

Sierra Club YODELER

THE NEWSPAPER OF THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY CHAPTER ♦ WINTER 2023-24



VOTE!
BALLOT
INSIDE

- ♦ HANDLE THE SNOW LIKE A PRO: SNOWCAMPING TRAINING ♦
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LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Friends,

As we approach the end of another year of meaningful environmental impact across our region, I want to take a moment to appreciate all the victories you've helped us win this year.

In a seismic victory, the Sierra Club SF Bay Chapter and our partners helped pass the nation's first zero-NOx appliance standard in March, moving us closer to clean, breathable air for all in our homes and communities. In a historic effort this summer, we helped Coast Miwok descendants obtain the title to 25.9 acres of their ancestral lands in 'Etcha Tamal (Nicasio). And we helped prevent unsustainable urban sprawl like the Tassajara Valley Project in Contra Costa.

Due to our local advocacy with state and federal elected officials, we helped secure much needed funding for climate justice and conservation initiatives. Senate majority leader Mike McGuire secured \$10 million to address legacy flooding issues for low income communities in Southern Marin; Representative Jared Huffman and President Biden dedicated \$650,000 for energy efficiency upgrades at Golden Gate Village in Marin City; and this August, our region received a \$155 million boost from the federal government to begin to elevate State Route 37 — a regional Sierra Club priority — in an effort to adapt our infrastructure to rising sea levels and to reconnect and restore our historical North Bay Baylands.

Of course the work is never over, and we are already gearing up for the year ahead.

In 2024, the Sierra Club will continue to seize the opportunity to protect our shorelines as climate-resilient green space as part of our 30x30 campaign. We will continue to fight to reduce pollution discharged into the bay, which causes toxic algae blooms that kill fish and harm our ecosystems. We will continue to advocate for transit-oriented infill housing and multi-modal transit solutions. And our team will continue to fight against the fossil fuel industry as they attempt to overturn the City of Berkeley's first-in-the-nation building electrification ordinance and ship dirty coal through Oakland. With your ongoing support, we can make our Bay area communities happier, healthier places to live.

Happy holidays to you and your loved ones. We will see you in the new year!



Chance Cutrano
CHAPTER CHAIR



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Address Changes

address.changes@sierraclub.org

Cover Photo

A Townsend's warbler perches on a mossy branch in San Francisco during a rainstorm.
Photo by Corey Raffel © 2021.
Instagram: [@cr_wildlife](https://www.instagram.com/cr_wildlife)



WINTER 23-24 CHAPTER NEWS

Judge Rules Against City of Oakland; Our Fight Against Coal Continues

The trial between the City of Oakland and Oakland Bulk and Oversized Terminal (OBOT) ended in disappointment as Judge Noël Wise issued a proposed decision in favor of OBOT. The parties will have opportunities to submit comments, but it appears the City is on the cusp of losing. The basis of the trial is the dispute over which party was in breach of the development agreement. OBOT has sought to build a terminal at the old Oakland Army Base where coal would be received by train and shipped overseas. The judge’s decision essentially concludes that the City didn’t live up to its end of the bargain, meaning that coal could still be on the table for Oakland. For more comprehensive information on the details of the case, go to nocoalinoakland.info/state-court-rules-against-city.

While this is disheartening news, it is a comfort to know that the City of Oakland’s fight against coal and the environmental injustices it brings are backed by many community members, organizations, and decision-makers. The Sierra Club is committed to making sure coal storage and handling never happens in Oakland. The fight for clean air, clean power, and environmental justice in Oakland continues. If you would like to help out in the next phase of this campaign, sign up at addup.sierraclub.org/campaigns/keep-coal-out-of-oakland.

IRA Brings Funding to Communities Near You

After years of grassroots advocacy, Congress passed two historic bills in 2021 and 2022: the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) and the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA). Right now, billions of federal dollars are becoming available to states, communities, and everyday people.

With this legislation, we can cut pollution 40 percent by 2030, create nine million family-sustaining jobs, and clean up our air and water — but only if we make sure these bills are fully and equitably implemented. The Sierra Club Community Advocates program will train and support volunteers to access this federal funding at the state and local level, especially in communities most impacted by pollution and the climate crisis. We have an amazing opportunity to make sure this money is distributed fairly into our communities, and that benefits are felt by everyday people — not just corporations and the wealthy few. We can’t do this without you — sign up to get involved at sc.org/advocate.

Stop the Port of Oakland’s Pollution-Generating Expansion

The Port of Oakland is moving forward with an expansion project that would widen its turning basins, saddling already overburdened West Oakland with more air pollution. This will allow additional megaships to come to the port more frequently, bringing with them increased air and water pollution. Earlier this year, the Army Corps released a flawed environmental study that ignored the serious impacts of this project on air, water, the climate, and public health. Now, the Port has released a similarly flawed environmental impact report that also fails to account for pollution in West Oakland and the entire Bay Area. Additionally, dredging the bottom of the San Francisco Bay has the potential to negatively impact our delicate and vital Bay ecosystems.

We need your help now to support environmental justice. Tell the Port that it needs to revise its analysis and account for all impacts at bit.ly/turning-basins.

East Bay Community Energy Becomes Ava

On October 24th, East Bay Community Energy (EBCE) changed its name to Ava Community Energy (Ava). This name change is part of a larger brand refresh, is designed to help welcome new constituents from outside the East Bay, and will help Ava better communicate the advantages of clean electricity to all their customers. The acronym “Ava” is inspired by the fact that they now serve Alameda County and the Valley. For more information, go to avaenergy.org.

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.

WINTER 23-24 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: 3:30 pm at the west end of the parking area near the picnic tables and permanent bathrooms. LEADER: William Gilbert, wmgbrt@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)

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DEC 9 • SAT

UC Berkeley and Its Outdoor Art. We explore UC Berkeley and discuss its outdoor art on this approximately 6 mile walk with an elevation gain of 600 feet, returning to the starting point. MEET: 12:00 pm at Addison St & Oxford St, Berkeley. ENDS: 3:30 pm. LEADER: Eihway Su, (415) 566-5412 or esinsf@yahoo.com. (Hiking)

JAN 1 • MON

New Year's Day on Mt. Tam. We will hike from Rock Spring to East Peak for this annual gathering of hikers. This is a moderate 7-8 mile hike with about 1000' of elevation gain. MEET: 9:30 am at Rock Springs Trailhead, Ridgecrest Blvd, Stinson Beach. ENDS: 2:30 pm. LEADER: Richard Boyden, (510) 847-6889 or rboyden87@gmail.com. (Hiking)

JAN 13 • SAT

Emeryville's Greenway with Sculptures and Other Art. We will explore and discuss around twenty of the outdoor sculptures and other art pieces along Emeryville's Greenway, plazas, and streets. The walk is around 6 miles and includes some stairs. We will start at the Berkeley Public Library

BECOME AN OUTINGS LEADER



Want to see your outing listed in this calendar? Become an outings leader today! Find out more information about requirements, trainings, mentors, and everything else online at sierraclub.org/sfbay/how-become-outings-leader.

(Tarea Hall Pittman South Branch) near Ashby BART and end at MacArthur BART. MEET: 12:00 pm at Berkeley Public Library - Tarea Hall Pittman South Branch; 1901 Russell St, Berkeley. LEADER: Eihway Su, (415) 566-5412 or esinsf@yahoo.com. (Hiking)

FEB 11 • SUN

SF's Mission Bay, Central Waterfront, Potrero Hill with Sculptures and Other Art. We will explore San Francisco's Mission Bay, Central Waterfront, and eastern Potrero Hill, including miniparks and discussing a dozen outdoor art pieces. About 6 miles with a restroom stop, returning to the starting point. MEET: 11:00 am at Mission Creek Park Pavilion, 290 Channel St, San Francisco. LEADER: Eihway Su, (415) 566-5412 or esinsf@yahoo.com. (Hiking)

Albany Leads the Way in Climate Action

NICK PILCH

In 2020, Albany passed Measure DD to generate revenue for climate change mitigation, leading the way for cities across the Bay Area.

Measure DD included a voter recommendation to spend a third of new revenue on greenhouse gas pollution reduction and climate change adaptation. Last year, this amounted to \$268,930. This is considerably more funding than the prior fiscal year and will allow the City to accelerate its support for climate action.

To date, Albany has used these funds to subsidize replacement of gas-fired space heating with heat pumps, ventilation, and air conditioners; waive permit fees for all electrification; subsidize electric vehicle charger installation in multi-family buildings; and waive fees for street tree planting. The impact

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- Spanish: (510) 267-5632
- Chinese: (510) 267-5633
- Vietnamese: (510) 267-5634



has been far-reaching, and it is only just beginning.

This local action has attracted a federal grant, providing even more acceleration toward a green future. This fall, Albany was one of only twelve cities across the U.S. to receive the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant. The City was awarded \$200,000 to plan and perform outreach for a block electrification/gas system pruning project. Albany is the only entity on the West Coast to receive this grant.

As Albany continues to take action toward climate change adaptation, we invite you to join the movement. If you're interested in learning more about building electrification in Albany and the use of this grant, or you want to get involved, reach out to Nick Pilch at npilch@gmail.com.

Nick Pilch is a San Francisco Bay Chapter Executive Committee member.



WINTER 23-24 EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

Wilderness First Aid in Palo Alto



SAT, DEC 9 - SUN, DEC 10
8 AM - 5 PM

Location: Peninsula Conservation Center, 3921 East Bayshore Road, 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 grg.chair@lomaprieta.sierrclub.org. 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 fristaid@sfbaysc.org for details.

Learn to Snowcamp with the Sierra Club!

JANUARY 6, 2024



Different people come to snowcamping for a variety of reasons. Do any of these sound like you?

- You wish the backpacking season didn't end with the first snow.
- You want to learn to build an igloo or snow cave — and sleep in it!
- You are eager to get into the outdoors early in the season when there is still snow in most areas.
- You've had wilderness permits, but the weather has stopped you or made you change your plans.
- You're an experienced backcountry skier who wants to extend your season.
- You're training for higher elevation hikes where snow can be an issue, and you have questions on how to prepare.
- You're afraid that you don't have the appropriate

PHOTO CREDIT: Tim Surber

gear for cold weather in the backcountry when it is too cold.

- You want to see our parks in their winter attire.

If any of the above describes you, come join the Bay Chapter’s Snowcamping Section for our upcoming 2024 training program. Our snowcamping training is now in its 54th year and has prepared more than 4,000 people to extend their backpacking adventures into the winter months in a safe way. For us, there is no “off” season!

The snowcamping training program includes a full-day in-person orientation (this season on January 6th, 2024) and two mandatory field trips (multiple dates offered). We will give you the basic knowledge you need to prepare for colder nights while outdoors, help you take the right gear to keep you warm and safe, get you ready to handle unforeseen

weather and snowy terrain, and teach you to build snow structures as shelters.

Our training is in a group format with leaders who will escort you on field trips (with adult, family, and youth options available). The group experience allows each student to see and experience a variety of techniques and equipment.

