

Election Insight 2015

The Newsletter of the Sierra Club Loma Prieta Chapter
San Benito, Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties

CLIP AND SAVE

The Loma Prieta Chapter Endorses the Following

Brisbane:

City Council
Jameel Munir

Burlingame:

City Council
Nirmala Bandrapalli
Emily Beach

Redwood City:

City Council
Ian Bain
Janet Borgens
Shelly Masur

San Mateo

City Council
Rick Bonilla
Maureen Freschet

San Carlos:

Measure V
Vote ,YES on Measure V
to save open space.

If you've voted, please pass
this to a friend or family member
who hasn't voted yet.

Environmental Stewardship Program 2015-2016

Our Environmental Stewardship Program (ESP) will be starting soon. The features of this monthly seminar series are:

- Award-winning environmental documentaries and talks
- Group discussions
- Take action to lobby legislators
- Hands-on environmental projects
- Environmental book club



For more information, please call our Chapter Coordinator at:

650-390-8411 ext. 332

SIERRA CLUB LOMA PREITA CHAPTER

2015 Endorsements

BURLINGAME

I Have The Endorsements, Now What?

by Cheryl Weiden, Peninsula Regional Group Environmental Journalism Chair

If you are a Sierra Club member and are reading this "Election Insights" you are knowledgeable and concerned about environmental issues. How do you take your knowledge and concern to the next level to make a difference?

The first and most obvious answer is "Vote!" and encourage your like-minded family members and friends to vote, also. By taking your actions a step further you can perhaps make a bigger difference, meet some interesting people and have some fun at the same time. Contact your candidate or the organization promoting the election measure and see what help they need. Campaigns can always use more help! You might walk house to house and talk to neighbors, make calls in a phone bank, put a sign in your yard, or write Letters to the Editor of your local paper. Of course, there is the old

stand-by of making a financial contribution to support the campaign activities.

I have done all of these. To be honest, some are easier than others. I felt good about what I was doing, and I felt part of something positive. There is an excitement about being more involved and being included in a movement in which you believe. On a social level I was pleasantly surprised to find I made new friends and became included in ongoing local community events.

If you care about something, do something to make a difference. If you don't, don't assume some one else will. In fact, especially on environmental issues, it seems financial motivations weigh heavily on the opposite side.

Cheryl Weiden is a graduate of the 2014-2015 Environmental Stewardship Program.

Burlingame Will Be Well Served by Nirmala Bandrapalli

Sue Chow & Mike Ferreira, Political Committee Members

Planning Commissioner **Nirmala Bandrapalli** offers a knowledgeable outlook and a familiarity with all Burlingame issues in her race for the City Council. The Loma Prieta Chapter has had an ongoing dialogue with her through recent years and we have confidence that her service on the City Council will benefit Burlingame's environment. Transportation issues relative to Caltrain and El Camino Real, local flora protection during the drought, forward-looking concern for Burlingame's exposure to sea level rise — all of these issues are topmost in her thinking. Nirmala has earned our endorsement and we look forward to working with her in the future. Visit: www.nirmala4burlingame.com



Nirmala Bandrapalli

Emily Beach, Eager to Work for an Environmental Future for Burlingame

By Sue Chow & Mike Ferreira, Political Committee Members

Emily Beach's background is in education. She brings high-energy eagerness to absorb input on the environmental issues facing Burlingame. She displays a refreshing willingness to ask questions and to process the answers into further questions before developing an opinion. Emily scores well on answers about the issues that the Sierra Club membership cares about. She also walks the talk by adhering to environmentally conscious activities in her personal and family life. We believe the Sierra Club will have yet another friend on the Burlingame City Council after November 3.



Emily Beach

Visit: www.beachforburlingame.com for more information



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LOMA PRIETA CHAPTER INFORMATION



SIERRA CLUB

FOUNDED 1892

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NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

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Contact the Chapter office. Annual dues are \$39, of which \$1 is for the *Loma Prietan*. Membership is not tax-deductible.

Subscription/mail problems
Please report to the Chapter office.

Submissions
The *Loma Prietan* encourages members to submit news, stories, reviews and letters. See the submission guidelines at lomaprieta.sierraclub.org/newsletter.html. You can contact the editorial board by e-mail at publicity@lomaprieta.sierraclub.org or by mail or fax to the Chapter office.

Volunteers
The *Loma Prietan* welcomes volunteers and new writers. Please e-mail publicity@lomaprieta.sierraclub.org for information.

