

PEATDUSTER

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Delta-Sierra Group Newsletter

October - December 2021

Visit us at www.sierraclub.org/mother-lode/delta-sierra



MEETINGS AND EVENTS

A number of changes have occurred to our September meetings and events listed in our previous newsletter. As we started preparing this newsletter on September 1st, we checked and found there were 5485 new cases of Covid in San Joaquin County in the last 14 days (August 18 - 31). So when would be a good time to hold meetings and events again? How about when we get Zero new cases during a 14 day span, then we can decide.

Delta-Sierra Group will be participating in Coastal Cleanup Day on Saturday, September 18. Details follow. Also, San Joaquin County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, the Delta Protection Commission and a few other organizations will be holding events. Check online for those.

The National Drive Electric Week event scheduled for Saturday September 25 in Manteca has been canceled by the sponsors.

We are announcing National Public Lands Day on Saturday, September 25, however this is not a Sierra Club sponsored event. Details follow.

Earth Day Fall Festival 2021 will be held in Victory Park in Stockton on Sunday, September 26, 2021 from 10 am - 4 pm starting with a March for Science around the park. Delta-Sierra Group will not be hosting a booth this year. Public Health will be on-site to offer COVID vaccine injections.

The August meeting via Zoom was postponed and will be presented this month on September 27 at 7 pm. Details follow.

The joint meeting with Audubon is scheduled for Monday, October 25 at 7 pm via Zoom.

Delta-Sierra Group will not be participating in the Lodi Sandhill Crane Festival on Friday to Sunday, November 5-7, but we are providing some information about this event. Details follow.

COASTAL CLEANUP - PREREGISTER NOW
Saturday, September 18, 2021:
American Legion Park, Stockton



Delta-Sierra Group, in collaboration with the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Stockton, will once again host Coastal Cleanup for 2021.

The new location for us this year is American Legion Park in Stockton. Volunteer capacity is limited.

Preregister as soon as possible to ensure that you have a spot and so that you can receive a T-shirt. When you preregister make sure that you select American Legion Park as the location.

More information will follow. See you there,
Dick Abood, Site Captain.

Please preregister at:

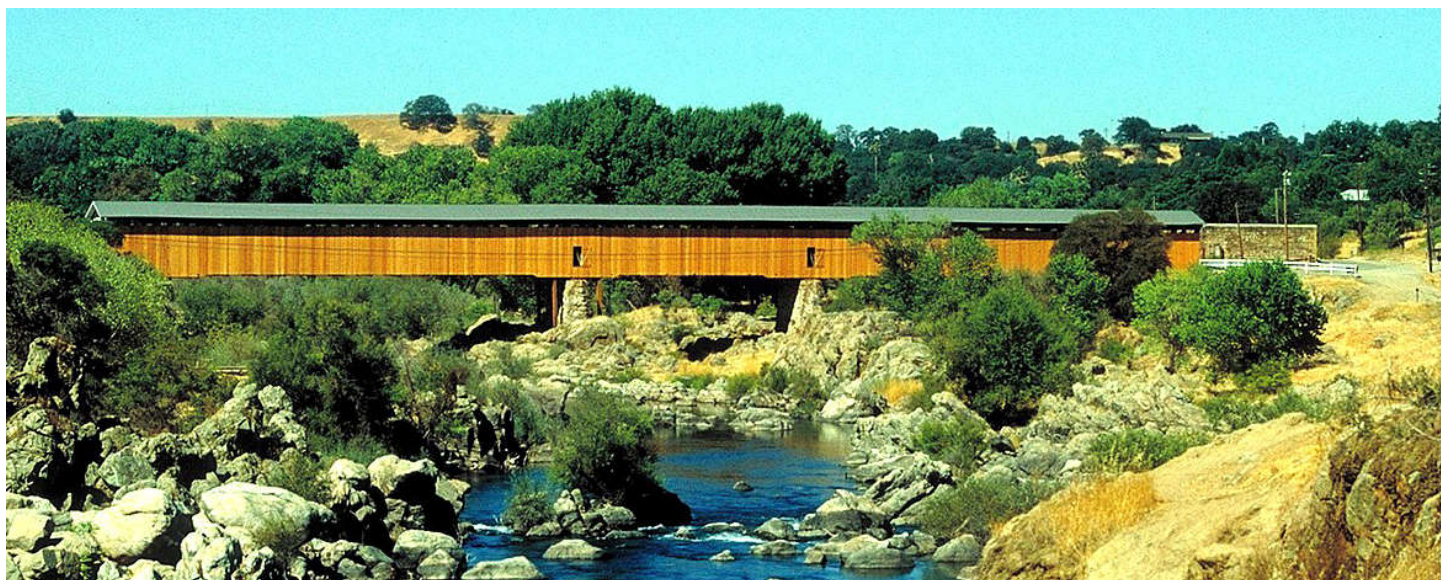
<http://www.sjwater.org/Stormwater-Management/California-Coastal-Cleanup>