APPLICATIONS:

We began accepting applications on October 15th, 2023. The early-bird application deadline is November 30th, 2023, with a final due date of December 8th, 2023 (at 5:00 pm). Prospective students should be experienced backpackers in good physical shape. A limited number of scholarships are available. Find applications and more information at snowcamping.org.



ICO Rafting – Getting Youth Outdoors

MELINA LAU

Did you know? Studies have shown that participating in outdoor programs can improve physical, mental, and emotional health, especially for children and young adults. These effects are sometimes long-lasting and can shape a lifelong positive attitude towards outdoor activities and the natural environment.



ICO (Inspiring Connections Outdoors) is the Sierra Club’s youth outings program. Our local group, ICO Rafting, takes both young people and adults alike on whitewater rafting and camping trips. During these outings, we share our love of the natural environment, with the goal of increasing access to the outdoors and providing positive outdoor experiences for our participants.

In its more than 50-year history with the Sierra Club, ICO has taken thousands of participants on outings. We

partner with organized groups from the greater Bay Area who focus on assisting underserved and marginalized populations in local communities. Every trip presents opportunities for environmental education, leadership training, and moreover, a fun time outside.

ICO Rafting’s all-volunteer program is financially supported by donors like you. Donations go directly towards building positive relationships between young people and the environment. Please help us foster the next generation of environmental stewards by donating to or volunteering with ICO Rafting today.

Donations can be made online at sierraclub.org/sfbay/rafting or by emailing donations@icorrafting.org.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer with ICO Rafting, email volunteer@icorrafting.org.

Melina Lau is the treasurer of ICO Rafting.



GIFT A VEHICLE THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

Spread holiday cheer this winter by donating 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: Rafting trip participants on the South Fork of the American River near Folsom, California in 2023.

Honoring Marjorie Macris

JANUARY 30, 1935 -
OCTOBER 16, 2023



Beloved former Bay Chapter Chair and longtime Mill Valley resident Marjorie Macris passed away in October. Marge was known and admired by many for her desire for seemingly impossible change that, through her driven advocacy work, she proved achievable. Alongside her legacy with the Sierra Club, she was a pioneer in the city planning

field and is remembered for her keen intellect, stamina, determination, altruism, good humor, and wit. She will be dearly missed by all who knew her.

Marge is survived by her brother Roger Wiegand and sister-in-law Sylvia Wiegand; brother David Wiegand; son Eric Macris; daughter Natalie Macris and son-in-law Donald Dean; granddaughter Charlotte Keilman-Macris; a nephew, niece, and their spouses and children; and former husband Dean Macris and his wife Ruthe Macris. She also leaves two beloved cats.

If you have memories of Marge you would like to share to include in a memorial piece, please email yodedit@sfbaysc.org.

Using SB 272 to Envision Community and Nature-Centered Solutions to Sea Level Rise

DANI ZACKY

In October 2023, Governor Newsom signed Senate Bill 272 after declining to do so last year. This bill, authored by Senator John Laird, requires all local governments within the San Francisco Bay's coastal zone to create a plan for how they will adapt to sea level rise. The passage of this bill comes at a critical time for us in the Bay Area, as we are projected to be the region most highly impacted by sea level rise in all of California.

With this bill in place, we can begin to visualize shoreline adaptations to sea level rise that take environmental justice into account and prioritize nature-based solutions. For example, living levees (depicted right) are one of the many ways we can protect our most vulnerable communities and shoreline infrastructure all while restoring valuable wetland habitat that is critical for the survival of wildlife and even carbon sequestration. It's a win-win!

While this bill does represent greater scrutiny and authority for climate resilience and shoreline adaptation, many of our environmental justice partners feel that there are key missing components — especially in regards to the lack of language addressing under-resourced communities that will



be most severely impacted by the rising tides. We have a lot of work to do to ensure that shoreline adaptation plans are resilient, prioritize nature-based solutions, and support environmental justice. If you can envision a future with healthy, just, and climate-resilient shorelines and want to make sure that this new legislation puts under-resourced communities at its forefront, we invite you to get involved and reach out to dani.zacky@sierraclub.org.

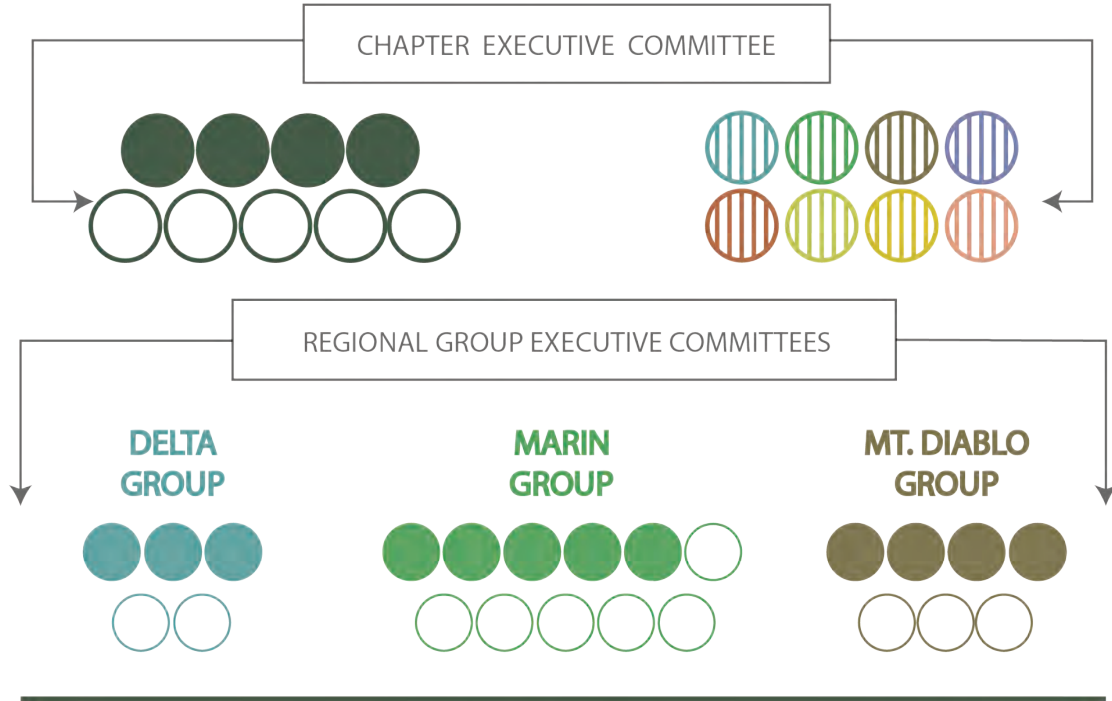
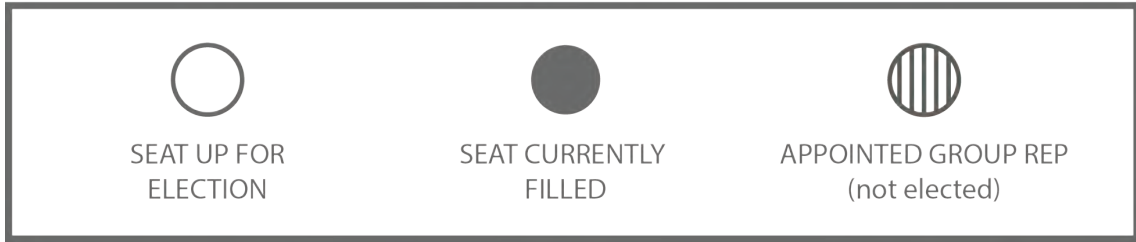
Dani Zacky is an organizer for the SF Bay Chapter.

SUPPORT THE CHAPTER BY GOING SOLAR

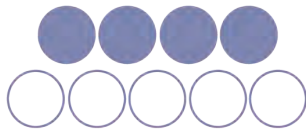
Thinking of going solar? If you go solar through SunPower, you'll receive a \$1,000 rebate and SunPower will donate \$500 to the SF Bay Chapter. It's a win for you, your local Sierra Club chapter, and the planet. Head to bit.ly/sunpowerforthebay to get your free quote and find out how much you can save.

ILLUSTRATION CREDIT: Living levee by Vrinda Manglik, @art_by_vrinda on Instagram.

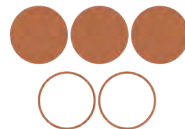
Sierra Club San Francisco Bay Chapter and Groups 2023 Elections



NORTHERN ALAMEDA COUNTY GROUP



SOUTHERN ALAMEDA COUNTY GROUP



WEST CONTRA COSTA COUNTY GROUP



SAN FRANCISCO GROUP



TRI-VALLEY GROUP



VOTING INSTRUCTIONS AND STATEMENTS ON FOLLOWING PAGE

2023 CHAPTER ELECTION

Voting Instructions:

All members of the Sierra Club who live in Alameda, Contra Costa, San Francisco, or Marin Counties, and who were registered as a member of record in the Club database as of November 1st, can — and are encouraged to — vote. Each Bay Chapter member can vote in the Chapter-wide Executive Committee election and in the election for the Executive Committee of their local group (see below for finding your group affiliation).

All ballots must be **received** by Wednesday, December 13th.

Questions? Contact the Chapter office at (510) 848-0800 or email the Elections Committee at elections@sfbaysc.org.

VOTE BY MAIL OR ONLINE:

You may choose to vote by paper ballot or online. If we receive both electronic and paper ballots for the same membership number, only the electronic ballot will be counted.

Your paper ballot is on page 27. Once you have made your selections, cut out the page, place the ballot in a stamped envelope, and mail it to: Ballot Submission, Sierra Club SF Bay Chapter, P.O. Box 2663, Berkeley, CA 94702. Paper ballots sent by fax or email will not be counted. The mailing label printed on the reverse of your ballot, which includes your unique membership number, will indicate it's valid.

The Chapter will also email a link to the online ballot to all members whose email addresses we have on file. If you do not receive this email but wish to vote electronically, go to the Chapter election webpage at sierraclub.org/sfbay/chapter-elections.

WHAT GROUP DO I BELONG TO?

To determine which group you belong to, look at the mailing label on this *Yodeler*. If you are a Bay Chapter member, a three-digit number beginning with "10" should appear in the line above your name, following your eight-digit membership number. This number designates your local group: 100 = No group membership; 102 = Marin; 103 = Mount Diablo; 104 = San Francisco; 105 = Delta; 106 = West Contra Costa County; 107 = Southern Alameda County; 108 = Northern Alameda County; 109 = Tri-Valley.

WHAT IF I HAVE A JOINT MEMBERSHIP?

Just after your group number, your mailing label also indicates whether your household has a single (SNGL) membership or a joint (JNT) membership. Each section of the ballot has two columns for votes. If you have a single membership, mark only in the

first column. For joint memberships, each member makes their selections in one column. Both members in a joint membership must vote in the same medium (either paper or electronic ballot).

WHAT CAN "SPOIL" MY BALLOT?

Your ballot will be considered spoiled and will not be counted if:

- you vote in the incorrect group election (spoils group vote);
- you vote for more candidates than the maximum indicated;
- your ballot is illegible; or
- you already cast your ballot online.

Bylaw Amendments:

No bylaw amendments for this 2023 election season.

