



**SIERRA
CLUB**

Sierra Club Loma Prieta Chapter

Celebrating 80 years of protecting the planet

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For immediate release

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U.S. Congress

Sierra Club Endorses Jackie Speier for U.S. House CA District 14

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Let's Reelect Mike Honda to Congress, California District 15

Congressman Mike Honda has been an environmental advocate since his early days in elected office as a County Supervisor when he worked for open space protection and helped establish the Santa Clara Valley Open Space District.

Now, after serving in Congress since 2001, he has a 97% lifetime League of Conservation Voters environmental voting record in a House of Representatives that averages 43%. His record is one of the highest environmental voting records ever for a Representative in Congress. And he continues to work for open space protection, having secured federal funds to clean up pollution on Mt. Umunhum, a former Air Force facility, so that the Midpeninsula ORSD can repurpose this spectacular property for public recreation.

Congressman Honda has fought to regulate fracking and opposed the Keystone XL pipeline. He introduced the "Climate Change Education Act" to create a program at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration that would increase public awareness of the serious climate challenges we face.

Let's keep one of our best allies in a Congress woefully short of environmentally thoughtful representatives.

Sierra Club Endorses Anna Eshoo for U.S. House CA District 18

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Sierra Club Endorses Zoe Lofgren for U.S. House CA District 19

Zoe Lofgren is a dedicated environmentalist. She serves on the important House Science, Space, and Technology Committee. She is available to meet with local Sierra Club leaders who have met with her several times regarding climate change. Lofgren is well aware of environmental and energy issues, and is a strong open space advocate. She supports the opening of the Coyote Hills Regional Park and spoke at an event commemorating it.



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California State Legislature

Sierra Club Endorses Jerry Hill for State Senate District 13

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Sierra Club Endorses Jim Beall for State Senate District 15

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Sierra Club Endorses Kevin Mullin for Assembly District 22

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Sierra Club Endorses Vicki Veenker for Assembly District 24

California needs legislators that will take action on environmental issues and protect the long-term health of our air, water and natural surroundings.

Vicki Veenker is a strong environmental candidate for the Assembly District 24 seat left open by termed out Assemblyman Rich Gordon. Veenker promises to be a reliable supporter of environmental issues in the Assembly. She is opposed to the Twin Tunnels project that proponents call the "California Water Fix." She understands the urgency of acting against climate change, the importance of defending CEQA and the foolishness of injecting oil waste into our fresh water aquifers.

Veenker's legal background and long interest in public policy will serve her well in the Assembly. She's been recognized as an exceptional patent attorney and has served as the President of the Board of the Law Foundation of Silicon Valley, which offers free legal services to low income clients and fights poverty. Vicki has also leads the Foreign Policy Association's Great Decisions discussion series by recruiting speakers to provide community education.

The Sierra Club joins many others in endorsing Veenker as a strong candidate for the Assembly District 24 seat, including numerous city council members and community leaders and civic groups. See her web site for the list. vickiforassembly.com/endorsements.php

Please urge people to get out to vote for the environment on June 7 (or earlier by mail)!

Sierra Club Endorses Ash Kalra for Assembly District 22

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Local Elections

Cliff Lentz, Solid Choice for San Mateo County Supervisor District 5

The Sierra Club endorses a longtime and highly valued friend – Cliff Lentz - to the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors representing the 5th District – which is the northernmost district* in the county.

Whether we look at his exemplary record as a Brisbane City Councilman or we look at his equally exemplary record as an environmentally conscious and astute citizen/businessman we see a template for the type of candidate we can only hope to see more of when we make our endorsements.

Cliff Lentz' positions on coastal protection, on spending priorities, on watersheds, on bay restoration, on trails, and on regional governance are all laudatory and well aligned with Sierra Club policy. We look forward to working with him as San Mateo County moves forward on issues such as Sea Level Rise, Transportation Priorities, and housing affordability.

Please vote for Cliff Lentz for San Mateo County Supervisor District 5 - and ask your friends to do so, as well.

*District 5 includes the communities of Brisbane, Colma, Daly City, San Bruno (north of Sneath lane and west of Interstate 280), South San Francisco (west of Interstate 280 until Avalon Drive then west of Junipero Serra Boulevard, and north of Hickey, Hillside and Sister Cities Boulevard to Highway 101) with Unincorporated Broadmoor Village, San Bruno Mountain Park and Brisbane Quarry.

<http://www.cliffentz.com>

Sierra Club Endorses Sergio Jimenez for San Jose City Council District 2

San Jose needs a City Council that will take action on environmental issues and protect the long-term health of our air, water and natural surroundings. **Please urge people to get out to vote for the environment on June 7!**

Sergio Jimenez is the best environmental candidate for the San Jose City Council seat left open by termed out Councilmember Ash Kalra. The election will take place on June 7, 2016 with early voting starting on May 9.

