

Sierra Club YODELER

THE NEWSPAPER OF THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY CHAPTER ♦ FALL 2023



**BACK TO
SCHOOL
EDUCATIONAL
PROGRAMS ON
PG 11**

- ♦ ALGAE BLOOM & FISH DIE-OFF ONE YEAR ANNIVERSARY ♦
- ♦ HEALTHY MARTINEZ FIGHTS FOR REFINERY ACCOUNTABILITY ♦
- ♦ THE INDIRECT SOURCE RULE SAVES THE DAY ♦
- ♦ GOLDEN GATE FIELDS CLOSURE OPENS A WORLD OF POSSIBILITY ♦

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Hi team,

I hope you're staying cool! According to the World Meteorological Organization, last month was not only the hottest August scientists ever recorded with modern equipment, it was also the second hottest month overall, behind only July 2023. These conditions were felt all over the Northern Hemisphere. Take Phoenix, Arizona, for example, where residents suffered through 31 days of temperatures at or above 110 degrees Fahrenheit.

Fortunately, here in the Bay Area, we have the ability to escape the extreme heat and seek reprieve along the public shorelines and beaches of our Bay and coast. But a dip in the ocean isn't as refreshing as it once was. This summer, the world's oceans were the hottest ever recorded (nearly 69.8 degrees Fahrenheit) and have set high temperature marks for three consecutive months.

Most of us are aware that as ocean temperatures rise, storms become more extreme, threatening life and property. But when water absorbs heat, it expands, too. This thermal expansion contributes to sea level rise and rising water tables that increase the salinity of our soils and lead to water contamination for coastal neighborhoods in and around current and historic industrial zones—from Marin City and San Rafael's Canal Area, to West Oakland, to the Bayview-Hunters Point. It also puts shoreline development at risk. Plans in Newark, Point Molate, or Golden Gate Fields to build commercial centers or housing that don't take into account sea level rise could soon be underwater, making it even more important to ensure that our shorelines are resilient and can protect our communities from rising water levels.

As global air and water temperatures continue to rise, additional challenges emerge close to home. The red tide that killed an immeasurable number of fish in San Francisco Bay last year has returned once again this summer. Fueled by nutrient-rich wastewater discharged from treatment plants across the Bay Area, these algae blooms are only likely to become more frequent and harmful as waters warm.

I know that the systemwide shift that is required to stem the effects of the climate crisis can feel daunting, if not totally overwhelming. As the folk singer Joan Baez famously said, "Action is the antidote to despair."

Staff and volunteers at your local Sierra Club chapter are working tirelessly with frontline communities to identify and act upon measurable and achievable strategies to fight the impacts of sea level rise and water pollution, from the Delta to the Golden Gate Bridge and beyond.

The work before us here at the Sierra Club has never been more important. And I want to thank each and every one of you for joining us on this journey to ensure we create a livable planet for all.

Onward,



Chance Cutrano
CHAPTER CHAIR



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Chapter News & Events ♦ 3 - 5, 12, 14 - 15

Outings Calendar ♦ 8 - 10

Educational Programs ♦ 11, 14

Campaign Updates ♦ 4, 6 - 7, 13

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Great horned owl near Point Bonita Lighthouse, Marin Headlands.
Photo by John Andrew Murphy
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FALL 2023 CHAPTER NEWS

Oakland Coal on Trial

The would-be developers of the coal terminal in Oakland and the City of Oakland have gone to trial as of July 10th. Each party has sued the other over breach of contract, even as the developers continue to threaten coal as a commodity should the terminal get built. To stay up to date on legal proceedings and other developments, sign on at addup.sierraclub.org/campaigns/keep-coal-out-of-oakland.

San Francisco Bay Shoreline Under Threat Again in Newark



The "Pick-n-Pull" auto scrap yard in Newark's Baylands proposed for development into over 200 houses. The site is surrounded on three sides by wetlands, creeks, and open space and is within Newark Area 4, a regional conservation priority for SF Bay restoration and climate resilience, and is currently zoned for future park space. (Photo credit: Derell Licht)

The Newark Area 4 Baylands is one of San Francisco Bay's climate resilience hotspots, a rare opportunity where we can protect and restore Bay wetlands as well as preserve space for wetlands to move inland as sea levels rise. By

developing this site, the City of Newark is giving away future parkland and also putting more residents in a flood zone at risk of sea level rise. Instead, the City of Newark should prioritize supporting the clean-up and restoration of the Pick-n-Pull site for future park space as planned as part of the overall conservation vision for Newark Area 4 and prioritize climate smart growth in the core of the city. Are you a Newark resident? Let the city council know they should preserve and not pave at bit.ly/PreserveBaylands.

Stop the Port of Oakland's Pollution-Generating Expansion

The Port of Oakland and the Army Corps of Engineers want to allow more polluting megaships into the Bay Area, but the Army Corps conducted an inadequate environmental review that didn't consider how the expansion would impact neighboring communities, particularly West Oakland. This area is already facing substantial environmental justice threats and does not deserve any more. Tell the Army Corps that it must thoroughly study the impacts of its proposal on West Oakland residents and the surrounding region. To learn more, go to: earthjustice.org/action/stop-the-port-of-oaklands-pollution-generating-expansion.

Andy Katz Receives Raymond J. Sherwin International Volunteer Award

Our SF Bay Chapter would like to recognize Andy Katz from Northern Alameda County Group who is this year's recipient of the Sierra Club's Raymond J. Sherwin International Volunteer Award. Andy has represented the Sierra Club at more than 20 UN-sponsored climate conferences and meetings in the past 12 years. Congratulations, Andy!