Candidate Statements:

The Chapter Executive Committee candidates are first, then the Groups are listed in alphabetical order. Candidate statements within each section are listed in alphabetical order by last name. Statements appear as written by candidates.

CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

There are ten candidates. You may vote for up to five.

John J. Bauters

Residence: Emeryville

Occupation: Nonprofit Policy Director - Victim's Services

Sierra Club member since: 2016

Contact: jbauters@gmail.com

Statement:

An outdoorsman at heart, I've taken the environmental lessons and values I gained during my childhood in the upper Great Lakes and applied them for the benefit of Bay Area communities for more than a decade.

First elected to the Emeryville City Council in 2016, I have been a regional leader committed to the values and mission of the Club, our communities, and the environment. In Emeryville, I've successfully championed lead hazard remediation, bird safe building design, and electrification reach code ordinances. I am currently shepherding an urban tree program, a ban on toxic pesticides and rodenticides, and a pollinator program to support biodiversity through the legislative process.

I have represented Alameda County on the Bay Area Air Quality Management District for six years, including the past



two as chair of the Board. During that time, I led the fight against refineries trying to block amendments to Rule 6-5, which will reduce 70% of the harmful PM emissions from fluidized catalytic cracking units, and earlier this year led the charge to adopt amendments to Rules 9-4 and 9-6, which will require that all new Bay Area water heaters and furnaces meet zero NOx emissions standards beginning later this decade.

Every year I take 3-4 weeks off to complete a 400-mile solo wilderness hike along the North County Trail in the upper Midwest as part of my commitment to elevating the role nature plays in supporting mental health and physical wellness, while also grounding myself in nature.

I was humbled to be named the SF Bay Sierra Club's inaugural recipient of the David McCoard Visionary Award in 2022, and if elected to the Executive Committee, will continue the important work of delivering a sustainable future for all.

Thank you for consideration my candidacy,
John

Chava Bear

Residence: San Francisco

Occupation: Transportation Planner

Sierra Club member since: March 2011

Contact: ckronenberg@gmail.com, (415) 745-2796

Activities:

- Sierra Club Political Committee
- Sierra Club Outings Participant
- Flynn Elementary Parent Teacher Association

Statement:

I'm passionate about the small decisions that we can all make to reduce our carbon footprint and reduce the impacts of climate change on our kids. I've been working hard my entire career to make sure people have safe and reliable sustainable transportation choices in San Francisco so that we can collectively work to reduce our dependence on cars. I am running for Sierra Club Chapter Executive Committee to amplify the voices of sustainable transportation advocates and parents in how we can advance the efforts I am fortunate to work on locally to our regional, state and national leadership. It is a privilege to live in the San Francisco Bay Area, and as we are a beacon for so many in the fight against a catastrophic climate future, every part of the carbon reduction puzzle needs to work together.

My first connection to the Sierra Club stems from my pre-parenthood years joining Outings with some of the great local volunteer leaders who bring so many of us out to the amazing wilderness in California who connected me to the mission and values of the Sierra Club. After more than a half-dozen outings in the Sierras, I signed as a lifetime Sierra Club member in 2011, hoping I would be able to give back to the Club in my lifetime. I appreciate your vote for my continued service to the Club.

Endorsed by the following San Francisco Group Sierra Club leaders: Chair, Charles Whitfield, Vice-Chair, Brian Reyes, Executive Committee members Kieran Farr and Jeff Trull, Conservation Chair, Peter Belden, Transportation Chair, Rachel Rowland, Housing Chair, Danny Sauter.



Chance Cutrano

Residence: Fairfax

Occupation: Environmental Nonprofit Director

Sierra Club member since: 2016

Activities:

- Sierra Club SF Bay Chapter Acting Director, September 2023- Present
- Sierra Club California Conservation Committee Steering Committee Vice Chair (Northern California), July 2022 -Present
- Sierra Club SF Bay Chapter Executive Committee Chairperson, Jan 2022 - Present
- Sierra Club California Political Committee
- Sierra Club California Northern California Candidate Review Committee, Jan 2020 - Present
- Sierra Club Marin Group Executive Committee
- Sierra Club Marin Group Treasurer
- Sierra Club Marin Group Conservation Committee
- Sierra Club SF Bay Chapter Finance Committee, Jan. 2018 - Present
- Sierra Club National Climate Adaptation Task Force, May 2018 - March 2019

Statement:

I've had the great privilege of serving on the SF Bay Chapter Executive Committee for the last 4 years—two years as the Vice Chair of the board and now two years as the Chair of the Board. Over the last two years we have seen increasing participation amongst our membership, improved governance, and strong financial health. These organizational qualities have allowed us to increase our staff, amplify the campaigns led by our volunteer leaders, and better support our partners in frontline communities. As a result, the Sierra Club has continued to be a leading voice on critical climate justice and environmental conservation projects across the Bay Area.

I'd like to continue to serve our membership because I believe it is my duty as Chair to support the successful transition of my Chairship to another volunteer leader over the coming two years to maintain continuity and stability of our present success. Furthermore, with the departure of our Director and all of the changes to the Sierra Club's organizational structure at the state and national levels, I'd like to ensure our staff and volunteer leaders are supported through this time of transition so we can maximize organizational effectiveness.



Becky Evans

Residence: San Francisco

Occupation: Paralegal/retired

Sierra Club member since: 1969

Activities:

- Chapter Chair - 1981-84; 2014-16
- Council of Club Leaders (CCL) - Delegate/Alternate 2015-2022
- Sierra Club staff (SF Bay Chapter, national) - 1972-1987
- Chair, San Francisco Group - 2005, 2022, other



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- Chapter Political Committee, at-large member
- Chapter Finance Committee, member
- Chapter Executive Committee - several terms since 1981
- Sierra Club Colby Library volunteer 2005-present
- People4/Parks
- 2014 Jack Morrison Medal, San Francisco Tomorrow
- 2017 Sierra Club Edward Bennett Lifetime Achievement Award
- 2018 SF Board of Supervisors' Certificate of Honor - for advocacy promoting the health of San Francisco Bay and Waterfront.

Statement:

Nominated by the Chapter Elections Committee, I am a candidate for the San Francisco Bay Chapter Executive Committee.

If elected to the Chapter Executive Committee, my focus will be on maintaining the Sierra Club as a grass roots organization, assuring the health of our 8 groups, our outings program, supporting our staff in their critical work and teaming with others to celebrate the SF Bay Chapter's Centennial.

It is essential for leaders to listen to all points of view, ask questions, make good decisions and to mentor new activists. My environmental priorities are parkland preservation, protection of San Francisco Bay, support for good public transportation, affordable housing and environmental laws.

I am proud to be a Life Member of the Sierra Club. As a Club activist, I have served on the San Francisco Bay Chapter Executive Committee, national committees protecting Yosemite and the Canyons of the Colorado River. I worked on the Sierra Club's Centennial Celebration, the 2005 International Assembly and the Honors & Awards Committee. I have hiked with the Bay Chapter, backpacked in the Sierra Nevada and the Alps, rafted the Colorado River and rode a dory down Utah's Green River.

I am among the many founders of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area; served on San Francisco first Environment Commission. My community work has focused on open space, parks (including The Presidio), waterfront, water issues (including wastewater) and transportation (Doyle Drive and SFTEP). I was the official proponent of 2014's Proposition B to lower the height limit on SF's waterfront.

As individuals and Sierra Club members, we must step up to combat climate change - making choices every day - cutting personal energy use, recycling, driving less and participating in public forums including those to protect disadvantaged communities from toxics and other challenges. It truly takes a village.

Please vote for me for the San Francisco Bay Chapter Executive Committee.

Thank you.

Kelly Hammargren

Residence: Berkeley
Occupation: RN, PHN, Retired from Health Care Management, Writer
Sierra Club member since: 1993
Contact: kellyhammargren@gmail.com



Activities:

- Northern Alameda County Conservation Committee Member
- Board Member: Citizens for East Shore Parks

Statement:

We have both a climate crisis and a biodiversity crisis. Addressing Climate consumes our attention. It is biodiversity, ecosystems, habitat, nature that makes our human existence tolerable, possible and pleasurable. Nature is not something that just happens outside the boundaries of our densifying cities. Nature is also in our cities. Whether we have a biodiverse urban environment depends on priorities, design and what is planted if anything is planted at all. This has been the focus of my activism of the recent years and will be my focus if you chose to vote for me.

Making a place for native trees in our cities with large canopies is the difference between moderating microclimates in our warming urban environment or turning cities into deadly urban heat islands. In the Portland, Oregon 2021 heat dome the city high temperature was 116° while poor areas of Portland filled with concrete suffered under 124°.

On October 5, 2023, the bodies of 961 migrating birds were found outside of the McCormick Place Lakeside Center in Chicago, the most birds recorded to have died from bird-glass collisions in one night at one building. While weather played a part, bright lights and lots of glass are a known hazard to migrating birds.

I was one of the two people credited by the Golden Gate Bird Alliance (formerly Golden Gate Audubon) with pulling the Berkeley Bird Safe Ordinance off the bottom of the Planning Commission to do list where it sat for over two years.

Seven of the fourteen not recommended bird safe ordinances are right here in the Bay Area. We can do better.

I am committed to a world where nature is part of the urban and wild environment. Where watersheds are protected and enhanced. Where habitat, ecosystems, planting for birds and pollinators is the plan.

Martha Kreeger

Residence: Fremont
Occupation: Government / Field Representative
Sierra Club member since: 2019
Contact: marthakreeger@gmail.com, (510) 673-9447



Activities:

- Vice Chair Sierra Club SF Bay Chapter
- SAC Group Executive Committee
- SF Bay Chapter Political Committee
- SAC Political Committee
- Sierra Club CA Conservation Committee, Representative for SF Bay Chapter
- Also: Past Member of SF Bay Chapter By-Laws Task Force, SF Bay Warehouse Working Group with Labor and Jacob Klein SC Staff, Recreational Issues Sub Group

Statement:

Being a member of Sierra Club organization in the the Bay

Area has been the honor of a lifetime. These beautiful lands are profoundly affected by the climate crisis, 68% of California's Environmental Justice communities live in the 9 county bay area, often near the shoreline where groundwater intrusion, sea level rise and the climate crisis threaten those least resilient or prepared to survive and thrive in these changing conditions.

The work being done by volunteers and staff is powerful purposeful work, often time sensitive with very long odds for success and rarely is the outcome entirely assured. We have this moment to magnify the work and share in both the challenges and successes but it will take all of us not only doing the work of moments, but to continue building a collaborative movement within and outside our organization.. I want to keep doing this work because it is truly impactful and we are making a difference.

I come to this work from an organizing background and in the past two years have worked as part of the warehouse team, working in collaboration with labor, legal advocates, community activists and organizations.

The leaders on that team were careful in the design and did not really on a few organizers, but spearheaded by Jacob Klein, SC staff member. The work was shared across multiple groups and organizations including within CA & across the Sierra Club organization. That work has led to a consideration of the indirect source rule which will reduce air pollution in the bay area.