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**National Public Lands Day
Volunteer at Knights Ferry Recreation Area
Saturday, September 25, 2021, 8 am to 2 pm**

The Army Corps of Engineers has invited Delta-Sierra Group members and others interested in environmental stewardship to volunteer at Knights Ferry Recreation Area on this day. During this event volunteers will pick up trash, partake in trail maintenance, paint BBQ's, remove invasive species, and plant trees. Breakfast and lunch will be provided for free, along with a National Park day pass for all participants!

Please consider participating in this event and share with your friends. If you would like to participate call [209-881-3517](tel:209-881-3517) and ask for Frankie Bowers, the Park Ranger at Stanislaus River Parks. I hope I see you there, Dick Abood. (The Knights Ferry Covered Bridge is shown below.)





MARCH FOR SCIENCE
to space out around
VICTORY PARK

10-11AM
FREE
EARTH DAY
FACE MASKS
to
700
MARCHERS!!

2021 FALL
~~Stockton 2020 Festival~~
EARTH DAY
CLIMATE ACTION NOW

SUNDAY
~~APRIL 26~~
10AM-4PM

FREE!
ADMISSION
Yoga 9AM

SEPT 26

ON-SITE COVID VACCINES
Pfizer and J&J
www.sjcphs.org

OUTDOOR FAMILY-FRIENDLY FUN • FOOD • MUSIC • ECO-ART • EDUCATIONAL

<https://www.earthdaystockton.com>



FREE COVID SHOTS

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2022 Regional Transportation Plan Sustainable Communities Strategy

Monday, September 27, 2021 @7pm via Zoom

Presented by Timothy Kohaya, Senior Regional Planner,
San Joaquin Council of Governments



Join us for an informative presentation about the 2022 Regional Transportation Plan and review some of the proposed strategies that will be included in the RTP/SCS. It maps out how the region will integrate transportation and land use, with the goal of providing transportation options to help the region grow in a financially and environmentally responsible

way. The decisions made that are guided by the RTP/SCS will affect the daily lives of those who live and work in the region.

Timothy Kohaya has worked for almost 30 years with the Sacramento County Planning and Environmental Review Department and in 2020 started to work for the San Joaquin Council of Governments. He has a BA in geography from California State University, Sacramento and is a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners.

Join the Zoom Meeting:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86472107858?
pwd=Qi91Z2RQUWZaTFJ4d0ZiUFBZSVhjUT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86472107858?pwd=Qi91Z2RQUWZaTFJ4d0ZiUFBZSVhjUT09)

Joint Meeting with Audubon Important Update on the Health of the Delta Monday, October 25 at 7 pm

Please join us on October 25 when Barbara Barrigan-Parrilla, executive director and a co-founder of Restore the Delta, will be sharing an update on the state of the estuary, harmful algal blooms, and carbon sequestration efforts. It's an enormous effort to monitor all aspects of the threats to the Delta and our environment and raise the concern of our citizens.

Ms. Barrigan-Parrilla has worked to grow the campaign from 70 to over 60,000 supporters who seek to ensure a healthy San Francisco Bay-Delta estuary and Delta communities. She has worked to give Delta residents a voice and to ensure that they have a direct impact on water management decisions affecting the water quality and well-being of their communities, while working for the advancement of water sustainability and equity policies for all Californians.

