

# Sierra Club YODELER

THE NEWSPAPER OF THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY CHAPTER ♦ SPRING 2024



- ♦ HOPE REMAINS FOR NO COAL IN OAKLAND ♦
- ♦ WASTEWATER DISCHARGERS CAN KEEP OUR BAY HEALTHY ♦
- ♦ HERON AND THE GREEN CRAYON VISITS OUR SHORES ♦
- ♦ POINT MOLATE MOVES EVER CLOSER TO BECOMING A PARK ♦

## LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Sierra Club friends and supporters,

We are wishing you a healthy and productive New Year!

At the Sierra Club, the new year means new leadership. I am joined by Vice Chair Scott Webb as your new leadership team, and we have welcomed additional emerging leaders in more than half of our groups across the Bay Area. We're honored and excited to grow the movement together! And, as we shift to new leadership, I want to recognize the incredible work of our prior Chair Chance Cutrano, who has led the way in building powerful collaborations across the Bay.

There has never been a more pivotal moment to recommit to this movement we are building. We all face unprecedented challenges from climate change daily, but Scott and I remain hopeful that we can seize this moment with our whole hearts. There is a path to victory for all of us if we rise together and take action.

2024 is already setting records across the Bay Area, California, and around the globe. For the first time in recorded history, the European Union's Copernicus Climate Change Service reported a rise in global mean temperature of 1.5 degrees Celsius above the 1850-1900 pre-industrial average, and January 2024 is the warmest month on record. In California, February brought "once in a thousand year" rainfall totals.

Sierra Club SF Bay Chapter is uniquely situated to take action now. Here is a snapshot of how we're making an impact:

- Point Molate is one step closer to becoming a regional park (read more on page 7);
- The Pinole Ordinance is advancing to block new gas station infrastructure, and groups across the Chapter are taking steps to do the same;
- We're working to support electrification and partnering with labor to take advantage of Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) funding - \$8.8 billion available through the Department of Energy's Home Energy Rebate Programs; and
- We've endorsed more than 40+ environmentally-focused campaigns and measures across the Bay Area, so be sure to read up on endorsements online at [sierraclub.org/sfbay/endorsements](https://sierraclub.org/sfbay/endorsements) and show up to vote in March.

Here in the Bay Area, the hills are beautifully green, bringing a promise of new life and hope as spring unfolds. We have work to do!

Let's seize this moment,

Martha Kreeger  
CHAPTER CHAIR



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## Sierra Club YODELER

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### Cover Photo

Wild lupine and California poppies. Photo by Rick Lewis. Rick Lewis is a long time Sierra Club member, Golden Gate Bird Alliance member, and contributor to birding groups across California that promote wildlife and habitat conservation.



# SPRING 2024 CHAPTER NEWS

energy, reduce air pollution, and fight for climate resilient communities. They collaborate with our volunteer leaders and help educate our members on the issues facing the Bay Area. To see open positions and to apply, go to [sierraclub.org/careers-jobs-employment](https://sierraclub.org/careers-jobs-employment) and search for the San Francisco Bay Chapter!

We need you to help shape our work here in the Bay!

## Sierra Club Endorsements Out Now



The primary election is right around the corner on March 5th! The Sierra Club takes endorsements very seriously, and the SF Bay Chapter is responsible for endorsing candidates at every level of our region. To find out more about our endorsement process and to see our updated endorsements as they roll in, please visit [sierraclub.org/sfbay/endorsements](https://sierraclub.org/sfbay/endorsements).



## 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](https://bit.ly/sunpowerforthebay) to get your free quote and find out how much you can save.

## We're Hiring!

Come join our team! The SF Bay Chapter is hiring for multiple organizer positions. Our chapter organizers lead on several of our campaigns to build renewable



Read the earliest issues of the Yodeler online!