That focus on collaborative movement building is what I want to continue doing as a member of this team. We cannot tackle climate change without a focus on equity, building collaborative frameworks and shared labor. I would be incredibly grateful to continue this work.

Brian Quan

Residence: San Francisco

Occupation: Retired, formerly engineer at Boeing and agent at New York Life

Sierra Club member since: 2022

Contact: brian.r.quan@gmail.com, (628) 243-2617

Activities:

- Sierra Club Housing Committee 2023
- President at the Chinese American Democratic Club

Statement:

"After a volunteer stint at Full Circle Fund helping the non-profit Planting Justice, I became interested in helping find ways to bring modern environmental policies like urban permaculture into more communities. My experience with political organizing in the Chinese American community helped informed me about the need for greater effort placed in ensuring minority communities are not left behind in the conversation for environmental awareness. Bridging gaps of language, culture, and knowledge are opportunities I see for the Sierra Club to pursue as means to growing the club's reach and influence by expanding our perspectives and approaches on inclusivity and diversity."

Endorsed by San Francisco Group Sierra Club leaders: Chair, Charles Whitfield, Vice-Chair, Brian Reyes, Executive Committee members Howard Strassner, Kieran Farr and Jeff Trull, Conservation Chair, Peter Belden, Transportation Chair,



Rachel Rowland, Housing Chair, Danny Sauter and Political Chair, Chava Kronenberg Bea."

Paul Seger

No candidate statement submitted.

Bob Venning

Residence: Oakland

Occupation: lawyer – retired

Sierra Club member since: 1974

Statement:

I am an environmentalist. I named my first child Rachel, after Rachel Carson. I am a life member of the Sierra Club.

I spent my youth in Idaho and fished in clear waters. I went east to college and law school where the mountains seemed far away. I moved to California and became a successful lawyer, representing individuals and businesses, in California and elsewhere, in both federal and state courts, at trial and on appeals. In addition to the Sierra Club, I am a member and supporter of the NRDC, Save the Redwoods League, Earthjustice, The Nature Conservancy, and other environmental organizations. For the NRDC, I argued pro bono several important cases, one of which helped to prevent drilling off the coast of California.

Why do I want this position? I have participated in a number of the Sierra Club's hikes in the Sierra and also in the mountains of Idaho over the years but have not been active internally in the Club's affairs. I have no specific agenda, just a general agenda to protect our precious environment, and I believe that one of the best ways to do this is to expose young people to nature. Most of them will love it and for many the love will last a lifetime. As someone not previously active in the internal affairs of the Club, I may have more to learn than to teach. But perhaps my sort of "outsider's voice" can also be helpful, and I will approach things with an open mind, not burdened by any previous attachments, positions or statements. The Sierra Club has been an effective voice for the environment, and I would like to contribute to that.



Scott Webb

Residence: Outer Sunset District, San Francisco

Occupation: Director of Advocacy & Engagement, Resource Renewal Institute

Sierra Club member since: 2022

Activities:

- SF Bay Chapter Secretary: 2022-Current
- California Conservation Committee Delegate, 2023-Present

Statement:

After serving as the Secretary for the Bay Chapter, I'm



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thrilled to announce my candidacy for the Sierra Club's Bay Chapter Executive Committee. My journey has been one of growth, learning, and active engagement in the environmental movement, and I'm now eager to take on a more significant role in making the Sierra Club's mission a reality. I offer a wealth of experience in environmental advocacy, grassroots organizing, and electoral efforts. As a young advocate, I excel in channeling our generation's environmental passion into meaningful action, inspiring and mobilizing a new wave of Sierra Club supporters.

In recent years, I served as Advocacy Director for two local environmental non-profits – currently at the Resource Renewal Institute and previously Turtle Island Restoration Network, alongside the Salmon Protection and Watershed Network. During this tenure, I built powerful coalitions that effectively launched local, state, and international marine and watershed protection campaigns. A significant local achievement was a collaboration with the Sierra Club Marin Group, leading to the passage of Marin County's and the Bay Area's first Stream Conservation Area Ordinance, safeguarding endangered Coho Salmon habitats.

My primary focus is the Bay Area's urgent biodiversity crisis. Our unique ecosystem is threatened by habitat destruction, pollution, and climate change, disproportionately impacting marginalized communities. To rectify historical injustices and ensure equitable access to clean environments, we need inclusive policies that engage all communities in shaping the ecological future of our region.

Committed to lifelong learning and collaboration with like-minded advocates, I promise to infuse youthful energy and expertise into the Sierra Club's legacy if elected. With your vote, I will bring a fresh perspective and be tenacious in creating a lasting impact on the Bay Area's environment and communities.

- Sierra Club SF Bay Chapter Executive Committee Chairperson, Jan 2022 - Present
- Sierra Club California Political Committee
- Sierra Club California Northern California Candidate Review Committee, Jan 2020 - Present
- Sierra Club Marin Group Executive Committee
- Sierra Club Marin Group Treasurer
- Sierra Club Marin Group Conservation Committee
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Statement:

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DELTA GROUP

There are no candidates. There are two open seats.

MARIN GROUP

There are eleven candidates. You may vote for up to six.

Chance Cutrano

Residence: Fairfax
Occupation: Environmental Nonprofit Director
Sierra Club member since: 2016



Activities:

- Sierra Club SF Bay Chapter Acting Director, September 2023- Present
- Sierra Club California Conservation Committee Steering Committee Vice Chair (Northern California), July 2022 -Present

Sharon Farrell



Residence: San Rafael
Occupation: Television Producer
Sierra Club member since: 2005
Contact: *Sharonfarrell2003@yahoo.com*

Activities:

- Sierra Club Executive Committee member – Marin Group

Statement:

I am an outdoor enthusiast and hiker. I am seeking an opportunity to continue to serve on the Sierra Club Executive Committee – Marin Group.

I'm passionate about serving and protecting our natural environment. My primary interest is in the preservation of trees and eliminating the use of pesticides when alternative, non-toxic methods are available and better suited for the natural environment.

I am grateful for the opportunity to continue to work with the outstanding and dedicated members of the Sierra Club Executive Committee – Marin Group, and would greatly appreciate your vote.

Sincerely,
 Sharon Farrell

Pamela Ann Kahn



Residence: Sausalito

Occupation: Retired Elementary School Teacher

Sierra Club member since: 1997

Contact: pkahn@att.net, (415) 215-1773

Activities:

- Marin Chapter Executive Community Member 2023
- Marin Sierra Club Conservation Committee Member

Statement:

My advocacy work started as a student at COM where I was a member of Students for Social Responsibility- I went door to door in my neighborhood to promote a nuclear freeze. Next, I joined my HUD housing board as a resident and voiced concerns over their pesticide use. As a 30 year educator in SF, I organized a school-wide Ocean Beach clean-up and I taught environmental education to my students, including taking my students on many field trips to learn about nature and instill in children an appreciation for places like: Fitzgerald Marine Preserve Tide Pools, a Petaluma sheep and llama farm, Muir Woods, Botham Marsh, Golden Gate Park's Botanical Garden and Children's Garden and Crissy field where students learned about protecting marine life. We also visited Museums like the SF Academy of Sciences and the Randall Museum to learn about animals and ocean, bay and rainforest environments. Additionally, I taught my students about the accomplishments and struggles of oppressed groups in our country.

As a member of the Marin Sierra Club, I hope to assist with land, air and water habitat conservation and health, conversion to clean energy and ensure all folks have access to adequate housing. I'd also like to advocate for clear recycling rules and discourage plastic use.

Since I have retired in 2020, I have volunteered as a reading tutor in San Rafael Schools. In addition, I've hiked around Marin, and enjoyed taking photos and then creating watercolor paintings of the natural beauty I see. Furthermore, I am continuing to educate myself on various important current event topics that impact our world and develop skills I already have and learn new skills too. Some skills, like writing, teaching and conversing with folks will hopefully help my current and future work for the Sierra Club.

Julia Nolte-Sasselli



Residence: San Rafael

Occupation: Assistant / Social Media Marketing and Management

Sierra Club member since: August 2023

Activities:

- Various cleanups and educational events

Statement:

I am a recent immigrant from Germany and want to make an impact on my new community. During my time in Germany I wasn't involved with one specific organization but rather helped at various clean-ups and participated in informational events.

Recycling, natural habitats for native animals and sustain-

able living are currently my main interests, though I want to help with any issue that needs my support.

As a young adult, I want to ensure a healthy and sustainable environment for current and future generations. I want to be part of the Sierra Club ExCom to be able to reach young adults and spread helpful and meaningful information about important issues regarding environmental and humanitarian issues. May it be through writing emails, speaking at events or simply spreading information online, I want to help the Sierra Club in any way possible.

It is our responsibility to improve our planet for all living organisms, no matter how big or small. As a potential member of the Sierra Club ExComm I know I could make change possible.

Sam Penrose



Residence: Tamalpais

Occupation: Director of Engineering

Contact: sampenrose@gmail.com, (510) 290-1042

Statement:

My advocacy work started as a student at COM where I was a meMy name is Sam Penrose. I've resided in Marin since 2000. I spent my first night in a tent at age 8, my first week backpacking at age 12, and my first week in the Sierra at age 14. I've identified as an environmentalist since before I could vote and as a climate hawk since 2009. I hike in the Marin headlands every week. Fauna I've photographed include a white tailed kite, a bobcat, a tarantula hawk wasp (two days ago), and rubber boas (who knew?).

My civic volunteering in the county has included serving on school committees and canvassing for bonds to expand parks. I'm working in my third clean energy role, decarbonizing road transportation. My team's first project is managing power for electric school buses across the Bay in Richmond in partnership with the California Energy Commission. In the last four months I have spoken to three different college classes about how to find impactful work on climate change. Thank you for considering my candidacy. I hope it will advance decarbonization and protect Marin's natural heritage.

Shea Putman

No candidate statement submitted.

Jinesse Reynolds



Residence: San Anselmo

Occupation: Reuse Consultant

Sierra Club member since: 6/19

Activities:

- Chair Sierra Club Marin Group
- Chair/Rep SF Pol Com
- Co-Chair SC Sub Committee "Plastic Free Marin"

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- Life-long Outdoor Enthusiast enjoying both water and mountain activities

Statement:

I am inspired to continue working together with the Marin Group Executive Committee. I am proud to work and learn alongside strong advocates on this committee. Together we have accomplished positive change from supporting and leading residents at Golden Gate Village to a green revitalization plan to writing policy and leading Marin County jurisdictions (except one) to adopt the Reusable Foodware Ordinance that will reduce waste focusing on moving to reusables.

I am the current chair of the Marin Executive Committee and have chaired for over two years. I also chair the San Francisco Political Committee representing the Marin Group and have for four years. Co-chair of PlasticFree Marin. Our group is very active and takes on many important Marin issues concerning conservation and equity.

Through my four year experience I have met a network of change-makers, stakeholders, NGO's and government officials. I have learned that "Sierra Club's" activism matters and makes a difference.

My mantra is to always stay curious. In doing so, I naturally spend time researching and making an effort to understand both sides of issues. I believe we need all hands on deck to expedite local and global policy that inspires behavior change in order to move toward a liveable future on this planet. I am committed to this effort in Marin County.

