



Election Insight 2012

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

New Districts, New Primary Rules

By Margaret Okuzumi and Ann Schneider, Co-Chair Political Committee

This election voters will see many unfamiliar names on the ballot. A massive overhaul of district boundaries means that many current legislators are running in districts that include unfamiliar territory. New lines were drawn in 2011 based on the 2010 census and under the direction of Proposition 11, the Voters First Act, which changed the way redistricting is done in California.

All district boundaries for Congress, State Senate, Assembly and Board of Equalization have changed, as have the district numbers. Generally speaking, because population in our area did not grow as fast as it did other areas of the state, the geographic area of our districts increased and their boundaries shifted southward. Redistricting attempted to keep communities with similar concerns in the same district and encourage diverse representation in accordance with the federal Voting Rights Act. The Redistricting Commission drew lines independently, without seeking to favor any incumbent or political party. District lines were also changed at the local level for county supervisor and special districts such as the water district using processes developed by those government agencies.

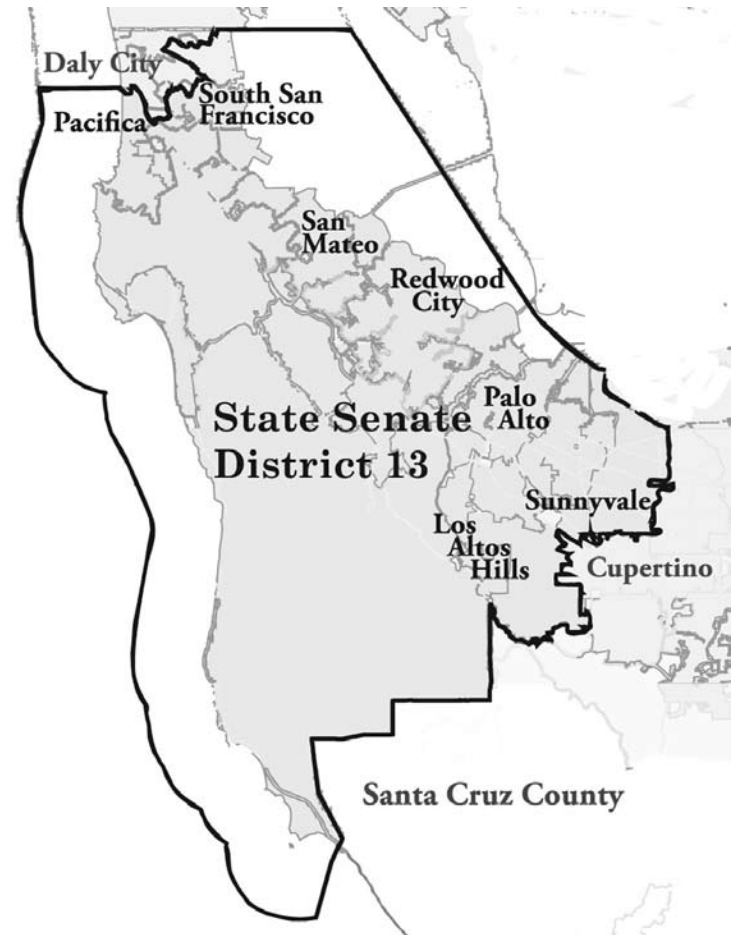
The other big change to our elections is the result of Proposition 14. For state constitutional offices, U.S. Congress, and state legislative offices, the top two primary

vote getters, regardless of political party, will move to the general election in November.

Help elect candidates that will fight for the environment and for all of us. Look for "Get Involved" opportunities interspersed in this newsletter.

The **official California Citizen Redistricting Commission map** site is <http://wedrawthelines.ca.gov/maps-final-drafts.html>. Click on the state-wide map to get a better view of your District number then scroll down to find the specific cities within the new Districts.

To see the new Districts using the name of incumbent office holders go to www.redistricting-partners.com. A fun curiosity for Northern San Mateo County residents: we will have 2 Senators. For the next 2 years we will be represented by Sen. Leland Yee, whose term expires in 2014, and through 2012 by Sen. Joe Simitian, who is termed out of the legislature. This year we're voting for a new state senator for the new District 13, which includes most of San Mateo County, but Senator Yee will continue to represent his current district, which overlaps with the new District 13, through 2014.

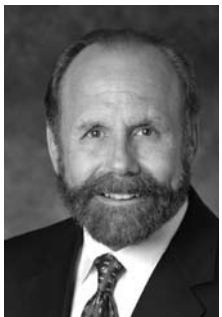


CALIFORNIA SENATE RACES

New Senate 13 Pits Two Environmental Heroes Club Endorses Sally Lieber and Jerry Hill

By Ann Schneider, Co-Chair Political Committee & Endorsement Team Leader for SD13

Redistricting merged most of San Mateo County and northern Santa Clara County into the new Senate District 13. Two good friends of the Environment, both Democrats will be running to fill this seat. Former Assemblywoman Sally Lieber (old AD24) will be running against current AD19 Assemblyman Jerry Hill. Both Lieber and Hill have been a good voice and vote for the environment. This race is probably the most competitive race our chapter will face in the primary and the general election.



Jerry Hill



Sally Lieber

Sally Lieber's Environmental Successes

Sally served in the Assembly from 2002 to 2008. She served as the Speaker pro Tempore, only the third woman to hold this second in power position in the Assembly. Environmental laws authored by Assm. Lieber and signed into law include: AB32 our landmark Global Warming law, ban on cancer causing flame retardants, requiring cell phone retailers to take back used phones for reuse, recycling and proper disposal, the California Ocean Protection Act, requiring that retailers can only sell lead free plumbing materials, requiring developers to offer solar power in homes in new developments and the Million solar roof, establish the San Francisco Bay restoration Authority to raise funds to protect and restore bay habitats, and many more. Members may remember her famous smog bill that made national attention on the Tonight

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CLIP AND SAVE

November 2012 General Election

(I) Incumbent, (O) Open Seat

For post print deadline additions go to the Loma Prieta Political Page at <http://lp.sierraclub.org/politics/>

US Congress

www.sierraclub.org/politics/endorsements/

- CD 14 Jackie Speier (I)
- CD 17 Mike Honda (I)
- CD 18 Anna Eshoo (I)
- CD 19 Zoe Lofgren (I)
- CD 20 Sam Farr (I)

Not in Loma Prieta Chapter but races critical for electing progressives and changing the balance of power in the U.S. House – so let your friends and family know the Club has endorsed in these races AND consider volunteering to help via phone banking or other GOTV actions.

- CD 7 Ami Beri – running against incumbent Don Lungren (I)
- CD 9 Jerry McNerney (I) – not in our district but facing a strong challenger
- CD 10 Pending should be complete by May 10th.

State Level Offices

<http://sierraclubcalifornia.org/ca-elections/>

Senate Districts (SD)

- SD 13 Jerry Hill and Sally Lieber – dual endorsements – Open Seat
- SD15 Jim Beall – Open Seat
- SD 17 Bill Monning – Open Seat

Assembly Districts (AD)

- AD 19 Phil Ting – Open Seat
- AD 22 Kevin Mullin – Open Seat
- AD 24 Rich Gordon (I)
- AD 25 Bob Wieckowski (I)
- AD 27 Nora Campos (I)
- AD 28 Paul Fong (I)
- AD 29 Mark Stone – Open Seat
- AD 30 Pending

State Propositions – At press time, no positions had been taken, please go to <http://sierraclubcalifornia.org/ca-elections/> for any recent actions.

San Mateo County

Board of Supervisors

- District 1 Dave Pine (I)
- District 4 Kirsten Keith and Shelly Masur – dual endorsement – Open Seat
- District 5 pending – Adrienne Tissier (I)

Santa Clara County

Board of Supervisors

- District 5 Joe Simitian Open Seat

City of San Jose

- District 2 Ash Kalra (I)
- District 4 Kansen Chu (I)
- District 6 Pierluigi Oliverio (I)
- District 8 Rose Herrera (I)
- District 10 Edesa Bitbidal – Open Seat

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

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To join the Sierra Club

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

Subscription/mail problems

Please report to the Chapter office.

Submissions

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

Outings Listings

Listings must be submitted to the Chapter one month prior to publication.

Advertising

Contact Ad Manager (see below). Deadline for ad space is due two months prior to publication.

Volunteers

The *Loma Prieta* welcomes volunteers and new writers. Please e-mail newsletter@lomapieta.sierraclub.org for information.

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Be sure to share your Loma Prieta — Reuse then Recycle

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Show. Sally took on Jay Leno and won.

Sally's environmental goals should she be elected include: expanding energy and water conservation programs, controlling and reducing toxic chemicals, habitat protection, implementing sustainable land use policies and practices, supporting mass transit and implementing zero waste programs across the state.

Sally came out early against the Saltworks development in Redwood City. Sally isn't afraid to take a strong stand and fight the hard fights. She earned her 100% lifetime green voting record. To learn more about Sally go to www.sallylieber.org

Jerry Hill's Environmental Successes

Jerry is considered one of the hardest workers in Sacramento. He has a long record both at the local government level and in Sacramento for working for a better environment. He has championed strong air pollution control actions, supported mass transit, open space and parks. As an assemblyman his legislation has helped reduce the cost of installing solar energy for residents and businesses, funding for bay protection and restoration, protecting CEQA by closing procedural loopholes, moving state agencies to use electronic rather than paper transactions, and incentive programs to get polluting vehicles off our roads. In 2009, Jerry carried legislation to ban single use polystyrene takeout food packaging and while the bill didn't get signed into law, most of the communities in our chapter are moving to eliminate this packaging that so often ends up littering our streets and creeks and finding their way to the ocean and beaches. We thank Jerry for his leadership in so many areas.