GO ALL THE WAY BACK TO THE VERY FIRST YODELER FROM 1939  
ON THE SIERRA CLUB COLBY LIBRARY'S INTERNET ARCHIVE AT  
[ARCHIVE.ORG/DETAILS/SIERRACLUBLIBRARY](https://archive.org/details/sierraclublibrary)

# Despite Trial Decision, Hope Remains to Keep Coal Out of Oakland

JACOB KLEIN

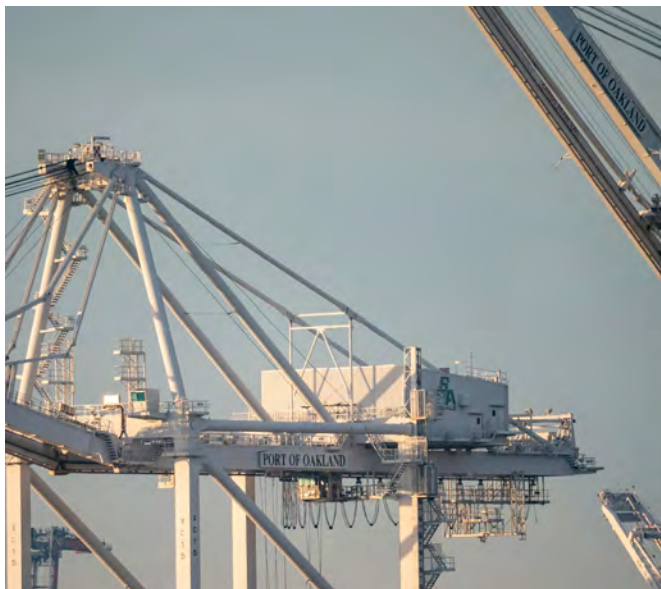
The battle to keep coal out of Oakland hit a new milestone with the conclusion of the contract dispute trial between the City of Oakland and the would-be developers of a coal terminal, Oakland Bulk and Oversized Terminal (OBOT). Though the trial has ended with a decision allowing developers to continue their plans with the terminal, the City of Oakland has already filed an appeal, staying the decision and maintaining the pause on development for the time being.

The case before Judge Noël Wise had both parties claiming that the other was responsible for breach of contract. The City argued that the developers had failed to meet certain milestones and deadlines, and thus wanted to end the contract. The developers argued that the City had blocked their ability to complete the requirements, thus delaying the construction and operating of the coal terminal, costing the developers money and depriving them of the profits they'd hoped to make.

In the initial phase of the trial, the liability phase, Judge Wise sided with the developers, finding the City liable for breach of contract. This led to the remedy phase where the court decided what the appropriate remedy should be for the breach. The developers argued for a stunning \$160 million in damages, an amount that would have a detrimental effect on the City's finances.

Fortunately, the judge rejected the developer's claim for this astronomical sum of money for damages and instead gave the developers a choice: a much smaller amount of money, \$318,000, OR reinstatement of the lease, extension of the construction deadline, and ability to develop.

The developers ultimately selected the reinstatement of the lease. However, it remains uncertain what their real



drive is. When one of the original developers, Insight Terminal Solutions, went bankrupt, it was brought up by LA-based hedge funders. Since then, it doesn't seem to have been a good return on investment. Do they really want to get into the dying coal market? Are they hoping to sell it off to another bidder?

Regardless, the future remains uncertain as this moves on to the appellate courts. The City hopes to reverse the liability decision.

Sierra Club remains committed to working with community partners and decision makers to make sure that there is no coal dust in Oakland polluting the air and harming the public. To get involved and stay up to date as this next phase of the trial unfolds, sign up at

[addup.sierraclub.org/campaigns/keep-coal-out-of-oakland](http://addup.sierraclub.org/campaigns/keep-coal-out-of-oakland).

Jacob Klein is the organizing manager for the SF Bay Chapter.



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

**CHARGECODE**

Use referral name **SF Bay Sierra Club** at signup



PHOTO CREDIT: Port of Oakland. Photo by Ronan Furuta on Unsplash.

# The Bay Chapter Turns 100 Years Old

We're celebrating the centennial of the Sierra Club SF Bay Chapter, and you are invited! That's right — 100 years ago, your very own Bay Chapter was born and began tackling our area's most pressing environmental issues to build healthier, happier communities. You can read more about our chapter's history online at [sierraclub.org/sfbay/history](https://sierraclub.org/sfbay/history).

