking)

Point Reyes Hill and Laguna loops 3B day hike. We'll start with a loop from Muddy Hollow to Point Reyes Hill and back via Inverness Ridge and Bayview. Then we'll make our way to the Laguna and Fire Lane trails to loop via the Coast and Muddy Hollow trails. **Meet:** 10 am at Muddy Hollow trailhead, Point Reyes National Seashore. **Leader:** Steve Bakaley, (925)945-8205 or slbakaley@lbl.gov (preferred). (Hiking, Sierra Singles, and Mt. Diablo Group)

Aug 16 • Sun

Point Reyes/Bear Valley-Glen Camp 3B hike. **Meet:** 9 am at Fairfax Parkade (across from Fairfax Theater) to carpool to Point Reyes. Moderately-paced hike. Great coastal views in clear weather. **Leader:** Paul F. Glodis, (510)326-9008 or pglodis@gmail.com. (Marin Group)

Aug 22 • Sat

Zen Center and Muir Beach 3C hike. Hike from Tennessee Valley up the Miwok Trail. Pass by Hope Cottage and through Zen Center gardens. 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. Rain cancels. **Meet:** 9 am at end of Tennessee Valley Road in parking lot near stables. **Ends:** 4:30 pm. **Leader:** Katy Christie, (510)277-5386 or kathyhike@gmail.com. (Hiking)

Alamere Falls and Bass Lake 2B hike. Leisurely pace. Hike returns to trailhead about 5 pm. Post-hike dinner at local restaurant. Any rain cancels. **Bring:** Swimsuit, towel, and money for post-hike dinner in Bolinas. **Meet:** 11 am at parking lot for Palomarin trailhead at end of Mesa Road near Bolinas in Point Reyes National Seashore. **Ends:** 5 pm. **Leader:** Guy Mayes, (510)522-1590. (Hiking)

Tilden Regional Park in Berkeley 1A hike. Hourlong walk through eucalyptus groves followed by optional early dinner at Cactus Taqueria on Solano Ave. **Meet:** 4:30 pm at Lone Oak parking lot. **Leader:** Vera Lis, (510)234-8949. (Solo Sierrans)

"Do go gently into that good night" 1A hike. With apologies to Dylan Thomas, we'll be on the lookout for El Diablo's elusive night shift — toads, bats, owls, wolf spiders, scorpions, tarantulas, and other critters that go bump in the night! **Cost:** \$6 parking fee (exact change required). **Bring:** Flashlight. **Meet:** 6:30 pm at Mitchell Canyon Staging Area. **Ends:** 9 pm. **Leaders:** Elizabeth Watson, lizzy0087@hotmail.com; Ken Lavin, (925)852-8778 or ken_lavin@hotmail.com. (Mount Diablo Group)

Aug 28 • Fri

Tilden Park, Berkeley, loop hike. Enjoy leisurely stroll in scenic Berkeley hills. After walk, optional stop in Orinda for dinner. **Meet:** 4 pm in upper parking lot for Steam Trains at corner of Grizzly Peak and Lomas Contadas in Berkeley. **Ends:** 6 pm. **Leader:** Lucy Henderson, (925)254-2898 or hndrsnlucy@yahoo.com. (Delta Regional Group)

Aug 29 • Sat

San Francisco Natural Areas nursery work project. Instead of our usual project at Corona Heights, we'll be working at the Rec & Parks Natural Areas Nursery on various projects, including repotting seedlings, washing pots, planting seeds, etc. All plants grown at the nursery are propagated from seeds gathered in the natural areas, and are returned there. Rain or shine. Tools and gloves provided. Children under 10 welcome if with an adult. **Meet:** 10 am at nursery entrance at intersection of Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive and Bowling Green Drive, in Golden Gate Park. **Ends:** noon. **Leader:** Russell Hartman, (650)242-2679 or rph1917@comcast.net. (Gay & Lesbian)

Sept 5 • Sat

Lands End coastal walk 3B hike. All-day walk from Sutro Baths ruins to near Golden Gate Bridge and back, using mostly different routes. Many stairs. Any rain cancels. **Bring:** Money for post-walk dinner at restaurant in San Francisco. **Meet:** 9 am near restrooms outside Lands End Visitor Center. **Ends:** 6 pm. **Leader:** Guy Mayes, (510)522-1590. (Hiking)

Sept 6 • Sun

Emeryville Marina 1A sunset walk. Hourlong walk on paved trail, wheelchair accessible, through the marina, with quiet views of San Francisco and the Golden Gate Bridge. After the walk, optional early dinner at the Emery Bay Market. **Meet:** 4:30 pm at the back of Chevy's Restaurant by the picnic tables. **Leader:** Vera Lis, (510)234-8949. (Solo Sierrans)

Sept 10 • Thu - Sept 14 • Mon

Car camping at Malakoff Diggins State Historic Park. Four nights of car camping at this state park preserving the largest hydraulic mining site in California. Park has more than 20 miles of scenic foothill hiking trails. Campers responsible (with others) for providing one evening meal and their own breakfasts, lunches, and happy hours. 25 person limit so reserve early. **Cost:** Send a \$50 check made out to "Solo Sierrans" to Dave Sutton, 3731 Barrington Drive, Concord, CA 94518. Include your address, email, home and cellphone numbers. **Leaders:** Dave Sutton; Maurie J Ange, (510)527-9343 mjange@msn.com. (Solo Sierrans and Hikanbyke)

Sept 12 • Sat

Muir Woods loop hike 2B hike. Enjoy this loop through and above Muir Woods — great in the fall when the redwoods change color. We may see some baby salmon. **Meet:** 9 am at Miller and Locust in Mill Valley (in front of the 7-Eleven). **Carpool:** Meet 8 am at the North Berkeley BART station (outside the front gate). Fee to enter the park (or permit). **Leader:** James Bonsey, (510)527-5345 or jlbj3@netzero.net. (Marin Group)

East Peak 3C hike. Climb the Dipsea Steps and head up the Sun Trail and the Temelpa Trail to lunch on the summit of East Peak at the fire tower. Return via the Miller Trail and the Ridge Trail to the Dipsea. Enjoy spectacular views of San Francisco, Alcatraz, and Marin Headlands from the fire tower on the summit. Any rain cancels. **Meet:** 9 am at intersection of Throckmorton and Cascade, Mill Valley. **Ends:** 3:30 pm. **Leader:** Katy Christie, (510)277-5386 or kathyhike@gmail.com. (Hiking)

EBMUD/Redwood Park 2B hike. Leisurely to moderately-paced lasso from the brown grasslands of Contra Costa County to and through the cool redwoods in Redwood Park. Rain cancels. **Meet:** 10:30 am at Valle Vista Staging Area Canyon Road, Moraga. **Carpool:** Leader at Lafayette BART at 9:45am. **Leader:** Steve Bakaley, (925)945-8205 or slbakaley@lbl.gov (preferred). (Mount Diablo Group and Sierra Singles)

Fuller versions of many of these listings can be found at www.sierraclub.org/sfbay/activities.

