



Election Insight 2011

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

Let's Work to Make 2012 Better

By John Cordes, Co-Chair, Loma Prieta Political Committee

2011 was a difficult year to do endorsements for the city council and other local races in the Loma Prieta Chapter. This was our lowest number of endorsements in probably the last 10 years. The candidates were generally less focused on protecting the environment and the number of volunteers was dramatically lower than normal. The Loma Prieta chapter conducted endorsement interviews in only 5 cities this summer; Sunnyvale, Cupertino, Redwood City, San Carlos and Belmont. We made endorsements in only 4 of those cities. In the other races, none of the candidates earned our endorsement. There were requests for us to

do interviews in more cities, but very low volunteer turnout prevented it. This limited our ability to do the races we have done in the past. There were many city council races that did not have endorsement teams. In 2009, PolCom volunteers completed endorsements in 13 local races vs. 5 in 2011. We did not have any endorsement interviews in Brisbane, Burlingame, Foster City, Half Moon Bay, Millbrae, South San Francisco, Granada Sanitary District and Central Coast Water District. Some of these cities did not have competitive races, but mostly, we didn't conduct interviews because of a lack of volunteers.

I hope the low volunteer turnout is a symptom

of the current political and economic situation. It is easy to understand that volunteers were not excited about helping interview and endorse candidates this year considering how angry and frustrated so many of us are with politicians and politics this year. It has been a long recession/depression and it probably won't get much better anytime soon. That said; let's hope that people's enthusiasm and energy turn around in 2012. There will be more city council races as well as county, state and national races in 2012.

In addition to low volunteer turnout, there was a lower environmental focus by many candidates this election. Many candidates are making budgets and jobs their highest priority fo-

cus for campaigning this year. Anything which might hurt jobs is a no-no for some candidates. This is part of the reason why after conducting interviews in Redwood City, we ultimately decided not to endorse any of the candidates.

Looking forward to 2012, it will be an exciting year. There will be presidential, state and county elections in addition to many city councils. We hope many of our prior volunteers choose to help us do endorsements again and we gather some new volunteers as well. So 2011 endorsements are over and done. Thank you to the stalwart volunteers who helped out in 2011. Let's make 2012 a better year for the protecting the environment and us.

October 10, 2011 – 100 Year Anniversary of California Women's Right to Vote

By Northern & Central League of Women Voters

Before women had the right to vote in the United States, California women achieved that goal. When Proposition 8 passed in a special election on the October 10, 1911, this state's women won that right. California was the sixth state to grant women suffrage. The suffragists used innovative methods and modern cam-

paign techniques. They held mass meetings, sponsored automobile tours, developed street speaking expertise, utilized the press, billboards, campaign buttons, leaflets, pennants, and even grocery bags to keep their cause before the voting public. The strategy was not to be argumentative but to "put forth positive arguments of a hopeful, constructive sort" and to appeal to rural voters. The press secretary for

the College League wrote: "The women of California appeal to the fair-minded, clean-souled men of California to help women defeat the vicious elements of the slums of the larger California cities on October tenth". The amendment carried by 3, 587 votes out of 246,487, an average of one vote in every precinct in the state, which clearly illustrates the importance of each vote.*

Celebrate the 100 Year Anniversary with the League of Women Voters of Northern and Central San Mateo County at a special luncheon on October 14, 2011. A special award will also be given to Warren Slocum who recently retired after decades of running San Mateo County's elections. (For more information go to Page 3.)

SAN MATEO COUNTY

Belmont

Christine Wozniak for City Council

By Gladwyn d'Souza, Chair, Transportation Committee and Chair, Belmont/San Carlos Group

We have been extremely pleased with Christine Wozniak's first term on council. She has championed Sierra Club zero waste, open space, and walkable city issues for a low green house gas city. She also helped tier garbage rates in Belmont- the first city to do so, improving all other cities in the regional contract. Endorsed by the Club in 2007, incumbent Christine Wozniak has shown consistent support for sustainable land-use planning, with a focus on bringing more jobs to the Downtown.