If elected Jerry's main environmental goals include developing plans and policies to prepare for sea level rise including wetland preservation, preserving mass transit and supporting green jobs. His lifetime environmental score from the Calif. League of Conservation Voters is 96%. Jerry is a pragmatic fighter for the environment. He has served us well. To learn more about Jerry go to www.jerryhillforsenate.com

Most likely Lieber and Hill will receive the top two votes cast and move onto the general election in the fall. The Sierra Club strongly encourages our members to learn more about Sally and Jerry. We are fortunate to have two superb candidates who work with us and have fought hard in Sacramento for the environment. We only wish we could send them both back to Sacramento.

Loma Prieta Endorses Jim Beall for Senate District 15

By Rob Rennie, Political Committee Co-chair

Beall has been an important voice in the assembly with a very high life time green voting record. Jim has worked for many decades to improve our transportation system and thus reduce pollution from cars including planning future expansions. He founded the Santa Clara Open Space Authority to protect and enhance open space least it be lost with the disappearing agriculture land. He has also led the county parks ballot measure multiple times.

Jim's long history as a planner has trained him to be a strategic thinker. He also applies his strategic thinking to protecting our natural resources and the long term impacts our decisions have on the environment. Jim's understanding of the environmental issues in our area coupled with the understanding of how to fund environmental priorities in a tough budget climate will allow him to be an important voice for solutions to the environmental in Sacramento. Let's send him back to Sacramento to continue his good work in the state Senate.



Jim Beall

Get Involved

Senate District 13 Host a House Party of Walk a Precinct

We know that a dual endorsement can cause confusion to our members who count on the Club analysis of environmental records and actions to provide the vote for the environment. When we endorse a candidate we also give the Okay to our members that they can go out and work for that candidate using the Club's name in their affiliation. A dual endorsement allows members who feel strongly for Sally or for Jerry to precinct walk or host house parties to help the candidate meet the electorate. If you want to help your candidate, and are unsure of what the dual endorsement means, please contact Ann Schneider at 650-697-6249 or Ann.Schneider@sierraclub.org and she can help you with process concerns.

What does it mean to be a "good friend of the environment"?

This is a term used to describe an elected official who not only voted to support a wide range of environmental actions but also took leadership positions and went above and beyond to get environmental laws and regulations passed. This could mean sponsoring good environmental bills and working hard to build the votes for that bill. It can mean finding funding for things like supporting our local parks. It also means that the elected official is open to meeting with the environmental community and asks us for help in finding the best solution to an environmental problem.

Elect Bill Monning for Senate 17

By Bruce van Allen, Ventana Chapter (Santa Cruz and Monterey Counties)

Bill Monning (D-Carmel) has earned endorsement by the Club for his candidacy for the 17th Senate District, which includes coastal communities in Monterey County, all of Santa Cruz and San Luis Obispo Counties, and southern Santa Clara County. The Sierra Club has given Monning a high score on its 2011 California Legislative Report Card for his work in the State Assembly.



Bill Monning

Monning said: "I am honored to be one of the members of the Legislature to be selected for endorsement by the Sierra Club. Ultimately, our stewardship of our region, state, and the planet will determine the rate and impacts of climate change. Waste management, recycling, reduction of plastics, water conservation, and sound forest management are all areas where we can make a difference through education and advocacy. I look forward to our continued collaboration to protect our coast, habitat, and species while promoting green jobs, green tech, and green lifestyles. The quality of life of all Californians is intimately tied to how we define and practice our relationship with nature."

In the Assembly, Monning has worked to ensure a long term safe and reliable food supply for the California condor, while also fostering additional collaboration with the Department of Fish and Game to recover this species to the wild and within the protection of the government entities working to save this amazing bird.

Assemblymember Monning has also worked to protect public health and the environment by requiring the disclosure of ingredients in pesticides. He has played a leading role in resistance to adoption of Methyl Iodide in California's fields.

"Americans have no idea what chemicals they are being exposed to since elements that are deemed 'inert' or inactive never show up on pesticide ingredient lists. Not only do consumers have the right to know the complete list of pesticide ingredients that are put on their food and end up in their drinking water, but in the case of an emergency, it is critical for our health care professionals to have access to the full ingredient list of pesticides so they can properly treat anyone who was exposed to them," he said.

To learn more about Bill Monning's work in the legislature refer to <http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a27/>. To help with his campaign contact: <http://www.billmonning.org/>

ASSEMBLY DISTRICTS

Vote for Kevin Mullin for Assembly District 22

By Ann Schneider, Endorsement Team Leader AD22



Kevin Mullin

Kevin Mullin has a strong record of supporting environmental issues while serving as Councilmember & Mayor of the City of South San Francisco. Kevin has a very good understanding of how the various levels of government work based on his experience serving as a local government elected officials to his time as a staffer for Assm. Jackie Speier (now Congresswoman Speier). He will be a strong advocate on transit oriented development, transportation issues and on climate change issues as demonstrated by his work on the Grand Blvd project and on Metropolitan Transportation Commission. He wants to work to make the state budget and budget process more transparent and to work with legislators from across the aisle to find common ground on the range of issues Californians expect their leaders to accomplish. If the name Mullin sounds familiar, his Father, Gene Mullin represented the people of northern San Mateo for 6 years (2002-2008) in the Assembly. Kevin reminded us that his Dad was a co-sponsor of AB32 California Global Warming Act and he wants to make sure that real changes are made statewide to fight climate change.

For more information on Kevin Mullin go to <http://kevinmullin.com/site/>.

Support Rich Gordon for the new AD24

By Ruth Stoner Muzzin, Early Endorsement Team Lead & Polcom Member

Assembly member Rich Gordon is currently representing the 21st Assembly District. He was elected in November, 2010 with the Chapter's endorsement.

Previously, he served for 13 years on the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors. Redistricting places Rich Gordon in AD 24, an open seat in 2012. Since his election for AD21, he has maintained good contact with the Chapter, and was featured in a



Rich Gordon

Loma Prieta interview for the July/August 2011 issue.

Rich Gordon has consistently lent support to environmental issues in the Assembly. He is a co-author of AB 587, a bill to allow volunteer work on public projects, compatible with the Club's habitat protection efforts. He is in favor of continuing a property tax exemption for open and protected space that is held by nonprofit land trusts. In an interesting intersection of economy and environment, as part of his work chairing the budget subcommittee that oversees resource agencies, recent budget restraints allowed Assemblymember Gordon and his colleagues to cut some state agency staffing so as to effectively eliminate highly destructive suction dredge mining for gold in the streams of the Sierra foothills, providing much-needed relief to local fish populations. He also supported AB612, which was signed into law, increasing the borrowing authority of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District without raising taxes.

Gordon scored well with the League of Conservation Voters (100%) and with the Club on his first year voting-record in the Assembly. In 2011 he supported all eight club-sponsored environmental bills that were brought to the floor. The one issue where Gordon departed from Club policy last year was in support of CEQA fast-tracking for green and renewable energy projects (the "Jobs and Economic Improvement Through Environmental Leadership Act of 2011") and a related senate bill for stadium development in Los Angeles, which both passed and were signed by Governor Brown.

Finding common ground between economic and environmental benefits is an objective that Rich Gordon hopes to achieve with sponsorship of a bill that will direct the surplus of uncollected beverage container refunds into programs that support new plastic recycling businesses in California.

Assemblymember Gordon is also cooperating with State Senator Joe Simitian and Congressperson Anna Eshoo to advocate a blended approach to high-speed rail, endeavoring to incorporate existing Cal-Train rights of way wherever feasible. His website features a link to the state Energy Commission's Energy Upgrade page, with planning suggestions for Californians to save money by reducing energy use.

So far, Rich has maintained and improved his Chapter contact and communication throughout his time in public service. He has kept an open mind and ready ear on Club issues, and now he is an important state-wide contact for the Club. He is a Democrat, running in a solidly Democratic district, with little significant opposition. So, even though he may be headed toward a relatively easy win in AD 24, the Club heartily recommends a vote for Rich Gordon to continue building on past successes.

Elect Assm. Bob Wieckowski to the new AD25

By Ann Schneider, Early Endorsement Lead for AD25

Assemblyman Bob Wieckowski's current District covers Milpitas but in the new AD25 the District runs down through Eastern San Jose and the City of Santa Clara. So to many of us in the Loma Prieta Chapter, Assemblymember Wieckowski is unknown.

He was first elected to the Assembly in 2010 and in his first year in office achieved an 82% voting record. *He is the Chair of the Committee on Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials overseeing hazardous materials, drinking water and pesticides. He introduced the Made in California Jobs Initiative that includes the Solar Energy Act and the Renewable Energy Act. He also introduced Assembly Joint Resolution 22 to push the US Congress to overturn the U.S. Supreme Court Citizens United Ruling.



Bob Wieckowski

Assm. Wieckowski is running against two other candidates but his environmental record has earned him our support. For more information visit <http://bobwieckowski.com/> and view his biography at <http://asmcd.org/members/a20/biography?layout=item>

* *Environmental Report Cards: We are used to our elected officials garnering 95-100% voting records. Last year in 2011, several last minute CEQA votes went through and most if not all of our elected voted for these CEQA actions. The result is not one of our elected officials achieved a 100% voting record last year. Nonetheless, as a group, our Senators and Assemblymembers still have some of the highest voting records in the State. To check on your elected go to <http://sierraclubcalifornia.org/sc-publications/environmental-report-cards/> and <http://www.ecovote.org/scorecard/2011-scorecard>*

Get Involved

Calling members living in AD 25

If you live in the new AD25 and have an interest in politics we are setting up a constituent meeting so we can develop a relationship with Assemblyman Wieckowski. Please contact the Political Committee and we will include you in a District meeting. Email us at Political@lomaprieta.sierraclub.org or call Ann Schneider at 650-697-6249.