Recognizing the One Year Anniversary of the Bay's Infamous 2022 Algae Bloom

DANI ZACKY



One year ago last September, our Bay and shorelines were filled with the carcasses of dead fish, and our water was tinted a murky reddish brown. The sheer size and intensity of last year's algae bloom and fish die-off is not easy to forget. But did you notice the suspicious red color of our water this August? That's right: on the one year anniversary of our last algae bloom, like clockwork, reports of red, murky water from around the Bay came streaming into local Bay organizations. The species of algae was identified: *heterosigma akashiwo*, the same perpetrator as last year's bloom, meaning we still have plenty of work to do to keep our Bay waters clean and healthy.

Fortunately, the extent of this most recent bloom appears to have been less severe than the last. Unfortunately, once a bloom begins, there is nothing to do but wait it out and assess its damage as it progresses. Science Director for San Francisco Baykeeper Jon Rosenfield said it best: the only way to deal with algae blooms is to prevent them.

The key to algae bloom prevention is well known: we must decrease the amount of nutrients being dumped into the Bay. There are currently 37 wastewater treatment facilities in the region that discharge wastewater into our waterways. The high concentrations of phosphorus and nitrogen in this wastewater act as fertilizer for organisms like harmful algae. When too much of these nutrients are discharged into the Bay, we experience algae blooms that smother fish and other wildlife by using up all of the available oxygen in the water, causing major die-offs like we saw last year. In order to prevent harmful algae blooms in the future, we need to reduce the amount of these

nutrients leaving wastewater facilities.

There is an array of options to do this, and several of them offer additional benefits. Some wastewater facilities are opting for a nature based solution, creating what is called a horizontal levee that mimics a natural wetland. Not only do these levees provide water filtration for nutrients through sediment, but they also can create carbon sequestration from native plants, buffer areas for sea level rise, and areas where biodiversity can thrive. However, the most important option for decreasing nutrients in wastewater discharge is water recycling. When we recycle wastewater, it is treated and purified, allowing for meaningful reuse of otherwise discharged wastewater. This can also help reduce strain on watersheds.

At the SF Bay Chapter, we're currently focused on asking the Regional Water Quality Control Board to set lower allowable nutrient limits through their permitting requirements for wastewater dischargers. Our ask is that they reduce their allowable limits by 50 percent or more in the next five years. These limits will ensure dischargers will get to work on finding innovative ways to recycle our water and remove excess nutrients, saving innumerable fish and marine creatures and creating a healthier Bay for all of us. If you are interested in working on this campaign, please contact Dani Zacky at dani.zacky@sierraclub.org.

Dani Zacky is an organizer for the SF Bay Chapter.



DONATE YOUR UNWANTED VEHICLE

Donate your vehicle to support the Sierra Club Foundation's SF Bay Chapter! Not only will your generous donation continue to help us make a difference, but it can also help you qualify for a tax deduction. It's easy, the pick-up is free, and our partners at CARS accept cars, boats, motorcycles, RVs, and more. To get started, visit our website at scfch.careasy.org or call (844) 674-3772.

PHOTO CREDIT: Dead fish in Lake Merritt during the 2022 algae bloom. Photo by Ingrid V Taylor (CC BY 2.0).

Healthy Martinez Still Fighting for Refinery Accountability and Clean Air

HEIDI TAYLOR

In July, Martinez experienced two known releases of spent catalyst from the Martinez Refining Company without any warning, making this the third occasion within the short span of eight months. This is concerning, especially in light of the ongoing criminal investigation for their failure to report the Thanksgiving spent catalyst incident. The refinery must be more diligent to stop these continuous actions that harm our community.

Although Contra Costa County Health has assured the community that these releases of petroleum coke dust do not pose significant, long-term health risks (bit.ly/ChronicleMRC), it doesn't excuse the refinery from their failure to promptly activate the County's community warning system as required. Distressed residents were left waiting without any official information, resorting to social media to share alarming posts and provide photographic evidence of the mysterious black dust covering previously clean cars. Some even tried to seek clarity from the refinery, only to be dismissively told that the material was nothing more than "soot."

These repeated failures by the Martinez Refining Company to proactively and transparently report incidents raise serious doubts about their commitment to environmental safety and public health. It suggests that they may only take action when pressured by public outcry or that they lack the ability to detect such releases when they occur – both of which put our community at significant risk.

Healthy Martinez has been working hard to speak out about the injustice happening in our community. On Wednesday, July 19th, several members of this group presented Martinez City Council with a proposed resolution to hold the refinery accountable and ensure community safety is prioritized. This resolution demands that the refinery install a wet gas scrubber and drop their lawsuit against the Bay Area Air District. For context, the refinery currently emits 300 tons of PM2.5 pollution every year, and a wet gas scrubber would reduce those emissions by as much as 70 percent. The refinery's lawsuit that fights the Air District's rule is delaying implementation of equipment, policies and procedures de-



signed to keep our communities safe. The Martinez Refining Company needs to invest in this community now.

We strongly encourage you to stay informed about the situation and attend oversight committee meetings (cchealth.org/hazmat/mrc/), bookmark the City's refinery information page (bit.ly/mrcupdates), and sign up for City and County alerts (bit.ly/MartinezAlerts and cwsalerts.com, respectively). You can learn more about the proposed resolution at healthymartinez.org/resolution. We believe this resolution is crucial to holding the refinery accountable for their actions and ensuring that our community's safety remains a top priority.