Christine Wozniak

She is a passionate advocate for recycling, bicycle paths, reduced water use, shuttles, and walking-friendly communities. She worked through her appointment at City and County Association of Governments and the Peninsula Traffic Congestion Relief Alliance to bring in grant money and regionally supported sustainability projects into Belmont. Her strong emphasis on conservation and distributed services like local power, water, and compost systems is why we are only endorsing Christine Wozniak for council in 2011.

Dave Warden for City Clerk

By Gladwyn d'Souza

Dave Warden wants to reduce the clerk's office by \$100,000, money which could be used by Council to hire a sustainability or bike pedestrian coordinator, by making the position voluntary, similar to Belmont's elected Treasurer. He also wants



Dave Warden

to reduce waste primarily by going to electronic documents. Given tight city finances and declining revenue streams the city has not been able to staff for a green agenda. We endorsed Dave in 2009- he has two more years on Council. He is vice-mayor. We are pleased that he has helped pass the Green Advisory Committee recommendation through Council. While sorry to see him leave the council, we thought Dave Warden was presenting the San Carlos Belmont Sierra Club Group with an opportunity to advocate for a green position if he follows through and reduces the office of City Clerk.

Redwood City 2011

By The Loma Prieta Political Team

There are 5 candidates running for 4 seats on the Redwood City council this fall. The Sierra Club interviewed the four incumbents (the fifth candidate declined to participate).

We feel that the city is doing some very good things for the environment and acknowledge Redwood City's leadership in water and energy conservation. However, none of the candidates demonstrated the level of leadership on environmental issues and community engagement that we feel is needed to ensure other aspects of our natural environment will get the attention they deserve.

In 2010 Redwood City adopted a general plan that provides a road map for accommodating growth that will be greatly supported by the Downtown Precise Plan. These two planning documents provide the foundation for creating a livable, economically vibrant city that leverages its location along the Caltrain line. Implementing this vision over the next 25 years will require strong leadership on the part of the council to inspire and engage residents to support the coming changes in their community.

See Endorsements Page 2

CLIP AND SAVE

November 2011 General Election

(I) Incumbent, (O) Open Seat

Belmont

Christine Wozniak - City Council (I)
Dave Warden - City Clerk

Cupertino

Gilbert Wong (I)
Rod Sinks

Sunnyvale

Tara Martin-Milius - District 6
Jack Walker - District 7

San Carlos

Randy Royce (I)

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

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Please report to the Chapter office.

Submissions

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

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

Volunteers

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Endorsements

Continued from Page 1

Unfortunately, in 2009 the council removed the Cargill property from the general plan update process thereby shutting down the only neutral venue for public discussion of this site. The Sierra Club strongly supports restoration of the salt ponds as a smart, economically prudent approach to dealing with sea level rise. Restoration will also provide important habitat for endangered species and open space all residents and visitors can enjoy.

In addition to the largest bayfront on the Peninsula Redwood City is home to several creeks and the lagoons of Redwood Shores. There are currently 133 acres of parks for over 75,000 people. This is clearly not enough. The planned population growth for Redwood City needs to have access to open space for exercise and peace of mind. The Sierra Club has 800 members in Redwood City; we are ready to work with the city council to help them provide the same leadership they have with energy and water to the protection and enhancement of our natural features.

San Carlos

Re-Elect Randy Royce for Council

By Ann Schneider

During Councilman's first term in office he worked on the new recycling contract with Recology which added foodwaste collection and to include some hazardous waste collection programs. While the council did approve a green building ordinance he believes that upon its return for the first year review, that the ordinance should be made stronger. If re-elected he would like to work on water quality issues including reducing pollution entering streams and the bay, implementing bans on polystyrene and single use bag bans, solar development and LED street light replacement. He would also like to expand San Carlos



Randy Royce

October 24th Last Day to Register to Vote for the November 8, 2011 Election

The last day to register or register to vote in the upcoming election (first time voters and if you've moved or changed names) is October 24, 2011. If you've moved or changed your name, you can find voter registration forms at your city library, city hall and at US Post Offices. We recommend that you complete the form and drop it off at a US Post Office rather than registering at the Department of Motor Vehicles. Occasionally DMV changes don't get to the local Registrar of Voters.