Sierra Club Endorses Nora Campos in Ca Assembly District 27

By John Cordes, Polcom Tri-chair

The Sierra Club again endorses Assembly member Nora Campos for Ca Assembly District 27. Assembly district 27 includes the eastern portions of San Jose. "We endorsed her when she was on the San Jose city council and we are glad she has continued to earn our endorsement in the state assembly" said John Cordes, Loma Prieta political committee tri-chair.

In announcing its endorsement, the Sierra Club was impressed by Nora's commitment to protect our environment. In her 1st 2 years in the assembly, Nora Campos has a 2011 Sierra Club California favorable voting score of 67% and CLCV score of 88%. "We were happy Nora voted for some of our key bills this year, including SB 1x 2, the renewable portfolio energy standard, AB 376, the law banning the sale shark fins, and SB 790, the Electricity community Choice Law" said John.

In additions to our endorsement, Nora proudly carries the support of California League of Conservation Voters, For more information about Nora, please visit her website: <http://asmcd.org/members/a23/>

We are looking for members who live in AD27 to represent the Chapter in constituent meetings and phone trees. If you have a couple of hours a year and care about how your Assembly person votes, please contact us at Political@lomaprieta.sierraclub.org.

Continued on next page

The Chapter is considering going to a paperless, all electronic Loma Prieta. This could be the last Endorsement Issue you receive. Going electronic can save precious c4 dollars (money from non tax deductible donations). If you support the Chapter's endorsement work please do two things: 1) make a non-tax deductible donation to the chapter for future Endorsement Issues, and 2) make sure the Chapter has a working email address for you and your family. If you get regular email from "Loma Prieta Chapter, Sierra Club" then we have your email. If not, we don't. Send your name, address and email to loma.prieta.chapter@sierraclub.org, put "my email" in the subject line. Thanks!



Nora Campos

Congressman Jerry McNerney, Environmental Champion

By Mary McVey Gill, Loma Prieta Increase Our Clout contact for Rep. McNerney

A renewable-energy engineer and Ph.D. in mathematics, Jerry McNerney has been a champion for environmental groups in the House of Representatives. Many Loma Prietans contributed time and money to help elect Jerry when he was running against anti-environmentalist Richard Pombo in 2006 and have supported him ever since. In the 2010 election, Jerry managed to win by a slim margin. Once again, he will have to work hard to maintain the seat.

Jerry has fought tirelessly for the issues we care about: clean and renewable energy, the creation of "green collar" jobs, energy independence, clean air and water, and public transportation. He has sponsored many bills related to these issues over the course of his three terms in office, including bills to:

- secure funding for training in renewable energy jobs
 - invest in infrastructure for electric vehicles and help spur local manufacturing of these cars
 - expand geothermal research
 - promote a "smart grid"
 - help improve air quality in the Central Valley
 - promote water conservation and recycling
 - improve the Altamont Corridor rail line
- Jerry is on the House Science, Space, and

Technology Committee, and the subcommittee on Energy and Environment. He supports investing in energy efficiency for buildings and appliances, and stands against drilling for oil off our coast. He recently was very outspoken in his opposition to HR 1837 (sponsored by Republican Devin Nunes) as a "brazen move by the water contractors and their allies who want to steal water from the Delta." (Unfortunately, the bill was passed in the House.)

In addition, Jerry has worked hard to help homeowners facing foreclosure and for veterans' care and benefits.

Jerry has two Republican challengers, one of whom is from a wealthy family and has raised very large sums of money. The new district, CD 9, is centered in the Stockton area and runs south to Mountain House and Lathrop and east to Brentwood and Antioch. The National Republican Congressional Committee has already been targeting Jerry in TV ads in the district, and this is a seat they will try hard to win.

In this day of unlimited political contributions and few Congressional districts in play in California, Jerry will need our help. For more information on the campaign, or to contribute or get involved, go to www.jerrymcnerney.org or call (209) 910-4172.

Get Involved

Central Valley Congressional Races "in play" and can change the balance of power in the U.S. House of Representatives.

We are fortunate that our Congressional Delegation, Representatives Jackie Speier, Anna Eshoo, Mike Honda, Zoe Lofgren and Sam Farr have excellent environmental voting records and have a long history of working with us on a wide range of environmental issues. They are also running for re-election in safe seats. That is why our Chapter has not organized large get-out-the-vote (GOTV) efforts for them even when they have such great environmental records.

However there are races where Loma Prietans can make a difference. Redistricting and population changes in the central valley have put a number of races into play. These seats were formally strong conservative districts but are now more evenly balanced among progressive and conservative voters. The Sierra Club has endorsed Dr. Ami Bera for CD7 (greater Sacramento region) who barely lost to incumbent Dan Lungren two years ago and now the district has greater progressive registration. Our efforts here to help the Mother Lode chapter could help win this election for the environment.

Incumbent Jerry McNerney in the new CD 9 is actually a bit more conservative than the CD13 that used to include part of our chapter. This race could be close so we want to make sure we are set up to help should Rep. McNerney need our assistance to turn out the environmental vote in November.

The Club is still working on the endorsement for the new CD10. Four candidates have been sent Sierra Club questionnaires; Michael Barkley (D), José Hernández (D), Chad Condit (running as DTS and son of former Rep Gary Condit) and Jeff Denham (R). We will provide endorsement updates on our website for this race.

These races are not in our chapter, but we can help by organizing GOTV phone calls, or traveling to these districts this summer and helping with voter registration and voter education efforts. One hour of your time can make a big difference. Please email Political@lomaprieta.sierraclub.org if you would like to be added to our 2012 GOTV efforts. If you don't have email then please call Ann Schneider at 650-697-6249 and we'll add you to our list.

Protect California – A No Regrets Campaign

By Amanda Wallner, Sierra Club California Organizer

Sierra Club California, along with allied organizations, has launched a new campaign to proactively challenge the strong anti-environment rhetoric that is pushed on Sacramento by heavily-funded special interest groups. We know that a healthy, clean environment is vital to the success of our community & economy. "Protect California – A No-Regrets Campaign" is working to educate & encourage both government & community leaders to protect our environment. To find out more about the campaign, and how you can combat anti-environment rhetoric in your community, please contact us at political@lomaprieta.sierraclub.org. Please put Protect California in the subject line. If you have friends or family in other parts of California who would like to work on their legislators contact Amanda Wallner at Amanda.wallner@sierraclub.org.

Get Involved

Training: How to meet your legislator and have an effective dialogue

The Loma Prieta chapter will be conducting a training on 'Protect California – How to conduct meetings with legislators'. The training will be on **Thursday, May 24, 2012** at 7:00 pm. The location is pending. The training is open to all but we are looking for members who live in Assembly District 27 (Nora Campos) and AD30 (Luis Alejo). Please sign up by emailing Political@lomaprieta.sierraclub.org. If you have any questions contact Ann Schneider at 650-697-6249.

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Vote for Paul Fong in CA Assembly District 28

By John Cordes, Polcom Tri-chair & Margaret Okuzumi, ExCom Member



Paul Fong

Assemblymember Paul Fong has provided environmental leadership in the current 22nd Assembly District and the Sierra Club is proud to endorse him for the new state Assembly District 28. Assembly District 28 includes the cities of Cupertino, Saratoga, Los Gatos, Monte Sereno, Campbell, and southwestern parts of San Jose.

"Paul Fong tackled some tough bills to protect our ocean and water. He succeeded in passing AB376, banning the sale of shark fins in California, which will help protect sharks from going extinct and our ocean ecosystem from collapsing," said John Cordes, Loma Prieta political committee tri-chair. Fong also authored AB19, which would have required new multi-unit residential developments and new apartment buildings to install water meters for individual units. Paul Fong is proud to be a Sierra Club member and keeps the Club's positions at heart when deciding how to vote on bills.

In additions to our endorsement, Paul proudly carries the support of California League of Conservation Voters, US Congress members Mike Honda, Anna Eshoo, Zoe Lofgren, and John Garamendi, Bay Area State Senators Ellen Corbett, Elaine Alquist, Joe Simitian, and former Senator Byron Sher. For more information about Paul, please visit his website

districted and anticipated open State Assembly seat in 2012.

"I am pleased to have been able to work on significant environmental initiatives in Santa Cruz County. I led the creation of a Commission on the Environment to work on climate change mitigation and adaptation. I brought legislation that led to the banning of genetically modified organisms, polystyrene, and single use plastic bags. I worked to protect residents from the broad application of aerial spraying. I also started an initiative to address irresponsible collection of electronic waste. I hope to continue my environmental work in Sacramento."

Mark is an avid open water swimmer, having conquered the English Channel in 2009. He lives in Scotts Valley with his wife, Kathy, and their two children. <http://friendsofmarkstone.org/endorsements>

Assembly District 30

The new AD30 comprises Morgan Hill, San Martin and Gilroy in Santa Clara County as well as southern unincorporated Santa Clara County and the entire County of San Benito (Aromas, San Juan Batista, Hollister, Ridgemark, Tres Pinos, Paicines, San Benito, Bitterwater, and Panoche) and continues down into Monterey County.