Sept 18 • Fri - Sept 20 • Sun

Ansel Adams Wilderness 2CT backpack. Enjoy early fall in the High Sierra on this backpack out of Clover Meadow. **Cost:** \$45 includes car camping, wilderness permit, and contribution to Backpack Section. **Bring:** All food, cooking gear, and bear canisters. **Leaders:** Thomas Meissner, (707)795-7980 or meissner.thomas@sbcglobal.net; Lesley Kao, 415-504-7109 or lesleymkao@yahoo.com. (Backpacking)

Sept 19 • Sat

Drake's Head 3B hike. We'll start at the Muddy Hollow trailhead and work our way out to spectacular Drake's Head. Enjoy eye-popping views and possible sightings of bat rays, leopard sharks and elk. **Meet:** 9 am at the Fairfax Parkade to car-pool to trailhead. **Leader:** Tom Post, 415-690-6572 or tpost123@hotmail.com. (Hiking)

Contra Loma Reservoir, Antioch, shoreline cleanup. Join the Delta Group for their annual shoreline cleanup work party at Contra Loma Reservoir. Bring your friends and neighbors and help celebrate California Coastal Cleanup Day. **Meet:** 10 am in parking lot near swim area — no entrance fee required. **Ends:** Noon. **Leader:** Tim Donahue, (925)754-8801 or timothy-donahue@sbcglobal.net. (Delta Regional Group)

Coastal clean-up day at Point Isabel. Meet at Point Isabel for an hour of volunteering to help clean up the coastal areas around the park. For more information and directions, call leader. Afterwards, we'll have an optional early Chinese lunch at Pacific East Mall. **Meet:** 11 am. **Leader:** Vera Lis, (510)234-8949. (Solo Sierrans)

Sept 19 • Sat

Alameda architectural 2A hike. View Victorian-era houses and other homes in Alameda on this educational walk. Any rain cancels. **Bring:** Money for post-walk dinner at local restaurant in Alameda. **Meet:** 11 am at entry to Robert Crown Memorial Beach, corner of Otis and Westline. **Ends:** 5:30 pm. **Leader:** Guy Mayes, (510)522-1590. (Hiking)

Tarantula trek 1A hike. "I know I am not capable of suffering more than I did during those few minutes of suspense in the dark, surrounded by those creeping, bloody-minded tarantulas." (Mark Twain's "Roughing It") Was Mr. Twain exaggerating? (It wouldn't be the first time.) Find out for yourself as we hike Mitchell Canyon in search of Mount Diablo's famous spiders. **Cost:** \$6 vehicle parking fee (exact change required). **Bring:** Flashlight. **Meet:** 5:30 pm in front of the Mitchell Canyon Visitor Center. **Ends:** 8 pm. **Leaders:** Elizabeth Watson, lizzy0087@hotmail.com; Ken Lavin, (925)852-8778 or ken_lavin@hotmail.com. (Mount Diablo Group)

Sept 20 • Sun

Mitchell Canyon, Mt. Diablo State Park tarantula walk. Leisurely loop hike to enjoy autumn colors in a scenic canyon and possible tarantula sightings! Rain cancels. After hike, optional stop nearby for refreshments and sociability. **Meet:** 4 pm in interpretive center parking area (\$6 parking fee). **Ends:** 6 pm. **Leader:** Lucy Henderson, (925)254-2898 or hndsrnlucy@yahoo.com. (Delta Regional Group)

Sept 25 • Fri - Sept 29 • Tue

Vogelsang exclusive in Yosemite National Park 2BT backpack. Since in German Vogelsang means "birdsong", the name is poetically fitting for such a singularly delightful high-country. Vogelsang, at the center of the striking Cathedral Range, offers a most accessible and spectacular glacier-carved alpine setting. Leaving Tuolumne Meadows, we follow the grassy banks of Rafferty Creek and circumnavigate clockwise around majestic Vogelsang Peak. Cross-country day trips offer expansive vistas from the summits of Vogelsang and Rafferty Peaks. Intermediate backpackers may join this five-day individual commissary adventure. **Cost:** \$48 after RSVP. Applications open June 15. Includes wilderness permit and group campsite for Thursday. **Bring:** All food, bear canister. **Leader:** JP Torres, 415-584-7914 or jpinkflo@xecu.net; Roger Williams, 415-203-4133 or rogerw@ymail.com. (Backpacking)

Sept 26 • Sat - Sept 27 • Sun

Point Reyes 1A backpack. Backpack to our group campsite at Sky Camp and enjoy day hikes on Saturday and Sunday. **Bring:** Dish to share for Saturday night. Sign-ups begin July 1st. Details upon registration. Rain cancels. **Leader:** Tom Post, 415-690-6572 or tpost123@hotmail.com. (Backpacking)

Sept 26 • Sat

Mid-autumn moon festival 3C hike. Moderate hike to celebrate the mid-autumn moon festival. Any rain cancels. **Meet:** 9 am at Fairfax Parkade. **Leader:** Pao Chen, (510)237-7570 or paoc945@yahoo.com. (Hiking)

Sept 26 • 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. Rain or muddy trails cancel. **Meet:** 9 am at 560 Hemme Avenue, Alamo. **Leader:** Lutz Heinrich, (925)216-8672 or ltz_hnrch@yahoo.com. (Hiking)

Corona Heights Natural Area habitat work project. Remove invasives, nurture natives, maintain trails, pick up litter, and other tasks in preparation for planting season. Rain or shine. Tools and gloves provided. **Meet:** 10 am on south side of Randall Museum at end of Museum Way, just off Roosevelt Way. **Ends:** Noon. **Leader:** Russell Hartman, (650)242-2679 or rph1917@comcast.net. (Gay & Lesbian)

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Fuller versions of many of these listings can be found at www.sierraclub.org/sfbay/activities.

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Wanted: program committee members

The East Bay Dinners steering committee is looking for a new program chair and assistants. Could it be you?

East Bay Dinners are monthly buffet dinners followed by a program of environmental interest. In recent years, attendees have vicariously traveled from the Arctic to the Amazon and learned about California water and air flow, among other issues and policies. The dinners are held on the fourth Thursday of the month, September through May, except December.

This May, the program chair retired. If you are interested in helping to find interesting speakers, vetting those who find you, putting notices in the Yodeler and on the chapter website, and introducing the program at the dinner, please contact steering committee chair Jane Barrett at (510)845-8055. To learn more about the job, please contact past chair Paul Foster at (510)845-7128 or wupf4@comcast.net.

September Green Friday — “Learning to live with mountain lions”

There is no Green Friday in August. Please join us for the beginning of the 2015-2016 season on Sept. 11 when the Felidae Conservation Fund’s executive director Zara McDonald will give a presentation titled “Learning to live with mountain lions.” McDonald, a San Francisco-based wild cat conservationist and naturalist who works around the globe, will tell us about mountain lions and the work currently underway to study and protect them.

Felidae Conservation Fund is a non-profit that aims to advance the conservation of wild cats and their habitats planet-wide through a combination of groundbreaking research, compelling education, and cutting-edge technology. Felidae works in both North and South America on different mountain lion research and conservation projects.

Felidae’s flagship project is the Bay Area Puma Project (more at www.bapp.org). These keystone predators (also called cougars) play

Sierra Club Military Outdoors expands local programming, seeks new participants

If you or a member of your family has ever served in a military organization, Sierra Club Military Outdoors is organizing new local opportunities for you! Our program empowers service members, their families, and veterans across the country by organizing outdoor experiences and developing volunteer leadership skills. Time outdoors improves physical and mental health and we believe it can also help bridge the gap between coming home from service and engaging with society.

Over the last six years more than 70,000 service members, veterans, or their family members have gone outside with Military Outdoors. In our push to expand the program locally, we will be putting together more frequent outing opportunities for veterans in the Bay Area.

These trips will encompass a wide range of activities from day hikes and rafting trips to outdoor leadership development, either

exclusively for service members and veterans, or with friends and families as well. We are reaching out to you, our San Francisco Bay Area community, to join us in this exciting local development! All veterans and service members, regardless of when or where they served, are welcome.

Want to learn more? Connect with our

online calendar, as well as our Facebook and Meetup pages, all of which can be found on our website: content.sierraclub.org/outings/military.

Have specific questions or suggestions for outings? Interested in leading a trip? We want to hear from you! Send us an email: military.outdoors@sierraclub.org.



a critical role in maintaining the health and biodiversity of our ecosystems. However, expansion of human populations is causing more encounters and conflicts between humans and pumas, and growing tensions in our local communities.