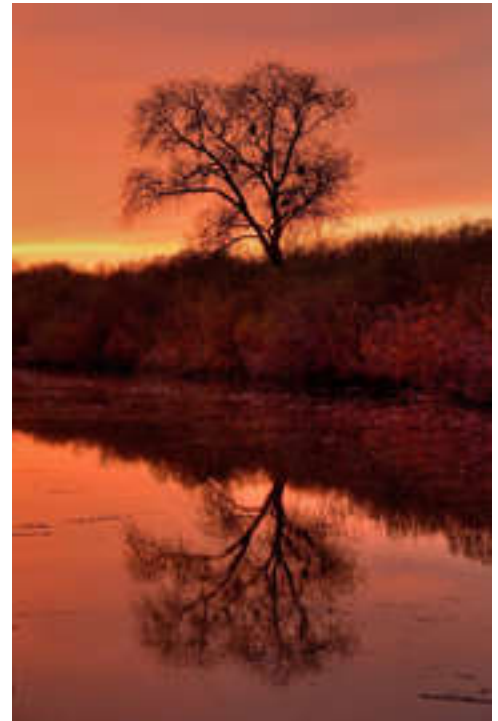


Photo: Pete Sanders

Through public education and outreach, advocacy, negotiation, protest, and litigation, Ms. Barrigan-Parrilla has advanced the idea that state and federal government must recognize the Sacramento-San Joaquin Bay Delta as part of California's natural heritage, deserving of protection, while ensuring the inclusion of the Delta's environmental justice communities in planning and government processes. We hope you will link into this presentation and seek ways to support Restore the Delta in all they are doing.

Join the Zoom Meeting:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82729106986?
pwd=V0M4VDlBeFNzcVdIOFAvY1ZCZk1lQT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82729106986?pwd=V0M4VDlBeFNzcVdIOFAvY1ZCZk1lQT09)

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Sandhill Crane Festival Lodi, CA Friday to Sunday, November 5-7, 2021

Due to continuing uncertainties of the pandemic, leaders of the Lodi Sandhill Crane Association will be celebrating the cranes virtually in 2021. This website <https://lodisandhillcrane.org> is the go to place for information about the birds, including activities for students and directions to viewing sites to see the cranes. For sure you'll want to see the art show.



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FROM THE EDITOR

July was the hottest month ever in recorded history according to National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Period.

The Sierra Club was in the national news!!!

If you missed the announcement, we understand because the first two weeks of August were filled with breaking news! Take a deep breath and I'll remind you with a few details.



The moratorium on foreclosures ended. The Dixie fire was expanding and wiped out the town of Forestville. Major fires were also occurring in Turkey and Greece. Haiti had a 7.2 earthquake. Over 2200 people died. The Taliban took over Afghanistan like a hot knife spreading butter. There were serious floods in Sichuan China and in Turkey by the Black Sea. The Senate approved a trillion dollar infrastructure improvement bill. The IPCC issued their doomiest doomsday report ever stating there is no time left to pretend to take climate change seriously in order to meet goals set for 2030 and 2050.

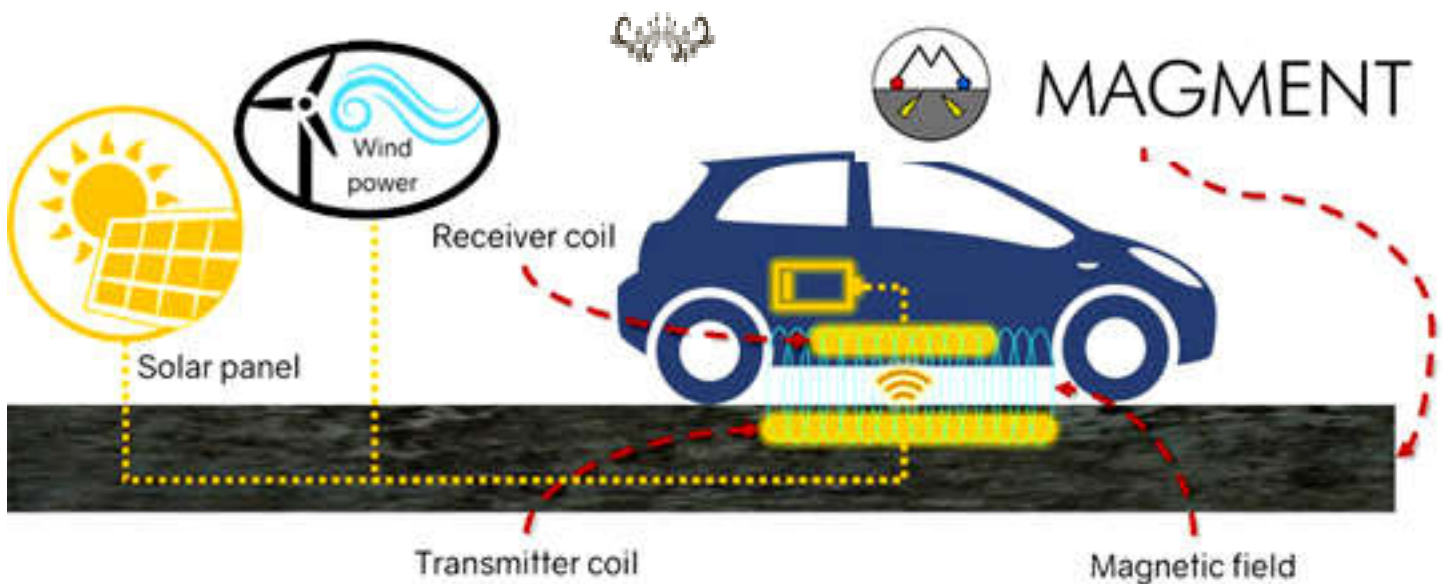
That was not a political rant. It merely was a kaleidoscope of facts and events that overshadowed the announcement that Sierra Club Executive Director Michael Brune resigned. Some of us received word by email, but I think the website Politico made a better presentation by discussing how the Sierra Club has evolved over the last eleven years with his leadership.