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hiking trails. The Sierra Club appreciates Mr. Royce's votes for the environment and has high hopes for his environmental leadership in his second term. Councilman Royce would appreciate your vote.

SAN BRUNO & SAN MATEO COUNTIES

Years ago it wasn't unusual for many local city council races to have just the number of candidates as seats to be filled. So the City would simply appoint the candidates to office. While this saves the candidates time and effort in fundraising and campaigning, it doesn't make for a strong democratic process and discussion of the issues that affect that community. Sadly this trend seems to be returning with two of our councils appointing the candidates rather than running elections. Let's hope that more people run for city council in San Mateo and San Bruno in 2 years (and four years from now for the San Bruno mayoral race.)

What about All the Other San Mateo County Races?

Many San Mateo County cities hold their council elections in odd number of years but sadly we didn't have Team Leaders for the cities of Brisbane, Burlingame, Daly City, Millbrae and South San Francisco. We have endorsed candidates running in these communities in the past and we are saddened that we couldn't be involved this year. This does not mean that there aren't some great people running in these races in 2011, it just means that if you live in one of these communities, we could really use your help for 2013.

SANTA CLARA COUNTY

Vote for Wang and Sinks in Cupertino

By Gary Latshaw & John Cordes

There are 6 candidates running for the 2 open seats on the Cupertino City council this fall. The Sierra Club has chosen to endorse Gilbert Wong, the current mayor, and Rod Sinks, a local environmental activist. Gilbert Wong was endorsed by the Sierra Club in 2007 and he delivered on his commitments to energy conservation and the environment. He successfully promoted the upgrade of our Cupertino street lights to more energy efficient ones. He voted for the installation of electric car charging stations at City Hall. He has demonstrated an appreciation for the outdoors by supporting the preservation of McClellan Ranch and Stockmeir Property, and a bike/pedestrian access to Blackberry Farm from the west. Gilbert would like to see higher density housing along our major transit corridors and improve public transit along those corridors. He understands the need for more public education on how to successfully implement higher density without changing the nature of existing neighborhoods or adversely affecting the schools. Gilbert is committed to maintaining a clean environment and would support viable efforts to make the Lehigh Cement plant compliant. He sees water conservation as important for the city and the entire bay area. He advocates promoting more efficient water uses. If re-elected, Gilbert will continue to champion environmental causes in



Gilbert Wong

the Cupertino. For more about Gilbert go to <http://gilbertwong.org/>

Rod Sinks is an environmental activist and this is his 1st time running for office. Rod is focused on three policies: Pushing for Lehigh Cement compliance with environmental requirements by compelling the regulatory agencies to do their job, encourage smart growth in Cupertino, and increase cooperate between Cupertino and local schools to reduce traffic jams around the schools. Rod Sinks is a founder of Bay Area Clean Environment (BACE), which is currently suing Lehigh over water quality violations. He is a successful entrepreneur who understands and supports the use of technology to reduce energy consumption and will use that insight to make the city facilities more energy efficient. Rod is very supporting of getting children outdoors and he has led youth programs as a Scoutmaster and YMCA father-daughter leader. He understands the need for smart growth and realizes the challenges in building consensus for smart growth. He was judged to be an articulate, enthusiastic and committed individual who can turn objectives into accomplishments. For more about Rod, go to <http://rodsinks.com/>



Rod Sinks

Sunnyvale

For a Greener Sunnyvale Vote Tara Martin-Milius for Seat 7 and Jack Walker for Seat 6

By Diane Gleason, Team Leader, Sunnyvale Endorsement Team

The Sunnyvale interview team voted to endorse Tara Martin-Milius for city council seat 7 and Jack Walker for seat 6. Tara has been a Master Gardner, a volunteer for the Foundation for Global Community and also for Acterra. She is a leader in her Sunnyvale neighborhood (San Miguel Neighbors Association), promoting composting and organic gardening activities, and managing free-cycling and other "Re-cycle, Re-use, Re-purpose" activities. Tara believes that major environmental issues facing Sunnyvale include water, energy, and waste-stream management. She is very knowledgeable about Sunnyvale policies and goals and would like to see Sunnyvale move more aggressively in the direction of reducing our carbon footprint. She recognizes that being green has a longer payback but the economics are there in the long run to support it. Her website is: www.TaraForCouncil.org.