McDonald will discuss mountain lion ecology and history, the challenges of sharing the habitat with mountain lions, and offer essential tips for living and recreating without fear in puma habitat.

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

Green Friday programs present speakers and topics discussing the most important environmental issues of our time. All are welcome, Sierra Club members as well as non-members.

Learn Wilderness First Aid with the Sierra Club!

Sat., Sept. 19 to Sun., Sept. 20, 8:30 am to 5 pm, Chapter office, 2530 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley.

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

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

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

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

Registration

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

wfa@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
P.O. Box 1227
Berkeley, CA 94701.

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

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



Photo by Trish Carney for the Felidae Conservation Fund.



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 — Don't forget the Eighth Annual Beaver Fest on Aug. 1!

The next Delta Group general meeting is scheduled for October. Delta Group program meetings are usually held at the Antioch Library in February, May, and October, unless otherwise noted.

A newsletter listing Delta Group programs, outings, and activities is available by \$5 subscription. To receive it, write a \$5 check to "Sierra Club, Delta Group" and mail it to:

Janess Hanson
431 Levee Road
Bay Point, CA 94565.

For information about Delta Group activities, call Janess Hanson at (925)458-0860. For information about Delta area environmental concerns, call Tim Donahue at (925)754-8801.

Remember to head to the Eighth Annual

Beaver Festival in downtown Martinez on Sat., Aug. 1, 11 am to 4 pm. There will be environmental exhibits, crafts, naturalist-led beaver walks, and music in celebration of the beaver family in Alhambra Creek.

Celebrate Citizens for East Shore Parks anniversary

Save the date! On November 7th, Citizens for East Shore Parks will celebrate its 30th birthday and honor the efforts of individuals who helped create the park. The event will take place at the Berkeley Yacht Club with music by special guest Country Joe McDonald!

Mount Diablo Group — Ah, wilderness! Trekking the John Muir Trail

Wed., Sept. 9, 7 pm, Ygnacio Valley Library, 2661 Oak Grove Road, Walnut Creek.

Join us at our September meeting for a High Sierra adventure. During the summer of 2014, Teri Shore set out alone to backpack the length of the John Muir Trail to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the landmark Wilderness Act. Teri's solo trek from Yosemite to Mount Whitney lasted 21 days. Along the way, she scaled nine peaks exceeding 10,000 feet, braved a surprise snowstorm, and encountered a forest fire. Teri will regale us with photos and trail stories of her

211-mile-long adventure. She'll also discuss the Wilderness Act and the future of wilderness preservation efforts.

A resident of Sonoma, Teri Shore is North Bay field director for the Greenbelt Alliance. She is an avid backpacker and wilderness advocate who has led Sierra Club backpack trips for the Bay Chapter Backpack Section since 1996.

This program is open to all and no reservations are necessary. If you have questions, contact Ken Lavin at ken_lavin@hotmail.com or (925)852-8778.



Teri Shore at Silver Pass.



Photo of Cuenca, Ecuador, by Eddie Huang, who will be presenting at the September San Francisco Dinner.

San Francisco Dinner — "An introduction to life in Cuenca, Ecuador"

Thu, Sept 18. Social hour 6 pm, dinner 7 pm, program 8 pm. Note current location: Covenant Presbyterian Church, 321 Taraval, between Funston and 14th Ave.

About 15 years ago, Eddie Huang and Bruce Engle set out on a quest to find a prime location for their retirement. They began their search in Southern Europe, and then focused on Central and South America, with several criteria in mind: a mild climate; quality medical care; a hospitable environment; reasonable living expenses; and an interesting local culture. Join us to discover the path that led them from California, Europe, and the Americas to choose Cuenca, Ecuador, for their retirement. Eddie Huang is a retired architect, chef, and software engineer; Bruce Engle is a software engineer. They are in the process of establish-

ing a second home in Cuenca.

Take Muni L or 28. Street parking; limited parking is available at the church lot, one-half block east on Taraval, at the white parking guards, for \$1.50 per car, payable at the church check-in.

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 indicate the program date, number of guests, and your phone number. Non-members are welcome. Bring your own wine or soft drinks. Glasses and ice are available. Let us know if you are a vegetarian. For questions, contact Gerry between 4 and 9 pm (no morning calls please) at (415)474-4440 or gsouzis@hotmail.com.

Checks must be received by Fri, Sept 10.



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Pittsburg WesPac oil project looms again

About this time two years ago, Bay Area climate activists learned about a new oil terminal proposed for Pittsburg, CA. A successful coalition effort succeeded in delaying the project. But an altered proposal is now back on the table and it's time to join together to make sure this major new oil-infrastructure project is stopped for good.

The oil transfer and storage facility, proposed by oil-infrastructure company WesPac, would be built within 200 feet of homes, schools, and churches; re-use dilapidated, long-abandoned fuel tanks; and operate decades-old pipelines that connect to the Bay Area's five refineries. It would receive (and possibly send) 10 million gallons a day of crude oil by ship and by rail.

A regional grassroots alliance sprang up to fight this hazardous project, led by community members and local non-profit organizations including the environmental justice group Sunflower Alliance and the Sierra Club's Bay Chapter. I spent several months doing community organizing. Our biggest hurdle was that hardly anyone knew about the project — little to no community outreach had been done. Our biggest advantage

was fear over the rail component of the project. Nearby residents were already generally unhappy about trains passing through their community. Their distrust was heightened by a number of explosions of "bomb trains" full of fracked crude oil, including the catastrophe in Lac-Mégantic, Quebec, that killed 47 people.

Every Saturday in the fall of 2013, alliance members went out canvassing neighborhoods and talking with residents. Sierra Club members played a key role in building awareness of the proj-

ect by running phone banks out of the Berkeley office. Over the course of several weekends, Club members made thousands and thousands of calls (to a city of only 67,000 people). We began to get a sense of how successful we were by the growing number of people we met in our outreach who had already heard of the project.

As more residents found out about the project, opposition swelled. People made their



Photo courtesy Steve Nadel.

feelings known through protests, petitions, and strong comments at city council meetings. In January, we had a major break when Attorney General Kamala Harris released a letter that excoriated the project on health, safety, climate change, and environmental justice.

In February 2014, the Pittsburg City Council announced that, due to the problems highlighted by the public, they were re-opening sections of the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for further comment; this required WesPac to decide whether or not to spend money to continue the process in the face of significant public opposition. That was a victory, albeit a temporary one.

In April 2015, Pittsburg announced that WesPac had re-submitted its proposal, but with the rail portion removed. While this reduces some of the danger, there's still enormous risk to residents of fumes, leaks, fires, and spills, and it leaves the door open for WesPac to build a rail terminal in the future. And it's still a major new oil-infrastructure project, a prospect our planet simply cannot afford. Literally the least we can do to limit climate change is to stop new fossil fuel infrastructure development.

What You Can Do

The Pittsburg Planning Department has just completed some preliminary steps to produce a revised EIR. Comments on the scope of the EIR — what topics should be covered, such as regional air quality and climate change impacts — are due July 31st. Once the EIR is released for public comment, we'll need help with public input, outreach, and organizing. To volunteer, email Martin MacKerel at martin.mackerel@gmail.com. Updates will be posted on pittsburgdc.org and facebook.com/pittsburgdc.

Martin MacKerel

The fight continues to protect Alameda County from Big Oil

Your help is needed to fight Big Oil, especially if you live in Alameda's East County. Activists in the East Bay have been working for over a year now to ensure that residents, including vineyard owners, growers, and ranchers, who make a living from the land, don't have to share the water, the soil, or the air with oil extractors. Oil fields are inherently bad neighbors — dirty, noisy, 24/7 industrial operations that don't belong anywhere near our homes, schools, water supplies, wildlife, or the fields growing the food we eat.