Take action now by reaching out to your City Councilmember and the Mayor. Let them know that you stand with your fellow community members in demanding greater transparency and accountability from the Martinez Refining Company. Your voice matters, and together, we can make a difference in safeguarding our community and holding the refinery accountable. Let's unite and advocate for a safer, healthier Martinez.

Heidi Taylor is a member of the Healthy Martinez Refinery Accountability Group.



SUPPORT THE CHAPTER BY GOING SOLAR

Thinking of going solar? If you go solar through SunPower, you'll receive a \$1,000 rebate and SunPower will donate \$500 to the SF Bay Chapter. It's a win for you, your local Sierra Club chapter, and the planet. Head to bit.ly/sunpowerforthebay to get your free quote and find out how much you can save.

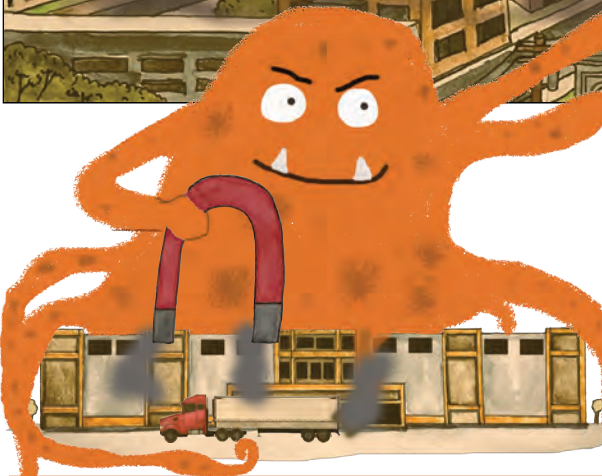
PHOTO CREDIT: Martinez Refinery. Photo by Naotake Murayama on Flickr (CC BY 2.0).

INDIRECT SOURCE RULE TO THE RESCUE!

Vrinda Manglik
Instagram: @art_by_vrinda



Our story begins in a typical Bay Area city where warehouses sit next to homes, worsening the air quality in communities already hit hard by pollution.



This air pollution makes it harder for families to safely live, work, and play outside.

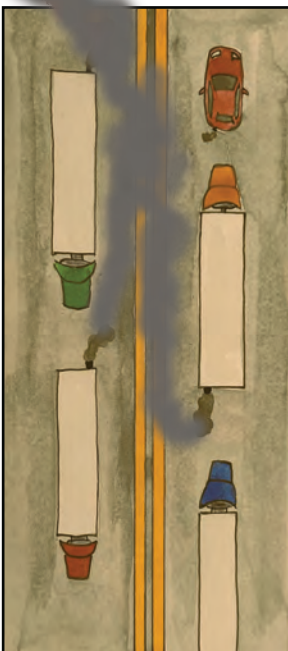
Respiratory issues like asthma are more common in areas with high pollution.



Warehouses, especially fulfillment centers, act as magnets for sources of harmful pollution like trucks and vans.



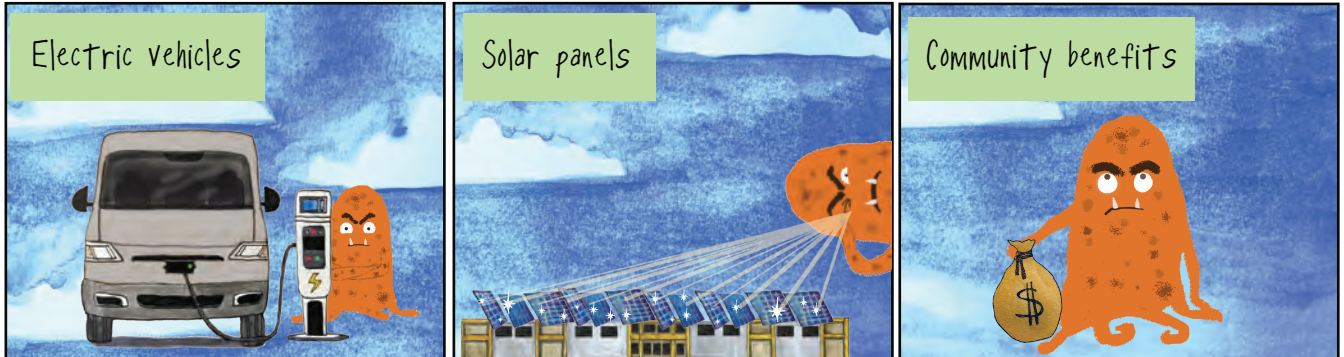
Cities and counties can't tackle the Warehouse Pollution Monster on their own...



but Bay Area communities can come together to harness the superpower of an Indirect Source Rule (ISR)!



A regional ISR would require Bay Area warehouse operators to meet emissions standards, and would give them the freedom to decide how to do it by choosing from a variety of options to implement on site, such as:



A regional ISR gives impacted communities a new set of tools to defeat the Warehouse Pollution Monster.



The Bay Area Air Quality Management District, which regulates sources of air pollution in the nine counties of the Bay Area, has the authority to create an ISR.

"Communities need policies that will protect us, and we also need a seat at the table when making those policies. Community voices should be at the forefront of policy choices."
 -Lazuli Trujano, Richmond community member and Communities for a Better Environment organizer



Be the superhero and tell the Air District to fight the forces of air pollution:
addup.sierraclub.org/campaigns/bay-area-warehouses

ABOUT THIS CALENDAR

Activities listed here are abbreviated. For full listings, registration, and waivers visit: sierraclub.org/sfbay/activities. The online calendar will also include changes, cancellations, and outings submitted after the print deadline.