Tara Martin-Milius

Jack Walker is a former Sunnyvale mayor. While on the Sunnyvale city council and the planning commission, he required/approved projects with conditions of approval that addressed environmental concerns. He recognizes that Sunnyvale needs to work collaboratively with other local and regional governments to address issues of public transit, waste stream management, and other areas dealing with sustainability. He believes that a climate action plan should be integrated into everything the planning commission does. In the past Jack has used opportunities to make a difference, and he is committed to continue to do so. His website is: www.electjackwalker.com



Jack Walker

Both candidates would welcome Sunnyvale citizens to help them with their campaigns.

What we asked the Candidates

By Ann Schneider, Co-Chair, Loma Prieta Political Committee

Candidates who want our endorsement go through a multi-stage process: completing a written questionnaire; attending an in person interview; and, providing additional background as needed. While the candidates are drafting their environmental positions our endorsement team members are reviewing past votes; public positions candidates have taken; reviewing each candidate's website, and, collecting information from other Club activists who have interacted with the candidate.

The biggest step for the candidate is completing a written questionnaire. (See box) The questionnaire is updated for each election and includes standard questions all candidates in all races are asked. Then endorsement teams add a couple of questions specific to that community. The good news about updating the questionnaire is that much of what we have asked in the past has come to pass. The majority of our communities have created climate change actions; most are working on some kind of transit oriented housing and many have or are in the process of banning single use items like plastic bags and polystyrene takeout food packaging, and, the list of actions we've asked and received goes on and on.

I am often asked if the Sierra Club endorsement means anything. After working on endorsements for over a decade for the Chapter, I believe that our endorsements do make a difference. And it goes beyond the endorsement for one election. When our volunteers meet with candidates, it opens an exchange of ideas and interests. It lets the candidates know what is impor-

tant to the Chapter, our members and for the environment. We also get to meet with community leaders and hear what is important to them and to assess their level of understanding on a range of environmental issues. It opens the door for communication and lets the candidates know endorsement or not, winning their election or not, the Sierra Club is a community resource and we are here to help.

In many communities we face a chicken and egg conundrum. If we aren't actively working on an issue, then we aren't visible in a community. So if we don't have an active issue should we be doing endorsements as who in that community really knows who we are or what we stand for. In reality, in many of our cities, the only active Sierra Club presence is our bi-annual endorsement of candidates. So is our endorsement going to make a difference in the election? I believe it does. Within our region, the Sierra Club endorsement is considered one of the top 3 most wanted endorsements to receive. People know that we have an open and fair process that allows all candidates to participate. Not all endorsing organizations provide that opportunity. Our endorsement demonstrates that our candidates are committed to a healthy natural and urban environment. Our candidates have a good grasp of local politics and how to get policies passed. Finally, our members go out and vote. With many elections won or lost by just a handful of votes, our members' votes truly make the difference.

Over time, I have seen what we ask candidates evolve. I have seen the programs put in place by elected officials that we had been pushing for years. So I believe our endorsements make a huge difference.

Sierra Club California

Sierra Club California Announces New Director

By Sierra Club California

Sierra Club California welcomes a new director to lead lobbying and regulatory advocacy in Sacramento. Kathryn Phillips will begin her new role with us on Monday, August 22. "Kathryn brings a strong record of advocacy for protecting California's environment," said Executive Committee Chairman Andy Katz. "Kathryn's experience and enthusiasm will help Sierra Club California continue to lead the fight for protecting our



Kathryn Phillips

air quality, climate and natural resources."

Kathryn, who has been based in Sacramento for the last ten years, has directed transportation and air pollution work in California for Environmental Defense Fund, and has worked on both state and federal transportation policy. She has also had experience in agriculture policy and water policy. Before joining EDF, she worked for the Center for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Technologies led by V. John White, who was a long-time Sierra Club California contract lobbyist.