The original objective of our campaign was to ban fracking in Alameda County. But fracking is only one example of an extreme oil-recovery method. So a much "cleaner" proposal emerged from a comprehensive review by County planners responding to a request from the Board of Supervisors: remove all new and expanded extraction from the list of permitted activities in unincorporated areas of the County.

The opposition hasn't given up. Industry group pushback appears to be behind the

drafting of a new proposal that would leave the County vulnerable to the whims of mineral-rights holders and oil companies.

The opposition includes the California Cattlemen's Association, Californians for Energy Independence (an oil-company-founded and funded group), and the existing local well operator, E&B Natural Resources. It's worth noting that E&B Natural Resources' operations in the Central Valley have been in the news this year; it is one of several firms required by the state to shut down wastewater injection wells out of fear they may be contaminating groundwater, and one of four firms being sued by a farmer for possibly contaminating his irrigation water, leading to the loss of over 3,000 cherry trees.

Oil extraction is incompatible with public health and safety. And it specifically runs counter to County objectives to protect and promote agriculture, making the Livermore area a clean and green tourist destination.

You can add your name to our petition online at tinyurl.com/NoNewDrilling. Even better, have your community group, business

association, union, or other organization write a letter to the Alameda County Board of Supervisors supporting an oil-free county! Send your letters to:

c/o Bruce Jensen
Alameda County Planning Department
Alameda County Administration Building
224 West Winton Avenue, Rm. 111
Hayward, CA 94544

Or contact Supervisor Scott Haggerty, who represents most of the East County, or other member of the Board of Supervisors directly:

Scott Haggerty (District 1): 510-272-6691
Richard Valle (District 2): 510-272-6692
Wilma Chan (District 3): 510-272-6693
Nate Miley (District 4): 510-272-6694
Keith Carson (District 5): 510-272-6695

We don't have a firm date for when the matter will be considered by either the Transportation and Planning Committee or the full Board of Supervisors. When we know, we'll post it at theyodeler.org and on the campaign's Facebook page, www.facebook.com/AlamedaCountyAgainstFracking. Follow us for updates!

Rebecca Franke



Will the Air District regulate GHGs?

Proposed rules fail to address greenhouse gas emissions

Last October, the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) adopted a resolution that seeks to “further protect Bay Area communities by committing the agency to develop a strategy to achieve further emission reductions from oil refineries.” While this resolution was certainly a step in the right direction, the Sierra Club, along with other environmental activists and community allies, have been working hard to ensure that the BAAQMD Board of Directors implements effective, meaningful rules to achieve the goals of this resolution.

BAAQMD is the regional government agency that regulates sources of air pollution within the nine San Francisco Bay Area counties. It is governed by a Board of Directors composed of 22 elected officials from each of those nine Bay Area counties. The Board is tasked with the duty of adopting air pollution regulations for the district. Their overarching mission statement is “to protect and improve public health, air quality and the global climate”; their vision is “a healthy breathing environment for every Bay Area resident.” BAAQMD has the authority to regulate emissions from stationary sources within the district, including industrial plants and oil refineries.

Having committed itself to real change with its October resolution, BAAQMD has an opportunity to reduce the amount of greenhouse gases (including methane, carbon dioxide, and nitrous oxide) that the five Bay Area oil refineries currently emit. While emissions of greenhouse gases have steadily gone down at the state level, greenhouse gas levels in the Bay Area continue to rise, in no small part due to our local refineries. However, the BAAQMD rules as drafted currently only address the emissions of the six commonly found “criteria” pollutants: carbon monoxide, lead, nitrogen dioxide, ozone, particulate matter, and sulfur dioxide. Although both the BAAQMD Board of Directors and the staff have acknowledged they have the authority to regulate greenhouse gas emissions from refineries, the proposed rules nevertheless fail to address them.

Greenhouse gases trap heat in the atmosphere, warming the planet and causing global climate disruption. By failing to address greenhouse gases in its proposed emissions regulations, BAAQMD is condemning the Bay Area to longer and more severe droughts and wildfire seasons, sea-level rise that displaces shoreline communities and ecosystems, and greater respiratory health risks for sensitive populations. BAAQMD has a duty to adopt air quality regulations that protect public health and the global climate — but so far it’s falling far short of fulfilling that responsibility.

Not surprisingly, a big part of the reason greenhouse gas emissions have been omitted from these rules stems from fierce lobbying by

the oil industry. The fossil fuel industry takes the stance that greenhouse gases should be exclusively regulated at the state level — not the local level. The problem with relying exclusively on state regulation of greenhouse gases is a result of the cap-and-trade program established in California by AB 32, the Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006. Stated simply, without stricter local rules on greenhouse gas emissions, Bay Area oil refineries will be allowed to pollute a limitless amount of greenhouse gases, because they are able to pay other firms in different parts of the state to cut back on their emissions. As a result, AB 32’s cap-and-trade program does nothing to alleviate the ever-increasing amount of greenhouse gas emissions in the Bay Area.

In order for its October 2014 resolution to have real meaning, BAAQMD needs to step up and set numerical limits on greenhouse gas emissions for refineries. BAAQMD’s Southern California counterpart, SCAQMD, has already adopted similar rules that have proven effective at reducing greenhouse gas pollution in industrial communities.

What You Can Do

BAAQMD’s next board meeting will be on Wednesday, July 29th, at 9 am at 939 Ellis Street in San Francisco. We encourage you to voice your opinion by making a public comment at that meeting. To RSVP, visit bit.ly/1ehbtXa. Please check the event page before the event to make sure there have been no changes to the schedule. With questions or to volunteer, email ratha.lai@sierraclub.org.

Hilliary Powell

Your View:

We asked Sierra Club members to share their thoughts on the pressing issue of the regulation of refinery emissions at the local level by responding to the following prompt:

What would you tell Bay Area air regulators about why putting a cap on pollution coming from refineries is vital both for protecting our climate and maintaining the well-being of our communities?”

Here are some of your replies:

Amy Robinson, member since 2012

As a science educator for the West Contra Costa district for the last two years I have noticed a much larger group of my students suffer from respiratory difficulties than in other places I have taught. My students live in the shadow of the refinery and I smell fumes from the refinery as I drive to work... the large number of students with respiratory problems is not a coincidence.

Mary Ellen (Mel) Harte, Ph. D., member since 1975

Capping local refinery greenhouse gas emissions improves air quality, community health, shows how communities can address climate change effectively, and translates into economic boosts. Better air, health, climate and economy: 4 wins for the Bay Area!

Sylvia Augustiniok, member since 1997

I do not want to end up moaning “I can’t breathe.”

Maureen Lahiff, member since 1985

As a lecturer in the School of Public Health at UC Berkeley, I have seen an overwhelming amount of data about the adverse health effects for both young and old from power plant emissions.

Thomas Tereskiewicz, member since 1994

Bottom line is that they need to continue refining oil but need to do it as cleanly as possible for the health of all of us.