Hike and backpack ratings

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

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

Backpack ratings include a third digit for travel:

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

What to bring

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

Liabilities

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

COVID-19 Protocol

Masks are optional for adults in outdoor areas but required in indoor close quarters such as vehicles, public transport, restaurants, or visitor centers. Vaccinations are not required, so please be aware you may be on trips with unvaccinated individuals. Masks are required at all times for unvaccinated minors. If you are experiencing any possible COVID-19 symptoms, do not attend the outing and contact the outing leader. Report any positive COVID-19 tests after an outing to the outing leader.

Carpooling

Carpooling helps the environment and allows people without cars to participate. You can arrange carpools on our Meetup group: meetup.com/sanfranciscobay. Outings will be listed there 2 - 3 weeks prior to the event. Masks are required in carpools.

FALL 2023 OUTINGS CALENDAR

WEEKLY • TUES

Lake Chabot Reservoir 1A Hike. Scenic weekly 3-mile hike. Park free on street, \$5 in lot, or annual pass from East Bay Regional Park District. MEET: 4:00 pm at boathouse/cafe. LEADER: Dolores Gruenewald, (510) 798-7897 or doloresgru@aol.com. (Solo Sierrans)

WEEKLY • WEDS

Lafayette Reservoir 1A Hike. Enjoy the lovely weather while walking around the beautiful reservoir. We have both faster and slower walkers, or you can walk at your own pace. COST: 5 quarters for 1hr, 15 minutes of parking. MEET: 4:00 pm at the west end of the parking area near the picnic tables and permanent bathrooms. LEADER: William Gilbert, wmgibr@gmail.com. (Solo Sierrans)

SECOND SUNDAYS AND FOURTH SATURDAYS

Let in the Wow: Luxurious Walking in Delight Zen. A slow walking practice designed to relax and balance yourself resulting in deepening connection to your inner nature. MEET: 11:00 am at 1853 Solano Ave, Berkeley. ENDS: 12:30 pm. LEADER: Halley, sierragreenforest@gmail.com. (Hiking)

SEPT 16 • SAT

Bon Tempe/Lake Lagunitas Hike. This is a 10.5 mile hike at a fast pace. The only big hill we'll climb is from the school house to Sky Oaks, which is about 1000 feet elevation gain. Experience the beauty of 3 lakes: Bon Tempe, Alpine Lake and Lake Lagunitas. You never know what you'll see looming around the lakes—birds, dragonflies, butterflies, Merganser ducks, or even fisher people. Parking fills up quickly, so carpooling is recommended. Leave by 9:30 am. COST: None. BRING: Layers, and sunscreen; lunch, snacks, and plenty of water; hiking boots or sturdy shoes. MEET: 9:15 am at 199 Porteous Ave, Fairfax. ENDS: 3:30 pm. LEADER: Marian Stainbrook, (510) 673-7408 or marian2049@att.net. (Rainbow Sierrans)

Point Reyes Laguna Trail to Woodward Valley Hike. This 10 mile loop begins at the Laguna trailhead near the Point Reyes Hostel. We make our way up to Sky Trail and then take the Woodward Valley Trail down to Coast Trail and the southern end of Limantour Beach. The terrain includes beautiful woods along one of the less traveled trails in Point

Reyes. The pace will be moderate, but this hike entails a good deal of elevation gain, so it is recommended for strong and experienced hikers only. COST: None. BRING: Lunch, snacks and a good supply of water. Wear hiking boots and layered clothing. MEET: 10:30 am at Fire Lane Tr, Point Reyes Station. For Google Maps, route to Laguna Trailhead. LEADER: Jeffrey Sanchez, amagi@pacbell.net. (Sierra Singles)

Tarantula Trek. A scientist exploring California in the 1860s described Mount Diablo's tarantulas as "attaining the size of a half-grown mouse, possessing fangs the size of a rattlesnake's, and delivering a bite generally considered fatal." Yeesh! Is this the gruesome truth or just arachnophobia? Join us for a nature walk up Mitchell Canyon as we dispel any malicious rumors you might have heard about Mount Diablo's misunderstood eight-legged creatures. Tarantulas are actually the teddy bears of Mount Diablo; they even have a dance called the tarantella named for them. You'll even have a chance to Meet a tarantula named Scarlett O'Harry! BRING: \$6 per vehicle park entrance fee (exact cash amount required). Pay at the entrance gate. MEET: 5:15 pm at Mitchell Canyon Visitor Center, Mount Diablo State Park. Ages 10 and up; individuals and families only. ENDS: 8:15 pm. LEADER: Ken Lavin, (925) 852-8778 or mtdiablobiker@gmail.com. (Mount Diablo Group)

SEPT 17 - 18 • SUN - MON

Angel Island Nature and History - Urban Backpacking Tour.