Kathryn's relationship with Sierra Club began several decades ago when she completed the basic wilderness course offered by the San Diego Chapter. Subsequently, as a journalist, she

counted on Sierra Club members and staff for information and guidance as she reported on environmental issues. When she left journalism about a dozen years ago to pursue a graduate degree focused on environmental policy, she immediately sent in a dues check to become a Sierra Club member.

"I've been fortunate to be able to work with many Sierra Club California members and staff throughout my career. They've been the environmental movement's conscience and driving force, and their importance today is greater than ever, because so many organized forces are trying to roll back environmental gains" Kathryn said. "I've been proud to be a Sierra Club member, and am now extremely delighted to be able to work for Sierra Club California".

2011 California Legislative Brief

By Kathryn Phillips, Director Sierra Club California

The legislature left the building this year with a very mixed record on environmental bills. Fortunately, a number of key Sierra Club California priority bills passed. Unfortunately, a couple of important bills we didn't like also passed.

And even more troubling, the early actions on these bills by the governor have not been comforting.

In the spring, the legislature passed a bill to increase to 33 percent the portion of renewable energy required in a utility's energy portfolio. That was immediately signed by the governor and gave us all great hope about the rest of the session.

In the last six weeks of the session, the legislature also passed bills that would help fund transit (AB 650), ban shark fin sales (AB 376), increase fees to cover oil spill prevention and recovery (AB 1112), and make it easier for local utilities to increase the amount of renewable energy they procure (SB 790). These were all bills the Club supported.

Sadly, the legislature also passed a series of bills that the Club opposed that would weaken environmental review, the worst two of which include SB 292 and AB 900. The most troubling aspect of those bills included allowing large-scale development projects to bypass a step in the court process if their environmental impact

reports are challenged. Additionally, the legislature passed a bill (AB 628) that threatens to increase off-highway vehicle traffic in natural areas.

As of this writing on September 29, the governor has vetoed the transit bill and signed the troubling environmental review bills. If this were baseball, we'd say we—or rather he—struck out.

The governor has until October 9 to take action on the balance of the bills on his desk. To find out how we fare on those bills, check into the governor's website: <http://www.gov.ca.gov>. You can find the updates on bill signings by following the newsroom tab to the press release area.

2011 Sierra Club, Loma Prieta Chapter Candidate Questionnaire for Supervisor/City Council/ Board

Are you a Sierra Club member? (NOTE: membership is not required for endorsement.) (SCC asks us for this info. It also tells us if the candidate is at all familiar with the Club and the Chapter.)

Helpful Hints for completing this questionnaire: We are looking for what you actually accomplished. For example, were you were a member of elected body during the process of xyz or did you shepherd the issue through the process. Please describe how YOU moved an issue through a process to success.

STANDARD QUESTIONS (FOR ALL RACES)

1. The club considers your past record as the best indicator of your future action for the environment. What have you done, especially in a community leadership context, to protect natural resources and the environment?
2. What do you regard as the major environmental and conservation issues facing the City/Town/Enviro District and the Bay Area as a whole?

The Sierra Club and the Loma Prieta Chapter care about a range of environmental issues and each year we prioritize issues that are the most critical for our area. The following questions are based on these priorities.

Climate Change

1. Where do you see your city meeting AB32 and SB375 goals and what issues would you resolve to get there?

Green Building

2. What more can be done to ensure that all new construction and remodeling incorporate green building principles? How would you go about it?

Land use, Transportation & Transit Oriented Development

3. Cities throughout the Bay Area need to provide adequate homes and jobs as part of being sustainable. Greenhouse gasses are primarily a result of the use of private automobiles for commuting as well as errands. One of the best ways to create healthier communities is to ensure that new development is transit-oriented and designed to create safe neighborhoods where people can walk or bike. Do you support the creation of downtown and transit hub specific plans that zone for building heights sufficient to generate significant economic value that will benefit your entire community?