Sam Ruben

Residence: Sausalito

Occupation: Co-Founder/Senior Sustainability Advisor

Sierra Club member since: Renewed in 2023

Contact: sam.ruben@gmail.com

Activities:

- MarinCAN Board Chair
- WEF G20 Sustainability Taskforce Core Member
- Build It Green California Housing System Innovator's Network Steering Committee
- Senior Fellow Global Urban Development
- Advisor Transformative Leadership Program – Cal State East Bay
- Sausalito Sustainability Commission 2016-2020

Statement:

The IPCC has made it clear that we have maybe 10 years to essentially change everything if we want a world where humanity and other life can thrive. This is a critical juncture in history, the actions and decisions we make now will determine the world we leave to future generations. In service of this, I have dedicated my life to equitably responding to the climate crisis.

I am a Co-Founder & Senior Sustainability Advisor for Mighty Buildings, an Oakland-based 3D printing company sustainably unlocking productivity in the construction sector. I have crafted groundbreaking California laws to reduce embodied carbon in the built environment (AB 2446 & AB 43); I



also work to craft model embodied carbon reduction policies for cities around the world via the WEF G20 Sustainability Taskforce. In my personal life I serve as Board Chair of MarinCAN, formerly Drawdown Marin, which serves as a hub for climate action to catalyze and amplify the work of organizations across the county, among other related activities.

I am running because I believe deeply in the Sierra Club's work and its role in bringing about a more resilient/regenerative world that recognizes the role that we as humans play in the ecosystem and the potential to change the way we build, the way we travel, and the way we live via innovation to bring the system back into balance so that life may thrive into the future.

Please contact me at sam.ruben@gmail.com with any questions. I am grateful for your consideration.

Jennifer Silva

Residence: Sausalito

Occupation: Retired (formerly, CEO of Sheet Music Plus)

Sierra Club member since: 2023

Contact: jrskis@gmail.com, (415) 609-4671

Activities:

- Board chair of Marin Environmental Housing Collaborative and Kids Cooking for Life
- Treasurer for the Oxbow School
- Board member YPO Gold

Statement:

I am pleased to present my candidacy for the Executive Committee or the Marin Chapter of the Sierra Club. The beauty and extensive outdoor space drew me to Marin County eight years ago. I am an avid hiker and sometimes trail runner, and so I have great appreciation for our beautiful natural environment. This appreciation heightened during Covid, when outdoor hikes became one of my few safe social activities.

Yet, we face serious environmental challenges. As a Sausalito resident, I am reminded of the threat of global warming with every high tide. We regularly experience flooded, impassable streets. On several occasions, the sole entrance and exit to Marin City has been flooded to the point of blocking all access to this community.

My care for our natural environment is what has drawn me to the Sierra Club. The ability to spend time in the natural world is good for both our body and soul. Marin's natural environment is special. Marin has a deep history of environmental activism, and we need to fulfill our legacy to address the challenges that are facing us. We need to preserve what we have and ensure that all residents have access to our natural environment. We must promote a healthy environment for all, including emissions, particle pollution and noise pollution. And we need to address global warming and sea level rise.

As a member of several non-profit boards, I have deep experience in non-profit organizational governance. I have worked to recruit members, recruit board members, raise money, clarify objectives. As a retiree, I have time to commit to these tasks. If elected, I will work hard for the Sierra Club.



Jaque Thier

Statement:

I would like to be part of the Sierra Club Marin Group because I am very interested in environmental science and would love to do my part in improving the environment.

I am a Sierra Club Member, I joined my mom in multiple meetings that increased my interest in the organization. I am a High School student, currently taking AP Environmental Science. I want to preserve the earth for my generation and for future generations and help teach other high school students. I have participated in many activities to help the environment, including a marshland tour, did a hike, volunteered at a public garden in San Francisco, picked up trash on sidewalks in an effort to support a clean environment, and I participated in beach clean-ups.

My priorities are sustainability and climate change and I hope I can count on your support.



Thomas Tunny

No candidate statement submitted.

MOUNT DIABLO GROUP

There are two candidates. You may vote for two or fewer.

Beth Bittle

Residence: Lafayette

Occupation: Adventure tour guide

Sierra Club member since: 2014

Activities:

- Rainbow Sierrans Outings Leader 2014 - present
- National Sierra Club Outings Leader 2015 - present
- Chair - Rainbow Sierrans Governing Committee 2015 - 2018, 2019-2022
- Nominations and Elections Committee 2018-2020, 2021-2022
- Michener Award for outings leadership 2018

Statement:

I am an avid outdoors person. I love to spend as much of my time as possible camping, hiking, kayaking or cycling. If elected, I hope to bring new people into the Sierra Club by promoting access and inclusion, as well as helping young people and families connect to the Sierra Club. In addition, I will advocate for the preservation of parks and open spaces, protection of habitat and wildlife in the Mt. Diablo region, as well as the expansion of safer cycling routes.



Mark Van Landuyt

Residence: Danville

Occupation: The Center For Social Epidemiology, Communications & Outreach Director

Sierra Club member since: 2019

Contact: hepjazz@yahoo.com

Activities:

- Chapter Political Committee
- Chapter Executive Committee
- Chair of Mount Diablo Group
- Chair of Green New Deal Committee

Statement:

This is a crucial moment for our Nation.

This is a pivotal moment for our Planet.

Defining moment for our species.

Mount Diablo Group aims to help build a foundation in Contra Costa for a healthier, more equitable clean-energy future for all living beings.

I am very proud of Mount Diablo Group's activities — from spearheading the Green-Blue New Deal for the city of Richmond, to education efforts at Mount Diablo State Park, to electing environmental and conservation champions into elected office.

It would be a honor to serve as Group chair for another term.

And for all residents in the Mount Diablo area, you are cordially invited to join our meetings and actives.

The future needs you.

Thank you all.

You can contact me at hepjazz@yahoo.com.



NORTHERN ALAMEDA COUNTY GROUP

There are nine candidates. You may vote for up to five.

Ross Bernet

Residence: Berkeley

Occupation: Monitoring Manager, One Tree Planted

Sierra Club member since: 2020

Contact: ross.bernet@gmail.com, (858) 692-1872

Activities:

- GIS Land Trust Mapping Non Profit Support
- Bay Geo internship program volunteer

Statement:

Hello! I've been an environmentalist since my undergraduate degree days at UCLA studying Environmental Science and a long fan of the Sierra Club. After that, I worked with an NGO in Haiti, planting trees. I also earned my Masters from Yale School of Forestry. I proudly consider myself a tree hugger.

Over time, I've realized that urban sustainability is one of the biggest challenges we face. Our nation's cities are overwhelmingly car-centric, and we're not making the necessary



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changes quickly enough to make our cities more sustainable by providing alternatives to cars.

I applaud the Sierra Club's advocacy efforts, particularly the conservation and reducing coal usage campaigns, but I believe we should become stronger advocates for urban sustainability. The solution is clear: reducing car usage, achieved through denser housing and enhanced public transit and bike lane infrastructure. This will cut emissions and combat urban sprawl. I'm running for the Sierra Club Northern Alameda County Group to champion these changes, creating more affordable and eco-friendly cities for future generations.

As a California native who moved to Berkeley in 2020, I plan to make this my home base. I'm dedicated to assisting the Sierra Club in providing science-based recommendations for urban sustainability in addition to all the other environmental issues we all care about.

I seek your support to guide the Sierra Club towards a more bicycle- and public transit-friendly stance, addressing climate change at its source. Together, we can foster a greener, more sustainable Bay Area.

James Chiong

No candidate statement submitted.

Maxwell Davis

Residence: Oakland

Occupation: Hardware Engineering Manager

Sierra Club member since: 2021

Activities:

- Sierra Club Northern Alameda County Conservation Committee
- Urban Environmentalists, Lead
- East Bay for Everyone, Board Member

Statement:

With climate impacts being acutely felt along our shorelines and our wildfire prone areas, we need to move swiftly to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions and protect our communities and biodiversity. I have a track record of advocating in cities across Alameda County for healthy communities, more connected infrastructure, and infill housing. We need to protect our shorelines and our open spaces and we can do this by making sure housing is built in the right places.

While climate change and environmental policy can often feel too "big" for local action, many of the decisions affecting our environment are made at the local level. I will focus on activating our communities to be more resilient to flood, wildfire, and other realities of climate change.

Through the Sierra Club and East Bay for Everyone I have contributed to letters on a variety of local issues. This includes opposing sprawl development along the Area 4 Shoreline in Newark, in partnership with Greenbelt Alliance and Citizens to Complete the Refuge, and through the Sierra Club, asking Alameda County to clean up an old gas station site in Rockridge.



I hope to continue this work as a member of the Executive Committee and prioritize the following:

- Fight climate change and make the Bay Area more resilient to its impacts
- Promote climate-friendly infill housing to reduce sprawl
- Protect our shorelines to maintain safety and biodiversity
- Encourage cities to build more safe and walkable streets to reduce car dependency
- Host more social and community events throughout Northern Alameda County to build connections with local allies and activists in the community and bring in younger members

Sophie Hahn

Residence: Berkeley

Occupation: Berkeley City Councilmember & SF Bay Restoration Authority Governing Board Member

Sierra Club member since: 1992

Activities:

- (Current) Berkeley City Council, District 5
- SF Bay Restoration Authority Governing Board
- Sierra Club Northern Alameda County Group Executive and Conservation Committees
- Berkeley Board of Library Trustees
- Alameda County Waste Management Authority
- Association of Bay Area Governments
- Oakland Airport Noise Forum
- Founder, Berkeley Edible Gardens Initiative & Berkeley Basket Urban CSA
- (Past) Co-Chair, 15th CA Assembly District Environmental Task Force
- Berkeley Zoning Adjustments Board
- Co-Convener, Berkeley Deep Green Building
- Chair, Berkeley Commission on the Status of Women
- Board, Planned Parenthood
- President, King Middle School PTA

Statement:

It is my honor to serve on the Berkeley City Council and SF Bay Restoration Authority Governing Board, championing environmental progress in both capacities, and to have served since 2011 on the NACG Executive Committee, including as Chair. Over these twelve years, evidence of the damage wrought by climate change and pollution has escalated dramatically, increasing the urgency to act decisively. Persistent discrimination and injustice present another set of existential threats that require our urgent attention. The Sierra Club plays a critical role in securing a sustainable future across the United States, and the globe. But no great progress is made without local action, and it's imperative that diverse, active, environmentally and socially conscious regions like ours lead the way to address both the climate and social justice emergencies. I authored internationally acclaimed anti-plastics legislation, co-authored Berkeley's ban on natural gas in new buildings, and advocated to establish East Bay Community Energy, bringing 100% clean and renewable energy to every Alameda County household. I'm dedicated to using my lo-



cal voice and leadership with the Sierra Club to make change in our region — and inspire change across the globe — to achieve a just and sustainable future. I respectfully ask for your vote, and look forward to continuing to serve you.