Explore Angel Island. COST: \$30.00. Book a ferry trip well in advance for around \$19.00 with Angel Island Ferry. BRING: Food is an individual commissary. We will be walking 4 miles to the campsite, so you need backpacking gear, a tent, sleeping bag, stove, and food. Leader will supply a detailed list after you sign up. MEET: 10:00 am in Tiburon. ENDS: Monday, September 18 at 1:00 pm. LEADER: Diane Appel, (925) 360-2249 or diane_appel@yahoo.com. (Backpacking)

SEPT 21 - 25 • THURS - MON

Rock Creek Lake Camping Trip. Join the San Francisco Bay Rainbow Sierrans and Loma Prieta Gay and Lesbian Sierrans for a 5-day, 4-night weekend camping trip to hike and explore beautiful Little Lakes Valley in the John Muir Wilderness in autumn. Along with a string of alpine lakes set amidst mountain peaks, we'll find stands of aspen, cottonwoods, and willows that live along the water's edge. We may see brilliant fall colors, from yellows and oranges to reds and maroons. We'll set up camp at Rock Creek Lake Group Campground (9,600') located south of Mammoth Lakes on the eastern side of the Sierra. Our campground is walk-in and located in a secluded area overlooking the lake. COST: \$80.00. MEET: 2:00 pm at Round Valley, California. ENDS: Monday, September 25 at 12:00 pm. LEADER: Celeste McInerney, (408) 707-4903 or celestemcinerney@gmail.com. (Rainbow Sierrans)

SEPT 23 • SAT

Cycling Niles Canyon Road. Let's cycle the Niles Canyon Road while it is shut to traffic during the Stroll and Roll event. The out and back route from the Fremont Bart will be a total of 20 miles, with about 500 feet of elevation gain. BRING: Helmet is required. Bring water, snacks, extra tire tube and sunblock. Maybe bring

BECOME AN OUTINGS LEADER

If you enjoy exploring wild lands, meeting new people, and leading adventures for them, you could make a great Sierra Club outings leader!

The Sierra Club's outdoor activities aim to connect all people with the natural world and with the Club. As an outings leader with the San Francisco Bay Chapter, you can join others in exploring wild lands, grappling with conservation issues, and even changing perceptions. Because trips are often specialized around a unique theme or activity, you could be hiking, backpacking, kayaking, bicycling, or doing service work – it's up to you to choose, because you ultimately design and lead your very own trip.

To be an outings leader, you must be a current Sierra Club member, at least 18 years of age, and have completed First Aid training and the Sierra Club Outings Leader Training. You then must choose a current outing leader to act as your mentor and lead your provisional outing with them in attendance. Following the outing, the mentor leader will provide feedback. After a positive evaluation, you will be a full-fledged outings leader and able to lead outings on your own. And then, Happy Trails!

You can choose what type of outing you would like to lead and which activity section you would like to affiliate with. You can find a list and descriptions of our activity sections online at sierraclub.org/sfbay/activities.

For more information on requirements, trainings, mentors, and more, head to sierraclub.org/sfbay/how-become-outings-leader.

some cash as well to purchase any food. MEET: 8:00 am at Fremont, 2000 Bart Way, Fremont. LEADER: Beth Bittle, (510) 759-6225 or callingu2@gmail.com. (Rainbow Sierrans)

SEPT 25 • MON

LaPole Hiking Training, Mori Point, Pacifica. Beautiful Coastal Practice Hike. Learn individualized strategies for enhancing performance and confidence on the trail. Uphill: Improve power, endurance, posture and spine function. Downhill: Develop skills for feeling safer and preserving joints. Save your knees! Short practice hike included. RSVP only if you truly intend to attend as it's a small group session. Reach out to the Leader if you have to

change your status. Top quality poles provided for your use (or bring and use your own). Registration required, class size limited. COST: Free for Veterans & Family members of Veterans. MEET: 9:00 am at Mori Point, Mori Point Rd, Pacifica. ENDS: 1:30 pm. LEADER: Jayah Paley. Sign up at sierraclub.org/loma-prieta/military-outdoors. (Hiking)

SEPT 30 • SAT

Moonlight Hike Mission Peak. Moonlight hike from Ohlone College to Mission Peak summit on the Peak Trail. Headlamps or flashlights recommended for short sections of the trail but the objective is to enjoy hiking in the moonlight with no or very limited artificial illumination. Not a beginners hike; this hike will be difficult for new hikers, infrequent hikers, or those with phobias about hiking at night. We will stop on a regular basis but must complete the hike by 10 pm when the park closes. This means we have 3.5 hours to complete a 7 mile hike with significant elevation gain. COST: \$ 4.00 parking fee if you park in the Ohlone College multi story garage. BRING: Two liters of water, lamp, snack, layered clothing, and enthusiasm. Recommend well-fitting boots for traction and ankle support. Hiking poles are very helpful for this hike. MEET: 6:30 pm at Mission Peak Trail Head near Parking Garage. The Pine Street Parking Garage is on the Ohlone College campus and is located at the north end of Pine Street which is accessed off Mission Blvd. ENDS: 10:00 pm. LEADER: William Yragui, 650-642-5150 or wyragai@missionpeakconservancy.net. (So Alameda County Group)

OCT 7 • SAT

Lafayette Reservoir—Lakeside Nature Trail. Come out for a 2.7 mile walk around the Lafayette Reservoir before a picnic! This is an easy walk on a paved trail, with just a few easy hills. Meet by the water in front of the tower that is in the reservoir. Dogs are allowed on leash. COST: Parking is \$7 per day or \$1.50 per hour. BRING: Walking shoes, water, sun protection. MEET: 10:00 am

at Lafayette Reservoir. LEADER: Beth Bittle, (510) 759-6225 or callingu2@gmail.com. (Rainbow Sierrans)