Open Space & Urban Recreation – Access to Nature

4. In these tough economic times parks and open space are affordable ways for residents to spend their leisure time. However, these conditions also make maintenance a challenge. How will you ensure that residents in your city will have access to safe and enjoyable parks and open space?

Water Conservation & Recycling, Rivers & Creeks

5. What do you recommend be done to better manage the water supply and demand in your city?

Zero Waste and Extended Producer Responsibility

6. Methane from landfills is the largest anthropogenic source of this powerful greenhouse gas. How will you take the leadership role in getting all organics from residential and commercial sources in your insert your city removed from landfills and sent to appropriate composting or anaerobic digestion facilities as an immediate climate change action? What will you get your insert your city to do to stop all plastic waste from entering our creeks, the bay and the ocean?

Campaign Reform

7. If voluntary fundraising and campaign spending limits apply in your election, would you participate? Why or Why Not?

Race Specific Questions 8-9 - add up to 3 City or Race specific questions. Remember to keep at least one question specific to your race for the oral interview phase of the endorsement process.

Campaign Readiness – This is a must for all races.

1. Tell us about your campaign readiness, including funding, volunteers, and organization. Please bring examples of your prior and current campaign literature.
2. Please list your endorsements. If they are on your website – please just insert your URL.
3. Please include below an exact copy of your ballot statement as submitted to the County at filing.

Early Endorsements for 2012 start this November

By Ann Schneider

Would you believe that the Political Committee is already lining up volunteers to meet with our US Congressional delegates and incumbents in our local State Senate and Assembly offices. We will begin working on endorsements for incumbents with 90% or better environmental voting records, running for re-election as early as mid-November. With the changes of district maps, we have some incumbents who are good friends to the environment running in districts where voters may not know them or the work they have done to protect our environment. We are already being approached by the campaigns for these elected officials and will try to meet with them as soon as we can set the teams. If you would like to be a part of this process, contact John Cordes or Ann Schneider. We need you and it's fun.

100th Anniversary of Women's Right to Vote Celebration

League of Women Voters will be celebrating the 100th anniversary of a woman's right to vote in California with a luncheon on Friday, October 14 at the Popular Creek Grill, 1700 Coyote Point Drive in San Mateo. For more information email Shirrober@aol.com or visit ncsmc.ca.lvwnet.org.

Sunlight: \$0; Solar Panels: Also \$0: Saving the Planet Priceless

By Gary Latshaw (Solarpowered Homeowner & Erin Barrite, LP Editorial Board)

It used to be that getting solar panels on your home involved extensive research, hunts for rebates, permits, and \$20,000. And after that you were responsible for maintaining the system and fixing it if it broke. Soooo 2010!

Now, residential solar companies offer a "solar service." The company installs the panels at reduced or no upfront cost and handles all of the maintenance and service. The homeowner leases the equipment at a monthly payment independent of electricity rates. It's good for the environment and good for the customer.

But now it can be good for the environment, good for the customer, and good for the Chapter and the Sierra Club. Through an innovative partnership with Sungevity, a solar service provider founded by ex-Greenpeace campaigner Danny Kennedy, Chapter members and sup-

porters can avail themselves of this affordable way to get solar on their rooftops, and Sungevity will give \$1000 to the Chapter and the Club's clean energy campaigns for every home that goes solar.

Over 100 Sierra Club members throughout California have gone solar through the Solar Homes Campaign since May of 2011. One member who recently became a solar convert, Dan from Oakland says, "We never thought we could afford to go solar. But now we're getting almost all our power from our Sungevity solar panels." And Marika from Half Moon Bay said "Going solar was not only easy and good for the planet, but I started saving money right away!"

"In order to end our dependence on dirty energy, we need as many Americans as possible to switch to clean energy like rooftop solar," says Sierra Club Executive Director Michael Brune.

"This is a high priority for the Sierra Club. We are urging all of our members and supporters in Northern California to work with Sungevity to find out if solar is right for them. Every home that goes solar gets us one step closer to our goal of a clean energy economy." The Chapter's Green Buildings for Cool Cities campaign is one of its top priorities.