For example, “The Sierra Club in June called for the United States to make reparations to Black people, saying the move was needed to correct the historical wrongs that were still subjecting Black communities to disproportionately high levels of pollution and exacerbating income and health disparities.”

Sierra Club has systematically taken a stronger roll with environmental injustice concerned with the basic necessities compromised by racism and discrimination. Examples? Clean air, clean water. Also we advocate for gender equity so that everyone can speak their truth, play a role, and become leaders in solving the world's climate crisis.

In 2012 Brune exposed a secret arrangement in which the group accepted \$26 million of industry money while promoting natural gas as a clean "bridge fuel" to renewable energy. Thinking about that now almost a decade later, we still need reliance on some fossil fuels while we urgently try to reach total renewable energy. If you could be the director for a day which bridge fuel would you have chosen: natural gas, coal, oil, nuclear energy or no decision? Total renewable energy wasn't available then, and still isn't now!

If you are looking for a nice juicy scandal, you are out of luck. The board reluctantly accepted his resignation. His last day in office is December 31. Dan Chu, executive director of the Sierra Club Foundation, will serve as acting executive director, with organizer Eva Hernandez-Simmons partnering as managing director. The second email letter came to us from Michael Brune himself and we present it on the next page.



Indiana could be the first state to have a wireless charging road that charges your electric vehicle as you drive along it. While range and battery charging times are getting better every year, it's still the most limiting factor when it comes to the purchase of an EV. The Indiana Department of Transportation has decided to tackle that by burying electrified wire coils that create a magnetic field along the road surface - think wireless charging stations. In order to use the roads, cars would be fitted with a receiver coil to pick up the charge as they go along, and becoming magnetized, draw electricity from the coils themselves. A German firm, Magment, is in charge of designing and installing the technology.

PARTING MESSAGE FROM MICHAEL BRUNE

I'm writing to let you know that after 11 years of leading this remarkable organization, I am resigning as Executive Director of the Sierra Club. My last day will be December 31st.

Looking back, I knew I wanted to be an environmental activist as early as 13, when my family took a classic American road trip to see the great National Parks in the West. Previously, I'd never been west of the Mississippi, seen the desert or a mountain taller than a few thousand feet. That adventure changed my life, and it sparked my relationship with loving and protecting our planet. My work and activism since then has taught me that it takes more than just loving the outdoors to create change -- it takes commitment to the cause, community organizing, and meaningful policy change as well.

Back home on the New Jersey Shore, I began seeing what the real power of people could do. My neighbors and my family were furious when our beaches closed because toxic chemicals and hospital waste were polluting the water and endangering our health. I remember when my cousin Peter told me about the protest he just joined to stop ocean pollution. This one fight in New Jersey, with nearly a dozen different organizations, reflected the best of grassroots organizing: Neighbors organizing neighbors, working together, advocating for policy solutions, and winning. I didn't know it at the time, but a seed was planted. Seeing up close how people can work together to make positive change is empowering and exciting.

It has been an honor and privilege to lead the Sierra Club over the past decade -- one of the most enduring and influential grassroots environmental organizations in the United States. We've been around for 129 years; we have millions of members, donors and active supporters who are involved in every state, in every congressional district, in every city, in just about every county in the country. Our work -- and the connections we have built far and wide with each other -- have saved and improved the lives of millions.

I'm leaving the organization in good hands. We're in a fight for the health of our communities and the future of our planet, and we need bold leadership, courage, and a new vision for this next chapter of our work.