The Loma Prieta Political Committee is looking for members in the AD30 to help us get more active in your communities. All Political Committee activity is volunteer driven, the more members we have in an area the more we can do. Please join us, contact Political@lomapieta.sierraclub.org or call John Cordes

The Club's decision came in after we went to print. Please visit <http://lp.sierraclub.org/politics/> to see what who we voted to endorse.

SAN MATEO COUNTY

San Mateo County Board of Supervisor

Re-elect Dave Pine for San Mateo County Supervisor District 1

By Melissa Hippard, Team Leader SMBoS District 4, Co-Chair, ExCom



Dave Pine

The Sierra Club is pleased to endorse Dave Pine for San Mateo County Supervisor in District 1. Since being elected in 2011 Pine has demonstrated the leadership qualities that caused the Sierra Club to endorse him in that election. He led the effort to redesign San Mateo County's Energy Upgrade Program to provide up to \$8,000 in rebates for residents who make their homes more energy efficient. The new program significantly increased the number of homeowners who completed energy upgrades and was one of the most successful in the state. Pine also strongly advocated banning broadcast spraying of herbicides along county roads leading to the ban adopted by the Board of Supervisors on March 13, 2012. Pine has brought focus and attention to the poor conditions of our county parks and is actively pursuing both short-term solutions and a long term park funding options. He also supported the County's efforts to work with the cities to pass a uniform ordinance that would ban plastic bags.

Dave Pine serves on several key environmental boards and commissions, including Environmental Quality for San Mateo County, the Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC), the Peninsula Traffic Congestion Relief Alliance and the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG). ABAG is

leading the charge to reduce greenhouse gas emission by focusing growth in downtowns. Dave's commitment to smart planning and environmental protection makes him a critical voice on ABAG. BCDC is responsible for protecting the baylands that ring San Francisco Bay. Should the proposed Saltworks project in Redwood City be approved by the city it will need BCDC's approval as well. We can count on Dave to uphold the strictest test of environmental health and community well being.

Masur and Keith for San Mateo County Supervisorial District 4

By Melissa Hippard, Endorsement Team Leader SMBoS Dist 4



Kirsten Keith



Shelly Masur

San Mateo County is fortunate to have many strong candidates running for this open seat. The Sierra Club interviewed 6 of the 8 candidates and determined that Kirsten Keith and Shelly Masur were the most highly qualified and committed to putting the environment at the top of their priority list. As a school board member, Shelly Masur, worked to lessen the district's environmental impact by reducing energy use, decreasing paper use, and changing purchasing processes. As Mayor of Menlo Park Kirsten Keith recommended the city prohibit distribution of single use carryout plastic bags and charge a fee for single use carryout paper bags at retail establishments. She also recommended that Menlo Park adopt the County polystyrene ban ordinance that was adopted by the county last year. Both candidates understand and support the need for transit oriented development along the El Camino Corridor and the need for the county to fully fund its parks. This dual endorsement is for the June 2012 ballot. The top two vote getters will move to the November 2012 ballot for a run off. These two candidates are our choice for ensuring the best representation for District 4.

www.shellymasur.com

www.kirstenkeith.com

Tissier for District 5

By Gladwyn d'Souza, Chair, Loma Prieta Transportation Committee



Adrienne Tissier

The chapter is pleased to endorse Adrienne Tissier for reelection to the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors in 2012. Adrienne is currently President of the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors. She has represented District 5, which comprises the communities of Daly City, Colma, Brisbane, unincorporated Broadmoor and a portion of South San Francisco, since 2005. Adrienne was elected President of the Board of Supervisors in 2008 and 2012. As Supervisor, Adrienne implemented the nation's first eco-friendly pharmaceutical disposal program, developed a driving safety seminar for seniors, hosted San Mateo's annual Disaster Preparedness Day, and organized an annual educational workshop for struggling homeowners.

As Chairperson of the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, Chair of the Caltrain board, and a member of the San Mateo County Transportation District (SamTrans) board, Adrienne puts an enormous amount of focus and energy into improving public transit on the

Peninsula. She helped create SamTrans Senior Mobility Action Plan. In her capacity as chair of Caltrain, Adrienne has worked to find a long term source of funding for future electrification. She has championed chapter position on Affordable Housing, Parks, Caltrain funding, Roadside Herbicide Ban and Transit Oriented Development. We look forward to working with Adrienne on the Climate Action Plan, Sustainable Community Strategy under SB375, trails, and the future of our county parks.

SANTA CLARA COUNTY

Loma Prieta Endorses Ca Senator Joe Simitian for Santa Clara County Supervisor

By John Cordes, Polcom Tri-Chair



Joe Simitian

The Loma Prieta Chapter of the Sierra Club proudly endorsed, Ca Senator Joe Simitian in the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisor District 5 race. District 5 includes the northwestern portions of Santa Clara County including the cities of Palo Alto, Los Altos, Los Altos Hill, Mountain View, Cupertino and Saratoga.

"We are glad Joe has chosen to run again for Santa Clara County Supervisor," said John Cordes, Loma Prieta Political committee tri-chair

"Joe is one of the Sierra Club's strong supporters in the California legislature," said John. Joe's 2011 Sierra Club legislative scorecard rating was 79%, among the top 10 senator score given out that year. While in the California legislature, Joe has been given numerous environmental awards, including the "Clear Air Award for Leadership" by Breathe California, and "Legislator of the Year" awards from both the Santa Clara County League of Conservation Voters and Californian Against Waste. Joe served one term representing District 5 from 1997-2000 so he has the experience to be productive from day 1. "We look forward to Joe's continued assistance in protecting our local environment and its residents," said John.

For more about Joe, you can visit to his campaign website www.joesimitian.com

City of San Jose

Re-elect Ash Kalra in San Jose Seat 2

By David Poeschel, Endorsement team leader



Ash Kalra

The Loma Prieta Chapter of the Sierra Club endorses incumbent San Jose City Councilmember Ash Kalra in the June 5 election for San Jose City Council, District 2. District 2 includes Coyote Valley and the neighborhoods of Edenvale and Santa Teresa.

"Talking to Ash about the environmental concerns of the City is like drinking from a fire hose," said Dave Poeschel, member of the club's Political Committee. "He's got a great record on the environment and he's eager to do much more." Kalra has been outspoken about preserving Coyote Valley and worked for a prudent approach to growth in the General Plan, which is likely to protect Coyote Valley for the foreseeable future. Kalra also strove to protect the Guadalupe Creek from the encroachment of development even under tough circumstances. He is now working to clarify the City's riparian

Elect Environmental Leader Mark Stone for Assembly District 29

By Rita Dalessio, Ventana Chapter Political Committee Member

The new AD29 is predominantly a coastal district that crosses over the Santa Cruz Mtns. to include unincorporated Santa Clara County and the City of San Jose bordered by 3 freeways - east of 17, south of 85 and west of 101.

Mark Stone, Santa Cruz Supervisor, has now been on the California Coastal Commission for over two years and currently serves as Vice Chair.

During his short term he has been a strong advocate for protection of coastal resources. Mark voted against the proposed massive Monterey Bay Shores "Eco-Resort" that would have marred sensitive dune habitat near Monterey and ensured that the Commission would not give its blessing to test slant wells independent of a more thorough review of the controversial desalination proposal in Monterey County. Mark's thoughtful, law- and science-based approach to land use decisions has made him a well-respected leader on the Commission.

Since 2003 Mark Stone, endorsed by Sierra Club, has represented the San Lorenzo Valley, the City of Scotts Valley, and portions of the City of Santa Cruz on the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors. In his role as a Supervisor, Mark has fought for families and children and has been a strong voice for the environment.

Santa Cruz County now has a Commission on the Environment, and has bans on pesticide spraying by the County, genetically modified crops, expanded polystyrene containers, and single-use plastic bags because of Mark's leadership. A committed public servant, Mark has announced he will run for the newly re-



Mark Stone

corridor policies and is working to strengthen them to ordinance level.

Kalra has proved to be a capable leader and serves as Vice-Chair of the Bay Area Air Quality Management District. "He's become a regional leader and is promoting smart, business-friendly infrastructure while working to reduce the production of harmful climate altering gas and protecting the clean air we all need to live. I'm glad we have Kalra's leadership at this critical time," said Poeschel.

For more information about Ash, please visit his website www.ashkalra.com

Re-elect Kansen Chu for Seat 4

By David Poeschel, Endorsement team leader

The Loma Prieta Chapter of the Sierra Club endorses San Jose City Councilmember Kansen Chu in the June 5 election for San Jose City Council, District 4. District 4 includes the neighborhoods of Berryessa, Alviso, North San Jose, and North Valley.

"It not only took great courage, it took skillful leadership to bring all the interest groups together," said Dave Poeschel, member of the club's Political Committee, about Councilmember Chu's successful plan to reduce the number of plastic bags polluting the creeks and gumming-up the machinery of the refuse facilities.

In seeking another term as councilmember, Chu hopes to continue to collaborate with stakeholders to work for smart, livable communities as he did with the North San Jose Neighborhoods Planning Task Force, which resulted in the award winning North San Jose Neighborhood Plan. Councilmember Chu has also been a leader in the effort to require building standards equivalent of the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, the standard rating system developed by the U.S Green Building Council (LEED) Silver Standards.

"He's a proven environmental leader," said Poeschel.