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Thank You to Our Endorsement Team Volunteers

By Melissa Hippard, Political Committee Chair

Every year the Loma Prieta Chapter runs an endorsement process that requires the help of many people. This year the focus was on competitive races in San Mateo County. We are deeply appreciative the hard work of team leaders Mike Ferreira, Kelly Moran, and Gladwyn d' Souza and team members Sue Chow, Alice Kaufman, Rafael Reyes, John Ebnetter, Adam Loraine and Katja Irvin.

Getting the results of the endorsement process into the hands of our members is critical and time sensitive. San Mateo County is holding a mail-in only election which means we have to complete our process so that results reach members by very early October. Thanks go to Sue Chow and Cheryl Weiden for stepping up to corral team leaders for their articles,

gathering other content and working with our trusty designer Shannon Corey to get it all together and looking good.

2016 is going to be a big effort and we need your help. Santa Clara County cities will be holding their elections and most will be competitive. If you want to participate in next year's endorsement process please contact me.

Ballot

Check That Box

Find candidate statements by going to the chapter website at lomaprieta.sierraclub.org and clicking on the "Election."

Each Loma Preita Chapter member is entitled to vote once in this election. Two selection columns have been included so that both people in a dual membership can vote (see below, to discover whether you have dual membership). If you fail to receive your ballot, contact the Chapter office (650-390-8411) for an extra. Photocopies or other reproductions will not be accepted.

- A. Vote for Chapter and regional group candidates. Instructions below tell how to determine your group.
- B. Decide whether to use the Voter 1 column or the Voter 2 column. Mark your ballot by placing an "X" in the box opposite candidate names in that column. Ballots marked in both columns by other than two members in a joint membership will not be counted. Print write-in names legibly. Sign validation tab on the line provided (tab will be removed prior to counting).

- C. Cut along dashed line and remove the complete ballot from paper. The mailing label on the back must be left in place for validation. In lieu of a label, print clearly on the back your name, member number, and expiration date (EXACTLY as they appear on your membership card) and your mailing address.
- D. Place ballot in an envelope and mail to:
Chapter/Group Elections Sierra Club
3921 E. Bayshore Rd., Palo Alto, CA 94303
- E. Ballots must be sent in the mail and received by November 30, 2015. Late ballots will not be counted.

Dual Membership and Group Affiliation:

A typical *Loma Prietan* mailing label looks like this:

CAR-RT SORT **CR 81
1205436 JNT 0203
JAN AND LESLIE MEMBER
1213 MUIR DRIVE
BAYLANDS, CA 94308

To discover whether you have a **dual or joint membership**, look at the second row on your mailing label. If the second group of characters is "JNT," both members can vote. If not, only one person can vote; in that case, ballots marked in both columns will not be counted. Our example shows "JNT," so both Jan and Leslie can vote.

To discover your **regional group affiliation**, look at the second line on your mailing label. The four-digit number beginning with "020" is your regional group code.

- 0200 = Chapter, but no group
- 0203 = San Carlos / Belmont
- 0204 = Peninsula
- 0205 = Guadalupe

In our example, the group code is "0203" so Jan and Leslie can vote in the San Carlos/Belmont Group election as well as in the Chapter Executive Committee Election.

Loma Prieta Chapter and Group Ballot

Chapter Executive Committee

Vote for no more than 5 candidates

- | | | | | |
|---------|--------------------------|-----------------|---------|--------------------------|
| Voter 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> | Brian Haberly | Voter 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | Charles Schafer | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | Jan Butts | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | Harvey Rarback | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | Shelly Gordon | | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Guadalupe Regional Group

Members with group code 0205 vote in this column
Vote for no more than 5 candidates

- | | | | | |
|---------|--------------------------|----------------|---------|--------------------------|
| Voter 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> | Gary Latshaw | Voter 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | Angel Martinez | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | Shawn Britton | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | Molly Cox | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | Ralph Murrieta | | <input type="checkbox"/> |

San Carlos/Belmont Regional Group

Members with group code 0203 vote in this column
Vote for no more than 4 candidates
2 highest vote totals get 2 year terms

- | | | | | |
|---------|--------------------------|----------------|---------|--------------------------|
| Voter 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> | Marilyn Brewer | Voter 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | Paul Wendt | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | Pam Miller | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | Camille King | | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Peninsula Regional Group

Members with group code 0204 vote in this column
Vote for no more than 4 candidates

- | | | | | |
|---------|--------------------------|-----------------|---------|--------------------------|
| Voter 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> | Sue Chow | Voter 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | Marlene Zobayan | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | Dave Olson | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | Nancy Tierney | | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Be sure to VOTE!

Excom candidate statements are on Loma Prieta website.
Ballots must be received by November 30, 2015.
Late ballots will not be counted.