Kelly Hammargren

Residence: Berkeley

Occupation: RN, PHN, Retired from Health Care Management, Writer

Sierra Club member since: 1993

Contact: kellyhammargren@gmail.com

Activities:

- Northern Alameda County Conservation Committee Member
- Board Member: Citizens for East Shore Parks

Statement:

We have both a climate crisis and a biodiversity crisis. Addressing Climate consumes our attention. It is biodiversity, ecosystems, habitat, nature that makes our human existence tolerable, possible and pleasurable. Nature is not something that just happens outside the boundaries of our densifying cities. Nature is also in our cities. Whether we have a biodiverse urban environment depends on priorities, design and what is planted if anything is planted at all. This has been the focus of my activism of the recent years and will be my focus if you chose to vote for me.

Making a place for native trees in our cities with large canopies is the difference between moderating microclimates in our warming urban environment or turning cities into deadly urban heat islands. In the Portland, Oregon 2021 heat dome the city high temperature was 116° while poor areas of Portland filled with concrete suffered under 124°.

On October 5, 2023, the bodies of 961 migrating birds were found outside of the McCormick Place Lakeside Center in Chicago, the most birds recorded to have died from bird-glass collisions in one night at one building. While weather played a part, bright lights and lots of glass are a known hazard to migrating birds.

I was one of the two people credited by the Golden Gate Bird Alliance (formerly Golden Gate Audubon) with pulling the Berkeley Bird Safe Ordinance off the bottom of the Planning Commission to do list where it sat for over two years.

Seven of the fourteen not recommended bird safe ordinances are right here in the Bay Area. We can do better.

I am committed to a world where nature is part of the urban and wild environment. Where watersheds are protected and enhanced. Where habitat, ecosystems, planting for birds and pollinators is the plan.



Melinda Howard-Herrarte

Statement:

I strongly believe in the goals and mission of the Sierra Club. Urgent, equitable,



climate action at the local level is critical. We maximize our impact when everyone has a seat at the table, so I'm particularly interested in finding ways to promote equity and inclusion at all levels of leadership in the Northern Alameda County Group, the Bay Chapter and the Club. I've been honored to serve as Group ExComm Chair since January of this year, and have previously held Vice Chair, and other roles including being active in several Chapter and Group committees, work groups, and task forces. If elected to a third term on the NAC, I'd like to continue to explore creative ideas for local and global partnerships to fight the climate crisis, and work on environmental justice and climate action initiatives.

I live in Berkeley and work full time as a project manager for a local not-for-profit healthcare company. I split my volunteer time between Sierra Club and the United Nations Association (UNA), where I serve on the National Council, and in leadership roles in my local Chapter and the Northern California Division. With UNA, I help educate about and advocate for the UN's sustainable development goals.

Andy Katz

Residence: Berkeley

Occupation: Environment / Workers' Rights Attorney

Sierra Club member since: 2002

Contact: andy@andykatz.com

Activities:

- Northern Alameda County Group Executive Committee (2005-2023)
- Sierra Club California Chair (2011-2012) and California Legislative Committee (2007-2023)
- Former chair Bay Chapter Transportation Committee
- Sierra Club delegate to UN climate negotiations (2009-2023)
- Director, East Bay Municipal Utility District

Statement:

I joined the Sierra Club after working on the San Francisco Bay Chapter's successful campaign to establish an urban limit line for Alameda County in the November 2000 election. The challenges of protecting our climate and natural resources will continue to persist. Sierra Club must maintain its strong environmental advocacy and build our grassroots so members can be a part of the process.

My areas of conservation expertise include air quality and climate change, renewable energy, transportation, land use and housing, and water. Professionally, I work as an environmental and workers' rights attorney, previously worked as an affordable housing developer, and am trained as a city planner. As a board member of the East Bay Municipal Utility District, I fought hard to defeat the proposal to expand Pardee Reservoir because of the impacts flooding miles of the Mokelumne River, now protected as a California wild and scenic river, and worked to double investment in water conservation programs and ensure drought resilience.

In my role on the California Legislative Committee, I have worked closely with our activists and staff to ensure our legis-



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lative advocacy program remains strong by defending CEQA and advancing California’s clean energy and climate laws. Our membership needs to grow to reflect the diversity of California, and get more members actively involved with our mission. I am running for re-election to the Northern Alameda County Executive Committee to contribute my experience in environmental policy and community organizing in continuing service for our environmental movement. I welcome your feedback — write me with your ideas and questions at andy@andykatz.com.

Phyllis Orrick



Residence: Berkeley

Occupation: Retired

Sierra Club member since: March 2023

Contact: poberkeley@gmail.com, (510) 374-8107

Activities:

- 15 year founding member Schoolhouse Creek Common Garden
- 20-year Literacy volunteer Berkeley Public Schools
- Member Berkeley Commission on Aging

Statement:

As a resident of Berkeley City Council District 1, in the Berkeley flats, I have worked to elect and re-elect Rashi Kesarwani, a strong advocate for more housing and greater density and access to high-resourced neighborhoods, as well as a tireless champion of identifying and answering the housing needs of Berkeley’s large unsheltered population.

I’ve also supported other pro-housing electeds, including CMs Terry Taplin, Rigel Robinson, and Mark Humbert, AM Buffy Wicks, and Sen Nancy Skinner.

I’ve lobbied with CA YIMBY and, as a member of the Berkeley Aging Commission, am working to promote policies to make it possible for the 22,000 Berkeley residents over 60 to remain in our community and enrich our cultural fabric—policies such as promoting human-scale mobility options and multi-generational and affordable senior housing.

I have attended dozens of meetings to promote more housing construction and advocate for safe human-scale mobility for road users of all ages and abilities—a key tool in reducing Berkeley’s climate changing carbon emissions.

Personally, three years ago, my family came together and built an ADU behind our house in the Berkeley flats, creating a three-generation household that includes a BUSD employee, thereby reducing car commutes and substituting them with more walking and bicycling for our household.

We are now raising a second-generation student in the Berkeley public schools, where I have been until recently a long-time volunteer.

Terry Taplin



Residence: Berkeley

Occupation: Berkeley City Councilmember

Sierra Club member since: 2019

Contact: Terryataplin@gmail.com, (510) 859-6331

Activities:

- East Bay Community Energy, Alternate
- Alameda County Transportation Commission, Alternate
- California League of Cities, Delegate
- Wasterville Workshops, Board Member
- Berkeley Public Schools Fund, Board Member

Statement:

We have both a climate crisis and a biodiversity crisis. Add As a City Council representative of West Berkeley, environmental justice and climate equity have been at the core of my service.

I grew up here, and as a child treasured access to the Berkeley Marina and Tilden. I still do. I understand deeply the need to maintain access to city and regional parks for low-income households and residents of color. I’ve also spent my adult life observing the impacts of climate change in real-time and have no delusion regarding the urgency of bold transformative action and the role of local governments. I’ve worked closely with the Club on these issues and have greatly appreciated the support and collaboration, as well as the thoughtful deliberation of the Northern Alameda County group executive committee.

On the Berkeley Council, I’ve championed policies for drought-resistant landscaping on city property and the remediation of toxic soil and groundwater, expanding green infrastructure and green transportation, and have spearheaded local Green New Deal initiatives to effectuate a just transition to a fossil-free economy. I’ve also been a stalwart defender of equitable access to recreation space and green space for marginalized youth, and have been a vocal proponent of biodiversity on the Berkeley Waterfront.

As a member of NACG’s executive committee, I will bring years of public service and community organizing and laser-sharp focus on equity, resiliency, and environmental justice. I will work tirelessly to uphold the Sierra Club’s values of environmental stewardship and climate action while engaging historically excluded marginalized communities.

SAN FRANCISCO GROUP

There are eight candidates. You may vote for up to five.

Sarah Boudreau



Residence: San Francisco

Occupation: Geotechnical Engineer at Langan Engineering & Environmental Services, Inc.

Sierra Club member since: 2022

Contact: boudreau.sarah.m@gmail.com, (508) 983-4372

Activities:

- Co-Chair of Sustainability & Resilience Committee for Urban Land Institute San Francisco Chapter
- Ambassador Team Member for Golden Gate Triathlon Club
- Former District 2 Representative on the San Francisco Board of Supervisors’ Bicycle Advisory Committee

Statement:

I am passionate about creating a sustainable, resilient, and safe San Francisco designed for all kinds of San Franciscans.

I'm optimistic about what the Sierra Club can help achieve in our city: reimagining San Francisco as we tackle climate change by electrifying and reducing carbon emissions and as we improve our resiliency by implementing nature-based solutions.

I hope to raise a family in a walkable and human-scaled San Francisco with homes near destinations, safe streets for families to get around sustainably on, and open spaces for all people to enjoy nature in, and I hope to engage the membership of this Sierra Club chapter to help enact this vision.

Endorsed by San Francisco Group Sierra Club leaders: Chair, Charles Whitfield, Vice-Chair, Brian Reyes, Executive Committee members Howard Strassner, Kieran Farr and Jeff Trull, Conservation Chair, Peter Belden, Transportation Chair, Rachel Rowland, Housing Chair, Danny Sauter and Political Chair, Chava Kronenberg Bear.

Eric Brooks

Residence: San Francisco

Occupation: Full Time Grassroots Organizer - Currently: Campaign Coordinator, Our City SF

Sierra Club member since: 1994

Contact: brookse.32@sonic.net

Activities:

- SF Group: Conservation, Housing, Transportation
- Bay Chapter: Water, California: Energy-Climate
- National: Grazing Team

Statement:

In four decades as a grassroots environmental, consumer, and justice organizer, I've been a field campaigner for CALPIRG, Sierra Club, Human Rights Campaign, Forests Forever, In Defense of Animals, and Our City SF, and I co-coordinate the San Francisco Bay Shoreline Contamination Cleanup Coalition (see sfbayshorelineccc.org)

I have helped, in many cases as the lead coordinator, to: Save Headwaters old growth redwood forest, block anti environmental WTO and FTAA 'free trade' negotiations, launch San Francisco's clean energy programs and defend them from PG&E attacks, stop a natural gas plant being built in SF's Bayview Hunters Point, defend The Bayview and Treasure Island from dangerous housing development on toxic and radioactive waste sites, and stop the pro coal Trump administration and Berkshire Hathaway corporation from taking private fossil fuel industry control over California's publicly managed, clean energy based electricity grid.

My top priorities are to:

- Reverse the global climate and extinction crisis through environmental justice centered local, state and national action for 100% localized clean renewable energy and transportation, and by eliminating destructive, wildlife destroying industrial agriculture.
- Anchor Sierra Club's work in Environmental and Economic Justice. While Sierra Club has made this a priority, it's vital we go beyond words and actually make the change



happen. I'll continue to use my work in the Bayview and Treasure Island to help make this real.

- Solve the housing crisis by first transforming our vast unused transit-ready urban office space, and thousands of existing vacant housing units, into affordable housing, so we don't need to build huge amounts of greenhouse gas intensive housing with diesel construction machines and cement.