For more information about Kansen, visit his website <http://kansenchu.com/>



Kansen Chu

"Green Vision" and past record as key reasons for his endorsement. He is a strong environmental advocate; promoting San Jose's Green Vision and has an unwavering commitment to align city policy with it. In the last four years as City Council Member, Pierluigi has employed his office as a "bully pulpit" to educate and recommend actions citizens can take. Pierluigi sponsored the public showing of numerous environmental films including "No Impact Man," "Radiant City," "Flow," "Trashed," "Olmstead Legacy," and "Bag It." Pierluigi has consistently supported and promoted higher density housing (e.g. 125 units per acre) as the best environmentally sound growth solution that protects San Jose's open spaces and promote the carbon emissions reductions.

Pierluigi stated: "The number one water consuming crop in the USA is not wheat, oats or soy. It's grass!" He is committed to continue to lead and seek support within City Council the creation of a landscaping ordinance that mandates extensive employment of native water thrifty plants in the future but admits it will be an uphill battle. Pierluigi's focus on an environmental issue and identification of a reasonable achievable corrective action through his role as a City Council Member is why the Sierra Club enthusiastically endorses Pierluigi Oliverio. "He's a proven environmental leader," said Cordes.

For more information about Pierluigi, please visit his website <http://www.fromheretoforus.com/>

Re-elect Rose Herrera for Seat 8

By David Poeschel, Endorsement team leader

The Loma Prieta Chapter of the Sierra Club endorsed incumbent San Jose City Councilmember Rose Herrera in the June 5 election for San Jose City Council, District 8. District 8 includes the neighborhoods of Evergreen and Silver Creek.



Rose Herrera

"Herrera has been a long time Sierra Club supporter and has a sophisticated grasp of the issues," said Dave Poeschel, member of the club's Political Committee. "She led the fight to fund the Capitol to Eastridge Light Rail project and has a long record of protecting the environment - everything from encouraging water conservation to supporting the plastic bag ordinance." Phase I of the rail project is under construction and will result in much-needed bike and pedestrian lanes.

Councilmember Herrera looks forward to continuing her work for the people of her district and the City and expressed interest in working with the Sierra Club to get the message out that protecting open space and the environment is not in conflict with business; it is a competitive advantage. Employers want to be where the air and water are clean and employees are happy and healthy.

"I'm delighted that we have someone like Rose on the Council and I hope we'll send her back for another term," said Poeschel.

For more information about Rose, please visit her website www.roseforsanjose.com

Re-elect Pierluigi Oliverio for Seat 6

By John Cordes, Polcom Tri-Chair

The Loma Prieta Chapter of the Sierra Club endorses San Jose City Councilmember Pierluigi Oliverio in the June 5 election for San Jose City Council, District 6. District 6 includes a central portion of San Jose, containing well-known areas such as Willow Glen, Santana Row and the Municipal Rose Garden Park.

"Based on Pierluigi record, it is clear he is the type of environmental leader the Sierra Club wants on the San Jose City council," said John Cordes, Sierra Club Political Committee Tri-chair.

The Sierra Club cites Councilmember Oliverio's unflagging commitment to San Jose's



Pierluigi Oliverio

Re-elect our Outstanding Congress Members

Go to <http://lp.sierraclub.org/politics/> for the full article.



Zoe Lofgren



Jerry McNerney



Mike Honda



Jackie Speier



Sam Farr



Anna Eshoo

Sierra Club endorses Edesa Bitbadal for Open Seat 10

By John Cordes, Polcom Tri-Chair

The Loma Prieta Chapter of the Sierra Club endorsed Edesa Bitbadal in the June 5 election for San Jose City Council, District 10. District 10 includes the south west part of the San Jose, primarily encompassing Almaden Valley.



Edesa Bitbadal

In announcing the endorsement, the Sierra Club cited the Edesa's support for the environment and commitment to public service. Edesa is Vice-Chair for the City of San Jose Planning Commission and long-term community volunteer, working with organizations such as Our City Forest. "Edesa has the background

and commitment to be strong environmental voice on San Jose's City Council" said John Cordes, Loma Prieta Political committee Tri-chair.

"As a Planning Commission member, Edesa has demonstrated a commitment to protecting the riparian environment by rigorously enforcing the 100 foot setback riparian policy." Said John. Edesa states that the newly approved "Envision San Jose 2040 General Plan" will be an effective instrument to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and be instrumental in bring San Jose in compliance with SB375. As City Council member, Edesa plans to pursue implementation of a new construction "water efficient landscaping" ordinance as a priority. In addition, she plans to promote innovative concepts such as "bike share" and be a facilitator for "Green Building," transit use, mix use housing, walking and biking. Finally, "Edesa has committed to dialog with the Sierra Club before taking positions which affect our local environment" said John.

For more information about Edesa, please visit her website www.edesabitbadal2012.com

Get Involved

Sierra Club Endorses Barack Obama for President

The Loma Prieta Chapter has a history helping other Chapters work on Presidential elections. Since our region is rarely in play (California typically goes to the Democratic Party candidate) our Chapter phone banks to members in swing states and we send members to swing states to precinct walk. If you would like to help our Chapter continue this proud legacy, please contact Political@lomaprieta.sierraclub.org or call Ann Schneider at 650-697-6249. We are looking for a team leader for this effort.

Sierra Club Fundraising Trip Island Hopping in Channel Islands National Park

3-Day, Live-Aboard, Multi-Island Cruises
July 8-10; September 9-11

Explore the wild, windswept islands of Channel Island National Park off the coast of Santa Barbara.

- Frolicking seals and sea lions.
- Rare sea and land birds.
- Trails bordered by blankets of wildflowers and plants found in no other place on earth.
- Pristine waters for kayaking or snorkeling
- Relaxation

You get an assigned bunk aboard the 68-foot Truth, all meals, snacks, beverages, and a ranger/naturalist who will present evening programs, lead hikes, and point out the sights. Fee: \$590. Proceeds benefit Sierra Club California political programs.

To reserve, mail a \$100 deposit check, payable to the Sierra Club to trip leader Joan Jones Holtz, 11826 The Wye St., El Monte, CA 91732. For more information, contact the leader (626-443-0706; jholtzln@aol.com)



Sierra Club Lobby Day August 19 & 20

All Sierra Club members are invited to come up to Sacramento and walk the halls of the Capitol, meeting with legislators encouraging them to vote for key environmental bills or vote against bad bills. The Loma Prieta Chapter has always sent a strong contingent but we can always have more people. Experience lobbying is not required as Sierra Club California staff provide us with training as well as with talking points on the bills we will be lobbying. Last year was a great year as the majority of the bills we pushed were signed into law (e.g., Assm. Paul Fong's ban on fining sharks for shark fin soup) or killed as we hoped. Please save the dates and join us, it is really great fun and it is our democracy in action. For more information contact our Lobbyist Annie Pham at annie.pham@sierraclub.org.

Thank You, Thank You, to our Endorsement Volunteers!

By John Cordes, Polcom Co-chair

The Chapter's Political Committee would like to thank its many volunteers for their dedicated work in this year's Primary elections endorsements to identify and support local government candidates who are aligned with our chapters' objectives. Our volunteers' efforts include researching endorsement issues, generating interview questions, reading the candidates' returned questionnaires, interviewing the candidates, deliberating on endorsement recommendations and for some composing the write-up presented to the Executive Committee for approval. It is a lot of work and we deep appreciate their giving of their time and energy to review candidates in 25 races.

Eight early endorsements were given to supportive elective officials, running for the same office (even if district boundaries and numbers changed), whom we have previously endorsed. They all have very strong environmental records (90% or greater). There were four CA Assembly and four U.S. Congressional early endorsements completed by John Cordes, Ann Schneider, Ruth Stoner Muzzin, her first.

Our new team members were; Ruth Merino, Jim Kuhl (San Jose). Thank you for helping out for the 1st time. We really appreciate your getting involved with our endorsement process. We welcome long time environmental activist Lennie Roberts in her first time serving on an endorsement team. Lennie has for years helped us with background research and we are very happy to add her expertise to our endorsement teams.

Our returning team members were Mike Ferreira, Cecily Harris, Gary Latshaw, Bob Levy, Ruth Stoner Muzzin, Dave Olsen, Ja-

son Spitzer, & Charles Schafer.

Our special thanks to our invaluable team leaders for all the work they contributed. Our dedicated veteran leaders were; Ann Schneider, Terry Trumbull, Gladwyn d'Souza, John Cordes, and Melissa Hippard.

Extra special thanks to David Poeschel (San Jose D2, D4, and D8) because he stepped up to the big responsibility of leading teams for the 1st time this year.

Our gracious hosts, who support us by hosting the interviews, were Breathe California, James Robenolt, Melissa Hippard and Ann Schneider. Thanks for the snacks too.

We need to acknowledge and thank the continuing efforts of our two PolCom webmasters; Judy Miller and Dirk Leatherman. Keeping our political website up-to-date requires effort and skill. They post updates and changes requested to the development server for review. Once the changes have been approved, they move the changes to the production server for the world to see. It would not be possible to get our information to the general public about our endorsements and other political actions without them. So the next time you see them. Please give them your thanks.

The Political Committee will have a "Thank you party" on Election Night Nov 2nd. At that occasion our new team members will be recognized. Congratulations to all our volunteers for their incredible work! My apologies if we missed any names.

If you want to elect green candidates to support your environmental values, join us in future electoral endorsements by contacting John Cordes at john.cordes@lomapieta.sierraclub.org or Ann Schneider at Ann.Schneider@sierraclub.org.

Endorsement Team Training

The Loma Prieta Chapter will be offering two trainings, one for first time endorsement team members and the second for members who want to move up to serving as a Team Leader. We are limited in the number of races (aka the cities) in which we conduct endorsements by the number of Team Leaders. We provide mentoring for first time and returning Team Leaders. Please consider taking that next step and lead the endorsement actions for your community. Endorsement Teams will be forming in July and interviews with candidates will be held starting the middle of August.