We'll be commemorating the occasion with our annual awards ceremony, recognizing our most influential local activists who have been working hard all year (or for decades) to make the Bay a better place. The event will take place on May 18th (time and location to be determined) and will include music, mingling, and much more. Check online at [sierraclub.org/sfbay/centennial](https://sierraclub.org/sfbay/centennial) for updates.

**A HUGE THANK YOU TO OUR EARLY SPONSORS FOR MAKING THIS EVENT POSSIBLE!**

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- Maggie Phillips
- Donald Creighton (in memoriam)
- Shirley Lowe
- Minda Berbeco & Will Fertman
- Jaime Green
- Vicky Hoover
- Port of Oakland
- Nick Pilch, Planning & Zoning Commissioner
- Igor Tregub & Maritessa Ares



# CYCP Program Wraps Up First Year

SARAH RANNEY



On a chilly night in December, 40 high school students from around California gathered on Zoom to share their policy case studies and celebrate their graduation from the California Youth Climate Policy Leadership program (CYCP), a new initiative from our Climate

Literacy Committee that empowers students to take climate action into their own hands. With them to celebrate were representatives from Sierra Club California, Ten Strands, UndauntedK12, and the 20+ mentors who worked with the students every step of their way.

Over the course of five months, the student leaders of CYCP accomplished an ambitious learning agenda which included development of a personal leadership plan, field research to understand their school district's existing environmental and climate policy, development of an advocacy campaign plan, building a coalition, and presenting their advocacy campaign at a school board meeting. Their advocacy plans included topics such as climate literacy, climate action plans, climate impacts and adaptation, zero waste, and transportation.

While young people often report high levels of climate anxiety and dread, it's often said that action is the antidote to despair. Post-program surveys of CYCP students showed

that the experience had a significant impact on student's sense of agency and empowerment:

- 100 percent of students agreed that this program deepened their belief in the importance of civic engagement and democratic participation, with 87 percent of them strongly agreeing.
- 97 percent of students felt more or much more hopeful about the climate crisis and their role in it because of this program.

The idea of the CYCP program came together in the spring of 2023 as a partnership between Ten Strands, a leader in environment-based education, and the Bay Chapter's Climate Literacy Committee. For members of the Climate Literacy Committee, this was a chance to put into practice many of the insights we've learned in our climate literacy work.

Since 2016, the Climate Literacy Committee has been a place for youth, teachers, activists, and organizers to pass and implement climate literacy policy in school districts, including successful efforts in Oakland, Fremont, and Berkeley. One thing these district policy advances have in common is the centrality of student leadership. In every district, students have set the vision, drafted the resolutions, formed the coalitions, and convinced the School Boards to take action.

We have seen that students are a galvanizing force for climate action.

We took that knowledge combined with deep program knowledge from Ten Strands to design a program built upon our combined experience and values. Every

student received training, tools, and resources; was paired with a knowledgeable mentor; and received a \$500 stipend at the program's end for completing their personal leadership plan and advocacy campaign plan. The program design was built to ensure equity and attract students from diverse backgrounds, aspects that have often been barriers in climate work.

Our call for applications last spring was met with tremendous enthusiasm. The program received more than 300 student applications, of which 46 were accepted. We are



**PHOTO CREDIT:** A few of the students, mentors, and supporters in attendance for the CYCP Capstone event, 12/7. Photograph taken by Stephanie Seidmon.

proud that over eighty-five percent of CYCP student leaders identified as BIPOC, and more than eighty percent attend public schools. The cohort included students from across California, including twelve who live within the San Francisco Bay Chapter.

With the 2023 program now complete, we look back with pride at the huge strides the students took in five short months of working together. They gained confidence in talking to adults in positions of power, developed relationships with teachers, administrators, and board members, and got experience being agents for climate action.

Reflecting at the end of the program, Emma Wang of Pleasanton shared, "This program taught me a lot about how

everyday citizens can have an impact on local decision-making and policy. I think students should attend programs like this one to better understand how they can play a role in making change."

Congratulations to the graduates of CYCP 2023! And thank you to the mentors and supporters who made the program possible. You can read the students' Final Case Studies or learn more about the California Youth Climate Policy program at [tinyurl.com/youthclimateleaders](https://tinyurl.com/youthclimateleaders). A toolkit of district policy resources will be made available later this spring.