OCT 8 • SUN

Angel Island Hike. From Tiburon, we will sail across Raccoon Strait into Ayala Cove and hike up Mount Livermore. Afterwards, we will head down to secluded Perles Beach. This hike features a wide variety of terrains and (weather permitting) spectacular views of the Bay. COST: Around \$19.00 for the Tiburon-Angel Island ferry (round trip), plus parking (\$5.00 and up). Booking tickets online is available at angelislandferry.com/tickets-fares/. BRING: Lunch, snacks and a good supply of water. Wear hiking boots and layered clothing. MEET: 9:30 am at the Tiburon Ferry Terminal at 21 Main St., Tiburon. We will be taking the 10:00 am ferry to Angel Island. LEADER: Jeffrey Sanchez, amagi@pacbell.net. (Sierra Singles)

NOV 19 - 20 • SUN - MON

Mt. Tamalpais Backpacking: Pantoll to Steep Ravine Campsite. Camp overlooking the ocean in the Steep Ravine Campsites. COST: \$30.00. BRING: Food is an individual commissary. You will need backpacking gear, a tent, sleeping bag, stove, and food. Leader will supply a detailed list after you have signed up. MEET: 10:00 am at 3801 Panoramic Hwy, Mill Valley. ENDS: Monday, November 20 at 1:00 pm. LEADER: Diane Appel, (925) 360-2249 or diane_appel@yahoo.com. (Backpacking)





Read the earliest issues of the Yodeler online!

GO ALL THE WAY BACK TO THE VERY FIRST YODELER FROM 1939
ON THE SIERRA CLUB COLBY LIBRARY'S INTERNET ARCHIVE AT
ARCHIVE.ORG/DETAILS/SIERRACLUBLIBRARY

ILLUSTRATION CREDIT: Illustration by DreamDigitalArtist on Pixabay.

FALL 2023 EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

Wilderness First Aid in Palo Alto



SAT, SEPT 30 - SUN, OCT 1
8 AM - 5 PM

Location: Peninsula Conservation Center, 3921 E. Bayshore Rd., Palo Alto

Learn how to recognize and avoid wilderness hazards and do first aid outdoors with wilderness emergency expert, Stephen Donelan. There is an opportunity for a one-day class to receive the Basic Wilderness First Aid certification of the National Association for Search and Rescue, which is essential knowledge for any frequent backpackers, hikers,

or outdoor enthusiasts. You can also sign up for a two-day course and receive the higher-level WFA certification. This course costs \$80 (both days) or \$50 (Saturday only) for Sierra Club members or \$100 (both days) or \$60 (Saturday only) for non-members. For more information, go to wildernessemergencycare.com.

To RSVP, send an email to instructor Steve Donelan at donelan@sonic.net and cc lisa.barboza@gmail.com. Steve will email you a schedule and instructions. Find additional information online at sierraclub.org/loma-prieta/calendar. Payment will be accepted in the form of cash or check in class.

Certification by the National Association for Search and Rescue (valid 2 years) is included in the course fee. Textbook not included.

Textbook: *Wilderness Emergency Care* by Steve Donelan. You may use the old edition for this class (or Steve's *Wilderness First Aid*). *Wilderness Emergency Care, Third Edition Revised* can be ordered on Amazon. It is now published by NASAR, greatly revised and expanded, with all photos in full color.

Current Bay Chapter Outings Leaders: We will pay for your instruction. Email firstaid@sfbaysc.org for details.

Free Fall Course for Bay Advocates

THURSDAYS, SEPT 21 - NOV 9
7 - 8:30 PM

Online via Zoom

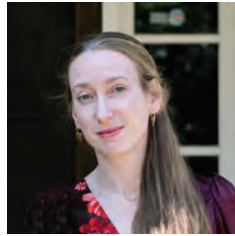
Do you want to protect the San Francisco Bay but don't know how to begin? Wish you knew more about the challenges that sea level rise presents to the Bay and the resilience of our communities? Wonder how to promote coordinated regional solutions? We're here to help! Our Bay Alive Campaign's free 8-week Bay Advocate Training Program starts on September 21, 2023. In this course, you will meet and organize with other interested environmentalists and gain experience through

real world advocacy. This course will be a great opportunity to connect with both new and experienced folks who are interested in protecting the environment. Join teams of Sierra Club volunteers to shape Bay policies and projects.

No experience is required. Already an experienced local advocate or a Bay Advocate Program alumni? This year's course adds new content focused on regional decision-making about how to adapt to sea level rise. This class is a project of Sierra Club's Bay Alive Campaign, produced in cooperation among all three Sierra Club Chapters surrounding the Bay. It is open to all Bay Area residents.

Register online at sierraclub.org/loma-prieta/bay-advocate-program-2023 or contact Susan DesJardin at susan.t.desjardin@gmail.com with questions.

Our Chapter Bids Farewell to Director Virginia Reinhart: A Note from Virginia



After nearly a decade at the SF Bay Chapter and three years as your Chapter Director, I am setting out on a new adventure. Working for the Sierra Club — seven years as your Communications Manager and three as your Director — has been a life-changing experience for me. Faced with the horrors of the climate crisis, environmental racism, and biodiversity loss, the greatest relief I've found is in throwing myself into the work of fighting for the structural and policy changes that our planet so desperately needs. I've found tremendous hope and inspiration in the Sierra Club community: children who send us donations they've raised through lemonade stands and climate bike rides, hike leaders who remind us of the wonders of nature that we're fighting to preserve, members who sit through hours-long council meetings to share their testimony, volunteers who give up their evenings and weekends to canvass and phonebank.

If you're feeling despair or frustration with the status quo,

I encourage you to come to a Sierra Club meeting and get involved. Because together, we can achieve so much. The incredible grassroots movement we've built here in the Bay Area means that we have the power to implement cutting-edge environmental policy, set important legal precedents, and inspire the next generation of activists. In my relatively short time at the Chapter, we've beaten back Big Coal, helped birth the now-booming Community Choice clean energy movement, saved irreplaceable biological hotspots like Tesla Park, been at the vanguard of the building electrification movement, and so much more.