Endorsement Team Member Training

Thursday, June 14, 2012 at the Peninsula Conservation Center 7:00 to 9:00 pm

This course is for first time and returning volunteers. The purpose of this training is to familiarize members with the Sierra Club endorsement process. You will learn the steps in the process; how to identify environmental issues pertinent to specific races, customizing the written questionnaire, how to prepare for oral interviews, how you can help the team leader, and post endorsement support for candidates. You will learn the criteria used to evaluate candidates. To register, send an email to Political@lomapieta.sierraclub.org; please put Team Member Training in the subject line. Or call Ann at 650 697-6249.

Endorsement Team Leader Training

Thursday, June 28, 2012, Peninsula Conservation Center 7:00 to 9:00 pm

This course is for volunteers who have served on at least one Sierra Club endorsement team in previous years. The purpose of this training is to develop the skills needed to manage the endorsement process. Attendees will learn how to recruit and assign tasks to team members, how to lead the process, complete the endorsement recommendation form, and how to work with the candidate(s) once the endorsement process is complete. For more information contact Political@lomapieta.sierraclub.org, please put Team Leader Training in the subject line. Or call Ann at 650 697-6249.

Political Committee New Member Orientation

May 30, 2012 7:00 - 7:30 pm

Sierra Club Office, Peninsula Conservation Center, Palo Alto

New volunteers are invited to come to Orientation where they will learn about the function of the Political Committee (PolCom), the current projects and how a new volunteer can get involved. Please RSVP to John Cordes, at 650-288-9645 or political@lomapieta.sierraclub.org. New members are welcome to stay for the regular PolCom meeting from 7:30-9:00 pm in the same location.

Get Involved — Volunteer Opportunities

Political Committee Secretary

This is a critical function that helps the Political Committee keep track of members of endorsement teams and ensuring that we stay on our timelines (dictated by election cycles). Must have computer access but can conference call into meetings so need not drive to Chapter offices for meetings. Time commitment, one 90-minute meeting a month and maybe an hour more to complete minutes and post to listserve. Contact John Cordes at Political@lomapieta.sierraclub.org.

Political Action Around the Chapter — Cool Cities help Chapter achieve political goals

By Jennifer Zaldivar, Sierra Club volunteer writer

In 2005, the Sierra Club initiated a nationwide Cool Cities Campaign with the goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions at the local level. The Sierra Club Loma Prieta Chapter has worked with numerous cities in the Bay Area to create Cool Cities Teams who work with their mayors and city councils to adopt the U.S. Mayor's Climate Protection Agreement along with a Climate Action Plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and work together on local climate change solutions.

With city-wide single-use plastic bag bans approved in San Jose and Sunnyvale, and additional plastic bag bans proposed in Cupertino, Milpitas, Redwood City and San Carlos, Cool Cities Teams are continuing their efforts at promoting climate change solutions on a local level. Cool Cities Teams also work on promoting better land-use planning in urban areas as well as encouraging energy upgrades in homes and other buildings. Each Cool Cities Team has its own unique set of challenges they face when working to educate communities and build support for climate change solutions among a wide variety of people.

Redwood City

The Redwood City Cool Cities Team is part of the newly revamped Peninsula Regional Group. Currently the team is working to stop the Cargill & DMB's Saltworks project proposal to fill in salt ponds that were targeted for restoration to wetlands into a small town of 30,000 residents and office space for 10,000 workers. The Loma Prieta Chapter would like to see the entire 1,400-plus acres formerly used as salt ponds restored back to

their original wetlands habitat rather than building a small town below sea level. The Redwood City Cool Cities Team is supporting the work to stop this project by hosting community education events and conducting advocacy.

Another great local climate-change prevention activity sponsored by the Redwood City Cool Cities Team and Peninsula Regional Group is Going Green without Going Broke. This series of community forums was kicked off in Redwood City on March 5th. A short talk and question & answer session educated homeowners and renters in cost-effective ways to reduce home energy use. About 60 people shared stories and learned more about the surprisingly low cost of energy efficiency. The Redwood City Cool Cities Team is now helping other teams organize Going Green without Going Broke events and is currently organizing events in Saratoga and Burlingame.

Palo Alto

The Palo Alto Cool Cities Team has been working with the Chapter's Sustainable Land Use Committee (SLU) over the past several months in reviewing a proposal for the Lytton Gateway project at Alma and Lytton streets in downtown Palo Alto. The Sierra Club supported the special "planned community" zoning that enabled the mixed use project that otherwise would have been a bland office building.

The Sierra Club is supportive of Palo Alto becoming a more pedestrian, bicycle, and transit-friendly place. We were pleased with this particular project because it encompassed many elements of smart growth principles as it was a mixed-use development that included

residential housing, an exceptional transportation demand management program that provided Caltrain passes to tenants, excellent placement of retail shops on the ground floor that would promote walking, and best of all, a location opposite the Caltrain station.

One of the community benefits the developer will offer are fast-charging stations for electric vehicles. These charging stations replace the gas pumps of the Shell service station while also adding to the project's attractiveness. While we were disappointed to see the city council ask the developer to remove the floor that would have been all residential, we were very pleased to see the developer take up our suggestion for a carshare service like Zip Car that will also be available to the local neighborhood. These rental cars will enable many families to get by with one car.

Cupertino

Since the Cupertino Cool Cities Team was re-constituted three years ago, there have been a number of new activities in the city. During the last Cupertino City Council election, the Cool Cities Team and fellow Sierra Club members were able to have an impact by actively supporting Councilmember Rod Sinks, one of the two Sierra Club recommended candidates. The Cool Cities team also has current efforts to promote solar energy use in Cupertino. Gary Latshaw, one of the team's co-leaders, was disappointed when the 2010 Solar Power Purchase Agreement was not adopted by City Council. "This agreement was an exceptional one, but died without a serious investigation and should be re-examined" says Latshaw. The team is also actively engaged

in commenting on the Bay Area Air Quality Management District/EPA regulations for the Lehigh Cement Plant. The pollution from the plant is major health and environmental concern for the team and the Cupertino community.

Denise East, the other team co-leader, has been working with the City of Cupertino to inventory city equipment in order to help the city conserve energy. Denise has been in contact with Cupertino's Public Works Director and his facilities staff. Cupertino's Community Hall measures 2,500 square feet and has a yearly electrical bill of \$22,700. This makes the Community Hall the most inefficient of Cupertino's buildings in terms of kilowatt usage per square foot. Denise is also been investigating the library's energy usage in order to determine the building's energy efficiency (or inefficiency). Denise hopes to make progress helping Cupertino conserve energy.

In sum, Cool Cities Teams continue to actively support their communities efforts to adopt better land-use planning strategies, educate the public about energy conservation, and encourage the development of a more public transit oriented society. Local Cool Cities Teams always need more support. Consider joining your local Cool Cities Team and help make your community a more climate-friendly place. Many Cool Cities meetings and events can be found at http://lomapieta.sierraclub.org/cool_cities. Help the Sierra Club Loma Prieta Chapter reach out to communities and educate a greater number of people about the importance of energy conservation, climate change prevention, and protecting our planet.

Citizens United — what it means and why does it matter to the environment.

By Ruth Stoner Muzzin, Esq.

WHAT HAPPENED? Whether you were friend, foe or neutral to Hillary Rodham Clinton's 2008 presidential campaign, you may still be scratching your head — or worse — over the U.S. Supreme Court's lengthy decision on January 21, 2010 in *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission*. In a 5-4 opinion authored by Justice Kennedy, the Court found that a certain narrow type of restriction on corporate election spending enacted by Congress was an unconstitutional restraint on First Amendment free speech rights.

Retired Justice Stevens wrote a blistering and equally lengthy dissent. The dissent expressed astonishment that the court was turning its back on several decades of agreement with congressional actions that limited direct corporate spending on "electioneering" activity. The law *Citizens United* overturned restricted corporations from directly funding broadcast messages to endorse or oppose a candidate during a time close to elections. Due to the Court's decision, direct corporate funding for that particular type of electioneering is no longer forbidden. However, the Court's majority opinion did agree with Congress that corporations must still prominently disclose the source of funding for their electioneering messages. The law that the Court struck down did not restrict messages funded by Political Action Committees ("PACs"), so the Court's decision did not appear to directly affect existing laws governing PACs. However, U.S. Court of Appeals decisions that followed *Citizens United* appear to have loosened certain federal restrictions on PACs.

What *Citizens United* did seem to say is that corporations, as legal "persons," may not be restricted in their First Amendment free speech rights simply because they are corporations. Justice Stevens, in dissenting, was particularly shocked that the majority's opinion reached beyond the narrow question of whether the law at issue even applied to the *Citizens United* video that attacked Senator Clinton, because it was funded mostly by individual contributions and only in small part by corporate money. The dissent said that the case should have been decided just on that issue, instead of reaching out to overturn the law.

The Court's decision in *Citizens United* relied on its earlier cases that frame the current law concerning underlying issues of corporate personhood and money as a form of speech. Corporate personhood and money as speech were not questions that the Court was asked to revisit in *Citizens United*.