Garen Checkley

Residence: San Francisco

Occupation: Product Manager (Digital Financial Inclusion for Brazil)

Sierra Club member since: 2015

Contact: GarenCheckley@gmail.com

Activities:

- Member, San Francisco Sierra Club Group Conservation Committee
- Member, San Francisco Sierra Club Group Housing Committee
- Member, San Francisco Bay Area Rainbow Sierrans

Statement:

Addressing climate change is my top focus. To do so, the city of San Francisco needs to adopt local policies that encourage use of speedy, predictable, and safe public transit, accelerate building decarbonization, and support urban infill housing, especially affordable units.

Yet despite my concern about climate change, I'm an optimist: I believe reducing our fossil fuel dependence will lead to a more enjoyable and healthy city. Walkable neighborhoods with outdoor car-free spaces bring communities together. Bike lanes offer a chance to enjoy the outdoors while commuting. Well funded public transit can be safer, faster, more comfortable, and less stressful than driving. Urban infill helps communities maintain affordability while reducing driving. I also believe local investment in climate mitigation and adaptation, like building decarbonization, can offer well-paying jobs to communities who have suffered environmental injustice.

Beyond supporting the aforementioned policies, I spread the word: In the past 12 months I've contributed pieces to the San Francisco Bay Chapter Sierra Club Yodeler, The San Francisco Chronicle, and The Frisc.

If elected I will champion local changes that impact our global climate, notably:

- improving public transit, bike lanes, and car-free spaces
- accelerating building decarbonization and efficiency upgrades
- supporting housing, especially affordable units, to reduce vehicle miles traveled

Outside of my advocacy, I'm an avid hiker and camper – both car camping and backpacking – with Yosemite being my favorite destination. While outside, I enjoy watercoloring, cooking (preferably over a campfire), performing piano (preferably at Flower Piano in Golden Gate Park), and reading (my latest recommendation is *The Invention of Nature* about Alexander von Humboldt, an influence of Sierra Club founder John



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Muir).

I commute daily on MUNI and bike, I can often be found running with my dog on car-free JFK.

Becky Evans

Residence: San Francisco
Occupation: Paralegal/retired
Sierra Club member since: 1969
Activities:



- Chapter Chair - 1981-84; 2014-16
- Council of Club Leaders (CCL) - Delegate/Alternate 2015-2022
- Sierra Club staff (SF Bay Chapter, national) - 1972-1987
- Chair, San Francisco Group - 2005, 2022, other
- Chapter Political Committee, at-large member
- Chapter Finance Committee, member
- Chapter Executive Committee - several terms since 1981
- Sierra Club Colby Library volunteer 2005-present
- People4/Parks
- 2014 Jack Morrison Medal, San Francisco Tomorrow
- 2017 Sierra Club Edward Bennett Lifetime Achievement Award
- 2018 SF Board of Supervisors' Certificate of Honor - for advocacy promoting the health of San Francisco Bay and Waterfront.

Statement:

Nominated by the Chapter Elections Committee, I am a candidate for the San Francisco Bay Chapter Executive Committee.

If elected to the Chapter Executive Committee, my focus will be on maintaining the Sierra Club as a grass roots organization, assuring the health of our 8 groups, our outings program, supporting our staff in their critical work and teaming with others to celebrate the SF Bay Chapter's Centennial.

It is essential for leaders to listen to all points of view, ask questions, make good decisions and to mentor new activists. My environmental priorities are parkland preservation, protection of San Francisco Bay, support for good public transportation, affordable housing and environmental laws.

I am proud to be a Life Member of the Sierra Club. As a Club activist, I have served on the San Francisco Bay Chapter Executive Committee, national committees protecting Yosemite and the Canyons of the Colorado River. I worked on the Sierra Club's Centennial Celebration, the 2005 International Assembly and the Honors & Awards Committee. I have hiked with the Bay Chapter, backpacked in the Sierra Nevada and the Alps, rafted the Colorado River and rode a dory down Utah's Green River.

I am among the many founders of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area; served on San Francisco first Environment Commission. My community work has focused on open space, parks (including The Presidio), waterfront, water issues (including wastewater) and transportation (Doyle Drive and SFTEP). I was the official proponent of 2014's Proposition B to lower the height limit on SF's waterfront.

As individuals and Sierra Club members, we must step up

to combat climate change - making choices every day - cutting personal energy use, recycling, driving less and participating in public forums including those to protect disadvantaged communities from toxics and other challenges. It truly takes a village.

Please vote for me for the San Francisco Bay Chapter Executive Committee.

Thank you.

Rachel Rowland

Statement:

I carry an unwavering dedication to our environment. As the daughter of forest firefighters, raised amidst the awe-inspiring Sierra Nevada mountains, the preservation of our natural world has always been an integral part of my life. I was brought up with an abiding reverence for the natural world and a profound desire to safeguard it for the generations to come.

To protect the environment, it's essential that we engage with others ardently advocating for the environment. In this noble pursuit, we must invest in enhancing our public transportation and connectivity. Recognizing that public transit infrastructure is the key to our future and that the climate crisis necessitates collective action, I believe the Sierra Club possesses the capacity to be a dynamic catalyst for positive change. San Francisco has always been a leader for driving change. Let's harness this potential to ignite transformative environmental policies.

While my journey with the Sierra Club may be relatively brief, it has been a profoundly enriching experience. It's provided me with the opportunity to engage with countless passionate members, and my aim is to open doors for others within our community, empowering them to be the drivers of lasting and positive change. Let us collectively steer San Francisco towards becoming a pioneering force for environmental advocacy. Together, we shall mobilize the knowledge and passion of our members, forging a formidable alliance to protect and preserve the environment we cherish.



Howard Strassner

Residence: San Francisco
Occupation: Retired Mechanical Engineer
Sierra Club member since: 1961
Contact: ruthow1@gmail.com, (510) 817-4288



Activities:

- SF Group: Executive; Conservation; Transportation and Housing Committees. Since I am retired I also serve as Secretary on these Committees to assist the Chairs and to provide SF and SC background.

Statement:

The Sierra Club started 130 years ago to preserve the wilderness when most people were not concerned, because they saw that there was still ample wilderness. Fifty years ago the SF Group took their first steps to support reducing the supply

of parking when most people, even Sierra Club members, were convinced that there was a shortage of parking. We supported innovative steps and urged for bigger steps to reduce parking as a means to reduce driving. Less parking has produced more taxis so we now have to be more innovative to support transit to reduce congestion.

But, we have another problem, the production of affordable housing. I along with the Excom have always supported the ballot measures and ordinances which tend to maintain and expand the supply of affordable housing. But, we also need additional market rate housing, near good transit, even if that means accepting greater height and density, in order to provide more affordable housing. This is National SC policies on housing and driving, which seeks to have more people live where they don't have to commute long distances and don't have to drive for most of their everyday needs.

Please support me again, for election to the SF Group Ex-Com so that I can have a part with the Sierra Club in our City's efforts to solve these problems.

Jeff Trull

Residence: San Francisco
Occupation: Software Engineer
Sierra Club member since: 2016



Activities:

- Chapter Executive Committee Group Representative 2023 - present
- Group Executive Committee Member 2023 - present
- Conservation Committee Member 2021 - present
- Transportation Committee Member 2021 - present

Statement:

The small towns of the South are not places you expect to find environmentalists, and yet my parents were. As a family we recycled and composted, and raised organic vegetables in a garden next to our house. Our vacations were to national parks or anyplace "educational". My ambition was to become a marine biologist - but then I discovered computers...

After college I moved to Colorado for my first job, and joined the Sierra Club. They taught me about the Rockies but also what I could do in my daily life to preserve the environment - particularly against the emerging threat of global warming. I learned that by cycling instead of driving I could improve my health while reducing carbon emissions. Upon moving to the Bay Area I added reuse (especially of electronics) and native plant propagation (in my backyard garden) to my list of interests.

Our greatest challenge today is climate change. Shrinking habitats, species extinctions, drought - these and many other problems are exacerbated by climate change. Furthermore, the burden of our warming planet falls heaviest on those with the fewest resources. To tackle climate change is to reduce ecological damage and support environmental justice, simultaneously.

In urban areas like San Francisco, we have a great opportunity to reduce our shared carbon footprint, by making it easy and convenient to travel without a car. That means advocating for transit and for active transportation, even when that makes driving less easy. It also means making room for more residents, to

reduce greenfield development and emissions from long-distance commuting. I hope to continue this vital work on the Executive Committee.

Howard Wong

Residence: San Francisco
Occupation: Architect (retired)
Sierra Club member since: 2009
Contact: wonggia@aol.com, (415) 982-5055



Activities:

- Member, San Francisco Group Executive Committee and Transportation Committee.
- San Francisco Tomorrow, Board of Directors (since 2007)
- Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) Policy Advisory Council and Equity & Access Subcommittee.
- Transbay Joint Powers Authority (TJPA) Stakeholders Group and Citizens Advisory Committee (since 2018)
- Central Waterfront Advisory Group (CWAG) and Southern Advisory Committee (SAC), Port of San Francisco (since 2006)
- SaveMUNI, founding member and officer (since 2008)
- Telegraph Hill Dwellers, Transportation Committee, Chair
- Current: NEXT Village SF, founding Board Member (aging-in-place nonprofit, since 2008); North Beach Neighborhood Court, Lead Adjudicator (since 2007); A Better Chinatown Tomorrow (ABCT), Co-chair; District 3 Democratic Club (President)
- Past: Pioneer Park Project at Coit Tower (founding member, public/ private partnership); AIA Minority Resources Committee (Chair); Civil Grand Jury; Muni Citizens Advisory Committee; Parks & Open Space Advisory Committee
- Past Boards: Chinese Historical Society of America (Vice-President); International Federation of Professional & Technical Engineers, Local 21 (President); Neighborhood Parks Council; San Francisco Heritage; SPUR; Telegraph Hill Dwellers (Vice-President)

Statement:

I am thrilled to run for reelection as a nominated candidate---to advance the Sierra Club's plans, policies and equity priorities. With its celebrated history of activism/ creativity/ innovation, San Francisco has an outsized role in scalable adaptations that can steer regional/ national/ global environmental strategies. Successful sustainable city models are essential for a decarbonized world. By 2050, 6.68 billion people and 68% of the world's population will live in urban areas. Cities account for over 70% of global CO2 emissions.

My experience focuses on the top sources of greenhouse gas emissions---transportation (28% of total U.S. greenhouse gas emissions) and buildings/ construction (37% of energy and process-related CO2 emissions and 34% of energy-demand).

Green/ livable/ smart urban concentration is opportunity for sustainable living, transformative economies, reductions in poverty/ pollution/ inequity and ecological restoration outside urban areas.

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SOUTHERN ALAMEDA COUNTY GROUP

There are two candidates. You may vote for up to two.

Kelly Abreu

Residence: Fremont

Occupation: engineer – retired

Sierra Club member since: 2017

Activities:

- Co-founder of Mission Peak Conservancy

Statement:

I grew up in the East Bay and am a long-time Fremont resident. I understand the need to preserve open space, protect creeks and wetlands while at the same time supporting planned urban-core development. Balancing environmental protection and social equity is vital to improving quality of life for all of us in the Bay Area.