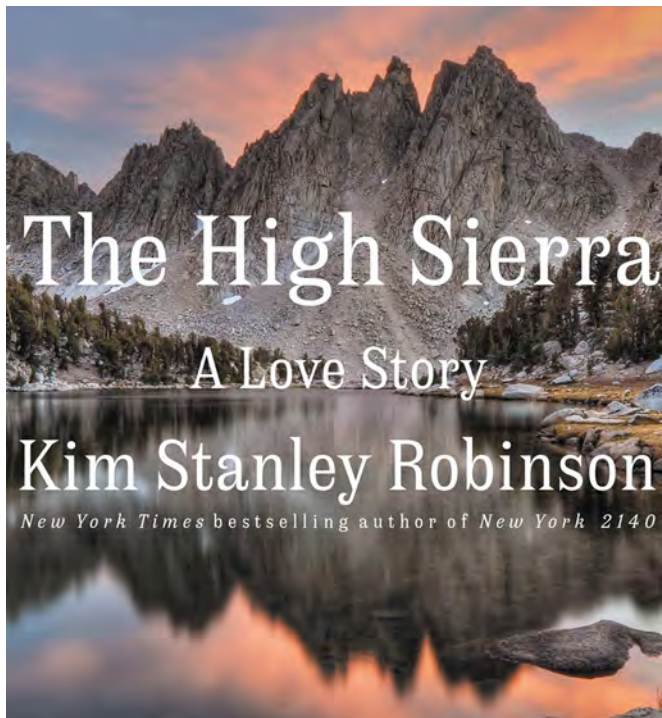
Chapter leadership has embarked on a robust recruiting process for our next Director, who will join the Chapter as we enter our 100th year. I can't wait to see what the next century has to bring.

As I make the transition from Sierra Club staff to member and activist, I look forward to working beside you to fight the climate crisis, support healthier and more just communities, and protect the landscapes and wildlife we all love.

In solidarity,



Virginia Reinhart



**Kim Stanley Robinson
Keynote Speaker**

Saturday, October 7th, 2023
Berkley City Club

Restore Hetch Hetchy
Annual Dinner

Please join us for an evening of
discussion about the future of
Yosemite National Park

Scan to reserve
your seat, or visit:
hetchhetchy.org

Contact us:
admin@hetchhetchy.org



Golden Gate Fields Closure is an Incredible Opportunity for McLaughlin Eastshore State Park

NORMAN LA FORCE



In July, Golden Gate Fields, the horse racing track on the Albany shoreline, announced it would be closing its doors for good sometime within the next year. While this may come as bad news to the dollar hotdog enthusiast, it's really exciting news for the McLaughlin Eastshore State Park. This area could become more accessible than ever before: we have the opportunity to save this large tract of shoreline to become public open space.

The Sierra Club, along with other environmental groups, has long sought to incorporate this property into the McLaughlin Eastshore State Park, a campaign extending as far back as the 1980s. Many developers have eyed the site of the track, but none have successfully convinced the track owner to close. This moment marks a big turning point.

In the 2010-2011 Voices to Vision Planning process that Albany conducted as a way for residents to produce a future vision for the area, the Sierra Club, Citizens for East Shore State Parks, and Citizens for the Albany Shoreline put together a plan for the site. The plan preserved most of the area as a park while setting aside a small amount for development that would generate tax revenues for the City of Albany.

Now, with the acceleration of sea level rise, it will be even more imperative that we use the area of the old track wisely. With even 2 meters of sea level rise, the track will be fully inundated. This shouldn't come as a surprise – the area was once

a wetland and marsh until it was filled to construct the track in the 1930s. Any proposal for future development would require a massive landfill of the area with between 15 and 20 feet of compacted soil just to keep it above water.

We have the opportunity to protect the site as a park and make it into a resilient shoreline wetland. We can convert the track into open space with ball fields or other public resources that will allow it to become a marsh that could protect Albany and the freeway from flooding as sea levels rise. We can remove the structures and open up Fleming Point as a grand public open space, creating one continuous shoreline park from the Bay Bridge all the way up to Point Isabel. We could even set aside some area that could be developed without landfill for a small amount of commercial development that could generate revenues for both Albany and Berkeley. The possibilities are exciting and expansive.

If you can envision all the potential of this massive shoreline park, we invite you to get involved with the Sierra Club's East Bay Public Lands Committee. To join in the final effort to save this site and make it a park, please email ebpl@sfbaysc.org.

Norman La Force is the Chair of the East Bay Public Lands Committee.



Artist renderings of modern day Golden Gate Fields (above) and a low-density, climate resilient development plan (below) that would generate revenues for Albany and function as a public park. Taken from Citizens for East Shore Parks' 2005 mailer.

A New Costco Gas Station in Novato: In This Climate?

JINESSE REYNOLDS



In March 2021, Costco proposed a mega gas station in the Vintage Oaks Shopping Center. It would be the largest gas station in Marin County with a 10,000 square-foot canopy covering 14 fuel dispensers and accommodating 28 fueling positions. Additionally, three 40,000-gallon gasoline storage tanks and one 1,500-gallon additive tank will be buried in the ground in a former marsh area.