Voter 1 signature

Voter 2 signature

Continued from Page 1

2015 Endorsements

BRISBANE

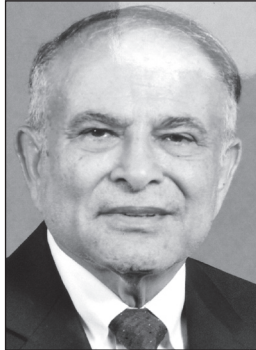
Knowledgeable and Experienced, Jameel Munir is Needed for Brisbane City Council

By Katja Irvin & Mike Ferreira, Political Committee Members

Perhaps more than any other city in the Bay Area, Brisbane faces a complicated set of development and environmental issues in coming years. The Baylands Project Alternatives are wide ranging and run the gamut from an office-housing complex that could triple the city's population to a commercial/retail and green energy-production project without housing. A very large factor is that the current zoning on the site, a former industrial area and former garbage dump — precludes housing and can only be changed by a vote of the Brisbane citizens. Therefore, whatever emerges will have to please the voters.

Jameel Munir has been a planning commissioner since 1997. He is very familiar with all of the environmental factors and policies that need to be applied. By joining the Council he will bring a planning expertise and an impressive private technical career background to the many discussions that will be needed to shape the future of the Baylands.

A vote for Jameel Munir is a vote for Brisbane's environmental future.



Jameel Munir

Vote "Yes" on Measure V, (San Carlos)

by Gladwyn d'Souza, San Carlos/Belmont Group Chair

Vote Yes on Measure V, the Black Mountain Park Ballot Measure that will save Black Mountain and give our community a new park to enjoy for generations, not 100 more homes and more traffic.

Black Mountain is one of the last remaining undeveloped areas in San Carlos. It is a 25 acre parcel of land located along Alameda de la Pulgas between Medera Avenue and Melinda Drive. This unprotected open space is threatened because it is up for sale and development.

We have a choice: Do nothing, and see it lost forever, or vote Yes on Measure V to preserve the land and create a park for all to enjoy for generations to come.

If passed, Measure V will raise \$45 million through a bond for San Carlos to acquire the area and get it ready for the public to enjoy as a park. The cost to the taxpayer is approximately \$20 per \$100,000 assessed property value (not market value.)



Measure V allows our community to seize this unique opportunity to protect our last large area of open space, thereby making it accessible to the public and preserving it for posterity.

With so much development and traffic congestion on the Peninsula, it is vital to preserve this beautiful open space and maintain a balance and connection to nature. We must act now to protect one of San Carlos' few remaining natural areas before it is gone forever.

SAN MATEO

Rick Bonilla and Maureen Freschet for San Mateo City Council

By Adam Loraine, San Mateo Endorsement Team Member

Rick Bonilla has been a Life Member of the Sierra Club since 1994 and has supported environmentally friendly initiatives on San Mateo commissions for the last 14 years. On the Planning and Public Works Commission Bonilla built a solid track record of advocating for transit-oriented developments along the city's rail corridor.

Since being unanimously appointed to the City Council earlier this year, Bonilla voted to approve the Climate Action Plan, and he believes its goals should be even more aggressive. A member of the Board of Directors for commute.org, Bonilla wants to reduce San Mateo's GHG emissions from transportation by investing in more TOD (Transit Oriented Development), revising the downtown plan to allow for greater density and encouraging expansion of mass transit. He also supports progressive long-term water management — including recycling and on-site treatment — and reducing energy emissions via Community Choice Aggregation. For more information on Rick Bonilla, visit www.bonillaforsanmateo.com or call (650) 430-9171.

In her first term on the City Council — and as Planning Commissioner before that — **Maureen Freschet** has proven to be a key supporter of local green measures.

She voted to approve San Mateo's Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plans and its Sustainable Streets Plan. She cast the deciding vote in favor of establishing San Mateo's Sustainability Commission. Earlier this year, as Mayor of San Mateo, she continued to support the commission's work by voting to approve its Climate Action Plan. Freschet supports implementing Community Choice Aggregation — critical element of the plan — and she is part of San Mateo County's task force exploring the best way to do so. She also supports transit-oriented and LEED-certified developments, increasing the minimum wage and a living wage. Learn more about Maureen Freschet at <http://maureenfreschet.com>, or by calling (650) 520-3070.



Rick Bonilla



Maureen Freschet

REDWOOD CITY

Redwood City Needs These Leaders : Ian Bain, Shelly Masur, Janet Borgens

By Melissa Hippard, team lead

Three candidates for Redwood City Council earned our endorsement for their opposition to residential development on the east side of 101 and supporting Community Choice Aggregation. In addition to these critical policy positions these individuals have demonstrated a strong commitment to environmental values and we urge you to vote for them this fall.