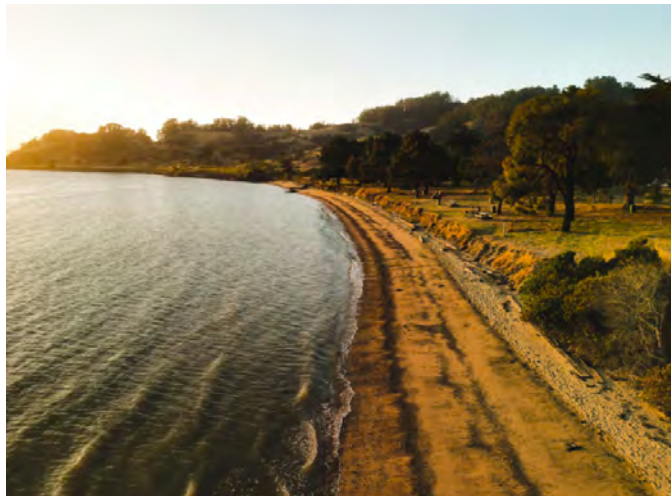
Sarah Ranney is the Chair of the Climate Literacy Committee.

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## Point Molate's Victory in Court Puts a Regional Park in Sight

**NORMAN LA FORCE**

Point Molate's future as a regional park just became more real after a major victory in court. Sierra Club, SPRAWL-DEF, Citizens for Eastshore Parks, the Point Molate Alliance, and individual petitioners sued the City of Richmond over its failure to prepare an adequate environmental review of the proposed luxury housing development at Point Molate. A prior, pro-development city council under then-Mayor Tom Butt had approved an environmental impact report that did not sufficiently consider the potential impacts of development in this sensitive area. Now, the Court of Appeals agreed that the report is in fact deficient in its analysis of impacts to Ohlone cultural resources and improperly accounted for emergency evacuation impacts. Thanks to this favorable ruling, the certification of the impact report and all associated project approvals must be rescinded. This means the



developer cannot move forward with the project.

What still remains in place to keep Point Molate from becoming a park is a sweetheart settlement agreement that former Mayor Butt made with developers after a lawsuit when the City refused to approve the development of a casino. But this most recent court decision raises serious questions about what development — if any — can take place at the site. We believe this decision makes it more likely that the East Bay

Regional Park District can move forward with acquisition of Point Molate as a regional park.

The City retains its discretion over what further steps may be taken, so long as it complies with the California Environmental Quality Act. While we have not yet achieved our goal of saving Point Molate, we are closer to reaching our vision of a regional park that will provide Richmond with much

needed green space, protect the substantial biodiversity in the area, and create opportunities for sea level rise resilience projects.

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

## ABOUT THIS CALENDAR

Activities listed here are abbreviated. For full listings, registration, and waivers visit: [sierraclub.org/sfbay/activities](https://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](https://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](https://meetup.com/sanfranciscobay). Outings will be listed there 2 - 3 weeks prior to the event. Masks are required in carpools.

# SPRING 2024 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](mailto: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, [wmgibr@gmail.com](mailto:wmgibr@gmail.com). (Solo Sierrans)

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## MAR 3 • SUN

**Mt. Tam - Cataract Falls Hikes.** Join us for a hike that is worth the effort! We will hike a strenuous but beautiful 7.5 mile hike with 1,850 ft of elevation gain in the Mt. Tam watershed. Lots of great waterfalls, mossy trees, and climbing. It is steep downhill, so poles recommended. COST: Free. BRING: Hiking poles. MEET: 8:30 am at Rock Springs Trailhead. END: 12:30 pm. LEADER: Jennifer Silva, (415) 609-4671 or [jrskis@gmail.com](mailto:jrskis@gmail.com). (Hiking)

## MAR 13 • WEDS

**Evening City Walk- Glen Park.** Savor the extra hour of daylight on this evening walk through Glen Canyon Park in San Francisco. We will be walking about 3.5 miles at a moderate pace on sidewalks, dirt trails and some staircases climbing about 500 feet. BRING: Comfortable shoes and water. MEET: 6:00 pm at 9514 Bosworth St, San Francisco. LEADER: Paget Valentzas, (415) 271-2945 or [pagetvalentzas@gmail.com](mailto:pagetvalentzas@gmail.com). (Rainbow Sierrans)