Jimenez promises he will be a strong supporter of environmental issues on the City Council. Environmental issues he wants to address include: climate change and carbon emissions, trails and transit, preserving open space and creek corridors, ensuring adequate green space for all, and waste recycling efficiency. He is passionate about connecting diverse populations to parks and



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fostering appreciation and commitment to environmental issues in District 2, and especially as a Latino encouraging Latino involvement.

Sergio's website says "our sustainability is too important to wait any longer, and there is no greater place to take action than in our own city. As the District 2 San José Parks & Recreation Commissioner I have fought for better awareness on our carbon footprint and impact, and sought to preserve more open and green space for our community. I will also fight for better action on water-use and the impacts of drought."

Sergio Jimenez has a strong background in public policy and community service. He works for the County Public Defender as an investigator and is currently Chair of the San José Parks & Recreation Commission. Seeing a need to activate his community, he also founded the Oak Grove Neighborhood Association. This experience makes Jimenez particularly well placed to be an effective Councilmember for District 2, with excellent knowledge of local issues and established connections with community organizations and open space agencies in the region.

The Sierra Club joins many others in endorsing Jimenez as the best candidate, including Santa Clara County Supervisors Dave Cortese, Ken Yeager and Cindy Chavez, San Jose Councilmembers Don Rocha and Raul Peralez, the South Bay AFL-CIO Labor Council, the Santa Clara County Democratic Party, and the Santa Clara County League of Conservation Voters.

Helen Chapman for San Jose City Council, District 6

The race for San José City Council City Council, District 6, in the heart of San José including the neighborhoods of the Rose Garden, Fruitdale, Willow Glen, Guadalupe Canoas, and College Park features a bounty of great candidates. However, one candidate stands out for her long record of prioritizing environmental issues in her community service: Helen Chapman. Helen is smart, thoughtful, and willing to do the hard work of building consensus around the best solutions to our difficult problems and she will make a great City Councilmember.

Helen has been advocating for better stream protection and the healthy watershed, flood protection, recreation, and wildlife habitat they provide. She worked with our allies to get riparian protection language into the City's General Plan. And now after decades of delay, with Helen's help on the Council, the City may finally adopt the ordinance level protections that will ensure our riparian goals are met.

Helen says, "It's an honor to receive the support of the Sierra Club, our shared values and commitment to environmental consciousness are important in our community. We have worked together on a number of critical environmental issues throughout our community, and I will continue to be an advocate at City Hall so we can make San José as safe, sustainable, and beautiful as it can be."

Helen's experience as a local environmental leader includes 7 years as a board member of Committee for Green Foothills, two terms with the San José Parks Commissioner, including a tenure as Chair, and cofounding the San José Parks Foundation. She led efforts to raise the fees



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collected as part of the Parkland Dedication Ordinance to 100 percent of raw land value, giving San José millions of dollars for land acquisition for parks and trails as well as capital improvements for parkland. She is a member of the Democratic Party Environmental Caucus and has worked closely with organizations such as Greenbelt Alliance, Open Space Authority, CalSJ, Save Our Trails and many others. With over 25 years of experience advocating for environmental causes in District 6 and throughout San José, Helen Chapman is the candidate who most clearly embodies the principles of the Sierra Club.

Sierra Club Endorses Josh Barousse for San Jose City Council District 8

San Jose needs a City Council that will take action on environmental issues and protect the long-term health of our air, water and natural surroundings. **Please urge people to get out to vote for the environment on June 7!**

Josh Barousse is the best environmental candidate for the San Jose City Council seat left open by termed out Councilmember Rose Herrera. The election will take place on June 7, 2016 with early voting starting on May 9.

Barousse promises he will be a strong supporter of environmental issues on the City Council. Environmental issues he supports include: addressing greenhouse gas emissions and sea level rise, reducing energy use per capita by 50% by 2022, preserving open space, opposing “sprawl development” in north Coyote Valley, a Bird Safe Building Ordinance, and stronger regulations for development on riparian corridors.

Josh’s website says he wants to continue the legacy of green open spaces in District 8 by: preserving open space and the trail system, protecting the green belt, and planning for smart growth by investing in high-density, transit-oriented projects to reduce our carbon footprint.

Josh Barousse has and strong background in public policy and community service. He has several years of experience as an aide to both California State Senator Jerry Hill and San Jose Councilmember Ash Kalra. He has also served on committees and roundtables related to schools and public safety in District 8. This experience makes Barousse particularly well placed to be an effective Councilmember for District 8, with excellent knowledge of local issues and already established connections with elected officials and agencies in the region.