Reader responses compiled by Aya Kusch

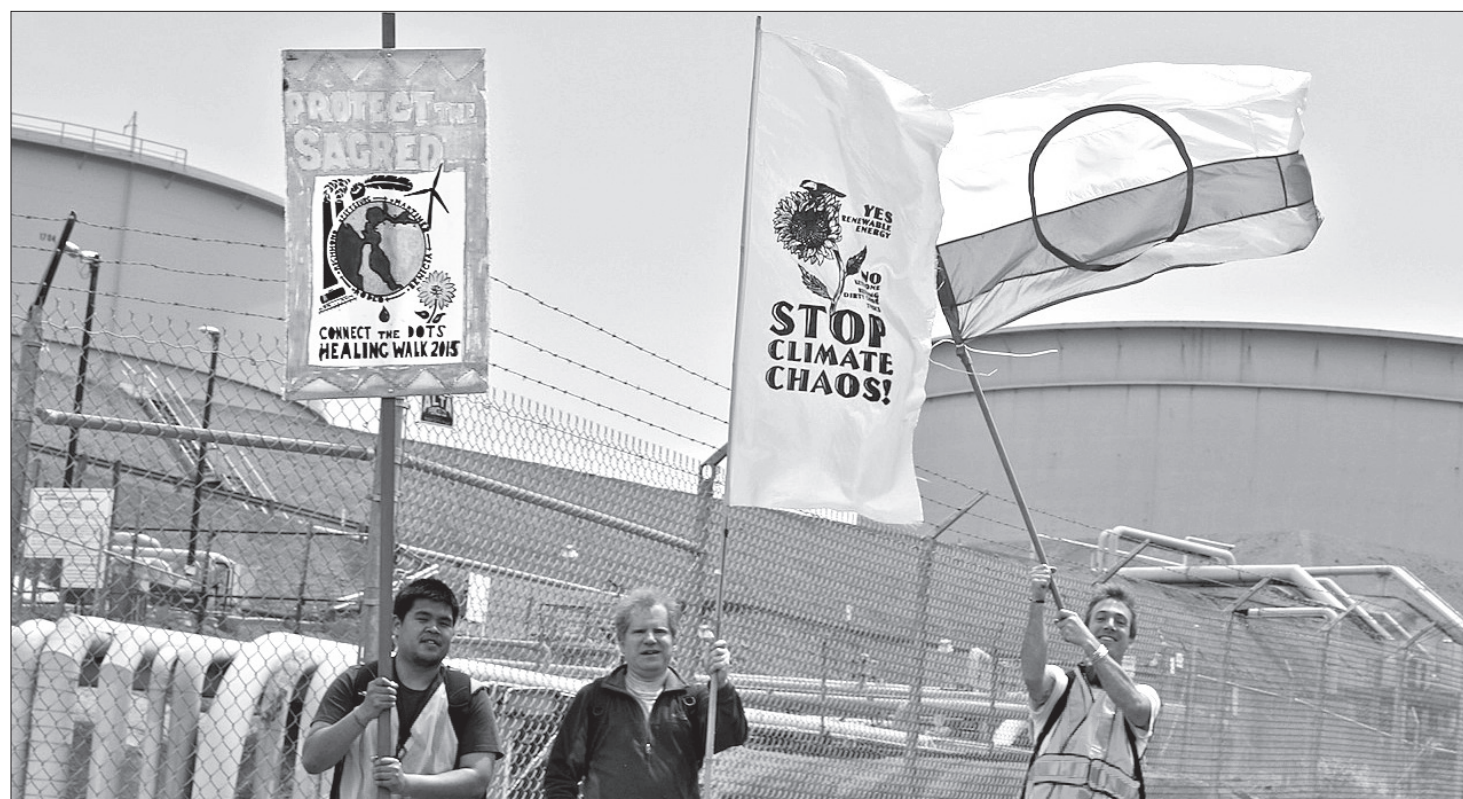


Photo from a Refinery Corridor Healing Walk courtesy Rucha Chitnis. For more pictures, visit <http://tinyurl.com/refinerywalkpics>.



Update on efforts to limit parking and congestion in popular Muir Woods

On June 30, the Marin County Board of Supervisors approved a Memorandum of Understanding with the National Park Service to deal with parking and congestion problems at Muir Woods National Monument. The MOU provides that the County will limit parking along Muir Woods Road adjacent to the Monument to 80 spaces by June 1, 2016. The Park Service will implement a reservation system to limit visitors to the Park within two years, partner with Marin Public Transit to increase public transit to the Park, and provide additional parking enforcement. In addition, there will be interim storm-water-management measures to reduce potential impacts from roadside parking along Redwood Creek, which contains endangered salmonids.

The Sierra Club has expressed support for both the reduced parking and reservation system. It has also urged that a “carrying capacity” study should be undertaken for the Monument.

The Muir Woods MOU was drafted by the National Park Service and County Supervisors,

along with a stakeholders group chaired by Congressman Jared Huffman. The County approved a categorical exemption from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for its parking project. The National Park Service will still be subject to National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements.

On June 26, the Mount Tam Task Force (MTTF) sent Marin County a “notice of intent to sue” letter for violating the federal Endangered Species Act by failing to protect local coho and steelhead populations. MTTF asks that mitigation be brought in line with NOAA’s National Marine Fisheries Service and California Department of Fish and Wildlife recovery guidelines.

Muir Woods issues are being closely watched by the San Francisco Bay Chapter Federal Parks Committee. For further information on the Committee, contact Alan Carlton, Chair, at carltonal@yahoo.com.

Alan Carlton



Photo courtesy Flickr.com/kansas_sebastian.

Feds prevail on taking street in Alameda — Fight to expand park at Crab Cove continues in the courts

McKay Avenue, the street leading to the popular Crab Cove Visitors’ Center at Alameda’s Crown Memorial State Beach, used to house a roller coaster before it became a street. It is living up to its legacy. In recent years the battle over the street, and what will become of the surplus federal property at the end of it, has had its ups, downs, twists and turns.

The roller coaster ride began when the federal General Services Administration (GSA) held a public auction to obtain the highest price for the vacant surplus land at the end of McKay Avenue. Next the city zoned the parcel residential, which led to a lawsuit against the city by the East Bay Regional Park District. A citizens’ initiative then rezoned

the parcel as open space, and the park district dropped its suit.

GSA meanwhile used eminent domain to seize the street from the state to gain utility access rights for its surplus property. The state and the park district cried foul and tried to reverse the taking in federal court.

The Sierra Club supported the successful citizens’ initiative and has voiced its opposition to the eminent domain action by lobbying federal officials for assistance.

In order to take the state-owned street, which is owned by the California Department of Parks and Recreation, GSA had to prove that the taking qualifies as a “public use.” Gaining unfettered access to the utilities

under the street would allow GSA to transfer that access to a nongovernmental entity in a possible future real estate sale.

The state Attorney General and the East Bay Regional Park District argue, among other things, that GSA should not be permitted to take property when no plan exists that lets the courts measure if the taking is related to a public purpose.

The district court judge suggested, and the parties agreed, to have him summarily decide the matter so that a panel of judges at the federal court of appeals could review it. The facts of this case are unprecedented.

On June 12, the judge issued his ruling, saying GSA has the right to take the street.

Making the federal land adjacent to McKay Avenue more valuable for sale serves a public purpose, according to District Court Judge William Alsup. “GSA’s authority to dispose of surplus property includes condemnation of property necessary or proper to secure marketable title in the property to be disposed,” he wrote. GSA has the right to “clear up the problem of access” before it seeks a buyer, his order said.

Upon learning at a court hearing that it would take a vote of the people to overturn the open space zoning, Judge Alsup inquired whether the entire issue was a “moot exercise.” He said it was the state’s best argument and noted that open-space zoning reduces the likelihood that a developer would ever want to purchase the property. He nonetheless ruled that GSA “is entitled to clear up this thicket of problems one at a time.”

Court documents, however, reveal that the taking of the street may be more than just a

hypothetical exercise. While the taking was premised on the “continuing operation” of the remainder of the federal buildings located on McKay Avenue, the future of those buildings, and the lots on which they sit, is uncertain.

The current lessee on the remaining three acres of federal property along McKay Avenue — the U.S. Department of Agriculture — plans to move out of its offices in 2016 to property it owns in Albany. GSA has spent about \$3 million to consolidate and upgrade the McKay Avenue offices and does not know if all the federal property on McKay will be sold, court documents show.