## MAR 15 - MAR 17 • FRI - SUN

**Backpacking the Ohlone Trail.** Discover the Ohlone trail over 3 days. Leader approval required to participate. Please R.S.V.P. and acknowledge the liability waiver, found online. The trip leader will contact you to start the approval process and provide further information. BRING: Individual



commissary. Participants bring their own food and cooking equipment. Participants need to furnish their own overnight backpack gear. The leader will send a detailed equipment list to approved participants. **MEET:** 7:00 am in Sunol. The trip requires a car shuttle between the trailheads Del Valle and Stanford Ave. Getting from and to the trailhead is the sole responsibility of each participant. The leader will provide a trip roster to all approved participants to facilitate ride sharing. We recommend that drivers and riders agree in advance on costs. **ENDS:** 3:00 pm Sunday. **LEADER:** Nora Di Bene, (408) 375-3040 or [norabackpacking@gmail.com](mailto:norabackpacking@gmail.com). (Backpacking)

#### **MAR 24 • SUN**

**Mt. Tam Loop.** This approximately 5 mile loop on Mount Tamalpais takes in the Mountain Theater and West Point Inn with stunning coastal views. The hills are alive with verdant grass sprays, lush forest vegetation and dazzling hues of orange, blue and indigo wildflowers. The hike may be a weekend delight to your visual and aural senses with a few surprises en route. **MEET:** 10:00 am at Ridgecrest Blvd, Stinson Beach. **ENDS:** 2:00 pm. **LEADER:** Paget Valentzas, (415) 271-2945 or [pagetvalentzas@gmail.com](mailto:pagetvalentzas@gmail.com). (Rainbow Sierrans)

#### **APR 13 • SAT**

**40 Mile Cinderella Classic Lite Bike Ride.** Come ride the Cinderella with Rainbow Sierrans! This ride is **EXCLUSIVELY** for women. We will be riding the Cinderella Lite Route. This is a 40 mile route with 1,400 ft. of elevation that winds through Livermore. There are 2 rest/refreshment stop on the route. You must register for the ride at [valleyspokesmen.wildapricot.org/event-5360960](http://valleyspokesmen.wildapricot.org/event-5360960). **COST:** \$55 registration fee paid through Valley Spokesmen. **BRING:** Helmet, sunblock, snacks, money, extra bike tubes, tire pump, and tire levers. **MEET:** 8:30 am at 3000 Campus Hill Dr, Livermore. **LEADERS:** Beth Bittle, (510) 759-6225 or [callingu2@gmail.com](mailto:callingu2@gmail.com). Tammy Baltic, [tammybaltic@gmail.com](mailto:tammybaltic@gmail.com). (Rainbow Sierrans)

#### **APR 14 – APR 16 • SUN – TUES**

**Mt. Tamalpais Backpack: Pantoll to Steep Ravine Campsite.** Camp overlooking the ocean from Steep Ravine Campsites. Please R.S.V.P. below and acknowledge the liability waiver. The trip leader will contact you to start the approval process and provide further information. The trip is limited to 8 people at this campsite. **COST:** \$45.00. **BRING:** Food is an individual commissary. You will need backpacking gear, a tent, sleeping bag, stove, and food. I will supply a detailed list after you have signed up. **MEET:** 10:00 am at 3801 Panoramic Hwy, Mill Valley. **ENDS:** 1:00 pm Tuesday. **LEADER:** Diane Appel, (925) 360-2249 or [diane\\_appel@yahoo.com](mailto:diane_appel@yahoo.com). (Backpacking)

#### **APR 20 – APR 21 • SAT – SUN**

**The 2024 Pinnacles National Park Car Camping Spectacular.** Join us for a weekend of Sierra Club-sponsored day-hikes in Pinnacles National Park. The park is renowned for dramatic rock formations

## **BECOME AN OUTINGS LEADER**

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

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

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

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

For more information on requirements, trainings, mentors, and more, head to [sierraclub.org/sfbay/how-become-outings-leader](http://sierraclub.org/sfbay/how-become-outings-leader).