WHERE DO WE STAND? The Club adopted a statement on April 21, 2011 that strongly opposes the *Citizens United* decision and advocates Congress overturning it. In the wake of the case, many local governments nationwide have enacted resolutions opposing the *Citizens United* decision. In addition, some of the local resolutions specifically oppose corporate personhood and some advocate broadly limiting campaign spending either by corporations or in general. (See Get Involved Below)

This April 9th, the Supreme Court granted review of a Montana Supreme Court decision on the constitutionality of a similar state law. Because *Citizens United* was only a challenge to a federal law, it is not clear whether or not the 2010 decision also applies to state campaign spending laws. The Supreme Court's decision on the Montana law should answer that question sometime in the next year. As usual, Justice Kennedy will probably be the swing vote. When the Court granted review of the Montana law, Justice Ginsberg issued a special statement, joined by Justice Breyer. She said the grant of review "will give the Court an opportunity to consider whether, in light of the huge sums currently deployed to buy

candidates' allegiance, *Citizens United* should continue to hold sway."

IMHO*: It is worth noting that non-profit corporations are also "citizens" with First Amendment rights, and that responsibility comes along with the rights of corporate citizenship. This can affect the government's ability to enforce laws and impose penalties for unlawful corporate behavior. To me, the more interesting question is whether or not the proposition that money equals speech, which has strong roots in the Supreme Court's 1976 decision, *Buckley v. Valeo*, should continue to shape our nation's political discourse.

* IMHO = In my humble opinion — internet slang.

Get Involved

Why does the Sierra Club care about Citizen's United?

The Sierra Club lobbies at local, state and federal levels of government. Unlike trade associations, corporations and even unions, we rarely give money to candidates. We can't afford costly television advertisements supporting or attacking candidates or issues. So the huge sums of money that Corporations can spend because of *Citizens United* puts the Club and the environmental issues we support and the candidates who support our issues at an even greater disadvantage.

Mountain View and Los Altos Hills have recently passed municipal resolutions in support of a U.S. Constitutional amendment abolishing corporate personhood. When asked why local governments should take a stand on *Citizen's United*, Mayor Mike Kasperzak of Mtn. View said "The effects of *Citizens United* will have far reaching implications for elections and campaigns at all levels of government. Furthermore, just the influence on national politics can have broad ramifications for how federal funds are spent locally."

Resolutions are pending in Menlo Park, Palo Alto, Los Altos, Santa Clara (City and County), Milpitas, Campbell and San Jose.

For more information go to Move to Amend, <http://movetoamend.org/resolutions-map>. You can sign their petition or better yet, ask your City Council to adopt the resolution. We are looking for a Sierra Club member who can be our contact person for this action. If that person is you, email us at Political@lomapieta.sierraclub.org.

CITY OF MOUNTAIN VIEW
RESOLUTION NO. 17674 SERIES 2012
A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF A U.S. CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT
TO ABOLISH CORPORATE PERSONHOOD

WHEREAS, government of, by, and for the people has long been a cherished American value, and We The People's fundamental and inalienable right to self-govern, and, thereby, secure rights to life, liberty, property and the pursuit of happiness is guaranteed in the U.S. Constitution and the Declaration of Independence; and

WHEREAS, free and fair elections are essential to democracy and effective self-governance; and

WHEREAS, persons are rightfully recognized as human beings whose essential needs include clean air, clean water, safe and secure food; and

WHEREAS, corporations are entirely human-made legal fictions created by express permission of We The People and our government; and

WHEREAS, corporations can exist in perpetuity, can exist simultaneously in many nations at once, need only profit for survival and exist solely through the legal charter imposed by the government of We The People; and

WHEREAS, in addition to these advantages, the great wealth of large corporations allows them to wield coercive force of law to overpower human beings and communities, thus denying We The People's exercise of our Constitutional rights; and

WHEREAS, corporations are not mentioned in the Constitution, and The People have never granted constitutional rights to corporations, nor have We decreed that corporations have authority that exceeds the authority of We The People of the United States; and

WHEREAS, interpretation of the U.S. Constitution by appointed Supreme Court justices to include corporations in the term 'persons' has long denied We The Peoples' exercise of self-governance by endowing corporations with Constitutional protections intended for We The People; and

WHEREAS, the illegitimate judicial bestowal of civil and political rights upon corporations usurps basic human and Constitutional rights guaranteed to human persons, and also empowers corporations to sue municipal and state governments for adopting laws that violate 'corporate rights' even when those laws serve to protect and defend the rights of human persons and communities; and

WHEREAS, corporations are not and have never been human beings and, therefore, are rightfully subservient to human beings and governments as our legal creations; and

WHEREAS, large corporations' profits and survival are often in direct conflict with the essential needs and rights of human beings; and

WHEREAS, the recent *Citizens United v. the Federal Election Commission* Supreme Court decision that rolled back the legal limits on corporate spending in the electoral process creates an unequal playing field and allows unlimited corporate spending to influence elections, candidate selection, policy decisions and sway votes, and forces

elected officials to divert their attention from The Peoples' business, or even vote against the interest of their human constituents, in order to ensure competitive campaign funds for their own reelection; and

WHEREAS, large corporations own most of America's mass media and use that media as a megaphone to express loudly their political agenda and to convince Americans that their primary role is that of consumers, rather than sovereign citizens with rights and responsibilities within our democracy, and this forces citizens to toil to discern the truth behind headlines and election campaigning; and

WHEREAS, tens of thousands of people and municipalities across the nation are joining with the Move to Amend campaign to call for an Amendment to the U.S. Constitution to Abolish Corporate Personhood;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Mountain View, California hereby calls on our Country, State and National elected officials to join the tens of thousands of citizens, grassroots organizations and local governments across the country in the Move to Amend campaign to call for an Amendment to the Constitution

to Abolish Corporate Personhood and return our democracy, our elections and our communities back to America's human persons, and to thus reclaim our sovereign right to self-governance.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Mountain View, California calls on other communities and jurisdictions to join with us in this action by passing similar resolutions.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Mountain View, California supports education to increase public awareness of the threats to our democracy posed by corporate personhood, and encourages lively discussion to build understanding and consensus to take appropriate community and municipal actions to democratically respond to these threats.

The foregoing Resolution was regularly introduced and adopted at a Special Meeting of the City Council of the City of Mountain View, duly held on the 20th day of March, 2012, by the following vote:

AYES: Councilmember's Abe-Koga, Bryant, Macias, Siegel and Mayor Kasperzak

NOES: Vice Mayor Inks

ABSENT: None

NOT VOTING: Councilmember Means

Our Lobbyists: an update on what is going on in Sacramento

Sadly, budget cuts hit our Lobby staff very hard, resulting in layoffs and changes in how much money we have to spend on lobbying activities, what we call c4 monies. That said even with reduced staff our team in Sacramento to have a very aggressive workplan for 2012. They will:

- Fight legislative attacks. We will watchdog and eliminate those bills that threaten to roll back hard-earned environmental protections, encourage waste, reduce the public's access to clean water or clean air, or destroy the state's natural heritage, from Sierra forests to undeveloped coastal areas.

- Cut California's dependence on polluting fuels. We are advancing policies that will make passenger cars and the freight system pollute less, and use less oil, diesel and gasoline. We are helping California cut its dependence on coal and nuclear energy for electricity, and shift to renewable energy from solar and wind power.

- Reform water waste. Our staff and volunteers are leading efforts to improve water conservation by updating water metering policies. We are also bringing our strong voice for the environment to the state-wide debate about water bonds, water use and the future of California's rivers and the Bay-Delta. We are working, too, to make sure polluted surface and groundwater is cleaned up.

- Expose and reduce toxic contaminants. Sierra Club California is deeply engaged in implementation of California's landmark Green Chemistry law. And we are working on other ways to get mercury and other toxics out of the state's environment.

- Retake control of the environmental policy agenda. We are organizing our allies, supporters and volunteers and waging a focused, multi-tiered campaign to re-educate policymakers and opinion leaders about California's



unfinished work to clean up and protect the environment. Polluters have done a good job distracting policymakers while the economy has been down. Now we're pushing back. We're reminding policymakers that giving up on the environment risks everything: our health, our economy, our future.

To learn more about Sierra Club California visit our website <http://sierraclubcalifornia.org/scc-publications/capitol-voice/> or sign up to receive alerts on fast moving legislation at <http://sierraclubcalifornia.org/ca-legislation/>. And if you appreciate what we do, consider a donation to Sierra Club California.

Sierra Club California works closely with California's 13 Sierra Club chapters to ensure that issues of local concern are addressed at the State Capitol. The office also provides grassroots training at our annual lobby day, provides chapter newsletters with articles and legislative updates, and works with the membership to bring grassroots support to lobbying efforts in Sacramento. Please help support Sierra Club California's work by making a one-time contribution or become a sustaining donor. You can do so by visiting www.sierraclubcalifornia.org and click on "Donate". If you would like to donate by mail, please send check to 801 K Street, Suite 2700, Sacramento, CA 95814.