Click on sierraclub.org/solar/lomaprieta to get a 'Solar iQuote' for solar service on your own house.

The Bay Area has long been an incubator of innovative programs and solutions. Because of this, the Club is trying out this program here. If this pilot is a success, the Club will expand the program to get solar energy deployed onto rooftops across the country.

Signing up for Sungevity's solar service has these good results:

- You'll save money: the average Sungevity customer saves 15% on electricity.

- The Club and the Chapter get money for important campaigns.
- You'll cut your carbon footprint
- You'll help scale up this key clean energy solution.

Get a Quote for 'Solar Service'

You can find out how much 'solar service' costs for your home and compare it to your current cost of electricity. Click sierraclub.org/solar/lomaprieta to get a free solar iQuote. You provide your address, your most recent month's electricity usage, the type of roof on your home, and your utility company.

Within 24 hours Sungevity will send you an interactive proposal for solar service, including how much you'll save in electricity costs each month and the financing options available to you. They even include a satellite image of your home with the proposed panels shown.

Thank You to our Political 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 general elections endorsements to support environmental city government candidates. 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 deeply appreciate their giving of their time and energy to review candidates in 5 races.

Our new team members were; Ann Ng & Denise East (Cupertino); Jason Spitzer (Sunnyvale); Dave Crabbe (San Carlos) and Dan Ponte (Redwood City). Thank you for helping out. We really appreciate your getting involved with

our endorsement process. Special thanks to Sue Chow for recruiting new volunteers.

Our returning team members were Bob Levy, Bonnie McClure, Camille King, Gary Latshaw, Gladwyn d'Souza, Lisane Drouin, Susan Heisted, Sue Chow & the ever present Terry Trumbull.

Our special thanks to our invaluable team leaders for all the work they contributed. Our dedicated veteran leaders were; Diane Gleason, John Cordes, and Melissa Hippard. Extra special thanks to Cecily Harris and Paul Wendt because they 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 Ann Ng, Diane Gleason, Camille King, Gladwyn d'Souza and Melissa Hippard.

Also thanks to our San Mateo Board of Super-

visor's special election team: Ann Schneider (Team Leader & Host), Melissa Hippard, Mike Ferreira and Cecily Harris.

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. Please let us know and we'll fix it for the website version.

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@lomaprieta.sierraclub.org or Ann Schneider at Ann.Schneider@lomaprieta.sierraclub.org.

We need to acknowledge and thank the continuing efforts of our two PolCom webmeisters; Judy Miller and Dirk Leatherman. Keep-

ing 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.

Finally, we also want to thank our Chapter's Executive Committee who read each 'Endorsement Recommendation Form' and then discuss, sometimes in great detail, each race before voting to concur or not, (99% of the time in agreement) with the Endorsement Team's recommendation. We know that this is very time consuming and well political. The decisions are not always easy and they always have political ramifications, so from those of us who like the political side of life to ExCom, thanks.


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Contributions and gifts to the Loma Prieta Chapter of the Sierra Club are not tax-deductible; they support our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. For information concerning tax-deductible contributions to the Sierra Club Foundation to support grants for public education, research, and litigation programs necessary to further the Sierra Club's conservation goals, contact Darren Ponce 650-390-8494, darren.ponce@sierraclub.org.

Goodbye and Thanks to Outgoing Director Bill Magavern

By Ann Schneider

The Chapter would like to give a big thanks to Bill Magavern for his 11 years of service as Lobbyist and Director of Sierra Club California. Bill was a huge advocate for the environment and considered one of the most effective lobbyists in Sacramento. Bill covered a very wide range of environmental issues from green chemistry (now law in California) to recycling. Bill was a steady voice on the huge range of environmental issues. He also has a dry and sharp sense of humor that was much appreciated during long meetings. Bill also provided guidance to our Chapter's Political Committee and helped us work through some trying local primary races. Bill is leaving to spend time with his family and care for his son, who is suffering from a chronic illness. Bill, we wish you and your family all the best. You will be greatly missed.



Bill Magavern

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