(a massive series of crags and spires which are remnants of an ancient volcanic field), sightings of its large population of native California Condors, wildflowers, stargazing, and hikes through virtually untouched wilderness over trails built by the Civilian Conservation Corps from 1933 through 1942. Arrive on Friday for guided hikes led on Saturday and Sunday. These hikes are considered strenuous. For Friday and Saturday nights we have arranged to stay at reserved campsites located within the Park. **BRING:** Individual commissary. Participants bring their own food and cooking equipment. Participants need to furnish their own overnight sleeping gear. The leader will send a detailed equipment list to approved participants. **MEET:** 8:00 am at Pinnacles National Park. **ENDS:** 8:00 am Sunday. **LEADER:** JP Torres, [jpinkflo@xecu.net](mailto:jpinkflo@xecu.net). (Backpacking)

# SPRING 2024 EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

## Beginner Backpack Course Spring 2024

LEARN THE BASICS OF BACKCOUNTRY TRAVEL



**When:** Saturday, March 30 from 9:00 am – 5:00 pm  
**Where:** Naturebridge Conference Center (Golden Gate National Recreation Area)  
**Cost:** \$130 per adult; \$70 per youth aged 12 – 22.

Learn how to travel safely and comfortably with only a pack on your back during the annual Beginner’s Backpack course run by the Backpack Section. We are offering this opportunity for folks who have little to no experience in backpacking but want to explore backcountry trails and get away from the crowds.

The course consists of:

- A full-day indoor session on Saturday, March 30, 2024, including a series of short lectures, discussions, and an

equipment show. The event will be hosted from 9:00 am – 5:00 pm at the Naturebridge Conference Center (Golden Gate National Recreation Area).

- One overnight backpack trip in April/May in small groups lead by experienced instructors. There are 4 dates to choose from, all located in the greater San Francisco Bay Area. During the backpacking trip, you will have the opportunity to try out your gear, learn how to set up a tent, operate a backpacking stove, practice basic navigation skills, and, most importantly, experience what it feels to hike with a heavy pack on your back. Participation in the backpacking trip requires attendance at the indoor session.

Participants you should be in good physical shape and have no serious health conditions. A good background in day hiking is necessary.

Families with children aged 12 and older are welcome. The course is not suited for younger children. Contact Thomas Meissner (below) for details.

Early registration is recommended, as space is limited.

For more information, go to [sierraclub.org/sfbay/events](https://sierraclub.org/sfbay/events). To sign up, contact Thomas Meissner at [meissner.thomas2011@gmail.com](mailto:meissner.thomas2011@gmail.com) (email strongly preferred) or call (707) 479-4465.



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## Pole Walking & Hiking Classes for Veterans

Sierra Club’s Military Outdoors program offers free classes to Veterans and their family members all around the Bay Area. Learn life-long skills to enhance your outdoor experiences and improve endurance, strength and spine function. For more information, go to [sierraclub.org/loma-prieta/military-outdoors](https://sierraclub.org/loma-prieta/military-outdoors).

## Get Trained as a River Raft Guide with Inspiring Connections Outdoors



Inspiring Connections Outdoors (ICO) Rafting is a Sierra Club volunteer program that facilitates river rafting trips for young people with limited access to wilderness. ICO is seeking enthusiastic new volunteers who want to share the outdoors with others as raft guides. No experience is required! Training will be provided.

River guide training takes 5 weekends and several week-day evenings during the spring. Volunteers will be asked for a 10 day commitment for each of their first 2 years as a member of Inspiring Connections Outdoors. There are options for off-river jobs and white water river jobs alike. Regardless of how you volunteer, you will have fun!

Please visit [sc.org/sfbayrafting-volunteer](https://sc.org/sfbayrafting-volunteer) or email [volunteer@icorrafting.org](mailto:volunteer@icorrafting.org) for more information.


## Calling All Writers, Photographers, Artists: The Yodeler Needs You!

The San Francisco Bay Chapter is the only Sierra Club Chapter that publishes its own print newsletter. The *Yodeler* has a rich history stretching all the way back to 1939 when the very first edition was printed. Today, though the *Yodeler* has gone through many renditions since its conception, it still runs exclusively on the contributions of people like you.