Sierra Club Loma Prieta Chapter

Senate District 13 – Open Seat Candidate Questionnaire February 21, 2012

1. Please describe your public service record on environmental issues.
2. What do you anticipate will be the three most important environmental issues you will face if elected, and what actions do you propose to take to address them?
3. During the 2011 legislative session, rhetoric suggesting that environmental regulation, including environmental review, stands in the way of job creation in this state was promoted by a number of legislative leaders, including some who have supported environmental laws in the past. What do you view as the role of environmental review and environmental regulation? Are good jobs and environmental protection at odds? What role do you anticipate you would play in the jobs vs. environment discussion at the legislature?
4. Achieving the goals set forth by the Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 is a top Sierra Club priority. What statewide policies, like a gas tax, green jobs legislation, and SB375, would you support to ensure California achieves its goals?
5. New multi-residential buildings like apartments and condominium towers built in this state are not required to provide water meters or sub-meters for each unit. As a result, these dwellers are not given a price signal to encourage water conservation. Does the legislature have a role to play in ensuring that a household is encouraged to conserve water? Would you support legislation requiring new apartment buildings or condominiums to provide water meters or submeters for each individual unit?
6. The Department of Parks & Recreation relies on money from the general fund to cover its costs and operations. The 2011-2012 state budget bill package passed by the legislature and signed into law by the Governor cut \$22 million from the parks budget, and the Department has proposed closing 70 state parks. Would you support raising new revenue—including fees and taxes—to keep the parks open? What other options do you support to keep the parks open?
7. Many communities are looking at solid waste as a source of local energy, what is your opinion on the types of conversion technology (mixed waste burning, gasification, anaerobic digestion, co-generation from source separated materials). What would you do to support **appropriate** technology?
8. Public transit agencies have been hard hit by the economic downturn as local and state governments have reduced transit support to pay for other services. What can and should the legislature do to respond to this problem? Would you support a tax on oil extraction/refining? CA is the only oil state without this tax. Would you support legislation that would allow local entities to place a local gas tax increase on the ballot to support transit? Would you support legislation that would allow more tolling on local and state roads if collected toll revenue was dedicated to transit improvements?
9. Resilient Habitats is a Sierra Club priority campaign. What will you do to ensure that our diverse habitats, from salmon fisheries (at sea and upstream) to desert tortoises to marten are protected and enhanced?
10. Throughout California, commercial forest land is being removed from timber production and converted to vineyards and commercial and housing developments. This loss of forest fragments the landscape and removes important habitat, degrades water quality, and contributes to global warming by eliminating carbon storage capacity. What do you view as appropriate state actions to address forest conversions to other uses?
11. Runoff from farms, pastures, timberland, and city streets continues to add toxic chemicals and disease-causing organisms to our state's waters, including drinking water sources. What polluted runoff and storm-water policies or programs would you support to restore both the health of our water bodies and protect drinking water quality?
12. How will you vote on the \$11.1 billion water bond that will be up for voter approval on the November 2012 ballot? Why will you be voting this way?

Campaign Readiness –

1. Tell us about your campaign readiness, including funding, volunteers, and organization.
2. Please list your environmental endorsements, and the URL to your full endorsement list.
3. Are your contributions posted on line? If so, please provide the direct URL.
4. Please include below an exact copy of your ballot statement as submitted to the County at filing.

Get Involved! SCCAN is looking for armchair activists.

SCCAN activists receive periodic emails asking them to call their Assemblymember or Senator asking them to support the Club's position on pending legislation. SCCAN provides background on the legislation, talking points and the phone number(s) to call. The Chapter has used this system on all types of legislation from forests to landfills and trade agreements. If you can spare 5 minutes a month to make a phone call, maybe more in peak legislation periods (August/September), please join SCCAN. Please send an email to Political@lomapieta.sierraclub.org. Put SCCAN in the subject line. We have made a difference and so can you!

LEAD FROM THE FRONT – BECOME A MEMBER OF THE SIERRA CLUB'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Call for Nominations — Board of Directors 2013

The Sierra Club is looking for passionate Club members who want to take on the exciting and challenging role of being a member of the board of directors and run as a candidate in the 2013 election. Our Directors set the priorities, policies, and national budget (with member input) that enable Club volunteers and staff to carry out the Club mission. Each Director experiences the rewards and satisfaction of being a part of the team leading the most influential grassroots environmental organization in the country. The Sierra Club is committed to seeking a diverse pool of candidates that is inclusive of geography, race, urban and rural interests, gender and age. All interested Club members are encouraged to apply.

Applicants interested in serving should be:

- dedicated to the purposes and goals of the Sierra Club,
- able and willing to accept the legal and fiduciary responsibilities of a Director,
- able to think strategically, politically, and creatively,
- possess the ability to think analytically about a range of environmental issues,
- familiar with the structure and culture of the Club, and
- able and willing to commit at least 10 to 15 hours per week to Board duties plus travel to at least 4 meetings.

The Board of Directors is comprised of 15 elected volunteers, and has the legal responsibility and authority to oversee all staff and volunteer activities of the Sierra Club, to establish the Club's conservation priorities, internal policies, and to develop and implement a multi-million dollar budget. The Sierra Club's current budget is over \$95 million and includes a staff of over 500.

Each Director is elected for a term of three years. A Director may serve an unlimited number of terms, providing that a minimum one-year absence from the Board occurs after any two consecutive full three-year term. Board members receive reimbursement for travel and lodging, and can claim a per diem of \$30 per day during Board meetings and while on Club business.

For more information and to access the application form go online:

http://connect.sierraclub.org/Team/Board_of_Directors_Nominating_Committee

Candidate Questionnaire for San Mateo Board of Supervisors, District 4

OVERVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Historically, the club considers your past record as the best indicator of your future concern for the environment. What have you done to protect natural resources and the environment?
2. What will be your priorities for the Board of Supervisors?
3. How would you/your office promote dialogue and encourage continued interaction with the environmental community when making decisions?

ISSUE SPECIFIC QUESTIONS

Climate Change & Energy

1. What plans do you have to provide exceptional leadership to protect the environment, address climate change and develop a clean energy economy in San Mateo County?
2. Even before sea level rise became known as a threat, the Office of Emergency Services considered an earthquake triggered failure of the levees on the bayside of San Mateo County to be the largest potential natural disaster facing the County - surpassing Katrina - with some fatality estimates exceeding 5 figures.
 - a.) Given that the failure of one levee could be tantamount to the failure of many, do you favor transferring the responsibility for the integrity of the various levees currently owned by cash-strapped local governments to a centralized and specialized authority?
 - b.) Do you think it wise to plan or construct further residential development or significant public infrastructure in areas that are dependent on the current levees or that would require the construction and maintenance of new levees?

Coastal Planning Issues

3. San Mateo County is a partner with the California Coastal Commission, through its authority to issue Coastal Development Permits for new development in the County's Coastal Zone. However, during the permitting process and planning updates, some County staff members are not receptive to comments by Coastal Commission staff. This has often led to appeals of Coastal Development Permits issued by the County to the Coastal Commission, with resulting delays for permit applicants.
 - a.) How would you encourage County staff to work more collaboratively with Coastal staff?
 - b.) Do you have any ideas about how the Board of Supervisors could develop a process whereby projects that are inconsistent with zoning and Coastal Plan policies could be discouraged at a much earlier point in the process, thereby sparing the applicant, County government, and concerned citizens considerable expense and travail?

Natural Environment, Open Space & Urban Recreation – Access to Nature

4. San Mateo County Parks do not have a dedicated funding source. The Parks and Recreation Department has recently been reorganized under Public Works.
 - a.) What would you do to ensure a steady permanent source of funding for our County parks? b.) Would you support the transfer or sale of any of our County parks to cities or other park agencies?
 - c.) Would you support closure of some County parks?
5. Efforts are underway by parks and land managing agencies and conservation groups to establish a regional trail system that includes the Bay Trail, Ridge Trail, Coastal Trail, and trails connecting the Bay to Skyline ridge and to the coast. How will you support these efforts?
6. Wildlife corridors and adequate habitat are essential for the survival of many wildlife species. How will you ensure that land use decisions take into account the needs of wildlife, including healthy riparian corridors?
7. How would you as a Supervisor ensure that knowledgeable, committed citizens are appointed to serve on Commissions such as Park and Recreation or the Planning Commission? How will you work with your appointees to ensure that they have the information they need and that you receive the updates from them?

Transportation

8. The Board of Supervisors plays a large role in Transportation policy-making bodies such as SAMTRANS, Caltrain, the Transportation Authority (SMCTA), City/County Association of Governments (CCAG), the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC), and the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG). Please give us your thoughts regarding the following current issues:
 - a.) High Speed Rail
 - 1.) Altamont vs. Pacheco route alternatives
 - 2.) Ridership projection validity in the current alignment
 - 3.) Blended track vs. separate track alternatives on the Peninsula
 - b.) Caltrain funding problems and potential solutions
 - c.) CALTRANS/SMCTA "Calera Parkway" ~\$45 million project to widen 1 mile of Highway #1 in Pacifica from 4 to 6 lanes.
 - d.) Funding priority for bike/ped projects, i.e., within Priority Development Areas, along transit corridors and/or crossing freeways vs. along transit-poor streets and highways.

Housing

9. How would you promote affordable housing in the unincorporated areas of the County? What unincorporated areas are suitable for increased housing density?

Water Supply

10. In urban unincorporated areas within the County's permitting jurisdiction, should the County permit individual drinking water wells if that particular area is already served by a local water provider?
11. What, if anything, do you recommend to better manage the water supply and demand throughout the County?
12. Many efforts are under way to restore our creeks and watersheds on both the coastside and urban bayside. Yet many of our creeks continue to be impacted by litter and other pollutants. What role do you see the County playing in restoring the bay and creeks in San Mateo County? Would you support abatement fees or advanced disposal fees for litter and waste that ends up in our waterways?

Toxics / Pesticides

13. Will you support efforts to stop broadcast spraying of herbicides on vegetation alongside County roads and implement a mowing program or other programs that do not release toxins into the environment?

Zero Waste and Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)

14. Describe your feelings about EPR and what can be done using zero waste and EPR principles within the county? What are your thoughts on polystyrene take-out food packaging ban and on single use bag bans? Describe zero waste actions the County can do that can reduce greenhouse gases?

Governing

15. What changes, if any, do you favor in the County Charter, which directs how Supervisors are elected? Specifically, do you favor district elections? Have you advocated the changes you favor? How?