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I'm excited to announce that Dan Chu will be the Sierra Club Acting Executive Director and Eva Hernandez-Simmons will take on a new role as Sierra Club Managing Director. Both Eva and Dan are longtime Sierra Club leaders with a vision to center organizing, equity, and justice in all of our work and will be working closely with our Board of Directors. They will all be instrumental in building the next chapter of the Sierra Club.

Many already know Dan as the Executive Director of the Sierra Club Foundation. He has been a steadfast partner and brings decades of experience as an environmental organizer, Peace Corps volunteer, and as the first ever head of Sierra Club's Our Wild America campaign which secured the protection of millions of acres of wild lands.

Eva is a longtime Sierra Club leader and organizer who cut her teeth working to stop the Texas coal rush. She is an invaluable mentor to all who work with her, and will make sure our staff, chapters, and programs have the resources they need to continue our transformational journey.

You'll hear more from Dan and Eva soon about what's next and how we are doing the work to address the climate crisis. And that's where you all come in -- this organization has never been about one person or even just a couple of folks. This organization has always been made up of millions of you -- members, staff, volunteers, donors, and activists -- who will collectively continue to create a livable and healthy world for all.

The time for change is now, so let's welcome our new leaders and redouble our commitment to make change happen in our communities for the long haul.

Thanks for everything.

With gratitude, Michael Brune



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On the cover is a reminder from Vice President Al Gore who released his film, *An Inconvenient Truth*, 15 year ago on May 24, 2006. He explained how humans messed up the planet and he issued an urgent warning on what must be done, and done quickly, to save the earth. You can watch that film on Amazon Prime Video, or just turn on the nightly news and see climate change in real time.

As the dominating species, we have not acted quickly enough. In fact we spent a few years debating if the issue should be called climate change or global warming. Climate change won out since it is caused by the global warming which warms the entire earth's oceans that in turn make up 70 percent of the planet's surface, even though snow may be falling in New York. Global warming is caused by something and that's mostly discharging carbon dioxide into our atmosphere.

Meanwhile we lost 4 years of progress when Donald Trump rolled back or relaxed 96 rules and regulations and left 14 more still pending. He took us out of the Paris Climate Accord. Trump and others promoted the hollow yet alluring concept that climate change was a Chinese hoax. He and others should be remembered for their Tweets like "gimme some of that global warming" while mocking a serious blizzard.

The news media cautiously defined drought, fires, flooding, hurricanes and tornadoes as *extreme weather events* enhanced or exacerbated by climate change and more recently, with just *climate change* without any surplus of words. Climate Change has finally arrived.



We have managed with the free version of **Zoom** for our meetings, but it came with some restrictions. For example Zoom's free tier allows two participants to be in a meeting for up to 24 hours. However, for anywhere from three to 100 people, you're limited to 40 minutes. So Delta-Sierra Group has opted for an account using Zoom Pro. Now we can increase our guest list up to 1000 participants with group meetings up to 30 hours. It includes social media streaming and 1 gigabyte cloud recording. Paul Plathe is the tech geek handling Zoom for us. Thanks Paul.

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America love it or leave it. Oh my! This is a slogan from the 60's that could have come from the far left, the far right or even the far out. Hey, it was the 60's. When some of us saw a bumper sticker that dramatically told us to go, we got out our imaginary black marker and crossed out "leave" and wrote in "change". But if we had to leave, where could we go? Thanks to climate change and the Internet, there has always been a place we could go since 1920 if we owned a passport from any of the 46 countries that signed the Svalbard Treaty. The United States signed it April 2, 1924.

So why was this a featured article in a recent issue of Scientific American? Due to climate change, the islands and the main town of Longnightbyen (byen = city) are getting too hot, the permafrost is melting and buildings are cracking and sinking. People are leaving.



The Svalbard Treaty of 1920 recognized the sovereignty of Norway over the Arctic archipelago of Svalbard previously called Spitsbergen which is the name of the largest island. Certain stipulations apply, but not all Norwegian law applies. The treaty regulates the demilitarization of the archipelago. The archipelago is an entirely visa-free zone. So you don't need a visa, a resident permit or a work permit. However, that said, unless you swim or travel by boat, you will need to enter and exit through Norway because there are no direct flights from anywhere else.

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Photo Steve Hillary

The Norwegian government has increased spending on the archipelago by 80 percent over the past five years. In 2018 it allotted a separate \$25.9 million for protective measures such as fencing to prevent snow from accumulating in avalanche-prone areas above Longyearbyen and to build new residential and student housing. The government also set aside \$12 million for upgrades to the Svalbard Global Seed Vault, which flooded in 2017 from thawing permafrost and heavy rains.