The *Yodeler* is based entirely on content submitted by Sierra Club members and supporters. We are always seeking new contributors, either in the form of article authors, photographers, illustrators, you name it. If you would like to see your photo on this cover or your article in these pages, please reach out to [yodedit@sfbaysc.org](mailto:yodedit@sfbaysc.org). We'd love to see what you've been working on! Additionally, if you have any feedback or things you would like to see in the *Yodeler* in the future, don't be afraid to get in touch!



**IMAGE CREDITS:** Photo courtesy of Erica Petrofsky.  
Illustration by Gordon Johnson from Pixabay.



**WHAT WILL YOUR LEGACY BE?**

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

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

**MATT BIELBY**  
[matt.bielby@sierraclub.org](mailto:matt.bielby@sierraclub.org)  
(510) 848-0800 x 321

# HERON AND THE GREEN CRAYON

Vrinda Manglik

Instagram: @art\_by\_vrinda



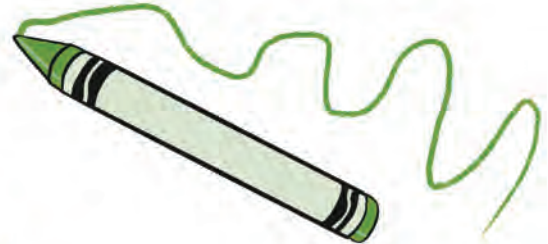
California's Senate Bill 272, passed in the fall, requires coastal cities and towns to develop plans for adapting to sea level rise – while giving them the flexibility to develop their own approaches.

What could this mean for wildlife?



Hi, I'm a Night Heron!

I want to show you some of the ways humans are preparing for sea level rise (!) around my home, the Bay! There are a lot of cool projects to show you.



To me, the greener the better because that means more food and places to live for critters and birds like me. I can show you with my green crayon.

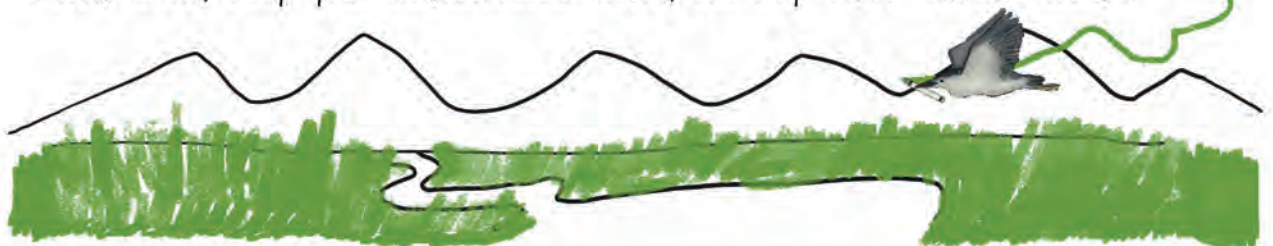


Our first stop is the Living Seawall Pilot Project in San Francisco. It's testing tiles of different textures and natural materials so seaweed, oysters, and other creatures can call it home (and that means more food for me!). I always say: a little green is better than none!

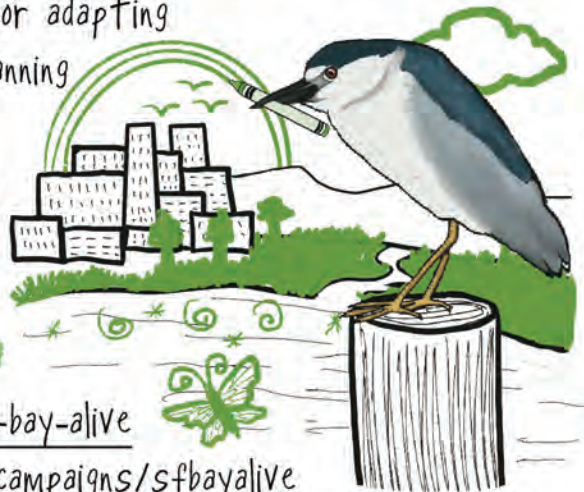
Let me show you the Orma Loma Living Laboratory in San Lorenzo. It's a project that combines both grey and green elements. The project is testing native plants, sediment, and sloped banks to help protect against storm surges and to clean treated wastewater. This can help keep harmful algae from blooming.