Incumbent **Ian Bain** has demonstrated significant commitment to our policy priorities, particularly with his April 2015 opinion piece opposing residential development on the Cargill property. Ian has long been a champion of environmental issues. He led the city's Climate Action Plan process and supported the use of recycled water against fierce opposition from some residents. Ian would like to continue to focus on critical issues facing our city including energy efficiency and conservation, water conservation and preservation of the Bay. For more information see ianbain.com

Shelly Masur has brought environmental leadership to the Redwood City School District for ten years supporting solar, recycling and composting, and the use of integrated pest management. As a member of the city council Shelly promises to make engaging the community a priority, and addressing traffic and parking challenges by expanding alternative transportation options, growing shuttle service, and expanding bike lanes. In addition, she would like to see new parks and green spaces in downtown and throughout the city. Shelly is very concerned about water usage due to the drought and while Redwood City is requiring new buildings to install plumbing that will allow for the production and use of grey water, she would like to see the City incentivize grey water system installation in existing residential and commercial properties. For more information see ShellyMasur.com

Janet Borgens has served on Redwood City's planning commission for over a decade, was a member of the city's recycled water task force and participates regularly in city clean-up days. Janet has long been a community leader and will continue to ensure all residents have the opportunity to be heard. Her priorities include bringing recycled water across town, and requiring all new development to provide a transportation plan with monitoring to make sure the plan is working to reduce overall vehicle use. She wants to make sure we have more open space in our crowded downtown and sees an opportunity in a piece of city owned land. Janet will also encourage the city to look for properties and partnerships to create new parks and use the in-lieu fee to make things happen. She also supports the use of residential parking permits to facilitate parking problems in neighborhoods adjacent to downtown. Learn more at Janetborgens.org



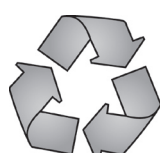
Ian Bain



Janet Borgens



Shelly Masur



Be sure to share your Loma Prietan —Reuse then Recycle

Community Choice Aggregation (CCAs): The Clean Energy Revolution

Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) programs *are the best hope for transitioning rapidly to renewable energy usage in our local communities.* In California, CCAs—also known as CCEs or Community Choice Energy—are formed by local governments when they wish to combine the electricity demands of the residents and businesses in their communities in order to purchase power with higher renewable content. *When CCAs are formed, the power to purchase energy is transferred from utilities such as PG & E to the CCA* but the utilities will continue to deliver electricity, maintain the power lines, and service/bill customers.

The benefits of CCAs:

- 1) **Much faster transition to renewable power** and therefore, significant reductions in carbon emissions can be achieved in a short span of time.
- 2) **Lower rates** because the non-profit nature of CCAs means that surplus revenues will not be siphoned off as profits for investors.
- 3) **The building of a reserve fund** (from surplus revenues), which can be used to invest in local renewable projects and to stabilize rates.
- 4) **Consumer choice** — for the first time ratepayers will be able to choose among energy options.
- 5) **Community control**, not control by for-profit entities such as the existing utility companies.

The first 3 CCAs formed in California are: Marin Clean Energy, Sonoma Clean Power, and Lancaster Choice Energy — launched respectively in 2010, 2014 and May 2015. Marin Clean Energy and Sonoma Clean Power provide power to all the cities in both counties plus a number of surrounding cities and unincorporated areas. So far, Marin Clean Energy, with a track record of 5 years, has been very successful in reducing carbon emissions, providing renewable energy, and investing in local renewable energy projects.

Peninsula Clean Energy (PCE): San Mateo

The San Mateo Board of Supervisors—led by supervisors Dave Pine and Carol Groom—is spearheading the formation of a new CCA/JPA. This new entity has been named “Peninsula Clean Energy” and all 20 San Mateo cities have been invited to join. The entity that will purchase energy on behalf of all the cities and manage the entire operation is called a Joint Powers Authority (JPA). Each city will send a representative to the board of the JPA, which will hire and oversee a small staff that will be in charge of the day-to-day operations of the new entity. The JPA protects the general funds of all the member cities in that the cities will not be liable for any debts or liabilities incurred by the JPA.

The City Council members of all 20 San Mateo cities will be deciding whether or not to join Peninsula Clean Energy either late this year or in early 2016. *Please call or write your city council members to encourage them to vote “yes” to join Peninsula Clean Energy.* Voting to join would mean a yes vote for transitioning rapidly to clean energy, local control, and embarking on the road to a future of locally-generated renewable energy..