The East Bay Regional Park District has repeatedly expressed interest in buying the vacant surplus property to expand the park at Crab Cove. It is unclear when, if ever, GSA will sell the open space parcel to the park district.

“We are disappointed that the United States [GSA] continues to prosecute this action in spite of the desire of the citizens of Alameda that this property be dedicated as parklands,” said Robert E. Doyle, the park district’s general manager. “We believe the taking of public parklands for private development is bad public policy.” The board of directors “is evaluating the court’s ruling,” said Doyle.

Hang tight. The roller coaster ride isn’t over. The state Attorney General and the regional park district have 60 days to file an appeal.

The issue of fair compensation for the taking of the street is scheduled to go to trial in the fall of this year. GSA has previously said McKay Avenue was worth \$1.

Irene Dieter



Photo courtesy Flickr.com/gwen.



Water price and water use — East Bay and San Francisco

Usually, we expect supply and demand to be balanced by price. If there is plenty of something, the price will go down — and we may want to use more of it. If the price goes up we tend to use less — thus preserving a limited supply.

On the other hand, we think of water like air. It is essential to life — shouldn't it be free?

There is a pricing method that has the potential to reasonably satisfy both these goals. Tiered pricing has proven useful in the Bay Area in reducing residential water use. The East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) and the San Francisco Public Utility Commission (SFPUC) have reduced water use by raising the marginal price of water while keeping water costs lower for essential household needs.

In the year ended June 30, 2014, SFPUC delivered 24.6 billion gallons to its own "retail" customers and twice as much to other water agencies. We can look at the retail volume and pricing by user type.

Beginning in fiscal year 2008, SFPUC retail water rates were differentiated by user type and, in the case of some residential uses, by tiers of water use per household. Before 2008, all retail

estimated population growth of over 6% since 2007 in San Francisco, residential water use was down 10% by 2014 while non-residential water use was up 3%.

Local rainfall, of course, can reduce water use for irrigation around homes and in parks. In 2007, the rainfall in the California Central Coast Region, stretching from Petaluma to Goleta, was less than 15 inches (about 62% of the 100-year average). In the four years since June, 2011, Central Coast rainfall ranged from 49% to 76% of the average. This makes the efforts of San Francisco residents to use less water all the more impressive.

Across the Bay, EBMUD delivers all its water "retail," directly to customers in northern Alameda County and western Contra Costa County. EBMUD has been using three tiered rates for single-family accounts since before 1975. This three-tiered structure has brought residential water consumption down 26% since 2007. Higher non-residential rates have led public authorities to reduce their

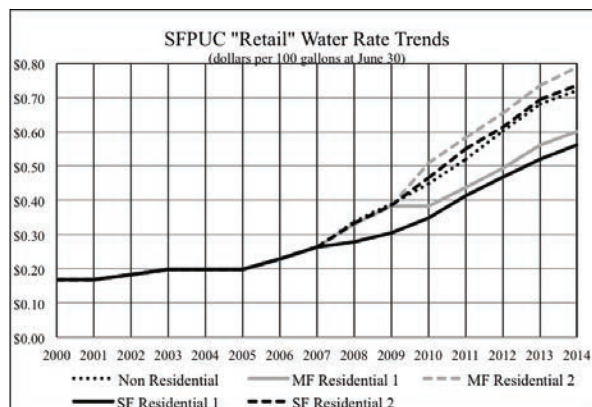
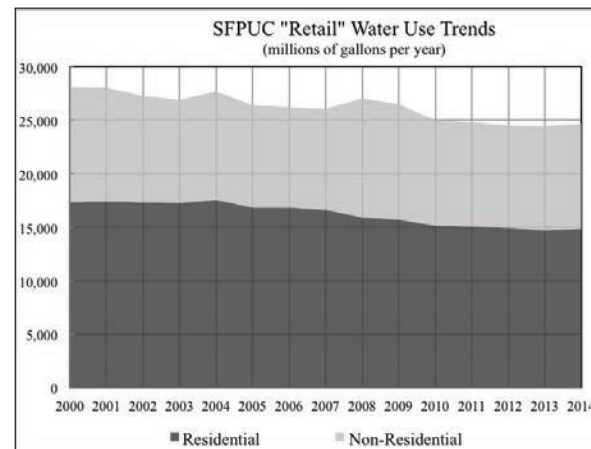
water use by 13%, including by using recycled water for irrigation purposes. Industrial water use is also down, by 12%, partially due to increased recycled water use. However, commercial sector water use is up by almost 40%. The overall result for EBMUD was a decline in water use of 11% from 2007 through 2014.

Tiered water rates seem to be more effective in achieving water conservation than higher rates alone. More aggressive use of tiered volume pricing for all multi-family and single-family residential water users could push the water saving mentality to the vast majority of households. Applying tiered pricing to commercial, industrial, and public authority accounts would encourage more large-scale water users to connect to recycled water resources

while allowing small businesses, using water prudently, to remain successful.

Tier size based on human needs would better promote equity. Frugal water users in all sectors would have lower water bills. Large industrial water users would seek to use lower-cost recycled water wherever possible. Extravagant water users, consuming volumes in multiples of the first tier size, would bear the costs of finding and delivering that extra water.

Bay Chapter Water Committee



customers paid the same price for every gallon of potable water. In 2008, the price per gallon went up 25% for all non-residential water users and all multi-family accounts. For single-family residential users the Tier 1 rate (for the first 2,992 gallons per month) rose only 6% in 2008, but the Tier 2 rate (for unlimited additional use) was 27% higher. In 2010 a two-tiered rate structure was introduced for multi-family buildings as well (with Tier 1 only 2,244 gallons).

SFPUC residential water use declined 5% by 2009, and 9% by 2011, compared to 2007. Non-residential water use, however, priced in a single tier, rose 18% in 2008, and remained 14% higher in 2009, compared to 2007.

By 2014, SFPUC water rates for non-residential use were 174% higher than the 2007 rate; single-family, residential Tier 1 rates were 113% higher than the 2007 level with Tier 2 rates up 179% and multi-family, residential Tier 1 rates were 128% higher with Tier 2 rates up 199%. As a result, despite

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A Priority Development Area with plenty of problems in Newark

In the last issue of the Yodeler, Matt Williams, chair of the Bay Chapter's Transportation and Compact Growth Committee, wrote about a sustainable development success story in El Cerrito (you can read the story online at theyodeler.org/?p=10467). In this issue, Matt writes about a Priority Development Area that doesn't look as promising.

There is a Priority Development Area in Newark, near the Dumbarton Bridge, where the number of households is expected to grow from 138 in 2010 to 2,498 by 2040. This PDA is alternately known as the Dumbarton Rail Station Priority Development Area and the Dumbarton Transit Oriented Development Specific Plan. The centerpiece of the PDA is a not-yet-built railroad station for passengers headed to southern San Mateo County.

Initially, the plan was to make track and station improvements and to acquire passenger cars to connect Union City with Caltrain across the Bay, via the rail station planned for the Dumbarton PDA. Since then, the transit situation has deteriorated due to defunding by both by the Metropolitan Transportation Commission and the Alameda County Transportation Commission.

The only other transit service in the area is one AC Transit bus line with a 45-minute headway (the time between buses), inadequate to the requirements of a PDA. There is no plan as yet to run the bus line with a 15-minute frequency during peak times, a requirement of the Regional Transportation Plan, Plan Bay Area.

The environmental documents prepared by the City over the past several years provide a wealth of troubling information about the area. A flock of concerned regional, state, and federal agencies have submitted comments about the proposed PDA on a host of issues including contaminated soil and groundwater, flooding and sea-level rise, and impacts on wildlife.