In April 2022, seven concerned residents of Novato filed a lawsuit, arguing that the City needs to conduct an environmental review, as the project might have significant environmental impacts related to air quality and public health. In September 2022, the Marin County superior court agreed and decided the City needs to conduct an environmental review before moving forward.

However, the battle isn't over yet. The City's Environmental Impact Report is expected to be completed towards the end of 2023, and the Novato City Council will vote again on approving or denying the building of this gas station. The report will be made available for public review and comment, and we will need all hands on deck.

The City of Novato has already declared a climate emergency, and 63 percent of greenhouse gas emissions in Novato are caused by transportation, according to Novato's 2021 GHG Emissions Inventory, with 74 percent of these coming from passenger cars. As such, reducing the use of gas vehicles and switching to electric vehicles as soon as possible is a quick way to reduce the city's carbon footprint.

As the situation unfolds and the Environmental Impact Report comes out, we'll need activists to make comment and show up against the gas station. To stay updated, please contact Silke Valentine at silkevalentine8@gmail.com.

Jinesse Reynolds is a Marin Group Executive Committee member and Co-Chair of Plastic Free Marin.

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Join Delta Group for the Final Chapter of the Summer Series: Every Day is Earth Day

PAUL SEGER

This summer, the Sierra Club Delta Group led an educational and activist series: "Every Day is Earth Day." The series has brought people together and covered important topics like Jersey Island preservation, Keller Canyon toxic waste, environmental justice, and equity.

With September here, the series is wrapping up with "Unyielding Resistance: Challenging Oil & Gas Dominance in East Contra Costa." Mark your calendars for September 23rd from 2-4 pm as we delve into the efforts of our community in the fight against local oil and gas drilling. Activists and decision-makers will share their experiences battling the oil and gas industry's endless pursuit of profits even at the expense of our homes and health.

To get involved, please email Paul Seger at psseger65@gmail.com.

Paul Seger is a member of the Delta Group Executive Committee.

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Join the shared EV charging network for free! Share your charger or find charging to reduce carbon emissions. We'll donate to Sierra Club for each new signup! Your first charge is on us with promo code:

CHARGECODE

Use referral name SF Bay Sierra Club at signup

PHOTO CREDIT: Costco Gas Station. Photo by Mike Mozart on Flickr (CC BY 2.0).

Chapter and Group Elections Season Begins

LIANA WARREN



The air is cooling and the leaves are crisping up on the trees. Fall is here, bringing with it my favorite season here at the SF Bay Chapter: election season! That’s right—it’s time to get out your reading glasses to start scanning candidate statements and sharpening your pencils in preparation for your ballot.

The Sierra Club SF Bay Chapter is unique in that it runs entirely on people like you—volunteers are the heart of our work. It’s up to volunteers to help set policy, make change, and represent a movement that speaks for all of us. Our Chapter and Group Election is a huge opportunity to make the change you wish to see in the Sierra Club.

While the candidate nomination period has closed, that doesn’t mean you’ve missed out on a chance to make a difference. Ballots will be released in the Winter *Yodeler*, and our elections website will soon be updated with candidate statements. In the meantime, make sure your Sierra Club membership is up to date so that you are able to vote when the time is right. You can join or renew your membership online at sierraclub.org/sfbay.

Be sure to check out sierraclub.org/sfbay/chapter-elections for the full election timeline and the latest information and updates. Make your voice is heard this election season!

Liana Warren is the SF Bay Chapter Communications Coordinator and Editor of the *Yodeler*.

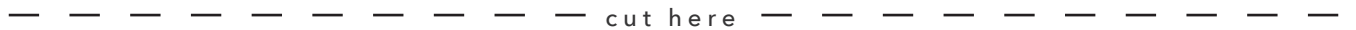



WHAT WILL YOUR LEGACY BE?

Ensure your environmental legacy by naming the Sierra Club’s San Francisco Bay Chapter in your will or trust.

If you have named your local Sierra Club chapter as a beneficiary or would like to discuss doing so, please contact us today:

MATT BIELBY
matt.bielby@sierraclub.org
 (510) 848-0800 x 321



Make a donation to support your local chapter's work here in the SF Bay Area!

\$25 \$50 \$100 \$200 Surprise us! \$_____ Make my gift monthly!

Make your check payable to **Sierra Club SF Bay Chapter**, or use your credit card.

Please select a payment method: MasterCard Visa Discover AmEx

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Contributions to the Sierra Club are not tax-deductible; they support our effective citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts.

Return instructions:
Cut out this card and return it (in an envelope) to:



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Berkeley, CA 94702

Donate online:
sierraclub.org/sfbay/donate



#SierraSnapshots | SF Group on their July Transit Hike that involved a bus ride and a hike in the Marin Headlands. Photo by Jeff Trull. For a chance to get your snapshots featured in the next issue of the Yodeler, email photos to yodedit@sfbaysc.org or share them on Twitter or Instagram with the hashtag #SierraSnapshots. Include your name, the names of any people in the photo, and where and when the photo was taken.

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

Facebook.com/SierraClubSFBayChapter

Twitter @SFBaySierraClub

Instagram @SierraClub_SFBay

SIERRACLUB.ORG/SFBAY

Our website is home to helpful information and resources including:

- Our blog, updated regularly
- The full events and activities calendar
- Group information and leadership roster

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Newark shoreline under threat of development (p. 3)
- Chapter bids farewell to Director Virginia Reinhart (p. 12)
- Join Delta Group's educational and advocacy-oriented Summer Series (p. 14)

EMAIL

Visit sierraclub.org/sfbay/email to sign up for Bay Chapter emails, including monthly bulletins and action alerts.