The Sierra Club joins many others in endorsing Barousse as the best candidate, including State Senator Jerry Hill, State Assemblymember Luis Alejo, Santa Clara County Supervisors Dave Cortese and Cindy Chavez, San Jose Councilmembers Don Rocha and Raul Peralez, the South Bay AFL-CIO Labor Council, and the Santa Clara County League of Conservation Voters.



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Ballot Measures

Measure A – Santa Clara County

The Sierra Club endorses Measure A, Yes on Parks!, to renew the Park Charter Fund. The Park Charter Fund has provided over 25,000 acres of parks and open spaces, excellent multi-use trails, camping, and so much more. The 29 regional parks in Santa Clara County offer unparalleled recreational opportunities for the 1.86 million residents of all walks of life. represent the county voters continued comittment to a healthy and beautiful place to live and work. For more information visit WWW.yesonparks.com

Sierra Club supports regional ballot Measure AA to restore wetlands for a healthy Bay and safer communities

As many of us have witnessed during the latest El Niño storms, flooding in low-lying bay shoreline areas is becoming more common. As the bay rises three, four, or even six feet as a result of climate change (as scientists project will happen within this century) many shoreline areas will face constant inundation. Another way of saying that is that some areas may become a part of the Bay.

That is, if we don't do something.

We could build levees around the entire Bay at a cost in the many, many billions. Then again, remember Katrina, remember the Mississippi, and all the other sites where levees have failed. Levees may be necessary in some areas – we're not likely to allow San Francisco's downtown to disappear under water – but they're not the best solution.

Happily (if one can talk about happiness in the face of disaster) there appears to be an answer that makes use of nature's natural flood barrier, tidal wetlands.

Wetlands: the natural solution

Tidal wetland vegetation slows storm surges, reduces the height of waves and encroaching waters, and so helps avoid flooding. Wetland vegetation traps sediment, and as the Bay rises so will the elevation of the tidal wetlands. As they trap the bay mud and grow new vegetation on this new elevation, wetlands raise our shoreline; a natural and growing levee. This won't work everywhere, but it will be a critical element in how our Bay Area responds to the rising tides.

But, of course, first we need tidal wetlands. The Bay has lost over 80% of its tidal wetlands over the last few centuries as we humans have been altering the shoreline for agriculture, salt production, and urban development.

But thanks to the Sierra Club and many others the tide began to turn a few decades ago. Even before sea-level rise was recognized as the threat we know it is today (and wetlands recognized as an answer to the water's encroachment) wetlands were valued for "cleaning and retaining water naturally, preventing floods, and providing a habitat and food source for a wide variety of plant



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and animal species” (Sahagian and Melack 1998; Mitsch 2005; Erwin 2009; Ranieri et al. 2013). With this in mind, environmental groups such as the Sierra Club began to save threatened tidal marshes.

As conservation efforts ramped up, state and federal agencies began to make it much harder to destroy wetlands for agriculture or development. Once the message finally got out, the goal of restoring those lost wetland acres took hold and wetland restoration became an active endeavor. Over the last decade tens of thousands of acres of tidal marsh have been restored along the Bay shoreline.

But current estimates show the need for at least 100,000 acres of restored wetlands for the health of the Bay and to address sea level rise. And restoring wetlands can be expensive — not as expensive as levees but still pretty expensive. Estimates are that it will take many hundreds of millions of dollars to restore the Bay’s wetlands to health. Where is the money to come from to undertake this essential task?

What would Measure AA do?

In 2008 the State Legislature created the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority, which was tasked with helping fund “the restoration, enhancement, protection, and enjoyment of wetlands and wildlife habitat in the San Francisco Bay and along its shoreline.”

To fund this effort, this year the Restoration Authority is presenting the “Clean and Healthy Bay Ballot Measure,” or Measure AA, on the June ballot in each of the nine Bay Area counties. Measure AA would create a \$12 parcel tax that would raise \$500 million over 20 years to fund critical Bay restoration and flood protection projects. The Authority’s enabling legislation and the ballot language ensure that the money will go where it’s needed. It’s not enough money to completely protect the Bay Area from sea-level rise, but it’s a great start to help us get ready for a higher bay. This ballot measure will result in a healthier and safer Bay and most of all, it gives us all a chance to do something positive about climate change and sea-level rise. We still need to put all our energy into stopping the use of fossil fuels and reducing greenhouse gases – but that is saying ‘No.’

Here is a chance to say ‘YES’! Voting ‘Yes’ on Measure AA fights climate change by creating a healthier Bay ready to take on the rising seas. Please vote this June and vote ‘Yes’ on Measure AA.