This last stop is the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project. This project restores industrial salt ponds into tidal wetlands. I love tidal wetlands because birds, fish, and even mammals call them home! They are good for humans too and can absorb rising seas, keep your neighborhoods cooler, and help fight climate change.



Cities and towns should consider green infrastructure whenever possible as they develop plans for adapting to sea level rise. Ecosystem-conscious planning keeps our shorelines and the creatures that live in them happy. So remember to green the grey to keep herons like me in the Bay!



- Learn more: <https://www.sierraclub.org/sf-bay-alive>
- Get involved: <https://addup.sierraclub.org/campaigns/sfbayalive>

# Wastewater Dischargers Play Key Role in Protecting the Health of Our Bay

JACOB KLEIN



Jacob Klein, Zephir O'Meara, Dani Zacky, Heinrich Albert, and Matt Bielby outside the EBMUD treatment facility on their tour of the plant.

In January, Chapter staff and volunteers took a tour of EBMUD to learn more about the wastewater utility's water treatment process. The treatment plant in West Oakland receives wastewater from residences and businesses ranging as far north as Richmond and as far south as San Lorenzo.

The treatment of wastewater is of major concern to the health of the San Francisco Bay. EBMUD has been providing drinking water to East Bay residents since the 1920s, but its wastewater treatment began in the 1950s, and the Clean Water Act of 1972 set federal standards.

While significant strides have been made in the treatment of wastewater, we've grown increasingly concerned with certain nutrients that are impacting the health of the Bay. The harmful algae bloom in the summer of 2022 led to a massive fish kill. There are many contributing factors, but a key one is nutrient pollution, particularly nitrogen, that allows certain harmful algae to grow.

Around two-thirds of the nitrogen pollution in the Bay Area comes from wastewater dischargers, and the remaining third from agricultural runoff and other inflows. However, EBMUD is developing strategies to help reduce their nutrient load.

The Sierra Club prefers nature-based solutions to wa-

ter and shoreline issues to the extent possible. However, EBMUD — surrounded by freeways and other developed property on three sides with the Bay on the fourth — doesn't necessarily have the room to try out more expansive solutions, such as a living levee. Instead, they're trying out different on-site treatment measures. This requires off-lining a portion of their regular treatment process in order to refit for further nutrient removal. Simultaneously, EBMUD must account for stormwater surges.

Wastewater treatment is a careful balance, but in order to assure the health of our Bay, we continue to push for high standards. That's why as wastewater discharge permits come up at the Bay Area Regional Water Quality Control Board, Sierra Club will work for stricter controls on the amount of nutrient pollution allowed. Learn more at [sierraclub.org/sfbay/blog/2023/09/recognizing-one-year-anniversary-bay-s-infamous-2022-algae-bloom](https://sierraclub.org/sfbay/blog/2023/09/recognizing-one-year-anniversary-bay-s-infamous-2022-algae-bloom).

Jacob Klein is the organizing manager for the SF Bay Chapter.

## Want to Keep In Touch? Join Our Email List!



The SF Bay Chapter sends monthly email bulletins that include up-to-date information on events and campaigns around the Bay Area with a special focus on things specific to your region or group. We also send petitions and action alerts on the Bay's most pressing issues, so you can make a difference from the comfort of your own home. When you sign up for our email list, you'll be in the know about everything from shoreline clean-ups and public comment turn-outs to picnics and social hours where you can meet fellow activists. Don't miss out! Sign up online today at [sierraclub.org/sfbay/email](https://sierraclub.org/sfbay/email).



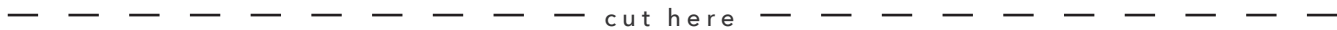
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Our website is home to helpful information and resources including:

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

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- We're hiring! Learn how to apply. (p. 3)
- Save the date: May 18th Centennial Party (p. 5)
- Meet the next generation of young activists (p. 6)
- Take a hike! (p. 8 - 9)
- Learn how to backpack (p. 10)

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