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, in a comment made before the project's Environmental Impact Report (EIR) was prepared, warned about contaminated soil and groundwater within the PDA, citing "high concentrations of chlorinated solvents, metals, flammable materials... phenols... [and] dioxins." Many of these contaminants are left over from when the area was home to several industrial facilities. The Water Board comments go on to note that remediation, where residential development will occur, would have to be thorough. Newark was advised to

have the EIR address the "potential threat to human health, water quality, and the environment from residual soil and groundwater pollution during...occupancy and use, based on a changed land use [to residential areas]."

The Water Board also recommended that the hazardous soil be removed to a depth of ten feet below grade at one site in the PDA. Hauling the soil out of the PDA would require



This photo of the development area shows the PDA won't be fulfilling the requirement to be "infill". Photo by Matt Williams.

about 19,000 truck shipments through populated sections of Newark.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency noted that the PDA is located in a flood hazard area and that all buildings must be raised on pilings and columns that are anchored to resist "flotation, collapse and lateral movement due to the effects of wind and water loads acting simultaneously on all building components." Newark's response was to propose raising the entire area with between 500,000 and 1,000,000 cubic yards of fill. Bringing in that much fill would require more than 50,000 truck trips, generating traffic and a large volume of greenhouse gases (which a PDA shouldn't do).

The US Department of the Interior's Fish and Wildlife Service noted that the proposed development area is located near the Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge, and that some bird species and the endangered salt marsh harvest mouse would be adversely affected. The City's response regarding the endangered mouse is that a "protective cat-proof fence would be established separating the developed project site from any suitable salt marsh harvest mouse habitat." One Service recommendation is that the City "consider building farther away from the baylands or analyze the potential need for additional flood protection from sea level rise scenarios."

The San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC) commented on sea-level rise and the safety of fills, noting that "local governments... should assure that new structures and uses attracting people are not approved in flood prone areas or in areas that will become flood prone in the

future...." BCDC noted that, by the end of the century, the sea-level rise may be 55 inches. The mapping service of Our Coast Our Future makes it look very much like projected end-of-century rise will flood a part of the PDA.

Earlier this year, Newark released a Final Environmental Impact Report on a proposed residential development within a section of the PDA. Curiously, if built, the housing would be 244 detached single-family residential units arranged in a street pattern that looks like it would generate more automobile trips, not curb them.

One other thing that stands out about the Dumbarton PDA is that it does not fit within the definition of a PDAs as envisioned by Plan Bay Area. That guiding document described PDAs as "transit-oriented, infill development

opportunities areas within existing communities." Besides the lack of transit, the Newark PDA is not "infill development" and there is no existing nearby community.

Newark's Dumbarton PDA has enough troublesome issues that perhaps the best thing would be to cancel plans to develop the area altogether and follow the advice of the Fish and Wildlife Service by putting the housing and transit in another place. Regional grant funds would be better spent on other Bay Area PDAs, rather than on the inauspicious Dumbarton Rail Station PDA.

Want more? Follow @abetterbayarea on Twitter for the latest on sustainable communities in the Bay Area.

Matt Williams, chair,
Transportation and Compact Growth Committee

New cafe and community organizing space supports goals of Coal Free Oakland campaign

Tony Coleman is the West Oakland-based co-founder of One Fam, an organization that teaches youth and family leadership skills, and Bikes 4 Life, a community-based bike shop. Coleman's newest project is a community cafe and non-profit organizing space in the former Revolution Cafe space on 7th Street.

Inspired by the vibrant culture of West Oakland's historic 7th Street corridor, Tony Coleman hopes the Oakland community will utilize the cafe's various indoor and outdoor spaces as an inclusive neighborhood spot where activists and families alike can meet, organize, and stay active in the community. The cafe space is up for re-lease in September and West Oakland residents are hoping that the positive impact the cafe can generate between July and September will prove its importance as an historical landmark at risk for redevelopment.

Coleman opened Bikes 4 life to get more fami-

lies on bikes and out of cars, and also to improve the health of youth in West Oakland who are the most vulnerable to asthma and other health problems related to Port of Oakland activities. The mission of Coleman's new community space aligns with the goals of the current campaign to stop a coal-export project in West Oakland. It was the first business to post our rally flyers and offer space for campaign volunteers to meet and organize our efforts. On July 18th, the Bay Chapter hosted an Art and Advocacy Campaign Day at the space to coincide with Bikes 4 Life and One Fam's annual Oakland Youth Peace Bike Ride. We gathered together to create banners, murals, and other visuals for the big rally planned for July 21st to demand that Oakland's leaders oppose a dirty plan to bring coal by train through Oakland for export.

We encourage you to check out the new community cafe on 7th Street!

Natalie Berns



Mural outside Bikes 4 Life space. Photo courtesy Facebook.com/onefam.unite.

From the Yodeler archives:

If you find yourself needing inspiration to venture out into the great outdoors, "On Hiking" by E. Cecil Earle is for you. It was published in the Yodeler in 1939, but all of the benefits of hiking it mentions are just as true today as they were 76 years ago. The gist of the essay is that interacting with nature can truly transform us, both physically and mentally. Every day we witness new challenges to the well-being of the planet. This is a reminder of why fighting for the environment is fighting for ourselves.

The cartoon by Jack Riegulhuth, also published in the Yodeler in 1939, illustrates the pure exhilaration of outdoor adventure.

Aya Kusch

Number 10, page 7 THE YODELER May 22, 1939

ON HIKING
By E. Cecil Earle

Hike for Happiness - Hike for Health

Do you know that many non-hikers spend nine times as much on medical care as hikers spend on footwear and transportation incidental to hiking?

Millionaires are not so well off. They cannot get along without spending, and they have lost the art of doing things for themselves. They can buy pleasure, but not happiness. I often liken happiness to warmth on a cold day. Pleasure is comparable to sitting in front of a fire and warming first one side and then the other; one feels colder when one leaves the fire. On the other hand, happiness is like invigorating exercise which warms every nook and cranny of the body, and the warmth remains a long time. Pleasure comes from the outside; happiness from the inside. (See Bright Sayings of ECE, vol. xix chap. 23.

To the person of normal intelligence (and this includes over 5% of hikers) the meadows and mountains hold unending items of interest; more than can be absorbed in a lifetime. The dicky-birds, the pretty flowers, the trees, the rocks and (believe it or not) the rippling streams.

Did you ever lie on your stomach and gaze into a pool, watching the numerous animalculae? The hours I have spent thus would add up to months - perhaps years. Did you ever watch a dragonfly emerge from its pupa? Did you ever watch a grasshopper devour a blade of grass? Do you ever wonder why certain trees and plants grow where they do?

And hike for Health. Give the muscles a chance to stretch, and the various organs a chance to function normally. A healthily weary body rests more soundly than one that is bored and tired by countless irritations.

Air is free at the gas stations. It is also free on the hills. So fill your lungs with it. Do you know that you use more air on one day's hike than the average car uses in its tires in 13.84 years?

Then again, there is companionship on the hike. The friends you meet on the mountain are better than the average you will meet anywhere else. They are real. They share the hardships, and do not pretend to be what they are not.

Hikers are enthusiastic. They all talk; they talk incessantly. They all talk and nobody listens. If you doubt it, stop and listen next time you are out; you will hear X minus one people talking. That is another reason why hiking never palls. There is never time to say all we wish to say. If anyone knows a more intelligent way to spend a day in the open, I shall be glad to hear about it.

And the variety of hikes - even over the same trail. Varied by the seasons, the weather, temperature. The same section of trail can be either up hill or down (according to which way you are walking.)

As Shakespeare didn't say,
A notebook, a cask of wine, and-wow,
I could go on writing this stuff
forever.