Silicon Valley Community Choice Energy (SVCCE): Santa Clara County

An emergent CCA/JPA is forming in Santa Clara county, one spearheaded by Sunnyvale City Council members and Sunnyvale Cool, a local environmental organization. So far, three cities have signed on—Sunnyvale, Mountain View, and Cupertino. In a few months when the feasibility studies are completed, all the other cities in Santa Clara county will be invited join (except for San Jose, which will most likely form its own CCA).

If you live in Santa Clara county, please contact your city council members to convince them that they should vote to join Silicon Valley Community Choice Energy. Please call or write your city council members to encourage them to vote “yes” to join Silicon Valley Community Choice Energy. Voting to join would be to take a giant step toward a future of local renewable energy controlled by local communities instead of an energy future dominated by for-profit utilities and remotely-generated energy.

Join The CCA Movement

If you would like to work toward a clean energy future by helping Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) programs succeed, please contact Sue Chow, our chapter's Climate Action Leadership Team co-chair:

Email: sue.chow@lomaprieta.sierraclub.org

AB 551 in San Mateo County

by Gladwyn d'Souza, Co-Chair,
Food Committee

There is a growing awareness among environmentalists that urban agriculture is necessary to provide nutrition, improve food security, and protect the environment in both urban and non-urban areas. These benefits of urban agriculture are well known probably because of the legend of Victory Gardens — a program during WWII when people were encouraged to keep backyard gardens that supplied one third of the vegetables in the US.

Less well known is the fact that urban agriculture also improves the environment. Urban agriculture reduces carbon emissions by conserving soil and by using green waste on site to regenerate the soil and to sequester carbon. Urban agriculture also reduces transportation emissions through reducing food miles travelled. Furthermore, urban agriculture often uses waste or recycled water on site, which protects the water table and improves habitat (especially for pollinators) while reducing runoff and downstream flooding.

Because urban agriculture tends to be local and personal, urban farmers — also called “backyard gardeners” — are generally averse to the use of pesticides and monocrops. Called the current scourge of the planet, monocrops and pesticides go hand-in-hand and are personified by Monsanto and factory farming. In contrast, most backyard gardeners tend a variety of crops and are often the guardians of heritage seeds (also known as non-GMO heirloom seeds that are passed down through generations). Furthermore, urban farmers often practice sustainable animal husbandry on a small scale by raising chickens, rabbits, and

goats and managing hydroponic fisheries to improve their own diets as well as inputs for the soil.

Given its tremendous value why hasn't urban agriculture taken off? Primarily because land is difficult to get in urban areas! Enter AB 551.

AB 551 (2013) is a legislation that favors small urban — mostly vacant and blighted — parcels. It is a state bill that empowers California's cities and counties to pass ordinances to create “Urban Agriculture Incentive Zones” (UAIZ) in urban areas as defined by the US Census. Owners of privately-owned vacant, unimproved or blighted land can receive a significant reduction in their property taxes if they allow the land to be used for small-scale agriculture (i.e. urban agriculture, community gardens, etc.) dedicated to commercial or noncommercial agricultural use for a period of no less than 5 years. Taxes on parcels certified as Urban Area Incentive Zones are assessed on the annual average per acre value of irrigated cropland in CA — in other words, the taxes will be much lower.

San Francisco and Santa Clara counties have already passed ordinances to implement AB 551. There is an effort underway to encourage the Board of Supervisors to implement AB 551 in San Mateo County and to develop a means to enable cities to implement AB 551.

The Loma Prieta Chapter Food Committee is taking an active role in this effort. If you want to help or find out more please call 650-804-8225.



A benefit for the Loma Prieta Chapter

Saturday, October 17th 4pm-6:30pm

at Garden House at Shoup Park 400 University Avenue, Los Altos

“Guardians of Nature” Benefit for the Sierra Club Loma Prieta Chapter is back. Raise a glass of wine with your friends as we celebrate our extraordinary community. Enjoy scrumptious food, live music and a silent auction

Our inspiring speaker is **Sierra Club Executive Director Michael Brune**, our leader for the past five years. Michael has dedicated over two decades of his life fighting for a healthy planet. Under his leadership, Sierra Club has grown to more than two million supporters, and its Beyond Coal campaign has been recognized as one of the most effective in environmental history. In 2014 he led Sierra Club at the People's Climate March, the largest worldwide protest against climate disruption. He is also the first Sierra Club executive director to be arrested for civil disobedience. He was arrested while protesting Keystone XL Pipeline at the White House in 2013.

Santa Clara County Supervisor Joe Simitian will guide the afternoon as our Masters of Ceremonies.

To learn more, buy tickets or make a donation, visit:

<http://lomaprieta.sierraclub.org/benefit>