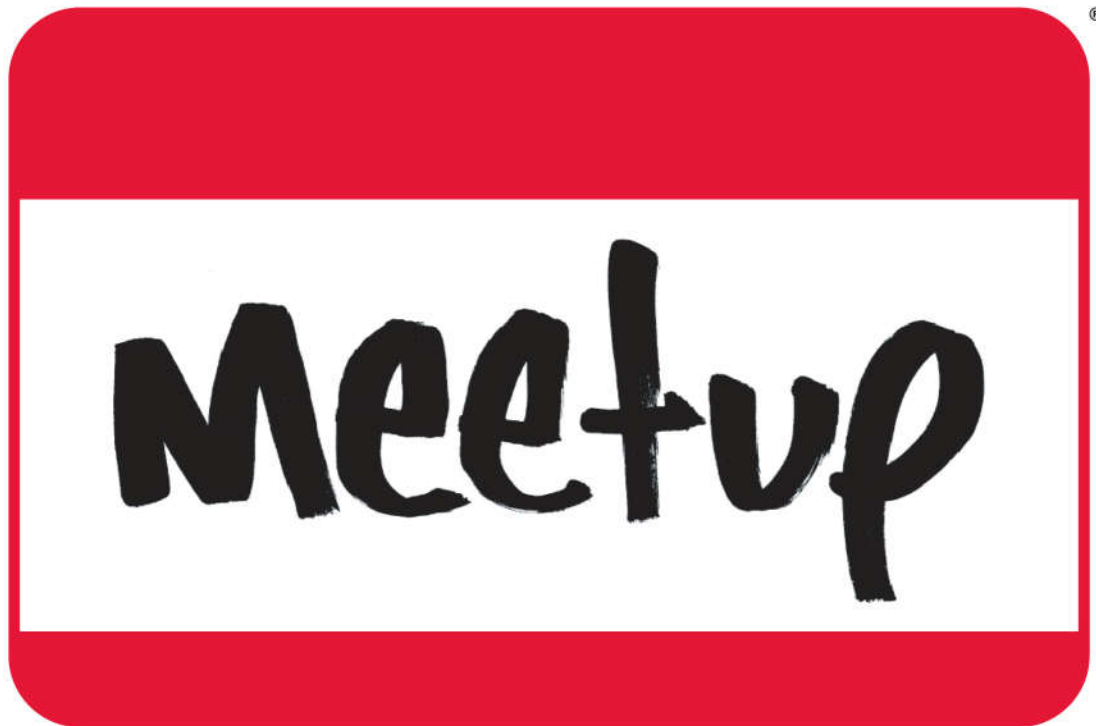
Seeds are stored in airtight aluminum bags. The number of seeds in each bag will vary depending on the size of the seed but on average each bag will contain approximately 500 seeds. The facility has a storage capacity of 4.5 million seed samples. As of 2020 the vault had 1,074,533 samples which represent more than 13,000 years of agricultural history. There are 21,500 cannabis seeds being held for safekeeping in the vault, but no evidence of crabgrass and Bermuda grass seeds being kept.



Photo Franco Mazzuca

**Stockton, Modesto & Sonora Sierra Club Groups
Find us at this active link:**

<https://www.meetup.com/S-M-S-SierraClub/members/28813452/>



**We have been in operation since October 2011 and
now have 2093 members.**



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Executive Committee

Please use the following email address to contact any members of your Executive Committee or staff. In the subject line please include the name of the person or persons you wish to contact.

dsg-news@comcast.net

Chair & Program Chair: Margo Praus

Vice Chair & Membership Chair: Paul Plathe

Treasurer & Chapter Delegate: Richard Abood

Secretary & Alternate Delegate: Steve Harvath

Conservation Chair & Web Master: Mary Elizabeth

Executive Committee Member: Knute Momberg

Newsletter: Robert Evans

Outings Chair: On Hold



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CLUB**
FOUNDED 1892

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STOCKTON, CA 95208

THE LAST PAGE

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Please mail or
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to your friends.



“Today’s IPCC Working group 1 Report is a code red for humanity. Warming has accelerated in recent decades. Every fraction of a degree counts. Greenhouse gas concentrations are at record levels. Extreme weather and climate disasters are increasing in frequency and intensity.”

“This report must sound a death knell for coal and fossil fuels, before they destroy our planet.”

António Guterres, UN Secretary-General

Explore, enjoy and protect the planet