S.F. faces environmental consequences with proposed landfill switch

Continued from page 1.

Recreation Area. Off-road vehicle use would destroy the natural values of this magnificent area. The Altamont committee has already indicated its willingness to use its open space funds for this purpose.

If San Francisco's waste were landfilled in Solano County, however, this environmental mitigation would not occur. Internalizing some of the environmental and social costs of an activity is an important way to help reduce its impact. Despite the added fee imposed in Alameda County, Waste Management's latest bid to keep San Francisco's waste going to Altamont is competitive with Recology's bid for disposal in Solano County.

A second reason the Club opposes the Solano County landfill is that the round-trip distance from San Francisco to Hay Road is 40 miles farther than Waste Management's Altamont landfill. Given the number of trucks involved, this works out to 2,000 more truck-miles per

day or 400,000 more truck-miles per year compared to Altamont disposal. Those additional truck-miles in turn mean additional greenhouse gas and other air pollutant emissions, despite Recology's claims that they are not significant.

Moreover, the truck route to Solano County goes through the City of Richmond. Richmond is a city with a large disadvantaged population of primarily minority residents where the Club has been active on environmental justice issues for many years. We oppose exposing that disadvantaged community to any more unnecessary air pollutants.

Finally, if Recology were to send waste to its own landfill and receive disposal fees for the waste dumped there, it would have an economic incentive to maintain a garbage flow to the landfill and less incentive to help San Francisco reach its goal of zero waste by 2020.

The issue of where to send San Francisco's waste will be going to the Board of Supervisors this summer. The Club will be advocating rene-

gotiating a new contract with Waste Management for continued disposal at the Altamont Landfill. Adequate capacity exists at Altamont well into the future. Should the Board approve Recology's Hay Road site, then the Club will support a challenge by Solano County residents who contend that a full environmental impact report should be prepared rather than the mitigated negative declaration that has been released so far.

WhatYouCanDo

If you live in San Francisco, contact your supervisor and urge them not to approve Recology's Hay Road landfill in Solano County and to direct city staff to reopen negotiations with Waste Management for continued disposal of San Francisco's waste at the Altamont Landfill in Alameda County. Non-San Francisco residents can do the same. Find your Supervisor and their contact information at propertymap.sfplanning.org/?name=sffind.

Dick Schneider

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Art as activism — art's persuasive power as a tool for the environmental movement

Designing for a sustainable planet requires a lot of creativity in almost every aspect, including policies, city planning, technology, and a myriad of other problems and innovations one may encounter. But we don't call these "creative" practices, and they're definitely not considered artistic practices. What if artistic practices were also thought of as essential to the environmental movement?

Art is persuasive. It is an argument not bound by the rules of language and can manifest itself in a wide range of mediums and forms. A 2003 U.S. Senate debate over drilling in the Arctic changed course when Senator Barbara Boxer showed a photograph taken by Subhankar Banerjee of a polar bear crossing a frozen harbor in response to a claim that the Arctic was just "a flat white nothingness." Even in its simplicity, it overthrew an assumption that held together the pro-drilling argument, making a huge and abstract issue more tangible and immediate. It was images



Barbara Boxer on C-SPAN 2 with photograph by Subhankar Banerjee.

like this one that convinced lawmakers, including Alaska's senior senator Ted Stevens, to oppose the drilling.

Both individual artists and large organizations are already using art to help drive political change, from exhibits dedicated to environmental art to huge installations in public spaces. It is happening all around us, and alongside it the potential to create change in a way entirely unique to its craft.

Wallace Stegner once called Ansel Adams and John Muir the "two great poets" of Yosemite and the Sierra Nevada. Adams worked closely with the Sierra Club, serving on the board of directors and later becoming an honorary vice-president, but his other contribution was his photography. Eventually his photographs of the National Parks built a visual timeline of what the parks looked like before and after tourism, which helped expand the national park system. Art creates emotional attachment in a way that empirical evidence rarely does, and can be both a reminder and a motivator.



"Solar Eagle" by Spectral Q, Los Angeles. Photo by Jeff Pantukhoff / Spectral Q.

Media other than photography can be just as effective. Two of the first environmental artists, Helen Mayer Harrison and Newton Harrison, created a landscape sculpture called California Wash in 1996. Built over a storm drain in Santa Monica, the sculpture formed a trail from the Pico Boulevard to the beach to show the former ecology of the area. It traced the pathway the water had once taken to reach the sea before being replaced by storm drains, with bronze plaques inset with images of the original fauna, and glass imitating the natural geology of the area—a reminder of what had been contaminated or removed after urbanization. It was a "memorial" that the viewer moved through as they walked along the coast, a narrative that could just as easily be applied to our own lost landscapes, such as the Bayshore wetlands or the Hetch Hetchy Valley.

Great art is also accessible. When options feel limited or people feel unequipped to make change happen on their own, it can

bring them together to take a collective stance. This happened when thousands of volunteers collaborated on 350.org's eARTh project to make human sculptures visible from space. These human sculptures took place all around the world, including one in Los Angeles called Solar Eagle. The participants' individual bodies together formed the image of an eagle taking flight to show that people from all backgrounds would rise together, and held up solar panels to voice their support of solar energy.

Art alone won't solve all of our biggest challenges, but there are a lot of ways it can be used and a lot we can learn from it. People act when they feel moved to do so, and art specializes in moving people. The art critic Peter Schjeldahl said in a speech that "[g]reat artworks are lawyers for our humanity in the court of existence." Now more than ever, it's time to make room in the court for art.

Aya Kusch

Celebrating wins that give a fair shake to recycling workers and multi-unit residents

Educational campaign rolls out as organics collection expands to all Oaklanders

With the passage of Measure D in 1990 and the imposition of a six-dollar-per-ton fee on all materials landfilled on county-controlled lands, Alameda County became the poster child for progressive communities around the country for how to raise funds to invent a waste-free future. Alameda County became the first multi-jurisdictional county in the country where all communities had full-spectrum organics collections. Full-spectrum organics, or FSO, means not only yard debris but food debris and soiled paper as well. Bay Area residents tend to think everybody does this, but FSO collection is limited to about 400 of the 4,000 local public agencies around the country.

But even then all was not right in the kingdom of Alameda County. People living in multi-unit buildings in Oakland were deprived of FSO collection because the 1995 garbage agreement made building owners pay extra for the green cart service, and few had done so. Meanwhile, workers at five of the

seven facilities that sorted recyclables into market-ready commodities were dramatically underpaid while union drivers made three times their wages.

So a movement began. First with the workers themselves, then joined by their organizing union, International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU), then various environmental groups that saw low wages as disrespectful of the people who stand there hour after hour making sure all the goodies get in the right places; it was called the Alameda County Sustainable Recycling Campaign. The Bay Chapter's Zero Waste Committee, with Ruth Abbe at the helm, was a leader in the effort to create a fair and sustainable model for waste collection.

By April 2015, all of the sorting facilities in the county had committed to the Alameda County Wage and Benefit Standard calling for affordable family health insurance for all recycling workers and wages that will rise to

\$20.94 by 2019. One worker whose wife also works as a sorter said, "It's like having another worker in the family."

The Oakland City Council got behind the Campaign's message about green bins for multi-family units, and starting this summer the green carts are rolling out to the 3,500 multi-unit buildings where FSO collection had not happened before.

WhatYouCanDo

The Campaign is organizing a kick-off event in each Council District in Oakland between now and the end of the year to reach out to residents of multi-family buildings and explain what does and does not now go in the green cart. We will also be distributing kitchen pails and recycling caddies.

Got a child home for the summer and jobless, or time yourself to help this effort? Contact Ruth Abbe to volunteer at (415)235-1356 or ruth.abbe@gmail.com.



AR Boone

Photo courtesy ILWU.