Our community needs better access to nature through trails and well-managed park lands. I've worked to enact city and county ordinances to protect rural lands from inappropriate commercial development and enhance bike/ped safety by expanding multi-use trails through Niles Canyon and elsewhere. I've fought against red tape hindering improvement of regional parks such as Vargas Plateau and Coyote Hills. I worked with neighbors to keep motor vehicles out of Morrison Canyon and dedicate a new trail for pedestrians and bicyclists.

I ask for your support so I can help the Sierra Club Southern Alameda County Group to protect social equity.



Vinnie Bacon

No candidate statement submitted.

TRI-VALLEY GROUP

There are three candidates. You may vote for up to three.

Donna Cabanne

Residence: Livermore

Occupation: Teacher, retired

Sierra Club member since: 1980

Activities:

- Tri-Valley Ex. Comm. from 2000
- SF Bay Chapter Ex. Comm from 2022
- Education Advisory Board for Recycling 2000 to 2016
- Altamont Landfill Monitor Committee from 2000

Statement:

Hello Fellow Environmentalists !!! Let's take action for a greener environment and reduce the effects of climate change.

If re-elected, I will focus on:



- 1) Working for cleaner air and drinking water in the Tri-Valley
2. Protecting Measure D and the North Livermore UGB, both preserve open space
3. Reducing climate change by supporting solar panels in the built environment FIRST.
4. Advocating for Tesla Park to be classified as a State Reserve

Cleaner air remains a top priority for the Tri-Valley. Lead is a dangerous neurotoxin and leaded aviation fuel is the largest source of lead air pollution. The BAAQMD states eliminating lead aviation fuel is "an urgent public health priority". The Livermore Airport needs to start selling UL100 av fuel as an option.

Water is also a critical resource. How do we deal with future water shortages?. How do we remove PFAS from our water supply? How do we determine the source of PFAS? We need to continue our efforts to secure cleaner drinking water.

We recently sponsored a table at the Livermore Youth Climate Summit. I was inspired by the knowledge and enthusiasm of high school students; 28 signed up to become Sierra Club members!! Working together—encouraging all age groups and backgrounds—we can address the many environmental issues we face.

I have had the honor of serving on the Tri-Valley Executive Committee for twenty years. What are your concerns and interests? I welcome your feedback and your participation. I respectfully ask for your vote so we can make the Tri-Valley a safer environment for our families, and our future.

Lynn Seppala

Residence: Livermore

Occupation: Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, optical scientist National Ignition Facility (retired)

Sierra Club member since: 1977

Activities:

- Vice chair 2022
- Chair 2023

Statement:

In 1977, I met my future wife on a Sierra Club hike on Pleasanton Ridge during which the leaders emphasized the need for a park. In 1980, residents defeated a referendum for ridge-top developments. In 1988, the East Bay Regional Park District purchased land, creating the Pleasanton Ridge Regional Park. Citizen involvement was essential.

I became active in other campaigns to preserve open space. I knocked on doors urging passage of Alameda County's Measure D, defining agricultural land use policies. I collected petition signatures that helped convince the Livermore City Council to adopt an Urban Growth Boundary.

For decades, Measure D, Tri-Valley cities' UGBs, and South Livermore Valley Area Plan have protected agricultural lands, saving endangered plants and animals, and preserving scenic corridors.

Measure D is under attack from groups similar to those who proposed in North Livermore a large crematorium and the



Pardee Homes Development that would have destroyed environmentally sensitive areas. With citizen support, those efforts were thwarted, but this is no time to relax. The County has authorized a 400-acre solar installation and cemetery complex, ignoring Measure D while failing to formulate a land use policy.

My 37 years at LLNL was spent developing alternative energy sources. We must limit the effects of global warming, while heeding the Club's mission to protect our Tri-Valley's habitat, ecosystems and scenic corridors.

I bring management experience, with many leadership roles – President, Chair or Vice Chair for: Las Positas College Foundation, Chabot Las Positas College Bond Oversight Committee and three other nonprofit arts organizations. I was treasurer for Friends of Open Space and Vineyards and now for the Livermore Amador Symphony.

I welcome your support and trust in me that I will adhere to the Club's policies protecting our Tri-Valley's environment.

Erik Sommargren

Residence: Livermore

Occupation: Technical Writer and Writing Tutor

Sierra Club member since: Intermittent member since 1998; renewed in 2023

Statement:

I was born and raised in the Tri-Valley area and later received a B.S. in Geology from UC Santa Barbara and a M.S. in Civil and Environmental Engineering from UC Berkeley. As a former geologist and earth science teacher, I am fascinated by the tectonics, hydrogeology and surface water hydrology of this region. My interests lie in groundwater supply and quality issues in the Tri-Valley, which include (1) the sustainable management of regional groundwater resources and (2) the characterization, monitoring, and mitigation of PFAS contamination in the Livermore Valley Groundwater Basin. I seek to work collaboratively with members of local water agencies so that the water policy concerns and goals of the Tri-Valley Sierra Club and the community are addressed. I possess the willingness and ability to accept new challenges, lead projects effectively, listen actively to others, communicate clearly and succinctly, honor all perspectives, and maintain objectivity when making decisions. In my spare time, I enjoy hiking and paddleboarding with my wife and two sons in the wild spaces of the Tri-Valley and beyond.



WEST CONTRA COSTA COUNTY GROUP

There are two candidates. You may vote for two or fewer.

Norman La Force

Residence: El Cerrito, California

Occupation: Lawyer

Sierra Club member since: Life Member

Activities:



- Chapter Chair: 1991-1993; 2009-20012;
- Chapter Executive Committee: 1985- Present
- Chair, East Bay Public Lands Committee (formerly East Shore State Park Task Force): 1984-Present;
- Chapter Political Committee: 1991-Present;
- Chapter Legal Chair: 1984-Present;
- West County Group Chair: 2004-Present

Statement:

You know me as the Chapter leader on parks and open space for the past 40+ years. I led the effort to create the McLaughlin East Shore State Park and saving the shoreline for parks and open space. I also have led our effort to save Point Molate as future Regional Park which now appears to be successful. In 2014 I received the East Bay Regional Park District's award for Citizen Advocacy in working to make Crab Cove in Alameda part of the Crown Beach State Park. In 2010 the Chapter honored me for my service to the Chapter and Sierra Club. In 2004 the Sierra Club awarded me its William Penn Mott Award for park advocacy.

As a member of the West County Group ExCom, I have lead worked to preserve the West County Shoreline, clean up toxic sites like the Zeneca site, to stop Chevron from refining the heavy tar sands for oil, to keep heavy tar sands oil from being refined in West County and shipped out of West County, and to keep dirty coal from being transported through the Bay Area in open rail cars causing pollution and contamination to our neighborhoods.

I have also been a major donor to the Chapter and have led successful fundraising campaigns for the Chapter. I have also represented the Sierra Club pro bono in lawsuits as its lawyer.

As a member of the Group, I will continue our strong advocacy on issues that matter to Sierra Club both locally, statewide, nationally, and internationally. We still have to create a major park at Point Molate, save more of the Richmond shoreline from development, keep Chevron from polluting our neighborhoods, and try to reverse climate change and sea level rise.

Lisa Park

Residence: Richmond

Occupation: Environmental Health Specialist

Sierra Club member since: 1981

Activities:

- West CoCo Treasurer
- West CoCo Nominations Committee member for candidates for local offices

Statement:

I joined the Sierra Club many years ago because I loved the outdoors, especially the forests, and wanted to protect them. After Donald Trump won the 2016 election, I asked myself what I can do on a local level to counterbalance his agenda with one that advances justice, democracy, science and environmental protection. I decided to volunteer for the Sierra Club. I began volunteering at the now-defunct Chapter office and attending the monthly West CoCo Group Executive Committee meetings. I gradually learned more about how the Sierra Club works and



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2023 Sierra Club SF Bay Chapter Election Ballot:

Please vote for the Chapter Executive Committee and your local group Executive Committee. Candidate names have been listed in alphabetical order by last name. Mark your ballot with black or blue ink. Please make your selections legible and keep your marks within the boxes. If you mismatch your ballot, you may make a correction in a manner that clearly indicates your intended vote.

Once you have made your selections, cut out this page, place the ballot in a stamped envelope, and mail it to: Ballot Submission, Sierra Club SF Bay Chapter, P.O. Box 2663, Berkeley, CA 94702. Paper ballots sent by fax or email will not be counted. The mailing label printed on the reverse of your ballot, which includes your unique membership number, will indicate it's valid. Your ballot must be **received** by Wednesday, December 13th.

If you prefer to vote online, visit sierraclub.org/sfbay/chapter-elections. For further instructions on voting and submitting your ballot, see page 10. The 2023 Chapter Nominations and Elections Committee thanks you for voting!

cut here

CHAPTER EX COM (vote for 5 or fewer)	Single member/ first joint member	2nd joint member
John J. Bauters		
Chava Bear		
Chance Cutrano		
Becky Evans		
Kelly Hammargren		
Martha Kreeger		
Brian Quan		
Paul Seger		
Bob Venning		
Scott Webb		

MARIN GROUP EX COM (vote for 6 or fewer)	Single member/ first joint member	2nd joint member
Chance Cutrano		
Sharon Farrell		
Pamela Ann Kahn		
Julia Nolte-Sasselli		
Sam Penrose		
Shea Putman		
Jinesse Reynolds		
Sam Ruben		
Jennifer Silva		
Jaque Thier		
Thomas Tunny		

MOUNT DIABLO GROUP EX COM (vote for 2 or fewer)	Single member/ first joint member	2nd joint member
Beth Bittle		
Mark Van Landuyt		

NORTHERN ALAMEDA COUNTY GROUP EX COM (vote for 5 or fewer)	Single member/ first joint member	2nd joint member
Ross Bernet		
James Chiong		
Maxwell Davis		
Sophie Hahn		
Kelly Hammargren		
Melinda Howard-Herrarte		
Andy Katz		
Phyllis Orrick		
Terry Taplin		

SAN FRANCISCO GROUP EX COM (vote for 5 or fewer)	Single member/ first joint member	2nd joint member
Sarah Boudreau		
Eric Brooks		
Garen Checkley		
Becky Evans		
Rachel Rowland		
Howard Strassner		
Jeff Trull		
Howard Wong		

SOUTHERN ALAMEDA COUNTY GROUP EX COM (vote for 2 or fewer)	Single member/ first joint member	2nd joint member
Kelly Abreu		
Vinnie Bacon		

TRI-VALLEY GROUP EX COM (vote for 3 or fewer)	Single member/ first joint member	2nd joint member
Donna Cabanne		
Lynn Seppala		
Erik Sommargren		

WEST CONTRA COSTA COUNTY GROUP EX COM (vote for 2 or fewer)	Single member/ first joint member	2nd joint member
Norman La Force		
Lisa Park		



#SierraSnapshots | Meadowhawk. Photo by Rick Lewis. 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.

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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

- Chapter elections now open! Vote for your local Sierra Club representatives by December 13th (p. 9 - 27)
- Art walks and hikes galore (p. 4)
- Get trained on wilderness first aid in Palo Alto (p. 6)
- Remembering Marjorie Macris (p. 8)

EMAIL

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